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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Two contests for WSESD board on ballot

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####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 Candidates in Brattleboro and Dummerston discuss  
3 supporting schools and bracing for the impact of Act 73

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 Incumbent Kimberly “Kim” Price is vying with Richard  
6 “Rich” Leavy for a three-year seat representing Brattleboro on the  
7 Windham Southeast School District (WSESD) school board, and  
8 newcomers Daniel Everlith and Paul Smith are competing for a  
9 three-year term representing Dummerston on the board.

10 Incumbent Putney representative Ruby McAdoo is  
11 running unopposed for another three-year term. She joined the  
12 board in 2023.

13 The election is Tuesday, March 3. Voters from all district  
14 member towns — Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, and  
15 Putney — vote for all board directors from every town.

16 Voting takes place in Brattleboro at the American Legion  
17 Post 5, 32 Linden St., from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; at Dummerston  
18 School, 52 School House Rd., from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; in Guilford,  
19 at the Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Rd.,  
20 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and at Putney Central School, 182  
21 Westminster Rd., from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## 22 **Kimberly Price**

23 Price grew up in Brattleboro then left for a number of  
24 years, returning to raise her two boys, who attended Academy  
25 School, Brattleboro Area Middle School, and Brattleboro Union  
26 High School. With her boys off on their own, the procurement  
27 supervisor on the buying team at C&S Wholesale Grocers says  
28 she’s now an empty nester.

29 She served as a director on the Brattleboro Town School  
30 Board before the merger in 2019 and currently serves as WSESD  
31 vice chair, sits on the Finance Committee, and is a voting  
32 member of the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU)  
33 board.

34 During her past term, Price has served on two board  
35 subcommittees: for Personnel, Programmatic and Performance  
36 Equity (PPE), and Negotiations.

37 “Having worked on the Finance Committee, I feel we  
38 have worked hard with the administration to present strong  
39 budgets that support all our students as well as being fiscally  
40 responsible to the taxpayers,” Price says.

41 “During the time I worked on the PPE Committee, we  
42 started the conversation that there was a need to have more  
43 equitable food services across the district and that Putney Central

44 School should be the model for how we do food service in the  
45 [rest of the] district. Our initial discussions were the initial steps  
46 to the district moving to a better program for all schools.”

47         Asked why she’s running again, Price says she wants to  
48 continue to work on the Finance Committee.

49         “We need to continue to work on the budget and be as  
50 fiscally responsible as possible whilst making sure we continue to  
51 offer the services our students require,” she says. “I know I have  
52 the time that is needed to follow what is happening at the state  
53 level and research all aspects of potential changes that will most  
54 impactful on our schools.”

55         Price believes the board’s and district’s greatest  
56 challenges is how Act 73, the education reform law enacted in  
57 2025, will affect all school districts. Amid a number of changes,  
58 the act will consolidate Vermont school districts, creating fewer  
59 and larger entities serving 4,000 to 8,000 students when it goes  
60 into effect in 2028.

61         “We need to continue to monitor all the changes that  
62 will occur during this legislative session and how it could affect  
63 our control over our schools and our financial goals,” Price says.  
64 “We need to continue to support all our students.”

## 65         **Richard “Rich” Leavy**

66         Leavy studied at St. Lawrence University and holds  
67 degrees in philosophy and environmental studies. He was a  
68 commercial organic farmer in Connecticut for 15 years and in  
69 California for a decade. He also farmed in North Carolina, in  
70 Hawaii, and in the Hudson Valley in New York state.

71         In 2015, Leavy moved to Vermont and shifted his career  
72 path to construction of timber frame homes, founding Southern  
73 Vermont Home, LLC.

74         Leavy has two children who attend Brattleboro Area  
75 Middle School and Brattleboro Union High School, respectively.

76         The candidate narrowly lost his bid for a seat on the  
77 WSESD board in 2024. After a recount led to the same outcome,

78 Leavy congratulated his opponents and pledged to stay  
79 connected to school matters.

80 For the past three years, he has served as Brattleboro  
81 Area Middle School (BAMS) Leadership Council Chair, and for  
82 two years he's represented Brattleboro on the WSESD's  
83 Independent Budget Review Committee (IRBC).

84 "I have very much stayed involved with the district over  
85 the past few years since I previously ran," Leavy says. "This has  
86 allowed me to not only contribute in my own way, but also stay  
87 informed to broader district issues."

88 He says he "always had the intention of running again at  
89 some point," and, with Act 73's changes looming, "it was time to  
90 make that choice."

