

## Riley, Kate

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**From:** Val Wang [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2020 12:51 PM  
**To:** City Council; Riley, Kate; City Manager  
**Subject:** Support for Tobin School/VLUS project

Dear Mayor Siddiqui, Vice-Mayor Mallon, City Councillors and City Manager:

I am writing in support of the Tobin School/VLUS project. Cambridge has a unique opportunity to not only build a net-zero school, but also to address increasing enrollment in our public schools and move us forward in our quest for universal preschool. This is a critical matter of equity in our city.

I am the parent of first grade twins at MLK who benefitted greatly from being able to attend junior kindergarten there. Before that, I was luckily able to afford to send them to private preschool, which was exorbitantly expensive. There are so many families in my community whose lives would be changed by having greater access to free or affordable preschool choices. We know that high-quality early education is vital to a child's long-term academic success and private preschool options in the area are simply out of reach for many families. As a city, we have been discussing this issue for years. We now have a great opportunity to move us closer to truly providing equal educational opportunity in this city, and we should take it. I am also a college professor at Bentley University and I see daily the positive results of early childhood education. For me, providing high quality, affordable, early childhood education should be the number one priority for our city, above all other concerns.

Thank you for your attention.

My best,  
Val  
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