

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, January 10, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:01 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, and Alderman Gewirtz.

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting stated that, during this moment of silence, we should reflect on the tragic events this past weekend in Arizona and remember those killed and wounded. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 7 – Bockelman, Rafal, Cardoso, Rossetti, Gewirtz, Sweeting, Bastardi and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 – Curtatone. Mr. Sweeting welcomed Alderman Gewirtz and stated that he looks forward to working with her this year.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 20, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to approve the minutes of December 20, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- January 3, 2011 Organizational Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the minutes of January 3, 2011.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi provided a report on recent activities at Somerville High School. Her report included the following:

- The Junior Class will hold a Winter Dance on January 22, from 7:00-11:00 p.m. The theme of the dance is *Back to the Jungle*.
- There will be a presentation on January 19, at 6:30 p.m. on the Virtual High School online course offerings which are available to Somerville High School students.
- Mid-term exams will take place from January 25-27, at the high school. During this time, a special class schedule will be followed.
- On January 12, the Haitian Coalition will commemorate the one year anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti. This event will be held at the high school.
- The School Council will present the School Improvement Plan to the School Committee on January 25, at the high school.
- The Health Careers class is sponsoring a blood drive all this week at the high school. Students 16 years of age and older are eligible to donate blood, provided they meet the health qualifications.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Executive Session: Mr. Niedergang (December 21)

There was a School Committee meeting for Executive Session held on December 21, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 in the Conference Room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Alderman Connolly, and Mayor Curtatone. Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi, Attorney Mary Jo Hollender and Director of Operations Joseph Tringale.

One of the items on the agenda was negotiations with non-union employees. Under this category was the contract of the Superintendent of Schools. After discussion, the following motions were passed:

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, (1) to increase the number of days of paid sick leave that the Superintendent is entitled to receive each year from fifteen (15) to twenty (20), and

(2) to convert the \$4,000 payment made annually toward the premium cost of the Superintendent's disability, term life and/or whole life insurance policies to base salary, on or before June 30, 2012. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 8 – Sweeting, Cardoso, Rafal, Bockelman, Rossetti, Niedergang, Connolly and Curtatone, and ABSENT – 1 – Bastardi.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Connolly, to extend the Superintendent's employment contract for an additional year, or through June 30, 2014. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 6 – Sweeting, Rafal, Bockelman, Niedergang, Connolly and Curtatone; NO – Cardoso and Rossetti; and ABSENT – 1 – Bastardi.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

2. **Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:** Mr. Bockelman (January 5)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on January 5, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Paul Bockelman, Teresa Cardoso, and Mary Jo Rossetti. Others present: Adam Sweeting, Maureen Bastardi, and Christine Rafal. Staff present: Vince McKay and Pat Durette. Agenda items discussed included the following:

1. FY10 End of Year Report – brief review and discussion
2. Staffing requests – The Committee reviewed the current staffing requests and approved utility aides at the Kennedy, East Somerville and Somerville High School – each three hours a day and also a Program Assistant for the SES Program for 19 hours a week.
3. FY11 Expenditure Report – brief review and discussion
4. FY11 Bill Roll – brief review and discussion

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the recommended staffing requests as shown on the "Recommended Staffing Requests".

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the FY2011 bill rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

1. Mr. Pierantozzi wished everyone a Happy New Year and wished students, families, staff and elected officials health and happiness in the New Year.
2. Announced that the second quarter of school ends at the end of the month and report cards should be sent home sometime in early February.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report:

Dr. McKay reported on the following:

- On Friday, January 7, School Department representatives Pat Durette and Dr. McKay participated in a video-conference on University/City/School data sharing. The meeting was hosted by our Tufts partners in the Child Development program, lead by Professor Christy McWayne. Stephanie Hirsch helped organize this event, which included representatives from a number of other city departments. The topic was integrated data systems to support student learning. Dr. McKay has placed a graphic from this event at members' places.
- At tomorrow night's Ed. Programs meeting, there will be an update on our work with Focus on Results. The packet includes a series of articles as well as a list of Leadership Expectations to guide the principals and the ILT's in their student improvement work. The consultant from Focus on Results, Janice Hanada is with us just a few days a month and is in the District this week to work with staff at the West Somerville, Kennedy, Healey and East Somerville.
- Dr. McKay announced the formation of a District-Wide Study Committee to study instructional time in our elementary schools. Discussion will take place on the current allocation of time, the impact on non-class activities on instructional time, and scheduling flex-time for remediation and enrichment.

3. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, along the lines of stakeholder interaction, the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) , which was reorganized this year under the leadership of Sarah Davila and Nomi Davidson, has held various events during the months of October, November and December, reaching out to over 200 parents and guardians who participated in workshops and classes. The SFLC's Winter Brochure is now available.
4. The Superintendent announced the beginning of Kindergarten Registration and the dates of the Open Houses for both elementary (January 19-21) and high school (February 8 and 9)
5. Mr. Pierantozzi announced College Goal Sunday on January 30. This event assists graduating students and their parents/guardians with financial aid applications.
6. Mr. Pierantozzi announced the "Accessing the Internet to help your Child Learn" event on March 26. This will provide parents and guardians with information and tips on the best ways to help children learn and keep them safe online. More information will be forthcoming as the event date approaches.
7. The Superintendent announced that registration for Evening School is currently being held. Interested parties may register in person at Somerville High School or via our website.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette, Finance Director for her report on budget planning:

Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Work has begun on the FY2012 budget development. Budget worksheets and current spending reports have been distributed to the leadership team.
- All administrators have been instructed to prepare a level service baseline budget to start with.
- At this time, the focus is on the operations aspect of the budget—including materials, supplies, etc. Staff and service considerations will be done at a later date.
- The move of the Central Office to Cross Street will provide a saving in the facilities budget and the end of the Somerville High Accreditation process will also mean a savings.
- At the Finance Meeting on February 2, Ms. Durette will present more budget information.

Mr. Niedergang asked about whether or not planning was being done for the possible jump in enrollment due to the recent baby boom in the city. Mr. Pierantozzi replied that he has already making a tentative plan to add at least one Kindergarten class, if the need arises.

8. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on his representation of the Somerville Public Schools at the Inaugural Event for Middlesex District Attorney Gerald Leone held last Wednesday at the Heritage Museum in Lexington.
9. The Superintendent announced that a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Somerville High School beginning at 11:30 a.m. and will include essay reading, music and Mr. Robert Lewis as the keynote speaker. This event is being sponsored by the Somerville Public Schools, City of Somerville and Human Rights Commission.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

Feb. 11 - 13, 2011: Somerville High School Junior Statesmen of America to Arlington, VA/Washington, DC to participate in Annual Winter Congress Convention. Transportation via coach bus at a cost of \$180.00 per student.

Jan. 30, 2011: Somerville High School Outdoors Club to mount Sunapee, NH. Transportation via school vans at a cost of \$35.00-\$65.00 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to waive the reading and approve the two field trips.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Scale ADP Graduates - (recommended Action: Approval)

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that Janice Philpot, Supervisor of Continuing Education recommended the following students as FY2011 graduates of the SCALE Adult Diploma Program.

Kesta W. Pierre	247 Pearl Street, #301	Somerville, MA	02145
Victor Y. Dubon	351 Main Street	Everett, MA	02149
Emmanuel Moses Johnson	28 Richmere Road	Boston, MA	02126
Celena N. Senibaldi	180 Russell Street	Everett, MA	02149

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Scale ADP graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Somerville High School Graduates - (recommended action: approval)

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that Mr. Anthony Ciccariello, SHS Headmaster, recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the necessary requirements, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Danica Williams
- Xavier Quintanilla

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the Somerville High School graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. MASC

Ms. Rossetti provided a report from the January 7-8 MASC Board of Directors Annual Retreat held in Salem. Ms. Rossetti provided each member with printed notes at their seats this evening. Ms. Rossetti's report included the following:

- Her attendance at the Annual NSBA Leadership Meeting in Washington, DC from February 3-9. As a result, Ms. Rossetti will not be present at the School Improvement Plan presentations on February 3.
- A report on the MTA Teacher and Administrator Assessment Program. Ms. Rossetti will forward her report/statement to members.
- The Transiency/Mobility Resolution being considered nationally at the NSBA conference.
- The Webinar on January 19, regarding Common Core Standards.
- A new member service which would provide discounted advertising for member districts on Monster.Com for posting open positions. Linked to this would be free access to the Boston Globe and the New York Times.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Niedergang

1. It's nice to be sitting down in the horseshoe again. Congratulated Mr. Sweeting on being elected Chair.
2. Announced Open Houses and displayed the Kindergarten Registration packet, which includes the Guide to the Somerville Public Schools. This is a beautifully done publication which features information on each school, including a section on what makes each school special. Mr. Niedergang encouraged parents and guardians to visit the schools during the open house sessions.
3. Announced that parents and guardians are also invited to coffee hours at the Parent Information Center from 9:00-10:00 on the days of the Open Houses. This is a good opportunity to meet other new parents and learn more about the schools and community. Some schools will be hosting evening hours and Mr. Niedergang hopes there will be a lot of foot traffic through the schools.

Alderman Gewirtz

1. Thanked everyone for the warm welcome.
2. Announced that she had discussed a monthly report to the Board of Aldermen, provided by the Superintendent and his staff which she hoped would allow for sharing of information across the two boards. Alderman Gewirtz also offered to bring back a similar report from the Board of Aldermen to the School Committee.
3. Alderman Gewirtz looks forward to the upcoming year.

Ms. Bastardi

1. Congratulated Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman and Alderman Gewirtz on their new positions on the School Committee.
2. Thanked everyone for their support during her illness.

Mr. Sweeting told Ms. Bastardi that it is wonderful to see her back and that she has been missed by everyone!

Ms. Rafal

1. Congratulations to the new Chair, Vice Chair and Aldermanic President.
2. The Welcome Project will hold an information session on January 22, to provide information on the Healey School. Ms. Rafal and Healey School Principal Jason DeFalco will be in attendance.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Welcomed Alderman Gewirtz.
2. The Haitian Coalition will hold a Remembering Haiti event this Wednesday evening at Somerville High School. Representative Denise Provost will be one of the featured speakers.
3. Encouraged parents and guardians to visit our schools during the open house events. This is one of the best ways to learn about the schools. Another way to learn is to attend the School Improvement Plan presentations. Mr. Bockelman announced the dates of the School Improvement Plan presentations, which are: January 25, January 27, February 1 and February 3.
4. Mr. Bockelman encouraged parents and guardians to speak with others at the coffee hours and other social opportunities.
5. Reminded the audience that the real work of the School Committee takes place at the Subcommittee meetings and encouraged the public to attend these meetings. The agenda for these meetings is posted weekly.
6. Congratulated and welcomed Alderman Gewirtz.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques, Executive Secretary

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, February 7, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mayor Curtatone (7:50 p.m.) and Alderman Gewirtz.

Members absent: Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rafal and Ms. Rossetti

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 5 – Bockelman, Cardoso, Gewirtz, Sweeting, and Niedergang, and Absent – 4 – Rossetti, Rafal, Bastardi and Curtatone. Mr. Sweeting announced that Ms. Rafal was absent this evening due to a work commitment. Ms. Rossetti was unable to attend as she was in attendance at an educational conference in Washington, DC. Ms. Bastardi had another commitment this evening which prevented her from attending.

Mr. Bockelman made a motion to take item 7C – Field Trip to Spain and Portugal, in April 2012, out of order so that Ms. Jane Cummings, Supervisor of Foreign Language and Rebecca Bowen, High School Spanish teacher, could provide background on the trip and answer any questions School Committee members may have. Mr. Niedergang asked if any help has been put in place for those students who may not be able to afford the cost. Ms. Bowen reported that, by planning far in advance, the cost is being greatly reduced.

Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

April 12-22, 2012:

SHS Foreign Language Students to Spain/Portugal via air and bus at a cost of \$2674 per student.

MOTION: Motion by Mrs. Cardoso, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 24, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the minutes of January 24, 2011.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi provided the following information regarding activities at Somerville High School:

1. The musical performance of Willy Wonka was great and having our elementary students participate as Oompa Loompas was a wonderful addition. Attendance was so high that the balcony had to be opened to accommodate the audience members.
2. Mid-term examinations were held at the end of January. We are now in the third quarter.
3. On Thursday, February 10, sign-ups will be held for all Spring sports.
4. The winter sports season ends on February 25.
5. PTSA at Somerville High School will take place on February 16. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and guardians to check on their students' progress.
6. The Science Fair will be held in early March.
7. Winter vacation is in a couple of weeks.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:* Mr. Sweeting (January 19)

The School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning was held on Wednesday, January 19 in the conference room of School Department headquarters, located at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were School Committee members Adam Sweeting, Maureen Bastardi, Paul Bockelman, Teresa Cardoso, Mark

Niedergang, Christine Rafal, and Mary Jo Rossetti. Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi and Director of Research and Grants Gretchen Kinder. One member of the public was also in attendance.

We had three items on the agenda and the meeting convened at 7:05 pm.

The first item on the agenda was a continuation of last fall's discussion about a new Mission or Vision Statement for the Somerville Public School system. The Superintendent and Ms. Kinder presented the School Committee with a revised and condensed version of a statement initially drafted in the fall. Mr. Niedergang also presented a statement for consideration.

School Committee members discussed both statements in detail, paying particular attention to the intended audience of such statements – i.e. parents, staff, Somerville residents. There was some discussion as to whether or not a different statement should be drafted for the various potential audiences, but there was a general sense that a strong statement highlighting the strengths and unique qualities of our schools would work best. The School Committee asked the Superintendent and his staff to draft another statement for consideration at the next Long Range Planning meeting.

The second item on the agenda was an update on the District's marketing and outreach plan. This plan grows from the recognition that we operate in a competitive environment where parents/guardians have a number of choices for their children's education. We want to present our schools in the very best light by showcasing the many outstanding features of our schools. Ms. Kinder presented the School Committee with drafts of school flyers that feature student and parent stories about each of our schools. She is actively soliciting such stories for inclusion in future flyers and outreach materials. Ms. Kinder also informed the School Committee of plans to form an ad-hoc advisory committee of community members who could help the School Department develop its outreach initiatives. That committee will work over the coming year with the goal of unveiling the new outreach materials in January 2012.

The third item on the agenda was a review of a new document designed to assist central administration and SPS staff manage and keep track of the many initiatives and programs underway or in the planning stages. The Superintendent indicated that it was important to chart all such initiatives within a grid that placed them within the wide array of Federal and State mandates that apply to our District. Both Federal and State educational officials require schools to follow particular action plans depending on the District's NCLB status. Mapping how our curriculum, frameworks, and ongoing initiatives fit within these mandated action plans was becoming complicated, which is why the administration developed a new master grid. The hope is that this new grid will serve simultaneously as a planning document and compliance checklist.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

B. ***Personnel Subcommittee:*** Mrs. Cardoso (January 31)

The Personnel Subcommittee met on January 31. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Capuano Early Childhood Center. In attendance were Ms. Bastardi and Ms. Rafal, Mr. Sweeting and Superintendent Pierantozzi. Ms. Rossetti arrived at 6:10 p.m. No audience members were in attendance.

1. **Graphic Communications Instructor at Somerville High School** - The Superintendent reviewed documents related to the posting of a Graphic Communication Instructor in the Career and Vocational Technical Education Program.

The funds were made available by the retirement of a Collision Repair Instructor on October 31, 2010. These funds, consistent with the findings during the Coordinated Program Review, will be used to fund the Graphic Communications instructor. This change was recommended by the Headmaster, Assistant Principal of CVTE and the CVTE Advisory Board.

2. **Current searches** - A brief update was provided.
3. **Retirements** - A brief update on to date was provided.
4. **School Physician** - Dr. Michael Coffey has resigned as the School Physician effective later in the school year. Thanks to Dr. Coffey for a wonderful job as the School Physician for many years. In Somerville, the Board of Health appoints the School Physician and Registered Nurses. The Somerville Public Schools will have some input into the hiring, according to Paulette Renault-

Caragianes, the Director of the Board of Health. The Superintendent reviewed Mass General Law regarding School Physicians. Discussion ensued.

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Mrs. Cardoso thanked Ms. Bastardi for chairing this meeting in her absence and Mr. Pierantozzi for providing the notes. The next meeting will be held on March 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting originally scheduled for February 14, has been cancelled.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that weather has continued to be a major issue. The Superintendent thanked the DPW and City employees for their great work under these challenging circumstances. Special thanks to Stan Koty, George Landers, Mike Bowler, the school custodians and others in dealing with these storms.
 2. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, with so many concerns over the integrity of roofs around the State, he contacted the DPW and Inspectional Services Department and Eddie Nuzzo has reported that, after checking all roofs twice, all appear to be in good shape. Our flat roofs have been designed with heated drains which help to keep our roofs safe. Inspections will continue until snow and ice are no longer an issue.
- The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent Vincent McKay for his report on Curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:
 - **Lesley University Partnership:**
Sarah Davila and I have been exploring hosting student teacher preparation program here in our elementary schools. We would get an allocation of number of master's level student teachers from Lesley for placement in elementary classrooms.
In addition to serving as a student teaching site, we'd also be hosting some of the student teachers' actual course work here on site.
These courses could be taught by some of our own staff, administrators and/or teachers, giving them an opportunity to for professional growth. The courses, meeting afterschool, would also be open to our regular teaching staff.
Some of the benefits that Dr. Davila and I envision include:
 - Create a new pipeline in high needs areas (ESL / dual license); minority teacher recruitment
 - Offer in-service PD to our own staff
 - Provide a pool of tutors for our After school and summer academic support programs
 - Help address class size by putting an extra set of hands in the classroom
 - Avenues for teacher advancement (teachers teaching courses)
 - Promote a "learning community" in the schools

✓ **Literacy Plan:**

As you know, this is year one of the implementation of Somerville's comprehensive literacy plan. This year, we are heavily focused on providing professional development for staff in a few targeted areas: Tonight, I am reporting to on one aspect of this year's plan, which is how our principals are collaborating to support the literacy initiative. This week, they begin "learning walks," in their schools paired with another administrator, possibly Shannon Gilligan, me, or principal from another school.

These learning walks are based on the idea of "instructional rounds" that are common in the medical field and supported by people in our field like Richard Elmore at HGSE. These learning walks will help principals learn from each other about the successes and challenges of the literacy work that teachers are working so hard to implement in their classrooms. We will update you further as our progress with Learning Walks moves ahead.

✓ **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN presentations:**

We have one more evening for School Improvement Plan presentations, coming up next Monday, February 14th.

AFA at 6:30

ESCS at 7:30

This is a Public meeting, of course, to be held at the AFA LP.

Thanks to the principals and their teams for some excellent presentations.

3. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that there are a number of activities on our calendar. Details may be found at www.somerville.k12.ma.us.
4. The Superintendent announced that on January 31, the Special Education Advisory Council sponsored a presentation on Behavior Management. There were approximately 40 audience members in attendance.
5. On February 9, the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, which is the prevention and training arm of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, will be presenting two workshops. The first will be held at 2:45 p.m. at Somerville High School and will deal with cyberbullying, sexting and other cyber issues. The target audience for this presentation will be staff from Somerville High and other Somerville schools. There will be another presentation at 7:00, also at Somerville High School, which will be open to the public.
6. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that Middlesex District Attorney, Gerald Leone, will be in Somerville on February 17, to attend a meeting of the Community Based Justice program, which brings together law enforcement, school, court and other community organizations to facilitate the safety, health and other needs of our students. These organizations are in constants communication in order to assist our students and young adults.
 - The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Finance Director, for a report on budget issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:
 - ✓ At the Finance and Facilities meeting held at 6:00 p.m. this evening, a preliminary, level-service budget was presented. This budget reflects just under a 2% increase over the current year's budget.
 - ✓ Over the next few weeks, Ms. Durette will be meeting with principals and department heads to discuss their needs.
 - ✓ Declines in revenue, jobs act grant money, and the possibility of declines in federal grant money opportunities (Title I, Title II, etc.) with possible decreases of between 5 and 15% are concerning. Also the Department of Revenue's local aid estimates regarding Chapter 70 funding appear flat. Charter School reimbursements are also expected to decrease thus presenting an overall decrease of approximately \$1.5 million.
 - ✓ The next Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting will be held on March 2 at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.
7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that on Thursday, February 10, the School Committee will be the guests of the PTA Council beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the East Somerville School at Cummings. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked Council President Carol Perris for organizing this meeting.
8. The Superintendent reported on the recent Elementary School Open Houses and thanked the community for their attendance in spite of the challenges presented by the snow. If anyone was not able to visit, but wished to learn more about our schools, they may call the principal at any of our schools and request an appointment to visit.
10. Somerville High School will hold Open Houses on February 8 and 9. Tours of the high school will be held at 8:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Please call the high school for more information – 617-625-6600, extension 6100.
11. Mr. Pierantozzi reinforced the comments our student representative regarding the Willy Wonka production. The size of the cast was remarkable as was the size of the audience. The balcony was opened to accommodate approximately 75 audience members. Congratulations to the entire Drama Team for the production, and also for choosing such a wonderful play to begin with. This choice was critical as it attracted younger audience members. This show was really well done and a good time was had by all!

Mr. Niedergang asked when the School Committee might receive a report regarding visits during our open houses. Mr. Pierantozzi replied that he was waiting until after the high school's open houses were completed and that the information would be made available for our next regular meeting on February 28. Mr. Niedergang also commended Mr. Pierantozzi and Dr. McKay for bringing new, exciting and dynamic things to our District. These collaborations are fantastic and add to our teachers' lives. Mr. Niedergang was very interested in the Literacy Walks. Dr. McKay promised to keep the School Committee apprised and stated that we are trying to be as innovative as we can!

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2010-2011 School Calendar

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that, at members' seats this evening is a three-page packet relative to make-up dates as a result of recent school cancellations due to snow. Mr. Pierantozzi respectfully requested that the School Committee approve additional makeup days – in effect a new calendar or a calendar amendment. As Superintendent, Mr. Pierantozzi can cancel school based on weather conditions, health and safety, but the School Committee has the authority relative to the makeup days. The sooner this issue is addressed, the better it will be for the convenience of our students and their families and our staff. Mr. Pierantozzi's recommendations were as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First cancellation | Makeup day June 29, PD day June 30. |
| Second cancellation | Makeup day June 30, PD day, Saturday June 25, July 1 or September 1 (Vince will make a recommendation). Any school days or PD days in July would need an approval from the unions since several of the contracts state that the work year ends on June 30. |
| Third cancellation | Makeup day March 17 – the STA, SAA and AFSCME Clerical Units would need to vote on this makeup day which is a specific holiday in their contracts. |

Discussion ensued regarding making March 17 the first make-up day due to the belief that student learning is more productive in March than at the end of June. Discussion also took place over half-day Wednesdays and Saturdays possibly being used as makeup days. Half-day Wednesdays are only in the elementary schools. This option would not benefit the system as the high school does not have half-day Wednesdays as an option for making up time. The Superintendent explained that this would require negotiating with three of our Collective Bargaining Units – the Somerville Teachers Association, Somerville Administrators Association and AFSCME Clerical Association. School Committee members reported that they would like the Superintendent to pursue this issue with these bargaining units.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Gewirtz, to instruct the Superintendent to enter Collective Bargaining negotiations with the appropriate Collective Bargaining Units to discuss March 17 as a make-up day for snow days and, if successful, March 17 becomes the first make-up day, followed by June 29, as the second make-up day and June 30, as the third make-up day.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Scale ADP Graduates - (recommended Action: Approval)

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that Janice Philpot, Supervisor of Continuing Education recommended the following students as FY2011 graduates of the SCALE Adult Diploma Program.

Jennifer M. Cruz-Flores	6 Richardson Terrace	Somerville, MA	02145
William Matthew LaVonture	68R Dane Street	Somerville, MA	02143

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the ADP graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Acceptance of Donation – (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of \$2,000.00 from the Somerville High School Class of 1980, to Somerville High School's Best Buddies Club. This donation will be placed in the student activities account.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

Mar. 11-13, 2011:	Somerville High School Track Team to New York, NY, overnight, to compete in the High School Nationals. Transportation via school van at no cost to students.
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MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

May 6, 2011:

Next Wave/Full Circle students to Mount Monadnock, NH.
Transportation via school van at a cost of \$4.00 per student.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang spoke about the recent donation by Helen F. McIntyre to the Somerville Scholarship Foundation and read biographical information from a recent press release about her life.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bockelman

1. Encouraged attendance at Somerville High School's Open Houses and tours. This is an excellent opportunity for parents/guardians to see what the high school has to offer. Mr. Bockelman suggested that parents of current eighth graders, as well as those of younger students and those with students in private schools visit. The more people who see the high school, the more people see its greatness!
2. Announced that the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee will meet tomorrow, February 8, at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street. On the agenda are:
3. There will be a Healey School Information Night on February 8, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the library. Presentations will be made by various groups.
4. Willy Wonka was really fun and moving. It was great to see so many elementary students involved with the production.
5. Thanked parents/guardians, students and staff for their patience and fortitude during the storms. This has been a hardship for all involved and everybody stepped up! Commented on calling Central Office during the storm last week to find that the Superintendent was driving one of our homeless students, who had no other way to get home, to his temporary home in Malden. Mr. Bockelman reported that, on top of the ride, Mr. Pierantozzi also pushed a car out of a ditch! Mr. Bockelman thanked the Central Office Team for waiting for an "all clear" determination that all of our students were accounted for before leaving during the storm. Mr. Bockelman appreciates the District's leadership. Wise calls have been made!

Mayor Curtatone

1. Thanked the public for their cooperation during this stressful time. At this point, under seven inches of snow is a victory! Please be careful, especially at intersections and during the morning glare!

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Thanked everyone for their hard work during the storms - Spring is coming!!
2. On February 16, the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park School will hold its PTA beginning with a business meeting at 6:00 p.m., followed by parent/teacher conferences at 6:30 p.m.
3. The Argenziano PTA will host an information night for prospective parents on February 17, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Primarily geared towards perspective Kindergarten parents, the Principal and Assistant Principal, along with current parents, will be available for open discussion.
4. Wished everyone a happy and safe vacation – hopefully a snow-free one!

Mr. Niedergang

1. The Brown School will hold PTA on February 17, at 6:00 p.m.
2. Commented on the School Improvement Plans and stated that, by and large, they get better every year. This year a huge step was taken by the principals sharing the presentations with others on their councils. The presentations have been well-organized and presented with honesty and openness.
3. Thanked Mrs. Cardoso for suggesting that the Improvement Plan presentations be held in different venues across the District. Mr. Niedergang is very happy with this arrangement and is happy that the presentations are made over four nights, thus giving each school an hour to present.
4. Thanked the Mayor for his leadership.
5. Reminded constituents to shovel and clear not only their sidewalks, but also the corners, should they live in a corner property. Also, please clear around hydrants.

Mr. Bockelman announced that there will be two open meetings for parents and guardians looking to learn more about the Somerville Public Schools. The first will take place on Saturday, February 12 at 4:00 p.m. at Sound Bites in Ball Square and the second will take place on Tuesday, February 15 at Mr. Bockelman's home at 64 Wallace Street.

Mayor Curtatone wished the best of luck to the Somerville High School hockey team this evening.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques, Executive Secretary

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, February 28, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rafal and Alderman Gewirtz.

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 8 – Rossetti, Bockelman, Cardoso, Gewirtz, Bastardi, Rafal, Sweeting, and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 –Curtatone.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 7, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of February 7, 2011 as amended to show Ms. Rossetti's absence was due to her attendance at an educational conference in Washington, DC.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi provided the following information regarding activities at Somerville High School:

1. The Junior Statesmen of America convention and the wonderful debates and experiences experienced by the participants.
2. Spring sports start soon. Medical forms are due to Ms. Viele this week.
3. PTSA at Somerville High School has been rescheduled to March 16, due to the electrical outage on 2/16. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and guardians to check on their students' progress.
4. The Somerville High School Science Fair will be held on Thursday and Friday.
5. The multi-cultural fair will be held on March 11.
6. Currently, our two hockey teams, as well as the girls' basketball team are playing in post-season games. The boys' basketball team will play tomorrow evening and our cheerleading team will be competing in a national competition in Florida. Please come out and support our teams!
7. The Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards will be presented this Thursday in Boston. Somerville High School has gold and silver key winners. Congratulations!
8. The Green Club is producing a "documentree" to promote Somerville's need for more green space. Ms. Dodi will forward the link to the film as well as to the Green Club's webpage.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee: Mr. Bockelman (Feb. 7)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met at 6:00 p.m. in the Committee Room on the second floor of Somerville City Hall. In attendance were: Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and Dr. McKay.

1. FY12 Budget Development - reviewed
2. FY11 Grant Accounts Summary - reviewed
3. FY11 Expenditure Report - reviewed
4. FY11 Bill Roll - reviewed
5. Other – Depaving of school yards, Campaign for Our Communities State Legislation

One motion came out of subcommittee:

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the FY11 Bill Rolls

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

B. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: Ms. Rafal (Feb. 8)

The February 8th Ed Programs meeting was called to order at 7 pm in the conference room at 42 Cross Street.

Present: Mark Neidergang, Paul Bockelman, Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, Teresa Cardoso

Also: Tony Pierantozzi, Dr. Vince McKay, Janice Hanada (Focus on Results consultant), Jen Capuano, Sara Davila, Winter Hill Community School Principal Steve Tuccelli, several faculty members, and 15 or so members of the public.

First we listened to Jen Capuano give us an update on the Volunteer work in our schools. She said the joy in her part-time job as volunteer coordinator for all the schools lies in hearing how mutual the benefits are: she understands from teachers and staff that the volunteer efforts are working and hears from volunteers that they feel appreciated by teachers and students. And I would add appreciation from all us as well.

Ms. Capuano said that there is always an ongoing need for volunteers but it can be tricky to find the right match once a volunteer has been verified. Some ideas for making this part of the job easier could be using a web-based volunteer management system and/or having a volunteer at each school who coordinates matching the volunteers to that school's needs.

Next we heard from Sarah Davila and other faculty members about the district-wide English language learner program, which directly serves about 20% of our students. An interesting recent development is that speakers of low incidence languages now comprise our second largest group of English learners. The SEIP program has been evolving from being a separate program to being integrated throughout the school, partly through professional development trainings. Dr. Davila showed data relating to a variety of topics, including for examples: how many students choose not to participate in Sheltered English; academic attainment of English learners based on time in the US, grade level comparisons, etc. She pointed out that the numbers are constantly changing; to illustrate, she said 5 new students had arrived in SEIP in just the previous 2 weeks. She suggested that the program needs an evaluation.

For the third item on the agenda we had the opportunity to ask the questions we posed last month about data displays or data walls directly to a consultant from the organization that recommends the use of data walls. The School Committee members' biggest questions revolved around whether individual public comparisons of data were really necessary, whether it might do any harm and whether these violated privacy laws. So basically the answers to take away from the discussion are:

1. There needs to be some sort of visual display of data, which should be focused on academic growth, somewhere in the school.
2. Teachers should work with students individually about their scores and their goals, but this does not have to take the form of individual points on a public chart, though some faculty feel that such charts motivate their students.
3. If individual level data is displayed publicly then student anonymity must be protected in order to comply with privacy law. Anonymity has always been the intent.
4. If parents do not want their child's data plotted on a data wall, they can write to their school principal in order to opt-out.

We had a chance to ask questions about the informational items related to afterschool programs, bullying prevention plan and social competency programs.

Then Mark Niedergang made the following motion, seconded by Paul Bockelman which Ms. Rafal brought before the full board this evening for approval.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the two in-service courses related to special education: Conducting Functional Behavior Assessments in the Classroom and The Special Education Process.

Finally, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Mr. Bockelman assumed the Chair to allow Mr. Sweeting to make the following report:

C. School Improvement Plan Presentations: Mr. Sweeting

The School Improvement Plans were presented on the following dates:

- January 25 - Winter Hill and Somerville High School @ Somerville High
- January 31 - Capuano, Next Wave/Full Circle and Healey @ Capuano

- February 3 - Kennedy, Brown and West Somerville @ West Somerville
- February 14 - Argenziano and East Somerville @ Argenziano

These presentations were very difficult to schedule due to the snow. Mr. Sweeting thanked everyone for their flexibility. In addition to School Committee and School Council members, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay and Ms. Durette were also in attendance at each presentation. All presentations began at 6:30 p.m. and each school was given 60 minutes to present and then answer questions. The Improvement Plans provided a wonderful window into each school. The presentations included a statistical overview which provided demographic information. There was also a section about MCAS data which provided information on growth, Adequate Yearly Progress and No Child Left Behind. On top of the data, goals and action steps for improvement were a focus. The School Committee was impressed by these plans which were well crafted, ambitious and addressed concerns. The Healey School presented a different type of plan which was a first draft of their Unification Plan. Mr. Sweeting expressed his thanks to everyone for their work on these presentations.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve all 2011 School Improvement Plans as presented to the School Committee (pending funding).

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

1. Mr. Pierantozzi welcomed everyone back from vacation.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi provided a report on the recent Elementary Open Houses-- As you know, the school district offered parents/guardians and any interested individuals the opportunity to visit its elementary schools on January 19, 20 and 21 (snow day) with a makeup day of January 28th. During this period, the elementary schools recorded a total of 298 visitors, 162 less visitors than we had during our 2010 open houses, however the snow most certainly hampered visits. 235 visitors indicated an interest in kindergarten for 2011, 53 indicated an interest in transferring a child from one Somerville school to another, 11 visitors indicated that their child(ren) would be new to Somerville (*this number does not include Kindergarten*), while 57 others indicated they were visiting the schools for other reasons.
3. Mr. Pierantozzi provided an update on Kindergarten registration. Although registration began slowly in January, probably as a result of the inclement weather, as of February 25, 294 students have been registered for Kindergarten for next year. Last year at the same time, 264 students had been registered. Mr. Pierantozzi expressed his thanks to staff and parents who spread the word to remind parents and guardians to register their students.

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent Vincent McKay for his report on Curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

Mid - Year Assessments: MAP, measurement of academic progress, this is our 3x / year assessment given to all students in grades 2 - 8. MAP provides detailed information on student progress towards the learning standards in math, language and reading. Our winter testing data is now available to teachers, and I am providing you with a sample of the classroom reports that we are making available. The goal here is to provide teachers with "actionable" data to use to make instructional decisions. As you can see on the sheet, the color-coding allows the teacher a nice visual for identifying students in need and for tracking their progress.

These reports were developed by Stephanie Hirsch, as part of our city-schools collaboration on the SomerPromise project. As a result of this collaboration, all Somerville elementary teachers will be receiving these reports, for their own students, in the next week. We're grateful for Stephanie's time and talent to assist our teachers and principals in providing this kind of data.

High School Graduation Initiative grant

Massachusetts Dept of Ed was one of only two state educational agencies to be awarded a large Federal grant to support dropout prevention efforts. This is the HSGI. I don't normally report on grant *applications* (usually just awards), but I feel that this does warrant special mention, mostly because of the excellent collaboration from across the district in putting together two quality proposals. One proposal was for PLANNING grant, aimed at studying the ELL population at SHS. This is a group with a troubling high drop out rate. The other proposal was for an IMPLEMENTATION grant to continue to work, begun last summer, using technology assisted learning for credit recovery.

I'd like to acknowledge the team who contributed to some really quality grant proposals including Tony Ciccariello and his team including math dept. head Marie Forman, David Willey and the staff at Full Circle, Sarah Davila and of course grant writer extraordinaire Gretchen Kinder.

Upcoming Events

March 3 - SHS Science Fair, Science Department

March 11 - Multi-Cultural Fair at SHS

March 12 - Regional Science Fair at SHS

9 - 12 judging, 1 - 3 public viewing, Awards at 3pm

4. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that all four of the high school's winter sports teams, as well as our cheerleaders are involved in tournament play. Also, six members from our male and female Track and Field teams will compete at the national level on March 11, 12 and 13.
5. Mr. Pierantozzi congratulated Kelsey Garrity for being the 5th Somerville High School student to score 1,000 points during their high school career.
- The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Finance Director, for a report on budget issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:
 - ✓ A follow-up to the meeting of the School Committee and Somerville Council of PTAs. Concerns expressed at this meeting included:
 - Trash removal and dumpster pick up times that interfere with drop off and pick up of students.
 - Difficulty with students being able to participate in instrumental music lessons.
 - Information gained from the PTA/School Committee meeting has been included in the budget packet.
 - The Capital Improvement Plan has also been included in the budget preparation.
 - Powers and Sullivan will be in the District next Monday and Tuesday to audit the District's End of Year Report.

Ms. Rossetti thanked Ms. Durette for her consideration of the PTA's concerns. Ms. Rossetti reported that, although Central Office staff had already forwarded concerns over trash pickup during drop off and pick up times for school, she observed Russell Disposal doing trash pickup during drop off time at the West Somerville Neighborhood School and called to make a complaint to Mr. Koty, the DPW Commissioner. A request was made via the following motion:

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to send a communication to the Mayor, copied to the Board of Aldermen, immediately, for the safety of our student and staff to hold Russell Disposal accountable for their actions. (Initially, the motion focused on the area around the West Somerville Neighborhood School; however, Ms. Rafal made a friendly amendment to ask that the motion include all schools in the District.)

The motion was passed via voice vote.

Mrs. Cardoso and Ms. Rafal reported that they had also recently observed Russell Disposal working around school buildings during times that should be restricted. Alderman Gewirtz thanked the School Committee for raising this issue and for forwarding to the Board of Aldermen as she believes Russell has shown disrespect along with questionable practices and the Board of Aldermen are responsible for approving Russell's contract.

