

# Jesse Hefter

---

## School Committee

Issue #8: January 8, 2026

jesse\_hefter@psbma.org

---

**Hello friends,**

I have now served Brookline on the School Committee for 18 months. It seems like a good time to let you know what I've been up to. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me about any school-related issues. My PSB email address is in the header of this Newsletter, and my mobile number is 781.771.2618.

Thanks for your support and interest,

**Jesse**

---



---

### School Committee Meetings

**Antisemitism** - Crafted a Resolution calling out the Massachusetts Teachers' Association (MTA) for its slanted, antisemitic instructional material posted on its website after the October 7 Hamas massacre in Israel. Our Committee passed the Resolution (5-4), and similar versions of the Resolution were soon passed by School Committees in Marblehead, Bedford, Framingham, and Natick. The link to the Resolution and subsequent activities are located [online](#). On July 15, 2025, I was invited to be a guest on Dan Rea's "Nightside" program to discuss how to address antisemitism in schools. Our work was also highlighted at a meeting of the Governor's [Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism](#).

**Leadership** - Supported the candidacy of Bella Wong as the new Interim Superintendent of the District and later joined with my colleagues to offer her a permanent 5-year position. She brings deep experience and a "can-do" mindset to the District. We are fortunate to have her at the helm.

**Calendar** - Advocated for removing all religious holidays from the PSB calendar and closing school only on Federal and State holidays. My goal was to maximize days of instruction while allowing students and their families to observe their religious holidays as they require. The full committee approved leaving all religious holidays intact for the 2026-2027 calendar.

---

### Subcommittee Meetings

**Finance and Capital:** Worked closely with Finance Subcommittee Chair Mariah Nobrega to become familiar with ongoing capital projects, stepped in to review and approve weekly Accounts Payable invoices, and began a project to construct a live dashboard to track non-salary expenses.

**Policy:** Worked on draft policies for Building Access and Usage, and Instructional Materials. Suggested that we revisit a "off-and-away" cell phone policy from students in grades 9-12 following our adoption of this approach for students in grades K-8.

---

## School Committee Liaison Activities

- **Kosher Meal Program** - After 17 months of collaborative work with PSB Food Services, a kosher meal program was rolled out district-wide in December 2025! The food is being provided at no additional cost to the District and includes a hot meal option on some days. The offering is nutritionally balanced per USDA guidelines.
  - **SEPAC** - Continued to serve as SEPAC liaison - Received a SEPAC Hero Award from the Committee in May 2025.
  - **Community Interactions**
    - Invited to Florida Riffin Ridley School in Fall 2025 to meet with a Parent Group to discuss PSB policies and answer general questions
    - Participated in the "Coffee Hour with the Director" program in Fall 2025 to explore how PSB and the Senior Citizen cohort can work together
  - **Brookline** - Named Chair of the Town Subcommittee of the Expenditures & Revenue Study Committee. Two other subcommittees, Schools and Future, are working in parallel with us. Our subcommittee is responsible for drafting a Report on how the Town reached its current financial crisis and on the implications of an Override (in terms of its magnitude and impact on services, both Town and School, if approved or not approved by the voters).
- 

### May Election Appeal:

The upcoming May 2026 election presents an exciting opportunity for individuals passionate about education to step forward and make a significant impact on our community.

We are actively seeking candidates to fill seats on the School Committee, and we believe that your voice or the voice of someone you know could bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the table.

Serving on the School Committee is not just a position; it is a chance to shape the future of our District, advocate for our students, and collaborate with fellow community members to enhance the educational landscape.

If you or someone you know is interested in contributing to this vital role, **please reach out to me**. Together, we can continue to foster a thriving environment for our students and educators alike.

---

### How to reach me:

- email - [jesse\\_hefter@psbma.org](mailto:jesse_hefter@psbma.org)
  - phone - 781-771-2618
-



Try email marketing for free today!