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CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
1700 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02238

MS. ALICE K. WOLF
48 Huron Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

March 31, 1980

Mr. Paul E. Healy, City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

I am enclosing some information for the meeting of the Finance Committee of the City Council to be held this evening.

I would appreciate your distributing copies to the members.
Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Alice K. Wolf, Vice Chairman,
Cambridge School Committee

AKW:r
Encl.

CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS H. DUEHAY

VICE CHAIRMAN
ALICE K. WOLF

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
450 CENTRE STREET
(SOLOMON TRAFLET AND CARLEER CENTER)
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
(Tel. 498-9251)

MEMBERS
HENRIETTA S. ATTLES
SARA MAE BERMAN
DONALD A. FANTINI
GLENN S. KOOCHER
JOSEPH E. MAYNARD

March 31, 1980

City Councillor David Wylie, Chairman, Finance
Committee, City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Councillor Wylie and Members of the Finance Committee:

It is imperative that the City Council vote favorably on the supplementary appropriation requested by the School Committee. There is no way that the School Department can now make up \$919,000 in deficiencies. Stop-gap measures of laying off employees in the middle of a contract year would: 1. result in expenditure of money anyway as a result of arbitration and court battles that we are bound to lose; 2. throw the school system into a crisis when we are facing school integration and budget '81. The City would spend the money in the end, but it would spend it not for education, just for creating turmoil.

The School Committee is painfully aware that fiscal constraints have become enormous. Even prior to this year, we have cut back. For example,

1. By instituting satellite lunches for the elementary schools, we have reduced, by attrition, the food personnel staff from 108 to 70 in two years. We expect an additional reduction of about 20 through this program.
2. The Superintendent has piloted a more staff-efficient and, we think, more educationally sound early childhood and intervention program. It will move us away from over-remediation and will reduce staff.
3. Over the past two years, we have reduced specialists by about 17 positions.
4. We ended support of the Court Clinic and the Central School.
5. The number of custodians and matrons has been reduced by about 15 over a six-year period.

CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS H. DUEHAY

VICE CHAIRMAN
ALICE K. WOLF

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

450 WASHINGTON STREET
(SOLOMONS TRANSFER AND FREIGHT CAREER CENTER)
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138



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March 31, 1980

- 2 -

6. As recently as the last School Committee meeting, the School Committee voted not to renew leases on four rented facilities, two for the high school and two for the elementary.

While we have made these savings, several factors, as well as the overwhelming inflation, have impacted recent budgets. Additional facilities were needed during high school construction --three for two years and two for the present year. In addition, in some cases, the School Committee has made humane decisions, such as maintaining salaries of administrators reorganized out of their jobs until the end of the present contract, or educationally-based ones such as to hire additional secondary teachers rather than cut back course selection. In these fiscally conservative times, we will have to be more hard-nosed.

In fact we attempted to be so in the present year's budget by coming under the 4% cap by \$300,000.

Let me review two aspects of our deficit situation in which I personally participated:

1. \$250,000 of the deficit runs the occupational education center at Albany Street and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School necessary because the contractor for the high school renovation is at least nine months late in his construction schedule.

I attended a meeting held in February, 1979 with the Contractor. At that meeting, attended also by representatives of the City, School Department, and School Committee Member Maynard, Chairman of the Sub Committee on Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Finn, representing Vappi and Company, told us that the second phase of high school construction, the Rindge and the Arts Buildings would be complete in August. Realizing the impact of this on the budget, I asked Mr. Finn three times and in three different ways whether he really felt it would be complete. He said that he guaranteed its completion in August. City officials overseeing the project did not modify these statements or caution us in any way. Accordingly we budgeted conservatively for occupancy in October. Today, it is still not complete.

2. Oliver Brown and I met with City Manager Sullivan in December regarding elementary facilities. At that time we reminded Mr. Sullivan of our previously expressed concern that the School Department would run a

CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS H. DUEHAY

VICE CHAIRMAN
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

45
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March 31, 1980

- 3 -

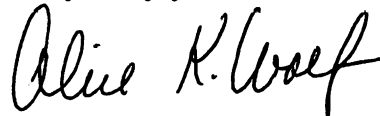
substantial deficit because of construction delays, fuel, tuition costs, and the LAU plan. Mr. Sullivan's response to us was that the School Department should wait until winter was over (to find out the real impact of fuel) and that he would deal with the deficit problem at that time.

That time is now.

The City Council should realize that while the City has the ability to deal with its financial difficulties by managing revenues, the School Department basically has no revenues to manipulate and virtually all its personnel are under contract. For example, the City was able to reap a substantial sum of money by investment of the high school state reimbursement. Since as far as I know, the high school construction has not benefited I assume that the revenues may have offset some City expense. In fact the City is not purchasing even the highest priority high school equipment and furnishings for which money was allocated in the bond issue.

As the City and School Department come under increased fiscal strain, it may be tempting for the City Council and Manager to dump on the schools, as I feel is already beginning to happen with regard to the deficit and the vital and substantially diminished high school equipment and furnishings. In fact cooperation between the Council, School Committee, and all public agencies is critical at this time. The City and School Department have a history of cooperation in the few joint ventures that we have, and, if anything, increased cooperation, rather than adversary proceedings, will be essential in the future.

