

Lopez, Donna

64

From: Mary Ellen Doran [mailto:change.org]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 4:36 AM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Don't cut Popular, Successful Community School Programs

Greetings,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: Mr. Healy

Don't cut Popular, Successful Community School Programs

Please save the directors' positions of the Longfellow and King Community Schools and add a director for the Amigos Program.

If there were a program that serves 1,400 children, 200 seniors, hundreds of families and adults with offerings of 1,700 enrichment classes for children, dozens of exciting day trips per year, and immensely successful summer camp programs serving 900 children, and Arts in the Parks program for hundreds of city children during summer school vacation, all at very little cost to the city per child or adult served, WOULD YOU CONSIDER IT A GREAT PROGRAM WORTHY OF FUNDING? Let's further ask: Why wouldn't you want to fund a program that PROMOTES the City Council GOALS of "fostering community..." and "supporting neighborhood vitality" and also meets the Council GOALS to "strengthen and support Human Services... and out of school learning" which Community Schools do on a greater scale than any other out-of-school-time program or community building program in this city. COUNCILLORS: WE ASK THAT YOU SUPPORT OUR REQUEST THAT ABSOLUTELY NO COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROGRAMS WILL BE CUT, EVER, NOT THE KING COMMUNITY SCHOOL NOR THE LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND THAT THE AMIGOS PROGRAM IS GIVEN A COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN THEIR NEW HOME ON UPTON STREET.

Sincerely,

It is vital that people look at the bigger picture. The Community Schools provide enrichment opportunities that keep children active physically and challenges their mind academically and artistically. They get the invaluable time to continue to grow bonds with other children and families in the area. This is especially true for new families moving to the area who have no other options because of missing deadlines elsewhere. In many cases, the bonds that are developed are keeping families in Cambridge rather than moving them to other cities.

The return on investment by the City includes tax dollars by families who can successfully have two working adults because of this childcare option. Families that stay in Cambridge and invest in the community, and money to the local establishments that are frequented on errands and dinner options that are convenient to the Community School locations.

Many of us DEPEND on this programming.

Mary Ellen Doran
Cambridge, Massachusetts

