



[David Scannell for School Board](#) shared [Jon DiPietro's post](#).

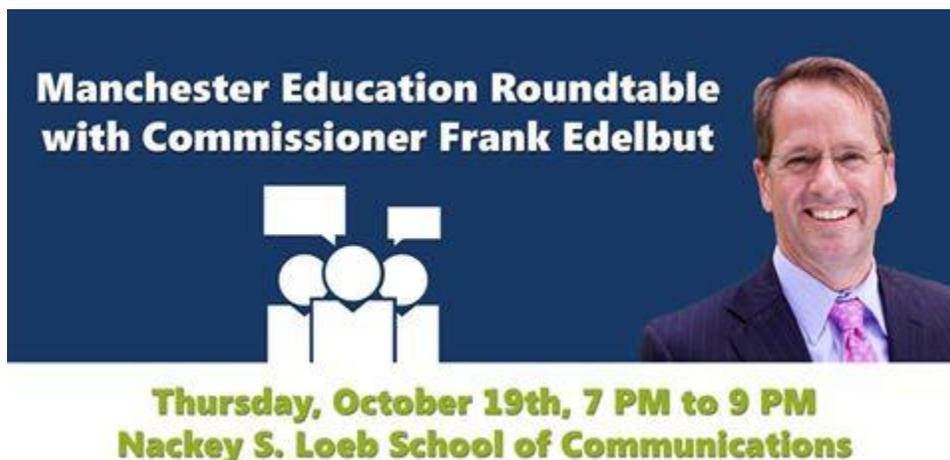
October 3 at 7:54pm ·

I have a few questions about this event.

It is being billed as non-partisan event for school board candidates. Yet, I have not been invited -- nor has at least one other candidate in another ward. Cmsr. Edelblut promised the Executive Council that he would avoid partisan activity if appointed commissioner. Agreeing to appear with only favored candidates at a forum billed for all candidates seems to run afoul of this promise. I will give him the benefit of the doubt. I wonder if the organizers have indicated to him that all candidates have been invited. Well, they have not been invited. He may want to reconsider his participation.

I have a nice relationship with the commissioner. I will call him tomorrow to inquire. He has always returned my calls in the past. I am sure he will do so again tomorrow.

Having said that, I think it is important to note I have invited my opponent to go door to door with me and to participate in a number of forums in front of PTOs and student groups. She has refused.



[Jon DiPietro](#) to [Manchester \(NH\) School Chat \(Uncensored\)](#)

October 3 at 4:08pm ·

Come join NH State Department of Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut and Manchester candidates for Board of School Committee at this education roundtable. Thi...

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12 Michael Porter and 11 others

## Comments



**David Scannell for School Board** Update: Mr. DiPietro has informed Carol Robidoux of Manchester InkLink that he could not be bothered tracking down the names of candidates to invite them. This makes no sense: How can you have a candidate forum without knowing that any candidate would show up? And, even if Mr. DiPietro is telling the whole story, the commissioner must have known he was agreeing to a forum sponsored by a candidate. If the commissioner inquired about the presence of Mr. DiPietro's opponent, wouldn't he have been told that that individual's presence had not been confirmed? Given that information, wouldn't the commissioner have refused to participate? Lots of interesting questions. It is hard not to conclude that the fix was in.

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· [October 3 at 10:03pm](#) · [Edited](#)

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**Michael Porter** David, i saw this posted a short time ago. It says the event is "Open". You are aware of the event, so show up. You don't need a sealed invitation. It is clear you are aware of it....so now the choice is yours as to whether or not you attend.

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**Michael Porter** Here is where I saw it a couple of days ago:

[https://manchesterinklink.com/commissioner-edelblut.../...See More](https://manchesterinklink.com/commissioner-edelblut...)

## Commissioner Edelblut to attend Manchester education roundtable -...

MANCHESTERINKLINK.COM

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**Jon DiPietro** Nobody has been individually or personally "invited" to this event. It's an open invitation and everyone is welcome. The only individual notice sent out was to Dr. Vargas as courtesy to him. I wasn't going to go hunting for the contact information of dozens of candidates. I sent out press releases so that everyone would know about it and could sign up.

The event is more than two weeks away and was just published a few hours ago. Looks like I was successful in getting the word out to candidates.

Hope to see you there so that we can all benefit from your constructive thoughts about education in Manchester.

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**Connie Van Houten**

· October 3 at 8:35pm ·

School Board candidate David Scannell posted the response below. I, too, have not been invited, and I have asked my opponent to participate in a candidate forum and am awaiting a response. I, too, expect our commissioner of education to honor his commitment to non-partisanship.

Mr. Scannell's post:

I have a few questions about this event.

[See More](#)

**Manchester Education Roundtable  
with Commissioner Frank Edelbut**

**Thursday, October 19th, 7 PM to 9 PM  
Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications**

**Jon DiPietro to Manchester (NH) School Chat (Uncensored)**

· October 3 at 4:08pm ·

Come join NH State Department of Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut and Manchester candidates for Board of School Committee at this education roundtable. Thi...

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**Comments**



[Jon DiPietro](#) Nobody has been individually or personally "invited" to this event. It's an open invitation and everyone is welcome. The only individual notice sent out was to Dr. Vargas as courtesy to him. I wasn't going to go hunting for the contact information of dozens of candidates. I sent out press releases so that everyone would know about it and could sign up. The event is more than two weeks away and was just published a couple of hours ago. Looks like I was successful in getting the word out. Hope to see you and Mr. Scannell there.