6. Mr. Pierantozzi provided an update on school cancellations. Thus far, we have had five days cancelled due to inclement weather. On February 16, Somerville High School was closed due to an electrical outage in the building. This outage impacted heat throughout the school. Mr. Pierantozzi expressed his gratitude to the Headmaster and Housemasters for making the best of a chaotic situation. The Superintendent reported that a Connect Ed message was sent to students and staff at 7:06 a.m., but that staff and students still reported to school that day and the administration of the high school did an outstanding job of taking care of everything. Mr. Pierantozzi also thanked the DPW, NStar, and Honeywell for restoring power before the end of the day and for repairing the problem, permanently, over the vacation week.
7. The Superintendent reported that there will be an Emergency Response Training session for building administrators on March 10, 2011. Mr. Melillo and the Superintendent, along with emergency personnel have coordinated this event. All emergency response plans will be reviewed at this time.

8. On March 9, Middlesex Partnerships for Youth will provide training to staff from Somerville High School, Next Wave/Full Circle and selected staff from other District schools around the subject of bullying and sexting.

Mr. Bockelman complimented Central Office and High School administrators for making timely decisions during the electrical outage, however, he would like to know why this work was being done on a school day when the next week was vacation week and students and staff would not have been impacted if the job had waited. We should not have had to lose a day of school. Mr. Pierantozzi replied that, initially, this process was merely turning the power off for five minutes and then throwing the switch back on. Unfortunately, this spiraled into a major issue. This maintenance had been rescheduled several times. Mr. Pierantozzi will report back at the Finance and Facilities meeting with an answer as to why this work was done on a school day. Mr. Bockelman appreciated that Mr. Koty was right on top of the situation, but expressed that improvements to school buildings such as this should not be made during the school day. We can't afford to lose another school day and this message must be sent. Mr. Bockelman expressed his thanks to the Superintendent for looking into this matter.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2010-2011 School Calendar

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that, at members' seats this evening is a pink version of the 2010-2011 school calendar with designation and shading highlighting days lost to Snow (S) or Electrical problems (E). Mr. Pierantozzi also reported that, in response to the School Committee's request, had requested that the STA, SAA and AFSCME Clerical unions ask their members to consider giving up March 17th as a holiday and making it a makeup day. The Superintendent received negative responses from the SAA and AFSCME Clerical unions. Therefore, March 17 will continue to be a holiday and the makeup days will be June 29 (elementary) and June 30 (high school), should we have any more cancellations.

As of today, the last day of school for elementary schools is Tuesday, June 28th and, for Somerville High School, the last day is Wednesday, June 29th. This will have no impact on our graduating seniors.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. An Act to Invest in Our Communities

Alderman Gewirtz reported that, at their last meeting, the Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the support of the Act to Invest in Our Communities. Passage of this Act would raise approximately \$1.2 Billion to close the State deficit by increasing the state tax rate to 5.95%. At the same time, the individual exemption rate would be raised to \$7900, which would give money back to tax payers. For more information, visit www.massbudget.org.

MOTION: Alderman Gewirtz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, that the Somerville School Committee goes on record in support of An Act to Invest in Our Communities, legislation that would support investment in our schools and make the state tax system more fair and equitable.

The motion was passed unanimously via voice vote.

The School Committee requested that a communication be sent to the District's media partners, as well as our State delegation, informing them of the School Committee's support for this act.

B. NSBA Conference Report (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti provided a report on her recent attendance at the National School Board Associations conference in Washington, DC. Ms. Rossetti provided her School Committee colleagues with written notes. Highlights of her oral report included:

- ✓ The Resolution regarding mobility and transiency was approved by the NSBA for consideration at their Annual Meeting to be held in April in California. A vote will be taken at that time. If this resolution is approved, it will be presented to Congress.
- ✓ NSBA President's Earl Rickman presentation on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- ✓ A presentation by Mike Resnick entitled, "Hide the Kids, the Feds are Coming!" which included discussion about "junking NCLB" and a survey done by the New York Times regarding educational funding which reported that a mere 8% supported cutting education funding.

- ✓ The fact that although Massachusetts is considered a top area in education, by 2014, a majority of our schools will be labeled as underperforming as a result of No Child Left Behind.
- ✓ The belief that that to close a school is to lose a social network
- ✓ The Stanford Study regarding Charter Schools – particularly regarding math performance
- ✓ A series of showdowns regarding the potential cut of \$34Billion from the budget and the fact that Education and Health will be the most vulnerable
- ✓ A session with Secretary Arne Duncan, meant to be a question and answer session, which offered no answers
- ✓ Senator Patty Murray spoke about responsible debt reduction and about staying involved and not giving up until you've got it done.

C. Scale ADP Graduates - (recommended Action: Approval)

Janice Philpot, Supervisor of Continuing Education recommended the following students as FY2011 graduates of the SCALE Adult Diploma Program.

Samantha Ann Cali	47 Dane Street	Somerville, MA	02143
Matthew James Hamilton	62 Harold Street	Milton, MA	02186

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Scale ADP graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Somerville High School Graduate (recommended action: approval)

Mr. Anthony Ciccariello, SHS Headmaster, recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the necessary credits, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Timmie Bluitt

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Somerville High School graduate.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. Massachusetts School Building Authority Project Scope and Budget Reimbursement Certification

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on a minor change in the Scope and Budget around the East Somerville Community School Reimbursement Rate Certification. The change is that the "CM @ Risk is different by 1 point, but the percentage remains the same, regardless of this change. The internal numbers have shifted, but the bottom line is the same. Mr. Boyle has requested that this new document be approved so that he may file appropriately.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the Massachusetts School Building Authority Project Scope and Budget Reimbursement Certification.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

F. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

Mar. 10-12, 2011:	Somerville High School DECA to Marriott Copley, Boston, overnight, to compete in the DECA State Competition. Transportation via school van and parents. Student cost equals \$75.00 for lodging.
Apr. 2-3, 2011:	SHS Junior Statesmen of America Club to Stamford, CT to participate in annual JSA Spring State Convention. Transportation via rented bus at a cost of \$100.00 per student.
June 1-2, 2011:	Next Wave School to Martha's Vineyard, overnight for group and relationship skill building. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$15.00 per student.
June 9-10, 2011:	Full Circle High School to Cape Cod, overnight, for a camping trip. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$15.00 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to waive the reading and approve the field trips.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

G. Acceptance of Donations (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent recommending acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of \$50.00, donated by Mr. Peter Sisk of Somerville to be used to support the Arts Program at Somerville High School.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

1. Thanked members of the community, primarily parents and guardians of 3, 4, 5 and 6 year olds, for coming to her recent office hours on February 19.
2. West Somerville's PTA will be held from 6:00-8:00 on March 10.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Mr. Niedergang read, "The Six Reasons We Appreciate Teachers." (see below)
2. We are grateful for your bravery. In today's political climate, I have become convinced that good teaching is a singular act of bravery. To teach to the students instead of to the test, to continue to make children feel safe even if your job is not, to do what is right instead of what is expedient or fashionable requires a special brand of courage. Thank you for teaching courageously.
3. We are grateful for your commitment. Teaching isn't easy. Many of you knew that before you took the job and you stayed any way. You love your students and are committed to their success and you won't give up at the first sign of trouble. Thank you for loving our children and our profession enough to stick with it even when things get rough.
4. We are grateful for your tenacity. When students don't get it the first time, you try again. And again. And again, until they do get it. You don't give up; you figure it out. Thank you for persisting with every child until he or she is successful.
5. We are grateful for your humility. You quietly work miracles in the classroom every day, asking for no recognition, and rarely receiving praise. It is often a thankless job but you do it anyway. Thank you for quietly working miracles in the lives of children.
6. We are grateful for your power. Only a teacher can transform the illiterate into expert readers, the ignorant into life-long learners, failures into scholars. You don't just see children's potential -- you ignite it! Thank you for using your power to empower others.
7. We are grateful for your generosity. You love children and you selflessly give them your very best each day. You want to see them learn and you work hard on their behalf to ensure that they do. Thank you for sharing the gift of learning with your students, your colleagues, and your communities.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Praised Ms. Rossetti and congratulated her on her recent appointment by Governor Patrick to the Local Government Advisory Commission. Congratulated Ms. Rossetti and expressed her pride.

Ms. Rafal

1. Reported on her attendance at the Mystic Activity Center on last Saturday.
2. Announced that the Winter Hill PTA will meet on this Thursday at 2:45 p.m.
3. Announced that the Food Service Department will be recognized by Project Bread this Thursday at the Better Breakfast Initiative Event being held at the Capuano Early Childhood Center beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Stated that this is a high point for athletics and commended Ms. Viele and the students for their great work. The only downside is that multiple competitions are taking place at the same time.
2. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 at 42 Cross Street.

3. Reported on two meetings he hosted to provide information to parents and guardians to assist them in choosing a school for their children. One meeting was held at Soundbites in Ball Square, where approximately 12 people participated and the other was held at Mr. Bockelman's house, where about 25 people were in attendance. Mr. Bockelman thanked everyone for coming.
4. Congratulated Ms. Rossetti on her appointment to the Local Government Advisory Commission.
5. Remembered Florence Kneeland, a neighbor of Mr. Bockelman's and the mother-in-law of Karen Kneeland, a paraprofessional at the Capuano Early Childhood Center. Florence Kneeland liked to knit and, over several years, made mittens for children who needed them. When it came time for Florence to move out of her home, her daughter-in-law found 158 pair of mittens. Florence requested that the mittens be given to the children at the Capuano Center and it turned out that exactly 158 children needed mittens. This story was featured in the Somerville Journal. Florence passed away recently and Mr. Bockelman wanted to let everyone know that she was a great neighbor and a wonderful and caring person. Many people would know Florence from her 30+ years of employment at McKinnons in Davis Square.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Vincent R. Buscanera Sr., brother of Janet Galvin, teacher at the Kennedy School.
- Florence M. (Monahan) Kneeland, mother-in-law of Karen Kneeland, Paraprofessional at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.
- Ignatius E. Prisby, father of Joan Prisby, teacher at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.
- Margo Popken, sister of Sophia Carafotes and Vicki Macrokanis, both teachers at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
- Joyce Murphy, retired secretary from the Somerville Public Schools and mother of Kim Murphy, Assistant Principal at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
- Anazia Charles, mother of Jean-Baptiste Charles, teacher at Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques, Executive Secretary

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, March 7, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal and Mayor Curtatone (7:40 p.m.).

Members absent: Ms. Bastardi and Alderman Gewirtz

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 6 – Rossetti, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rafal, Sweeting, and Niedergang, and Absent – 3 –Curtatone, Gewirtz, and Bastardi.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A. Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Awards

- Mr. John Thomas – Mr. Thomas is the Salutatorian of Somerville High School's Class of 2011. Mr. Thomas' accomplishments include being a Harvard Book Award Recipient, an AP Scholar with Distinction, a James Otis Scholar, memberships in the National Honor and French Honor Societies as well as outstanding involvement in Track and Field, including being a GBL All-Star four times for track. Mr. Thomas has been accepted Early Decision to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Ms. Jessica Menjivar – Ms. Menjivar is the Valedictorian of Somerville High School's Class of 2011. Ms. Menjivar's accomplishments include being a Harvard Book Award Recipient, memberships in the National Honor and French Honor Societies, and receiving a third place award in the DECA Competition. Ms. Menjivar is also an active volunteer at the Museum of Science where she has volunteered over 300 hours. Her college plans are not yet known. Congratulations to both John and Jessica on their stellar academic records and outstanding accomplishments!

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 28, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the minutes of February 28, 2011.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our student representative, Ms. Dea Dodi, was not present this evening to provide a report.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

C. *Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:* Mr. Bockelman (Mar. 2)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on March 2, 2011 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. Members present: Paul Bockelman, Teresa Cardoso, Mary Jo Rossetti. Others present: Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal, Tony Pierantozzi, Pat Durette, and Vince McKay. There was also one member of the public.

1. Budget development:

Superintendent Pierantozzi and Pat Durette presented several budget documents including a list of new budget requests categorized by the group requesting including the school principal, school council, school PTA, and the school improvement plan. The list was organized by school and by category.

We also reviewed a document that showed a level service budget by school and department, indicating the changes to each major budget line. This budget assumed a 5% decrease in Title 1 and Title 2 funding, necessitating an increase in the local appropriations to meet level service. It did not include any spending for any new or continuing initiatives or requests.

We also reviewed a document that was a proposed detailed operations budget for FY12 to provide the same services as the current year.

We reviewed several other documents including a draft capital improvement plan, equipment requests, FY11 grant summary, and options to increase revenue and/or decrease expenses. We began discussions on these items, and recognize that this is a conversation that will be ongoing with the Mayor and members of the Board of Aldermen.

2. Facilities Update:

Superintendent Pierantozzi updated the Subcommittee on the construction of the East Somerville Community School now that demolition work has begun. We discussed the capital improvement plan and heard the Superintendent's response to the depaving school yards idea. Lastly, we discussed the electrical problems at Somerville High School that resulted in the loss of a day of learning for our students and professional educators.

3. FY11 Expenditure Report

The Subcommittee reviewed the FY11 Expenditure Report and Bill Rolls and I move that we approve the bill rolls that were previously approved by the Subcommittee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by To approve the FY11 Bill Rolls

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the abbreviated Personnel report which included 3 hires to replace departing staff, one Leave of Absence and one Retirement. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that Sonia Huezo is retiring from her position as a Kindergarten teacher in the Unidos Program after 12 years. The Superintendent wished Ms. Huezo health, happiness and a long and successful retirement.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that, earlier today, seven staff members, 39 students from grades 6, 7 and 8, Mr. Melillo and himself attended a Youth Leadership Conference held at Nashoba Technical High School. This conference was sponsored by the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth and District Attorney Gerry Leone was a speaker at the event. These students will come back to the District and share what they have learned with their peers.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the auditing firm of Powers and Sullivan are at Central Office this week performing an audit of the District's End of Year report.

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent Vincent McKay for his report on Curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

Mid - Year Assessments: MAP, measurement of academic progress, this is our 3x / year assessment given to all students in grades 2 - 8. MAP provides detailed information on student progress towards the learning standards in math, language and reading. Our winter testing data is now available to teachers, and I am providing you with a sample of the classroom reports that we are making available. The goal here is to provide teachers with "actionable" data to use to make instructional decisions. As you can see on the sheet, the color-coding allows the teacher a nice visual for identifying students in need and for tracking their progress.

These reports were developed by Stephanie Hirsch, as part of our city-schools collaboration on the SomerPromise project. As a result of this collaboration, all Somerville elementary teachers will be receiving these reports, for their own students, in the next week. We're grateful for Stephanie's time and talent to assist our teachers and principals in providing this kind of data.

High School Graduation Initiative grant

Massachusetts Dept. of Ed was one of only two state educational agencies to be awarded a large Federal grant to support dropout prevention efforts. This is the HSGI. I don't normally report on grant *applications* (usually just awards), but I feel that this does warrant special mention, mostly because of the excellent collaboration from across the district in putting together two quality proposals. One proposal was for PLANNING grant, aimed at studying the ELL population at SHS. This is a group with a troubling high dropout rate. The other proposal was for an IMPLEMENTATION grant to continue to work, begun last summer, using technology assisted learning for credit recovery.

I'd like to acknowledge the team who contributed to some really quality grant proposals including Tony Ciccariello and his team including math dept head Marie Forman, David Willey and the staff at Full Circle, Sarah Davila and of course grant writer extraordinaire Gretchen Kinder.

Upcoming Events

March 3 - SHS Science Fair, Science Department

March 11 - Multi-Cultural Fair at SHS

March 12 - Regional Science Fair at SHS

9 - 12 judging, 1 - 3 public viewing, Awards at 3pm

3. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that this is National School Breakfast Week. Last week, the Food Service Department was awarded \$1000 from Project Bread for being the only District in the State to have certified breakfast programs in all schools. This award will be used to purchase health snack foods for our students.
4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the National History Regional Competition was held last Saturday at Winchester High School. 10 projects from Somerville were part of this competition. Nine projects won prizes; 5 students will move on to the State competition. Four projects received Honorable Mention awards, three received 2nd place awards and 2 received 1st place awards. Congratulations to all of our students.
5. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that, at School Committee members' seats this evening are invitations to the 13th Annual Multicultural Fair being held this coming Friday, March 11 in the Field House at Somerville High School from 8:00 – 2:30.
6. The Superintendent reported that the Elementary Swim Meet was held this past Saturday at the Kennedy School pool. The Healey School won the participation award for having the most students participating and also won the competition for grades 6, 7, and 8. The Brown School won the competition for grades 1-5. Congratulations to all! Approximately 100 students participated in this event.
7. The Region IV Science Fair will be held for the 34th consecutive year at Somerville High School and will take place this coming Saturday, March 12. 34 Somerville students will have projects in this fair. For audience members' information, the best time to attend the Science Fair is from 1:00 – 3:00. At this time, projects have been evaluated and may be viewed by the public. Awards begin at 3:00. There will be many honored guests in attendance at this fair.
8. This has been an amazing winter season for our athletic teams. Boys and Girls Basketball and Hockey all participated in tournament play. Our Cheerleaders are competing at the National level. Members of our Swim Team deserve accolades as several members advanced to regional competition. Mr. Pierantozzi spoke of some of the outstanding accomplishments of several of our Track and Field athletes including:
 - Nicole Genard - Genard qualified with her 55-meter hurdles time of 8.20, which is the 11th-fastest time in the country for a high-schooler this season.
 - Taija Clark earned a spot in the underclassmen competition with a jump of 5-2 at the All-State Championships.
 - The 1600m Relay Team of Edward Chen, Jermaine Carty, John Thomas and Andre Rolim placed third at the New England Championships and will compete at Nationals.
 - Sophomore Andre Rolim is the New England indoor track champion in the 600 meters. Andre also posted the seventh-fastest time by a high-schooler in the country this season and the fastest for a sophomore.

At a future meeting, we hope to have a request for approval for some of these athletes to compete at the Penn Relays. Congratulations to all of our student athletes, their families and coaches and we look forward to enjoying the spring season and seeing all that is accomplished before some of our athletes moved on to college!

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of New Business this evening

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Next Monday Night, March 14, the Personnel Subcommittee will meet at 6:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street. The agenda is not yet available.

Ms. Rafal

1. On last Thursday, the Winter Hill Community School held its PTA meeting. Students, dressed in colorful shirts, were on hand to assist visitors in getting to classrooms, etc. This was a great touch!
2. Tomorrow night the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Healey School Library. On the agenda are the Healey Unification Plan, a report on

the NEASC visit to Somerville High School, a presentation by the Science Department, and an Update from the Career, Vocational and Technical Education department.

3. Announced that the Winter Hill PTA will meet on this Thursday at 2:45 p.m. The Healey **Mr. Niedergang**
1. Mr. Niedergang announced that, prior to this meeting, several School Committee members were present at Somerville High School for a presentation on E-Portfolios which are used to report students' academic achievements. These E-Portfolios were coordinated through Oneville using a Ford Foundation Grant. This was a pilot project and was exciting to see. These E-Portfolios could be useful when applying to colleges, etc.
2. The Rules Management Subcommittee will meet on March 14th at 7:00, following the Personnel Subcommittee meeting. On the agenda are several policies for review.
3. Tomorrow, March 8, at noon and 6:00 p.m., The Ad Hoc Committee on strategic planning and outreach will host two drop-in opportunities for parents, guardians and community members to share their thoughts on what they would like to see in our schools. These two sessions will be held in the conference room at 42 Cross Street.
4. Mr. Niedergang requested that School Committee members please receive a breakdown of visits per school during the recent Open House dates.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Mrs. Cardoso requested that the School Committee be provided with the names of those serving on the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee.

Ms. Rossetti

1. There will be an MASC Board of Directors meeting on March 9. Ms. Rossetti will provide a report on this meeting at our next regular meeting.
2. Reminded School Committee members of the Day on the Hill on Tuesday, March 29, and encouraged their attendance at this very important event.
3. Tomorrow, there will be a public hearing at the Statehouse regarding the effects of health care costs and the economy. Ms. Rossetti will get handouts and share them with her colleagues.
4. The West Somerville Neighborhood School will hold its PTA on March 10th beginning at 6:00 p.m.
5. Somerville High School will hold its PTSA meeting on March 16th from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
6. Director of Veterans' Affairs, Frank Senesi, is looking for your support at his annual fundraiser to benefit the Memorial Day Parade. There will be a musical event held in the Somerville High School auditorium on March 19th at 7:00 p.m. All proceeds benefit the parade expenses. Please consider purchasing a ticket.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Commented on the E-Portfolios and thought it was a really good presentation. The portfolios are almost like web pages. This is a great way to present oneself to the public and is also a great organizing tool for students, as well as an excellent planning tool. E-portfolios are becoming commonplace at the university level.
2. Congratulations to all our winter athletic teams for making the playoffs. Regarding Track and Field, people don't realize how good our teams are. Any student can be a part of the team. Thanks to great coaches, both the most outstanding athlete and the average student can find a place on the team. Everyone is made to feel welcome. The coaches make things work - they push the talented and keep others involved and encouraged.

Mayor Curtatone

1. Commended all of our athletes but gave special recognition to our hockey team for showing marked improvement this season. They are well-coached, dedicated athletes.
2. Mayor Curtatone will be testifying on behalf of the mayors' group regarding health care tomorrow at the State House. The costs have tripled and the decrease in Local Aid is at 1985 levels. Every dollar is going to pay for health care. Taxpayers should reap the savings that could be gained from entering the GIC or some other negotiated plan. Enrollment in the GIC could bring approximately \$7 million in savings.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Edward Cannan, brother of Catherine Cannan, teacher at Somerville High School.

- Warren T. “Ren” Bambury, Jr. – brother of Alison Bell, teacher at the Winter Hill Community School and uncle of Amanda Bell, teacher at the West Somerville Neighborhood School and Gregory Bell, paraprofessional at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques, Executive Secretary

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, March 21, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Gewirtz, and Mayor Curtatone (7:40 p.m.)

Members absent: Ms. Bastardi

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Gewirtz, and Absent – 2 – Curtatone and Bastardi

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

✓ March 7, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to approve the minutes of March 7, 2011.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dodi's report included the following:

- March Madness at SHS
- Sophomore Semi was last Friday – great evening for socializing and dancing
- Winter sports started try-outs this week
- Multicultural Fair – we took pride in the 40 different nationalities represented
- Science Fair – regional fair held at SHS – several SHS students moving on to the State level
- PTSA – was held last week and was very successful
- JSA Debate Team – heading to Connecticut
- MCAS English for sophomores – preparing all year for this
- AP exams are coming in the spring
- Computer issues – would like the School Committee to look into it this

Mr. Sweeting congratulated Ms. Dodi on all of the SHS successes. He stated that the School Committee also was having computer difficulties and it's being worked on.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Ed Programs Subcommittee: Ms. Rafal (Mar 8)

The Ed Programs Subcommittee met on March 8, 2011 at the Healey School Library at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Paul Bockelman, Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal, Mary Jo Rossetti and Teresa Cardoso. Also, Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, numerous faculty and staff presenters and about 30 members of the public.

Wow, it was an exciting meeting, jam packed with great presentations!

1. First off, we listened to representatives from the various working groups of the Healey School Site Council with their plans for unifying the Healey School. I wouldn't call it a final plan, but it does seem that aspects of it are quite ready to start.

A whole lot of time, thought and energy went into not only all the aspects presented, but even the ones that are not ready yet because they are so complicated.

Each working group based their work on the School Committee motions of June 21, 2010, which in turn cited the Choice Program's Ad Hoc document as a further reference. Then as the community defined core values for the school, these were also incorporated by each working group. So the working group's recommendations came together, maybe not seamlessly, but with very few seams.

Part of this was because of a very thoughtful process. The Healey School Council held another election in September to add four new members. They then created subcommittees, or the working groups, to deal with different topics in the redesign. Membership in these working groups was open to any parents and teachers who wanted to participate. Some of the working groups had 25 to 35 members. Five working groups formed specifically for this purpose but two pre-existing groups also participated. The new working groups were: 1. Vision & Mission; 2. Culture, Climate & Community; 3. Structures and Operations; 4. Teaching and Learning; and 5: Parents-Staff-Students. The two pre-existing groups were the Middle Grades Design Team and The After-school Programs Group. We heard the plan as presented by representatives from the 5 main groups.

Some of the highlights of the plan include:

The **core values** of Excellence, Openness, Creativity, and Joy. The core values were arrived at through an iterative process of surveying parents and students, having various stakeholders prioritize and vote on values that surfaced, having students translate the ideas into their own words. The group continues working on a mission statement and on ways to ensure that core values will be lived in experiences throughout school.

The **structure** proposed will amount to about 2/3 looping, 1/3 mixed grades. Because kindergartners often start school with very different sets of academic skills or readiness, kindergarten will remain a single grade with dedicated kindergarten teachers. Then for grades 1-6, students will loop with their teacher for two years. This means for example, a teacher will teach the same group of students for first and second grade. Likewise for grades 3&4 and grades 5&6. This will apply for English language arts, math and the specialist subjects. But science and social studies will be taught in mixed-grades groups. The faculty co-chair of this group pointed out that nobody came in with this idea for structures. But mostly looping solves several problems, like difficulties of inclusion and of specialists when working with mixed grades but also preserves the value of a longer-term relationship between students and teachers, while having some mixed-grades time each day also gives students opportunities to learn from more advanced peers and mentor those students coming up. It helps students know more kids throughout the school as well. It is possible, he said, that the structure will also make it easier to find common planning time.

Common planning time, we heard from the **Teaching & Learning** group, will be critical to achieving several of the learning goals of the new Healey school, including Age-appropriate service learning, Project-based learning, Thematic learning and arts integrated throughout the curriculum, all of which will require planning, coordination of resources and professional development for teachers. In addition to those methods of learning, which all build on Healey & Choice traditions, they expressed a commitment to high-interest off-site learning as well. This section of the report included significant requests for supplies, professional development, curriculum support etc.

The teachers also want to make sure the students are in on the Unification plan and this will be especially important in creating a *culture of excellence*.

Creating a culture of excellence to live up to the first core value fell under the auspices of the **Culture, Climate, & Community Working** group, but also builds on work by the preexisting groups to improve academic rigor, like the Middle Grades Design Team and the After-School Group. This 3Cs working group is also working to strengthen implementation of the positive behavior management approach. They recommend stipends for a Welcome Center so translation will be more widely or more frequently available. They also suggested ways to cluster the grades to help this large school feel like a smaller community.

Every working group said they still have topics they are working on, and several School Committee members asked lots of questions. We still have more questions. We will also be hearing an operational assessment from the Central Office to determine what can be implemented, how soon and at what cost if any. I believe some of these changes can happen in September with little or no cost. I know families also have questions about how exactly the classroom and grade configurations might change and what it will mean for their children in the first year of that switch. I have to thank everyone again and again for the effort and thought and care that has gone into this plan so far and thank you for the patience as more is still unfolding. We will be revisiting this topic, possibly at our next Ed Programs meeting of April 12.

There was some discussion on what would be best: have an extra Ed programs meeting in April with only Healey on the agenda to expedite this situation or discuss Healey at the next regular Ed programs subcommittee meeting. We need to resolve Healey's situation, its financial ramifications and other issues. Members seemed to agree to an additional subcommittee meeting with only Healey on the agenda. The

superintendent stated that in the future, all Ed programs would be taped with the School Committees permission. He also stated that details of the Healey School were being discussed in-between subcommittee meetings and they are moving forward.

2. Speaking of a school where students feel happy to attend, our next topic was the NEASC accreditation report of the High School. Eve Jones said this is the third accreditation report she has been involved in leading and this is the most positive NEASC report she has ever seen. Sincere thanks to everyone for their dedicated time, over a three-year-period for the high school to study and evaluate itself in preparation for NEASC's visit. Ms. Jones pointed out how dedicated the staff, and also the DPW, was to making sure Somerville High School would be reaccredited. Mr., Ciccariello and 11 other faculty members had served on accreditation teams where they visited other schools in the same way Somerville High hosted NEASC visitors this fall. They were able to bring invaluable insights back as to what NEASC looks for. As a result, Somerville High went through a very thorough and honest self-study process, as noted in the report, and many of the recommendations made by the visiting team were actually from the self-study report, or things that the faculty had said they want to work on improving. Ms. Jones said that the issues that came up during the 3 years of self-study are guiding professional development for the next few years.

Some of the highlights of the report included commending Somerville on the number of courses available and the success in creating small communities within the large school as well as lots of support systems for the many needs of our mobile and diverse population. The teachers are dedicated to both student learning and student well-being and they felt this was evidence in all the classes and in the large number of student clubs and teams as well. It sounded like the NEASC team greatly enjoyed their visit to Somerville High from performances by the drumming club to gourmet food prepared by culinary students. Mr. Ciccariello pointed out that the students made good impressions on the team, as happy and proud to be at Somerville High School.

One recommendation was to standardize the different levels of various subjects and to do more interdisciplinary teaching. But overall, School Committee members noted that recommendations were pretty high level, and Ms. Jones said the NEASC's whole reason for being is to help schools improve so they always have to make recommendations. I noted that of the 11 highlighted recommendations, most started with verbs like "continue," "complete," or "refine," all indicating to me that SHS should keep going in the direction it is head. Ms. Jones also said sometimes schools are not reaccredited simply because the condition of the building, but it was noted that the Department of Public Works keeps this older building in good condition and quite clean. However NEASC did point out that trying to plan for a new building in the not-too-distant future might be more economical than continually repairing a large old one.

Overall, the report from NEASC about Somerville High School was effusive, and we can be very proud of it.

Members were very happy with the glowing NEASC report, stating this report is a feather in our cap.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept the NEASC recommendations.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman asked that the NEASC report be posted in summary on our website. The Superintendent thanked the teachers, students and staff on such an exceptional report. He stated once NEASC approves the report, we will publicize it.

3. The third knock-your-socks off presentation of the evening came from the Science Department. We heard about science curriculum in our schools from kindergarten to Grade 12. Guiding principles in Somerville's approach to teaching science are: real-world problems, open-ended challenges, team work, explaining thinking in writing, making predictions and measurements, and cross-curricular activities.

We saw pictures of first graders building robots from Legos! We heard about high schoolers building virtual proteins as part of an MIT study about learning biology and ecology through games. We heard about Mr. Maloney's innovative engineering classes where kids are building machines and using professional-level software to design bridges before they build models of them. We heard about off-site learning through partnerships with a Tufts lab that lets 6 high schools use some of its lab equipment and supplies, equipment that no school could afford on its own but that is so important to a lot of local work in the Biotech field. We also saw pictures of students donning gear to enter genetic research firms and making use of community labs or summer internships at local biotech companies. Lots of professional development is available to teachers at very little cost through BU and a North Shore Collaborative. The teachers are also successful at getting grants. We thought this was all so amazing and exciting and I think Ms. Rossetti is inviting the teachers to present these topics again at the West Somerville Neighborhood School. I hope we

can have it videotaped. In the meantime the presentation slides are available on the Somerville schools website, or a link through my blog post. Tonight this whole report will show up there, with links to resources at the top.

Also, the Science Department had just learned that the Massachusetts Biotechnology Educational Foundation had just selected Somerville High School as the MassBioEd Innovative School of the Year!

4. Last but certainly not least we had another topic related to local jobs. Mr. DeSimone of the Career and Vocational Technical Education department at the high school presented the case for closing the Collision Repair shop because in the most recent 6 years only 22 students have graduated from the program and of those only 6 have found jobs in the industry. Mr. DeSimone has met with the DESE to plan the phasing out and to plan how use or disburse the space and tools from the shop. There are a few students in the shop currently but Somerville is part of a vocational education cooperative arrangement, the SOLVE program, so if students did not want to choose a different shop they could continue to learn Collision Repair at Medford High School at no cost.

This plan has Tony Ciccariello's full support.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to accept the Phase Out of the Collision Repair Shop.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

Mrs. Cardoso wanted members to note that this would be eliminating a position.

5. We offer a motion to approve the in-service course: Professional Development Workshop: "Positive Teacher, Positive Results," Professor Amy Baltzell
Earn 1 in-service credit (already approved by Somerville Public Schools) or PDP's.

Description:

Explore how educator positivity empowers and optimizes professional practice and influences classroom climate. Learn techniques to employ in your own practice and how to tailor strategies to replenish your professional energy.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to approve the In-Service Courses.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang asked that the Healey Unification Plan be posted on our website. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent will check to see if it is already posted and if not, will do so.

B. Personnel Subcommittee: Mrs. Cardoso (Mar 14)

The Personnel Subcommittee met on March 14, 2011 at 42 Cross Street at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Christine Rafal, Mark Niedergang, Teresa Cardoso. Also, Tony Pierantozzi and Dorothy Scally (STA) were in attendance.

1. Update on Current Searches:

Assistant Principal for the Argenziano School:

The Superintendent gave us an update that the position had been posted on Feb. 28th and also advertised in the media as well. As of March 8th 43 applications had been received – The Superintendent notified me today that we were up to 70 applications - the deadline for applications is this Friday, March 25th. A representative committee will be convened by the Argenziano School Principal and the Principal will make her decision and the announcement will be made after the completion of the process.

7:40 p.m. – Mayor Curtatone arrived

Housemaster for Broadway House at Somerville High School:

The Superintendent gave us an update that the position had been posted on Feb. 28th and was also advertised in the media as well. As of March 8th 55 applications had been received – the Superintendent notified me today that we were up to 74 applications. A representative committee will be convened by the Headmaster and the Headmaster will make his decision and the announcement will be made after the completion of the process.

Graphic Communications Teacher in the CVTE Program at Somerville High School:

The Superintendent gave us an update that the Screening Committee had reviewed all applications received – there were 4 applicants selected for an interview. Interviews were conducted last week and a

finalist is to be forwarded to the Headmaster for his consideration by April 1 and he will then make his appointment and send it to the Supt. for final approval.

SC Member Rafal requested the list of the Screening Committee members be made available to the School Committee.

2. Current Postings:

The Superintendent gave us a brief update on current postings to date.

3. Retirement to Date:

There were no new additions since our last School Committee Meeting.

C. Rules Management Subcommittee: Mr. Niedergang (Mar 14)

The Rules Management Subcommittee met on March 14, 2011 at 42 Cross Street at 7:00 p.m. Members present with Mr. Niedergang were Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Superintendent Pierantozzi and Dorothy Scally, the STA rep

1. Review of Policies

- Process for Resolving Complaints/Concerns

This is not a policy, but a chart, to be part of the Student Handbook.

- Parent Involvement Policy

This was updated with various changes happening in the Somerville Public Schools.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti for this policy to be forwarded to the School Committee for a 1st reading, as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- Motor Vehicle No Idling

This was forwarded to the School Committee for 1st reading, as amended.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti for this policy to be forwarded to the School Committee for a 1st reading, as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- Charter School

This is a new policy, forwarded to the School Community for 1st reading.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti recommending that this policy to be forwarded to the School Committee for a 1st reading, as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- Service Animals

This policy was tabled for further discussion

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to table this policy until the Superintendent does some research and issues raised were resolved.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

D. Long Range Planning Subcommittee: Mr. Sweeting (Mar 16)

The Long Range Subcommittee met on March 16, 2011 at 42 Cross Street at 7:00 p.m. Members present with Mr. Sweeting were Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Superintendent Pierantozzi, Ms. Kinder, Ms. Phillips.

1. *Marketing/Outreach Plan*

Mr. Sweeting then stated the Gretchen Kinder has updated the School Committee on the "Face of Somerville Schools", a forum to hear from community members about our schools. She is helping us with the marketing of our schools. He stated we all want to make sure our message is united and the same as we think about moving forward into the future.

2. *Mission/Vision of the Somerville Public Schools*

We are in the process of crafting a new vision. There was some discussion of the pros and cons, some thinking we should have one vision and others thinking we should have several visions.

3. *Future educational and space needs of the Somerville Public Schools*

The Superintendent outlined ideas that the School Committee should start thinking about with the East Somerville Community School opening in 2013. We must find ways to maintain equal class size across the city – a balanced system. This issue was tabled until the next meeting.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

1. The Superintendent joined Ms. Dodi in saying congratulations to the students and staff for the 12th anniversary of the multicultural fair.
2. The Superintendent was in receipt of a letter from John Binning, stating the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education has accepted our Bullying Plan.
3. Along with Rich Melillo, the Superintendent made a bullying presentation to the Cambridge Health Alliance, which was well received. He stated we are well on our way to address the bullying requirement.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

This week is an important week for the Somerville Schools with MCAS testing in Language Arts kicking off the 2011 MCAS season. There's definitely a bit of nail-biting going on in my office this week, and among our principals. Yes, to be honest, some of the nervousness is due to the state accountability framework. Just to remind you all, on the five point rating system adopted by DESE last year, we're a Level 3 district..... and we DON'T want to move to Level 4. And the only way to avoid that is to improve our performance on MCAS.

So while there's a lot of pressure to move the dial on MCAS and we feel that urgency, it's important to keep some perspective.

Point of perspective #1: Our literacy plan, now in its first year, is based on a strategy of **BALANCED** literacy -- not MCAS literacy. We feel confident that the results will follow as we move ahead with this implementation, involving proven reading strategies, lots of high interest reading materials aimed at fostering a love of reading in our students.

Point of Perspective #2: Teaching reading is hard work, and I'd like to thank our teachers for their incredible efforts and openness to embracing the literacy initiative. District wide, Somerville's test scores have been improving, and last year's MCAS results in language arts - improvements in grade 3 and 4, holding our own in 5 and 6 and improvement in grade 7 - show we're on the right track. With the dedication of our teachers, I have every reason to believe we'll continue to improve.

#3: Our principals are doing a terrific job in maintaining the balance of MCAS expectations with their students and staff. It's a fine line, don't want to over-emphasize yet it's important to show what we know.

On Sunday March 6, I was proud to represent the Somerville Schools as panelist at the Social Enterprise conference over this past weekend. The conference is organized by students from the Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard Business School. I served on a panel on innovation in education, representing a public district. For this panel, I was joined by a charter school management technology leader, a staff member from the Gates Foundation. The moderator was an adjunct professor at the Grad School of Education at Harvard.

