



City of Cambridge

R-116.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 31, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: Steven Brion Meisels is leaving the Cambridge School system after years of service to the children of Cambridge and dedication to violence prevention; and

WHEREAS: Steven will continue to make his mark in violence prevention with young people through work for the Peace Games; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record expressing its appreciation to Steven Brion Meisels for his contributions to the children of Cambridge and wishing him well in his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Steven Brion Meisels on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council July 31, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury", is written over the printed name and title.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

R

R-116

HD

DM 7-27-00 10:00AM mc

W/A Steven Bruce Meisels is leaving the
Cambridge School System after several years
of service to the children of Cambridge
and dedication to violence prevention; and

W/A ~~Steven~~

W/A Steven will continue to make his mark w

~~throughout the~~ w/young people
violence prevention, by working ~~for~~ on the
Peace Games; now therefore
be it

R That the CC go on record ~~today~~
expressing ~~his~~ its appreciation for
his contributions to the ~~city~~ ^{children} of Cambridge and
wishing him well in his future endeavors; and
be it further

R SEC

Hi Harriette. Thanks for being a good ally and advocate over the year
I hope things go well in the next cycle!

July 14, 2000

"Do your work, then s

Dear friends and colleagues

I will miss you in September

As many of you know, I (along with that of my colleagues) brings no personal rationale of the work we have done with our colleagues in central families (a consequence of two much larger problems: people, and serve them ~~effectively~~ (however short we may fall of our goals); and the marginalization of school-based efforts that focus on prevention, peacemaking, social justice and support for children and families who are too often voiceless in public policy circles.

I have been bold to make some recommendations concerning how you might continue to advocate for the work we began. I enclose these for your consideration, and am happy to be of help in the future.

I am fine. Linda and I had a wonderful three-month research odyssey. We interviewed 40 educators on the links among multiple intelligences, multicultural education and marginalized communities. We saw lots of great places, met wonderful people, and learned more about the benefits and burdens of white privilege. Let us know if you want to talk or read more about our journey.

I will start a new position next week. Peace Games is an eight year old non-profit that seeks to support young people as peacemakers. We link university-age volunteers with teachers and students in public school settings; we focus on a year-long classroom curriculum that seeks to integrate cultural, developmental and political considerations. Our work is to support youth leadership in a multicultural, multigenerational framework. We have worked in Cambridge, and there is the possibility to do more in the years ahead.

So, as Jackson Browne wrote, "This is my opening farewell." I know we will stay connected -- personally, professionally and politically.

But I will miss you in September and beyond.

Thank you deeply for your work, your commitment, and for everything you have taught me over the years. My friend Bill Coffin writes that "Hope is a passion for the possible." Thanks for keeping hope alive, in me and in many others.

Steven (Bren - Meisels)

Carmella
order

Thanking him

Margaret

Lao-Tzu

dget deliberations
For me, this change
concern for the future
s were difficult for
because of the loss of
s as one small part of
hat seek to serve the

Keeping the Work Alive: Some Recommendations

In reviewing the work done by Joe and me with central administrative staff, a few key gaps became evident. I offer these suggestions for staff who might want to continue the work we began, & advocate for the issues that many of us value.

1. Preventive services for children and families. There is currently no central administrative "home" for prevention efforts like the SST's, TAT's, domestic and dating violence prevention, substance abuse prevention. Without an administrative home & accountability, this work will continue to be marginal. In the short run, the collaborative agencies need our support in maintaining at least a basic level of prevention services.
2. Middle grades coordination. A new staff person will be hired to help facilitate middle grades efforts. It will be important to support her or him, to nurture the Cluster Teams, and to keep an holistic approach to middle grades work in mind as you move ahead.
3. Integration of social skills and prevention efforts into the core academic curricula and frameworks. Excellent model programs are available in social studies (like Facing History and Ourselves) and literature (like Voices of Love and Freedom). Given the emphasis on standards and literacy, these are important vehicles to help keep social skills in our school programs. Kristen and Chandra can help you learn more about VLF and other prevention curricula through the middle grades prevention grant.
4. Alternatives to Violence. It will be challenging to continue alternatives to violence efforts given staff reductions and time crunches. But this work is crucial for school climate as well as academic achievement. I have no great ideas for resources here, but urge you to advocate for this area.
5. Transition to High School. The new structure at the high school provides many opportunities for new approaches to transition. There is a strong and energetic leadership team there who will welcome ideas for transition. Joe and I have done much of the grunt work here, so there will need to be a strategy for taking leadership in this area.
6. Peer support. School staff work very hard and take on many challenges. It will important to sustain and expand any kinds of structures that provide peer support.

