**Douglas School Council Information 2020**

The Douglas School Council presents a wonderful opportunity for parents, education professionals, and members of the community to work together to improve our school. Participants learn about how Douglas runs while helping to make it an even better place for our children.

What is the School Council?

The Education Reform Act, which was passed into law several years ago, made some sweeping changes in education in Massachusetts. Among them is a call for the establishment of a School Council at each elementary and secondary school in the Commonwealth. The purpose of this Council is to assist the principal in the following ways:

* Adopting educational goals for the school
* Identifying the educational needs of the students attending the school
* Reviewing the annual budget
* Formulating a school improvement plan

# Membership/Term of Office

The Douglas School Council is made up of:

* The principal, who serves as co-chair
* Four parents of students attending the school, who are elected by parents
* Four teachers, who are elected by the staff
* Up to two community members, selected by the principal

# Meetings

For the 2020-2021 school year, the School Council will have three hour-long meetings, from **3:45-4:45 pm** on the following dates: **November 10, 2020, January 12, 2021, and March 16, 2021.**

**Nominations/Election**

This year we will be electing **two parents** to a two-year term. We are looking for parent candidates who are broadly representative of the racial and ethnic diversity of the school and community, have a strong interest in education, and are available to make it to the Council meetings as outlined above.

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If you are interested or have a suggestion for a nomination, please email [cochairs@douglasschoolpto.org](mailto:cochairs@douglasschoolpto.org) by **Friday, October 23rd**.

*Please email name and contact information of nominee(s) for any parent nomination. If you are interested in the volunteer opportunity, please email a brief description of your connection with Douglas School (years at school, children’s grade levels, involvement, etc.) and your reasons for wanting to serve on the School Council. As guidance, some past examples are listed below. If you’d prefer, you may send your information and description, as well as any questions, via email to Susan Giulietti at ptosusandg@gmail.com.*

**Elections for parent members of the Douglas School Council will be held online over the week of October 26th. Results will be announced in the Eagle Eye Weekly on Sunday, November 1st.**

Thank you for considering this unique opportunity!

**Douglas School Council: Candidate Description Examples**

Here are some examples of past School Council candidates’ statements. Please don’t be intimidated by this request. A short statement is all we need, to help the school community to get to know you better.

Sri Tipirneni (*submitted 2016)*My name is Sri Tipirneni and I am interested in serving on the Douglas School Council. I have two kids who currently attend Douglas elementary, in grades 2 and 6. Our family moved to Acton during 2015 school year and we are absolutely delighted to have our kids attend Douglas. We very much appreciate the community spirit at Douglas and I see the school council opportunity as one of the ways for me to actively take part in it.

Jen Moitoso *(submitted 2016)*

My name is **Jen Moitoso.** I’m the parent of three children, Braeden (Grade 4), Ian (Grade 1) and Ronan (entering Kindergarten in 2020!). We moved to Acton in 2008 specifically for the school system, and I am greatly vested in both this town and CT Douglas Elementary School. I believe Douglas has outstanding elementary teachers and administrators, and that our children are in great hands both academically and socially. I have participated in various activities at Douglas, including the annual Book Fairs, Nature Walks, Bake Sales, guest reading and chaperoning. As a parent who works outside the home in a challenging industry, it’s difficult for me to be involved as much as I would like to be. However, the School Council Committee is a volunteer opportunity that I am greatly interested in and that fits my schedule and lifestyle. In this day and age, there are many outside issues and pressures facing our communities, our educational systems and our children. I believe that attention to detail and solid action plans are key to maintain, or even improve upon, the quality of care and education Douglas provides. I would love to be able to share my thoughts and experiences with the other members of the School Council and be part of the team that ensures that Douglas stays at the top of its game. Thanks for your consideration!

**Karen Jarsky *(submitted 2011)***

My name is Karen Jarsky. My son, Eli, is a first grader in Mrs. Ingraham’s class. Since our family became part of the Douglas community, I have had the chance to get involved in the school in a variety of ways — perhaps most relevantly as a community representative on the School Council last year. I have also served as a class parent and have regularly volunteered in the library, the technology classroom, and on Nature Walks. I have pitched in in a few other ways as well, including with landscaping on the Douglas campus and now by taking care of the Birthday Board. (All that said, if you ask Eli, the most important thing I have done so far was to agree to sit in the dunk tank on Douglas Day.) Professionally, I have spent many years working in educational reform, and now I love drawing on this experience to understand and contribute to Eli's educational experience and to strengthen the already wonderful school we get to call home. I am involved with Acton's town government, currently as the chair of the Recreation Commission. In all of these ways, I really enjoy combining my professional commitment to education with my personal commitment to Douglas and the broader Acton community. I am honored to contribute to making Douglas an even stronger school, and working with the School Council seems like a perfect way to do that. Thank you so much for considering me for a two-year term.

**Amy Krishnamurthy (*submitted 2011)***I am the mother of four boys attending Douglas. My oldest is in fourth-grade, and my youngest three are in each of the second-grade classes. Before having my oldest son, I taught fourth and fifth grade in the Palo Alto, CA, school district. I am passionate about education and feel that I will bring a unique perspective to the School Council as both a parent and a teacher. I look forward to working for an even better educational environment for all Douglas students.