



Westborough SEPAC

"Helping All Kids Succeed"

October 1, 2013

To whom it may concern,

It is with whole-hearted sincerity and enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for Ilyse Levine-Kanji. I first came to know Ilyse in 2007 when we both served as volunteers for the Westborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Six years, and many volunteer hours later, I couldn't be more grateful that we have become colleagues and friends.

Ilyse's commitment to the families in her community has been evident from the day we met while working together to coordinate SEPAC's *Wind Beneath Their Wings*, a program and awards ceremony to recognize those who have made a difference in the lives of the community's special needs children. It quickly became clear to me that Ilyse is a person who serves others with dedication, passion, and outstanding leadership. This special recognition program was particularly important to Ilyse, as she firmly believes in honoring and showing appreciation to those who demonstrate kindness and compassion, particularly to families of children with special needs.

Throughout the next several years, including the three years I served as vice-president and president of the SEPAC, I came to appreciate Ilyse's dedication to our children, our schools, and our community. She has been instrumental in the introduction and continuation of the "Understanding Our Differences" program at the Mill Pond School. This program is intended to develop understanding and compassion for students who learn differently from "typical" children. Ilyse has continued to coordinate and lead this program long after her own children participated because she recognizes the importance of teaching acceptance and appreciation of differences.

Ilyse's commitment to the children and families in our community has also been evident through her outstanding work as a member and leader of Westborough's School Committee for the past 5 years, where she has faithfully and skillfully worked on behalf of all students of Westborough. Through her dedication to this committee, she has also ensured that the education of children with special needs has been given due consideration.

As a result of our many hours of volunteering together, Ilyse and I have become close friends, and I have come to understand just how much Ilyse cares and works for families of children with special needs. I know of few other people who care as deeply and demonstrate as much kindness to the families in her community. It is an honor to know and work with Ilyse.

Sincerely,

Sue Almy
President, Westborough SEPAC 2009-2011