

# School Council Responsibilities

School councils assist principals in these four primary areas:

- Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards.
- Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school.
- Reviewing the annual school building budget.
- Formulating a school improvement plan.

# BRACKETT

## SCHOOL COUNCIL CANDIDATES 2025

**Cast Your Vote  
January 13-17**



## Maggie Benthall

I'm the proud parent of a current Brackett 3rd grader and a future kindergartener. I'm very grateful for all that Brackett is doing well; I'd be excited to work with our amazing staff to help continue to refine and improve. I enjoy research and analyzing data and would hope, as councilor, to help support decision-making with data. Some particular areas of interest for me are: differentiated instruction, careful use of technology, improving the school's ability to function during heat waves, and healthy lunches.

## Bridget Garsh



Hi Everyone! I'm Bridget Garsh, a proud Brackett parent and the mother of two boys—Hudson, a first grader, and Brooks, who will join Kindergarten next year. Professionally, I bring over 15 years of leadership experience in diverse organizations, from startups to higher education. In my current role as Vice President of Business Development and Strategy at Scholastic, I focus on finding innovative ways to spark book joy and help more children have access to books. As someone who is passionate about education and community building, I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate with Brackett's administration, teachers, and families to ensure our school continues to grow and serve the diverse needs of its students.

## **Erik Miller**



Otis Miller (Ms. Macrae), 1st Grade. Erik Miller brings nearly 20 years of experience in community development, educational strategy, program development, and fundraising. He has spearheaded initiatives to expand college access and success for historically excluded students by designing and implementing programs that tackle systemic barriers to education. Erik's work includes securing millions in funding, building strategic partnerships, and advancing equity-focused policies that drive student achievement. As the Director of College, Career, and Community-Based Partnerships at Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, a Boston Public School, Erik remains dedicated to creating opportunities for all learners. A proud Arlington resident and parent of two children attending or soon to attend Brackett Elementary, Erik is excited to leverage his experience to support the school's community and its mission to inspire young learners in his role as School Council Representative.

## **Elizabeth Rollins**



Hello! My name is Liz Rollins, and I am excited to offer my candidacy for a second term on the Brackett School Council. As a member of the School Council for the past several years, and as mom to a third grader, I have seen first hand the valuable role School Council plays in supporting the work of school administration. My professional background is in public education, as a special educator and Autism Specialist. I bring my knowledge of how schools operate, along with my experiences as a member of the Brackett community, to my work on the council. I believe in the power of teamwork and open communication between parents, teachers, and administration to create a positive, inclusive, and effective learning environment for all our children.

## **Veronica Sainz**

I am excited to submit my candidacy for the school council. I have two children at Brackett, one in Ms. Calcaterra's 4th grade class and one in Ms. Duggan's 2nd grade class. This year, I have enjoyed supporting the fourth-grade class as a room parent and also volunteering with our school's STEM PTO. I am an immigration appellate attorney, which has equipped me with strong advocacy and organizational skills. In my free time, I love to visit museums and craft. I have too many art supplies! I look forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively to support student success.