

# Ken Parker

KEN PARKER FOR NEWTON MAYOR 2009 EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

## Parker Seeks Views On Newton's Schools

Contact: Alderman Ken Parker, [ken@kenparker.org](mailto:ken@kenparker.org) or (617) 965-3723

*Newton, MA*--Newton residents are invited to participate in a survey located at [www.parker2009.org](http://www.parker2009.org) about the future of public education in the City of Newton. Their input will help shape the future of Newton's schools by informing the education section of the *Blueprint for Newton's Future*, a document being prepared by members of the Ken Parker for Newton Mayor 2009 Exploratory Committee focusing on education, financial management and environmental and sustainable growth issues facing the City.

"Newton residents place a high value on the quality of public education. They also have a great deal of personal experience and expertise to offer to our planning process," said School Committee Member Geoff Epstein, who co-chairs of the Education Subcommittee. "Through this survey we hope to draw as much as we can from this invaluable resource so that we are able to create a plan which will ensure that all students in Newton maximize their academic, social and physical potential in an innovative and sustainable school system."

Fellow Co-Chair and Newton parent-activist Lucia Dolan said, "One of the most vital public services Newton provides is our children's opportunity to receive an excellent education. Education provides for the future. As Alderman Parker has said many times, we must draw upon the intellectual resources of our City's residents to address the challenges facing our public education system. This survey is one way for us to do just that. I hope people will take the time to offer us their advice."

The survey, available at [www.parker2009.org](http://www.parker2009.org), was developed by members of the Education Subcommittee of the Ken Parker for Newton Mayor 2009 Exploratory Committee. The questions are designed to garner important information about residents' views on key issues related to public education in Newton. Each and every response will be reviewed by Alderman Parker and members of his Education Subcommittee. Information about the data collected will be made available upon request and during a public hearing planned for October 21st at 7:30 p.m. in Newton Highlands.

"This survey is a critical part of the development of an innovative plan for public education in Newton," said Alderman Parker. "I join our co-chairs, School Committee Member Geoff Epstein, Lucia Dolan and former School Committee Member Leslie Schneider, in encouraging the participation of all concerned Newton residents and assuring participants that members of our Education Subcommittee and I are greatly looking forward to reviewing each and every response to our questions."

The Ken Parker for Newton Mayor 2009 Exploratory Committee is a group of over one hundred City residents working together to restore Newton's excellence through open, effective government. People who are interested in learning more about the Committee may visit [www.parker2009.org](http://www.parker2009.org) or contact Field Director Shawn P. Fitzgibbons at [shawn@parker2009.org](mailto:shawn@parker2009.org) or (617) 997-2577.

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