

Dear Parents for a Global Education Alliance (PANGEA):

Thank you for your out reach to us, the School Committee candidates and the Cambridge community. From canvassing thousands and thousands of voters across our city, our community's interest in bringing a world language program into our public schools is evident.

We live in a culturally diverse city and participate in a global society. Immersion into other cultures and languages not only builds appreciation for our global diversity but also best prepares our students to be effective and successful adults in a competitive 21st century marketplace.

World language learning has proven a benefit to cognitive development, including enhanced conceptual thinking, better problem solving and improved scores on standardized tests. All critical boosts to encouraging our students to become lifelong learners.

As a member of the School Committee, I will be committed to listening and learning from our community members and experienced educators to make sure the dual immersion programs currently in place provide the quality educational experience our language programs demand. I am also committed to making sure our new language immersion initiatives include best practices for the needs of all our students. To implement these new programs will require committed collaboration between our administration and our teachers as well as input from experienced outside educators and our families.

Our current three dual immersion programs: K-8 English to Spanish at the Amigos School; K-5 Portuguese at the King Open School; and K-2 Mandarin at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School, demonstrate the potential of language immersion programs. But we know we can do more.

I look forward to attending your program this Thursday, featuring keynote speaker, Nancy Rhodes, Director, Foreign Language Education at the Center for Applied Linguistics and Dr. James Kelleher, JK-12 World Language Coordinator for Cambridge Public Schools.

I do not pretend to have the answers for bringing more language immersion programs into our public schools, but I know with the knowledgeable support and commitment of PANGEA, I as a member of the School Committee will be more intelligently informed and guided as we proceed to take the exciting and challenging steps necessary to create more world language opportunities for our students. As a member of the Cambridge

School Committee, my goal is to ensure our Cambridge public school system delivers the educational quality and depth we as a community expect.

Please feel free to continue this conversation with me. I hold coffee hours at Zing Café, at Porter Square Books, every Wednesday morning from 9am-10am. I can also be accessed through my website, francronin.com.

I look forward to attending your program this Thursday and to continuing this conversation and important work.

Thank you for your advocacy,

Fran Cronin

Candidate for Cambridge School Committee