



SCHOOL COUNCIL CANDIDATES 2016-17 Bennett-Hemenway Elementary School

Ben-Hem PTO - www.benhempto.org

The Ben-Hem School Council is comprised of representatives from the parent body, the school staff, and the community at large. Elections are held to ensure that all parents and staff have a full opportunity for representation. The council has specific responsibilities that include, but are not limited to, examining the following topics:

Class size and impact on student achievement - School budget - School climate, safety and discipline - Enhancement of parental involvement - Professional development

We have three (3) positions open on the Council. Below is a summary of each candidate's qualifications and reason for wanting to serve on the Council.

Please vote online at: <https://benhempto.org>

SCHOOL COUNCIL CANDIDATES:

PATRICIA D'AGOSTINO

I'm a parent of a kindergartner at BenHem and my younger daughter will be coming up to BenHem for kindergarten in 2017. Children deserve the best possible opportunity for an excellent education in a safe, nurturing and positive environment.

Administrators, teachers, and faculty in our public schools have a significant role in molding our children into who they will grow up to be. As a parent, I acknowledge our children spend the bulk of their time in school and therefore the administrators, teachers and faculty play a large role in their growth and development. The public school system takes on this enormous task of educating and developing our children and I would love the opportunity to contribute and help where I can.

Aside from being a mother of two young girls and a wife, I am a full-time attorney, so I know what it is like to need all the help you can get.

JOSEPH FABIANO

I am submitting my nomination form to join the school council because I am a firm believer in committing all the resources I have available to ensure the kids of our community get the education they deserve. I have stated previously at a school committee meeting that the early years of a students education life is one of the most important times of their young lives. It is the foundation by which their educational acumen is built. Therefore I believe it is my duty to assist in any way I can. I understand that our educators and administration have limited resources available to them and therefore have to make

difficult decisions on a daily basis. It is up to us as a community to give them the feedback as to where we think those resources should be focused and its a position such as this that will allow us to have a voice in that process.

My background includes a degree in Accounting at Bentley University, as well as currently I am a partner at a CPA firm. As a partner, I have tried to assist my clients and fellow partners in many business decisions. Some financial, and in many cases non financial. No matter the case our approach was the same; Lets do what is best for the majority. In addition, I grew up in a small local town (Winthrop), where I was a town meeting member for several years. I also served on many adhoc committees over the years that ranged in duties such as financing a new construction project, hiring town personnel, and analyzing certain business ventures.

I Hope you will consider me as a qualified candidate to assist in giving our kids the best educational experience they deserve. If so, please vote for me during the election. If you have any questions about my qualifications I will make sure that the PTO has my contact information so that you can personally contact me to discuss this important decision in the future. I appreciate your time and consideration.

KATIE JOYCE

I am interested in serving on Ben-Hem's School Council. My twin daughters, Grace and Gabrielle Walsh, are in first grade at Ben-Hem (Miss Dewing and Mrs. McVickers). My son Rowan is at the Natick Preschool and can't wait to follow his sisters to Ben-Hem in a couple of years!

I grew up in Holyoke, MA and attended the public schools. I believe strongly in the our public school system and it's responsibility to provide a high-quality education to all of our children. After spending time in Washington, DC and Boston, my family moved to Natick 4 years ago. We chose Natick because of the peopleV— the sense of community here is second to none.

Since moving here, I've been involved in a range of activities including: being elected to Town Meeting and the Natick Preschool Council; coaching soccer; and serving on the Massachusetts Board of Early Education and Care, which oversees all of the birth to age 5 early education programs in the Commonwealth.

Currently, I work at a biotech company that focuses on rare diseases as their Head of Corporate Affairs and Media Relations. Prior to this role, I spent more than 10 years working in federal and state government on a range of policy issues, including education.

After seeing first hand the fantastic community we have a Ben-Hem, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to more formally contribute as a member of the School Council. If selected, I look forward to learning more about strengths and challenges the school faces. Whether on the Council or not, I am committed to contributing to the well-being of the school in any way that I can.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

JENNY MURPHY

Dear Ben-Hem School Community,

My name is Jenny Murphy. My son Brendan Murphy is in second grade in Ms. Wraight's class. I am applying to be a member of the School Council for a few reasons. I thought it would be good way to get to know this vibrant school community. We are new to Ben-Hem as we have just moved to Natick this year, and being a member of the School Council would be a wonderful way to connect with the school community.

I bring to the School Council a wealth of knowledge and experience. Having been an educator for 16 years, I feel as though I could add a depth of knowledge that would be beneficial to the Ben-Hem School Council as both an educator and a parent. I teach grades K-8 as an Educational Technology Teacher. I have taught in Cambridge, Waltham and Brookline, where I have taught for the past 10 years. I have had the pleasure of being part of the School Council in Brookline and am familiar with the role that the School Council plays in a school. I also hold my principal/assistant principal license from the Department of Education and have held various leadership roles within my position as Educational Technology Teacher in Brookline. I am consistently collaborating with teachers in all grades to help them integrate technology throughout the curriculum. I perform small-group and large-group training sessions for teachers in my school as well as district-wide. I plan yearly technology initiatives for teachers and students in collaboration with the school principal and district technology coordinator. Additionally, I have coached teachers in a district-wide new teacher mentoring program in collaboration with Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning and the Coordinator of Professional Development.

Collaboration and communication are important qualities that must be present between schools and families. I understand how crucial these elements are for a successful relationship between all parties involved in educating our children: school administrators, teachers and families, and the school council can play a role in this relationship. We all have the same goal in mind, we want to help our children succeed. With open lines of collaboration and communication, we can achieve this goal together as one united front.

Thank you for considering my nomination for the Ben-Hem School Council.

BONNIE SWART

My family and I are new the the Natick community and as a parent to a Kindergartener at Ben-Hem, with another child following in a few years, I would love the opportunity to become more involved in the school community.

From my perception, Ben-Hem appears to have a positive school climate, many opportunities for growth and exposure to an enriching fun learning environment.

I spend my work days in a neighboring district as an Elementary School Psychologist supporting students and their families, and I would love to use my strengths and skills in a different capacity to support my own children's school and community.