



**HARWICH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020
2:45-4:00 pm**

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MINUTES

- [Representatives](#) Introduction (Share your name, connection to HES, and who was your favorite teacher and why)
 - In attendance: Mary Oldach, Dr. Scott Carpenter, Sharon Hughes, Kara Boule, Jessica Muldoon, Margaret Shaffer, Ann Carpenter, Pat Smith, Karen Booth, Julia Blois, Angela Porter, Joy Jordan, John Larivee, Katie Cloney
- [Inequities in Monomoy's Elementary Per Pupil Budgets and the Challenges with the Loss of Elementary Enrollment](#) (Dr. Carpenter, Superintendent)
 - Dr. Carpenter updated members about the status of the elementary school enrollment in both CES and HES and the implications for inequities across the district, in preparation for a survey to be sent to all elementary families and staff this week. He reviewed the survey results from three years ago on the same issue. In 2017, numbers were decreasing and families and staff were asked to share input on potential solutions - do nothing, redistrict to send some Harwich students to CES, or reconfigure to upper and lower elementary schools. Results were not aligned at all - Chatham parents wanted no change or redistricting, Harwich parents and elementary staff wanted upper/lower elementary schools and very few wanted no change. With little agreement, the issue was tabled until this

year. The regional agreement must be amended to allow for any changes to the elementary configuration (redistricting or upper/lower schools) - that involved approval by both town's board of selectmen and town meeting voters in both towns. Today, numbers at CES have decreased even faster than expected and this year there were barely enough students for one K classroom (only possible bc of Harwich students and school choice students filling it out). Very small classes and only one class per grade is not educationally or socially beneficial to students. It also hinders the ability of staff to have grade level peers to connect and collaborate with. With the numbers dropping so much, the entire MRSD elementary student body could fit into HES by 2025 (thus adding another option to the possibilities - no change, redistrict, reconfigure to upper/lower, all elementary under one roof). One of the School Committee's goals for this year is to review the options for how to best operate the elementary schools and what makes the most sense for teaching and learning. There is also a separate budgetary issue - as per pupil costs are increasingly uneven as CES enrollment numbers decrease relative to HES. This is because there are fixed costs that remain in place regardless of enrollment. Currently CES per pupil costs are more than \$5,000 more than at HES (for the same education). The town of Chatham may then need to be responsible for paying an additional amount to account for the disparity. It may also make sense for each town to simply pay for its own elementary school. These financial conversations (which have already begun with town officials) are different and separate from those surrounding how to best configure elementary schools for student success.

- The survey will go out to current and future CES and HES families as well as staff in both schools, and will feature ranked choice options to get a true picture of where preferences lie.
- Inter-district school choice would still be an option if each town takes financial ownership of its elementary school.
- School Update
 - Learning Mode Survey

- Add something about challenging
 - Change his/her to their
 - What's missing?
 - More of a connection to academics specifically
 - Equity issues - students of color, low income students, special education students, etc. Consider representation and where there needs to be better representation. Look at achievement patterns and work to meet those gaps.
 - Focus on the whole child - balance social-emotional with academic
 - "Academic excellence" "inspire creativity and critical thinking" "celebrate diversity and equality"
 - Volunteers to help with vision statement: Kara, Karen and Sharon (plus Mary and Joy)
- School Improvement Plan 2020-2022
 - Every school in MA is required to have a building specific SIP that ties to the district's strategic plan. HES will be drafting the next SIP for the post-COVID era, guided by the vision statement.
- Next meeting - Jan 18 is MLK day so the meeting will be the next day, Jan. 19.

2020 -2021 Meeting Schedule:

January 18

March 1

April 12

May 17