Very truly yours,



Alice K. Wolf, Vice Chairman,
Cambridge School Committee

AKW:r



City of Cambridge

14.
IN CITY COUNCIL
March 24, 1980

COUNCILLOR VELLUCCI

- ORDERED: That the Chairman of the Finance Committee call a special meeting of that committee to discuss the report of the City Manager relative to a report on the School Department's request for an additional appropriation; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the Chairman invite the School Committee, School administrators, the City Manager and budget analysts from both City Hall and the School Department; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the Finance Committee meeting be held as soon as possible before the School Department begins wholesale lay-offs of more than 100 teachers, beginning April 1 and ending June 30, 1980, as per statement of Mr. Oliver Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

In City Council March 24, 1980
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.
Attest: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

A true copy,

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul E. Healy".



City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 31, 1980

COUNCILLOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED:

That the City Manager be requested to borrow \$919,000.00 on a short term loan to finance the request of the School Committee that \$919,000.00 be provided by this City Council in order to carry out the proper business of the Cambridge Schools for the remainder of the 1979-1980 fiscal year.

In City Council March 31, 1980.

Adopted as amended by a yea and nay vote:-

Yeas 5; Nays 4; Absent 0.

Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy,

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul E. Healy".



City of Cambridge

4.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 3, 1980

COUNCILLOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED:

Requested *919,000*
 That the City Manager be authorized to borrow \$~~1,000,000~~.00 on a short term loan to finance the request of the School Committee that \$919,000.00 be provided by this City Council in order to carry out the proper business of the Cambridge Schools for the remainder of the 1979-1980 fiscal year.

REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

5-4-4 in Council

This order was adopted

By the City Council

5-4-0-0

WITH AMENDMENTS AS NOTED



City of Cambridge

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ORDER NO. 4 OF MARCH 3, 1980

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 3, 1980

COUNCILLOR D. SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR WYLIE

ORDERED: That the bond authorization be reduced to \$900,000 rather than the proposal to borrow \$1,000,000.

REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

School Committee Budget Request

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

3/31

1980

*City Council order adopted
as reported by Committee Office
Hemming*

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Kevin P. Crane		✓		
Mr. Thomas W. Danehy		✓		
Ms. Sandra Graham		✓		
Mr. Leonard J. Russell	✓			
Mr. David E. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan		✓		
Mr. Alfred Vellucci	✓			
Mr. David A. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Francis H. Duehay	✓			

5 4 0

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

#6

3/31/

1980

*Amendment to authorize
by C. Vellucci Failed*

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Kevin P. Crane		✓		
Mr. Thomas W. Danehy		✓		
Ms. Sandra Graham		✓		
Mr. Leonard J. Russell	✓			
Mr. David E. Sullivan		✓		
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan		✓		
Mr. Alfred Vellucci	✓			
Mr. David A. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Francis H. Duehay	✓			
	4	5	0	

#1 Vote in City Council

*To strike word request and
SUBSTITUTE AUTHORIZE - in the
FIRST line of the order*

Order by COUNCILLOR Vellucci
City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

March 31, 1980

VOTE OF THE CITY COUNCIL ON ORDER INTRODUCED
 BY COUNCILLOR VELLUCCI REQUESTING CITY MANAGER
 TO BORROW \$919,000 FOR THE SCHOOL DEPT BUDGET
 DEFICIT FOR 1979-1980 FISCAL YEAR

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Kevin P. Crane		✓		
Mr. Thomas W. Danehy		✓		
Ms. Sandra Graham		✓		
Mr. Leonard J. Russell	✓			
Mr. David E. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan		✓		
Mr. Alfred Vellucci	✓			
Mr. David A. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Francis H. Duehay	✓			
	5	4	0	

- Order Adopted -

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council March 31 1980

*Vote of the City Council on the Budget
Request of the School Committee for
\$919,000*

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Kevin P. Crane		✓		
Mr. Thomas W. Danehy		✓		
Ms. Sandra Graham		✓		
Mr. Leonard J. Russell	✓			
Mr. David E. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan		✓		
Mr. Alfred Vellucci	✓			
Mr. David A. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Francis H. Duehay	✓			
	5	4	0	



City of Cambridge

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ORDER NO. 4 OF MARCH 3, 1980

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 3, 1980

COUNCILLOR D. SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR WYLIE

ORDERED: That the bond authorization be reduced to \$900,000 rather than the proposal to borrow \$1,000,000.

REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE



City of Cambridge

4.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 3, 1980

COUNCILLOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED: That the City Manager be authorized to borrow \$1,000,000.00 on a short term loan to finance the request of the School Committee that \$919,000.00 be provided by this City Council in order to carry out the proper business of the Cambridge Schools for the remainder of the 1979-1980 fiscal year.

REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE



City of Cambridge

4.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 3, 1980

COUNCILLOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED: That the City Manager be authorized to borrow \$1,000,000.00 on a short term loan to finance the request of the School Committee that \$919,000.00 be provided by this City Council in order to carry out the proper business of the Cambridge Schools for the remainder of the 1979-1980 fiscal year.

*Councillor Vellucci motion - to Refer to the Finance Committee - Carried
- Report 3/24/79 -*

*} O'Keefe AMEND to 900000
} Callahan " " "*

Motion to Finance Carried

No Motion on addition to 900000

Order #4

X-72

C. Vellucci re: City Manager to borrow
\$1,000,000.00 for the School Committee.
919,000.

In City Council,

March 3, 1980

*C. Vellucci Motion to Refer
to Finance Committee
Carried with Request
for Report 3/24/80
Motion to Reduce to
900,000. NO ACTION
Shown -*