

Riley, Kate

From: Joy Hackel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:52 PM
To: Riley, Kate; City Council
Subject: Tobin Montessori - questions for tonight's meeting

I hope these questions are considered in tonight's meeting:

The pandemic should make us fundamentally rethink the environment of every Cambridge public school. Wouldn't it make more sense - especially in light of critical concerns about density and contagion in school buildings - to spread this money around so that every school age child in Cambridge would benefit from better ventilation and hygiene? We'll need to spend a lot to make all of our schools safer and healthier post-pandemic. Does one, big, quarter of a billion dollar expenditure seem wise when so much funding will be needed for so many?

Also, I'm not sure city officials appreciate the depth of concern about this \$250 million expenditure from Cambridge citizens - especially given the global pandemic and an economic crash. Are officials aware of how many Cambridge residents are now unemployed, and how many small, local businesses either have gone under or on the verge of collapse? Can we justify what is likely to be the most expensive school built in Massachusetts when so many are struggling just to put food on the table or pay rent? Education should be a priority, but isn't this a time to refurbish and mend what we already have - instead of sinking all available resources into one huge project?

Thanks.