Roxbury Weston Preschool awarded $100,000
Weston nonprofit receives Cummings Foundation grant

Weston, June 30, 2018 – Roxbury Weston Preschool is one of 100 local nonprofits to receive grants of $100,000 each through Cummings Foundation’s “$100K for 100” program. The Weston-based organization was chosen from a total of 597 applicants, during a competitive review process.

Roxbury Weston Preschool “RoxWes” is the longest running, voluntarily integrated educational program in the country, proud to be in our 52nd year of operation. The program is a preschool based in Weston MA, which buses children from Boston and the surrounding communities to the suburbs for a high quality preschool education in a nurturing environment. Each year the goal is to have balanced enrollment of urban and suburban children in each classroom, providing a culture of acceptance and celebrating diversity at a young age.

Representing Roxbury Weston Preschool, Board of Directors President Kait Whitworth and Advisory Board member Heidi Piché joined approximately 300 other guests on June 7, 2018 at a reception at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn to celebrate the $10 million infusion into Greater Boston’s nonprofit sector. With the conclusion of this grant cycle, Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than $220 million to Greater Boston nonprofits alone.

“Roxbury Weston Programs, Inc. is thrilled and honored to receive a “$100K for 100” grant from the Cummings Foundation. We are so thankful that the Cummings Foundation took the time to understand our mission and believed in the importance that a school like Roxbury Weston can have in our communities,” said Heidi Piché, Roxbury Weston Advisory Board member. “It was a humbling and gratifying experience to be included in the diverse group of nonprofits honored by the Cummings Foundation this year. Each organization we met at the reception is doing such wonderful work in our communities.”

Roxbury Weston has a unique operating budget, relying on grant funding and other fundraising efforts to support our operating budget in order to subsidize tuition and offer scholarships to our urban students, while also paying for transportation expenses to bus children from Boston to Weston. Providing transportation for our students from Boston to Weston each day remains integral to our mission, and was one of the founding principles on which the school was founded back in 1965. Although a private institution, Roxbury Weston Preschool has been linked to the Weston Public School (“WPS”) system from the beginning, as the preschool provided a common starting point for similar educational experiences for children entering the Weston METCO program at kindergarten. Both RoxWes and WPS shared a common goal of successfully integrating our METCO students into our community, so in 1968 our preschoolers were fortunate to be granted access, subject to space being available, to the WPS METCO buses that were already transporting school age children to and from Boston to Weston each day. However in 2017 WPS discontinued our transportation agreement and no longer transports our preschool students. The cost to provide private transportation to our students more than tripled our transportation expenses compared to what we were accustomed to paying. We applied for this “$100K for 100” grant from the Cummings Foundation primarily to alleviate the financial pressure on our program as a result of the recent increase in transportation costs, in order to bridge the gap to a better long term transportation solution.

The “$100K for 100” program supports nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area
where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings of Winchester, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“We are indebted to the nonprofit organizations like Roxbury Weston that have a meaningful positive impact on the local communities where our colleagues and clients live and work,” said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation’s executive director. “We are delighted to invest in their important programs and services.”

This year’s diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including homelessness prevention and affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. Most of the grants will be paid over two to five years. The complete list of 100 grant winners is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

Cummings Foundation announced an additional $10 million in early May through its new Sustaining Grants, which extend “$100K for 100” funding for previous winners for 10 more years. Beginning in 2019, the Foundation will increase its total giving through these two programs from $20 million to $25 million.

About Roxbury Weston Preschool
The mission of Roxbury Weston Preschool is to bring families together in a learning community dedicated to the celebration of diversity and excellence in early care and education. The support from Cummings Foundation helps us to fulfill our important mission, in turn enabling our program to thrive.

About Cummings Foundation