In the course of preparing for this session, I went through a list of some of the important innovations, mostly centered on technology, implemented in Somerville in recent years. Projects that I put on this list include the Middle Grades technology Project, the Full Circle/SHS credit recovery program, MAP assessments, FasttMath, and the SHS e-portfolio project and the amazing collaborations in bio-technology at SHS.

I was very candid about the challenges we face in meeting the needs of our students. But for those who attended our panel, I believe we presented a hopeful picture the future of public school districts. We believe in taking the best new, but proven, ideas and technology and making them work for our students.

Other areas of innovation includes: SomerPromise, Healey unification work.

Thank you, to Committee members, for supporting the technology backbone of the district. Without this infrastructure, the technology advances would not be possible.

4. The Superintendent stated he had the pleasure of joining Somerville High School students, administrators and teachers at the Sonesta Hotel today for the MASSBIO Annual Luncheon. They gave out two awards today and the #1 Innovative School of the Year was Somerville High School. We were the only school in Massachusetts to receive this award. SHS offers Biotech 1 and Biotech 2 at the high school. We have created partnerships, opening the doors to Biotechnology with MIT and Bunker Hill Community College, who also attended the luncheon today. Congratulations to the Science Department, Guidance Department and to our students.
5. The Superintendent stated that on March 7th and 8th, the auditors were at Central Office and we have no instances of non-compliance. He thanked Pat Durette, Joe Tringale, the staff from Central Office and all staff who purchases supplies/equipment for doing an incredible job.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Pat Durette*, Director of Finance for her report regarding finance issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

Work continues on the FY2012 budget. We are developing several budget scenarios, including reviewing the elementary enrollment and projecting some decreases based upon student enrollment and class size. April 6 is the next Finance and Facilities Sub-Committee meeting where the development will be discussed. The meeting will be held at 42 Cross Street at 7:00 P.M.

Our three year contract for pupil transportation and for charter transportation will end August 31. We are currently advertising in the Goods and Services bulletin and will be running an ad in the Boston Globe seeking proposals from vendors. We have a pre-bidders conference scheduled for April 5 at 42 Cross Street, to review the bid documents and the requirements of the contract. Bids for these services will be opened on April 14; the opening for the Charter transportation at 10:00 AM and the Pupil transportation at 10:30 AM.

The 3rd quarter reporting of ARRA grant funds is due at the end of this week, March 25. We are required to report all staff and vendors paid through with stimulus funds.

6. Superintendent Pierantozzi mentioned that this Saturday was pre-school registration, led by Nomi Davidson and Sarah Davila. He also stated that the Somerville Public Schools' spring brochure would be coming soon.

At the conclusion of the Superintendent's report, Ms. Rossetti stated that Innovation Award presented to Somerville High School was no surprise; we all know how wonderful SHS is. A discussion ensued regarding promoting this award in the form of banners, signs throughout the city. Mayor Curtatone agreed saying we don't do enough flaunting around here. He suggested we promote this award beyond banners and signs, stating the Superintendent's Office may work with his office, the communications department, to get this message out.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **MASC Board of Director's Meeting Report** (Ms. Rossetti)
Ms. Rossetti attended the MASC Board of Directors meeting held March 9, 2011. She gave a brief report of her minutes which were included in your packet on March 17, 2011.
- B. **Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual** (Mr. Niedergang)
Mr. Niedergang presented Policy File EEAJ and KB to the School Committee for 1st reading, as amended. He also presented a new policy, File JFABC, for 1st reading.
- C. **Field Trips**
 - May 6-8, 2011 Somerville High School Ultimate Frisbee Team to Amherst, MA, overnight, to complete in the Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. Transportation via school van. There is no cost to students for this trip.
 - May 26, 2011 Kennedy and Argenziano Schools grade 6-8 afterschool participants to the American Credit Union Museum in Manchester, NH, to participate in the Credit Union Reality Fair. Transportation via chartered bus at no cost to students.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to waive the readings and approve the field trips. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang made note that one of field trips was very unusual, an afterschool joint program to New Hampshire. He stated the Afterschool Program has improved over the last two years and it is a terrific learning opportunity. Mr. Bockelman stated that the Portuguese Credit Union is one of our business partners and that the President of the Credit Union is chaperoning this trip. He thanked the Portuguese Credit Union for sponsoring this trip.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Cardoso

1. AFA's PTA Literacy night will be this Thursday.
2. Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:00, AFA will be having a Grade K-4 Book Swap

In the absence of Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso reminded everyone that this Thursday is the Annual Brian Higgins Fundraiser.

Ms. Rossetti

1. West Somerville Neighborhood School is having a coffee talk in the morning on Friday.
2. Saturday, April 2nd is the Paul Duhamel Breakfast.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Friday evening, the Center for Arts and Groundworks Somerville will be having a fundraiser.
2. Dale Peterson, Community Action Agency of Somerville, passed away a few weeks ago. There will be a service tomorrow evening.

Ms. Rafal

1. The Music Department will be hosting "Carnival of Animals" on March 24th.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Stated that Enxhi Popa was Channel 5's Student of Week.
2. The SHS Accreditation report talked about our support systems:
 - a. MCAS tutoring
 - b. Free SAT prep course by Tufts University
 - c. Adult math tutors at the Welcome Center
3. The Multi-Cultural Fair was a tremendous event and a celebration of Somerville High School. Flags from all countries represented at SHS were in pile and then the American flag was raised from the middle of that pile. The fair was a reflection of Somerville High at its best.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Suggested that the Multi-Cultural Fair be filmed for TV.
2. On March 12th, attended the Science Fair and the spirit of the students was great.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following people who recently passed away:

David Dickerson, Sr., father of Dave Dickerson, Special Education Facilitator
William C. Neville III, father of Kelli Neville, Teacher at the Kennedy School

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m., by voice vote.

Maryann Coulombe
Administrative Assistant

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, April 4, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi and Ms. Gewirtz

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi and Gewirtz, and Absent – 1 – Curtatone

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 21, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to approve the minutes of March 21, 2011.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dodi was unable to attend this evening's meeting due to illness.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Executive Session: Mr. Sweeting (Mar. 23)

Mr. Sweeting reported that the School Committee met in Executive Session on March 23, 2011, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. The following two motions were approved in Executive Session: To approve an Agreement and Release among the School Committee, the Superintendent, the Cafeteria Employees Union, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 274 and a bargaining unit member; and To approve an Agreement and Release among the School Committee, the Somerville Teachers Association, Unit A and a bargaining unit member.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

1. The Superintendent reported on the recent article regarding dropping enrollment in the Somerville Public Schools. He is happy to announce that Kindergarten registration is currently at 400 students vs. 340 students last year at this time.
2. The Superintendent announced the success of several of our graduating seniors. Last week, two young ladies in the Class of 2011, were accepted to Harvard University. One of our male seniors was accepted Early Decision to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and five of our seniors have been accepted to Tufts University. Our hope is that two of the students accepted to Tufts will be York Scholars. So far, we are off to a flying start and hope to have many more great acceptances to report in the future.
3. The Superintendent shared some wonderful news regarding athletics. Highlights included:
 - Andre Rolim – State Champion in the 600 meter and 1600 meter relay. Also named All-Scholastic in Track and Field by the Boston Globe and Boston Herald.
 - Edward Chen, Jermaine Carty and John Thomas – Also part of the State Champion 1600 meter relay team.
 - David Cooper – Received the Sportsmanship Award from the Boston Bruins
 - Kelsey Garrity – Boston Herald Girls Basketball All Scholastic
 - Mark Antonelli – Division I North Boys Basketball Coach of the Year

Mr. Pierantozzi congratulated the student athletes, their families and coaches for their wonderful accomplishments.

4. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the Spring edition of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative brochure is now available in our four target languages.
5. As this is the last meeting before April vacation, Mr. Pierantozzi wished everyone a happy, healthy and safe vacation week.
6. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that there is a monetary award of \$5,000.00 which goes along with the Mass Biotech award recently received by the Somerville High School Science Department. This money will be used to purchase supplies and equipment for the biotechnology program.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. HSGI: High School Graduation initiative
We just learned on Friday of being awarded \$210,000 over three years for implementation of the pilot credit recovery program at Somerville High School.
Also, funding provided (\$15,000) for a comprehensive study of our English Language Learner population at SHS and their unacceptably high dropout rate.
2. Race to the Top: \$101,000
As district project coordinator, I am organizing a variety of projects. The challenge we face with any grant is assuring that the grants align with our school and district improvement goals. This is a big challenge with a sprawling project like RTTT, which has many elements. A number of these are underway at this time, with a good deal of work to be completed this summer. This will be a busy summer, with about 75 teachers and 20 administrators involved in this curriculum project. These include a number of programs around college readiness, and the implementation of the Common Core curriculum.

I want to point out one project, the teacher evaluation. As you know, the state has pushed a collaborative program involving School Committees, the state teacher's associations and administration. They Commissioner is organizing the next meeting for all stakeholders, tentatively scheduled for May 13 (now confirmed for May 6)

7. The Superintendent announced that, on Thursday, April 7, at 7:00 p.m., the Elementary Spring Concert will be held in the Somerville High School auditorium.
8. On March 27, the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Chamber Ensemble performed at Somerville High School.
9. On Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., the New Repertory Theater will perform Hamlet to students in our junior class.
10. The Superintendent reported that on Wednesday, April 6, Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone and others will make a presentation on pre-prom and pre-graduation safety to members of our senior class at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Somerville High School.
11. Provided an update on the status of our food products and was happy to report that, after a thorough inspection, all of our food products have been deemed either fine to be used or are awaiting determination regarding state and federal guidelines for guidance on the following terms: Manufactured On, Best if Used By, and Expiration Date. There are no clear guidelines as to a "do not use after date". There are no old, outdated, unsafe or products with diminished nutritional value currently being used in the Somerville Public Schools.
12. Superintendent Pierantozzi provided an update on administrative searches currently in process. Mr. James Elliott, Assistant Principal at the Kennedy School, has requested and been granted a transfer to the Argenziano School as the Assistant Principal. That leaves the Kennedy School's Assistant Principal position open. The applicants for the AFA position were offered to shift their applications to the Kennedy position and all but two applicants agreed to do so. In all, there were 72 applicants and 12 were being interviewed today and tomorrow with finalists being selected on April 5th. For the Assistant Principal/Housemaster position at Somerville High School, there were 77 final applicants with 12 being interviewed during the week of April 25th. The Principals are in charge of this hiring process with the assistance of Central Office. Best of luck to Mr. Elliott as he returns to the Argenziano School next year!

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policies are presented this evening for second reading, as amended:

File: EEAJ Policy Regarding Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to include this policy, as revised, in our Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

File: KB Parent Involvement Policy

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to include this policy, as revised, in our Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The following policy is presented this evening for second reading for adoption:

File: JFABC Admission of Transfer Students

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to include this policy in our Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

April 28-29, 2011: Somerville High School Band to New York and New Jersey.
Transportation via coach bus at a cost of \$50.00 per student.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Acceptance of Donation – (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of \$497.00 from the Brookline Bird Committee to the Argenziano Library. Donation is to be used to purchase books about birds for the library.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. MASC Update – Ms. Rossetti

Ms. Rossetti reported on her recent attendance at the MASC Board of Director's Meeting held on March 28. Ms. Rossetti provided all members with a printed copy of her notes and the agenda this evening. Ms. Rossetti asked School Committee members to think about workshop ideas for the MASC/MASS conference in November as planning is now underway. Ms. Rossetti also spoke about the NSBA report, the Task Force on Educators Evaluations, and the MASC Day on the Hill, which was held on March 29th at the State House in Boston. Over 300 School Committee members from across the state were in attendance and it was a very good day. Ms. Rossetti provided members with a proposed resolution regarding health care costs, authored by a School Committee member from Salem, MA. This proposed resolution will be forwarded to the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee for review.

Ms. Rossetti also announced that she will be leaving on Thursday for San Francisco to attend the NSBA conference. The resolution on Mobility will be up for a vote at this conference and we are hopeful it will be approved.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

1. The Best Buddies Annual Fundraiser/Awards Dinner will be held on April 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Raymond Izzo Highlander Café.
2. The award-winning Somerville High School science department will make a presentation at the West Somerville Neighborhood School on May 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Several students from the Kennedy School will participate in the National History Day State Competition this Saturday at Clark University in Worcester.

Alderman Gewirtz

1. Alderman Gewirtz is impressed and overwhelmed by the work of the School Committee and the Somerville Public Schools. Would like to strategize to let the public know of the great works being done here. The community needs to be made aware of all the wonderful things going on.
2. Spoke about banners, etc. to recognize the Biotech Award received by Somerville High School.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Told Alderman Gewirtz that she is a cheerleader now for the School Department and to start the ball rolling on publicizing the great things going on in the Somerville Public Schools.
2. Congratulations to Ms. Rossetti for being appointed to the Governor's Advisory Commission. Ms. Rossetti's appointment was featured in last week's Somerville Journal. Thanked Ms. Rossetti for taking her personal time to advocate for our schools.
3. Thanked the sixth graders from the Argenziano School for hosting her as a reader last week. Mrs. Cardoso displayed a scroll that she received from the students and said that she loves reading to them and sharing with them information about what the School Committee does.
4. Wished everyone a happy and safe vacation and a Happy Easter and Passover.
5. Announced that the PTA Dinner Dance will be held on May 6th at Anthony's in Malden. This year's honorees are Carmen Chagas, Rosie Federico, Grace Kennedy, John Welch and in memory of Brenda Risi. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased from any PTA officer.
6. Asked audience members to please remember the late Deanna Cremin and her family on this the 16th anniversary of her death. Deanna was a classmate of Mrs. Cardoso's daughter and her murder case has never been solved. Please put her family in your prayers tonight.

Ms. Rafal

1. There will be a parent meeting held at the Mystic Activity Center at 9:30 on Saturday and Ms. Rafal will be in attendance.

Mr. Bockelman

1. The Duhamel Initiative's Pancake Breakfast was held last Saturday with a larger than ever turnout.
2. Senator Jehlen will host a budget forum on April 12th in Medford.
3. The Somerville High School College Fair will be held on April 13th in the Field House at Somerville High. This is a great chance for all students – from freshman to junior and even younger, to gather information about colleges.
4. Commended the City for their efforts with the Moroccan Exchange program.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following people who recently passed away:

- John Moriarty, husband of Sandy Moriarty, Paraprofessional at the Healey School
- Jean (Walsh) Holden, sister of Margaret Doncaster, retired Account Clerk in the Somerville Public Schools.
- Gerald D. Nickerson, father-in-law of Steve Tuccelli, Principal of the Winter Hill Community School.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques
Executive Secretary

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, April 25, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi and Mayor Curtatone (7:35 p.m.)

Members absent: Ms. Gewirtz

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi, and Absent – 2 – Curtatone and Gewirtz. Also in attendance was Ms. Dea Dodi, our High School Student Representative.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 4, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to approve the minutes of April 4, 2011.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi reported on the following events/activities at Somerville High School:

- PTA will be held at Somerville High School on Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This is the last meeting of the year and a good time for parents/guardians to check on their student's academic standing prior to the end of the school year.
- On Friday, educators from our Sister City of Tiznit, Morocco, will visit Somerville High School to learn and share ideas about education.
- The GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) recently hosted a dance and a Day of Silence at Somerville High School.
- The Somerville High School Arts Fair will be held on this Wednesday and Thursday. This is the first year that only art work from Somerville High School students will be featured. The elementary students will have their own fairs this year.
- The Vocational Awards Banquet will be held next Wednesday, May 4, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Students will be recognized for their outstanding performance in their area of concentration.
- On May 5, the Spring Concert will be held at Somerville High School. The evening will feature Instrumental and choral performances by our students and is always a great event!
- Ms. Dodi was happy to have been able to attend the National Honor Induction Ceremony on April 11th. She found the ceremony to be inspiring to underclassmen.
- Welcomed back Somerville High School students who travelled to France and Italy over the April vacation week.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. **Finance & Facilities:** Mr. Bockelman (April 6)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on April 6, 2011, in the Conference Room at 42 Cross Street. School Committee members in attendance were Paul Bockelman, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, Mark Niedergang, Adam Sweeting, and Christine Rafal. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay and Ms. Durette.

Capital Improvement and Facilities Update

The Subcommittee was joined by DPW Commissioner Stan Koty and key members of his staff. The Subcommittee reviewed the status of various projects – repairs and new capital improvements – school by school. Among the items we discussed were the need to repair the elevator and the bathroom repairs at the Winter Hill Community School; the HVAC work being done at the Kennedy Pool; the placement of plaques at the ALPS; the deteriorating condition of the North wall at Somerville High School.

Mr. Koty explained that the power outage at the High School that caused school to be canceled was totally unexpected and an event that could not have been anticipated.

Members of the School Committee thanked Commissioner Koty and his dedicated staff for their efforts to maintain the schools during challenging times, especially the winter snows and the flooding at the Capuano School.

East Somerville Community School

Gerry Boyle reviewed the most recent plans for the East Somerville Community School. He said the architectural plans were at the 60% stage and that there were workers on the premises conducting the planned demolition and that the project was on target for budget and completion.

I asked for the establishment of a Parent Welcome center, much like that established at the High School. The Superintendent said, and everyone agreed, that safety was the first concern. But many members of the School Committee supported the idea of placing a welcome center as near the main entrance of the school as possible.

FY12 Budget Development

I reported that I, as chair of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee, and Chair of the School Committee Sweeting along with Pat Durette, Joe Tringale, and Tony Pierantozzi met with the Mayor and his staff about the FY12 budget outlook. The mayor was clear that the challenges faced by the City this year were more severe than in the past because all sources of additional revenue had been tapped. He noted that employee health insurance increases creates an immense burden on the budget and sucks all available revenues for job preservation. He urged the School Committee to focus on its core mission, which is educating the children of the City.

The Superintendent and Pat Durette reviewed the budget options using various scenarios for revenue from the City. The Superintendent explained that he categorized his options as follows:

Tier One: The services that are required by law to be provided by the School district including providing education in all subjects to all students from grades one to twelve and to provide services to English language learners and special education students.

Tier Two: The services that are required to provide education to those students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten along with remediation and support for these pre-first grade students.

Tier Three: Any support activities that round out an adult's life.

Areas that are not core include the Kennedy pool (which actually is self-supporting); SCALE; Community Schools; and non-mandated transportation.

The Superintendent said that he and his staff would continue to review the budget for savings and would develop additional scenarios as the information from the State and City clarifies the funding situation.

FY11 Expenditure Report

The Subcommittee and other members identified items on the FY11 expenditure report and Ms. Durette provided the appropriate explanations or follow-up.

FY11 Bill Roll

The Subcommittee approved the bill rolls and I move to approve the bill rolls as presented

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the FY11 Bill Rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to endorse the following Health Insurance Resolution, which was originally drafted by the Mayor of Salem.

That the Somerville School Committee strongly supports proposed legislation that would give cities and towns the authority to manage soaring health care costs by either joining the State Group Insurance Commission (GIC) or providing communities with the flexibility to institute their own health insurance plans that provide equivalent savings.

The motion was approved via voice vote and a letter will be forwarded on the School Committee's behalf to the State Ways and Means Chair, our State Legislators, the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor of Salem to inform them of the Somerville School Committee's support of this resolution.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

B. Long Range Planning: Mr. Sweeting (April 14)

The School Committee met for Long Range Planning on April 14, 2011, in the Conference Room at 42 Cross Street. School Committee members in attendance were Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Bockelman and Mr. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Kinder. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. District Improvement Plan quarterly report

The School Committee discussed the District Improvement Plan Quarterly Report. The School Committee sets goals at the beginning of each term and met to discuss progress on these goals. The District Improvement Plan is distinct from the Long Range Plan. The five goals of the District Improvement Plan are as follows:

Goal #1: Achieve and sustain the highest levels of student achievement. This includes the expansion of inclusion, expansion of the middle grades program, foreign language at the middle grade level and increasing middle grade rigor.

Goal #2: Enhance and sustain safe and healthy learning environments. This includes providing anti-bullying training in our school community and following the tenets of Shape Up Somerville.

Goal #3: Maintain a highly effective workforce. The percentage of diversity in our workforce has increased 11.6%.

Goal #4: Maintain efficient and effective facilities and operations. With the cooperation of the Department of Public Works, our facilities have been well maintained. Communications have improved through our new system of translation/interpretation.

Goal #5: Monitor the East Somerville Community School reconstruction project and maintain the East Somerville Community School community at temporary locations at the Edgerly and Cummings schools. The East Somerville rebuild is well underway. The temporary locations at Edgerly and Cummings are working out well in the interim.

2. Interim report on the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning and Outreach. Discussion took place regarding the perceived strengths and weaknesses and factors that influence how parents/guardians choose schools. This issue will continue to be an area of focus.

3. Process for developing a plan for the future educational and space needs in the Somerville Public Schools. The School Committee will be working over the next few months and into the summer to develop ideas of what the Somerville Public Schools should look like in the future. Issues of building space, grade configuration and programming will be among the topics under consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi reviewed the Personnel Report and referred to this as the lull before the storm. There was one new hire – the Graphics Communication Specialist. This is a shift of positions requiring no new funding. This position was highly recommended during the Coordinated Program Review.

There are also four leaves of absence, a request to rescind a retirement and one resignation for purposes of retirement – Ms. Margaret “Peg” Dwyer is retiring from her position as Counselor Educator at the Healey School after 14 years of service. We wish Peg many years of health and happiness.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

1. The Superintendent welcomed everyone back from vacation and expressed his hope that all enjoyed the break as well as any religious observances they may have participated in.
2. The Superintendent spoke about the importance of attendance and punctuality all year long, but especially during testing times. Both AP and MCAS exams are imminent and the Superintendent asked for attention to attendance and punctuality during this time. A strong focus on learning is critical!
3. The Superintendent announced his attendance at a presentation by Nobel Laureate Dr. Richard Schrock who is a chemist and professor at MIT. Dr. Schrock was an engaging and impressive speaker. Mr. Pierantozzi learned that since the Nobel Prize has been awarded, 13 billion people

have lived and 852 people have been awarded the Nobel Prize. Thanked the Headmaster, faculty and students for their facilitation/participation in this event.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. On Monday, May 2, the district's Drop Out Prevention and Recovery group will be attending a state-wide summit in Worcester. Drop Out Prevention is a national concern, a fight that Somerville has been actively pursuing for several years. Our ongoing participation in this state level group demonstrates our unwavering commitment Somerville's youth and a city where every student graduates from our high school college and career ready.

This meeting will allow us to hear from several national experts in the field, including two researchers from the National High School Center in Washington, and an opportunity to share best practice w our colleagues from across the state.

It's also a kickoff to our work on the High School Graduation initiative grant and the hybrid learning program underway at Full Circle and SHS. This type of learning blends technology-delivered instruction with face-to-face teacher time, which is showing great potential for dropout prevention and credit recovery.

On a related subject, I am excite to announce that SPS staff will be presenting to the MASS technology conference this coming October. We've been invited to share our experiences with blended learning. I'll be involved with that along with Full Circle teacher Margaret DePasquale and our math department head Marie Foreman.

2. Sister City visitation coming up later this week.... Last year, Mr. Bockelman, Mayor Curtatone and I were part of a twenty five person, city-wide delegation of Somervillians to Tiznit Morocco in December 2009. This week, that Sister City relationship moves ahead with the official visitation of the Moroccans to Somerville. This visit is supported by the US State Department and Sister Cities International.

Mission Statement for Sister City International

Promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, & cooperation — one individual, one community at a time.

- **Develop** municipal partnerships between U.S. cities, counties, and states and similar jurisdictions in other nations.
- **Provide** opportunities for city officials and citizens to experience and explore other cultures through long-term community partnerships.

The 20 Moroccan visitors will be divided up into government and education groups. Friday, the education group will be spending the morning at Somerville High School. On Monday, the visitors will tour Capuano and Healey Schools. I left a copy of the itinerary at your places. The welcome reception is Thursday at 6:15, here at City Hall. Performance by the SHS World Percussion Ensemble!

3. Finally, I'd like to announce that we achieved a significant milestone in our new partnership with Lesley University. This collaborative internship program is a Master's program that would be housed right in our schools. Last Thursday, Sarah Davila, Tony Pierantozzi and I hosted an informational meeting for prospective grad students.

Lesley University School of Education's partnership with Somerville Public Schools will pilot a new Elementary Education Urban Initiative (EEUI) which is a variation of the Elementary Education Initial Licensure Master's Degree Program. The program will employ elements of Lesley's existing collaborative program structure, combined with aspects of clinical teacher education program models, to prepare teachers to be effective in elementary classrooms in urban settings with large numbers of culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) students and English Language Learners (ELLs). Program completers will be endorsed for elementary licensure, have completed ESL Category professional development training, and be prepared to "add" the ESL license. Participants will be in a year-long internship while taking courses and seminars held at both the school site, taught by Somerville faculty, and at the Lesley University campus in Cambridge taught by Lesley faculty.

We see this as a win-win situation for Somerville and the students.

We expect to be able to place 6-8 graduate students in Somerville schools next year. I'd like to thank Sarah Davila for her work in supporting this innovative program.

4. The Superintendent announced that a Summer Programs Fair will be held tomorrow night at the Argenziano School from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Families may visit to learn about summer opportunities for their students provided by profit, non-profit, city and school entities. This is the second year this event is being held. All information is available on the Somerville Public Schools website.

Attending the fair is a great way to meet and speak face-to-face with providers. Mrs. Cardoso informed the audience that there is also PTA at the Argenziano tomorrow night and that the Camps Fair will be held in the Gym and the PTA will be held in the Cafetorium.

5. The Somerville High School Guidance Report mentioned in the Somerville High School Council Minutes will be provided to School Committee members at Thursday evening's Ed. Programs Meeting.
6. Starting this year, the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative is making it possible to have interpreters in our three target languages (Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole) available to assist with all parent/teacher conferences at all schools. This is just another method of trying to reach out and improve communications across the District.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Pat Durette*, Finance Director for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Work continues on the FY12 budget. A level service budget was presented in April. Two rounds of possible cuts have been reviewed and work has been done on creating priorities for budget planning. At the May Finance meeting, a level funded budget with zero increases will be presented. This level funded budget will require additional savings in the areas of equipment and services.
- Ms. Durette informed the School Committee members that she provided a two-sided spreadsheet at their seats this evening. The Pupil Transportation and Charter Transportation Contract bid process was recently held. Vocell and Eastern Bus have bid for the 3 year contract. Please review this information for discussion and approval at next week's meeting. The contract must be awarded by May 13. Discussion ensued regarding current contract prices versus the prices offered in the current bids.

Discussion also took place regarding the scheduling of our next Finance and Facilities meeting. Mr. Bockelman hopes to have the date/time finalized by tomorrow and will notify members. Mr. Pierantozzi reiterated that the Bus Contract will be on the Agenda for the May 2 Regular Meeting so that a vote may be taken at that time.

7. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the Official Opening of the Somerville High School Arts Fair will be Wednesday, April 27, at 6:00 p.m.
8. On Thursday, May 5, the Somerville School Day Games, also known as Special Olympics, will take place at Dilboy Stadium from 9:00 a.m. – noon. The rain date is Friday, May 6.
9. On May 12, the Somerville Public Schools, Somerville Council of PTA's and the Middlesex Partnership for Youth will host a Bullying Prevention Training for parents and guardians beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.
10. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that after consultation with the architect and Mr. Boyle, it has been confirmed that the Nurse's Suite and the PTA Room will be located immediately inside the main entrance of the new East Somerville Community School.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trip (Recommended Action: Approval)

June 7, 2011:

West Somerville Neighborhood School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via charter bus at a cost of \$10.00 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. National School Board Conference Report: (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti reported on her recent attendance at the National School Board Conference in San Francisco. Highlights of her report included:

- The Resolutions/Policy Committee Public Hearing and the passing of the Student Mobility Resolution 52% - 48%. Ms. Rossetti also reported that certain representatives voted against the resolution in fear of this becoming an unfunded mandate.
- Workshops attended –
- Student Achievement – The Responsibilities and Accountabilities of Policy Makers – Ms. Rossetti commented on one facet of this presentation – that of parental involvement in our schools. If

citizens can be released from their jobs to attend jury duty, why can't they be released to spend time in their child's school?

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to have the Superintendent research the language regarding current law re: our criminal system (jury duty) and report back for discussion of parents being released from their jobs without penalty."

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman reported that he believes that the Small Necessities Leave Act would cover this situation. Mr. Pierantozzi will research and respond to Ms. Rossetti.

- Condoleezza Rice, Former Secretary of State, currently Professor of Business and Political Science at Stanford University
- Professional Learning Communities at Work Increasing Student Achievement
- Share the Success – If you want to know how, just ask the students: Improving Student Achievement Using Student Input – this workshop was presented by a representative from Mason County, KY, which was a Magna Award Winner in 2010 for their successful "Home Visit" initiative. This district also began "Sneak a Peak Day" which is a day where students from K-12 spend a day with their next year's teacher. Discussion ensued regarding working to get similar programs started here in Somerville on a pilot level.
- Initiatives from the East Irondequoit, NY School District including AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) which is a college-prep program for underprivileged students. Their belief is instilling in their students that "Having someone tell you that your dreams are valid and can be accomplished."

Ms. Rossetti also informed School Committee members that next year's NSBA conference is being held in Boston and encouraged the development of a workshop presentation that Somerville could present at the conference. The deadline to submit workshop proposals is June 1st.

C. Acceptance of Donations – (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the following donations to the Music Department:

- Six flutes, valued at \$850.00 total, from Christine Bissett-Werman of Somerville, MA, for use by the Somerville High School Music Program.
- \$100.00 from Caroline Normand of Somerville for use by the Somerville Public Schools' Music Department.
- \$50.00 from Deborah Pacini of Somerville for use by the Somerville Public Schools' Music Department.
- \$50.00 from Julia Schenider of North Falmouth, MA, for use by the Somerville Public Schools' Music Department.
- A Lauren Violin valued at \$200.00, from Joe Mullens of Woburn, MA, for use by the Somerville Public Schools' Music Department.
- A Selmer Bass Clarinet, valued at \$1500.00, from Mark Staloff of Somerville, for use by the Somerville High School Band.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept all of the donations to the Music Department, with extreme gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The School Committee also extended thanks to Mr. Rick Saunders and his staff for being proactive in attracting donors to their program.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of the donation of \$30,000.00 from Beverly Schwartz of Somerville. Donation is to be used to add technology at the Brown and West Somerville Neighborhood Schools.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept the donation of \$30,000.00 from Beverly Schwartz, with extreme gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of the donation of \$37,823.00 from Miriam K. Schwartz of Somerville. Donation is to be used to add technology at the Brown and West Somerville Neighborhood Schools.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept the donation of \$37,823.00 from Miriam Schwartz, with extreme gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sweeting reported that the School Committee received two thank you cards from Margaret Doncaster and David Dickerson expressing appreciation for the School Committee's remembrance of the passing of their family members.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bockelman

1. Reported on his attendance of the College Fair at the high school with his daughter. Great way to connect with recruiters. A wide array of schools was represented – from Stanford to Bunker Hill Community College and everything in between!
2. On Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., the Welcome Project will host YUM: a Taste of Immigrant City at the Arts in the Armory on Highland Avenue.
3. The Somerville High School PTSA will meet on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
4. The Spring Cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 30, with a rain date of May 1. Mr. Bockelman will meet people in Davis Square.
5. Reported on the Special Olympics Swim meet which was held at the Kennedy Pool. Mr. Bockelman is pleased to see the pool being used for such terrific events. Complimented the staff for their efforts.

Ms. Rafal

1. Reported on the recent opening of the salad bar at the Winter Hill Community School. Kids were cheering during the event!
2. On Friday, the Gala for Haiti will be held from 6:00-10:00 at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Harvard Square. Tickets are \$20 and the money will be used to fund a relief trip to Haiti to rebuild an orphanage for 250 children.
3. The Ed Programs Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Healey School Library to discuss the Healey Choice Unification.

Mayor Curtatone

1. Looks forward to welcoming our visitors from Tiznit, Morocco.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. The Argenziano PTA will be held on April 26, 2011. A book fair will be held starting at 5:30 with a Buy One/Get One for Charity sale.
2. The Ward two Cleanup will take place in Union Square and at the Argenziano School. Mrs. Cardoso will be at the school at 9:45 a.m., where she will work with staff and students to clean the school grounds and the filed.
3. The PTA Dinner Dance will be held on May 6th at Anthony's in Malden. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased from any PTA officer.

Mr. Niedergang

1. This certainly is PTA season. Mr. Niedergang will announce a couple of PTA dates at next week's meeting.
2. Encouraged at the leveling out of the enrollment and the increase in Kindergarten enrollment. Looking forward to more growth

Ms. Rosetti

1. The award-winning Somerville High School science department will make a presentation at the West Somerville Neighborhood School on May 3rd at 6:30 p.m. This event is open to all, not just West Somerville families.
2. Division II of the MASC will meet on Thursday, May 5 at the Joyce Middle School in Woburn, MA.

Mr. Sweeting

1. The Ward 3 Cleanup will be held at both the High School Concourse and also at Nunziato Field. Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Pierantozzi will be guests on the Greater Somerville television program on Somerville Community Access Television on Tuesday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques
Executive Secretary

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, May 2, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Somerville High School Library

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, and Ms. Bastardi

Members absent: Ms. Gewirtz and Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the library of Somerville High School at 7:10 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi, and Absent – 2 – Curtatone and Gewirtz.

Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to take Item V. A - **Welcome Pakistani Professional Partnership Guests**, out of order. This motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman introduced two guests who are visiting from Pakistan through a program with the United States State Department Manzoor Ali Jokiho and Sami Ullah Khan. These visitors are part of a group who are visiting the United States in order to learn about our ways of running government agencies and also share Pakistani ways with us. Mr. Bockelman explained that there were 400 applications for people wanting to take part in this program. The Fulbright Commission interviewed 30 people and 15 were selected to participate. These two gentlemen represent the best and the brightest from Pakistan. After arriving in New York, they spent a week in Amherst, MA and then two weeks in New Bedford, MA meeting with Mayor Lang. Now they are spending a week in Somerville. During this time they will participate in meetings at Harvard and Tufts as well as learning about the operations of our city. Today, there was a tour of Somerville High School and a visit to an 11th grade World History Class there and, later in the week, they will visit a 4th grade at the Healey School. The teacher of this 4th grade class has recently finished reading the book, "Three Cups of Tea" to the students. The topic of this book is the building of schools in Pakistan and the students are very excited to have visitors to Pakistan.

Our visitors addressed the School Committee and spoke about their impressions of our schools, thus far. They are impressed by the environment and atmosphere we provide for our students. They were also very impressed by the cleanliness of our high school, our vocational program offerings, our cafeteria and its offerings and the level of comfort of the students who they interacted with. The students were interactive and inquisitive. In Pakistan, only the best and the brightest are able to receive and advanced education. Our visitors would encourage our students to take advantage of all that is offered to them!

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was absent this evening.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. ***Ed. Programs and Instruction:*** Ms. Rafal (April 28)

The meeting began at 7:02 pm in the Healey School Library. In attendance were: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso and Ms. Rafal. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay and approximately 30 audience members. The sole topic was further updates on the Healey School unification process. This will be the last time we hear publicly from them before the Ed Programs subcommittee will vote and then bring then bring the matter before the full School Committee. Given the need to prepare the budget I had originally hoped to take the votes on May 9, for the subcommittee, and May 16 for the whole Committee. We learned however that some topics still have not made it all the way through the approval process being used by the Healey School Site Council.

The presentation by the Healey School took two foci, each somewhat different from what we've heard so far. The first focus was on how coherent this plan and all its many parts actually are. The consultant said that the proposed practices cannot be thought of as a linear collection of things to do, but rather as an organic whole where each piece is needed and supports other pieces. They presented a visual of tree provided by art teacher Mikkell Della Camera (see attached). Underlying all was a value on the diversity of the Healey community.

The second focus was on Roll Out and Implementation of the plan. Two teachers, Ellen Isbitz and Ann Sutherland who were not directly involved in creating the plan headed up the team that presented and organized the ideas for implementation. For each proposed practice, milestones describe how it will start and in which semester from now through 2013. Several ideas have already begun, like the Parent Connectors project to make multilingual and intercultural understanding more effective.

The column headers on the implementation plan came from questions the faculty asked about how to actually make this work. These questions were addressed for every proposed improvement:

"When does it happen?"

"What do I need to do?"

"What Support will I have?"

"Who will help me get this done?"

"What resources will I need (time & costs)?"

"What will the final product be? How will this affect students?"

"How will I be held accountable?" The last two columns of the Implementation Plan remind us how assessment and evaluation permeate the school world.

Several School Committee Members had a chance to ask more questions and one question, about whether all these initiatives would be too much for the teachers, received several answers that may be of interest here. One answer underlined how all the parts will work together. For example, if teachers work as grade-level teams they may each take a different professional development course, and come back and teach the others what they learned. Another answer underlined how many of these proposals are not completely new. Many Healey teachers have long used Project Based Learning as have other teachers in the district. Similarly teachers across the district strive to differentiate their instruction (in other words, challenge students in topics where they are advanced and provide quick remediation for students when they might need it). Likewise the Positive Behavior Intervention System is found throughout the district but it is included here because the Healey School would like to work on improving their use of it.

The two proposed improvements that will take the most time to really study further before they can roll out seem to be Arts Integrated Throughout the Curriculum and an approach to assessment called Balanced Metrics, which if I understand it correctly would involve being more comprehensive and *systematic* in assessing student learning in more ways than tests. The Superintendent pointed out that the District's Director of Art for K-12 is well-known for her expertise in integrating the arts, which again is part of why there is so much arts integration in Somerville's schools.

Surprise! The innovative structure proposed and that I reported last month went up for reconsideration. The proposed structure would have involved teaching math and English by grade level in a looping system where a teacher would have basically the same group of students for 2 years in order to really know them, but teaching science and social studies in mixed-grade groups to accommodate the parent community's strong value on the social and academic benefits of knowing schoolmates of different ages and being challenged to collaborate with older students or to mentor younger students. The School Site Council, decided to handle the request to modify such a structure by giving it back to the working group that had proposed it.

