

Hello, my name is Tara Sweet and I am running for a three year Fletcher School Board position. I have been on the Fletcher School Board since August 2015 when I was appointed by the board to fill a vacancy. I have very much valued the experience and have learned much from our former board members. I appreciate being able to collaborate with them and learn from their past experiences.

I was born and raised in Vermont; I moved to Fletcher in 2000 and married a live-long Fletcher resident. My husband and his family operate a dairy farm on the “Cambridge side” of Fletcher. As our family grew, I wanted to meet more people and volunteer my time. I started with FOFE (Friends of Fletcher Elementary in 2007, just by attending meetings. By 2009, I was elected President. I spent the next 10 years running FOFE and I retired in 2019. In addition, I have also started helping our town at our church suppers and the rummage sales. I always enjoy my time volunteering and getting to meet as many residents of Fletcher, Fairfax, and other surrounding towns.

I finished getting Bachelor’s Degree in Business in December 2006 just before our last daughter was born in January 2007; I also have an Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Education. The varied job experiences I have also acquired have been working in retail, bookkeeper for retail, lead teacher at a day care setting, personal nanny for two families, administrative assistant, accounts payable lead, accounts payable manager to my current position of accountant. These skills I acquired in each position have taught me so much and I continue to learn from each experience and try to learn something new every day.

I want to continue serving the residents of Fletcher as I feel that all the pieces of running a district are just starting to all come together. In March of 2016, I was elected to FWSU (Franklin West Supervisory Board) as a representative for Fletcher, which I am currently still serving. In March 2019, I became the Chair of the FWSU and the Fletcher board concurrently. It was a challenging year at FWSU as we tragically lost our superintendent, then hired an Interim and then our current superintendent. I served on the hiring committees for both of these positions. I am currently also serving on the board for the VSBA (Vermont School Board Association). It has been great to collaborate with other school board members from around Vermont. I wish to continue using the knowledge that I have acquired in my work life with the knowledge I have acquired from the last 5 years as a school board member to continue to make the best possible decisions for the residents and children of Fletcher.

Voting will be conducted this year using an Australian ballot due to the state restrictions around the Covid-19 protocols, as decided by both the Select and School boards.

Please request your ballot no later than March 1st by following the instructions here:

<http://fletchervt.net/.../02/Local-Election-Voter-Notice.pdf>

Please join us for an informational meeting on the school budget to be held, Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The link and call in information can be found at the FWSU website found here:

<https://www.fwsu.org/fes-board>.

Information on candidates virtually can be found on the town website: <https://fletchervt.net/our-new-website/>

The 2021 Fletcher Town Meeting warning can be found here: <https://fletchervt.net/2021-combined-town-school-warning/>