

# ***Ronan Buchanan***

32 Sunflower Way  
Plymouth, MA 02360

December 12, 2024

Plymouth School Committee  
11 Lincoln Street  
Plymouth, MA 02360

Plymouth Select Board  
26 Court Street  
Plymouth, MA 02360

Re: School Committee Letter of Interest

Dear Members of the Plymouth School Committee and Select Board,

I want to take this opportunity to express my interest in the vacant position on the Plymouth School Committee. I am 18 years old, a lifelong resident of Plymouth, and a lifelong Plymouth Public Schools student. I expect to graduate in June 2025 from Plymouth South High School.

Throughout my life, I have been exposed to politics and public service. At age 8, I had the opportunity to meet Former Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, before subsequently meeting New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu and First Lady Valerie Sununu at the Bridges House in Concord. Consequently, when coupled with a love of history, I developed a passion for public service and American Politics early in my life—with my ultimate career goal being to run for the Presidency of the United States—on a platform of: *Empower, Inspire, Excel*.

Accordingly, since my Freshman year at PSHS, I have undertaken various endeavors to serve both PSHS and beyond. During my Sophomore year, I served as a Student Council Class President and successfully fundraised for my class' junior prom, produced a balanced budget, and increased class council involvement. Furthermore, since my Junior year, I have served on the PSHS School Council and Breakfast Club advisory boards. As a School Council member, I have reviewed New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) objectives, advocated for no-phones-in-class policies, identified attendance impediments, and proposed an implementation approach to AI. Likewise, as a Breakfast Club board member, I have shed light on conundrums from vaping to parking fees and parking lot speeding. Thus, being a current high school student will enable me to bring a unique student perspective to the committee—and in turn shed light on and rectify the issues that affect me and all students in Plymouth.

My most significant experience in public service, however, came from my time as a Legislative Intern with State Representative Mathew Muratore's office—a role I served in from June 2023 to November 2024. As an intern, I performed numerous duties, including analyzing fiscal state budget benefits for the 1st Plymouth District, writing committee letters, researching legislation, confronting constituent dilemmas both in-person and over the phone, and meeting with lobbyists. Thus, on top of the recreational knowledge I possess of the Federal Government, my experience as an intern has equipped me with an extensive understanding of the Commonwealth's Government—which uniquely and perfectly positions me to advocate for Plymouth Public Schools at the state level and possess all the necessary knowledge to ensuring Plymouth Public Schools continues to *make dreams come true*.

Owing to my experience in state government and my time as a high school student, there are multiple pronounced issues that I have already embarked upon addressing and will continue to on the Plymouth School Committee. Foremost, with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) being null and void as a graduation requirement in November's election—a decision which has the potential to decrease the value of a Massachusetts high school diploma, I am committed to ensuring Plymouth diploma's both *maintain* and *exceed* the value of surrounding municipalities in the Commonwealth.

As part of preserving a Plymouth diploma's value, as a committee member, I would advocate for the addition of completing a Personal Money Management course to graduate high school, along with the inclusion of *Standards-Based Grading* to all middle and high school report cards. No matter your post-secondary path, all Plymouth students will be required to and should be cognizant of how to perform fundamental financial management tasks such as filling out 1040 and W2 forms, budgeting net income, and how to write a check. Furthermore, the inclusion of *Standards-Based Grading* to report cards will verify that Plymouth students are not simply graded on their completion and cognizance of tests and assignments—but also engaged with the material they learn, such as through class discussions.

On top of preserving the value of Plymouth diplomas, I am steadfast in my belief that Plymouth must maximize on delivering high-quality education while keeping modest budgets. Since 2021, Plymouth taxpayers have endured 40-year-high inflation, particularly with concern for energy and gas prices. Thus, as a committee member, I will be dedicated to critically examining every dollar in our budget and determining where we can make cuts and save money as a district, such as through automation, to cut costs for Plymouth families—particularly bus and parking fees.

During my time at PSHS, I *never* felt getting up at 4:30 am to go to school was burdensome—since I *loved* what I learned and the relationships that have and will continue to

nurture my success both *today* in school and *tomorrow* in the White House—something I aspire to make possible for *all* students in Plymouth Public Schools through this vacancy.

Sincerely,

Ronan Buchanan

Enclosures

# Ronan J. Buchanan

Plymouth South High School Class of 2025

## EXPERIENCE

Massachusetts House of Representatives, Boston, MA  
02133 — *Legislative Intern*  
June 2023 - November 2024

Plymouth South High School School Council, Plymouth,  
MA 02360 — *Board Member*  
June 2023 - PRESENT

Plymouth South High School Breakfast Club, Plymouth,  
MA 02360 — *Board Member*  
October 2023 - PRESENT

Plymouth South High School Student Council, Plymouth,  
MA 02360 — *President of the Class of 2025*  
May 2022 - May 2023

Cranberry Coffee Corner, Plymouth, MA 02360 — *Crew  
Member*  
January 2022 - May 2022

McDonald's Corporation, Plymouth, MA 02360 — *Crew  
Member*  
June 2021 - November 2021

Boys and Girls Club of Plymouth, Plymouth, MA 02360 —  
*Counselor-in-Training (CIT)*  
June 2019 - August 2021

Served As Role Model For Younger Club Members, Organized Group  
Activities/Games For Children Ages 6-12, Distributed Snacks And Lunches,  
Occasionally Taught And Talked History With Younger Club Members.

## EDUCATION

Plymouth South High School, Plymouth, MA 02360 —  
*General Studies*  
August 2021 - June 2025

4.48 GPA, 21/248 Class Rank, National Honor Society Member, Philosophy  
Club Member, Model United Nations President (11-12 {Member 9-10}),  
Student Council Delegate (11-12), Southeastern MA Assc. Of Student Councils  
Delegate Candidate (10-2023 Elections).

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[2025buchananrj@student.plymouth.k12.ma.us](mailto:2025buchananrj@student.plymouth.k12.ma.us)

## EDUCATION REFERENCES

Plymouth South High School  
490 Long Pond Road  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
508-224-2725

Patricia Fry, Principal

Walter Fust, Social Studies  
Department Head

Darren Fruzzetti, Math  
Teacher

Christopher Lippa, English  
Teacher

Nicole Kierstead, Business  
Technology Instructor

Jason Hall, Guidance  
Counselor

## WORK REFERENCES

Mathew Muratore, State  
Representative  
508-930-2979

Betty DeBenedictis, Legislative  
Director  
508-505-1007

Boys and Girls Club of  
Plymouth  
9 Resnick Road, Plymouth, MA  
02360  
508-746-6070

Christine Young, Director

Ted Donnelly, Program  
Director