So not all the improvements proposed have yet been accepted as final by the School Site Council. We learned that the School Site Council does not meet again until May 12. Since the Ed Programs subcommittee will vote on this plan pending funding and pending any collective bargaining issues, we may need to vote and approve it in parts. We will try to avoid doing that but it will depend on when we need to pass the budget. The chair of the finance & facilities subcommittee asked the principal if the School Site Council could make it a priority to finalize any decisions that will have a financial implication.

Except for clarifying what was meant by the Healey's request for what they were calling curricular autonomy but by which they meant not varying from the state-mandated content of instruction but rather having autonomy and choice regarding method of instruction, the Superintendent had various complimentary and encouraging words on all the initial proposals and recommended moving forward. School Committee members will receive a single document on which to make our voting decision.

I want to close again by echoing all the appreciation so many people have expressed for the faculty, staff, parents and principal for their fortitude, good faith, unflagging optimism, time and energy, and willingness to hammer out this really detailed and thoughtful design and plan for its implementation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

B. Finance & Facilities: Mr. Bockelman (May 2)

The School Committee met earlier this evening in Finance and Facilities subcommittee. Mr. Bockelman will provide a full report of this subcommittee meeting at a later date, however, he has one time-sensitive matter to report this evening – the approval of the bid for pupil and charter transportation.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the bid for pupil transportation.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to accept the bid for charter transportation.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Bastardi asked what the difference was between pupil and charter transportation and Ms. Durette explained that pupil was to transport students to and from school and charter was for extracurricular transportation (athletics, field trips, etc.).

Mr. Bockelman announced that the next Finance and Facilities meeting will be held on May 26th and that the Public Budget Hearing will be held on June 8th.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

1. The Superintendent stated that this is a very busy time of year. Last week, from April 26-28, the Somerville High School Art Exhibition featured award winning pieces and gallery quality work.
2. The Superintendent announced that on this Friday night, May 6, the 37th Annual PTA Dinner Dance will be held at Anthony's Function Hall in Malden.
3. The Superintendent announced the unveiling of the new logo representing the Mass Biotech Award recently presented to Somerville High School.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Inclusion Committee, Thursday April 29
14 teachers, admin staff and community members attended
Topics covered included:
 - plans for the pilot of having self-contained students at WHCS be in a general ed homeroom in grades 4-5. Steve is very excited about this pilot since this has been one of the recommendations of the committee since its inception. The idea is to make students with moderate to intensive disabilities (self-cont.) part of the class right from the start instead of 'pushing in' for an academic class at a later date. Even things like how many books a class needs is impacted when there is a delay in placing the students.
 - Universal Design for Learning
 - Challenges across all schools represented included finding common planning time for planning and consultation and training for paraprofessionals.
 - the idea WHCS a demonstration site for technology to enhance instruction and to provide better access to the curriculum for students with disabilities. (The WHCS staff are researching technology and will report back to me at our May WHCS staff meeting.
- Sister City - Moroccan visitors to SHS (Friday) Capuano and Healey (today)
- Kennedy School students participating in the History Day Nationals, June 12 - 16 at the University of Maryland.
 - ✓ Junior Website category, project entitled "Eyeball to Eyeball" John Iacovino, Stephen Savoy, Rafael Lima and Ryan Nolan
 - ✓ Junior Group Performance, project entitled Boston Busing: The Debate Goes On"
 - Nickolas Eliadis, Andre Dangi and Navdeep Maini
 - ✓ Congratulations on their state level performance and good luck at the nationals!
- Mass BioTech award promotion, Science Department visit to WSNS tomorrow evening.
- One of the heroes of the early Civil Rights movement is coming to Somerville. We are honored to be welcoming Little Rock Nine member Terrence Roberts to Somerville on May 19. You may

recall that Dr. Roberts was one of the first black the students to integrate Central High School in Little Rock Arkansas in 1957. This action followed the Supreme Court decision in 1954 outlawing segregation. The Arkansas governor, however, resisted the law and called the National Guard to block the nine students from attending school that September. The successful integration of the school took place only after President Eisenhower brought in the US military, forcing the state government to comply with the law.

Terrence Roberts was a fifteen year old high school freshman at that time, and speak to our high school and 8th grade students about his experience. I'd like to that Facing History and Ourselves, Eve Jones and Alicia Kersten for

4. The Superintendent announced the One City, One Story, Story Walk on Saturday, May 7th. Interested families of children aged 2-9 years old should meet at the Somerville High School Field House at 2:00 p.m. for a story walk to the Growing Center on Vinal Avenue. There will be farm animals at the growing center for the children to enjoy.
5. On May 12, the Somerville Public Schools, in conjunction with the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth and the Somerville PTA Council, will host an anti-bullying workshop at the Argenziano School from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m., followed by a PTA Council meeting. All are invited and encouraged to attend.
6. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on his recent attendance at the Healey School Arbor Day Celebration on April 29th at 10:00 a.m. This was a wonderful event full of sunshine, poems and songs, along with the planting of Sycamore trees. Mayor Curtatone has pledged to plant 2,000 trees in the next five years.
7. The Career and Vocational Technical Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 4th at 6:00 p.m. at Somerville High School.
8. Special Olympics will be held at Dilboy Stadium on this Thursday, May 5th (rain date May 6th).
9. Also on May 5th will be the Somerville High School Spring Concert at 7:00 p.m. at Somerville High.
10. On May 3rd, the award winning Somerville High School Science Department will make a presentation at the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 6:30 p.m. This event is open to everyone across the city.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Field Trip (Recommended Action: Approval)

June 7, 2011:

Next Wave students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH.
Transportation via school van at a cost of \$10.00 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rafal

1. Thursday May 5th, WHCS PTA conferences 6pm to 8pm. I have to go to Portland that day, but hopefully I will get back in time to say hi at the beginning of the meeting and set myself up at the Thurston Spa if anyone wants to come check in with me. I should be able to email a notice to my blog about whether or not I made it back in time.
2. Healey School PTA conferences are Tuesday May 10 from 6 pm to 8pm.
3. Our next Ed Programs meeting will be on May 9 at 7pm at 42 Cross St.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Kennedy PTA is May 11th beginning at 6:00 p.m.
2. Brown PTA is May 12th beginning at 6:00 p.m.
3. Rules Management Subcommittee will meet on May 10th at 7:00 p.m.
4. Remarked on how wonderful it is that the District, through the efforts of Dr. Sarah Davila, provides English as a Second Language classes to approximately 208 people a week. This is an important thing that is being done! Commended Sarah, Nomi Davidson and Mr. Pierantozzi for their efforts in this regard.

Ms. Bastardi

1. Issued her thanks to our visitors from Pakistan. It was good to hear their kind words about our District.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Great Clean up event in Davis Square on Saturday. 35 volunteers assisted with the task on a beautiful day.
2. SAT's on this Saturday at Somerville High School.
3. The Save Our Homes Walk is May 15.
4. Wished a Happy Mother's Day to his colleagues on the School Committee.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Thanked the volunteers who assisted with the Ward Two Clean up. Mrs. Cardoso oversaw approximately 20 Argenziano School students on the school's grounds. Thanked Mrs. O'Brien and Ms. Holland for their assistance, as well as Anthony from the Department of Public Works. Also sent her thanks to Captain Dave Fallon for his supervision of the clean up on the bridge.
2. The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on May 10.

Ms. Rossetti

1. The award-winning Somerville High School science department will make a presentation at the West Somerville Neighborhood School on May 3rd at 6:30 p.m. This event is open to all, not just West Somerville families. Thanked her colleagues on the School Committee for spreading the word about this event.
2. On a personal note, thanked staff from Somerville High School and their Science Department. Her youngest daughter will be graduating this month, after seven years of college, with a degree in medicine. Her daughter's interest in this field was sparked by her involvement in a Science Fair project in high school, which involved working with someone from Mass General Hospital. Mr. LaGambina led her daughter to this project and it ended up shaping her future.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following people who recently passed away:

- Kathleen Cuff, sister of Maureen Bastardi, School Committee Woman from Ward One.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques
Executive Secretary

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, May 16, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Gewirtz, Ms. Bastardi and Mayor Curtatone (7:16 p.m.)

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:10 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi, Gewirtz and Absent – 1 – Curtatone. Also present was our student representative Dea Dodi.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 25, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to accept the minutes of April 25, 2011. The motion was approved via voice vote.

- May 2, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the minutes of May 2, 2011.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi, our Student Representative, reported on the following events from Somerville High School:

- The Senior Prom was held on Friday night and was a very nice event
- This is Senior Spirit Week at Somerville High
- Tomorrow is the Grade 10 Math MCAS examination day
- The Freshmen will take a Science MCAS in June
- Advanced Placement exams are finished
- Terrence Roberts, a member of the original Little Rock Nine will make a presentation to students next week
- Class Day is on June 3rd
- The last day for seniors is in two weeks
- Class, club and Educational Council elections will be held in June

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee: Mr. Bockelman (May 2)

1. FY12 Budget Development
2. FY11 Bill roll
3. Other

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on May 2, 2011, at 5:45 P.M. in the Somerville High School Library. Members present: Paul Bockelman, Teresa Cardoso, Mary Jo Rossetti. Others present: Maureen Bastardi, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal. Staff present: Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Pat Durette. There were also three members of the public present.

FY12 Budget Development

The Superintendent and Finance Director presented updated budget projections for FY12. The new projections were based on a level-serviced budget with two alternatives for reduced funding. The reduced funding budgets showed the various items that would be cut in order to achieve a level funded budget. These cuts would amount to \$1,028,346 from level service to level funded.

Mr. Niedergang emphasized the need to budget explicit expenditures in support of the School Committee's major long-range goals such as our middle grades initiative and focus on English language learners.

Elementary classroom sections, including K projections

The Subcommittee next reviewed the Kindergarten assignment and elementary staffing proposal. The 2010-2011 membership and the 2011-2012 projected membership compared our current elementary school class sections with our projected classroom sections for the next school year. These projections showed a cut of elementary school classroom sections from 161.5 sections in the current school year to 155.5 sections for next school year. These cuts are based on changes in enrollment.

A second round of cuts is being examined that would further reduce the elementary class sections to 150.5 sections, a reduction of 11 sections from the current school year. These reductions would be made by forced transfers to create more equity in the schools.

It is important to emphasize that, even with these reductions, our school teacher to student ratios would still be below or just above 20 students per teacher. It is also important to note that these are projections and it is challenging in our district to predict the comings and goings of students.

The Superintendent also discussed new configurations for kindergarten classrooms including introducing an integrated classroom at the Winter Hill Community School.

Bus Contract

As voted previously by the School Committee, the subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the award of the pupil transportation bus bid to Eastern Bus Company, the low bidder.

And the subcommittee voted unanimously to award the charter transportation bid to Eastern Bus Company, the low bidder.

These two bid awards were acted on at the last full School Committee meeting.

The Subcommittee entered into executive session for about five minutes so the Superintendent could answer a couple questions on the legal bills presented to the School Committee for approval. Upon returning to open session, the subcommittee approved the bill rolls as submitted and I move approval by the full School Committee tonight.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the FY11 bill roll. The motion was approved via voice vote.

We then went into recess so that we could convene the regular school committee meeting.

At 8:10, we returned to the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

We discussed the number of class sections at each of the elementary schools. The Superintendent noted that the class sections report included the elimination of the sixth grade at the Brown School. Mr. Niedergang commented that notifying parents that we were eliminating a sixth grade at this late date was unfair and several other members agreed. The Superintendent said he was submitting a responsible budget and that the low class size in sixth grade necessitated and reduction in the total number of classrooms. There was further discussion on this issue, but no resolution.

The next meeting of the Finance and Facilities committee – which will be a meeting of the whole – will be on May 26th at 7:00 p.m.

We also have a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 1st. And the Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

B. *Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:* Ms. Rafal (May 9)

The meeting began at 7:00 pm in the Central Office conference room at 42 Cross Street. Ed Programs subcommittee members Paul Bockelman, Mark Niedergang and myself (Christine Rafal) were in attendance, as were, Mary Jo Rossetti and Teresa Cardoso. Also present were Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, five teachers and a reporter.

1. The first item on the agenda was a presentation about Math programs. The curriculum head for math instruction across the district was not available, so the presentation focused on the Math Department at the

High School. Department head Marie Foremen, and teachers Cathy Cannan, Trish Murphy and Maureen Halpenny gave the presentation.

We looked first at trends in MCAS scores. The high school teachers have offered tutoring for students before the MCAS and it was interesting that the median growth percentile for students who received tutoring was 77. Growth percentiles involve looking at a student's current score and comparing it with the current scores of all the students who had gotten the same score as him the last time they all took the test. This means our tutored students *likely* scored better than *around 77% (median percentile)* of their peers who had scored the same as them last time.

The math department is working to make math fun, with projects like geometry in art and advertising, and with puzzles drawn from crime shows where math can be used to interpret clues. Software makes it easier for students to visualize, how an equation even is a function, as well as the range of possible answers to functions and linear systems equations.

Computer-aided instruction is also making credit recovery more feasible for students who have failed a term. With the pretests available on the computer, students do not have to repeat a whole term but can pre-test out of units they already know. While this is currently offered outside of regular school time, they are planning to have one section during the school day next year. Because on-line web-based programs allow students to work at their own pace, the department also might look at piloting accelerated math instruction this way.

The presentation also touched on student use of e-portfolios, which are used in college and also as a way to show one's learning when applying to college.

Mr. Niedergang asked how Somerville's math students do in college, specifically wondering if they needed remediation. Presenters weren't prepared to answer that question, nor does our system track students once they are in college, but one thing that might help now is knowing that nearly all students are taking 3 years of math and more are taking math for all 4 years. In fact they are increasing sections of senior math classes. The math department is also making team-taught classes available through Algebra 2, making this high level math course available to more students with learning differences.

The math department has partnerships with local universities and hosts student teachers from Boston University and MIT.

2. The next item on the agenda was the Middle Grades project update. Again a key presenter could not attend the meeting so Vince McKay went over the slides with us. The middle grades project this year has students making multimedia video documentaries about how they can change the world. Students have chosen from quite a variety of topics. The central office hopes to make the projects about bullying into Public Service Announcements. Creating technology projects like this also serves as practice for making e-portfolios, too.

Mr. Niedergang raised the need to look at all the Middle Grades program, not just the one project. He pointed out that improving the Middle Grades program has been a Long Range goal of the School Committee for a long time. Mr. Bockelman agreed that we need to ask how the Middle Grades program can change. We asked the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to bring a plan to the School Committee for September. Mr. Sweeting requested a initial check-in be presented at the June Long Range planning meeting.

3. The informational items on the agenda were instructional coaching and a dental assistant program in the CVTE department of the high school. All of the schools in their school improvement plans requested more coaching. So Dr. McKay brought us some data to show that students of the teachers who had received coaching had made better gains in their MAP tests scores than students of those same teachers in the year before coaching. Taken all together these students also had further growth than the district as a whole. So coaching seems to be an effective strategy for improving instruction. Not all the teachers had data from last year. Teachers were not targeted to receive coaching. A couple of grade levels at a couple of schools were selected.

Mr. De Simone sent more background information and a fuller plan for the goal of starting a dental assistant program.

We also got updates on the number of seniors who had not yet passed MCAS for graduation, which is 5. Of these, two are considered fifth year students due to their very recent arrival in the US and their language acquisition. A few of the others may be eligible for waivers based on other criteria like attendance and grades.

4. Motions. Given that 5 School Committee members were present we were able to approve a couple of field trips.

Also we bring to the School Committee a motion to approve an inservice class called "Accessing the Curriculum with English Learners: A Course for Administrators."

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the following in-service course – Accessing the Curriculum with ELL's, a Course for Administrators.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

C. *Personnel Subcommittee:* Mrs. Cardoso (May 10)

The Personnel Subcommittee met on Monday, May 9, 2011 @6:00 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Maureen Bastardi, Christine Rafal Adam Sweeting and Mark Niedergang along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi and the Human Resources and District Administrator Rebeca Martinez. Dorothy Scally from the STA was in also in attendance.

There were three (3) Agenda items to be discussed.

1. Update on Current Searches:

Assistant Principal for the John F. Kenney Elementary School: The Superintendent gave us an update that the search had been successful and an individual had been chosen - his name was Mr. Mark Hurrie. He also informed us that the Principal would inform her staff, students and parents and that the Superintendent would make the formal announcement at our regularly scheduled SC Meeting on May 16th.

Graphic Communications Teacher in the CVTE Program at Somerville High School: The Superintendent gave us an update that the search process has concluded and the new hire had begun on May 9th.

Housemaster for Broadway House at Somerville High School: The Superintendent gave us an update that the Interview Committee conducted the preliminary interviews and had forwarded four finalists to the SHS Headmaster. Of the four finalists, one is an internal candidate. The Headmaster began interviews the week of May 9th and a candidate will be selected and an offer will be made no later than May 27th.

Human Resources and Diversity Administrator: The Superintendent gave us the timeline along with the revised job description for our review. He explained the main reason for the revisions were that language needed to be added to elaborate on the EPIMS reporting and we needed to delete the negotiation responsibilities because there was overlap with others in Central Administration handling these responsibilities.

There was a motion made to approve the revised Human Resources and Diversity Administrator's job description. (Motion passed unanimously.)

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the revised Human Resources and Diversity Administrator Job Description.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Human Resources Administrative Assistant: The Human Resources Administrator Ms. Martinez gave us the timeline for the rehiring of this position and a brief history as to why we are leaving the position of Human Resources and Information Specialist vacant and hiring only the Human Resources Administrative Assistant at this time.

2. Current Postings: The Superintendent gave us a brief update on current postings to date.

3. Retirement Notices: The Superintendent gave us a brief update on current retirement notices to date.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:35PM.

The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, June 27th at 6:30 PM at Central Administration.

D. *Rules Management Subcommittee:* Mr. Niedergang (May 10)

The Rules Management Subcommittee met on May 10th in the Conference Room at 42 Cross Street.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr.

Sweeting, Ms. Rafal and Mr. Niedergang. Mr. Pierantozzi was also in attendance. Items discussed included:

1. Network Acceptable Use Policy for Staff
2. Animals in School
3. Social Networking
4. Use of cameras/video/audio recording devices

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept the Network Acceptable Use Policy for Staff – File IJNDB, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the No Animals in Schools Policy – File IMG.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to accept the Network Acceptable Use Policy for Students – File IJNDB-A, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

1. The Superintendent reported on this evening's Personnel Report. His report included the transfer of Jim Elliot to the position of Assistant Principal at the Argenziano School. This transfer left the Assistant Principal position at the Kennedy School vacant. 76 people applied for this position. After screening, 12 applicants were interviewed. Upon completion of these interviews, Mr. Mark Hurrie was hired for the position. Mr. Hurrie is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Endicott College.
2. The Superintendent also reported on the recent search for a new Assistant Principal/Housemaster at Somerville High School. Similarly to the Kennedy's search, there were over 70 applicants and 12 were interviewed. Mr. Pierantozzi has interviewed two finalists. Reference checks are being done and Mr. Ciccariello will make his decision over the next 48 hours or so. Thanks were extended to the members of the interview teams and Mr. Pierantozzi also commented on the incredible qualifications of the people interviewed. This is thanks to the wonderful job of advertising for these positions.
3. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the retirement of Jim Kaplan, who has been a teacher for 35 years, and is retiring effective September 2, 2011. We wish Mr. Kaplan health, happiness and a long and successful retirement!

2. DISTRICT REPORT

1. The Spring String Fling will be held on Thursday, May 19th at Somerville High School.
2. On Friday, May 20th the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation will hold its Annual Scholarship Raffle beginning at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments and the drawing being done at 8:00 p.m. The grand prize is \$10,000.00. Tickets are still available. The cost per ticket is \$100.00 and can be shared among interested parties. For more information, contact staff at Somerville High School.
3. MCAS testing season is winding down. Testing in grades 4-8 and 10-11 in Math and Science will be completed this week.
4. MEPA English Language and MCAS English Language Arts testing has already concluded.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- On May 5 there was a meeting at Tufts with the Poincare Institute for Mathematics for middle grades 5 – 9. Representatives from Fitchburg, Leominster, Medway, Dover NH, Portland ME, Sanborn and Timberlane regional school districts in New Hampshire, as well as six teachers from Somerville are participating in this first of three cohorts. Somerville teachers include one from Next Wave, a Kennedy grade 6 teacher, two middle grade teachers from WHCS, a Healey middle grade

teacher and a grade 9 teacher from SHS. These are online, graduate level courses, requiring about 10 hours of work per week including weekly discussion forums and the like. The teachers just finished their first course, Special Topics: Representations of Functions and Relations in Mathematics Education and will continue with two more courses during next school year. We are very happy to be collaborating with Tufts, and TERC in Cambridge, on this partnership. Opportunity for professional development for our middle grades teachers.

- As part of our city-schools work for a greener Somerville, on May 5, I met with our city partners in the Department of Public Works and the Mayor's office along with representatives from Honeywell to receive an update on progress with our energy conservation initiative, Act Earth. Each of our schools has a designated "Earth Champion" who works with the students as a club activity to promote energy awareness in the building. Honeywell provided a great deal of data on our District-wide and building-specific energy use and savings from energy saving measures already being taken.
5. The Superintendent congratulated members of the senior class for a wonderful prom. These congratulations were also extended to attendees of the junior prom and the sophomore semiformal.
 6. Mr. Pierantozzi announced upcoming events sponsored by the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative:
 - a. Welcome to Kindergarten – May 26, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the Argenziano School
 - b. Special Education Parent Advisory Council – Sensory Process Information – May 23, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the Kennedy School
 - c. Somerville High School Welcome Center Open House and Coffee – May 20, 2011 at 7:00 a.m.
 7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on a presentation on Cyber Bullying held at the Argenziano School on May 12. Approximately 35 people attended this presentation, which was co-hosted by the PTA, Middlesex Partnerships for Youth and the Somerville Public Schools.
 8. The Somerville High School Scholarship Awards Night was held on May 11th. 18 book awards were presented to members of our junior class. Congratulations to our class of 2011. The generosity and style of our community is impressive. We will get a total dollar amount of scholarships presented to the School Committee when it has been compiled. The class of 2010 was awarded approximately \$960,000.00 in scholarships. This year, we expect that number has been exceeded. The Superintendent issued thanks to Barbara Favaloro, Carolyn Richards and the Guidance Department staff for their efforts.

Ms. Rossetti announced that, along the lines of scholarships, the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation is fundraising by selling commemorative bricks that can be engraved with a personal message. These bricks will be installed at the front of the High School. All monies raised will be used to fund future scholarships. Please contact the High School's Main Office for more information.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policies were presented this evening for first reading, as amended:

File: IJNDB Somerville Public Schools Network Acceptable Use Policy for Staff

File: IJNDB-A Somerville Public Schools Network Acceptable Use Policy for Students

The following policy was presented this evening for first reading for adoption:

File: IMG Animals in School

B. Acceptance of Donation – (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of books to the Healey School Library, valued at \$843.00 from various donors via a school fundraising event.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. FY2011 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas:

Joseph E. McCain
Timothy J. Mahoney

96 Ossipee Rd.
28 White Pl.

Somerville
Brookline

02144
02445

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the SCALE graduates. The motion was approved via voice vote. Congratulations to the graduates!

D. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

May 15, 2011	SHS Outdoors Club to Mt. Webster, NH. Transportation via school vans at no cost to students. (Rain date – 5/22/11)
June 10, 2011	Healey School grade 3-5 to Museum of Science <i>OVERNIGHT</i> . Students will meet and be dismissed from the museum. Cost per student is \$50.
June 10-11, 2011	SHS Track Team to Burlington, VT to compete in NE Track Championship. Transportation via school van at no cost to students.
June 12 - 16, 2011:	Kennedy School students to National History Day competition at the University of Maryland. Transportation via coach bus at a cost of \$450.00 per student.
June 16-18, 2011:	SHS Track Team to Greensboro, NC to compete in the High School Track Nationals. Transportation via plane at no cost to students.
June 21, 2011	Argenziano at Lincoln Park students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$25.0 per student.
June 24, 2011	Healey School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$30 per student.
October 24-28, 2011	Healey School Grades 5 & 6 to Nature's Classroom, Yarmouthport, ME. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$305 per student.
October 17-19, 2011	Healey School Grades 3 & 4 to Ocean Park, ME. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$170 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to waive the reading of the nine field trips and approve.

Discussion ensued regarding the financial implications associated with the two Healey School Field Trips to Maine (Nature's Classroom). Questions arose over how these trips were being funded. The Healey School and their parent group are fundraising to assist with the cost of these trips.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. Local Government Advisory Board (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti reported on her recent attendance at the Local Government Advisory Board meeting on May 10, at the State House in Boston. This was Ms. Rossetti's first meeting with the body and she found it very interesting. Her report included:

- Discussion of a House-passed Municipal Health Insurance Reform Measure. Jay Gonzalez from the Executive Office for Administration and Finance stated that the House budget will help control this fastest-growing expense. The Governor is asking for passage by the legislature this fall.
- Discussion of Regionalization and Performance Management including incentive rewards funded through competitive grants and Performance-Based Management. Currently input is being solicited and the budgets are being fine-tuned.
- FY12 Budget – Revenues are up more than projected. Although this is the case, it is not expected that municipalities should see relief from this money; rather that it will be used to replenish the Rainy Day Fund.
- The next meeting will be held on June 14, 2011.

F. School Choice Public Hearing

Mr. Sweeting reported on the School Choice Public Hearing which was held immediately prior to this meeting. At this hearing, the School Committee voted not to take part in the Inter District School Choice Program, which allows students from other cities and towns to attend school in Somerville and also allows

Somerville students to attend school in other cities and towns. This hearing must be held yearly under Massachusetts General Law.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, that the Somerville School Committee withdraw from its obligation to admit non-resident students during the 2011-12 school year.

The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bockelman

1. Friday night is the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation \$10,000.00 raffle drawing.
2. Gene Brune's breakfast is this Sunday at 9:00 a.m. He will award a scholarship at this event.
3. The Memorial Day parade will be held on May 27th beginning at 1:00 p.m.
4. Class Day at Somerville High School is Friday, June 3, at 9:00 a.m.
5. Somerville High School's Graduation exercises will be held on Monday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m. at Dilboy Stadium.
6. Congratulated Mayor Curtatone, Mr. Pierantozzi, Mr. Sweeting and Alderman Gewirtz for their forthright and deliberate letter in response to the recent Boston Globe article regarding the Somerville Public Schools. The letter addressed the strengths of the Somerville Public Schools.

Mayor Curtatone issued his thanks to Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Pierantozzi, and President Gewirtz and stated that this article was an affront to our community and the laziest piece of journalism he's seen. A meeting is set with the Globe's editor to set the record straight and to have them print the truth.

President Gewirtz reported that her heart sank when she read the article and said that people haven't seen what Somerville has to offer. This is a call to action for a concerted public relations effort.

Ms. Rossetti inquired about the whereabouts of the Innovative School award signs, which are currently being printed.

Mayor Curtatone stated that this goes beyond signs. This is not just about the schools. We need to formulate a long range plan.

Ms. Rafal

1. Reported that following the science presentation at the West Somerville, a teacher from New Hampshire requested to come to Somerville to observe.
2. Announced that seven years ago, Somerville recognized same sex marriages and commented on the wonderful history of diversity in our city.
3. The Healey School will hold a fundraiser at Cantina la Mexicana.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Announced that she has been a cheerleader for the School Department for 20 years.
2. Commented on the Vocational Awards Banquet and the Scholarship Awards presentation at Somerville High School. Our students are doing wonderful work and it was so nice to see them all dressed up and listening and cheering for each other. Our students truly do shine!
3. The Highlander Athletic Awards presentations will be held on May 24, at Somerville High School.
4. The PTA Dinner Dance was held on May 6th at Anthony's in Malden. This was a wonderful evening which honored Carmen Chagas, Grace Kennedy, Rosie Federico, John Welch and remembered the wonderful work of the late Brenda Risi.
5. On Friday, May 27, there will be a Memorial Day celebration at the Argenziano School beginning at 9:00 a.m.
6. On June 5, at 2:00 p.m., the Portuguese Day Parade will be held.
7. On June 11, the corner of Adrian and Joseph Streets will be dedicated to Donald Loughman, a veteran and a retired Somerville Public Schools custodian who passed away last fall.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Mr. Niedergang reported on the Kennedy PTA and the good turnaround made due to strong leadership. Also commented on new Assistant Principal Mark Hurrie's attendance at the meeting and reported that he spoke to the parents and guardians in attendance. Great to see him there – appreciated his charm and positive attitude.
2. Reported on the Brown School PTA and the Recorder Concert performed by the students. Thanked Ms. Rivera-Small for her work in preparing the students for this concert.

3. Reported on the Walk for the Homeless. About 100 participants walked 3.5 miles to raise money for the homeless.
4. The Welcome Project held a graduation ceremony for their ESL students. The room was packed with students and their families. Very hard to go to school and work. This was a very inspiring event!
5. Announced that the Dream Act was reintroduced into Congress last week. Urged the School Committee's continued support of this act.
6. The Boston Globe article's perception of our schools was unfortunate and the erroneous information was hurtful. Mr. Niedergang agrees that a combined public relations campaign is a great idea.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Announced that it was an honor to be a co-signer on the letter to the Globe. It was great to have people come together on this effort. Thanked his colleagues, including Mayor Curtatone and Alderman Gewirtz and stated that he was heartened by the reaction of the community in defense of our schools.
2. Announced that the Spring String Fling will be held this coming Thursday evening in the Somerville High School auditorium. Over 400 students from grades 4-12 will be perform everything from Beethoven to Bob Marley to the Beatles!
3. Reported on his visit to the playgroups for 2 and 3 year olds. Nomi Davidson invited him to visit these groups which encompass Special Needs, English Language Learners and all other children.

Ms. Rossetti

1. The West Somerville Neighborhood School will hold its PTA meeting on May 18, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
2. Thanked all involved with the presentation by the Somerville High School Science Department. Approximately 49 people attended the event, which was videotaped by the City. Ms. Rossetti has a DVD of the presentation which may be borrowed and shown at other schools. Praised the teachers and administration at the High School for their great work. Reported that Somerville High School is a great school and announced that she will host a session of Somerville High School On the Road by inviting Mr. Ciccariello and his representatives for interested parents/guardians and community members to learn more about the school.
3. Thanked the business community members who were kind enough to sponsor the Science Presentation and displayed an example of a certificate of appreciation she presented these businesses in recognition of their generosity.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques
Executive Secretary

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 13, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:30 p.m. - Somerville High School Library

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, and Ms. Bastardi

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone and Alderman Gewirtz

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the library of Somerville High School at 7:30 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi, and Absent – 2 – Gewirtz and Curtatone.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 26, 2011 – School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities
- June 1, 2011 – School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the two sets of minutes. The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to waive the presentation and accept the reports, with the exception of Items B – Ed. Programs (5/31) and F – Finance (6/9). The motion was approved via voice vote.

The information from the Finance meetings of May 26 and June 1 is included in the minutes approved this evening, which will be posted on our website.

A. *School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities:* Mr. Bockelman (May 26)

1. Establishment of Revolving Account – Lesley University Partnership
2. School Lunch/School Breakfast price adjustment
3. Honeywell Report
4. Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation Fundraising Campaign
5. FY12 Budget
6. Other

B. *School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs & Instruction:* Ms. Rafal (May 31)

1. Healey/Choice Unification Plan

Ms. Rafal provided a very brief report on the meeting of May 31. The School Committee met on May 31, in the library of the Healey School for Educational Programs and Instruction relative to the Healey School Implementation Plan.

Two motions were passed at this meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the implementation plan offered by the Healey School Site Council pending funding and collective bargaining responsibilities.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, that the principal and school site council make a progress report at the Ed Programs January meeting and an end-of-the year report next year.

The minutes of this meeting will be approved at the June 20, 2011 School Committee Meeting. Ms. Rafal's notes from this meeting are included at the end of these minutes.

C. *School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:* Mr. Bockelman (June 1)

1. FY12 Budget Development
2. FY11 Bill Roll
3. Other

D. *Somerville Public Schools FY2012 Budget Hearing:* Mr. Bockelman (June 8)

Mr. Bockelman reported that the Somerville School Committee held its Public Budget Hearing in the Somerville High School Library on June 8, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Bockelman's notes from this meeting are included at the end of these minutes.

- E. *Personnel Subcommittee:*** Mrs. Cardoso (June 9)
 - 1. Interview for Human Resources and Diversity Administrator
- F. *School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:*** Mr. Bockelman (June 9)
 - 1. FY2012 Somerville Public School Budget – for approval
 - 2. FY2012 Capital Improvement Plan
 - 3. Somerville Public Schools Breakfast Program

Mr. Bockelman spoke briefly about the School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities held on June 9. Minutes from this meeting will be submitted for approval at the June 20, School Committee Meeting. Copies of Mr. Bockelman's notes from the Finance meetings are at the end of these minutes.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

- 1. The Superintendent reported on this evening's Personnel Report. His report included hiring of Mr. Darius Green as the new Housemaster/Assistant Principal at Somerville High School. Mr. Green currently works at English High School in Boston. We are pleased to have him join our ranks.
- 2. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the retirements of Pat Solano, who has been a teacher for 26 years, and Sheryl Lovit, a Program Administrator at School who is retiring after seven years. We wish these two women health, happiness and a long and successful retirement!

2. DISTRICT REPORT

- 1. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the end of a very long school year is almost here. Elementary Schools end on June 28 and Somerville High School on June 29. There are many activities across the City over the summer. Please check our website for details.
- 2. The banners for the Bio-tech award are up at all schools and across the community. Congratulations to Somerville High School for this wonderful award!
- 3. Mr. Pierantozzi presented a Partnership Award plaque to Mr. Sweeting from Somerville Cares About Prevention (SCAP). The plaque read as follows, "In recognition of accomplishments for exceeding coalition expectations." Mr. Sweeting accepted on behalf of the School Committee and thanked SCAP for the award. This is a good partnership and excellent work has been done. The School Committee is happy to work with SCAP in their endeavors for our students and families.
- 4. On Wednesday, June 15, at 6:00 p.m., Mr. Pierantozzi will present the FY2012 Somerville Public Schools Budget on behalf of the School Committee beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- 5. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that students will be involved in many project-based activities as the year winds down and asked for parents/guardians to continue to encourage their student's best effort on all work.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policies are presented this evening for *second* reading and approval as amended:
File: IJNDB Somerville Public Schools Network Acceptable Use Policy for Staff

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to adopt File: IJNDB – Somerville Public Schools Network Acceptable Use Policy for Staff - for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

File: IJNDB-A Somerville Public Schools Network Acceptable Use Policy for Students

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to adopt File: IJNDB-A - Somerville Public Schools Network Acceptable Use Policy for Students - for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The following policy was presented this evening for second reading and approval for adoption:
File: IMG Animals in School

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to adopt File: IMG – Animals in School - for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donation – (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation \$7,685.08 from the Friends of Somerville High School, to be given to the Somerville High School Athletics Account. This organization has provided scholarships for our athletes for several years and has decided to close their books. They are donating the remainder of their funds to the Athletic Revolving Account and have asked that the funds be used in a way that follows their mission, which is to assist students involved with girls and boys basketball.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. FY2011 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas:

Amanda Louise Medeiros	126 Central Street	Somerville	02145
Kenny V. Pacheco	201 Tremont Street	Somerville	02143
Sally M. Teixeira	37 Endicott Avenue	Somerville	02144
Caitlyn Ruth Hannon	1078 Canterbury Street	Roslindale	02131

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the SCALE ADP Graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Somerville High School Graduates (recommended action: approval)

Mr. Ciccariello recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the necessary requirements, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Katryna Byrne
- Che Meranda

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the Somerville High School Graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

June 23, 2011 Kennedy School 7th and 8th grade students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$22.00 per student.

June 22, 2011 East Somerville Community School 8th grade students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via school bus at a cost of \$20.00 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to waive the reading and approve the field trips.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no items from Board Members this evening.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Leonilda "Lee" Mobilia, mother of Joan Murphy, teacher at the Capuano Early Childhood Center and mother-in-law of Kevin Murphy, retired teacher from the Kennedy School.

- Helen McMahon-Parker, mother of Helen Waters, Principal Clerk at the Special Education Evaluation Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m. via voice vote.

NOTES FROM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

School Committee meeting for Ed Programs

May 31, 2011 at the Healey School

Present: Teresa Cardoso, Mary Jo Rossetti, Maureen Bastardi, Paul Bockelman, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal

Also: Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay and Jason DeFalco, and about 15 members of the public.

The meeting began at 7:00 pm.

First we heard from Mr. DeFalco give a brief update on what had changed in the Healey School Unification/Implementation plan since our last meeting. There had been two School Site Council meetings in May, and various working group meetings, especially of the Structures and Operations group. At this point Mr. DeFalco said the grade structure was finalized, but with caveats of evaluating how it's working, gathering feedback and allowing the School Site Council to adjust it if needed.

The other big decision the Healey School Site Council made concerned the implementation plan itself. Mr. DeFalco talked about how the implementation plan was developed by teachers who did not work on the unification plan based on questions all the faculty had about implementation, then adjusted based on feedback from the faculty and, finally, passed overwhelmingly in a School Site Council vote. Mr. DeFalco felt the implementation team did a really nice job of making the unification plan manageable, doable, able to implement with integrity

Finally, the School Site Council revised their budget request --some adjustments were made to support the implementation plan.

Mr. Bockelman asked Mr. DeFalco to clarify the grade structure. Mr. DeFalco explained that Kindergarten would be taught as a single grade class and be with their teacher just one year, Grades 1 and 2 would also be taught as single-grade classes but their teachers would "loop" being with mainly the same students for two years. Grades 3,4,5,6 would have single grade home rooms and single grade ELA & math classes, but would have mixed grades classes for science and social studies. Grades 3 and 4 will be together and Grades 5 and 6 will be together.

