Bridget Nee-Walsh  
Candidate for Boston City Council At-Large

1. What letter grade would you give Mayor Wu at this point in her tenure?  
If I had to give her a grade at this point in her tenure, I would give Mayor Wu a C+. I think that anyone taking on a new role will experience growing pains and a learning curve. Halfway through her first term, Mayor Wu has had both achievements and challenges but has demonstrated an ability to adapt and grow as a leader. There is always room for improvement and I am hopeful that her final grade will be an A.

2. What's the best thing the council did this term, and what's the biggest mistake it made?  
I think the best thing that the Council has done this term was passing the ordinance banning tents, making it easier to clean up and clear the tents around Mass and Cass. For too long, the city and state have turned a blind eye and cold shoulder to the increasingly problematic congregation of individuals experiencing addiction, untreated mental health, and/or chronic homelessness in the area and now we have a public health, and honestly, public safety crisis on our hands. With the passage of this ordinance and care teams on site to assist folks with services and shelter, I am hopeful that the ball will continue rolling in the right direction. I believe the biggest mistake was made during the redistricting process due to the lack of transparency and collaboration of councilors before passing the first maps.

3. What's the first piece of legislation you'd file next term?  
My first piece of legislation will likely be relative to education and schools within the BPS system. With a 7 and a 17 year old at home, the current state of our schools and the future of education in Boston is extremely concerning to me and I have heard this from so many families throughout the city. I strongly believe that we need to increase vocational programs in the Boston Public School system to offer children the opportunity and choice to learn a skilled trade and an alternative pathway to earn a sustainable living wage, allowing them to stay in the city of Boston and raise their own families in Boston. As Councilor, I will work to provide support for Boston’s public-school families by ensuring readily available tutoring services to all students who’ve fallen behind and addressing the social inequity that exists within the school system so that every public-school student can reach exam-school level.

4. Do you support building a new recovery campus at the edge of Franklin Park?  
I am supportive of the recovery campus model and am cognizant of the critical need for these services as well as the demand for housing, but I am not, currently, supportive of this project. The local communities’ concerns over the size, scale, and details of the plan have not yet been addressed and adequately answered. I support continuing the dialogue with community participation in order to get to a place and proposal that works.

5. Is there anything the city should be doing differently to address the intersecting crises at Mass and Cass?  
We should be using all tools in our toolbox to tackle the intersecting crises at Mass and Cass. The recently passed ordinance is a great start. Ensuring that we have care teams continuously on site to direct people to shelter and services, in addition to police who will now be able to enforce the tent ban, will hopefully help to keep the area clear. I think it is an important measure that will help keep
everyone safe. I do think that we can work with colleagues in the state to help efforts to support recovery services and wrap around services to aid in the recovery journey.

6. Do you support plans to move the John D. O'Bryant to West Roxbury?
I am not currently supportive of the move. I understand the desire, and frankly, love the idea of Madison Park expanding to have the ability to offer more vocational programs. However, the decision to move the John D. O'Bryant School to West Roxbury should consider the educational benefits, transportation challenges, community input, and cost considerations. It's important to engage in open and transparent dialogue with the community to ensure that the decision reflects the best interests of the students, families, and the broader community and right now, we just aren’t there.

7. Was the council's approval of $3.4 million in grant funding for the Boston Regional Intelligence Center the right move?
Yes. This funding will help our law enforcement officers have the tools they need to continue keeping us safe, including hiring 8 additional analysts.

8. The council has become increasingly acrimonious in the last two years. Who or what is responsible?
Quick judgements, divisive politics, and social media have led to the current state of political discourse on every level of government. At the end of the day, as Councilor, you have a duty to represent the residents of Boston, and an obligation to work collaboratively with colleagues to provide necessary services and opportunities, create and uphold sensible policies, and advocate for the best Boston for all of us.

9. What else should voters know about you?
I am not a polished politician. I am everyone else in the room. I am a mother, concerned about the state of our public education system. I am a daughter and caretaker of two elderly parents, trying to navigate with limited resources. I am your Tradeswoman sister, struggling to ensure I have enough work hours to maintain my health insurance coverage. I am your youngest sister, worried about the rising cost of housing and the very real prospect of being priced out of the city I have lived in my entire life. It is not only a privilege, but a duty as an elected official, to prioritize issues and concerns of Boston residents and that doesn’t happen unless those that we elect to represent us sit at the table and work together. I am a team player and I know that it will take a respectful and collaborative effort to move the dial forward.