

MASC-Friend of Public Education Award-Sarah Bowers-May 15, 2020

Sarah Bowers is a true friend of the Framingham Public Schools! Her outstanding individual and team commitment to our school community is unsurpassed, not only during normal times, but also during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Not only is she an outstanding President of the Potter Road P.T.O. that has implemented creative ways to get parents involved in innovative programming, but she is, also, the lead trainer with the BOKS program.

She has created “teams of the week” instead of “students of the week”, instituted a fifth grade “BOKS Leadership Council” and instills shared values, instead of the concept of winning and losing.

Her infectious enthusiasm, compassionate attitude and inclusive practices has permeated throughout the school in team spirit and the feeling of belonging.

During this pandemic, she has continued to teach this physical education program daily on Facebook Live , while maintaining a social/emotional focus on each child and family. Her activities are highly creative. One such event was a “Mom and Me” workout on Mother’s Day -the family that plays together, stays together. She recently had a social distancing family marathon-where families could walk for twenty minutes whenever they could do so safely.

Her sunny personality, keen sense of humor and encouragement permeate her lessons and make everyone feel welcome, valued and empowered.

Sarah Bowers is most deserving of this prestigious award!

Submitted by Beverly Hugo

MASC Outstanding School Partner-Kathy McGrath-May 15, 2020

Officer Kathy McGrath of the Framingham Police Department has been an exemplary and extraordinary School Resource Officer since 2000. For two decades, she has worked with our elementary and middle school children with extreme compassion and dedication. She has entrenched herself in the lives of our students in guiding them and working with their families in a nurturing and highly effective way. She has worked in early intervention, prevention and strategies to improve outcomes for our students.

Her work has involved the coordination of school personnel, social service agencies, state agencies and the police department to ensure that our children have the tools and supports to thrive.

She is always in the neighborhoods and at community events, the sports fields, parks, and school events, where she acknowledges each child and has something kind to say to each.

At the Safety Academy each summer, she works with at-risk pre-teens to show them how to recognize and avoid risky behavior and dangerous situations, always with a serious and loving demeanor.

What makes Officer McGrath so unique is her innate ability to reach kids where they are and to help them flourish. She is passionate about improving the futures of all children, all while showing them dignity and respect. Kathy is all about changing the negative behavior, rehabilitating instead of punishing, and showing kids that she truly cares about their positive behavioral trajectory so that their present and future will be brighter.

It takes a village to raise a child and Framingham's children are so blessed to have Officer McGrath in their village for their formative years and beyond!

She is highly deserving of this award!

Submitted by Beverly Hugo

Beverly Hugo
Nomination for MASC Award Lifetime Achievement Award

Beverly Hugo is serving her sixth term on the Framingham School Committee and previously chaired the committee for five years. As a teacher, PTO member, and volunteer, Beverly is a product of public education and remains one of the strongest public education advocates in Massachusetts to this day.

In addition, she is the first person from Framingham to ever achieve being elected President of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), and served on the Executive Board of MASC for a decade. As an elected delegate to the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Policy Committee, Beverly represented ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ, PA, MD, DE, DC and the US Virgin Islands as their voice for national educational policy.

Beverly led the educational policy review on gender equity, which was first adopted by the Framingham School Committee in 2018, and then by the MASC for state-wide implementation. Then she led the charge in a heated floor battle to have the Framingham Gender Equity Policy adopted on a National level. Her tireless work in the area of gender equity on the national level has caught the attention of many state and local agencies. She was named to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA)

Blue Ribbon Committee, where she participates in monthly meetings as an advocate of the LGBTQ+ and Gender Non-specific students.

Beverly helped address the Chapter 70 local aid education shortfalls by bringing Framingham's inequitable funding situation to the attention of the Foundation Budget Review Commission. This resulted in reimbursements to Framingham, which have been received in annual installments ever since. Her findings had identified a larger problem with educational funding, which eventually culminated in the passage of the Student Opportunity Act.