Christine Rafal thanked Mr. DeFalco for the update and everyone for all their work and ideas, then asked the Superintendent for his recommendation.

Superintendent Pierantozzi said that tomorrow would be the one-year anniversary of his recommendation to unify the Healey. He said he was optimistic then and he's even more optimistic now. He praised the incredible work of all faculty, parents and guardians, student input, as both commendable and solid educationally. He said it was a world-class process everyone at Healey can be extremely proud of. He's more optimistic now than even in 2010 and it is difficult to wait to jump into it.

The Superintendent did point out that there are some recommendations and requests in here that will have to go through some standing processes for another night.

Dr. McKay added that this day is significant because we can go from planning to doing. He thinks we're biting off the right amount while at the same time addressing core issues important to the school like literacy plan and continuing to refine practices, and looking forward.

The chair offered School Committee colleagues a chance to pose questions.

Ms. Rossetti asked if the coaching requested would be additional to the type of coaching already at the Healey.

Dr. McKay answered yes, it would be on top of it, for example direct support in developing thematic units.

Mr. Pierantozzi added that one intent would be for a teacher to coach model. The idea is that as we might use practices developed at the Healey throughout the district, this coaching would build capacity for teachers so they can then teach teachers in other school in the district.

Ms. Rossetti asked how the School Site Council came to the decision to bring more into tier one of the budget request.

Mr DeFalco said one of the biggest changes was adding a request for a unification consultant. The School Site Council felt strongly we need someone to help implement the plan that we've created and to help monitor its implementation. He joked that faculty would like to have their principal back.

Mr. Sweeting asked Mr. DeFalco what he foresees as his role in the process of unifying.

Mr. DeFalco replied that he can't withdraw from it, but as the educational leader his role would be to help keep the vision clear. Hopefully the consultant would determine how unification activities would function and operate.

Ms. Rossetti asked why the core value line decreased by \$5,000.

Mr. DeFalco indicated the core values group was willing to let some money go. [After the meeting adjourned Ry Cavanaugh added that the core values group let the money go to the activities of the Welcome Center.]

Mr. Niedergang characterized the amount of work done by staff and families as amazing and completely unsustainable. He said he could see a consultant would be needed. He asked: "how did you arrive at the amount of \$40,000?"

Mr. DeFalco said it was based on the amount budgeted for the consultant last time.

Mr. Pierantozzi said he had gone to the last two School Site Council meetings, specifically to this issue. He pointed out that actual cost of the prior consultant had been lower, and thought the requested consultant could be hired for \$25,000 or less.

Mr. Niedergang asked about the role of parents in the new Unified Healey.

Mr. DeFalco described the Community Council and how the Friends of Choice voted to change its name to Friends of Healey. In addition to having a democratic body still in place, there is a new parent connector network. The budget request includes a stipend for parent volunteer coordinator and a parent welcome center. There will also be parent involvement on the hiring committee, room parents...etc...

Mr. Niedergang followed up by asking if there has been any discussion of parent roles in the classroom.

Mr. DeFalco indicated this had been a huge topic of discussion. Parents have different wishes for how to be involved and basically it will be up to each classroom to let the parents and teacher come to a comfort level.

Mrs. Cardoso noted that PTA wasn't mentioned

Mr. DeFalco said that was because the PTA hasn't changed.

Mrs. Cardoso said they still need to be mentioned.

Mr. DeFalco agreed, "Absolutely."

Mr. Bockelman asked if professional development in Project Based Learning would be available to all Somerville teachers.

The Superintendent answered yes if there is extra capacity in the workshops, but Healey staff get priorities.

Mr. Bockelman asked: how can we get feedback on how it's going? Can we build that in? Who will do it?

Mr. DeFalco felt that the consultant had done a great job with that this year (keeping the School Committee apprised) and he envisions similar role for the requested consultant.

Mr. Bockelman also gave "tremendous kudos for a gigantic task," saying that Mr. DeFalco stood up to being principal in a new job. He acknowledged the tremendous amount of blood sweat and tears so many people put into the redesign work. So many people cared about this. He also pointed out that the School Site Council gave a lot of fidelity to the motions of June 21, 2010. The most important thing is that it seems like the faculty is supportive of this for the success of this going forward. That will be a key factor. He hopes that everybody stays committed.

Then Mr. Bockelman switched gears, noting that a year ago we met in the cafetorium a tremendous amount of passion. He asked Mr. DeFalco for his assessment of the feelings of the community...how will it feel in the fall.

Mr. DeFalco said the faculty discussed this in terms of implementation plan, feeling that sets the correct pace that is appropriate for all that the teachers are asked to do. He said the School Site Council approved the implementation plan as written and this showed teachers that they were heard. He said September will be the first time in 27 years that the whole Healey will all be on same schedule with same mission. Right

now, a lot emotion is built up and folks are tired from the work this year, but planning for next year seems to be starting to get people a little jazzed up about partnerships and what this could look like. They are starting to plan unification celebrations for faculty and kids to close out this school year.

Mr. Sweeting asked if the expanded School Site Council was going to remain this large.

Mr. DeFalco said they were elected for 2-year terms so they will be back.

Ms Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the implementation plan offered by the Healey School Site Council pending funding and collective bargaining responsibilities.

Some discussion ensued. Mr. Niedergang wanted to mention efforts that were made to reach out to involve parents. He noted that Mr. DeFalco and Ms. Rafal have held several Saturday meetings with parents at the Mystic Learning Center, and asked if Mr. DeFalco foresaw that continuing. Mr. DeFalco said he absolutely does see that continuing and still ironing out how to get info to the new "parent connectors."

The chair called for a roll call vote.

7 yes: Rossetti, Niedergang, Cardoso, Bastardi, Rafal, Bockelman, Sweeting; 2 absent: Curtatone, Gewirtz

Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, that the principal and school site council make a progress report at the Ed Programs January meeting and an end-of-the year report next year.

To give a sense of what should be in these reports, Mr. Bockelman opened the topic of how Mr. DeFalco will know the plan is working, to which Mr. DeFalco listed numerous types of evidence such as enrollment, assessments, MAPS, My Voice data, attendance, teacher satisfaction.

Mr. Bockelman acknowledged that we already measure a lot of things and suggested the progress reports concentrate on three that the school community really cares about.

Ms. Rafal said, how about four, like excellence, openness, joy, and creativity?

The motion passed with seven "ayes."

The meeting adjourned at about ten past 8.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Rafal

School Committee meeting for Finance & Facilities - May 26, 2011 – 7:00 p.m. – 42 Cross Street

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal, Maureen Bastardi

Staff present: Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Pat Durette

Seven members of the public.

We had five items on the agenda.

1. Lesley University Partnership for Elementary Education Urban Initiative Revolving Account. – our new partnership for training with Lesley University required us to establish a revolving account into which the fees paid by interns could be deposited. The motion to approve the establishment of a revolving account was approved unanimously.
2. School Lunch - Recent Federal legislation, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, requires equity in school lunch prices. In an attempt to achieve equity for between students receiving free or reduced school lunches with those that are not subsidized, we had to increase the school lunch price for PK – 8th grade from \$2.25 to \$2.50 per lunch. This was voted unanimously.
3. Honeywell Report – The Superintendent distributed an energy analysis report for our school building prepared by Honeywell. It is an attempt to document the energy savings of initiatives implemented in our buildings.
4. SHS Scholarship Fundraising Campaign – The Superintendent presented an overview of the new fundraising initiative by the SHS Scholarship Foundation to raise money by installing bricks in front of the Gene Brune Field House. We all agreed that the goal of the program was commendable. I expressed concern that the School Committee was not notified of this endeavor before it was announced to the public.
5. The Committee continued our discussion of the FY12 budget. Mr. Niedergang said he felt the budget was not adequate and that, given the improving fiscal conditions, he felt the Committee should ask for a level serviced budget which was put at \$50,911,657. Ms. Cardoso seconded the motion. After discussion, Mr. Sweeting offered a substitute motion to instruct the Superintendent to develop a budget that included the tiered request list and any other requested items to see if these items could be recommended responsibly. Ms. Bastardi seconded this motion, which was approved on a roll call vote with all in favor except Mr. Niedergang.

The Committee discussed the timing of its budget decision-making and publicizing the budget both in the newspaper and on the web site.

The Superintendent provided updates on several building issues and we adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

School Committee meeting for Finance & Facilities - June 1, 2011 – 7:00 p.m. – 42 Cross Street

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal, Maureen Bastardi, and President Gewirtz

Staff present: Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Pat Durette

Three members of the public.

The Superintendent presented an updated FY12 budget, which included his draft budget recommendations, the budget summary, projected elementary and high school class sections, projected ELL organization. We discussed the Superintendent's recommendations including the Healey School unification request, which was voted the night before.

The Committee then approved the FY11 bill rolls on a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

School Committee meeting for Finance & Facilities (Public Budget Hearing) - June 8 2011 –

7:00 p.m. – SHS Library

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal, Maureen Bastardi

Staff present: Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Pat Durette, Gretchen Kinder

Twenty members of the public.

The Superintendent made a PowerPoint presentation of his recommended budget. (You will see this full presentation on Wednesday.)

After the presentation, the School Committee opened the floor to comments from the public. About a dozen people spoke on various items including the reduction in staffing at the SCALE program, support for the redirect teacher at ALPS, expansion of the SMILE program, maintaining the full complement of teachers at the ESCS, adding foreign language instruction in the middle grades and beefing up the middle grades curriculum in general.

I informed everyone that we would welcome comments until we had to vote on the budget the next night. (We did receive several additional written comments that we added to our deliberations the next night.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

School Committee meeting for Finance & Facilities - June 9, 2011 – 7:30 p.m. – 42 Cross Street

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang, Maureen Bastardi

Staff present: Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Pat Durette, Joe Tringale

The Committee reviewed the budget presented to the School Committee by the Superintendent. We then discussed each comment made at the public hearing and discussed the written comments emailed to members of the School Committee. The Superintendent presented additional information on SCALE and the SMILE programs.

After further discussion, the School Committee approved a budget request to the Board of Aldermen in the amount of \$49,489,422.

We then reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan submitted by the Superintendent. Members of the Committee expressed their priorities and identified key items that needed immediate attention. The Committee then approved the Capital Improvement Plan and authorized the Superintendent to forward the plan to the Mayor.

The Superintendent then presented a memo supporting the distribution of free breakfasts to all students from PREK – 12th grade, unless the School District received communication from the U.S. Department of Agriculture specifying that district resources cannot be used to provide free breakfasts to students who do not qualify for free and reduced lunch. The Committee voted to approve this motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 20, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:30 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, Mayor Curtatone and Alderman Gewirtz (7:02 p.m.)

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:30 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi, and Curtatone and Absent – 1 – Gewirtz.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Duhamel Award – Ms. Dorothy Presser, President of the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's (MASC) stepped to the podium and announced that she was in Somerville to present a special "surprise" award on behalf of the MASC and the School Committee. The Outstanding School Partner Award was presented to the Duhamel Education Initiative. This award recognizes a corporate or non-profit entity who, through their contribution to the public schools of an individual community, region or at large, have demonstrated support for public education. The Duhamel Education Initiative has provided over \$50,000.00 in Mini Grants to teachers/school personnel in an effort to insure that every child in the city receives a strong public education and to reduce drop-out rates. Ms. June Pietrantonio and Mr. Larry Siraco received the plaque from Ms. Presser on behalf of the group and both thanked the School Committee and the MASC for this honor.
- Retiring staff members with 10+ years of service. Mr. Sweeting announced that, this evening, the School Committee would be recognizing retiring staff members with 10 or more years of service. Nine of these employees are in attendance this evening and various School Committee members will present them with certificates. Mrs. Cardoso read the wording of the citation and announced that all citations are worded the same, therefore, the citations will only be read once. An example of the citations is at the end of these minutes. Presentations were made as follows:

Mrs. Cardoso	Elizabeth Holland and Patricia Solano
Mr. Bockelman	Jean Ferreira
Mr. Niedergang	Catherine DeCola
Ms. Rafal	Margaret Dwyer, Joan Waldman and Dorothy Perry
Ms. Rossetti	Mary Ripley
Mr. Sweeting	Richard Johnston

The full listing of this year's retirees follows:

Employee	Retirement Date	Years
Richard Johnston	June 30, 2011	36
Elizabeth Holland	June 30, 2011	36
James Kaplan	September 2, 1011	35
Catherine DeCola	August 1, 2011	35
Kathleen Johanson	June 30, 2011	35
Richard McCann	October 31, 2010	32
Joan Waldman	June 30, 2011	32
Joseph Vilaine	June 30, 2011	31
Jean Ferreira	June 30, 2011	29
Patricia Solano	June 30, 2011	26
Mary Ripley	June 30, 2011	26
Dorothy Perry	June 30, 2011	26
Joan Taddia	December 23, 2010	20
Kathleen Carlow	March 31, 2011	19
Margaret Dwyer	June 30, 2011	15

- Ms. Erica Voolich and the Somerville Mathematics Fund

Mr. Bockelman presented a resolution to the Somerville Mathematics Fund for being awarded the New England Chapter of the Year Award for 2011, for outstanding performance in their community. Ms. Erica Voolich received the award on behalf of the group and introduced her board of directors to the School Committee and the audience. Mr. Bockelman noted that the Somerville Mathematics Fund has done so much for the students and teachers of the Somerville Public Schools and commented that they had been featured in *US News and World Reports*. A copy of their resolution is included at the end of these minutes.

- The Duhamel Education Initiative Awards – Mr. Larry Siraco came to the podium and thanked Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Pierantozzi and the School Committee for continuing to invite the Duhamel Group to partner with the Somerville Public Schools. Mr. Siraco introduced members of his Board of Directors and provided a brief history of the organization and their mission. Also, Mr. Siraco explained that, this year, awards would be presented in memory of two Duhamel family members who passed away over the past year – Marie F. Siraco and Warren T. Bambury, Jr.

2011 Mini-Grant Awards

AWARDEES	SCHOOL	PROJECT	AMOUNT	
May Chau, Jane Cohen, Anthony Vecchiarello	SHS Art, Photography and Metal Fabrication	Worlds Joined Together	\$1,000	Marie F. Siraco Award
Eve Shelton Jones	SHS	Recognition of 9 th graders	\$600	Warren T. Bambury, Jr. Award
Alicia Kersten and Joan Shea	SHS	Connecting art & History	\$590	
Kimberly Murphy	WSNS	Family Literacy Night	\$1,000	
Charlotte Huffman	ESCS	Who am I?	\$976	
Lee Walworth	WSNS	Organizational Binders	\$499	
Linda Muree-Walsh	WHCS	Developing Leadership and Character	\$500	Warren T. Bambury, Jr. Award
Eve Shelton Jones and Alicia Kersten	SHS	Bringing History to Life	\$1,000	
Barbara Marder	Kennedy	Metal Smithing for Middle School	\$1,000	

The School Committee recessed at 7:35 p.m. to congratulate this evening's honorees.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:52 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 16, 2011 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of May 16, 2011, Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- May 31, 2011 – School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2011, School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- June 9, 2011 – School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2011, School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman announced that, even though the Finance Meeting of June 9th was televised, he felt it was important to report out the motion regarding the FY2012 Somerville Public Schools budget, which was passed unanimously that evening. The motion was as follows:

MOTION: To approve the Somerville Public Schools Local Appropriations Request for FY2012 at \$49,489,422.00.

- June 13, 2011 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2011, Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not present this evening.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. ***Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Ms. Rafal (June 14)

II. Career Vocational Technical Education at SHS:

Presentation of Advisory Committee, Headmaster Tony Ciccariello and Mr. Leo DeSimone

III. Summer Professional Development Preview

IV. Educational Technology Planning

V. Summer Reading program

VI. In-Service course approval

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met at 7 pm on June 14 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. School Committee members present were Adam Sweeting, Paul Bockelman, Mark Niedergang, Mary Jo Rossetti, and Teresa Cardoso. Also present were Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, SHS Headmaster Tony Ciccariello & Mr. Leo DeSimone and a few members of the Advisory Committee, of which there are in total about 89!

We discussed this really vital program for over an hour! Just some highlights here.

Some of the overarching topics were about getting back aligned with new state standards and complying with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Program Review of 2010 as well as looking at future needs to see how the adoption of Mass Core academic standards might impact the CTE program. Even though our program is part of a comprehensive high school the same vocational education requirements apply as would apply to a regional school just focused on vocational technical education.

Mr. DeSimone and the advisory committee as well as the SOLVE collaborative of which Somerville is a part all are constantly assessing jobs outlooks and training needs for the region and making sure we are providing relevant programs. For example, a Tisch College study showed how fast health careers are growing around New England. Students in our health careers program may earn their C.N.A. or may go on to college to become R.N.'s or even technicians who repair medical equipment. The Computer Principles class has also applied to DESE for approval to be able to offer certification.

Several of the vocational programs have articulation agreements with local colleges, which means that SHS CVTE offers a similar syllabus to students have a seamless transition into that major at college. For example, SHS CTE Electrical shop is teaching basically the same thing as IBEW Local 103 so this can help with earning an associate's degree at Wentworth. Dual enrollment, like being enrolled at BHCC while still at SHS doesn't work well because of the block schedule.

A lot of alumni are on the advisory committee; they bring back interesting info about how well they were prepared.

It's a struggle to afford to keep up with technology changes; the program reaches out to business community for donation of equipment...a lot of industry realizes that they need to step up to foster education; the teachers also get grants like for using solar technology. The students also do real and meaningful work for the program, for example carpentry and electrical students will help move the expand the health careers suite and computer support services students are finishing up refurbishing donated computers for the Haitian Coalition to use.

The DESE regulations are all about access so the CTE now has an approved process for students to apply for programs, with clear admissions criteria. The exploratory they can take freshman year now includes all 13 shops, and all the k-8 schools had a visit. Guidance counseling and software called Career Cruising all help students choose a program.

The CTE program has also started using software to track students' skills and competencies; this software allows teachers to build projects to teach specific skills and has a portal so parents can see what their youth are learning.

There is still a manufacturing high-tech base in Massachusetts but they need skilled workers. CTE is an important program because it offers students access to good jobs without foregoing four years of salary or incurring debt at college.

Education Technology Update

Then we got an update from Charles LaFauci, Shane Harradan and John Breslin about technology and networking tools available to teachers and students. Currently computers for the schools are on a 7-year replacement schedule, but to keep running adequate software and all, it would be preferable to start a 5-year-replacement schedule for an extra \$70K a year. In order for various TV Media Production and Film Studies classes to use industry-grade software, SHS now also features an Apple Computer Lab.

We got an update on the number of Smart Boards at each school, including those purchased but not yet installed. If we can keep the pace, it's possible every classroom could have one in the next few years. Lots of software as well as A/V equipment is supporting student learning. I did comment that every department who has presented to the Ed Programs meetings has shown us how they use the Smart Boards.

Going forward we will need better Wi-Fi solution, especially as handheld devices become more ubiquitous. A possible affordable solution to be implemented as money is available at Brown, NW/FC, WSNS, might be Aero Hive.

Then we had a review and a preview of professional development related to district wide initiatives. SHS teachers are finishing up curriculum work related to re-accreditation and will begin planning to implement Mass Core graduation requirements and coordinating those with CTE. Other PD efforts at SHS relate to dropout prevention.

Elementary PD initiatives relate to Healey School Unification, Comprehensive School Counseling for middle grade students, lots of literacy workshops to support the balanced literacy plan as well as math teaching workshops related to differentiation for the range of learners and some workshops specifically for teaching students who are learning English.

We looked at the summer reading lists, which have been updated with some new choices of books. Mr. Sweeting expressed special appreciation for the fiction selections on the high school list. Elementary students are expected to read two books over the summer, and high school students, who often have jobs and sibling care responsibilities, are expected to read one book (which are also often longer than elementary grade selections). The lists can be found on the website.

We bring to you a motion to approve the full list of 13 Summer In-Service Courses.

We adjourned at 8:50 and went into Execution Session to discuss a personnel matter.

The Executive Session adjourned at 9:30.

MOTION: To approve the summer Professional Development.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

1. The Superintendent reported on this evening's Personnel Report. His report included the hiring of Ms. Melissa DeResendes as the new Human Resources and Diversity Administrator. Also, Ms. Mariana MacDonald, who previously worked in the Curriculum Office, has been hired as the Administrative Assistant in the Human Resources office. Ms. DeResendes is a fluent Portuguese speaker and Ms. MacDonald is a fluent Spanish speaker, which, along with their mastery of the English language, will create a Human Resources office that covers three of the four target languages of our District.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi also announced that the retiring staff members who were honored this evening have provided 460 years of valuable time and experience to our District and wished them all health, happiness and a long retirement.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that Jason DeFalco, principal at the Healey School, informed Tony on June 14th that he would be resigning from his position at the end of the school year for personal reasons. Assistant Principal Purnima Vadhera has been appointed the Interim Principal of the Healey for one year. An Interim Assistant Principal will be hired soon by an interview team and a search for a new Principal will be done on a slower basis. A timeline has been developed and shared with the School Committee and Healey School community. Mr. Bockelman thanked the Superintendent for handling this situation in a quick and sensible manner.
2. This is the last Regular School Committee meeting of the school year. Our next meeting will be at the end of August. The last day of school for elementary students and students from Next Wave and Full Circle is June 28th and for Somerville High School is June 29th. Both are half-days.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following: Several points of pride to share regarding the beginning of the test reporting season:

- MEPA reports on the progress of our English Language Learners were recently released and show that, compared to last year, our student growth exceed the state average for every grade span.
- MCAS ELA preliminary data is just starting to come in and won't be official until late summer. It is expected that the results will show the steady progress that has been demonstrated in recent years. Middle grades continue to be a bright spot, particularly in ELA. One of our school's Grade 8 scored in the very top tier of schools statewide last spring in ELA MCAS, on par with the likes of Boston Latin—89% proficient. That's a strong base of support to continue to develop our Middle Grades program.
- Middle Grades Project Presentations have been going on with our 7th and 8th grade students across the District. All students produced a multi-media project. The theme this year was "How I can change the world." Next year there will be a different theme.
- Summer Reading – A reminder that all students are required to do some amount of reading according to grade level and subject matter. The Somerville Public Library is partnering with the Somerville Public Schools on this. Their website address is:
www.somervillepubliclibrary.org.

Dr. McKay wished everyone a happy, healthy summer vacation full of many learning adventures!

3. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked the City for their financial support during the budget process. Also thanked the School Committee for focusing on instructional strategy and design, student learning, health and safety. Improvements are in thanks to Vince McKay, Shannon Gilligan, Coaches and work done through the Aspirations program. Thanked students for their hard work. Thanked the parents, guardians and the community for their efforts on behalf of our students. Thanked Jennifer Capuano for coordinating over 400 volunteers across our District. Though this data reflects good news, continuous improvements are still needed and we have ways to go. More analysis will take place over the summer, but he is pleased, overall.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for a brief report regarding the FY2012 budget. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

On Wednesday, June 15, 2011, the School Committee's budget was presented to the Somerville Board of Aldermen. The budget presented was approved by the School Committee at a School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities on June 9th. This budget provided a 1.67% increase over the FY2011 budget. Items recommended for inclusion in the FY2012 budget included additional educational coaches, an integrated kindergarten at the Winter Hill Community School, a pre-kindergarten at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, additional supplies for new programs and an increase in the budget for the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative. The final vote of the Board of Aldermen will take place on June 23, when they will vote the total FY2012 budget for the entire City of Somerville.

4. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that there are many, many activities happening across the City over the summer and there are too many to mention. For a full listing of by school or type of activity, please visit the website at www.somerville.k12.ma.us.
5. The Superintendent was pleased to announce that the Somerville Public Schools is the recipient of a grant that allows us to offer free breakfast and lunch to those less than 18 years of age at 12 different locations across the City beginning on June 28th. Sites are listed on the Somerville Public Schools and City of Somerville websites.

6. Mr. Pierantozzi wished everyone a happy, healthy, safe and wonderful summer and encouraged students to read, visit museums and otherwise participate activities that promote learning.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trips– (Recommended Action: Approval)

Aug. 25-28, 2011: Somerville High School Football Team and Girls and Boys Soccer Teams to Camp Lenox, overnight, for pre-season training. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$100.00 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Authorization for Summer Months – (Recommended Action: Approval)

1. Pay bills on school department accounts for which commitments have been made by bid or purchase order before the close of schools, said bills to be ratified by the committee at the first meeting in September.
2. Expend from FY2011 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel under all federal grants beginning in September.
3. Use Salaries Account and School Operations Account funds to pay encumbrances and salaries for summer programs.
4. To authorize and/or reauthorize school department revolving accounts. To accept all monies received by the School Committee in connection with the conduct of said revolving accounts according to the purposes of the program or programs from which receipts in each account were derived.
5. To accept all state and federal grant monies awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Early Education and Care and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to waive the reading of the list of actions and to authorize the Superintendent to act on the School Committee's behalf.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Student Accident Insurance - (Recommended Action: Received and placed on file)

The Superintendent advised that the contract for Student Accident Insurance for the 2011-12 school year has been renewed with Moran Insurance Agency, 23 Spruce St., Suite B, Malden, MA 02148 at the following rates:

Plan A – STUDENT INSURANCE

Premium:	School Time	\$ 7.50
Premium:	24-Hour Coverage	\$49.00
Dental:	Extended	\$10.00

Plan B - ALL-SPORTS, SHOP AND LAB COVERAGE

Premium:	Gold Plan	\$5,549.00
Catastrophic Cash Benefit		\$ 860.00

D. Participation in National School Lunch and Breakfast Program

The Superintendent of Schools recommending that the School Committee vote to participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services for the 2011-2012 school year, as in previous years.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services for the 2011-2012 school year.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. MASC Advisory Board – (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti gave a very brief report on her attendance at the MASC meeting of June 16. Included were the Executive Director's report and a position paper. Ms. Rossetti also provided members with handouts from the meeting. Ms. Rossetti also reminded School Committee members to register for the Annual Conference before July 15, 2011, in order to receive the Early Bird pricing.

F. Local Government Advisory Commission (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti reported on her attendance at the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting held on June 14, at the State House. Her report included the following:

- An update on the State Budget
- A supplemental budget put in place to assist areas damaged by the recent tornadoes
- Municipal Health Insurance plan design
- Educator evaluations

G. Resolution – National School Board Association

Ms. Rossetti reported on a proposed resolution from the NSBA for submission to Congress which urges suspension of additional sanctions under current AYP requirements, effective for the 2011-12 school year. Ms. Rossetti forwarded a copy of the NSBA's resolution for the School Committee's consideration. The MASC has also recommended support of this resolution. Mr. Pierantozzi pointed out that, as a point of clarification, the last paragraph describes the recommended action. Much discussion ensued relative to the effect of this resolution on urban and suburban districts, the timeline for the vote at the Federal level, etc. Mayor Curtatone encouraged School Committee members to support Ms. Rossetti's recommendation as she has been a champion representative for our City.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to ask the Superintendent to submit a letter to our Legislators urging them to support suspension of additional sanctions under current AYP requirements, effective for the 2011-12 school year.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

H. School Committee Statement regarding Healey School

Mr. Bockelman assumed the chair as Mr. Sweeting presented a report on Ms. Rafal and his attendance at a recent Healey School Site Council meeting. As a result of the recent announcement of Mr. DeFalco's resignation, Mr. Sweeting is recommending that the School Committee translate and distribute the following statement, if all School Committee members agree.

Somerville School Committee Statement on the Healey School Unification and Leadership Transition

The Somerville School Committee publicly expresses its strong continuing support for the Choice/Healey unification process. We deeply appreciate, respect and admire the work that faculty, staff, parents/guardians and community members have done to design a new and exciting Healey School characterized by the core values of excellence, joy, creativity, and openness. We also thank Mr. Jason DeFalco for his enormous contribution to this effort.

The School Committee unanimously endorsed the unification plan presented by the Healey School Site Council and has included funds to support this work in the School Department budget for Fiscal Year 2012, including money for professional development and a consultant to assist with the implementation.

The School Committee further commits to supporting the Superintendent and working closely with him as he forms and leads an inclusive hiring team at the Healey in the search for an outstanding, inspiring, and progressive instructional leader to be the next Healey School Principal.

We thank Assistant Principal Purnima Vadhera for assuming the position of Interim Principal, and look forward to working with her to support implementation of the first year of the Healey unification plan.

We are excited and optimistic about the future of the unified Healey School. We look forward to supporting the School Site Council, parents/guardians and staff as they continue to transform the Healey into a model for progressive urban education. We are confident that this groundbreaking and dynamic school will attract an extraordinarily capable new leader in 2012.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the *Somerville School Committee Statement on the Healey School Unification and Leadership Transition* for translation and distribution to the Healey School Community.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Sweeting will make some minor corrections to the document prior to sending for translation and distribution.

Mr. Sweeting resumed the chair.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bockelman

1. Announced that he is proud of the work done on the budget. Issued thanks to Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and the School Department staff as well as the Mayor. This budget contains a slight increase over last year. Significant work is being done with the money provided.
2. Work continues in the Somerville Public Schools over during the summer, although regular classes are not in session. Many staff members are working and summer programs will be running in various locations across the District.
3. Encouraged that students read or be read to over the summer.
4. Wished everyone a great summer!

Ms. Rafal

1. Reported on her attendance at the SFLC Music Festival last Saturday. Event was well attended and it was great to have it held at a school.
2. Announced that it was an extraordinary year in the Somerville Public Schools!
3. Wished everyone a great summer!

Ms. Bastardi

1. Last Thursday, there was an East Somerville Community School Community Meeting. Updates were provided by Mayor Curtatone, Mr. Boyle, a representative from the Maguire Group and a representative from the General Contractor. Demolition is done with 90% of the materials being recycled. Very informative meeting. Completion date is January 2013. For more information, please see the Somerville Public Schools and/or City of Somerville websites. There is also now a Facebook page on the construction project.
2. Congratulations to the graduates from Somerville High School and also to the two female graduates from Full Circle High School.
3. Family Fun Day is this coming Saturday, June 25th, at Trum Field.
4. Fireworks will be held on Thursday, June 30th at Trum Field.
5. A Jazz and Blues Festival will be held this week in Powder House Park.
6. Thanked all of her colleagues for their support during this very tough year.

Mayor Curtatone

1. The Jazz and Blues Festival will feature Somerville High School alumni the Arruda Brothers—famous Jazz musicians who grew up on Bonair Street in Somerville.

Ms. Cardoso

1. Thanked the retirees for 460 combined years of service.
2. Thanked all staff for their service—especially departing staff members Rebeca Martinez and Shannon Gilligan.
3. Thanked the entire Somerville Public Schools community for a great year—students, parents, staff and also the staff of the Department of Public Works.
4. The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday evening starting at 6:15 p.m. Interviews will be conducted for the position of Elementary Curriculum Coordinator. There may also be a subcommittee meeting on June 27, if necessary.
5. Happy Anniversary to David and Natalie Vieira!
6. Wished everyone a happy, safe and healthy summer. Don't stop learning!

Mr. Niedergang

1. Reported on his attendance at the Special Education Advisory Council meeting prior to this meeting. The Sped PAC has new leadership – Debbie Doyle and Beverly Schwartz and would love to meet with the School Committee when a time can be arranged.

2. Spoke about working to de-pave the school yards across the city to allow for more green space and the possibility of soliciting ideas and proposals from the community.

Ms. Rossetti

1. Reminded students and parents that, although school is out, there are many summer programs running across the city.
2. Principals are in their buildings all summer. Please call the schools should you need to speak with the principals or arrange a tour.
3. Ms. Rossetti will host a session of *Somerville High School on the Road* at her house this summer. An announcement will be placed in the local newspaper.
4. Thanked everyone for their tremendous work—looks forward to working together in the future. Special thanks to Mr. Pierantozzi and his staff!

Mr. Sweeting

1. As this is the last regular televised meeting of the year, urged all to stay well, healthy and safe and to keep learning!

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Shirley Cohen, mother of Wendy Cliggott, teacher at the Brown School.
- Thomas J. Hughes, husband of Cathy Hughes, teacher at the Kennedy School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. via voice vote.

Somerville School Committee

Official Citation

This certifies that

RETIREE

***Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted
this Certificate of Award for years of Dedicated Service
to the Students of the Somerville Public Schools.***

Somerville School Committee

Adam Sweeting, Chairperson

Paul Bockelman, Vice Chairperson

M. Teresa Cardoso

Christine Rafal

Mary Jo Rossetti

Mark Niedergang

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

Maureen Bastardi

Rebekah L. Gewirtz, Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

June 20, 2011

City of Somerville, Massachusetts

School Committee

The Somerville Mathematics Fund

- WHEREAS,*** *The Somerville Mathematics Fund, an affiliate of Dollars for Scholars, was chartered in September 2000 to celebrate and encourage achievement in mathematics in the City of Somerville, Massachusetts, and*
- WHEREAS,*** *The Somerville Mathematics Fund offers grants of up to \$500 for a K - 12 teacher of Somerville students for a project to improve or enrich mathematics instruction in the classroom or in an after-school program, and*
- WHEREAS,*** *The Somerville Mathematics Fund offers renewable mathematics scholarships to students who were residents of Somerville, Massachusetts during their high school years, without regard to which high school the applicant attended. , and*
- WHEREAS,*** *The Somerville Mathematics Fund sponsors Community Events for the City of Somerville, Massachusetts, such as the Scrap Heap Showdown and Pi Night and*

WHEREAS, *The Somerville Mathematics Fund was the winner of the 2003-2004 Gold Tassel Service Award, and*

WHEREAS *The Somerville Mathematics Fund has won the New England Chapter of the Year Award for 2011, for outstanding performance in their community, therefore be it*

RESOLVED: *That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to the Somerville Mathematics Fund's Founder Erica Voolich.*

Somerville School Committee

<i>Adam Sweeting, Chairperson</i>	<i>Paul Bockelman, Vice Chairperson</i>
<i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i>	<i>Maureen Bastardi</i>
<i>Mary Jo Rossetti</i>	<i>Mark Niedergang</i>
<i>Joseph Curtatone, Mayor</i>	<i>Christine Rafal</i>
<i>Rebekah Gewirtz, Aldermanic President</i>	<i>Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools</i>

June 20, 2011

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, August 29, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, Alderman Gewirtz and Mayor Curtatone (7:21 p.m.)

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi, and Curtatone and Absent – 1 – Gewirtz.

Mr. Sweeting welcomed all of his colleagues, teachers, staff, students, and community members back after our summer break. This is the first School Committee meeting of the 2011-2012 school year.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 20, 2011 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the minutes of June 20, 2011, Regular Meeting. Ms. Rossetti asked that the minutes be amended to show the location of the meeting be changed to the Board of Aldermen's Chambers.

The motion was approved via voice vote, as amended.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not present this evening.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *Personnel Subcommittee:* Mrs. Cardoso (June 23)

The Personnel Subcommittee Met on Thursday, June 23, 2011 @6:15 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were School Committee Members, Christine Rafal, Maureen Bastardi, Adam Sweeting and Mark Niedergang along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi and Assistant Superintendent Vincent McKay. Dorothy Scally from the STA was in also in attendance.

The only agenda item that evening was the Finalist Interviews for the position of:

COORDINATOR OF ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT, GRADES K-8

The finalists were Mr. Anthony Colannino and Mr. Uri Harel – their interviews were at 6:15 and 6:45.

Both candidates were highly qualified and had great interviews with the School Committee – we were very impressed with both candidates.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

Our next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, September 26th at 6:00 PM at Central Administration.

B. *School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:* Mr. Sweeting (June 23)

The School Committee met for Long Range Planning on June 23, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. In attendance were Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang and Ms. Rafal. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Kinder.

Items discussed included:

1. School Committee Workshop - Outreach and Vision – Ms. Kinder presented a workshop for School Committee members to assist them in a marketing/publicity plan for the Somerville Public Schools. Priorities were discussed and ideas were investigated. Very helpful workshop.
2. Preliminary plans for future educational and space needs of the Somerville Public Schools – The School Committee began considering different options for the future of our schools and programs. A strong focus is on possible restructuring at the middle grade level to

allow for the best educational opportunities for our students. More discussion to come at future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

C. Executive Session: Mr. Sweeting (June 29)

Mr. Sweeting reported on the Executive Session meeting of June 29, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Niedergang, Cardoso, Sweeting, Rafal, Bockelman, and Bastardi and announced that the following actions were taken at that meeting:

1. MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to amend Article 11 of the contract between the Somerville School Committee and Mr. Anthony Pierantozzi. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 7 – Rossetti, Niedergang, Cardoso, Sweeting, Rafal, Bockelman. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the contract for the Finance Director and authorize the Superintendent to sign. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 7 – Rossetti, Niedergang, Cardoso, Sweeting, Rafal, Bockelman, and Bastardi. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the rates and terms for the Contract for Legal Counsel and Labor Relations, as detailed in the letter presented to the School Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22p.m.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

1. The Superintendent reported on the very lengthy Personnel Report included in this week's packet. June saw many resignations, transfers, and retirements. July was a month of hiring and August had many new hires and some resignations.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi announced the retirement of Noreen Santucci who served as an English teacher at Somerville High School for 36 years. Ms. Santucci has also served as the treasurer of the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation. Mr. Pierantozzi wished Ms. Santucci a long, healthy, happy retirement.
3. Mr. Pierantozzi announced the resignation of Gretchen Kinder, Coordinator of Research and Development, Information and Grants. Ms. Kinder is leaving the District after five and a half years to pursue a career in the non-profit world. Mr. Pierantozzi wished Ms. Kinder a great, successful career!
4. Lastly, Mr. Pierantozzi summarized the current status of all personnel transactions:
 - 41 resignations (hiring done)
 - 6 hiring transactions that have paperwork pending
 - 7 openings with 6 more days to fill
 - 2 Somerville High School Social Studies positions to fill leaves of absences
 - 1 Somerville High School English Language Arts
 - 1 Somerville High School Child Development
 - 1 Winter Hill Community Schools Social Studies
 - 1 Coordinator of Information and Grants
 - 1 SCALE Program Administrator

All in all, 54 staff members were replaced or 1 of every 9 educators. The Superintendent issued thanks to Melissa DeResendes, our new Human Resources and Diversity Administrator for doing such a great job, especially as a new hire, herself.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:21 p.m.

