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## Public Comment 10/26 - Teaching and Learning Subcommittee

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Jessica Villatoro [REDACTED]

Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 10:43 PM

To: Tiffanie Maskell <tmaskell@framingham.k12.ma.us>, psousa@framingham.k12.ma.us, bhugo@framingham.k12.ma.us, swadland@framingham.k12.ma.us, Joanna Hastry <jhastry@framingham.k12.ma.us>, Gustavo Villatoro [REDACTED]

**\*\*Please read as part of public comment**

Dear Members of the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee,

Last spring I was so excited to learn about all that Barbieri had to offer my son as he began his journey into a lifelong love for school. I was told that there were going to be 2 recesses and that a choice/play time was also in the schedule.

Fast forward to this fall, when I learned that two recesses would NOT be in the schedule. You can imagine my disappointment. Kindergarten should be focused on building a love for learning and that should be centered around play. That is what all research supports

DESE's guidelines state that there should be an annual minimum of 425 hours of structured learning for kindergarten students. Framingham is not following the guidelines and spending more time on learning, as compared to other districts, when it comes to kindergarten. Many, many surrounding districts have 2 recesses per day AND a choice/play time in their schedules. Full day kindergarten is not even a requirement in Mass...how is it not possible to have 2 recesses?

I have seen the data from 21 surrounding towns in Mass. 17 of them have 2 or more recesses for kindergarten students, each are at least 20 minutes long. Those districts also have a choice time that goes above and beyond recess. The 3 districts who only have one recess, have a recess that is at least 30 minutes long and they also have a choice/play time in their schedule. Framingham is the ONLY district that has 1, 15 minute recess. With transition time, this 15 minute recess quickly becomes only a 10 minute recess. That simply is not enough time for kids to just play and be kids!!

I would really love to understand why Framingham can not find the time for kindergarten students to have 2 recesses, across the district. Barbieri did this last year and in years past...so why is it not happening again this year? I also don't know why a second or longer recess can not be provided for not only kindergarten students, but also those in grades 1-3.

I am urging Framingham to look VERY closely at the policy for recess and alter their k to 3 schedules and provide two recesses. Again, many surrounding districts already offer two recesses or at the very least a 30 minutes recess.

By doing so, Framingham is following best practice and research. By doing so, Framingham is putting the social emotional needs of students first. By doing so, Framingham is doing right by their youngest learners and building a love for learning and being in school.

Given the pandemic and loss of social interaction and connections, these students just need to play and connect with one another in authentic ways. Providing more time for recess is a very easy way to solve this problem.

Thank you.

Jessica and Gustavo Villatoro



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Jessica Villatoro

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## Public Comment for Teaching and Learning Meeting 10/26 at 5pm

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**Angela Doughty** [REDACTED]

Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 4:04 PM

To: jhastry@framingham.k12.ma.us, publiccomment@framinghamma.gov

My name is Angela Doughty and my son is currently in Kindergarten at Brophy Elementary School. In my son's classroom, the teacher has the following quote hanging on the wall: "Play is the work of childhood." And I couldn't agree more.

Study after study has come out showing the importance of play in early education for supporting responsive relationships, strengthening core life skills and reducing stress. It is time that we add in more playtime for our children during the day. These are children that are just starting out in their educational careers. We need to foster their love of learning, and not stifle their creativity. Children need time to use their own imaginations, to process things in their own way and, most importantly as we are trying to emerge from this pandemic, learn how to interact and form relationships with their peers.

I hope Framingham can implement a second recess break for Kindergarten, as so many of the communities around us already have.

Thank you for your time and listening to my concerns.

~Angela Doughty

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## Public Comment for tonight's Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

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Christine Guarino [REDACTED]

Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 12:19 PM

To: jhastry@framingham.k12.ma.us, publiccomment@framinghamma.gov

Hello,

I am unfortunately unable to attend tonight's meeting but wanted to submit the following public comment:

I am the parent of a Kindergartener at Barbieri school. I want to voice my strong support for adding a second recess to the Kindergarten schedule. I feel that research supports the need for additional play and free time for our youngest learners. Never has this been more important than it is now, as our kids are still adjusting to being in school and have suffered socially due to forced isolation brought about by the pandemic. I would support a second recess for all K-3 students, but especially for the youngest kids. I appreciate that this is being discussed and hope that we can make this change soon, for the benefit of our kids. Thank you!

Christine Guarino