

WHY I'M RUNNING FOR HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL BOARD



ROB MAGAZINER

"should" be the time to step away. And in fact, I recall when our younger daughter graduated from HPHS in 2008 feeling a palpable sense of relief along with pride and all the rest. But I think I learned a lesson two years ago, and that was simply: don't stop paying attention. Don't stop being involved. Our schools are such an important resource for the residents of Highland Park. They need our attention, our involvement, our protection. Highland Park's reputation for excellent public schools was a major reason that we moved here more than 30 years ago. And we need to be sure they will remain so, now and in the future.

Public schools have come under attack, not just here, but at the state and national level. Our kids had the benefit of a great education, and we need to ensure that the kids of today and tomorrow ALL have the same opportunities.

I believe I have the perspective and experience that will help the Board and our incredibly caring community navigate the choppy waters ahead. If I am elected to serve on the Board of Education I understand that the community will be entrusting me with our community's greatest asset, our public schools.

Rob Magaziner



SHARICE RICHARDSON

to education, and sense of community. Diversity is what brought me to Highland Park in 1993 and convinced me to become a homeowner in 2005. Our schools play a central role in supporting and enhancing the vibrant community of Highland Park with all of its ethnic, religious, cultural, gender, economic, and linguistic diversity. My partner and I have three children in the Highland Park Public Schools - a 7th grader in the Middle School and twins in 4th grade in Bartle School. Although we both are full time employees, we have always made time to support our schools by volunteering at events, being secret readers, and attending orchestra, choral, and band events.

In 2013 when our schools were in crisis, we began regularly attending and speaking at SEPAC and Board of Education meetings. Disturbed by the biased tone of presentations which were characterizing African-American, Latino, and Special Education students as "holding our schools back," I was determined to fight back and demand our students' human right to education.

I felt compelled to run for an interim board position by my strong sense of educational justice and a belief that we each have a responsibility to correct things that we see are wrong in the world. I did not like the direction that our schools were headed in, the climate of disrespect, top-down mandates, and disruption of programs and services meant to support the most vulnerable populations of students. On March 24, 2014 I interviewed with the Highland Park Board of Education, but it was not my time. The Board did not select

My name is Rob Magaziner and I am running on the Support Our Schools HP slate with Sharice Richardson and Ruth Beyer seeking election to the Highland Park Board of Education.

The decision to run was not an easy one for me, and I've been asked many, many times why. After all, the kids are out of school and this

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(continued on back)

SHARICE RICHARDSON

(cont.)

me that evening. I needed to find another way to engage with the issues, so I continued attending as many board meetings as I could and speaking up on issues of importance – educational rights, human dignity, racial and class equity, non-discrimination, and full participation for every student.

In November 2014, I founded the Highland Park Parents of Students of Color to promote an atmosphere of academic achievement, mutual respect, acceptance, and empowerment while building a greater sense of community for our students of color within the full spectrum of the life and activities in the Highland Park Public Schools. Those who know me will recognize that I

am a long-time passionate supporter of education as a means to improving life prospects for every child. My Bachelor and Master's degrees from Rutgers certainly transformed my life, and gave me opportunities that I never knew existed.

For the last twenty-two years I have worked at Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences in education administration, the last twelve as an Assistant Dean for Academics. I have witnessed the power of education to broaden the perspectives and lives of my students, but I have also witnessed how an overemphasis on standardized testing, grades, and even pushing students into college entry can hamper their dreams.

I believe that our public schools are still the only democratic process with the full potential to transform the lives of our youngest citizens, by helping them acquire the confidence and skills they need to become successful, engaged adults. Ensuring that our public schools provide equal access to opportunity for every child regardless of their racial, economic, or family educational background is critical to our democracy. This is why I have joined a slate with two other community members, Ruth Beyer and Rob Magaziner, and together we are seeking to join the Highland Park Board of Education under the banner of Support Our Schools HP.

Sharice Richardson



RUTH BEYER

My name is Ruth Beyer and I am running on the Support Our Schools HP slate with Rob Magaziner and Sharice Richardson seeking election to the Highland Park Board of Education.

As a public school teacher, and, as a parent of children in the Highland Park public schools, I feel a responsibility to do what I can to ensure that our schools are fully supported by our community. Highland Park is a diverse community rich in resources and members willing to do their share to keep our town as wonderful as it

can be. That support can take many forms: the sharing of knowledge and perspective; the active listening between administration and staff, and community and board; and the guidance in difficult decision making. I am not only enthusiastic in my readiness to support our schools in all of these areas, I am uniquely qualified to do so.

I am a member of both the Orthodox and Conservative Jewish communities in our town, as well as the larger secular community. I have intimate knowledge of the special education system, both as a teacher, an advocate, and as a parent. I am new to politics, but over the past two years, I have felt the pull to civic duty, just as so many of our neighbors have as well. I am ready to share my knowledge of best practices in all areas of education, but even more importantly, I'm ready to listen and collaborate to ensure that our schools continue to grow and change in positive ways, ways that can benefit ALL in our community.

Ruth Beyer