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October 2, 2018

MOTION:

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools promotes safe and affirming schools for all kinds of students and families by providing resources and support to enhance understanding between students and adults from diverse backgrounds, cultures and circumstances; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge Public Schools explicitly affirms LGBTQ+ students, providing resources and supports as well as policies, including the 2015 adoption of a policy on Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity;

WHEREAS: The November 6, 2018, statewide ballot includes a question seeking to strip away the provision in the Massachusetts Public Accommodations Law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation; and

WHEREAS: Such "public accommodations" where protections for transgender and gender-nonconforming people would be withdrawn should this regressive, discriminatory ballot referendum succeed encompasses "any place, whether licensed or unlicensed, which is open to and accepts or solicits the patronage of the general public," to include not only public restrooms, but also hotels, stores, restaurants, hospitals, banks, museums, public swimming pools, and homeless shelters; and

WHEREAS: Repeal of this law would be devastating for transgender and gender-nonconforming people across the Commonwealth, and would be antithetical to the core values our city and schools proudly upholds and affirms; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the School Committee go on record as standing in vigorous support of Freedom for All Massachusetts' Yes on 3 campaign to uphold the law preventing gender identity based forms of discrimination; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the School Committee Executive Secretary will send suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to the Massachusetts Legislative Delegation and the Freedom for All (Yes on 3) campaign on behalf of the entire School Committee.