Mr. Niedergang asked the Superintendent for an explanation of what an involuntary transfer was. The Superintendent explained that an involuntary transfer occurs when a staff member's position is cut, probably due to enrollment, and the staff member is transferred to an open position elsewhere in the District.

Mr. Niedergang also congratulated Ms. Santucci on her retirement. Ms. Santucci is one of Mr. Niedergang's constituents and he commented on her hard work through the years.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced it was a great summer filled with professional development initiatives and learning experiences for students and adults.
2. The summer also saw much activity in the Food Service Department. Ms. Durette will provide a full report on this activity during her report later this evening.
3. There is no school this week. School will begin on Wednesday, September 7, for all students in grades 1-12 and this will be a half day. Prekindergarten and Kindergarten students begin school on Monday, September 12. More detailed information can be found on our website at www.somerville.k12.ma.us. All buildings and grounds are ready for the start of school as are materials and supplies.
4. The Superintendent announced that "Jump Off" shows were filmed for airing on City Cable Channel 15. Also, a Welcome Back program, featuring the Superintendent with Mayor Curtatone and School Committee Chair Adam Sweeting, has been filmed and will be placed on the desktop of all staff members so that they could watch at their convenience. This allows staff more time to prepare for students.
5. The Superintendent thanked the Mayor, his staff, and the Department of Public Works staff for all of their work in preparation for Hurricane Irene. Crews spent time sandbagging various locations across the City and monitored these areas to avoid as much damage as possible. Although some damage still occurred, we ducked a major problem. This was in thanks to a lot of cooperation, significant planning and successful monitoring.

Ms. Rossetti asked whether or not all of the areas surrounding the schools would be cleaned prior to the start of school. For instance, branches and other debris left by the storm are still visible in the areas surrounding many of our buildings. The Superintendent and Mayor assured her that cleanup work has been prioritized and this issue will be taken care of when crews are available, but, certainly, prior to the first day of school. Right now, safety is the first priority. Mr. Pierantozzi, Mayor Curtatone and Mr. Koty will visit all buildings, as is customary prior to the beginning of schools, to assure that all are in good shape.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

Dr. McKay said that although September 7 is the formal opening day of school, lots of activity has been happening already. Here is a brief overview of some of what's been happening.

- Professional Development Update: focus on Year 2 of our K - 12 Literacy Plan
This summer's PD just completed, approximately 75 teachers involved in Literacy professional development over the past three weeks.
 - Courses included – Balanced Literacy Instruction for grades 6-8, Using Children's Literature to Support a Community of Writers for grades K-2 and 3-8, Small Group Instruction in a Balanced Literacy Classroom for grades K-2 and 3-8
- Looking ahead, Year 2:
 - In-class coaching support
 - Guided observations, learning walks
 - Literacy leadership training
 - Full day workshops, including the PD days in the fall
- DSAC Data Program:
The Data Team Training Course was attended by our principals and their data teams and teachers from each school during a four day institute in July.
Follow up program was held today. The goal is to implement the usage of data in a formal manner. Stephanie Hirsch, our partner from the City, will be assisting with this project.
- Summer Programs:
 - 190 students attended the high school summer school program. A milestone this year was that math courses were taught using all digital content
 - Summer Success transition program: 35 students who are going from grade 8-9 participated. Special thanks to the Food Service Department for providing barbecues for our summer school students.
 - Elementary summer school served 220 students and the program gets stronger every year.
 - The SPELL program provided enrichment opportunities for elementary secondary students with classroom instruction, field trips and a theater component for high school students.

6. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that, beginning this evening, our School Committee meetings will be streaming live on the internet. This is one more level of communication being offered by the City.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for a brief report regarding the FY2012 budget. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- An FY2012 Somerville Public Schools Budget Book has been placed at members' seats this evening and will be distributed to all schools and libraries this week. Also, all budget documents can be found on the District's website at www.somerville.k12.ma.us.
- Ms. Durette gave an overview of activities in the Finance Office – including contracts, orders, bill payments, etc.
- The Special Education Circuit Breaker report has indicated that the District should expect a greater percentage of funding this year.
- All state grants were closed on June 30, 2011. All Federal grants close on August 31. Reports are due in October.
- Food Service provided free breakfast and lunch to people under the age of 18 at 13 sites across the City. The program began on June 30. Food Service Director Jeanne Irwin will provide a detailed report in the near future.
- Eastern Bus Company now has the contract for pupil transportation. This is a change from the past few years when Vocell held the contract.

Ms. Rossetti asked that the Superintendent and his staff research how much of the excess money from the State, which was distributed using the lottery formula, was given to Somerville.

7. Mr. Pierantozzi reminded parents/guardians to be on the lookout for mailings from their students' schools and to also check the School Department's website for information regarding the opening of schools. Students at many schools will be receiving free backpacks, loaded with school supplies, at the beginning of the school year.
8. The Superintendent encouraged students to get to bed early this week to get used to the school schedule.
9. The Superintendent announced that the District would be undergoing a lengthy District Review by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Dr. John Roper will come to Central Office to meet with Dr. McKay, Mr. Harel, Mr. Tringale, Ms. Durette, Mr. Pierantozzi and Mr. Snow. This will be our first foray into the process. At the September 19th School Committee meeting, Linda Foisy, Senior Associate Commissioner, Division of Partnerships, Assistance and Accountability and Eva Mitchell, Director of the Center for District and School Accountability, will address the School Committee and explain the process, which includes the gathering of documents in November and December, a visit in January, and will culminate in a written report sometime later in the school year.

Mr. Niedergang asked if the enrollment across the District had changed very much since the July 12th Enrollment Report. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, as of this afternoon, Ms. Bertholdo reported that withdrawals are starting this week and the School Committee will get a new Enrollment Report at the next meeting.

Mrs. Cardoso reminded the Superintendent that he wanted to mention the hiring of Uri Harel. The Superintendent replied that he has planned to have the new administrators come to our next regular meeting. Mr. Harel was hired as the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator and the Title One Coordinator. He has recently served as a principal in Saugus.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donation – (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation a Bundy Student Clarinet and a Student trumpet valued at \$150.00 each from Jill Charney of Newton, MA, to be given to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation 22 backpacks, filled with school supplies, and a \$65.00 Staples Gift Card from Chris Small, Cross Country Automotive Group, Medford, MA, to be given to students at the Kennedy School.

B. Somerville High School Graduates (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the necessary requirements, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Michael W. Beaudry

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Somerville High School graduate.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. FY2011 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas and read the names of the Somerville residents:

Thomaso Santo Benichasa	33 Summer Street	Somerville	02143
Melani X. Bizarria	23 Dartmouth Street	Somerville	02145
Jessica M. Claudino	54 Prescott Street	Somerville	02143
Denilson Silva Mata	11 Flint Avenue	Somerville	02145
Ryan M. Birtwistle	21 Tamarock Terrace	Stoneham	02180
Gregoire Casseus	4 Winchester Street	Medford	02155
Maria M. Corniel Perez	380 Revere Beach Parkway	Chelsea	02150
Reginald Desert	113 Hancock Street	Everett	02149
Jason A. Garcia	15 Princeton Road	Malden	02148
Lucas Mendes Garcia	26 Gledhill Avenue	Everett	02149
Maria A. Jeronimo	11 Granfield Avenue	Roslindale	02131
Francisco A. Machado Sigaran	211 Maverick Street	East Boston	02128
Nikko Dillon Moreira	123 Russell Street	Everett	02149
Sonia Gomes Pires	57 Stanley Street	Dorchester	02125
Caitlin O'dea Powell	57 Westbourne Terrace	Brookline	02446

Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the SCALE graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

Oct. 7, 2011 Next Wave/Full Circle students to Mt. Monadnock, NH.
Transportation via school vans at a cost of \$4.00 per student.

Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. MASC - Ms. Rossetti

Ms. Rossetti reported on her attendance at the MASC Board of Directors meeting on July 13. Her report included:

- A brief overview of some of the resolutions being brought forward at the annual conference in November. The full information will be mailed to members home when completed.
- The consideration of allowing remote participation in public meetings, brought forth by the Attorney General's Office for consideration. In Somerville, this would have to first be approved by the Board of Aldermen as it would warrant a change to the City Charter.
- The State Budget and Gubernatorial actions.

Ms. Rafal congratulated Ms. Rossetti for being named president-elect to the MASC. We are very proud and grateful for her efforts.

Mr. Sweeting announced that we need to reschedule the September Executive Session and he will circulate some proposed dates.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bockelman

1. Welcomed everyone back. It was great to attend the New Staff Orientation.

2. Somerville High School's Freshmen Orientation is tomorrow and Wednesday from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. It includes a chance to meet staff, get oriented to the building, a class on locker opening and locking, and a barbecue.
3. Mr. Bockelman commended the City and School Department employees for their work in preparing for Hurricane Irene. He was particularly intrigued by the idea of having the high school serve as an emergency shelter for people and their pets.
4. Thanked our Athletic Director Nicole Viele for getting our student athletes, who were at camp, home before the storm set in.

Ms. Cardoso

1. Thanked everyone for their emergency management efforts – DPW, Mayor, Superintendent, Police, Fire and all others. She heard that there were over 300 trees downed by the storm.
2. Thanked the residents for taking precautions during the storm.
3. Thanked all staff who worked through the summer to prepare for the upcoming school year. These people are like little elves who make it all happen!
4. Issued a reminder to constituents to make sure their sidewalks present a clear walking path for our students. Please be sure that shrubs, bushes and barrels, etc. do not obstruct the sidewalks so that our students do not have to go into the street to get to school. Also, drive slowly and watch out for kids!

Mr. Niedergang

1. Welcomed STA President Jackie Lawrence and Somerville Scout reporter Amanda Kearsey.
2. Discussed his ideas of what the focus for the next year or two would look like:
 - a. Foreign language instruction before high school.
 - b. Restructuring of the District
 - c. Outreach into community to increase enrollment.
 - d. Get to know the new administrators
 - e. Success with the search for a new principal for the Healey School
 - f. Success with the Unified Healey School

Mr. Sweeting

1. Welcome back to all—feeling very optimistic about the new year

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Eileen Moccia, wife of Joseph Moccia, retired teacher from Somerville High School
- William Connors, brother of Eileen Morsett, retired Assistant Principal from the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, September 12, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, and Alderman Gewirtz.

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi, and Gewirtz and Absent – 1 – Curtatone.

Mr. Sweeting asked the School Committee and audience members to please remember the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks on this 10th anniversary of the tragedy.

Mr. Bockelman assumed the Chair as Mr. Sweeting stepped to the podium.

Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to suspend the rules and take up Item VIII, B 2 – Acceptance of Donation.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of a donation to the Somerville Public Schools Winter Hill Community School by the Schwartz Family as follows:

- \$81,201 in FY2012
- \$59,380 in FY2013

These funds are to be used to build the capacity of the Winter Hill Community School teachers to use instructional technologies that maximize the potential of youth with disabilities through creative, inclusive instruction in the least restrictive environment possible. Funds will be used to (a) build wireless internet capacity, (b) purchase hardware for use by teachers to increase the diversity of their instructional strategy and design, (c) purchase hardware and software to be used by students in the interest of classroom inclusion, including adapted computers and iPads, with support from their Teachers, Inclusion Specialists and other professionals, and (d) teacher training and other support in the use of new hardware and software to support innovative, multimodal, differentiated instructional strategies.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to accept the donation with extreme gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang expressed his appreciation for this extraordinary gift. These women used wisdom and intelligence in their decision to provide this donation in order to make the biggest difference for our Special Education students. It is worth noting that they do not have any students at the Winter Hill Community School.

Ms. Rossetti thanked the Schwartz's from the bottom of her heart. This is the 3rd or 4th donation they have made to the District. They have gone above and beyond and are special people who help us be able to help others.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Ms. Beverly Schwartz
- Ms. Miriam Schwartz

Mr. Sweeting asked Beverly and Miriam Schwartz to step to the podium as he Mr. Sweeting thanked both women for affirming the work we do with their generosity and caring spirit. Mr. Sweeting presented each woman with a certificate of appreciation from the School Committee and read one certificate aloud. The wording is the same on both certificates. The wording may be found at the end of these minutes.

Miriam and Beverly said a few words and thanked the School Committee for this recognition.

Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to suspend the rules to take up item 7A – New Administrators.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Introduction of New Administrators

- Melissa DeResendes, Human Resources & Diversity Administrator
- Darius Green, Housemaster, Broadway House, Somerville High School
- Uri Harel, Elementary Curriculum and Title I Coordinator
- Lorne Murphy, Interim Assistant Principal, Healey School

The Superintendent introduced four of the five new administrators in the District and asked them to stand and be recognized. Mr. Mark Hurrie, Assistant Principal at the Kennedy School, could not attend this evening due to an Open House at the Kennedy tonight.

The School Committee recessed at 7:12 p.m. to congratulate our honorees.

The School Committee resumed at 7:18 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 29, 2011 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the minutes of August 29, 2011, Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not present this evening.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *Finance & Facilities Subcommittee:* Mr. Bockelman (Sept. 6)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on September 6, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Niedergang and Mr. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette.

1. Final FY 11 Revolving account summary – review of revolving accounts
2. Charter School Tuition payments and rates – Review of rates – payments have increased by \$4M
3. FY11 Bill Roll – review of bill roll
4. FY12 Expenditure Report - reviewed
5. Facilities Update – Mr. Pierantozzi provided an in depth facilities update which included all buildings. Much work was done across the District. The DPW is to be commended for their great work.
6. Other

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the bill rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to request a meeting with the Capital Projects Manager and all involved parties regarding an update on the construction of the East Somerville Community School

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, requesting that the Superintendent report costs for the implementation of foreign language in middle school system wide.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Discussion took place regarding further consideration of foreign language implementation at both Finance and Facilities and Ed Programs meetings. Ms. Rafal reported that foreign language implementation is an agenda item at the October 18 Ed. Programs meeting. Discussion also took place regarding the possibility of a joint Finance and Facilities and Ed. Programs meeting.

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that discussion should also take place at a future Long Range Planning meeting and that Jane Cummings should also be a part of the discussion. This is a global plan with a broad scope of parameters which could be fine-tuned at Ed Programs.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that staff, students, and parents/guardians are all ready for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Pierantozzi visited every school last week and found every building appropriately quiet with students on task and things running very smoothly.
- The Superintendent thanked the staff of the Department of Public Works, under the leadership of Mayor Curtatone and Mr. Koty, for doing an outstanding job of preparing for the school year. This is the best shape the Superintendent has seen the schools in for opening day since he came to Somerville in 2005.
- Today was the first day of school for our prekindergarten and kindergarten students. An exciting day for everyone – staff, parents/guardians and our four and five year old students!
- The Superintendent announced that the current enrollment spreadsheet was placed at members' seats this evening. The figures are as of today and are fluid numbers as students are still being dropped from our rolls as they notify us of their departure from the District. It is important to note that last year's October 1st enrollment was 4,864 and that figure seemed to hold.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

Instructional Leaders meeting, review of School and District improvement planning process for the school year:

1. School Council Training will take place on October 6, 2011, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Argenziano School.
2. School – based professional development planning.

Middle Grades District goal, some recent activities being noted for your consideration:

1. Biogen Idec will be partnering with our middle grades (6-8) this year. Eighth grade students will participate in a common Genetics lab as part of an on site visit to Biogen Idec labs.
 2. Also, the middle grade Foreign Language program at the Healey School has been expanded for a .4 position to a .6 position. This Italian Language program is partially grant funded.
 3. Development of a Leadership Program for our middle grade students with assistance from QISA (Student Aspirations).
- The Superintendent reported that Melissa DeResendes and Joe Tringale have completed a successful EPIMS, SIMS and Student Course Load report. They are to be commended for meeting and successfully completing this challenging task in such a timely manner.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donation – (Recommended action: approval)

1. The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation a Casio Electronic Keyboard valued at \$100.00 from Charles Kline of Somerville, MA, to be given to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of 1,200 backpacks filled with school supplies from Cradles to Crayons. These backpacks will be or have been distributed to every K-6th grader at the Argenziano, East Somerville and Winter Hill Community School.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

3. The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of 200 backpacks from Tana.org (Telugu Association of North America). These backpacks will be distributed to students across the District, as needed.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

1. Ms. Rossetti will be missing the Long Range Planning meeting on Wednesday as she will be in attendance at a meeting for the MASC.
2. West Somerville's PTA will hold a coffee hour on Monday, September 19.
3. West Somerville's Open House will be held on September 20.
4. Tomorrow is Election Day in Ward 7. Please get out and vote. People in the 3rd precinct should vote at Capen Court.
5. Gave a plug for two former West Somerville Neighborhood Students who are also Somerville High School graduates who are trying to win a wedding paid for by Fox 25 on November 11, 2011. Rebeca Rais and Keith O'Donnell are both members of the service and Keith is currently serving in Afghanistan. Please give them your vote!

Mr. Niedergang

1. Reported on the Open House at the Kennedy School which was well attended. Great to see the PTA growing in strength. New Assistant Principal Mark Hurrie seems to be off to a great start.
2. Somerville High School will hold a Post High School Planning night on September 19.
3. The Brown School's Open House will take place on September 26.

Ms. Cardoso

5. Welcomed back everyone to the new school year.
6. Open House at the Argenziano School will be held on September 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Rafal

1. Reported on the partnership between the PTA's and SwellR for fundraising.
2. Announced how wonderful the donation from Cradles to Crayons was and informed the audience that, along with the school supplies, each backpack has a handwritten note enclosed. This year there were over 27,500 handwritten notes composed for inclusion Cradles to Crayons always can use volunteers to help stuff the backpacks.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following staff member who recently passed away:

- Frances Gadsby, retired teacher from the Somerville Public Schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. via voice vote.

Certificate of Appreciation

The Somerville School Committee and the
Administration of the Somerville Public Schools extends
deepest appreciation to:

**Miriam/Beverly
Schwartz**

In recognition of
Generously providing continuous local support for
students and staff by donations of technology to
enhance classroom environments and student learning

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“Deeds of giving are the very foundations of the world.” The Torah

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Somerville School Committee

Adam Sweeting, Chairperson

Paul Bockelman, Vice Chairperson

M. Teresa Cardoso

Maureen Bastardi

Mary Jo Rossetti

Mark Niedergang

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

Christine Rafal

Rebekah Gewirtz, Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

September 12, 2011

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, September 19, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, Alderman Gewirtz and Mayor Curtatone (8:03).

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:02 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi, and Gewirtz and Absent – 1 –Curtatone. Also present this evening is our Student Representative, Dea Dodi.

Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to suspend the regular order and take item V. A. – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) District Review, out of order. The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education District Review

- Ms. Eva Mitchell, Associate Commissioner
- Ms. Lynda Foisy, Associate Commissioner

Mr. Sweeting announced that two representatives from the DESE are making a presentation this evening to inform the Committee of the process for the District Review. Mr. Sweeting introduced Ms. Lynda Foisy, Senior Associate Commissioner, to start the PowerPoint presentation. Also presenting this evening is Ms. Eva Mitchell, Associate Commissioner and Director of the Center for School and District Accountability. School Committee members thanked the presenters for taking the time to provide such valuable information regarding the upcoming review. A brief question and answer session ensued.

The PowerPoint presentation made this evening is included at the end of these minutes.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Dea Dodi, provided her report on happenings at Somerville High School. Ms. Dodi reported that most of these are typical events every year. Her report included the following:

- Senior Post High School Planning Night is being held this evening at the High School
- Somerville High School PTSA and Open House will be held on Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- The Club Fair, always a popular event, will be held next Tuesday in the Somerville High School Library. There is a great variety of offerings from Athletics to Cultural to Art and Musical clubs.
- The first football home game is this Friday evening. Ms. Dodi encouraged all to attend to show support.
- Many great restorations/renovations over the summer including the painting of 17, masonry work on stairs and a new floor in the Cowboy Café. Students are excited at the possibility of a salad bar being implemented at the high school.
- Reported on her experiences over the summer and how proud she was to share her experiences as our student representative with students from other parts of the country.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

- ##### **A. *Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Ms. Rafal (Aug. 29)
1. Update on communications regarding educational programs

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on August 29, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Committee Room at City Hall. Present: Subcommittee members Mark Niedergang, Paul Bockelman and Ms.

Rafal, as well as School Committee members Adam Sweeting, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, and Maureen Bastardi. Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi and Vince McKay.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

The School Committee reviewed and discussed a document recently received via the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. It was the prospectus for a possible "Somerville Progressive Charter School."

The School Committee decided to send a letter of response to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. It was also decided to invite members of the proposing group to meet with the Superintendent and the Chair and Vice Chair of the School Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

B. *Executive Session:* Mr. Sweeting (Aug. 31)

The School Committee met in Executive Session on August 31, 2011 in the Conference Room at 42 Cross Street. At that meeting the following motions were approved unanimously:

- Salary adjustment for employee in the Technology Department
- Settlement agreement with District employee

C. *School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:* Mr. Sweeting (Sept. 14)

The School Committee met for the purposes of Long Range Planning on September 14 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, and Mr. Bockelman. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and one audience member.

1. Future educational and space needs study – continuation of discussion that began last spring. The goal is to maximize space to provide the best results for our students, particularly in the middle grades. The School Committee is seeking a consultant to assist them with this process via the RFP process. The School Committee will interview potential consultants on October 19. Mr. Niedergang announced that concerns about middle grades instruction was the impetus for this study.
2. District Improvement Plan Updates – Discussion on how best to use our District goals. Also, how to develop new goals and the timeline to do so. Discussion on how to use the District Improvement Plan to shape and guide the School Improvement Plans. Further discussion will take place at tomorrow night's Ed Programs meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:03 p.m.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- The Fall 2011 edition of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) Activity Guide will be rolled out in our four target languages very soon. Activities cover four key elements – Family in the Community, Leadership and Advocacy, Teaching and Learning and The Whole Child. English Classes will begin very soon for our parents/guardians whose first language is not English. The goal of these classes is to improve English skills and to also learn to be an effective and involved parent/guardian. Last year, 240 people participated. Registration dates can be found on our website at www.somerville.k12.ma.us.
- The After School Report will be on the agenda at tomorrow night's Ed Programs meeting. Community Schools is fully functioning and serving approximately 400 students as of today. The first trimester of after school courses begins on October 5. Parents and guardians should be aware that fees are determined upon the family's ability to pay.
- Activities at the Kennedy School Pool are in full swing. The pool was closed for a few weeks for routine maintenance, including the replacement of the HVAC system and work on the moisture control unit. The pool is open six days a week. More information can be found on the website - www.somerville.k12.ma.us.
- Open Houses continue across the District. School Committee members will likely mention specifics during their items report later in the meeting, however, information can be found online.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following: Two grants to report on:

Mass grad \$210,000
RTTT \$750,000

Submission of year 2 plans is a great opportunity to refine our goals for these two significant grants

Mass Grade supports increasing our graduation rate

RTTT is a major federal grant

Curriculum alignment, Common core

New Teacher evaluation framework

Middle grades developmental school guidance program, college readiness

Working with our new grants coordinator on these two grants

Last year, you may recall, I told you about a City-school partnership to support energy conservation in our schools. This program is called ACT EARTH and we're participating in this in collaboration with the City Environmental office and our energy management partner Honeywell. We just finished our first year, and reviewing the results, one school was named the energy-saving champion. That was the Kennedy School.

133,000 KW hours – 8 houses for a year

Savings over a 90 day window

Kennedy will be treated to a school-wide barbeque this Friday, September 27, to celebrate their energy-saving success.

Please drop by if you can!

- Mr. Pierantozzi held up the Somerville Public Schools' Anti-bullying poster, produced by our Graphic Arts Department. These posters will be placed in the hallways of our buildings. A smaller version will be placed in each classroom across the District. All posters refer to the website and phone lines for reporting bullying. The hope is that, once an issue is reported, a quick resolution can be achieved.
- On Thursday morning, our annual corn shucking event will take place in elementary schools across the District beginning at 7:30 a.m. Approximately 3,000 ears of corn will be shucked and then cooked and served at lunchtime.
- At our next meeting, the Superintendent will present a Personnel Report with demographic information.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for her report regarding reporting season. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

The Director of Operations and the Finance Director have been busy preparing final reports for submission to the Department of Education. Included are:

1. A report on ARRA Funds (Stimulus Money). We must file quarterly reports detailing payments to vendors and employees. This report covers July 1 through September 30. Information from this filing is used to prepare the jobs report.
 2. On September 30, all Federal Grant reports are due to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Grants ended on August 31. This report details all expenditures for these grants.
 3. On October 1, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education End of Year report, a large, comprehensive report of all revenues of expenses from all funding sources is due.
- Mr. Pierantozzi spoke about the "What's new in Food and Nutrition Services" packet that the School Committee received earlier in the month. Changes will be made over the next 12 months regarding beverages, food service offerings and food brought to school to share with other students from private homes. Mr. Pierantozzi and the Food Service staff are working out what this all means.

Discussion ensued relative to food allergies, Shape Up Somerville and the decision was made to have the subject discussed at an upcoming Rules Management Subcommittee meeting.

Mrs. Cardoso also requested that the Chair of Rules Management consider adding the protocol regarding email exchanges among School Committee members to a Rules Management agenda. Mr. Niedergang stated that he would be happy to do so.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- B. **Acceptance of Donation** – (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of the following items from Biogen Idec, Boston Cares, to be given to the Healey and Kennedy Schools:

- A day of volunteer service to the Healey and Kennedy Schools on September 30, 2011 to complete the projects utilizing materials listed below.
- 4 map stencils (2 US, 2 World, one-time use) valued at \$520
- Paint and supplies for outdoor maps and line games valued at \$500
- 4 planter benches valued at \$800
- Planting materials valued at \$100

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation \$251.00 from the Somerville Rotary to the Argenziano School.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

Oct. 17, 2011

SHS Cosmetology students Providence, RI, to attend a Beauty Industry convention.
Transportation via bus at no cost to students.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. MASC/LGAC Meeting Reports (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti gave a brief report on her attendance at recent MASC and LGAC board meetings. Ms. Rossetti provided notes from both meetings to School Committee members. Her report highlighted the following:

- The State's economic condition, which is better than the nation's. Secretary Gonzales stated, "We feel good where we stand as being compared to the rest of the country, but still have a ways to go."
- The Governor's proposed supplemental budget which gives \$300 million to the Rainy Day Fund and \$95 million to one-time job related assistance to communities. This will build the Rainy Day Fund to the 4th highest in the nation.
- \$49 million in tax revenues generated in the first two months of FY12.
- Mr. Gonzales' statement of, "We will be sending you \$65 million hopefully by the end of September." Ms. Rossetti awaits word on how much Somerville will receive and how it will be used.
- The Municipal Grant Program
- Discussion of the potential impact of Federal budget reductions
- The Federal Fiscal Year begins in October - \$1.2 trillion needs to be cut, plus an additional \$1.5 trillion is under discussion (over the course of 10 years). These cuts will impact Massachusetts in FY13.
- Statement of the MASC Call for Action on President's Economic Proposals urging Congress to enact the American Jobs Act as described by President Obama.

E. Healey School Principal (Ms. Rafal)

Ms. Rafal requested that the Chair of Personnel add to the next Personnel Subcommittee agenda, the Healey School Principal search. Ms. Rafal feels that being proactive in this search will allow us to have the best possible staff. Discussion ensued regarding the process dictated by the timeline and the best time of year to advertise for this position. Mrs. Cardoso agreed to place this item on the next agenda for discussion.

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

1. West Somerville's Open House will be held tomorrow, September 20 beginning at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Duhamel Education Initiative's Fall fundraiser is being held on October 1. Please RSVP early if you are planning to attend this event as a banner crowd is expected.

3. Ms. Rossetti reported that while at the Red Sox game yesterday at Fenway Park, Healey School Interim Assistant Principal Lorne Murphy was honored as a Person of the Year and received a standing ovation. Congratulations to Mr. Murphy!

Mr. Niedergang

1. Mr. Niedergang reported that he attended the Winter Hill's Open House last Thursday, which was well attended. Learned about the Middle School After Hours Program being offered and announced that tomorrow there will be a Middle Grades Mixer from 6:00-7:30 at the East Somerville at Cummings.
2. The Brown School's Open House will be next Monday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m.
3. The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee will also meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Kennedy School on September 26.
4. Commented on the great work done on this year's Parent/Guardian Guide and the beautiful, high quality work. He is proud of this publication.

Ms. Cardoso

1. Wished Ms. Rossetti a Happy Birthday. Her birthday was yesterday.
2. Commended the Class of 2012 on the Car Wash held last Saturday. Mr. Bockelman was at the event lending a hand.
3. Mrs. Cardoso will be at the Argenziano School on Thursday to assist with corn shucking.
4. Tufts Community Day is this Sunday, September 25.

Ms. Bastardi

1. Open House at East Somerville Community School at Edgerly tomorrow.
2. On Saturday, from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. the Fluff Festival will be held in Union Square. Check out the City and School Department websites and calendar of events for more information.

Ms. Rafal

1. On Thursday, September 22, Ms. Rafal will be shucking corn at the Winter Hill Community School at 7:30 a.m.
2. Also on Thursday, September 22, Ms. Rafal will host office hours at the Thurston Spa from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
3. Open House at the Healey is September 22, at 6:00 p.m.
4. Save the Date for – "College Graduation Happens in High School," presented by Dr. Pamela Ellis. This event will take place on Sunday, October 2nd from 3:00-4:30 PM in the Somerville High School Library.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Mr. Bockelman reported on the Post High School Planning Night at Somerville High School tonight. Mr. Bockelman stopped by prior to this meeting and reported that there were approximately 75 people in attendance.
2. Somerville High School PTSA is this Wednesday night.
3. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet at 7:00 on Monday, September 26, at 42 Cross Street.
4. Thanks to the Mayor for bringing exciting events to the City such as the Fluff Festival, Honk Festival, and others.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, October 3, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, and Mayor Curtatone (8:04).

Members absent: Ms. Bastardi and Alderman Gewirtz

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:02 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 6 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, and Absent – 3 –Curtatone, Bastardi, and Gewirtz. Also present this evening is our Student Representative, Dea Dodi.

Mr. Sweeting informed members and the audience that Alderman Gewirtz had contacted him to let him know that she would not be in attendance at this evening's meeting as she had a Ward Six meeting that she needed to attend.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to suspend the rules to take up an item of new business.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Sweeting announced that we have two of our new administrators in attendance tonight and turned the proceedings over to Mr. Pierantozzi for introductions.

Mr. Pierantozzi asked that the two new administrators, Ms. Susana Hernandez Morgan, Coordinator of Grant Writing and Information and Mr. Mark Hurrie, Assistant Principal at the Kennedy School step to the podium as he introduced them to the School Committee and audience.

Ms. Morgan thanked the School Committee and stated that she is pleased to be here and is looking forward to working together to continue the District's good work.

Mr. Hurrie stated that it is a pleasure to be here and to be a part of the Somerville Public Schools. He will work to insure a safe learning environment for all of the Kennedy School's students.

Mr. Sweeting welcomed the two new administrators and told them that he is delighted they are joining us!

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 12, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept the minutes of September 12, 2011.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- September 19, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to accept the minutes of September 19, 2011.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Dea Dodi, provided an update on happenings at Somerville High School. Her report included the following:

- Last week's Club Fair attracted many new members. There are a few new clubs, including the Italian Club and Study Buddies – which provides tutoring to students in grades K-8.
- A Salad Bar was initiated today in the cafeteria. Students were very excited to have this option for lunch.
- A group of Danish students are visiting the high school and learning about our academic program, culture, and extracurricular activities.

- Several colleges have been scheduled for visits to Somerville High. Colleges, thus far, include Boston University, Boston College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and many more.
- This past Saturday, students took the SAT's and SAT 2's in preparation for college application season.
- The Social Studies Department has involved students in an essay contest, "The Voice of Democracy," which involves both a written and oral component.
- The second draw for students to be chosen for the National Honor Society takes place this month.
- There are many volunteer opportunities for students at Somerville High. Opportunities include the gardening at the Growing Center, Study Buddies, and helping through Boston Cares.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:* Ms. Rafal (Sept. 20)

1. After School Program update
2. 2011-12 School Improvement Plan format review
3. District and school leadership framework for 2011-12
4. Spring 2011 MCAS results

Ms. Rafal presented her report on the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee of September 20. The subcommittee for Educational Programs and Instruction met at 42 Cross St on Sept 20. In attendance were Mark Niedergang, Paul Bockelman, and myself as well as Dr. McKay, Superintendent Pierantozzi, and Amanda Kersey of the press. The meeting began at 7:03 and adjourned at 8:40.

In between those times we received an update about the afterschool programs, took a look at the format for upcoming School Improvement Plans, heard about the structures and supports for leadership in the district and across the schools, and took an initial glance at just-released MCAS scores from the spring of 2011.

Some highlights from the meeting:

We heard about how the Academic Tutoring Program is growing. Title One money helps support this program. It is linked to the school day curriculum. Clubs are also offered; for example each school has at least 2 foreign language clubs. Members of the High School Future Teachers of America Club are tutoring East Somerville Community School students at the Cummings. The registration process for receiving tutoring uses a variety of categories of need to assign available spaces to high need students. There is a waiting list for the academic tutoring program, partly due to money and partly due to availability of qualified tutors. We might want to consider budgeting additional funds for it next year if we can find the human resources.

The format for School Improvement Plans reflects the School Committee's improvement goals. Mr. Bockelman did ask for a space to be added where the principals, assistant principals and/or school councils could comment on what they take from all the data, share their insights about what's going on in the school and the strategies and tactics they might try, in sort of a more narrative form.

We looked at the slides Dr. McKay had presented to instructional leadership teams. Related to this, Mr. Harel is working with the principals to help maximize the impact instructional coaches can have. A highlight of the slides came at the end; it wasn't so much seeing the Superintendent's head photo shopped on a couple of Super Heroes, as it was seeing Dr. McKay's delight even reminiscing about the prank.

An initial look at the spring MCAS scores shows that while we didn't make AYP, some of the growth scores were phenomenal. For example, at Winter Hill we saw across the board positive changes from last year. The Superintendent said the "AYP environment is becoming meaningless" as we approach the 2014 deadline for 100% proficient.

Overall, it felt like the Superintendent and Dr. McKay were really letting the School Committee in on some of the concrete work and meetings that go on behind the scenes and help make our goals come alive. The School Committee was appreciative of that and grateful that more work on improvement goals continues Friday at the Middle Grades Summit. It is a professional development day for staff with no school for students.

Our next Ed Programs meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm Oct 18 at 42 Cross St.

B. *Personnel Subcommittee:* Mrs. Cardoso (Sept. 26)

Mrs. Cardoso presented her report on the Personnel Subcommittee meeting of September 26. The Personnel Subcommittee met on Monday, September 26, 2011 @6:30 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross

Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Maureen Bastardi, Christine Rafal Mary Jo Rossetti, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang and Paul Bockelman along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi and the Human Resources Administrator Melissa DeResendes and the District Coordinator of Grant Writing and Information Susana Morgan. Dorothy Scally from the STA was in also in attendance.

There were five (5) Agenda items to be discussed.

1. Job Descriptions:

Coordinator of Grant Writing & Information

This was a rewrite of the previous job description. Our new Coordinator, Susana Morgan, started working last week. There was a motion by the subcommittee to approve the job description:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the job description for the Coordinator of Granting Writing Information as presented.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Teaching and Learning Committee @Somerville High School

This job description is for new positions at Somerville High School that came about as a result of the accreditation process – these positions will be similar to the elementary instructional leadership teams. There will be 10 positions and they will be paid a stipend. There was a motion by the subcommittee to approve the job description:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the job description for the Teaching and Learning Committee Members @Somerville High School.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Agenda Items 2 and 3 - Current Postings and New Staff 2011-2012:

Melissa DeResendes our new Human Resources and Diversity Administrator gave us an update – she and her staff have been extremely busy since she was hired over the summer and we appreciate all that they have done and will continue to do.

4. Healey School Principal Search:

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the tentative timeline for the search. There were many issues, questions and concerns – I believe the Superintendent understood and made note of all of them and it is also important to note that this is for the hiring of the new principal for the next school year. Also, the Superintendent wanted everyone to know that he would not be appointing a new principal but that this would be an open search process. There will be focus groups, a search committee, an interview team, etc. It will be an open and transparent process with plenty of notification to and input from all interested parties going forward.

5. Preliminary Discussion of Split City/School SomerPromise Position:

There was no discussion of this matter – the Supt. passed out the information for discussion at our next Personnel Subcommittee Meeting in October.

School Committee Members were informed that at the next Personnel Subcommittee Meeting we would be discussing the tool for the Superintendent's Evaluation process.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, October 24 at 6:00 PM at Central Administration.

C. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee; Mr. Bockelman (Sept. 26)

Mr. Bockelman presented his report on the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting of September 26. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on September 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were - Members: Paul Bockelman, Mary Jo Rossetti, and Teresa Cardoso - Others: Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, and Mark Niedergang. Also in attendance were Pat Durette, Tony Pierantozzi, Susana Morgan. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. at the conclusion of the Personnel Subcommittee.

