



HARWICH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL
Monday, May 17, 2021
2:45- 3:45pm

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AGENDA

- [Representatives](#) Introduction (Share your name, connection to HES, and what scared you as a young child ... and does not anymore!)
Present: Mary Oldach, Joy Jordan, Karen Booth, Ann Carpenter, Kara Boule, Patricia Smith, Sharon Hughes, Jessica Muldoon, John Larivee, Julia Blois, Katie Cloney
- [Approval of Minutes](#)
Minutes unanimously approved (Kara Buole abstained)
- Brooks Medal - Mrs. Oldach explained the history of the Brooks Medal and how funding for it was established in the 1800s. Last year, the Brooks Medal did not get awarded due to COVID. Many School Council members volunteered as readers for this year's competition. This year there is a three-way tie, Mrs. Oldach thinks for the first time ever.
- [MRSD Elementary Configuration - May 6 Forum](#)
Mrs. Oldach reviewed the May 6 School Committee Community Forum on potential elementary reconfiguration. This session was largely

Chatham voices again, Harwich families are encouraged to share their thoughts, even via email to the School Committee and Superintendent. Katie Cloney noted the importance of viewing it from an educational perspective, not personal preference. It is a recommendation at this point and will need to follow a process, including BOS and Town Meeting voters.

- School Update

- ESSER Funds - HES Proposal

- Federal relief funding to support post-COVID recovery efforts.

- Mrs. Oldach's proposal is to bring on additional math and reading support teachers for 3rd and 4th grade. (Existing staff would continue to focus on younger grades). Also considering a summer camp program for EL students.

- Integrated Preschool COVID, [Report to the MRSD School Committee 4/29/21](#)

- The integrated preschool program is specifically legally mandated to support students with disabilities and there is a formula for the required number of non-disabled students that serve as peer models (n+1). The numbers this year dictate that it is much more efficient to house all Chatham and Harwich integrated preschool students together in one space (HES this year). It actually allows twice as many Chatham families to be served.

- End of the Year Activities - Highlights:

- Field Day (one grade per day rotating through activity stations) starting on Monday, June 7th with Pre-School, Tuesday June 8th Kindergarten, Wed., June 9th Grade 1, Thursday, June 10th Grade 2, Friday June 11th Grade 3, and Grade 4 on Monday June 14th. T-Shirts will have each grade's graduating class number on

the back as “We all teach seniors!” (i.e. Preschool is the ‘Class of 2035!’)

Mary thanked all the School Council members, (especially our newest members Jessica and Kara), for their time on the committee this year and hope all members will be willing to continue to do so next year as well.

Katie Clooney chimed in to say how grateful she is that next year/this upcoming Fall of 2021 we will all be able to celebrate the *NEW PLAYGROUND!* Mary Oldach added that the original goal was “Kids in swings by Labor Day,” but that it may take a little longer. Lastly, Mary mentioned that fresh Recess Bags filled with fun, colorful equipment have energized each grade and thanked Asst. Principal, Sharon Hughes for her help with that. All parties gave closing greetings and the meeting was adjourned at 3:25.

~SKH

- [School Improvement Plan 2020-2023](#)

This is our last meeting this school year, thank you for your commitment to Harwich Elementary and our young students!