

I enthusiastically support Odessa Sanchez for a seat on Wellesley's Select Board. I met Odessa a short time ago when she came to work at St. John School in Wellesley, but I was familiar with her name from the September ballot and she was a stand out to me then as well.

I believe Odessa would be an effective member on the Select Board and she has my vote for more than a few reasons. First, Odessa would bring a unique and valuable perspective to the myriad issues brought to the Board. As a woman whose life experiences have given her wisdom, compassion and grit, she is able to speak for those whose voices are often not part of the conversation – including the elderly, children and those with limited means.

Second, Odessa is a “people” person who engages others with a ready smile and genuine desire to listen to their concerns. Patient and tolerant, Odessa carefully considers all sides of an issue before formulating an opinion. She embraces opportunities to forge relationships with people from a broad range of backgrounds and a diverse range of views. This is evident in her teaching and coaching skills and in her work to empower young people, especially those who need help coming out of their shells.

Lastly, Odessa has the experience of collaborating with multiple departments within an organization. She understands the complexity of building relationships and having interpersonal skills to work with others with mutual respect for each other's roles.

You may have seen Odessa's signs around town, and perhaps you have seen her in public spaces, eager to meet each one of you, I see Odessa at work and she is as genuine and approachable as one would expect from a candidate for public office.

Please vote for Odessa Sanchez - an important new voice for our town government.

Melanie Kelly
Wellesley, MA