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July 30, 2012

Dear Mayor Davis, Members of the City Council and School Committee:

We, the undersigned, support the proposed tear-down and rebuilding of 100 Putnam Avenue, the future site of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Putnam Avenue Upper School.

The education of our children is far more important than protecting a site that may or may not one day be deemed to be of architectural significance. Poor air quality, high energy costs, lousy acoustics, harsh artificial lighting yet dimly lit hallways, poorly organized classrooms, potentially catastrophic structural weaknesses, predictable ceiling leaks, a flooded cafeteria, woeful auditorium, mold, and an interior garden that had to be carved out of concrete with a backhoe are among the legacies of this building.

The existing school building was, by far, the worst in Cambridge according to the city's Building Capital Needs Assessment dated **July 2006**. The design options have been thoroughly documented since that time and carefully studied over this past year in an extensive community process. The current proposal reflects collaboration between architects, educators, human service providers, families, and neighbors. It addresses modern educational practices and philosophy, community use, green space, parking problems and energy efficiency, among other concerns. The architects listened, and they heard. Now we are asking for **your** support.

We agree that demolition should be a last resort only when a building is truly unworkable. Renovations at the Peabody, Morse, high school, and main library are just the most recent examples that prove a renovation can be successful and even breathtaking. However, not all buildings should be saved. The Baldwin and Haggerty Schools are two examples where community needs outweighed the desire to preserve an existing structure.

Thank you for being open to minimizing the long-term environmental impact of the building's operations through the pursuit of a "net zero" design. We are eager to send our kids to school in a building where environmentalism will infuse the light that they learn by and the air that they breathe.

Please do not delay this project and the projects slated to come after it. Please vote for the proposal you have before you, and complete our school building on time. Move our children out of crowded swing space as soon as possible and unite the King School with the Putnam Avenue Upper School.

Thank you for investing in our children.

Signed by ⁴⁶45 parents & families from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School, Kennedy-Longfellow School, Morse School, and Putnam Avenue Upper School

COM 2012 #344

Communications #81

A petition filed by Martha Bakken, et al., in support of tearing down and rebuilding the King School.

In City Council July 30, 2012

REFERRED TO AGENDA #20

Martha Bakken, 342 Concord Avenue
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parent

Maria Balinska-Szczerba and Wojciech Szczerba, 229 Lakeview Avenue
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

Paul Calamia & Kimberley Jordan, 217 Harvard Street
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parent

Catherine Cavanaugh, 84 Spring Street
Kennedy-Longfellow School & King Open School parent

Christine Chase, 39A Sherman Street
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School

Jane Chiang, 71 Fifth St, #1
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parent

Patrick Cox, 63 Highland Avenue #6
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parent

Peter Crawely & Wen-Hao Tien, 88 Thorndike Street
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

Roberto Cremonini & Victoria Mills, 8 Newell St
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

Bryan & Mary Ellen Doran, 48 Spring Street
Kennedy-Longfellow School parents

Jennifer Dunn, 366 Windsor St
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parent

Kevin Fanning & Rosalie Rippey, 45 Pilgrim Street #202
Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

Ernesto Gianoloa & Nancy Wyse, 121 Auburn Street #12
Kennedy-Longfellow School parents

Deborah Haber, 16 Aberdeen Ave., #2
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parent

Mandy & Tim Hickling, 86 Wendell St
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

David & Wendy Huang, 655 Concord Ave #502
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

Steven Immarino, 140 Thorndike St
Kennedy-Longfellow and Putnam Avenue Upper School parent

John Jackson & Andrea Spears Jackson, 132 Western Avenue
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

Anne & Jeff McDonough, 157 Pleasant Street, #101
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

Kimberley Mancino, 297 Pearl Street
Morse School Parent

Katie O'Riordan & Alan Driscoll, 104A Ellery Street# 1
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

Kelly Palubeckis, 10 Putnam Gardens #94
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parent

Heather Paxson & Stefan Helmreich, 189 Lexington Avenue
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

Minjoo Shin & Hyoseok Yi, 24 Peabody Terrace 1002
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parents

Andrew & Artis Spears, 124 Western Ave
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parent and grandparent

Tony, Aida, Ashley & TJ Spears, 132 Western Avenue
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School family

Bethany Versoy, 44 Langdon St. #12
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School parent

*Andrea Spears Jackson
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