



HARWICH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

Professional Library

3:00-4:30 pm

Monday, December 17, 2018

MINUTES

Attendees:

Review of Minutes 10-22-18 : Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Membership: Angela Porter was welcomed as our new Preschool Parent Representative. Eric Beebe, Town of Harwich, Director of Recreation, will be serving on the HES Playground Sub Committee and is no longer able to participate on the HES School Council due to conflicts with the after school meeting time.

MRSD Strategic Plan Update: Mary Oldach reviewed the MRSD Strategic Plan process. The Strategic Planning Focus Group was held on September 29, 2018, with a 100 parents, teachers, students, administrators, and community members. This input was synthesized by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee which collaboratively generated this the Strategic Plan over two months of meetings.

2018-2019 Budget Update (FY20): The HES Budget recommendations have been submitted which include maintaining class size at 18 +/- in all grades except Grade 4 which has five sections and 22 students per class this year.

HES Accountability Ratings: Harwich Elementary School's accountability rating is "Meeting Expectations". This rating is based upon the growth experienced by students and other factors such as attendance. Using attendance as an accountability measure is new this year in Massachusetts. This has been controversial with school districts because of the lack of influence schools can have on certain attendance issues with families.

Playground Update: The Playground Committee met on November 20, 2018 with Nancy White, Certified Playground Inspector, New England Playground Inspections, who completed the audits of the preschool and Castle in the CLOUDS play areas. Based upon the audit findings, the spiral slide, fire pole and preschool jungle gym posed immediate safety risks and were removed with the help of the Harwich DPW. The school council took a walk outside to the playground for an in person look at the audit findings. The school district is issuing a Request for Quote (RFQ) for site design services. The quote is being posted in the near future through the state procurement process. The HES School Council is represented on the Playground Committee by John Larivee, Justin Tavano and Shannon Reeves.

The meeting was concluded at 4:30.