

Jesse Hefter

School Committee

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jesseforbrookline.com

Hello friends,

This month has been a busy time for the campaign. There were multiple candidate forums, community events, and "meet-and-greets". It's great to connect with Brookline residents who are civically engaged, care about our Public schools, and support my candidacy.

Early voting has started and continues through Friday, May 3rd at Town Hall. It's not too late to send your friends and neighbors a "Dear Friend" card to share your enthusiasm for our campaign. You can request preprinted cards at our website from the "Get Involved" link or copy and paste an email template from our [website](#).

I've included several of the news articles below with links to video presentations that you may find of interest. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or feedback.

Let's keep the momentum going through May 7th!

Thanks for your support,

Jesse



BPO Candidate Forum

The [Brookline Parents Organization](#) held a School Committee Forum that allowed Jesse and the other School Committee candidates to answer questions on topics including

1. How the District can better inform, engage, and hear from a broader group of stakeholders,
2. How to evaluate and interact with the Superintendent including budget processes and priorities,
3. The role of the School Committee in formulating a response to an increase in antisemitism in PSB, managing ideologically and politically motivated content in schools,
4. Approaches to handling the removal of K-5 World Language due to budget priorities,

HOSTED BY THE BPO
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CANDIDATE FORUM**
For Brookline Parents, Caregivers & Community Members
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24
8.30 - 10.00pm**
Preregister at:
<https://tinyurl.com/BPO2024Forum>
Please join us for a virtual conversation with Brookline's candidates for School Committee as we explore a broad range of education-related issues in advance of the election. This will be a moderated discussion and pre-registration is required.
Sponsored by the Brookline Parents Organization
Learn more by emailing bpo@brooklineparents.org or at BrooklineParents.org

[View the Video](#)

5. Ensuring that curriculum choices reflect evidence-based programs that demonstrate great outcomes for students, and,
6. Issues around deleveling in the 9th grade and how the School Committee plays its role in communication and transparency vis-a-vis the community.



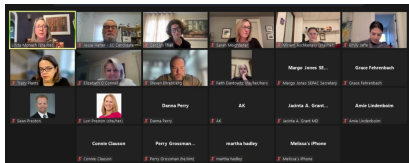
Brookline CAN/LWV Forum

The Brookline Community Aging Network (CAN) and the League of Women Voters sponsored a Forum for the School Committee and Select Board candidates at the Brookline Senior Center. There was a nice crowd in attendance. The School Committee candidates were invited to introduce themselves and answer a single question:

"Brookline residents have just had a 10% property tax increase and more overrides are likely on the way. These costs - borne by homeowners directly or passed on as rent hikes - disproportionately impact older adults living on largely fixed budgets. The current school budget represents a higher percentage of the Town's total budget than all the other departments put together. How will you balance Brookline's efforts to maintain high quality schools with a community that is affordable, provides excellent services in other areas, and does not rely on repeated overrides?"

Jesse's answer centered on using the findings and recommendations of the Brookline Fiscal Advisory Committee (BFAC, see the **Committee's Final Report**) to seek to understand every aspect of the School budget, not only how much of the Town allocation is being spent but how well those funds are being used (and how the results map to positive student outcomes) throughout the year.

Video Link



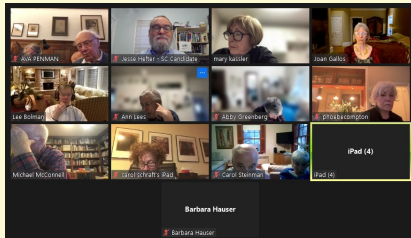
SEPEC Candidate Forum

It was a privilege to meet with the SEPEC organization and explain our campaign, especially in terms of special needs education, support services, and inclusivity. We had an opportunity during Q&A to address our definition of equity education, what a "moderate" position means in teamwork and

collaboration on the School Committee, and some thoughts around how to improve our District's approach to understanding and reacting to the differing needs of our student population.

