



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

Agenda: Monday, March 4, 2019

Co- Chair: Mary Oldach, Principal  
Co- Chair: Adam Capen, Parent Representative

Introductions

In attendance: Mary Oldach, Joy Jordan, Pat Smith, Karen Booth, Kathie Smith, Becky Tobojka, Mary Levy, Ann Carpenter, Katie Cloney, Katie Carey, John Larivee

Review of Minutes: January 28, 2019 Meeting

Mary Levy moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Becky Tobojka  
All voted to approve

2018-2019 School Improvement Plan Update: [STEM](#)

The proposal for increased STEM was presented multiple times to School Committee and approved at the last meeting.

HES SIP called for leveraging STEM integration across curriculum and settings, Mary Oldach shared updates along those lines

MRSD Strategic Plan called for review/revision of STEM curriculum

DESE has released new frameworks for STEM referencing specific times in terms of minutes per day

- Mary spoke briefly about MakerSpace and how it works
- Integrating STEM approach
- Both Harwich and Chatham are incorporating MakerSpace into the curriculum

- Ann Carpenter (Brooks Library Librarian) shared her thoughts on MakerSpace and how the “tinkering” thinking process goes hand in hand with using the library to learn how to LEARN TO DO things.
- Ann Carpenter informed us that this month is waive late book fee fine month - if you bring a canned food item for the Food Pantry. This encourages families to continue to come to the library despite the chance they may accumulate/ “owe” fines.
- Becky Tobojka asked if the Science Curriculum will follow the State Standards - Mary answered yes they are very new.
- Mary commented a new science teacher will be hired for Harwich and Chatham - Postings have been written and will be advertised soon

#### 2018-2019 Budget Update (FY20)

- Mary asked if anyone had comments or questions regarding the Budget Update. She asked Joy Jordan for an update. Joy commented that nothing much has changed. Much is “hanging out” there and is awaiting finalization and a vote. No new news.

#### HES Playground Update

- Mary shared that she and Katie Isernio had a phone conference recently with the architect company they hope to use for the new playground design.
- More information will be shared as they process continues.

#### Grant Updates

##### Garden Project

- (12) Birdhouses will be built by the Garden Club members
- The planting of Milkweed. Janelle Brown who has experience with Milkweed will facilitate the planting of Milkweed into our community garden by the Garden Club members.
- Mary will ask for donations of bird houses and bird baths for our garden using HES Happenings.

- We are well on our way to re-certification - we hope to know a decision by March/April 15.

### Other Topics

#### Fun Run Boosterthon

- Katie Cloney shared her thoughts on the success of the FUN RUN. Uplifting for both students, staff and community. Boosterthon staff were organized, efficient and energizing. Exceptional were her words - the character building themes were strong. She stated that going into this event she felt our expectations were very underestimated. The success far exceeded our expectations. Over \$33,000 was raised in two weeks. 47 states participated in donating. Because our expectations were low - the award systems were challenging because we met them so quickly. Grades were very creative with their awards. She felt Boosterthon could be considered again next year as our main fundraiser. Becky Tobojka commented too on the success of this event. The character building theme changes every year so duplication would not be a problem. Different types of events are offered. The students (and staff) had a BLAST!

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Mary shared early childhood updates...and how the district is coming up with different ideas to help provide the early childhood services needed by the community.
- Chatham vouchers are going to be available at \$6000 for Chatham families. Harwich may offer the same type of service - still to be determined.
- The voucher system would support children coming to Kindergarten before gaining the skills they need to be successful by having preschool opportunities/experiences available.

### **Upcoming Meetings: 3:00-4:30 pm, HES Professional Library**

**Monday, April 29th**

**Monday, May 20th**

**Monday, June 3rd**

(Note: there is no meeting on March 29th)

- The meeting was adjourned and closed with the group visiting the Guided Reading Room - and the progress thus far.