

Attention Kindergarten Parents: Get ready to vote for School Council!

On Wednesday, September 30 at the Kindergarten Open House you'll be asked to vote for a representative for school council. Please take a moment now to review the brief biographical information provided by each of the candidates.

The Education Reform Act of 1993 established School Councils to increase collaboration among all school and community stakeholders to strengthen teaching and learning for all students. The parent/community representatives will meet regularly with the principal and selected teachers to formulate a plan for improving our school.

The candidates for Kindergarten representative this year are:

Diana Beck

Diana Beck has been a resident of Hopkinton since 2000. She has a daughter, Natalie, entering 2nd grade and a son, Andrew, entering Kindergarten. She has served on the Center School - School Council for the past 2 years and would like to continue as the K rep this year. Diana has worked in education for over 20 years; first as a Kindergarten and grade 1 teacher with the Newton Public Schools, and, more currently, as a part time Curriculum Coordinator with the Brookline Public Schools. She also serves as a community member on the Hopkinton Elementary School Building Committee.

Lisa B. Ciyatt

A mom of three, Lisa is interested in serving on the school council to bring about the changes necessary to make the Center school an even stronger program than it is today. Lisa began her career in marketing and public relations, making the switch to education in 2000, as a full scholarship recipient for the MINT (Mass. Institute for New Teachers) sponsored by the Mass. Dept. of Education. Upon obtaining her license in English for grades 5-12, Lisa served as a classroom teacher for grade 7 at the O'Donnell Middle School in Stoughton, MA, before making the decision to take time off with her own children. Lisa has served as president and co-treasurer of the Hopkinton MOM'S Club, and currently runs a part-time SAT prep business in Hopkinton called SAT Success. Lisa received her Masters degree in Education this past year and hopes to return, full-time to the classroom in the near future.

Christine Coffman

Hi! My name is Christine Coffman. My husband and I have lived in Hopkinton for 8 years. We have two sons: Matthew who is excited (and anxious) to be entering kindergarten this year, and Lucas who is 3 years old. Geoff also has two daughters, Danielle and Jessica, who are 21 and 20.

The goals of the school council are to help identify the educational needs of students and recommend ways to meet those needs within the school's budget. I believe that, in order to offer a strong and innovative educational opportunity for our children, particularly in these difficult times, all of the teachers, administration, parents and community must be working together.

I believe that I would be an effective representative for Center School parents. I am a capable communicator, have strong financial and analytical skills, and have significant experience bridging gaps among multiple parties and interests. As a professional, I most recently worked for a large physician organization, where I was responsible for contract negotiations with hospitals and health insurers, along with the design, implementation and assessment of quality programs.

I became a stay-at-home mom four years ago, and as an active member of the Hopkinton Moms Group, helped establish successful community events including the Bunco Night for the respite center and the Scavenger Hunt for the library. As my children approached school age, I joined the Hopkinton Education Foundation and now serve as secretary. We are all seeking an outstanding educational opportunity for our children; I look forward to the opportunity to be a voice for Center School parents in this very important endeavor.