Brook House Candidate Forum

The Brook House community, located in Brookline Village, hosted candidates for Select Board, School Committee, Housing Authority, and Precinct 4 Town Meeting Members for a forum. The goal was to hear from the candidates and, more importantly, allow the participants to ask questions. About 35 residents attended the session. While the candidates shared their "stump" speeches, three questions from the audience sparked a more spirited discussion. The questions included how the Town is dealing with the deteriorating street infrastructure, including ubiquitous potholes, how the prevalence of marijuana and other substances affects our children, and, finally, challenging each candidate to enunciate one position that sets them apart from their competitors. For Jesse's campaign, this meant taking a more outspoken stance in meeting antisemitism in PSB head-on.



Feet First Neighborhood Association

We were invited to participate in a discussion with a local neighborhood group, Feet First, that serves as a meeting place for seniors. I was asked to tell a bit about myself and why I am running for School Committee. I remarked to the group that campaigning is allowing me the privilege of meeting so many wonderful and friendly people in Brookline! There were some good questions about budget, deleveling, and student absenteeism.

Brookline native honored for support of living Holocaust survivors

The New England Friends March of the Living organization honored local native Janet Stein Calm, President of the American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. She received the Stephan Ross Excellence in Holocaust Education Award named for Mr. Ross who



Jesse with honoree Janet Calm Stein

founded the **New England Holocaust Memorial** in downtown Boston. Janet grew up attending PSB and has devoted much of her life to honoring survivors, learning their histories, and ensuring that their eyewitness testimonies are preserved and shared with newer generations. Of course, after the award ceremony, there was some time for canvassing the attendees from Brookline!



Stanley Rabinowitz Memorial Candidates Forum

The Young Israel and 4 other Brookline synagogues sponsored the 1st Stanley Rabinowitz Memorial Candidates Breakfast to honor Stanley, a long-time Town volunteer and elected official. Over 100 people attended the event to hear from four of the five Select Board candidates and the four School Committee candidates. Our campaign had three **GREAT** answers to three solid questions and they are available [here](#).



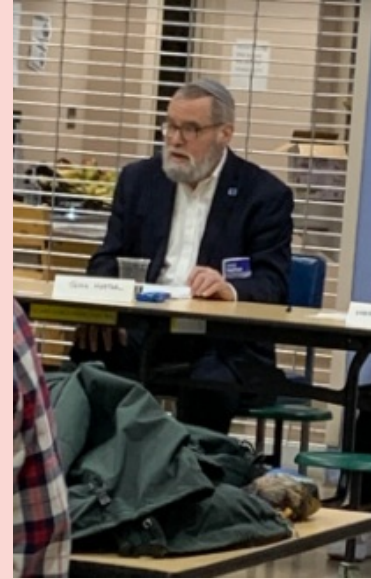
Hayes International Night

Each Spring, the Hayes PTO presents "International Night" showcasing the cultural diversity of the Hayes School community. This year, there were thirty-three (33) countries and areas represented filling up the gymnasium from one end to the other. The rich cultures, dress, and foods (lots of the latter) were on display on tables along with country flags and tons of people. The energy was palpable, the excitement was infectious, and the students looked like they were having a fantastic time. I was able to meet and greet tons of parents and neighbors and get the word out about our campaign.

Neighborhood Association Forum

The GPNA (Greater Point Neighborhood Association) and HSHA (High Street Hill

Association) held a neighborhood discussion with Select Board and School Committee candidates at the Lincoln School. About 50 residents listened intently to answers from the candidates to a set of carefully, curated questions, first to the Select Board candidates and then to the School Committee candidates. It was awesome to present to a group of engaged residents!



Pierce Geothermal Hearing

I provided public comment at a joint Park and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, and Select Board meeting at Town Hall in support of the installation of the geothermal system for heating and cooling the new building.

[Video Link](#)

DONATE TO THE CAMPAIGN

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!



How to reach me:

- email - info@jesseforbrookline.com
- phone - 781-771-2618

Please share this Newsletter and your interest in our campaign with FIVE of your friends and neighbors. Together, we can build even more momentum as we approach the election!



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