

CRAIG KELLEY #1 City Council

Because neighborhoods count!

1722-A Mass. Ave. 02138 www.CraigKelley.org 617-491-4545



A Good School System is the Heart of a Healthy City

As anyone concerned about the Cambridge Public School system understands, we need to ensure that the much-touted "Excellent Education in Every Classroom" is a reality in every school. To that end, we need clearly defined, quantifiable, and well-designed goals, plus effective supervision and adequate funding, or CPS risks becoming a school system of last resort, used primarily by those who cannot afford private school and are unable to move elsewhere.

The plan for excellent education must be more than simply merging or closing schools, cutting teachers and support staff, and redesigning the high school. In particular, there must be proper implementation of the recently approved K-8 reorganization plan or there can be little doubt that Cambridge's public schools will continue to shed lower-grade students at a rate that will cripple the entire system.

My wife, Hope, and I have been thrilled with virtually every aspect of our son's public school education thus far, (Robbie attends the Baldwin School), but it is clear that many students, especially those in the higher grades, need the Cambridge Public School system to challenge them more. It is equally clear that many other CPS students are not succeeding academically. This "performance gap" threatens to overwhelm our schools and needs immediate attention through a planning process that is based on sound educational policies—not spreadsheet politics!

WE MUST

Determine our academic needs—Then FUND A PLAN to meet those needs.

While it's hard to argue that the Cambridge Public School system needs more than the roughly \$17,000 per student it currently spends each year, it's just as hard to determine exactly how much our public school system does need to teach our students well. We must decide how we will best educate our children, then obtain and disburse the necessary funds to accomplish that goal.

Engage lower-performing students and their families in the academic environment.

The importance of motivating students to excel in

the classroom cannot be overstated, yet too many students, for a variety of reasons, fall by the academic wayside. CPS, and all of Cambridge, must develop and fund new ways to help these children achieve the academic success which is such a crucial foundation for their success in later life.

Identify where the Cambridge Public School system is spending its money.

At its heart, the recent K through 8 reorganization was driven by budget considerations. Yet, since virtually no one understands how our public school system spends its money now, it is impossible to figure out how to spend it more wisely in the future.

Even when leveled for Special Education needs and students for whom English is not the primary language (two oft-cited reasons for Cambridge's massive expenditures), the Cambridge Public School system spends far more on overhead than similar municipalities. As a first step in effectively managing its finances, our public school system should justify every position and contract on which it spends money to a board of parents, teachers, staff and students.

Bring my first-hand knowledge of the Cambridge Public Schools, as a Public School parent and active member of the school community, to the Council. When the City Council gets involved in Public School issues, it needs a member who understands the impact of the Council's actions on the education of our children.

Work to ensure that the City Council passes a budget that provides our Public Schools with the funds they need to educate our children to reach their highest personal potentials.

Promote healthy neighborhoods, through zoning reform, appropriate affordable housing creation and child-friendly streets—neighborhoods that will support a vibrant school system.

Because so much is at stake, I'm asking you to vote KELLEY #1 for CITY COUNCIL on NOVEMBER 4th!

Craig Kelley

#1

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A Good School System is the Heart of a Healthy City

A CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT HIMSELF, CRAIG KELLEY THINKS WE NEED TO:

Determine the academic needs of all our children,
then FUND A PLAN to meet those needs.

Engage lower-performing students and
their families in the academic environment.

Identify where the Cambridge Public
School system currently spends its money.

AS CITY COUNCILLOR, CRAIG KELLEY WILL:

Bring his first-hand knowledge of the Cambridge
Public Schools to the Council Chambers.

Work to help Cambridge Public Schools achieve
financial accountability.

Promote healthy neighborhood communities that
can support a vibrant school system.

**BECAUSE SO MUCH IS AT STAKE, PLEASE VOTE FOR
CRAIG KELLEY #1, CITY COUNCIL on Nov.4th!**