

### **Vision for Language Education/Immersion**

1. What do you think CPS can provide to its students/graduates to succeed in a globalized economy?
  - Answer: Cambridge Public Schools should provide a solid education and a solid foundation for our student's future education.
    - ✓ Analytical thinking and problem solving skills
    - ✓ Effective written and verbal communications skills
    - ✓ Understanding of how to apply this knowledge
    - ✓ Continue to build on the foundations for future educational pursuits.
  
2. What is your vision on the world language programs at CPS?
  - Answer: My vision would be for ALL students in grades 1-9 to be enrolled in a foreign language.
  
3. What is your vision for how your foreign language goals would be implemented?
  - Answer: My first step would be to have a strategic discussion with the superintendent, and school committee members. I would ask to create a stake holder committee to oversee the implementation with the following members;
    - ✓ Foreign Language Teachers
    - ✓ Parents
    - ✓ Classroom teachers
    - ✓ Administration
    - ✓ Businesses
    - ✓ Community at Large
  - This group would execute on the following
    1. Determine the model or models
    2. Design the program
    3. Implement the program
    4. Determine goals of the program
  
4. What are your goals for foreign language learning options in elementary school? In secondary school?
  - Answer: Expand the current Immersion Programs and add foreign language in grades 1-9.
  
5. What languages do you consider to be the most important for students to learn in the 21st century?

- Answer: Chinese (Mandarin), Spanish and German
6. How important is an immersion foreign language option in elementary schools compared to foreign language exposure?
    - Answer: An immersion is the most effective option at an early age providing more proficiency and exposure along with cultural awareness for young minds.
  7. Will you support expanding the current immersion elementary schools and/or creating new ones to accommodate additional demand from families?
    - Answer: Yes, provided the funding and structure to support expansion are in place.
  8. I have friends with children in immersion schools in NY and CA and they are very well planned out for K-12. I would like to know if any of the candidates are in favor of strong, cohesive immersion programs that will span K-12. For Amigos? For King Chinese Immersion? For Ola/Portuguese Immersion?
    - Answer: Possibly, I would like to look at the programs and best practices, in those states to understand outcomes.

### **Recruitment**

9. Recruitment of students from the "free lunch" demographic to Cambridge's immersion programs has been very disappointing in recent years, what can the District do to improve this performance?
  - Answer: We would need to look in detail at the demographic
    - ✓ Parent or guardian educational background.
    - ✓ Foreign language exposure by parent or guardian.
    - ✓ Promote the program to this audience once we have some detail on the reluctance to join the program.
10. The recent adjustments to the controlled choice system are strangling the Cambridge immersion programs. Please explain how these adjustments support the immersion programs.
  - Answer: I have limited exposure to these adjustments but I think this will need to be looked at in detail, I am not sure these changes do support the immersion programs.
11. How do you believe the controlled choice adjustments can be changed to adequately support and ensure the survival of Cambridge's immersion programs?

- Answer: I would like to see the new controlled choice policy implemented and I would ask parents how we could do this more effectively.

### **Language Best Practices**

12. The research on language immersion best practices consistently supports at least 6 years of continuous immersion learning for at least 50% of the learning time. Why is Cambridge pursuing a different strategy with the Portuguese and Chinese immersion programs? What research supports Cambridge's approach of providing foreign language instruction for less than 50% of the learning time in the upper elementary grades?
  - Answer: As a candidate I do not have all the details on the Administrators approach with immersion programs.
13. Given that only children born September - March are eligible for Junior Kindergarten, children born April - August who enter a language immersion program in Kindergarten (instead of JK) miss an entire year of language learning. What should happen to address this language-learning gap for the JK-ineligible kids?
  - Answer: I support universal JK for our children.
14. What do you believe are the some of the challenges that immersion programs face in Cambridge?
  - Answer: Ability to expand the programs
15. What will you do to follow best practices and to support the existing bilingual immersion programs in Cambridge? Please be specific.

### **Resources**

16. Given that the language immersion programs are growing in popularity and better equip students to succeed in an increasingly global world, can additional dedicated administrative staff at the CPS District level be hired?
  - Answer: Yes we need competent professionals to bring the district forward, I I will look to see we hire the best and the brightest.

17. What additional support, outside the “usual” support, do you believe the immersion programs need? For example, translation of school communications, e.g., meeting minutes, is required, and must be high quality, and therefore costly. This is a basic need for the program, but the District does not cover the cost.

- Answer: If elected, I would propose a resolution the city should look at all communication channels and provide translation of all communications.

18. As a SC member, would you give Cambridge's existing dual immersion schools the same amount of support they currently get, more support, or less support?

- Answer: If elected, I would look to provide more support to the programs as they are already working well, but we could do better.

### **Policy Implementation/Policy Making**

19. In the last two years, the District, and the School Committee, dropped the ball twice. World languages for JK-5 have been pulled out and not put back in schools. The SC also had to go back and reconsider a unanimous vote taken on the Chinese Immersion program in 2010, a decision now considered debatable and unclear. How will you ensure the policies that the SC makes are sound, clearly defined, and that direct and support the Administration (as required by most School Committee code of ethics in MA)?

- Answer: As a school committee member, I want your input on decisions under consideration. I am seeking community engagement with town halls to have open debate so that the ball never gets dropped again.