Hi Harriette. Thanks for being a good ally and advocate over the year
I hope things go well in the next cycle!

July 14, 2000

"Do your work, then step back. The only way to serenity." Lao-Tzu

Dear friends and colleagues connected to my Cambridge work,

I will miss you in September and beyond.

As many of you know, my position was cut during the recent budget deliberations (along with that of my close friend and colleague, Joe Pagliaro). For me, this change brings no personal rancor, but a good deal of sadness and some concern for the future of the work we have done these past years. I know these decisions were difficult for our colleagues in central administration, and were made in part because of the loss of families (a consequence of the loss of rent control). I see these cuts as one small part of two much larger problems: the de-funding of public institutions that seek to serve the people, and serve them democratically (however short we may fall of our goals); and the marginalization of school-based efforts that focus on prevention, peacemaking, social justice and support for children and families who are too often voiceless in public policy circles.

I have been bold to make some recommendations concerning how you might continue to advocate for the work we began. I enclose these for your consideration, and am happy to be of help in the future.

I am fine. Linda and I had a wonderful three-month research odyssey. We interviewed 40 educators on the links among multiple intelligences, multicultural education and marginalized communities. We saw lots of great places, met wonderful people, and learned more about the benefits and burdens of white privilege. Let us know if you want to talk or read more about our journey.

I will start a new position next week. Peace Games is an eight year old non-profit that seeks to support young people as peacemakers. We link university-age volunteers with teachers and students in public school settings; we focus on a year-long classroom curriculum that seeks to integrate cultural, developmental and political considerations. Our work is to support youth leadership in a multicultural, multigenerational framework. We have worked in Cambridge, and there is the possibility to do more in the years ahead.

So, as Jackson Browne wrote, "This is my opening farewell." I know we will stay connected -- personally, professionally and politically.

But I will miss you in September and beyond.

Thank you deeply for your work, your commitment, and for everything you have taught me over the years. My friend Bill Coffin writes that "Hope is a passion for the possible." Thanks for keeping hope alive, in me and in many others.

Steven (Ben - Meisels)

Keeping the Work Alive: Some Recommendations

In reviewing the work done by Joe and me with central administrative staff, a few key gaps became evident. I offer these suggestions for staff who might want to continue the work we began, & advocate for the issues that many of us value.

1. Preventive services for children and families. There is currently no central administrative "home" for prevention efforts like the SST's, TAT's, domestic and dating violence prevention, substance abuse prevention. Without an administrative home & accountability, this work will continue to be marginal. In the short run, the collaborative agencies need our support in maintaining at least a basic level of prevention services.
2. Middle grades coordination. A new staff person will be hired to help facilitate middle grades efforts. It will be important to support her or him, to nurture the Cluster Teams, and to keep an holistic approach to middle grades work in mind as you move ahead.
3. Integration of social skills and prevention efforts into the core academic curricula and frameworks. Excellent model programs are available in social studies (like Facing History and Ourselves) and literature (like Voices of Love and Freedom). Given the emphasis on standards and literacy, these are important vehicles to help keep social skills in our school programs. Kristen and Chandra can help you learn more about VLF and other prevention curricula through the middle grades prevention grant.
4. Alternatives to Violence. It will be challenging to continue alternatives to violence efforts given staff reductions and time crunches. But this work is crucial for school climate as well as academic achievement. I have no great ideas for resources here, but urge you to advocate for this area.
5. Transition to High School. The new structure at the high school provides many opportunities for new approaches to transition. There is a strong and energetic leadership team there who will welcome ideas for transition. Joe and I have done much of the grunt work here, so there will need to be a strategy for taking leadership in this area.
6. Peer support. School staff work very hard and take on many challenges. It will important to sustain and expand any kinds of structures that provide peer support.



City of Cambridge

R-116.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 31, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
VICE MAYOR MAHER

WHEREAS: Steven Brion Meisels is leaving the Cambridge School system after years of service to the children of Cambridge and dedication to violence prevention; and

WHEREAS: Steven will continue to make his mark in violence prevention with young people through work for the Peace Games; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record expressing its appreciation to Steven Brion Meisels for his contributions to the children of Cambridge and wishing him well in his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Steven Brion Meisels on behalf of the entire City Council.

R932

Resolution #116

Appreciation to Steven Brion
Meisels for his contributions to the
children of Cambridge and wish
him well in his future endeavors.

**Councillor Davis and Vice Mayor
Maher**

In City Council July 31, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED