

WBCC: Winn Brook Child Care

Before School – After School

97 Waterhouse Road Belmont, MA 02478

WinnBrookCC.org

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Dear School Committee Members,

We are writing to request a meeting with members of the School Committee, either during a regularly scheduled meeting, or at a separate meeting as you see fit. We would like an opportunity to discuss how the Town of Belmont handles rent for child care programs. Because rent is one of our largest expenses, the amount of rent and rent increases has a significant impact on the quality of child care programs we offer. We are providing you with a brief synopsis of the importance of the child care programs to the school community to help explain the nature of our concern.

Winn Brook Child Care (WBCC), which includes both Before School and After School programs, is a vital part of the Winn Brook School. We currently serve 109 students from 89 different families, which is more than 20% of the school population. We are very grateful for the efforts of Principal Janet Carey, school faculty and staff, to work along with us in providing a safe and fun environment for WBCC students.

In this year's WBCC family survey, parents expressed appreciation for knowing that their children were in a safe, fun, and nurturing environment, where they could experience a wide array of enriching activities. In the last year, our enrollment has increased by 15-20 children each day. We are at our licensed capacity three days of the week, and hope to expand our services so that we aren't turning away any families needing extended day coverage.

In the last two years, we have worked hard to strengthen our relationship, with the Winn Brook School. We cleaned up the café stage, and transformed it from a storage space into a quiet area for after school activities. We have purchased supplies used by school staff (vacuums, tables, sports equipment etc.) and shared resources and materials with Winn Brook staff, in an effort to work together for the safety and development of all of our students. We also provide school staff with the opportunity to earn extra money by providing services to the program.

We feel strongly that the manner of assessing rent and determining rent increases should be re-examined. The rent charged to the child care program at each of the five schools varies dramatically, from \$7,200 to \$28,800, and does not appear to be based on any specific, relevant factors such as amount of space used or services provided. Rent increases can vary enormously from one year to the next with no apparent reason, making it extremely difficult to set our budgets and tuition rates, which in turns makes it extremely difficult for families to plan their child care

expenses. Since the 2000-2001 school year, our rental fee has increased by 800%, although we now have no dedicated space within the school.

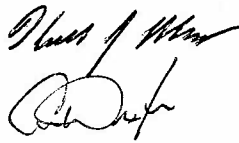
It is our hope that the School Committee will consider establishing a new system for setting rents. Included with this letter is a detailed general information sheet about Winn Brook Child Care, which details the space that we currently share within the Winn Brook School.

We look forward to meeting to review these issues and work towards a mutual and beneficial agreement. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Erik Haglund
Director - Winn Brook Child Care



Ken Bazydola
Ann Dexter
Co-chairs Parent Advisory Committee of the Winn Brook Child Care
Programs

Winn Brook Child Care

Winn Brook School

Capacity: 75
Current Enrollment: 109 total

Average Daily Enrollment: **After School** 71 **Before School** 33

Room Usage:	Room	When
	Café	Daily
	Kitchen	snack service only
1 -	Library	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
	2nd Floor Lobby	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
	Gym	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
1 - Rm	Rm 114	Mon & Wed 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm
4 days a wk -	Rm 111	Tue & Thu 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm
	1/2 Stage	Daily

Recent Change in Space: Loss of Room 201 - 7/1/2008
***No change in rental charge (request denied)

Yearly Rental Charge: \$14,400

Financial Aid 08-09: \$9,563

Custodial: (performed by WBCC staff)	Task	When
	Sweep café floor	Daily
	Wipe down tables	Daily
	Office trash/recycling	As needed

Contributions to School: Stage Reclamation Project: transformed half of stage into quiet activity area - prev. used for school storage
Purchase Window Blinds for Café
Purchased two vacuums for custodians
Donated 6 large scooters to Phys. Ed. teacher