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· October 3 at 8:46pm

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[David Scannell](#) [Jon DiPietro](#) - Your EventBrite notification indicates school board candidates would be there. You wrote: "Come join Cmsr. Frank Edelblut and Manchester candidates..." How could you say that if you had not invited any? Forgive me if I conclude some had been given a heads up. If nothing else, YOU clearly knew of the Oct. 17 event -- but, by your own admission, your ward 6 opponent was not informed. How is that fair? How could you the commissioner agree to participate?

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· October 3 at 10:24pm

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[David Scannell](#) [Jon DiPietro](#): How can you invite someone to a candidate forum without ensuring candidates have been invited? How can the commissioner accept such an invite from a candidate (you) without making sure that your opponent was invited? How were candidates supposed to know of the event if the only notice was on a FB page that I look at only occasionally and some may not look at all? This does not pass the smell test.

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· October 3 at 10:14pm

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[Patricia Reardon Cornell](#) The commissioner should not agree to participate without being informed that all candidates have been formally invited to take part.

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· [Reply](#) · October 4 at 6:52am

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[Jon DiPietro](#) [David Scannell](#) I asked the Commissioner if he would attend an education roundtable and he said, "Yes." It's that simple.

I posted the event in about 15 different Facebook groups and sent out press releases to multiple media outlets, including Manches...[See More](#)

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· [Reply](#) · October 4 at 6:14am

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[Connie Van Houten](#) Since I am “welcome,” as is everyone, would I be an attendee and not a participant at the table? A page on FB on which you posted your event also promulgates a candidate forum on education in which my opponent will participate. I have received no inv...[See More](#)

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· October 4 at 2:39pm

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[Jon DiPietro](#) I created two ticket types - one for candidates and one for general attendees. You are a candidate.

I don't know why you'd see a sponsored ad. I'm not doing so and not aware of anyone who is.

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· [Reply](#) · October 4 at 3:06pm

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[Laverne V. MacInnis](#) Mr. DiPietro, I don't know you from a hole in the wall - never spoken to you, never read anything you've written until your postings here. But as a mental health professional, I must tell you that you sound defensive as hell in your postings here. If there are "no shenanigans" as you so vigorously protest, why are you so defensive?

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· October 4 at 10:41pm

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[Andrew Toland](#) I'm just your average Joe Taxpayer, but it would seem to be to be disqualifying that it would take someone a full day to track down contact info for five people. To save you a full day next time Jon, you can find info for all municipal candidates here: [https://www.manchesternh.gov/.../2017\\_Filing%20Book.pdf](https://www.manchesternh.gov/.../2017_Filing%20Book.pdf)

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· October 4 at 3:06pm · Edited

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**Jon DiPietro** I did other things in between making phone calls and waiting for people to respond to my emails. It was a 24-hour period, not 24 hours of non-stop toiling and searching.

And the filing book does not have emails or phone numbers. I wasn't going to organize an event in 2017 via snail mail. That would have taken far longer than 24 hours.

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**Jeff Hanson** Now that is funny. I don't think Mr. DiPietro really wants ALL the candidates there. So he is either lazy, or a liar. Neither one is something someone should want in a candidate. Ward 6 voters, look elsewhere.

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· October 4 at 10:43pm

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**Andrew Toland** Jon DiPietro I don't know you so I'll give you the benefit of the doubt but this really seems like you did the bare minimum to make it seem like you invited people who don't agree with you (or Edelblut). Related question: did Nackey Loeb donate the space?

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· Yesterday at 7:53am

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**Celine Carrier** "educational roundtable" is hardly a euphemism for all candidates are invited.

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· [Reply](#) · October 4 at 9:02pm

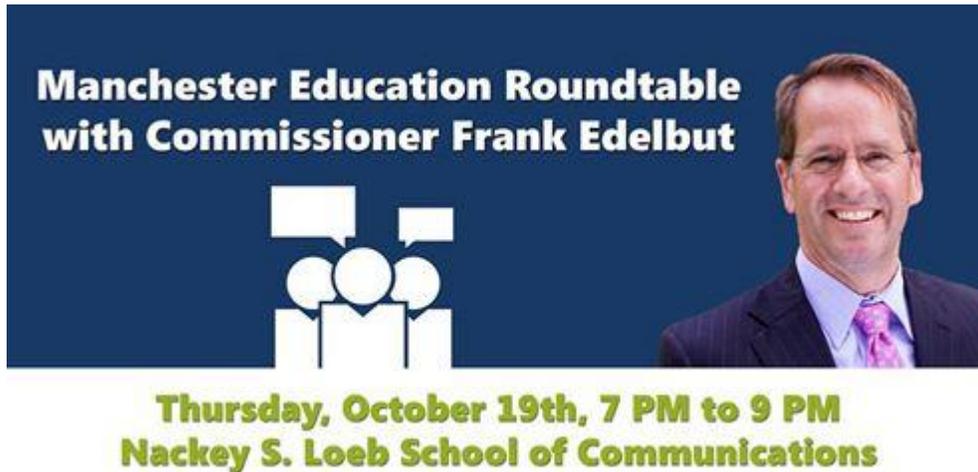
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**Kathy Schofield Staub**

· October 4 at 10:07am ·

So I turn off Facebook last night to get some work done and this shows up this morning. The sponsor of this event is running for school board and he set this up without inviting all the candidates. He is a digital marketing professional. He probably possesses the skills to have done that. Was he intentionally exclusive? Did he tell the Commissioner he wasn't inviting all the candidates?



**Jon DiPietro to Manchester (NH) School Chat (Uncensored)**

· October 3 at 4:08pm ·

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**Comments**



**Jeff Hanson** Yes I heard about this and to advertise the event in such a way as “non-partisan” and “meet the candidates” kind of thing is a bit disingenuous. But based on who is hosting/where it came from I should have expected as much.

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· October 4 at 11:07am · Edited

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