



HARWICH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL  
Professional Library  
3:00-4:30 pm

Minutes: Monday, October 22, 2018

Co- Chair: Mary Oldach, Principal

Co- Chair: Adam Capen, Parent Representative

Attendees:

Mary Oldach, Kathie Smith, Karen Booth, Ann Carpenter, Meg Shaffer, Katie Carey, Adam Capen, Katie Cloney, Justini Tavano, Mary Levy, Becky Tobojka, Lisa McManamin, John Larivee, Liz Hoff

Review of Minutes 9-24-18

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Membership

Ann Carpenter from Brooks Free Library was welcomed as a new community member. Cyndi Williams, Director, Harwich Chamber of Commerce is also a new community member but was unable to attend this meeting. Theresa Sprague resigned from School Council, she promises to remain involved in the school garden project through her company Blue Flax Design. We still have an opening for a preschool parent representative.

## 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan Update

Mary reported on the September 29, 2018 Community Forum for the MRSD Strategic Plan at the Monomoy Regional High School. About 100 District and Community Representatives attended and input was received on the strengths, areas of improvement, obstacles and thinking about how to prepare our students for the year 2030. A smaller committee is taking this information and working on a draft strategic plan.

Mary reviewed her presentation and highlighted the student population demographics. Over the last four years, HES has seen the numbers of English Language Learners remain relatively stable at about 30 students. However, the number of languages spoken by these students has increased from 8 to 11. Portuguese remains the most prominent language for these students. Over the last four years HES has also seen a steady increase in the numbers of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch which is now almost 40%.

## MCAS Results and Trends

Third and fourth grade MCAS results remain slightly above or at the State average. Staff Professional Development and new learning resources will support the improvement of these results. New online resources include: RAZkids and Math iXL which teachers are introducing to the students and families. By conference time all families should have received their child's credentials. Katie Cloney talked about how she can assign books in RAZkids at the child's reading level that they listen to, read and answer questions. Teachers assign custom skill areas in Math iXL to support review, practice and extension of math concepts.

### Castle in the Clouds/ Playground Audit

New England Playground Inspections is completing the audit of the Castle in the Clouds and Preschool playgrounds. This should be completed by the end of October.

### Garden Update - Fall Clean Up

A community group has expressed interest in cleaning up the garden as a service project. Justin Tavano asked about the status of the grant for shade structure in the garden and mentioned that the Port Restaurant and Ember Restaurant have similar shade structures and the Brackett family may be a good source of information.

### Other Business

Adam Capen asked about the status of the contract negotiations with the teachers. Negotiations are ongoing.

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 19 , 3:00-4:30 pm, HES  
Professional Library**