

Letter to the Editor, Brookline TAB, April 20, 2017

PAX endorsements

PAX enthusiastically endorses Ben Franco and Heather Hamilton for selectman, both superbly reflecting our progressive values. Ben has worked tirelessly – and very well -- as an incumbent selectman. Heather, an indefatigable and thoughtful TMM, is a welcome fresh face.

For Library Trustees, we endorsed all five candidates – for four seats, all being worthy and the Trustees' Board that's now functioning well. For School Committee, however, we endorsed only Suzanne Federspiel and Paul Harris. We've long felt the SC needs more vigorous leadership supporting Brookline values. Suzanne, a professional educator, and Paul, a well-known progressive activist, will provide that leadership. Both are appreciative of unions.

While we joined the promising, new Alliance for Brookline Schools, our concerns predate it. Last year PAX, in an unusual step, made zero SC endorsements – with three incumbents running uncontested, all previously endorsed by PAX and all – like this year's non-endorseees – decent, well-intentioned people.

The SC often used the negotiating excuse that their hands were tied. We don't buy it. It was a leadership deficit. Further, the SC refused to stand against Question 2, expanding charter schools that privatize our public schools; fortunately it lost almost 2-1 statewide -- and in Brookline. And, they agonized over a (successful) TM resolution opposing high-stakes testing.

– Marty Rosenthal, co-chair, BrooklinePAX