

Richard C. Brown
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Cambridge, MA 02138
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MAY 22 2 01 PM '81
May 19 1981
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

To the Honorable Members
of the City Council:

On behalf of the 23-member Music Department Advisory Committee, which represents more than 3000 citizens and public school parents, I would like to express appreciation to the Council for the outstanding way it has been governing Cambridge under the difficult conditions imposed by the passage of Proposition 2½. Given the resources at hand, the Council's actions thus far have truly been in the best interests of all.

The Advisory Committee has every confidence that the Council will continue to show similar wisdom in the trying times that undoubtedly lie ahead.

One unresolved major problem facing Cambridge, of course, is the question of funding. Like many cities, Cambridge typically has looked to State aid as a means of supplementing internally generated revenues.

In the past years, the certainty of such funding, if not the exact dollar amount, was never an issue. And neither was the apportioning of those monies. The Council allocated 41% to the School Committee which, in turn, networked its share throughout the school system. At the bottom line, the needs of the Music Department were always recognized and met.

This year, however, not only the dollar amount but the actual aid package itself is in question. In spite of these uncertainties, however, the School Committee's support for the Music Department remains unchanged. Its proposed 2½ budget calls for continuing instrumental and voice programs at both the elementary and high school levels.

By voicing support for music in these times -- which certainly must figure among the worst for our City -- the School Committee has clearly acknowledged the importance of music to our City's educational system. It has said, in sum, that music should assume its rightful place alongside other recognized core subjects.

But even core subjects require funding. This is why, for example, the City Council has traditionally earmarked a

generous portion of outside aid for School Department use.

As mentioned, the fate of future funding currently hangs in the air. How it will be resolved is unclear. What is clear, however, is that if and when such aid might be forthcoming, the Advisory Committee is certain that the Council will continue to keep the needs of the School Department uppermost in its thoughts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Brown", written in a cursive style.

Richard C. Brown
on behalf of the
Advisory Committee
to the Music Department

19.

S-342

Comm. from Richard C. Brown on behalf of the
Advisory Committee to the Music Dept. express-
ing appreciation to the City Council for the
outstanding way it has been governing Cambridge
under the difficult conditions imposed by
Prop 2½.

In City Council,

June 1, 1981

Placed on file
6-8-81