

How would you balance Cambridge families' desire for world languages in elementary school within the constraints of the available time, assuming no changes to the length of the school day? In this situation we must recognize the importance of the world languages at the elementary school level and encourage Schools to adjust time and class schedules. If we are going to make CPS one of the best school systems in the State and Country we must expand and promote the immersion programs. Not only that, we must make sure we are providing these programs with the resources and support that is required for them to be successful.

What steps do you feel the school committee can take to support recruitment of Low-income families to the Cambridge immersion programs, to ensure families of all Background can benefit from these programs? Family engagement and making sure that all families feel welcomed into our schools is critical here. The first step is to ensure that all families know what is available to their children. The school committee should promote immersion programs to low income families. In some households, English is not the first language so outreach in different languages will help. In addition our family liaisons should be encouraged to promote immersion programs as well.

What level of resources should the District provide to support the Ola Portuguese and Chinese immersion programs in middle school? I believe in excellent instruction in every classroom. The district spends over 27K per pupil the state average is approximately 14K per pupil. The problem in Cambridge is not resources or funding, but rather how we spend the funding and allocate the resources. The world language immersion programs ought to be a top priority for CPS. The world is becoming smaller especially with the explosion of technology like the internet. Now, more than ever it is very important that our students learn another language besides English. Thus, CPS should provide what is required to support Ola Portuguese and the Chinese immersion programs. We should strive to make our immersion programs some of the best in the State and Country.

How could the Sheltered English immersion programs work together with Amigos, Ola and Chinese immersion? It is critical that the English immersion programs work together with the other language immersion programs. For example, if you have a student that is a native Spanish speaker in the English immersion programs he/she should be allowed to interact with the students who are native English speakers in the Amigos program. By doing this all the students benefit because they are exposed to a native speaker of the language that is being learned, and they will receive strong support in the language that are not yet fluent in from a person that is fluent and a peer. This makes learning fun and interesting too. We can pair students from the Amigos, Ola, or Chinese program and give them a buddy in the English immersion programs.

What languages do you consider to be the most important for students to learn in the 21st century?

- **Mandarin Chinese** (approximately 935 million native speakers).
- **Spanish** (approximately 405 million native speakers) second most spoken language in the United States.
- **Arabic** (approximately 203 million native speakers) official language of 27 different countries.
- **Portuguese** (approximately 202 million native speakers) official language of Brazil which has an enormous population.
- **Japanese** (approximately 127 native speakers) Japan is the hub of robotics, and employs over a quarter million robotics workers.
- **French** (74 million native speakers) A common language of which people all around the world can converse in.
- **Swahili** is a language that is spoken by over 100 million people in Africa