91 "I feel I can be a valuable voice during this transition  
92 period," says Leavy, who believes the Act 73-mandated school  
93 district consolidation process is going to be "the main issue in  
94 coming years."

95 "My work in the school systems has been focused on  
96 community development and engagement within BAMS and also  
97 the financial working of the district with the IRBC," he says.  
98 "These are both critical focal points in the school consolidation  
99 process."

100 Leavy says he'd also pursue discussing "ways to engage  
101 our teachers more at the district level" if elected.

102 "I think there is going to be a learning process to  
103 understand how the current system functions, but then hopefully  
104 be able to discuss ideas on how we can improve it," he says.

105 "I know that this is an important issue for our school staff  
106 — which, again, has the potential to become an even more  
107 prescient issue if there is any consolidation that happens," Leavy  
108 says.

109 "I look forward to the opportunity ahead and building  
110 solid relationships to help our schools be the best possible  
111 experience for our kids," he adds.

## Daniel Everlith

Everlith moved here in 2022 from Connecticut with his wife, Jessica, and two young children who attend Dummerston School.

With a background in marriage and family therapy, he has worked with children in the school system for many years. He previously worked at Yale University supporting children at risk of being placed out of district for emotional and behavioral health challenges. And he's worked with students on juvenile probation for truancy.

The candidate has been a member of the Family Involvement Team at Dummerston School and a volunteer there. He previously worked with Vermont Learning Collaborative, operating within the school system to provide behavioral health support for students in an alternative classroom setting.

Jessica Everlith was elected to serve the remainder of a three-year term in Dummerston ending in 2026 after briefly being appointed to fill a vacancy. She has since stepped down from the board.

Daniel Everlith says he is running because "I have spent a significant portion of my career working with students directly in a one-to-one setting and would like to try and make a positive impact on a macro level and, hopefully, with a larger scope."

For him, the greatest challenges facing the district are "ensuring that the wonderful teachers and support staff we have are taken care of and feel heard, and the potential consolidation of schools and districts and the proposed impact on local communities."

"To address these issues, I think what needs to happen first is a reflection of our values as a community," says Everlith.

"I would like to see our schools and education as a priority worth investing into. That includes the children and the staff," he continues. "We need a combination of action, data

145 collection, and review that may be repeated until we have a  
146 system that works for our community as a whole.”

147           Everlith says having two children who attend a WSESD  
148 school “presents me with a unique perspective which I think is a  
149 benefit to the position I am campaigning for. My children are  
150 directly impacted by any changes that may occur in our district.”

151           “I have the opportunity to observe how district policies  
152 may affect the students and teachers in real time,” he continues.  
153 “Furthermore, my background in behavioral health has shown  
154 me that academic achievement and emotional well-being are not  
155 separate goals.”

156           He pledges to “advocate for policies that provide the  
157 appropriate mental health resources, ensuring our students are  
158 regulated and ready to learn when they walk into the classroom.”

## 159           **Paul Smith**

160           Smith has lived in Dummerston since 2003. His child  
161 has gone through the public school system here, first at  
162 Dummerston School and then at Brattleboro Union High School.

163           Smith was employed by the Windham Southeast  
164 Supervisory Union for 33 years, first as a middle school science  
165 teacher in Guilford and then as a curriculum coordinator in the  
166 WSESU Central Office.

167           The candidate believes his “extensive experience with  
168 the school system” puts him in a “favorable position to be of  
169 service” on the WSESD board.

170           “I am thoroughly committed to maintaining the  
171 excellence that is exhibited by our schools and to ongoing school  
172 improvement,” Smith says. “I am also committed to effective  
173 community governance.”

174           The candidate says that boards such as this one play a  
175 critical role in serving the interests of community “by providing  
176 oversight, support, and advocacy for the students and families  
177 that the system serves.”

178           “While I feel that my deep familiarity with the operation  
179 of the school district will help in this endeavor, I do not believe  
180 that it is the role of the board to direct how the system is  
181 operated,” he says.

182           The candidate finds the greatest challenge for the board  
183 to be “responding to increased societal expectations for what  
184 schools should provide, falling enrollments, and the fiscal stress  
185 that those two trends place on school budgets and the  
186 community that supports our schools.”

187           Smith remains “firmly in the camp of those who see the  
188 role of the school board as ‘making sure that the schools are well  
189 run, but not trying to run them.’”

190           “I am hopeful that I will be allowed to pursue that role,”  
191 he says.

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