



9 Ash Point Road
Harpowell, ME 04079
(207) 833-3229

Dear Harpswell Coastal Academy Community,

On September 29th, HCA will hold a public hearing with the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) as part of our charter renewal process which determines if we continue to operate beyond this school year. It is of the utmost importance that our full community is represented at this event to demonstrate the impact that HCA has on students, families, and the community. This is our last chance for new and returning commission members to hear directly from HCA students, families, staff, and partners about the essential role our school plays in the community!

The overwhelming support in testimony through public comments and letters last spring as we applied for approval to consolidate was invaluable. At that time, we communicated to the commission that HCA is a safe and accepting learning community where students are able to belong and thrive, and that we are an important school option in the communities we serve. This fall, we need to continue sharing that message and help the commission build a stronger understanding of what academic success and growth look like for HCA students. Testimony that articulates how the school's mission and vision translate into projects and learning experiences, examples of academic growth and achievement accomplished by our students, and successes with increased attendance will highlight the results of the welcoming learning community we've created.

In our renewal application we proudly highlighted the following successes from the last five years:

- A 20% increase in the number of students meeting their growth goals on the NWEA in Language
- A 30% increase in the number of students meeting their growth goals on the NWEAs in Math
- 94% of our students graduated in 3-6 years, compared to the state average of 90%
- 100% of our graduates take part in at least one post-secondary readiness activity (Internship, Early College, or Vocational Course)

Please join us in person, or on Zoom, September 29th (4:30pm-6:00pm) to share your support for the Harpswell Coastal Academy's next exciting chapter! Those unable to join the hearing live can submit letters of support to the Commission until October 6th. The zoom link and the email for the Maine Charter School Commission are included in the public hearing notice on the second page.

If you have any questions about renewal or want to commit to giving public testimony on the 29th please let me know! Anyone can decide to give testimony during the hearing, but we want to ensure we use our full time and hear from all parts of our community.

Thank you all for your dedication to our school!

Mel Christensen Fletcher
Interim Head of School
mcf@harpowellcoastalacademy.org
(207) 833-3229 x102

From the Maine Charter School Commission:

HCA is in the renewal process for its charter contract with the Maine Charter School Commission. On Thursday, September 29th, from 4:30-6:00pm, there will be a public hearing in person at HCA (9 Ash Point Rd, Harpswell). It will also be accessible on ZOOM. Parents, students, and community members are welcome to take this opportunity to provide testimony for or against the charter contract renewal to the [Maine Charter School Commission](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/84753716262>

Meeting ID: 847 5371 6262

For those unable to attend, written comments will be accepted until 5:00 pm on Thursday, October 6, 2022. Comments should be emailed to mcsc@maine.gov.

The Maine Charter School Commission will hold a vote on the Renewal Application at its Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th at 1:00 pm.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission Office by email at mcsc@maine.gov.

If you write a letter of support, please also send it to our local senators and representatives if you live in the following districts (or send to your own senators and representatives):

- Mattie Daughtry: mattie.daughtry@legislature.maine.gov
- Poppy Arford (western Brunswick, District 101, formerly District 49): poppy.arford@legislature.maine.gov
- Jay McCreight (Harpswell and eastern Brunswick, District 99): Jay.McCreight@legislature.maine.gov

Candidates currently running in our area:

- Dan Ankeles (central Brunswick, District 100, running unopposed): dankeles@gmail.com
- Cheryl Golek (District 99): cherylgolekforhousedistrict99@gmail.com
- Stephen Davis (District 99): sdavisme51@gmail.com