

Good evening trustees,

I may be unable to participate in the meeting, but wish to have my delegation received and considered by the Board.

I am writing to ask that any motion to cancel the international languages be rejected. We strongly believe that our kids benefit from learning international languages. The IL course helps their appreciation of other cultures as well as develop a better understanding of the cultural makeup of our city: the fact that they get to learn not just another language but about another culture outside of their own. Learning languages helps broaden their minds and their desire to know about both the diversity of our city and the world. It also increases their capacity to learn other languages in the future. We told our kids that someone wanted to cut Portuguese from their curriculum. They were shocked and upset. I asked them to give me reasons they want to continue learning Portuguese. In their words they said: "it's fun and important", "it helps me with remembering", "It's really cool learning about Portugal. I want to go sometime so I can speak Portuguese", "In our neighborhood there is a lot of Portuguese people and I would like to be able to know what they are saying and talk to them."

I hope this is helpful in your consideration of this matter.

Mike and Leanne Gleeson