

We want to thank the residents of Islesboro for the tremendous support provided over the past year to the Islesboro Pre-School (IPS). It's clear the residents of our island increasingly appreciate the benefits a quality Pre-School experience provides. These include the improved likelihood of a child's success in formal school and life beyond, the ability of both parents to work outside the home knowing that their child is in a safe and nurturing environment, and it supports the vitality of Islesboro by making it an attractive place for young people to live and raise a family.

Our Town Selectmen have been working with IPS exploring ways to improve the quality, availability, and duration of Pre-School programs. Initial discussions focused on the Town taking responsibility for the operation of the Pre-School. However, as we have listened to the ideas and suggestions from people across our community we believe there is a better approach to meeting the needs of the island. Specifically, the Town would fund \$65,000 dollars to cover the employee costs of running IPS for a 12 month period. IPS will provide monthly reports from our Payroll Vendor confirming expenditures have been made consistent with the Town's expectations. Further, the Town would have rights to audit the services delivered to ensure the taxpayers are getting that for which they paid. IPS would commit to provide the services that meet the needs of island children and parents while ensuring that every child has the chance to receive a quality Pre-School experience. . This approach does not obligate the Town to "own and operate" a pre-school and it allows the IPS Board of Directors to remain focused on meeting the needs of our island children, parents and the community at large. It also gives both parties the flexibility to adjust this approach based on the changing needs of the island over time.

We fully support this proposal and commit that if the Town sees fit to approve the agreement, we will work to provide the best possible experience for our island's children and families.

Nancy Wuori, President and Executive Director

Directors: Bruce Claffin, Julie Reidy, David Runnion-Bareford and Melanie Young,

