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Dear members of the Woodbury and Bethlehem communities,

I am writing to express my intention to run as an incumbent candidate representing Woodbury in the upcoming Board of Education election. I have served as a member of the Region 14 Board of Education for the past three years, including during the COVID-19 Pandemic which resulted in extreme educational challenges. I currently serve as the treasurer of the BOE, in addition to serving on the policy, curriculum and finance committees. In the event that I am reelected to this position, I intend to serve my community by supporting all children and their needs and by enforcing educational excellence.

My background and education are conducive to the assignments I am tasked with as a member of the BOE. I was born and raised in Jerusalem, Israel, to parents who valued superb, accessible education above all, and who exemplified the importance of community service. I have served with honor in the Israeli military, after which I attended the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, earning a double Bachelor's degree in Business and Communications, graduating with high honors. After graduation I relocated to the U.S. to work at a NYC-based Israeli bank.

I always possessed a passion for education as a means of improving people's lives and this, paired with my love and respect for children, led me to change my career and pursue a Master's degree in Education. I hold dual teaching certifications in childhood education and in special education both in New York State and in Connecticut, and over the past 15 years have taught a wide range of students, from a variety of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Since moving to CT in 2018, I have been employed as a special-education teacher at Newtown Middle School. Over the past year I have taken my desire to make a difference in the lives of students through sound leadership a step further, and have pursued an advanced education leadership degree, earning my school-administrator certification.

As a Region-14 parent with children in the elementary and middle levels, and as an educator of many years, I am aware of the ever-evolving needs of the student population, especially during this Post-Pandemic era, when parents and educators are addressing the long-lasting effects of social-distancing and remote-learning on the academic, social and emotional state of children. I am forever advocating for a just, inclusive and accessible school system, one in which every student is welcome and where each and every student receives a comprehensive, appropriate and equitable education. I bring my energy, enthusiasm and love of learning to the table, as well as my combined background in finance and education. As a BOE member I am known for being fiscally responsible, for asking direct questions and for challenging the status quo when necessary.

The happiness and well-being of both our children and the community at large are of utmost importance to me, and therefore I will be honored to continue serving as a member of the Board of Education.

With gratitude and respect,

Tikva Rose