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October 30, 1974

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Mrs. Lorraine Young, President
M.L.King School P.T.A.
Putnam Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Cambridge School Committee
1700 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Sirs,

We are writing this letter as concerned parents and teachers of children attending the M.L.King School. As you know we have occupied this new building for just over two years and many problems exist and have existed since the opening in 1972.

At this point in time our biggest concern is with the heating and air-conditioning system in the building. We have contacted the Architects and the city's lawyer in regards to this problem. The main problem with the system seems to be with the air-relief valves that were faulty to begin with or were not even installed. Then when a unit breaks and is removed that room is without heat or A.C. at all. At present there are at least four rooms without heat and one of these is a Kindergarten. Other rooms seem to have little or no control over the system at all. We do not wish to dwell on these problems but more on the solutions to them. What is being done to have these problems corrected after two years of poor service? It is November now and these difficulties need immediate attention. Would you work in an office that is 40 in Winter and over 85 in Summer with little or no fresh air ventilation?

Another very pressing issue is the one of maintenance or the lack of it in this award winning structure. Three men on the day shift and one man on the night shift do their best to handle the everyday problems that arise. But, there is never any time for the preventative maintenance that a building of this size so badly needs. Vandalism is a very large part of this problem. With more full time people on each shift repairs could be made as well as maintenance be kept a proper level. If there was a repair crew that could come in and fix the things that need immediate repair (and there is quite a list) and then hire more men to help keep the building maintained properly this would be a step in the right direction.

We would like to suggest putting one of the present full time men (Mr. Connors) in charge of the mechanical systems on a permanent basis. There is plenty of work there and this is only a minimal solution to the problem. As for regular maintenance there should be at least four men on each shift. We would also recommend immediate repair of the alarm system so that there is some control over vandals at night.

Please reply to these problems immediately as this has now gone on for two years and the children are the ones suffering.

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Cambridge School Committee
1700 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Copies of this letter are being sent to the following people. The Cambridge City Council, City Manager, School dept. Mr. Martin, and to the Schools Superintendent Mr. Cheatham.

Sincerely yours,

Lorraine Young

Lorraine Young, President

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Comm. from Lorraine Young, relative to
conditions at the Martin Luther King School.

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

In City Council,

November 4, 1974

Referred to the

City Manager

*Copy sent to City Mgr.
11/6/74 dl.*