



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Dr. Robert Peterkin, Superintendent of Schools
Claire E. Rodley, Acting Secretary to the School
Committee

Date October 23, 1985

From Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

Reference

Subject Enclosed letter

Enclosed you will find a copy of a communication received by the City Council at its meeting of Monday, October 21st from Jill Bloom Mooradian & Ronald A. Mooradian, relative to a lack of support services in the King Open School Program this year.

The City Council, at the aforementioned meeting, referred this letter to both the Superintendent of Schools and the School Committee with the request for a report pursuant to the concerns outlined in said letter.

Your very kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated, both by this office and the City Council.

PEH/mh

Enclosure: Communication No. 29 of 10/21/85

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
1985 OCT 21 AM 10:24
CAMBRIDGE MA.

Dr. Robert Peterkin
Cambridge Supt. of Schools
159 Thorndike Street
Cambridge Ma. 02141

October 18, 1985

Dear Dr. Peterkin,

I am appalled at the lack of support services in the King Open School Program this year. My first-grader is in a 1-2 classroom with 24 other children and only one qualified adult. The aide's hours have been cut in half, and we must share her services with a kindergarten class.

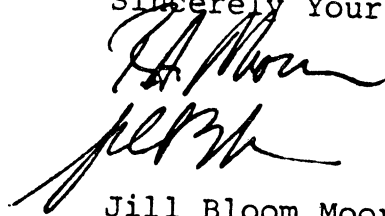
The logistics of teaching 25 children with such varying skill levels would be difficult to execute under any circumstances - in an open classroom situation, where the emphasis is on individualized learning, it is impossible. One teacher simply cannot meet the demands made on her, and the result is that the Open Program is reduced to using stop-gap methods of instruction.

The concept of parity among schools is laudable and makes for excellent public relations rhetoric. Unfortunately, Cambridge cannot eat its cake and have it too. If the city's reputation of support for alternative programs like the Open School is to be upheld, special efforts must be made to keep these programs viable. There is no sense in parity if it means that some programs suffer more than others.

I urge you to consider using emergency funds to provide

additional support staff to the Open Program and others like it which depend for their quality on a lower student-teacher ratio. There is absolutely no sense in paying lip service to our fine alternative programs (which are attracting more families every year into the public school system) if the quality of those programs is made to suffer. Indeed, the lowest-common denominator philosophy of school management must be eradicated if we are to expect a quality education for our children.

Sincerely Yours,



Jill Bloom Mooradian
Ronald A. Mooradian
202 Hamilton Street
Cambridge Ma. 02139

cc/ Cambridge School Committee
Cambridge City Council
Martin Luther King School

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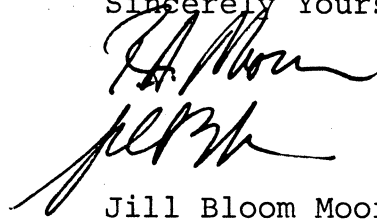
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Sincerely Yours,

The block contains two handwritten signatures. The top signature is in cursive and appears to read 'Jill Bloom'. The bottom signature is also in cursive and appears to read 'Ronald A. Mooradian'.

Jill Bloom Mooradian
Ronald A. Mooradian
202 Hamilton Street
Cambridge Ma. 02139

cc/ Cambridge School Committee
Cambridge City Council
Martin Luther King School

Comm. from Jill Bloom Mooradian & Ronald A.
Mooradian Re: lack of support services in
the King Open School Program this year.

copy of this comm. with forwarding
letter requesting report sent to Supt.
Robert O. Peterdini & Claire Rodley
Sch. Secretary to the School Committee
10/23/85 mh

In City Council,

October 21, 1985

10/21/85

Referred to the
Supt. of Schools by
the
School Committee
for
Report