

## Candidate's Statement

Robert E. O'Brien announced that he is a candidate for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee. He is a parent of three children who attend Charlton schools and is a homeowner in town.

"Our challenge is to continue to strive for educational excellence while being effective and efficient in our delivery of services. We must rise to the challenge of education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century while maintaining fiscal responsibility. I strongly believe that our children will not only compete but thrive in the global economy."

O'Brien, 43, currently serves as the principal of David Prouty High School serving the towns of Spencer and East Brookfield. Prior to that, O'Brien spent thirteen years as a teacher, coach, athletic director and administrator in the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District.

O'Brien earned a Bachelor Degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Worcester State College.

At the age of 17, O'Brien enlisted in the military. He volunteered and served in the first Gulf War and holds an Honorable discharge from both The United States Army and The United States Army Reserve.

"I bring my unique life experiences to the school committee. At a young age I was taught the value of service, commitment, and leadership. Literally and figuratively, I have spent time in the trenches. I have 23 years of experience as an educator. I understand that true leaders listen and act in the best interest of those they represent."

O'Brien is a member of the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association and serves on the state Cheerleading Committee. He is also a member and two time president of the Central Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association. He serves on the board of directors for The Goal Setting Institute for Youth and is a member of the Spencer American Legion.

O'Brien's goal is direct and simple: "Our community has long placed a high value on education. We must continue to create a better world one child at a time."