Whether it is in the hallways of Beacon Hill or Capitol Hill, Beverly is a well-respected force among educational advocates. She travels to Washington several times a year to meet with the entire Massachusetts Delegation and discusses issues of concern to Framingham with each of them. From transportation issues, to homeless students, to unjust demands for our city's funds because of federal reluctance to carry the burden, Beverly has been found in the chambers of Senators Warren and Markey leading the charge, and she is a regular collaborator with Congresswoman Clark and State Legislators.

Nicole Messier Doak

Nicole Messier Doak is a selfless and tireless community organizer who can always be seen volunteering for a countless amount of causes for Framingham's families. Whether it is organizing a voter registration drive via the League of Women Voters, a rally of Mothers Against Gun Violence, or manning a booth at an environmental fair, Nicole works her hardest to provide outstanding support for important causes in our City of Framingham.

Nicole saw an urgent need in our community for those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. She created a Facebook group called "Framingham Coronavirus Community Outreach" to connect those families who need help with those who can give it. She wished to help as many people as possible within the limits of the quarantine. She created a Google spreadsheet to organize requests into a "needs help" column and a "helpers" column. Being mindful of the diversity of our families, she translated the work into six languages-Spanish, Portuguese, Thai, Mandarin, Hindi and Russian-the high incidence languages in our city. As we now have a few thousand members, Nicole is managing this monumental undertaking with ease, passion and determination, all the while sheltering in place with her young child.

When Nicole sees a need to help serve her Framingham community, she does so purely for the satisfaction of fulfilling a need and improving the quality of life for all. She is a most humble, kind and true accomplished community leader and deserves to be recognized for her most valuable and innovative contributions!

Submitted by Beverly Hugo

COMMUNITY LEADER FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATION

Guidelines for Community Leader for Public Education Award: The Community Leader for Public Education Award recognizes an individual community leader who has demonstrated outstanding support for the public schools either a single district or regional district, or public schools at large. *Recipients may not be currently seated school committee members. (School committee members may be recognized as All-State School Committee members or for Lifetime Achievement or Life Membership). Recipients may not be members of the state legislature. (Legislators may be recognized separately as Legislator of the Year). Recipients may not be employees of MASC.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please state your reasons for placing name in nomination: *(Attach a separate page if more space is needed.)*

Community Activities: *please list all pertinent information including, but not limited to, any office(s); committees; leadership roles; MASC activities.*

Any other information you feel would be helpful to the Board of Directors: *(i.e., occupation, accomplishments, education, community involvement, etc.)*

Person placing name in nomination (superintendent, school committee chairman, if by vote of a school committee)

_____ Date _____

Please forward one copy or fax (617) 742-4125, no later than **June 1, 2020** to:

MASC Office

c/o Community Leader for Public Education Award

One McKinley Square, 2nd Floor

Boston, MA 02109

forms available at www.masc.org



Ricky Finlay

Ricky Finlay's love for Framingham runs deep and he does what is in the best interest of Framingham's children, the school system and the community. A three-time member of the School Committee, Ricky has been an advocate for all students and spearheaded the effort to eliminate all athletic and activity fees for all Framingham students.

Ricky has made lasting improvements to recreation facilities in the areas of South Framingham and most recently was the driving force behind the Hoops and Homework playground. For more than a year, Ricky worked tirelessly, bringing city and business leaders, local unions and residents, to coordinate a community-based design and identify resources. He coordinated institutions, unions, and more than 200 participants and was able to complete the playground in one single build day. He was the driving force behind lining up the funding for the Barbieri playground and has recently taken a leading role in the effort to build an addition to the Interfaith Site.

Ricky is a former coach and equipment manager for Framingham Youth Football and Cheer, a member of Framingham's Disability Commission, a member of the City Seal Committee, Member of the Fuller building committee, a member of the Board of Directors for Hoops and Homework and also serves as Cubmaster for the Saxonville Pack 21. Those who have worked closely with him say "Rick is the type of public servant and member of our community that shows anyone who is dedicated and cares can make a difference in the lives of our youth." If someone reaches out to Ricky for help, no matter whom it is or what they need, Ricky is there.