We had six items on the agenda:

1. FY13 Budget Timeline – The Subcommittee reviewed the timeline proposed by the Director of Finance. It follows the calendar from previous years. The Subcommittee requested that substantive matters be brought to the Subcommittee’s attention as early as possible – preferably before the end of this calendar year.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the budget timeline as presented.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. Middle School Foreign Language program – The Superintendent presented a financing plan that would introduce foreign language into the middle grades curriculum in all schools housing middle grades. If we were to introduce one foreign language – Spanish, for instance – it would require three staff members. If we were to introduce two foreign languages – Spanish and one other, for example, it would require four staff members. The goal of the program is to provide at least two years of foreign language instruction, which would equate to one year of high school foreign language. The Superintendent reported that, in a survey of Somerville parents, 84% wanted a foreign language taught in the middle grade and 98% wanted that language to be Spanish. The cost to provide foreign language to 50% of the students – an assumption that half of the students would need the extra time to work on core, MCAS tested subjects – would be about \$231,000. The Subcommittee moved to accept the document as presented and to transfer the item to the Education Programs and Instruction Subcommittee to discuss implementation issues.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to accept the document as presented regarding foreign language in the middle grades and refer the matter to the Ed Programs Subcommittee.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

3. Pre-School Fee Analysis – The Superintendent presented a survey of pre-school fees in similar districts and a comparison of our pre-school fees with other pre-school providers in the Somerville area. The analysis showed that the District does not charge for pre-school, but that several neighboring districts like Malden, Medford, and Waltham do. We reviewed various tuition plans and discussed in broad terms what the goal of charging a fee would be. We understood that the earliest that fees could be charged would be the 2013-2014 school year. The Subcommittee asked the Superintendent to prepare a development plan for the Subcommittee to review.
4. Kennedy Pool fees – The Superintendent presented a detailed analysis of the fees being charged by the Kennedy Pool and a comparison of those fees with neighboring communities and the District of Columbia. Given our fee structure, the Subcommittee agreed to take no action, do nothing, on the fees at the Kennedy Pool.
5. Expenditure Report – The Subcommittee reviewed the expenditures for the School Committee.
6. Bill Rolls – The Subcommittee reviewed the bill rolls for FY11 and FY12. After numerous questions were answered, I move to approve the bill rolls for FY11 and now I move to approve the bill rolls for FY12.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to approve the FY11 bill roll.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the FY12 bill roll.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi provided a report on the new Personnel Report. This week’s report is in a new format that will, hopefully, provide more clarity. Some highlights from this week’s report include two retirements – Jeannine Goodhue retired on 6/28/11 after 15 years and Ruth Daigle will retire on 6/30/12 after 38 years of service. Ms. Daigle is currently serving as the music teacher at the West Somerville Neighborhood School. We wish them a long, healthy and happy retirement. Mr. Pierantozzi also reported on some data around the hiring of 76 new staff members this year. Of this staff, 13% self-reported as being a person of color. The Human Resources office is working on demographic data for our entire District and this will be provided at a future meeting.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

- October is now upon us. We had a really great opening of school this year; the best Mr. Pierantozzi has seen during his time in Somerville. Issued thanks to staff for their work in preparing for the school year. Also thanked parents, guardians and students.
- Open Houses and similar events conclude next week. Events thus far have been very successful thanks, in part, to the availability of translators. The District is in the process of purchasing additional walkie talkies for principals to use to communicate with these translators to give direction as to what room to report to in order to provide assistance to parents/guardians and staff.
- On last Friday, Mr. Pierantozzi visited Somerville High School and discovered that a state auditor was on site evaluating our Chapter 74 programs. Under the guidance of Leo DeSimone, Assistant Principal for Career, Vocational and Technical Education, our Computer Principles and Repair Program has achieved Chapter 74 status. Congratulations to all involved. We will undergo the same process for our new Medical Technology program in the near future.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. Race to the Top Update. Dr. McKay thanked Susana Morgan for jumping into her new role as our Grant Writer and gave kudos to her for her work on submitting the grant and reviewed the Executive Summary, which included the following:
 - Aligning the curriculum to the Common Core – ¼ of the budget is dedicated to this portion of the grant.
 - The Teacher Evaluation Framework is another major undertaking.

Discussion ensued regarding timelines, college and career readiness, the effect of the new foreign language, math and science requirements on CVTE students and school counseling and funding of these changes. It was decided that this issue will be added to the agenda for a future Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting as this is a lot of information to digest and members need time to read through and discuss.

2. Oct 7. Professional Development Day Preview

NW/FC The topic is "Adolescent Brain Development -Program and Educational Implications" Middle Grades Summit, conference for Middle Grade teachers (grades 6-8)
A summary of topics covered during this professional development day will be shared at Ed. Programs.

3. MassGrad Conference Wednesday 9/28

Grant recipients from schools across the state come together in Marlborough to share best practices on increasing high school graduation rates. One of the presenters is our own Patricia Murphy-Sheehy, SHS Math teacher and summer school math leader. Also attending was Guidance Department Head Carolyn Richards and Math Department Head Marie Foreman. Topic: online learning for credit recovery in mathematics.

4. Instructional Leadership Team

Tomorrow afternoon, first of the year district-wide ILT meeting will be held.

- Today was Day One of the first ten-week Community Schools session. The Community Schools program will be reviewed as we review the Long Range Plan and District Improvement Plan. There are two foreign language offerings at each elementary school as well as science and engineering, homework assistance in the core subjects and many more.
- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that there is no financial report this evening. Employees in the Finance, Payroll and Human Resources Offices have been very busy preparing data for a variety of reports, including the October 1 Report, the End of Year Report, EPIMS and document preparation for the District Review by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

- On Thursday, September 22, Mr. Pierantozzi participated in the corn shucking event at the Winter Hill Community School. Approximately 3,000 ears of corn were shucked and then prepared and served at lunchtime. Fun was had by all, except maybe the custodians who had to clean up! In truth, many students and staff took care to help with the cleanup so as not to put an extra burden on the custodial staff.
- In the packet is a letter from the Eastern Massachusetts YMCA requesting use of the Kennedy Pool for their 2012 Championships. This request has been approved and our Pool Director, Mr. Cheney, will oversee the operations at no cost to the District.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)

School Committee Vote: Members of the School Committee elect an official voting delegate and alternate for the November, 2011 Annual Business Meeting of the MASC.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to nominate Ms. Rafal as the official voting delegate on the November, 2011, meeting of the MASC.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to nominate Ms. Rossetti as the alternate voting delegate on the November, 2011, meeting of the MASC.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Acceptance of Donation – (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation a Life Fitness Stair Climber valued at \$1,000.00 from Conrad Cardenas of Roslindale, MA, to be used by the Somerville High School Physical Education Department.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Somerville High School Summer School Graduates (recommended action: approval)

Mr. Pierantozzi recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the necessary requirements, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Nicole Frontinan
- Nicholas Geary
- Kiranjot Kaur
- Raymond Levasseur
- Michelle Nguyen
- Brandon Osborne
- Evan Martins
- Rishabh Narula

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the summer school graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rafal

1. Ms. Rafal helped with corn shucking at Winter Hill, followed by office hours at Thurston Spa.
2. PTA night at the Healey, well attended...Parent volunteers organized a painting afternoon and students made gorgeous signs portraying the schools core values of excellence, openness, creativity and joy.
3. Ms. Rafal also had a chance to go to one of the Community Council meetings and Middle Grades Design Team meeting at the Healey. Parents at both were speaking about joy and I think excellence and openness are also unfolding. I think the mood is largely positive.
4. Ms. Rafal was also happy to host a talk by Dr. Pamela Ellis yesterday called "College graduation happens in high school." The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative & The Welcome Project co-sponsored and made this talk possible and Lenny from the city cable channel recorded it. The talk was in the spirit of "it takes a village..." Dr. Ellis said wraparound services make a huge difference in children's life chances so I hope SomerPromise will eventually show great impact. She also said research shows the biggest single factor predicting college graduation is whether a student eats meals with their family before college-age, but said it is possible that the level of consistent daily care and connection with adults is what matters. The majority of the students in attendance were

9th-graders and she said to monitor your students' stress levels, especially that 9th grade is the most difficult transition. Another thing she stressed was monitoring your child's math achievement because math skills are fundamental also for other fields like science and engineering.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Thanked Ms. Rafal for sponsoring the event with Dr. Ellis. He learned a number of things and there was a good crowd in attendance.
2. Mr. Bockelman and Mr. Niedergang were in attendance at the Brown School's Open House last Monday evening. The Open House was very well attended with a huge number of parents/guardians in attendance.
3. The Rules Management Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, October 11, at 6:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street before the Long Range Planning Meeting. On the agenda is the Wellness Policy and the impact of the new nutrition regulations. Mr. Pierantozzi and one of the Food Service administrators will present. Shape Up Somerville will also be instrumental in guiding this discussion.

Ms. Rossetti informed Mr. Niedergang that former School Committee member Roberta Bauer is very knowledgeable about the Wellness Policy and should, perhaps, be invited to the meeting to share her perspective as well as some historical background. Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Niedergang agree that inviting Ms. Bauer is a wonderful idea. Mr. Niedergang will call to invite her.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Mr. Bockelman reported on Tufts Community Day which was held last Sunday—a great event!
2. A reminder to parents/guardians and students that there is no school on this Friday, October 7, as it is a professional development day for our staff.
3. Also, there is no school for staff and students on Monday, October 10, due to the Columbus Day holiday.
4. Somerville High School's Homecoming is in two weeks – a very exciting time with a football game on Friday night and a dance on Saturday night.
5. On this Wednesday, October 5, there will be a joint meeting between the School Committee and the Board of Aldermen regarding the East Somerville Community School. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, October 17, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Alderman Gewirtz and Mayor Curtatone (7:13).

Members absent: Mrs. Cardoso

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Bastardi, Rossetti, Gewirtz and Absent – 2 – Curtatone and Cardoso.

Mr. Sweeting informed members and the audience that Mrs. Cardoso informed him that she would be unable to attend tonight's meeting as she is not feeling well.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 3, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to accept the minutes of October 3, 2011.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Dea Dodi, was not in attendance this evening.

3. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management: Mr. Niedergang (Oct. 11)

Mr. Niedergang provided a report on the Rules Management Subcommittee which met on October 11, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were School Committee members Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal and Mr. Niedergang. Also in attendance were Assistant Food Service Director Lauren Mancini and Mr. Pierantozzi. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Niedergang's report included the following:

1. File: EFD - Wellness Policy – The Superintendent and Ms. Mancini provided a report on new food and nutrition regulations that will be in place in August 2012. As a result, Food Services will be making changes in keeping with higher standards regarding healthiness. Efforts were taken to make two things clear – individual students may bring anything for their own lunches/snacks; that is not being changed. Home prepared foods, such as those brought to a potluck dinner, are not banned but, due to allergies, etc., parents/guardians and others are encouraged to provide a listing of the ingredients in the dish they have contributed. No formal actions taken this evening. This topic will be discussed further at the October 24th Rules Management meeting.

2. Policy Amendments – the following three policies were reviewed by the School Committee. Files ACAB and GBEB will be amended to include the following new language:

"The Somerville Public Schools strictly enforces a prohibition against harassment and discrimination, sexual or otherwise, of any of its students or employees, by anyone, including any fellow student, teacher, supervisor, co-worker, vendor, or other third party, as such conduct is contrary to the mission of the Somerville Public Schools and its commitment to equal opportunity in education and employment.

The Somerville Public Schools will not tolerate harassing or discriminatory conduct that affects employment or educational conditions, that interferes unreasonably with an individual's school or work performance or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or school environment."

File GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity – needed only minor changes, including name changes, etc. There were no changes made the actual policy language.

3. File: IJNDD - Social Networking Policy – The School Committee took a quick look at draft policies for this topic, but no action was taken. Will be discussed further at a future meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the recommended changes to the Sexual Harassment Policy – File: ACAB and the Staff Conduct Policy – File: GBEB

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman assumed the Chair so the Mr. Sweeting could provide a report from Long Range Planning.

B. *Long Range Planning:* Mr. Sweeting (Oct. 11)

Mr. Sweeting provided a report on the School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning held on October 11 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. School Committee members in attendance were Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal and Mr. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Morgan. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. Mr. Sweeting's report included the following:

1. Long Range Goals – an update was provided on the School Committee's Long Range Goals. The School Committee will now take stock of where they stand with these goals and determine what comes next. Mr. Sweeting read each goal and provided some updated information on each:
Goal #1 focuses on creating enriching and creative after school programs that are challenging, interesting and fun. Some examples of after school offerings at the Argenziano and Brown Schools are: Art Explosion, My Part in Art, Learn Japanese, Super Science, Fun & Games, Pottery, Rock Climbing, Young Producers, Harvest Heroes, African Drumming, Record Breakers, Chess and Basketball, Learn Spanish, Green Fashion, Girls Room, Ultimate Wellness Challenge, Outer Space, Beyond the Book, Martial Arts, Culture Around the World, Zoo New England, Tufts All-Stars, History's Mysteries, Graphic Design, Watercolors, Young Reporters, Film Critics, Drama, Historic New England and Homework Help.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:13 p.m.

Goal #2 focuses on creating a groundbreaking, exciting middle grades instructional program. Examples include the middle grades project, foreign language at the Healey School.

Goal #3 focuses on increasing inclusion opportunities for special education students – examples include Winter Hill Community School has initiated a new "homeroom" assignment system. Each self-contained student is assigned to a general education homeroom, where they start their day with typical peers. Self-contained students attend Art, Music, Library and PE, as well as lunch and recess, with their "homeroom" students".

Goal #4 focuses on establishing a foreign language instruction program before high school – studies being done to possibly provide foreign language in the middle grades next year.

- Goal #5 focuses on developing greater multicultural understanding and increase staff diversity - This year, 13% of our new hires reported themselves as individuals of color. This percentage increased from the previous year, which was 4%

2. District Improvement Plan – Update – The School Committee briefly reviewed the District Improvement Plan and discussed future changes to the formatting of the document.

3. DESE Communications – Long Range Planning – This item was focused on the School Committee's response to the proposed Somerville Progressive Charter School. School Committee members were provided with an update on the process

4. Long Range Facilities Planning – very brief agenda item to think about future programming and space needs/availability.

MOTION: To direct the Superintendent and Chair of the School Committee to draft an impact statement regarding the potential effects of the proposed Somerville Progressive Charter School on the Somerville Public Schools.

4. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that at members' seats this evening is a packet of information regarding celebrations in the Somerville Public Schools. This packet was developed in response to last week's Boston Herald article. Mr. Pierantozzi read the following statement:
"Over a week ago, the Principal of the Kennedy School sent an email to the faculty of the Kennedy School. The email was intended to spark healthy faculty discussion about the teaching of Christopher Columbus and the European colonists, which it did. Several days after the discussions, someone sent the email to a Boston newspaper. The story became larger than life. A brief internal message intended simply to generate adult discourse became a front page news item.

At no time did anyone representing the Somerville Public Schools state that holidays would be reduced, changed or curtailed. Lost in the 30 second bites is the concept that celebration is very different than education. In Somerville we do both very well and we should continue to do so. We have fun during our many city-wide and school celebrations. In our schools, we prioritize the state and local curriculum, celebrating holidays when related to the curriculum, while respecting the rich diversity of our community. When we teach and learn about history, we do so with the knowledge that history is complex and a full story takes time to study and learn. I am proud to be the Superintendent of Schools in a District, and live in a City, that does both well."

Mr. Pierantozzi also read the text of a message sent on Sunday, October 16, at 4:30 p.m., via email and robo call message from Principal Anne Foley to the Parents/Guardians, Staff and Students of the Kennedy School:

"This message is to address the Herald article and its aftermath that occurred this past Friday. As we all know anything posted on the internet has the potential to become public. The email I sent was addressed to Kennedy School staff with the intent of sparking an educational discussion on how we can address the multi-cultural perspectives on our upcoming holidays. If this message had been intended for a broader audience, I would have chosen less inflammatory words and provided more of a context for the message. I apologize if my words offended anyone - that was not my intent.

Please know that nothing has changed regarding the instruction and events planned at the Kennedy School this year. As always teachers and classrooms address holidays as part of their curriculum. I support the outstanding staff at the Kennedy School who will continue to provide the best education for our students. I want to thank all of those who have offered me kind words."

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the barrage of response from media venues and people from all over the world as a result of the email and the resulting story in the Herald and the amount of time spent responding to inquiries and concerns.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. Spoke about teachable moments and the challenge of presenting multiple perspectives, etc. Primary source documents, plays, movies are often used. Presenting the full picture is often complex and takes much thinking.
 2. Mentioned the Professional Development (PD) Day of October 7th and reported that detailed information from this day is in the packet for the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting and further discussion will take place at that meeting tomorrow evening. It was a great day. The next full day PD day is on November 8.
 3. Provided a reported on the SomerPromise initiative. Tufts is working with Stephanie Hirsch and Dr. McKay to determine how data can be better used. Last week a meeting was held to discuss this. The hope is to share data across agencies thus creating integrated data systems. An example would be health data, homelessness, foster care, welfare, etc. Legal agreements must be considered, which could take a couple of months and then work must be done on getting the data together in a coherent way. Right now, the District is working with Tufts and then other agencies will be added over time.
- The Superintendent announced that the Somerville Public Schools are seeking after school tutors in the elementary grades and substitute teachers for all grades. Please contact our Human Resources Office for more information.
 - Mr. Pierantozzi reported on his attendance on September 26, at a Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) Finance Course led by John Fullerton. This year, similar to four years ago,

HGSE students will be working with the Somerville Public Schools as part of their class projects. One project of note involves research on the financial impact of digital textbooks in the District which will analyze if this would be good, better or worse. This project and others will be completed in six months and will be presented to us when they are completed.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for her report regarding budget and finance issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

1. The Staffing report is at members' places this evening. This plan has been updated with staff names and salaries and should replace the staffing report that was generated during the budget process.
2. Reported on an increase in the Circuit Breaker award from the Department of Elementary and Secondary of \$438,138.00 to make the total reimbursement \$1,160,173.00. This is an increase of 22.7% (65% vs. 42.3%) and funds will be disbursed in four quarterly payments.
3. Announced the receipt of two grants - \$70,000.00 for the Thinkfinity grant for high school math and science and a Literacy grant in the amount of \$33,000.00 to be used for coaching and materials at the elementary level.
- Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the City being announced as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by the America's Promise Alliance for the 4th consecutive year. The five criteria for consideration for this award are: caring adults; safe places; healthy start; effective education; and opportunities to help others. The City was recognized for its Summer Jobs Program and the SomerPromise Initiative and the School Department for helping students by offering free PSAT and SAT test taking, peer tutoring, and College Goal Sunday.
- Mr. Pierantozzi also reported that, today, representatives from the City and Schools were at the White House being recognized for their success with Shape Up Somerville and the Healthier US Schools Challenge. Four of our schools have been award winners – the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park (gold), Winter Hill Community School (silver), and the Healey and West Somerville Neighborhood Schools (bronze).

Mayor Curtatone announced that, next week, Somerville will receive the Let's Move Inaugural Award in Washington, DC. The Mayor and Shape Up Somerville staff members will travel to Washington to receive this award.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policies were presented this evening for first reading, as amended:

- File: ACAB Sexual Harassment Policy
- File: GBEB Staff Conduct Policy

B. National School Board Association Northeast Regional Conference (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti provided a report on her attendance at the National School Board Association Conference last week. The meeting was the New England Regional Conference and was held in Hyannis. Eleven states were had representatives in attendance. Ms. Rossetti's report included the following:

- A focus on school governance reform, which included many hours of discussion. Rural and small districts need the support of larger districts
- The development of a statement ensuring the mission of school boards – critical
- New Jersey has new legislation which caps salary increases to unions and other employees at 2%
- New Jersey starts foreign language in grade 2 and all students must take at least one Advance Placement course. The do not have to take the AP exam
- Ms. Rossetti has provided a full packet of information from the conference to Ms. Marques who will keep the packet on file in the Superintendent's Office for members to review, if desired.

Mr. Sweeting thanked Ms. Rossetti and congratulated her on being elected by acclamation to serve as the Alternate to NSBA's Policies and Resolutions Committee.

C. Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)

School Committee Vote: Members vote on Resolutions up for consideration at the November, 2011 Annual Business Meeting of the MASC. Ms. Rafal will be the voting delegate from the Somerville School Committee at this meeting.

1. Providing Greater Access for Students to Exploratory Visits to Chapter 74 approved vocational education programs
2. Teacher Evaluation
3. Charter School Funding
4. Enactment of a freeze on Federal regulations pending the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind
5. State Educator Evaluation Process

Discussion ensued regarding the five resolutions and how School Committee members wished for Ms. Rafal to proceed with voting at the meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to that the School Committee direct Ms. Rafal to vote in the affirmative on resolutions 2, 3, 4, and 5, but not on resolution number 1. For resolution number 1 Ms. Rafal should wait for the amended resolution to be presented and vote what she deems best.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Acceptance of Donations – (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of 2,000 books from Bookworm Angel, organized by Somerville High School graduate Carlos Valente, which were immediately distributed to students at the East Somerville Community School. Value to be determined.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of 20 hardcover books from the Somerville Kiwanis as part of their sponsorship of the Reading is Fundamental program, to be utilized by students at the Winter Hill Community School. Value to be determined.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 2, 2011: | Somerville High School students to the University of New Hampshire to tour campus. Transportation via bus at no cost to students – The University of New Hampshire is paying related travel expenses for this trip. |
| Nov. 6, 2011: | Somerville High School Outdoors club to Mt. Monadnock, NH, to hike. Transportation via school vans at a cost of \$3.00 per student. (Rain date – 11/13/11) |
| Nov. 11 & 12, 2011: | Somerville High School Painting and Decorating students to Fairlee, VT to attend the Annual Faux Paint Contest. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$60.00 per student. |
| Nov. 11 & 12, 2011: | Somerville High School Junior Statesmen of America (JSA) Club to the Boston Park Plaza, overnight, to participate in the JSA Convention. Transportation via MBTA. Cost to student is \$75.00 and includes lodging. |

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bockelman

1. The City of Somerville is holding a Pumpkin Stroll on Sunday, October 30 at noon. The fun begins in Statue Park in Davis Square and travels down the bike path.

Ms. Rafal

1. The Healey School 3rd and 4th graders are off to Nature's Classroom. Activities for students not choosing to attend Nature's Classroom have also been planned.
2. There is a fundraiser at 5 Horses Tavern to help raise money to fund the cost of these trips.
3. Ms. Rafal attended the Citizens for Public Schools conference on last Saturday.

Mayor Curtatone

1. Announced the last SomerStreets event will be a Halloween Stroll on Somerville Avenue on October 23.
2. Boys Soccer won vs. Andover and play Wednesday for the Greater Boston League Championship. Their record is 10 wins, 1 loss and 2 ties.

Ms. Rafal announced that the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee is meeting tomorrow night.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Mrs. Cardoso asked that he remind everyone that the Argenziano School will hold its Harvest Fest on Saturday from 11:00 – 3:00.
2. Watching children leave for Nature's Classroom had symbolic importance and was great to see.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Mr. Niedergang praised the Board of Aldermen's ordinance to "hire local".
2. Spoke about a staff email that was distributed throughout the District regarding translations. Over 50 languages spoken by families in Somerville. Great idea to solicit staff members to assist with translations. Mr. Niedergang is proud to be where so many languages are spoken and we can rely on our staff to increase translation at PTA meetings, Open Houses, etc.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, November 7, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso and Alderman Gewirtz (7:08).

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Bastardi, Rossetti, Cardoso and Absent – 2 – Curtatone and Gewirtz.

II. AWARDS & CITATIONS

- Susan Walsh

Mr. Bockelman assumed the chair as Mr. Sweeting stepped to the podium to introduce Ms. Susan Walsh and present her with a resolution for her efforts on behalf of the School Department and the City. The text of this resolution is included at the end of these minutes. The School Committee recessed at 7:03 p.m. to thank and congratulate Ms. Walsh.

President Gewirtz arrived at 7:07 p.m.

The School Committee returned to session at 7:08 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 17, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to accept the minutes of October 17, 2011.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Dea Dodi, provided the following report:

- The 8th grade student shadowing days are winding down this week. 8th graders have enjoyed shadowing a high school student to get a sense of what classes and life are like at Somerville High School.
- The Halloween luncheon for seniors was very successful. Members of the Class of 2012 dressed in various costumes – including pirates of the Caribbean, the Giving Tree and various superheroes – Wonder Woman, Batman, Superman, etc.
- MCAS retests will take place on Wednesday and Thursday for both English Language Arts and Math.
- Paperwork for students wishing to participate in a winter sport is due on November 14.
- College visits continue.
- Congratulations to the Girls' Volleyball and Boys' Soccer teams for their post season victories.
- An article on the diversity of the members of the Boys' Soccer team was featured in the Boston Globe.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Educational Programs & Instruction: Ms. Rafal (Oct. 18)

The Ed Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on Oct 18, 2011, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance: subcommittee members Mark Niedergang, Paul Bockelman and Ms. Rafal, School Committee Chair Adam Sweeting. Also in attendance were Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, presenters Tony Ciccariello, Joe Burke and Jane Cummings and one audience member.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

The Subcommittee discussed subjects from the agenda.

Presenters from the high school brought seven proposed new courses for the program of studies. The first was a first-year course in Mandarin Chinese potentially to be offered for 9th-12th graders. This could be a .1 to a .2 FTE staff position but it might not represent a net change in the amount of teachers, depending on how students use their electives.

The Subcommittee then looked at proposed honors level courses in Chorus, Band, and Orchestra for upperclassmen. The big reason to offer honors level courses in these subjects is so that accomplished student musicians do not feel the need to choose between continuing in music or pursuing higher-weighted courses for their GPAs. Honors level students would still be members of the same ensembles as standard-level students but with extra writing, reports, and mentoring and leadership. The next proposal was for a course called Drum Line. Drum Line is currently offered as an after-school club but would be stronger if it were offered for credit and during the school day when it would not have to compete with sports and jobs. The same teacher would be qualified to teach it, but this would represent about a .1 FTE increase in staff. A show choir course was also proposed as a standard level course for students interested in singing, dancing and performance. In addition a credit-bearing music course that would only be open to students in the Life Skills program was proposed.

Subcommittee members expressed excitement about the Chinese course, and appreciation for the creative thought about the high school music offerings. Several of the music offerings in particular could help fill the need for semester courses now that health and physical education are not taken back to back.

A suggestion was made to add some language so that while enrollment in the honors music courses would still be determined by the curriculum chair of music, it not be overly limited.

The subcommittee then looked at credit recovery policies, including the use of online courses for credit recovery. Here, too, the subcommittee asked to delete some limiting language while still leaving the enrollment decision to the headmaster and guidance counselors.

Motion, made by Mr. Bockelman, seconded by Mr. Niedergang: To accept the seven courses and policies proposed for addition to the High School Program of Studies, as amended.

Next on the agenda was a look at scenarios for providing foreign language instruction at the 7th and 8th grade levels district wide. Last year, administration at the Healey observed that not all students wanted to take or were comfortable taking another language (for example some of those for whom it was actually a third language or some who were struggling in core academic subjects). So the scenarios presented assume that around 50% of our 7th and 8th graders would be taking foreign language class, and they would have it every day. The expectation would be for these students to be able to test into a second-year course in the language when they get to 9th grade.

Three teachers would each teach at two schools. Without the Italian grant this would cost, for salaries and materials, \$231,000. With the Italian grant offset, it would be \$202,500.

The subcommittee did ask the Superintendent to conduct a quick survey either electronically or by phone or some combination of methods asking for parents preferences among the languages taught at the high school, including the option of Chinese. A request was made that responses be separated by schools. This may help the School Committee decide, for example, whether to teach up to 3 different languages, and if so which school communities most prefer which language. **A request was made that the results of this survey be presented at our December meeting.**

An update of how the unification is going at the Healey School was provided. Faculty have prioritized for this year's professional development learning how to do project based and theme based learning as well as improving their abilities in differentiated learning. The Superintendent said the principal and the staff are really making the core values come to life. The principal feels the consultant is helpful and working well. We did ask if the Healey administration could present another update in December.

Next was a look at the Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data from last year's middle grades students. While members would certainly like risk to approach zero, overall, it seems that the numbers are going in the right direction. The curriculum supervisor for health and physical education does use this data to inform health instruction and second-step instruction.

As decided at the regular School Committee meeting of Oct 3, we took another look at the Race to The Top Grant projects.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to approve the four in-service courses related to successful instruction for English Language Learners.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

1. Somerville High School Program of Studies
2. Foreign Language program planning for middle grades
3. Healey Unification update
4. Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (middle grades)
5. Race to the Top Grant follow-up
6. In-service course approval
7. Other

MOTION: To approve the seven courses submitted and two policies as amended.

B. *Personnel:* Mrs. Cardoso (Oct. 24)

The Personnel Subcommittee Met on Monday, October 24, 2011 @6:00 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Maureen Bastardi, Christine Rafal Mary Jo Rossetti, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang and Paul Bockelman along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi and the Human Resources Administrator Melissa DeResendes and the District Coordinator of Grant Writing and Information Susana Morgan.

There were three (3) Agenda items to be discussed.

2. Superintendent's Evaluation: Members discussed the Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline and there was a motion by the Subcommittee to approve the timeline.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation Timeline for 2011-2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Next members discussed the Evaluation tool to be used for the evaluation of the Superintendent this year. It was brought to members' attention by the Superintendent that a new regulation regarding evaluation will be in effect with new State standards next year. Discussion took place regarding these standards and the School Committee's current evaluation tool as well as how these aligned with District Improvement and School Committee Goals and after some discussion a decision was made to merge the two documents together and use the best elements of both as well as substituting the current rating scale with the State's rating scale. There was a motion by the subcommittee to approve the new evaluation tool.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the 2011 Superintendent's Evaluation tool by incorporating state standards one through four and the School Committee's current tool numbers five through eight and substituting our current rating scale with the state rating scale.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. Healey School Principal Search: The Superintendent presented the new Tentative Timeline – he had incorporated all of the suggestions made at our previous meeting.

3. Retirements to Date: Melissa DeResendes presented the names of 7 retirees.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, November 14 at 6:00 PM at Central Administration.

C. *Rules Management:* Mr. Niedergang (Oct. 24)

The Rules Management Subcommittee met on October 24, 2011 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Morgan. Items discussed included:

4. Waiting lists for school admissions and the admission of transfer students were discussed together. Discussion took place regarding the process, rules and regulations around school admissions as well as whether preferences should be given to former students who are returning to the District. There was also a discussion regarding waitlists and the expiration of them on November 1. More discussion will take place at the next Rules meeting as part of the possible revision of our Student Assignment Policy.

5. The Wellness Policy - Changes in state and federal regulations regarding food and nutrition and the impact this will have in our schools and programs were the topic of discussion. One clarification was the fact that these regulations do not apply to foods sold/served 30 or more minutes before the start or end of the school day.

Discussion also took place regarding the amount of time allowed for lunch and recess. Parents and guardians have shared concerns over their students not having enough time to eat their lunches as well as the amount of food being thrown away at each lunch. Mr. Pierantozzi stated that there are many obstacles to making changes. He will review the issue and suggest revisions sometime during the winter/spring. Discussion will continue at the next Rules meeting.

Two agenda items - Social Networking Policy and School Committee email regulations and protocols were not discussed at this meeting, but will be on the agenda for the November 14 meeting. Also on the agenda at the next meeting will be the Student Assignment Plan with Dr. Michael Alves, who was instrumental in helping to create our current policy, as well as many, many policies across many districts.

D. *Finance & Facilities*: Mr. Bockelman (Nov. 1)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on November 1, 2011 at 42 Cross Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Members in attendance: Paul Bockelman, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso Others: Mark Niedergang, Adam Sweeting, Christine Rafal, Tony Pierantozzi, and Pat Durette

1. Somerville Child Care Center: The Subcommittee reviewed a report on the District's day care center located at Somerville High School. This is a very valuable resource that the District maintains. The hours are from 7am until 5pm and it operates twelve months a year. However, it isn't widely publicized and many people don't know that it is open to any parent or guardian in the City. While there is a healthy balance in the Center's revolving account now, the Center is now operating at a deficit this year. The School Committee received recommendations to increase fees – which are the lowest in the City – to ensure that the Center stopped losing money. Members asked questions about increasing enrollment to avoid tuition increases and the staffing and certification level of the current staff.

This item will be scheduled for additional discussion at the next Finance & Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

2. Cash Management: Mr. Bockelman said he noticed a number of safes being purchased for various buildings and asked for an explanation of how the District handles cash in all of its activities. Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette detailed the protocols and procedures that are in place for handling cash raised for field trips, by fundraisers, and for specific services such as vocational services. Anyone who handles cash has a receipt book that they are to fill out in multiple copies.

There was a discussion as to whether the School Committee should have a policy on cash management and the Superintendent said he would seek advice from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the School Attorney.

As a side note, our attorney has responded that the School Committee has a general policy and that it was her opinion that the details of cash management were more appropriately left as operational issues addressed by the Superintendent.

3. Capital Plan: The members reviewed the Mayor's capital plan as submitted to the Board of Aldermen. Other than the all-important reconstruction of the East Somerville Community School and some other, smaller initiatives, few of the items in the plan addressed school needs – in particular the North Wall of the Somerville High School.

We agreed that we would bring this item back to our next Finance & Facilities Subcommittee meeting.

4. Facilities Update: The Superintendent presented an update on the facilities of the District, which we accepted with few questions.

5. FY12 Expenditures Report: The Subcommittee and other members identified items on the FY12 expenditure report and Ms. Durette provided the appropriate explanations or follow-up.

6. Bill Rolls: The Subcommittee approved the FY11 bill rolls and I move to approve the bill rolls as presented.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the FY11 bill rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Subcommittee approved the FY12 bill rolls and I move to approve the bill rolls as presented.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the FY12 bill rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote.

7. Special Education Revolving Account: The Superintendent reported that the District has become an attractive place for special education parents to seek services. When students come to the District from other districts, we charge the sending districts tuition. To capture these funds so that we can continue to support the services provided, the Superintendent recommended that we establish a Special Education Revolving Account. The Subcommittee approved this and I move to establish a Special Education Revolving Account.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the establishment of a Special Education Revolving Account. The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL

Mr. Pierantozzi presented the latest Personnel Report. This report included 14 new hires, 11 of which were replacements for staff members who resigned. The remaining three new hires were a part time after school tutor (self-funded), and two paraprofessionals at the Somerville High School Welcome Center. Also reported were five leaves of absence for personal reasons, four inter-district personnel transactions, five resignations and seven resignations for retirement.

One of the resignations is that of Mr. Anthony Ciccariello, Headmaster of Somerville High School. Mr. Ciccariello is not yet retiring, but is resigning from his current position. Mr. Bockelman asked about the process that will be followed to replace Mr. Ciccariello – this and the plan for a new principal at the Winter Hill Community School will be discussed at the next Personnel Subcommittee meeting on November 14.

The Superintendent announced the retirements for Mary McClellan after 34 years, Margaret Clapham, after 29 years, Joan Lynch after 11 years, Frank Beebe, after 32 years, Linda Cignetti, after 25 years, Patricia O'Connor, after 40 years and Steve Tuccelli, after 25 years. The total years served of these seven employees is 219, with an average of over 31 years of service among them. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that these employees will be missed but are wished many years of health and happiness.

President Gewirtz departed at 7:55 p.m.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi reminded the audience that there is no school tomorrow as it is a Professional Development Day for staff only.
- Also, on Friday, November 11, schools will be closed in observance of Veteran's Day. The Superintendent extended thanks to Susanna Hernandez Morgan, Coordinator of Information and Grants, for initiating robo calls to all of our students' homes with this information. The District also sends messages to the homes of all elementary students to remind families of half-day Wednesdays or any other uniquely scheduled days (high school mid-terms and finals, etc.).

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. Announced that tomorrow will be a Professional Growth Day. At members' seats are agendas for tomorrow for each school. These agendas were developed by the principals utilizing their school improvement plans and District goals. All presenters are Somerville Public Schools staff. Dr. McKay is proud of the work reflected in these plans which show a strong commitment to our community of learners.
2. Provided a brief update on the District Review process. Preparations are moving along nicely. Currently, we are in the document gathering phase. The onsite visit will take place from January 23-26, 2012. Also at members' seats is a two-sided document, the Instruction Inventory Record, which will be used by the visitors from the DESE during the site visits.
3. Parents/Guardians should be on the lookout for information regarding a survey on foreign language offerings in the District. The survey will be open for responses from November to

mid-December. Feedback will be provided to the School Committee once it has been compiled along with a recommendation on how to proceed.

- The Superintendent announced that he is pleased to announce that thanks to the efforts of the Mayor, School Committee, and Board of Aldermen, construction at the East Somerville Community School has started up again. It's great to think that soon my office will have a beautiful new school as a neighbor.
- Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students from the Healey School who attended Nature's Classroom had a wonderful experience and issued thanks to staff, parents/guardian and community members for their help with fundraising for this trip.
- The Superintendent announced that, on October 28, National Food Day was celebrated at the Argenziano, Kennedy and Winter Hill Community Schools. One activity that took place that day was a blind taste test of a variety of apples. This is just one of many activities across the District that helps to foster healthy lifestyles for our students.
- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that 88 Somerville High School students are the recipients of the John and Abigail Adams scholarships for being advanced or proficient on their grade 10 MCAS tests.
- Mr. Pierantozzi reported on his attendance on September 26, at a Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) Finance Course led by John Fullerton. This year, similar to four years ago, HGSE students will be working with the Somerville Public Schools as part of their class projects. One project of note involves research on the financial impact of digital textbooks in the District which will analyze if this would be good, better or worse. This project and others will be completed in six months and will be presented to us when they are completed.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for her report regarding budget and finance issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

1. Last Friday, Ms. Durette and Mr. Tringale submitted the FY11 End of Year Report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
 2. Ms. Durette has been meeting with principals and administrators to review the Capital Improvement Plan and determine any capital projects (one-time projects over \$1,000) that they expect to request during the next budget process. This would include copy machines, vehicles, or equipment. She will report on these meetings at the December Finance and Facilities Subcommittee.
- Mr. Pierantozzi congratulated Lisa Curtin, a science teacher at Somerville High School, on having an article that she co-authored published recently in the prestigious Journal of Nature. Ms. Curtin's research at the Whitehead Institute of Biomedical Research led to this paper. Her work and the work of her colleagues contributed to Somerville High School being award the MASS Biotech award.
 - November is Family Literacy Month. Events include: Literacy Volunteer Training (11/15), Family Reading Night (11/17) and the Family Literacy Celebration: Early Childhood Fair (11/19)

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policies are presented this evening for second reading, as amended:

- File: ACAB Sexual Harassment Policy
- File: GBEB Staff Conduct Policy

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to include File: ACAB Sexual Harassment Policy, as amended, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to include File: GBEB Staff Conduct Policy, as amended, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- B. Ms. Rafal announced, as an item of Unfinished Business, that SwellR is no longer in business. SwellR was an organization that assisted organizations with fundraising.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Acceptance of Donations** – (Recommended action: approval)

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of 42 desk/tables donated by Tufts University. Value to be determined.

Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to accept the donation with gratitude. The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of various sewing materials, donated by Robert and Loretta Lytle, to the Clothing Class at Somerville High School. Value is \$400.00.

Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the donation with gratitude. The motion was approved via voice vote.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

1. Tomorrow is Election Day. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please vote.
2. Friday is Veteran's Day. Ms. Rossetti issued her thanks to veterans past and present for serving our country and keeping us safe.
3. Next Thursday, November 17, the PTA will hold a Full Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Edgerly School.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Read from a recent article in the National School Board Association's Newsletter regarding the benefits of preschool for children's future academic success. Mr. Niedergang asked that this issue be considered at budget time and for the School Committee to consider increasing the number of preschool classes in the future.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Tomorrow is Election Day and there will be a bake sale at the Argenziano School sponsored by the PTA.
2. Next Monday, the Personnel Subcommittee will meet at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Rules Management Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Rafal

1. Don't forget to vote. Also, the earlier in the day you vote, the less likely you are to receive phone calls reminding you to vote.
2. Reported on her attendance at the Mass. Computer-Using Educators conference.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Lisa Curtin's publication is remarkable. The Science Department at the high school has great staff.
2. On November 16, at 3:00 p.m., in the Somerville High School auditorium, El Sistema in "the Ville" a collaborative orchestral concert featuring instrumental music students from the East Somerville Community School and the Conservatory Lab Charter School (CLCS) will be held.
3. On Saturday, November 26, Holiday in "the Ville", a holiday show, will be held at the Somerville Theater from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. The Music Department is looking for Somerville High School alum who participated in musical activities while in high school, to come back and participate in the show.
4. Please vote.
5. Regarding Mr. Ciccariello's resignation. These are giant shoes to fill. Mr. Bockelman hopes that we can find a way for him to contribute to the District in the future. This is very sad for Mr. Bockelman and the kids.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Congratulations and Good Luck to the Boys' Soccer and Girls' Volleyball teams!

X. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following member of the Somerville Public Schools community who have recently passed away:

- Dr. Anthony Cipriano, former School Committee member from Ward 4 (1990-1994)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 via voice vote.

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
School Committee

Susan Walsh

- WHEREAS, *Susan Walsh has provided over a decade of volunteer service to improve the lives of hundreds of students and families in the Somerville Public Schools and the City of Somerville, and*
- WHEREAS, *Ms. Walsh engaged Somerville organizations, businesses and the community to devote time and donate needed items to students and their families, and*
- WHEREAS, *Ms. Walsh organized Duck Tours, Charles River Boat Rides, and other field trips to our students, often at no cost to students, and*
- WHEREAS, *Ms. Walsh fostered meaningful partnerships with local businesses and organizations to enrich students' experiences through reading and homework help, concerts, and job and career fairs, and*
- WHEREAS, *Ms. Walsh has also coordinated donations from businesses thus providing turkeys for families at Next Wave/Full Circle as well as clothing, food and holiday gifts for other families in need , and*
- WHEREAS, *Ms. Walsh's services have extended beyond the Somerville Public Schools to the Somerville Homeless Coalition, Clarendon Hill Community, the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, and the Lazarus Program and continues her volunteerism in Rockport and the surrounding community, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED: *That the Somerville School Committee extends its gratitude to Ms. Walsh for her tireless efforts and that these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to her.*

Somerville School Committee

Adam Sweeting, Chairperson

M. Teresa Cardoso

Mary Jo Rossetti

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

Rebekah L. Gewirtz, Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

Paul Bockelman, Vice Chairperson

Maureen Bastardi

Mark Niedergang

Christine Rafal

November 7, 2011

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, November 21, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso and Mayor Curtatone (8:00).

Members absent: Alderman Gewirtz

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Bastardi, Rossetti, Cardoso and Absent – 2 – Curtatone and Gewirtz.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 7, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the minutes of November 7, 2011.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dodi was not in attendance this evening as she had much studying and school work to do.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Personnel: Mrs. Cardoso (Nov. 14)

The Personnel Subcommittee met on Monday, November 14, 2011 @6:00 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Maureen Bastardi, Christine Rafal, Mary Jo Rossetti, Mark Niedergang and Paul Bockelman along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi, Human Resources Administrator Melissa DeResendes, Asst. Supt. Vince McKay and the District Coordinator of Grant Writing and Information Susana Morgan.

There were four (4) Agenda items to be discussed:

1. Retirement Notices for SY 2012-13: As mentioned at our previous School Committee Meeting Stephen Tuccelli, the current Principal at the Winter Hill Community School will be retiring on September 13, 2012.
2. Resignation Notices for SY 2012-13: Also, as mentioned at our previous School Committee Meeting Anthony Ciccariello, the current Headmaster at Somerville High School will be resigning on or about June 30, 2012.

Agenda Items 3 and 4 dealt with the Search process for these two positions.

Melissa DeResendes and the Superintendent presented the School Committee with Tentative Timelines for the search process for these two positions and they were exactly the same.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the tentative timeline for these two searches. There were many issues, questions and concerns. The Superintendent assured everyone that this would be an open search process. There will be focus groups, a search committee, interviews, etc. It will be an open and transparent process with plenty of notification to and input from all interested parties throughout both of these searches.

It is important to note that going forward we will have three active principal searches going on simultaneously so we ask for everyone's patience during this time. It is an overwhelming task keeping everyone informed at all times and a huge burden on our Central Office staff and an even heavier burden on our Healey, Winter Hill and Somerville High School students, staff and families.

There were no motions made at this meeting.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, December 12th at 6:00 PM at Central Administration.

B. Rules Management: Mr. Niedergang (Nov. 14)

1. Wellness Policy – lunch/recess
2. Student Assignment Plan – Dr. Michael Alves
3. Social Networking Policy
4. Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members
5. Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment Policy

The Rules Management Subcommittee met on November 14, 2011, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal, and Ms. Bastardi. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, Ms. DeResendes, Ms. Bertholdo, Dr. Davila and Ms. Morgan.

The first agenda item discussed was the Wellness Policy, in particular recess and lunch. Over the past several weeks, School Committee members have received many emails from parents/guardians expressing concerns over lunch and recess times. Mr. Pierantozzi will speak with principals over the coming weeks and ask for their schedules and input. Mr. Pierantozzi is concerned with instructional time and the implications an extension of lunch, etc. could have. This issue may also be subject to collective bargaining. Discussion ensued. The Superintendent will make a recommendation at a future Rules Management meeting.

The next item was a first look at the Student Assignment Plan. Dr. Michael Alves, a national expert on school assignments who has authored many plans for districts across the country, was the School Committee's guest this evening. Dr. Alves provided information regarding points to consider as Somerville looks at revising our plan. Recommendations included looking at socioeconomic status instead of race and keeping the main focus on student achievement. Much discussion ensued.

Agenda items 3-5 were not presented this evening as Mr. Niedergang and the School Committee members felt it was more important to give time to Dr. Alves and the Student Assignment Plan. These items will be on the agenda of December 12.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

C. Educational Programs & Instruction: Ms. Rafal (Nov. 15)

1. High School Guidance Program Report
2. MCAS 2011
3. Other

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on November 15, 2011, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. Present were Subcommittee members Mark Niedergang, Paul Bockelman and Christine Rafal, as well as School Committee members Adam Sweeting, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso. Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi and Vince McKay. Also present were Somerville High School Headmaster Tony Ciccariello and Director of Guidance and Testing Carolyn Richards.

In the audience were a member of the High School's School Site Council, a member of the teacher's union and, joining us midway through, was a parent who also works at the Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

The meeting was called to order at 7:02.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation from the Director of Guidance and Testing about the work that the guidance counselors are doing, mostly at the high school, but also some of the work happening in the middle grades.

Highlights included:

- Efforts to include college and career planning are happening in all subject areas.
- Using various grant moneys, guidance counselor Jackie Brown developed a college and career planning curriculum for 6th through 8th graders.
- The Career and Technical Education Center have developed integrated lesson plans with each shop and other academic subjects, especially math, to make sure students have the foundation for whichever path they choose: college or career.

- Literacy initiatives, college and career readiness and high school graduation initiative work are happening in all the departments. By October every 9th grader has had a conversation with guidance to help them plan their courses so they can achieve their goals. We asked about having more adult mentors for students and the main caution was the need to train mentors but agreement that it would be helpful. College goal Sunday where families can receive assistance in filling out college financial aid forms will be on January 29.

- Every junior and senior has a chance to take the PSAT at the high school free of charge and this seems to have resulted in more of our students taking the SAT.

- More students are taking AP courses but proportionately fewer are taking the Advanced Placement (AP) exams. We mentioned having heard about this trend at the MASC/MASS conference. One question will be whether it is necessary to offer all the AP courses or sections that we currently have.

Brief discussion took place regarding possible ways to track how our students do once they get to college. Other questions guidance counselors are looking at include how to help struggling students whether with excessive tardiness or with 12th grade graduation or how to tell if redirect is really helping 9th graders.

The next agenda item was MCAS scores for 2011. As you know, NCLB's formula for adequate yearly progress (AYP) keeps raising the bar on that every year. The high school made AYP in English Language Arts this year, whereas they had not last year. So that is good news. Math scores were also up at the high school and in the middle grades. English Language Arts and Math scores were mainly flat in the elementary grades, but a couple of our schools showed increases in scores in both math and ELA.

We looked at scores, composite performance indices and student growth percentiles for elementary ELA and Math, by grade across the district and summarized by schools. Positive growth trends were seen in 8 of the 12 MCAS test areas. Schools that have implemented the Literacy Plan showed higher growth in ELA.

So these high-stakes areas were not too bad, but we did say the scores are not where we would want them to be. The Superintendent also agreed that we must do better if we want our students to be equipped to succeed.

An area that is not tested for every grade level and not so high-stakes is science & technology. The high school science scores had increased. Most of the elementary schools did not have good science scores. Even the Assistant Superintendent, who had been a science teacher, was disappointed in the science scores. It might be what happens when so much focus, professional development and coaching are all dedicated to math and English Language Arts. But we expressed an interest in seeing better scores for 2012—after all we have to —feed|| our Innovative Biotech classes at the High School.

The Superintendent also pointed out that MCAS is not the only measure of our success as a school district since we have all made such efforts to continue educating the whole child and nurturing other talents. He would like to develop other benchmarks to reflect our other successes and I asked if WPI's Assistments Project might be a place we could ask for help with this goal. The district is also working towards Common Core assessments, beginning with math.

Then we reviewed an Inservice Course. Mr. Bockelman moved to approve the course titled —Introduction to Second Language Learning and Teaching,|| and Mr. Niedergang seconded. So we bring that motion to the full committee now.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the in-service course, Intro to 2nd Language Learning and Teaching.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

At 9:15 Mr. Niedergang moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the physical condition of an individual and not to reconvene in Open Session. Seconded by Mr. Bockelman and approved by roll call vote. We adjourned from Executive Session at 9:35.

Our next Ed Programs meeting will be December 13, at 7pm at 42 Cross Street.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

Prior to Mr. Pierantozzi beginning his report, Mr. Bockelman reported that one topic at the Ed Programs meeting was that of Innovation Schools. Mr. Bockelman is interested in seeing this pursued in our district. Ms. Rossetti agreed that this should be investigated. Ms. Rossetti received a sheet at the MASC/MASS conference on this subject. Ms. Marques will scan and send

to all School Committee members. Mr. Niedergang suggested that this issue be included in the NESDEC Consultant's study. Discussion ensued regarding the definition of an innovation schools and parameters, etc.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, that the District actively investigate the possibility of establishing an innovation school or schools and report back at an Ed. Programs Subcommittee. A friendly amendment was made to the motion that the report should be brought to Long Range. The motion, with the friendly amendment, was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Pierantozzi, on behalf of himself and the District, wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. There is much to be thankful for. Please keep those who are less fortunate in your thoughts.

The Superintendent announced that there will be no high school football game this Thanksgiving. For approximately 75 years, Somerville played Arlington on Thanksgiving. Then, with the restructuring of the Greater Boston League (GBL), we temporarily played Matignon High School. Matignon will now face another parochial school on Thanksgiving. This year, we will have no game, but beginning next year, we will resume the tradition of playing Cambridge Rindge and Latin School—who was our rival many, many years ago. As an alternative to our own Thanksgiving Day game, please consider watching Somerville High School alum. Gosder Cherilus play with the Detroit Lions on television instead. Game begins at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Pierantozzi informed the School Committee members that, at their seats this evening, is a memo from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding five hearings for seven proposed charter schools across Massachusetts. One of these proposed schools is the Somerville Progressive Charter School, which would be housed in Somerville.

This is a K-8 school with a capacity of 425 students. A public hearing regarding this charter school will be held on Wednesday, December 14, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Somerville High School auditorium. The first year, they would start out with 180 students. Funding for charter schools is diverted from Somerville. The first year is a cost neutral year. Beginning the second year, 75% of the costs are borne by the City of Somerville and the Somerville Public Schools' funding would be reduced as a result. Along with the memo, a Fact Sheet has also been provided to members.

Mr. Sweeting asked the Superintendent to explain the process of the public hearings. Mr. Pierantozzi explained that the DESE's Charter School office chairs the meeting and that two members of the Board of Education would be present to hear testimony, both pro and con, in a balanced manner. There will be a sign-up sheet where people may register to speak and they specify whether they are pro or con. For approximately two hours, testimony will be made – back and forth between pro and con. People who arrive prior to 6:00 p.m. will be guaranteed to have a conversation with a DESE representative. Written comment may also be submitted

to the DESE by mail to Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Charter School Office, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148 or via email at

charterschools@doe.mass.edu. Comments must be submitted prior to January 3, 2012. The Superintendent forwarded this information to all K12, PTA Council, and the President of the Somerville Teachers' Association.

Mr. Bockelman asked the Superintendent to ensure that the hearing is taped and televised and that it is imperative that translation be provided. Mr. Pierantozzi assured Mr. Bockelman that this would be taken care of. Discussion ensued relative to advertising the hearings regarding fact sheets, community concerns and the impact on the rest of the District.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. Provided an update on the SomerPromise Initiative. SomerPromise is a public – private partnership which allows privately raised funds to be spent to support the academic achievement of students in Somerville. The appointed Advisory Board (which I chair) has oversight responsibility for the program, including appointees by both the Mayor and Superintendent as well as Board of Alderman member Jack Connolly.

The Boys and Girls Club contract, for after school tutoring services, was approved several weeks ago. Just an hour ago, the contract for CAAS was approved. CAAS is serving as the umbrella organization for several aspects of the SomerPromise work the major portion of which will support the hiring of a part time Care Coordinator staff position.

2. Reported on the new Medical Careers Education Shop being planned for Somerville High School's CVTE program. Tomorrow, Dr. McKay and Mr. DeSimone will visit Shawsheen Technical School to visit their new life sciences wing and learn firsthand about their programs. Somerville is in the planning phase for our program

- The Superintendent announced that on November 15, Dr. Judith Palfrey, Executive Director of Let's Move – modeled after Shape Up Somerville - visited the Argenziano School and was very impressed with the variety and quality of food served to our students by our food service staff. This was an exciting visit that showcased some of the initiatives that the Somerville Public Schools has implemented in support of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Program, developed to address the issue of childhood obesity. Somerville has been at the forefront of this movement, and we are excited to have had Dr. Palfrey visit one of our schools and find out more about what we're doing in our schools to address this challenging issue. Thank you to Mayor Curtatone, the staff, students, and Mrs. Cardoso for participation in this event.

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that he was notified on November 15, that the Somerville High School Trivia Team is one of 16 teams chosen as finalists to compete on WGBH's Quiz Show in February.

The Superintendent announced that, November 16, students from the Healey School participated in a Star Party from 6:00- 8:00 p.m. Students used telescopes to view stars, etc. Games were played and a good time was had by all!

El Sistema in the Ville took place on November 16 at the Somerville High School auditorium.

Reported on November's Family Literacy Month. Events included: Literacy Volunteer Training (11/15), Family Reading Night (11/17) and the Family Literacy Celebration: Early Childhood Fair held on November 19 at the Healey School. Over 30 exhibits and 500 visitors were in attendance. Mr. Pierantozzi and others had photos taken with Curious George! Thanked the Early Childhood staff for their work on this.

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that he has begun one of his favorite events – the Superintendent's Student of the Quarter Awards. Each quarter one student from each homeroom from grades 1-8 is recognized for academic excellence, improvement or citizenship. This is truly a fun thing to do!

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. MASC Conference Report – Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal

Ms. Rossetti provided a report on the recent MASS/MASC Conference held from November 9-11, 2011. Ms. Rossetti's report included the following:

The Needham Public Schools' Annual Performance Report. Ms. Rossetti would like Somerville to consider preparing a similar report. Ms. Rossetti will contact the Needham Public Schools for more information and report back at a future Finance and Facilities subcommittee meeting.

A workshop on educators' evaluation regulations presented by Dr. Karla Brooks Baehr, which was standing room only. A similar presentation will be done at a division meeting in January.

There will also be webinars planned.

A luncheon presentation dedicated to veterans on November 11. The topic was the Home Base Program which is a collaboration between the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital. The hope of this alliance is to enhance the resiliency of military-connected children and families by identifying stress in students and finding systems to assist them and their families during a family member's deployment. A military family attended the workshop and the 15 year old daughter shared her feelings and thoughts with the audience.

The Finland Phenomenon

A presentation on investigating the cost of educating homeless students

The use of Digital Portfolios – next year, Ms. Rossetti suggests that Somerville hold a workshop on this topic as the digital portfolio system is already being used at our high school.

Next, Ms. Rafal provided her report which included the following:

Attendance at a workshop on School Committees' self-evaluations. The tool is customizable and the MASC will aggregate the responses and send back. Ms. Rafal believes that this tool be used as a guide to good practice.

Attendance at a presentation regarding the School Committee's role in student achievement. Harvard's Graduate School of Education's report on What American education can learn from Finland

Ms. Rafal also provided a report on the results of the votes on the resolutions considered at the conference. Ms. Rafal voted no on question 1. The resolution passed anyway. Ms. Rafal voted yes on all other resolution and they all passed.

Mr. Sweeting extended his thanks to Ms. Rafal and Ms. Rossetti for representing us at the conference. Mr. Niedergang also thanked them for their attendance and reported that he supports Ms. Rafal's self-evaluation idea. Mr. Niedergang also spoke about a videotaped focus group of graduates, seniors and freshmen that could provide valuable information regarding what's working and what isn't, in preparing our students for high school and post-secondary education.

6. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

The West Somerville Neighborhood School is having the annual Vendor and Craft Fair Friday, December 2nd. Start your Holiday shopping early.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Commented on the El Sistema program which he and Mr. Sweeting attended, along with Dr. McKay. This was an amazing concert and Mr. Niedergang learned a lot about the Conservatory Lab Charter School. Students study music approximately two hours each day in comparison to the 40 minutes a week our students study. If you closed your eyes during the concert, you would have sworn you were listening to a professional orchestra. Mr. Saunders is interested in bringing a similar program here to Somerville. Perhaps start as an after school program, possibly at the East Somerville Community School. Mr. Niedergang hopes we can marshal resources for this dynamic, exciting program.

2. Reported on his attendance at a Board of Aldermen's Youth Service Subcommittee meeting. Learned that the snow shoveling initiative is back in full force for people looking to hire a City youth to shovel snow. Also, the outdoor hockey rink is due to open in February. Although money was bonded for this rink, fees from the rink will be used to pay back the bond.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. PTA at the Argenziano School next Tuesday, November 29, beginning with a business meeting at 6:00, followed by teacher conferences starting at 6:30.

2. Happy Thanksgiving to all. Enjoy being with your family friends. This is Mrs. Cardoso's favorite holiday!

Mayor Curtatone

Spoke about the high school football team not having a Thanksgiving game this year. Explained the changes the MIAA made and the plan for playing Cambridge Rindge and Latin in the future— beginning next year.

Ms. Rafal

1. The middle grade students from the Healey School had field trips to various area colleges. Ms. Rafal was a chaperone for one of the groups.

2. Music is very important. Research shows that it helps executive function.

3. Wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Announced that a group of students from the Healey visited his workplace, Boston University, today. He had the pleasure of showing them around the campus including the library, gym and student union.

Mr. Bockelman

1. When thinking of El Sistema and music, it is important to note that the Somerville Public Schools provides free violin lessons beginning in grade 4 and that violins are provided to students for the lessons. Our Music Department is growing thanks to the vision and drive of Mr. Rick Saunders.

2. After Thanksgiving and Black Friday, consider the following on Saturday: Shopping at a local business, attending the Annual Craft Fair sponsored by the High School Track PAC, and finish the day by going to see Holiday in the Ville in Davis Square from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Sweeting wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all staff, colleagues, students and families.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 via voice vote.

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, December 5, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso and Alderman Gewirtz.

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Bastardi, Rossetti, Cardoso and Absent – 2 – Curtatone and Gewirtz.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 21, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the minutes of November 21, 2011.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dodi provided the following report on happenings at Somerville High School:

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

2. DISTRICT REPORT

Prior to Mr. Pierantozzi beginning his report, Mr. Bockelman reported that one topic at the Ed Programs meeting was that of Innovation Schools. Mr. Bockelman is interested in seeing this pursued in our district. Ms. Rossetti agreed that this should be investigated. Ms. Rossetti received a sheet at the MASC/MASS conference on this subject. Ms. Marques will scan and send to all School Committee members. Mr. Niedergang suggested that this issue be included in the NESDEC Consultant's study. Discussion ensued regarding the definition of an innovation schools and parameters, etc.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, that the District actively investigate the possibility of establishing an innovation school or schools and report back at an Ed. Programs Subcommittee. A friendly amendment was made to the motion that the report should be brought to Long Range.

The motion, with the friendly amendment, was approved via voice vote.

- Mr. Pierantozzi, on behalf of himself and the District, wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. There is much to be thankful for. Please keep those who are less fortunate in your thoughts.
- The Superintendent announced that there will be no high school football game this Thanksgiving. For approximately 75 years, Somerville played Arlington on Thanksgiving. Then, with the restructuring of the Greater Boston League (GBL), we temporarily played Matignon High School. Matignon will now face another parochial school on Thanksgiving. This year, we will have no game, but beginning next year, we will resume the tradition of playing Cambridge Rindge and Latin School—who was our rival many, many years ago.
- As an alternative to our own Thanksgiving Day game, please consider watching Somerville High School alum. Gosder Cherilus play with the Detroit Lions on television instead. Game begins at 12:30 p.m.
- Mr. Pierantozzi informed the School Committee members that, at their seats this evening, is a memo from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding five hearings for seven proposed charter schools across Massachusetts. One of these proposed

schools is the Somerville Progressive Charter School, which would be housed in Somerville. This is a K-8 school with a capacity of 425 students. A public hearing regarding this charter school will be held on Wednesday, December 14, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Somerville High School auditorium. The first year, they would start out with 180 students. Funding for charter schools is diverted from Somerville. The first year is a cost neutral year. Beginning the second year, 75% of the costs are borne by the City of Somerville and the Somerville Public Schools' funding would be reduced as a result. Along with the memo, a Fact Sheet has also been provided to members.

Mr. Sweeting asked the Superintendent to explain the process of the public hearings. Mr. Pierantozzi explained that the DESE's Charter School office chairs the meeting and that two members of the Board of Education would be present to hear testimony, both pro and con, in a balanced manner. There will be a sign-up sheet where people may register to speak and they specify whether they are pro or con. For approximately two hours, testimony will be made – back and forth between pro and con. People who arrive prior to 6:00 p.m. will be guaranteed to have a conversation with a DESE representative. Written comment may also be submitted to the DESE by mail to Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Charter School Office, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148 or via email at charterschools@doe.mass.edu. Comments must be submitted prior to January 3, 2012. The Superintendent forwarded this information to all K12, PTA Council, and the President of the Somerville Teachers' Association.

Mr. Bockelman asked the Superintendent to ensure that the hearing is taped and televised and that it is imperative that translation be provided. Mr. Pierantozzi assured Mr. Bockelman that this would be taken care of. Discussion ensued relative to advertising the hearings regarding fact sheets, community concerns and the impact on the rest of the District.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. Provided an update on the SomerPromise Initiative. SomerPromise is a public – private partnership which allows privately raised funds to be spent to support the academic achievement of students in Somerville. The appointed Advisory Board (which I chair) has oversight responsibility for the program, including appointees by both the Mayor and Superintendent as well as Board of Alderman member Jack Connolly. The Boys and Girls Club contract, for after school tutoring services, was approved several weeks ago. Just an hour ago, the contract for CAAS was approved. CAAS is serving as the umbrella organization for several aspects of the SomerPromise work the major portion of which will support the hiring of a part time Care Coordinator staff position.
 2. Reported on the new Medical Careers Education Shop being planned for Somerville High School's CVTE program. Tomorrow, Dr. McKay and Mr. DeSimone will visit Shawsheen Technical School to visit their new life sciences wing and learn firsthand about their programs. Somerville is in the planning phase for our program
- The Superintendent announced that on November 15, Dr. Judith Palfrey, Executive Director of Let's Move – modeled after Shape Up Somerville - visited the Argenziano School and was very impressed with the variety and quality of food served to our students by our food service staff. This was an exciting visit that showcased some of the initiatives that the Somerville Public Schools has implemented in support of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Program, developed to address the issue of childhood obesity. Somerville has been at the forefront of this movement, and we are excited to have had Dr. Palfrey visit one of our schools and find out more about what we're doing in our schools to address this challenging issue. Thank you to Mayor Curtatone, the staff, students, and Mrs. Cardoso for participation in this event.
 - Mr. Pierantozzi reported that he was notified on November 15, that the Somerville High School Trivia Team is one of 16 teams chosen as finalists to compete on WGBH's Quiz Show in February.
 - The Superintendent announced that, November 16, students from the Healey School participated in a Star Party from 6:00- 8:00 p.m. Students used telescopes to view stars, etc. Games were played and a good time was had by all!
 - El Sistema in the Ville took place on November 16 at the Somerville High School auditorium.
 - Reported on November's Family Literacy Month. Events included: Literacy Volunteer Training (11/15), Family Reading Night (11/17) and the Family Literacy Celebration: Early Childhood Fair

held on November 19 at the Healey School. Over 30 exhibits and 500 visitors were in attendance. Mr. Pierantozzi and others had photos taken with Curious George! Thanked the Early Childhood staff for their work on this.

- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that he has begun one of his favorite events – the Superintendent’s Student of the Quarter Awards. Each quarter one student from each homeroom from grades 1-8 is recognized for academic excellence, improvement or citizenship. This is truly a fun thing to do!

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2012-2013 School Calendar

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

1. The West Somerville Neighborhood School is having the annual Vendor and Craft Fair Friday, December 2nd. Start your Holiday shopping early.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Commented on the El Sistema program which he and Mr. Sweeting attended, along with Dr. McKay. This was an amazing concert and Mr. Niedergang learned a lot about the Conservatory Lab Charter School. Students study music approximately two hours each day in comparison to the 40 minutes a week our students study. If you closed your eyes during the concert, you would have sworn you were listening to a professional orchestra. Mr. Saunders is interested in bringing a similar program here to Somerville. Perhaps start as an after school program, possibly at the East Somerville Community School. Mr. Niedergang hopes we can marshal resources for this dynamic, exciting program.
2. Reported on his attendance at a Board of Aldermen’s Youth Service Subcommittee meeting. Learned that the snow shoveling initiative is back in full force for people looking to hire a City youth to shovel snow. Also, the outdoor hockey rink is due to open in February. Although money was bonded for this rink, fees from the rink will be used to pay back the bond.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. PTA at the Argenziano School next Tuesday, November 29, beginning with a business meeting at 6:00, followed by teacher conferences starting at 6:30.
2. Happy Thanksgiving to all. Enjoy being with your family friends. This is Mrs. Cardoso’s favorite holiday!

Mayor Curtatone

1. Spoke about the high school football team not having a Thanksgiving game this year. Explained the changes the MIAA made and the plan for playing Cambridge Rindge and Latin in the future—beginning next year.

Ms. Rafal

1. The middle grade students from the Healey School had field trips to various area colleges. Ms. Rafal was a chaperone for one of the groups.
2. Music is very important. Research shows that it helps executive function.
3. Wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Announced that a group of students from the Healey visited his workplace, Boston University, today. He had the pleasure of showing them around the campus including the library, gym and student union.

Mr. Bockelman

1. When thinking of El Sistema and music, it is important to note that the Somerville Public Schools provides free violin lessons beginning in grade 4 and that violins are provided to students for the lessons. Our Music Department is growing thanks to the vision and drive of Mr. Rick Saunders.
2. After Thanksgiving and Black Friday, consider the following on Saturday: Shopping at a local business, attending the Annual Craft Fair sponsored by the High School Track PAC, and finish the day by going to see Holiday in the Ville in Davis Square from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Sweeting wished a Happy Thanksgiving to all staff, colleagues, students and families.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, December 19, 2011 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso and Alderman Gewirtz.

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Bastardi, Rossetti, Cardoso and Gewirtz and Absent – 1 – Curtatone. Mayor Curtatone is not here because he is at a Community Meeting regarding the East Somerville Community School.

VI. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Mark Antonelli – Massachusetts Basketball Coaches 2011 Coach of the Year

Mr. Sweeting asked Mr. Bockelman to assume the chair as he stepped to the dais and invited Mark Antonelli to join him as he presented Coach Antonelli with a citation from the School Committee in recognition of being named the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches 2011 Coach of the Year. Mr. Antonelli thanked the School Committee for this recognition and said it has been a whirlwind of activity since being informed of his award, including a banquet and recognition from the Board of Aldermen. His success is in great part due to the hard work of the students he works with; they are the backbone of the organization. He also thanked the staff and administration, including Mr. Pierantozzi, Mr. Ciccariello, and Ms. Viele. The wording of Mr. Antonelli's citation is included at the end of these minutes.

- Presentations to President Rebekah Gewirtz and Chairman Adam Sweeting for their service to the School Committee

Next, Mr. Sweeting asked President Gewirtz to join him at the dais as he presented her with a plaque in recognition of her service to the School Committee for 2011. He announced that Ms. Gewirtz has served with distinction and has been a real partner during what has been an interesting year. Ms. Gewirtz can now continue her work of supporting her constituents in Ward Six, which she does very well. Alderman Gewirtz thanked the School Committee for the lovely plaque and told them that it has been a real pleasure to serve on the School Committee. It's been hard work and she has learned a great deal about the value and importance of the schools, which are a top priority for the City. She will continue to advocate for all of the schools, but especially the Brown School, which is in her ward.

Mr. Bockelman asked Mrs. Cardoso to assume the Chair as he stepped to the dais to make a presentation to outgoing Chairman Adam Sweeting. Mr. Bockelman announced that Mr. Sweeting has truly led in one of the most active times for the schools. Mr. Sweeting has been active on every issue and led meetings with care and stepped up with the recent issue with the State and articulated our concerns extremely well. Mr. Bockelman presented Mr. Sweeting with a plaque and gavel set in recognition of his service. Mr. Sweeting issued his thanks to all of his colleagues. It has been a busy year including an unfortunate article in the Boston Globe in the Spring along with another in the Herald this fall. He has valued everyone's input and learned much from all. This is a very open and efficient committee and we have made progress on a number of fronts and he is proud of his work. Mr. Sweeting thanked his colleagues for entrusting him with the chair and commented that, working together they have responded to issues that affect children and families. Mr. Sweeting also announced that Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Rossetti will lead with distinction next year.

Mr. Sweeting returned to the Chair following the presentations.

VII. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi was not in attendance this evening.

VIII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee – Dec. 5. (Mr. Bockelman)

1. SPS Daycare fees
2. Capital Improvement Plan
3. Equipment Plan
4. FY12 Bill Roll
5. Other: FY12 Expenditure report and Budget process handouts

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on December 5, 2011 in the Committee Room on the 2nd floor of City Hall. Subcommittee members present were Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, Paul Bockelman; School Committee members present were Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, and Rebekah Gewirtz. Also in attendance were Tony Pierantozzi, Pat Durette, Tricia Kennedy, and Pam Holmes.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Information provided by the Central Office comparing rates charged for child care services for different age groups in different child care providers was reviewed. It was determined that the Somerville High School Daycare Center was the least expensive and the projections were that the Center was in danger of dipping into reserves because expenses were projected to be higher than expenses.

After discussing the options with Tricia Kennedy and Pam Holmes and reviewing the financial information with Pat Durette, the committee voted to accept the recommendation to increase the daily expense from \$42/day to \$45 - \$50/day – depending on the number of days the child is enrolled. With this adjustment and with existing enrollment, the Center will be in the black.

The motion included that the fee increase become effective on July 1, 2011. Please note that Mrs. Cardoso recused herself from the discussion and the vote. And I so move.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to increase fees at the SHS Childcare Center effective July 1, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote. Mrs. Cardoso abstained from voting on this motion.

The subcommittee also recommended that the school department take steps to advertise the best kept secret in Somerville.

Capital Improvement Plan - The Subcommittee reviewed the capital improvement plan with the superintendent and the director of finance. We reviewed specific requests and the condition of some of the buildings.

The committee approved the motion: to instruct the superintendent to send a communication to the commissioner of public works asking for an update on the installation of bollards at all public schools in the interest of the safety of our children and staff and I so move.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to instruct the Superintendent to send a communication to the Commissioner of Public Works asking for an update on the installation of bollards at all public schools in the interest of the safety of our children and staff.

We agreed that the Finance and Facilities subcommittee would meet with the commissioner of public works in March, instead of April.

The Subcommittee reviewed the equipment plan and asked the superintendent to provide an updated report on the age, mileage and repair history for all school vans that transport students.

Bill rolls - The subcommittee approved the bill rolls and I so move.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the bill rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

B. Long Range Planning – Dec. 6 (Mr. Sweeting)

Mr. Sweeting provided a report on the School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning held on December 6 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal and Mr. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Mr.

Pierantozzi and a representative from the Somerville Teachers Association. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Innovation Schools – Mr. Sweeting reported that, at a previous meeting, the School Committee had asked the Superintendent to provide information regarding Horace Mann Charter Schools and Innovation Schools. A Horace Mann Charter School is an in-district charter school – approved by the School Committee and staffed by members of local bargaining units. The charter is approved for 5 years and overseen by an independent board of trustees. Any group may petition to start a Horace Mann Charter. If the charter is approved, grants are then applied for to assist with the operations. The School Committee did not really look further into this possibility.

Innovation Schools remain as a district school with no separate charter, which frees the school to look at different structures, times, calendars, curriculums, etc. The application is similar to that of a Horace Mann Charter, but the school is overseen by the School Committee. Discussion regarding innovation schools has taken place for a while and during the Healey School Unification process, it was discussed but the Healey School Council opted to put the idea on the back burner. Now the School Committee is interested in examining this possibility in earnest. The School Committee has asked the Superintendent to invite Dr. Paul Dakin, Superintendent of School in Revere and Dan French, the consultant at the Healey School – both of whom have experience with innovation schools to attend a future Long Range meeting so that the School Committee may hear more about the types of schools, challenges, rewards, etc. Dr. Dakin cannot attend the meeting scheduled for January 11, so the School Committee has asked Mr. Pierantozzi to reschedule the Long Range Meeting to a date when both Dr. Dakin and Mr. French are available to attend. It was also suggested that a member of the Massachusetts Charter School office also be invited to attend.

2. NESDEC Demography and Reconfiguration Study - In a closely related way, the School Committee has hired NESDEC to assist with evaluating the best way to proceed with any future changes to the schools by evaluating spaces and programs and to help with our focus on middle grade improvements. There have been questions regarding magnet schools, neighborhood schools, etc. and this study will assist with these considerations. This report will also be used to assist in leveraging resources should the charter school be approved.

C. Executive Session – Dec. 1 (Mr. Sweeting)

Mr. Sweeting reported that at the School Committee meeting for Executive Session held on December 1, a motion was made to approve salary adjustments for five non-union employees from Central Office and that some of these adjustments were due to changes in job descriptions for some of these employees.

D. Personnel Subcommittee – Dec. 12 (Mrs. Cardoso)

1. Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools

The Personnel Subcommittee met on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal, Maureen Bastardi, Mary Jo Rossetti, Mark Niedergang, Adam Sweeting, Paul Bockelman and Mayor Joseph Curtatone, along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi and Human Resources Administrator Melissa DeResendes. There were eight audience members present.

The only item for discussion was the Superintendent's Evaluation.

It was a very relaxed meeting between School Committee Members and the Superintendent. School Committee Members discussed the composite and made additional remarks and comments and the Superintendent also had the opportunity to respond to the School Committee – it was a very positive atmosphere and there was also discussion about goals that still need to be met going forward. We also had a discussion regarding revising the evaluation tool for next year.

The Superintendent's evaluation process had a timeline which began on October 24th and ended at the Personnel Meeting last week. It was a 360 degree evaluation.

The Evaluation tool used this year was based on the new State Standards combined with our district goals. We also used the State's rating scale.

The School Committee received summaries from principals, supervisors and central office administrators as well as a self-evaluation from the Superintendent.

The School Committee's overall rating of the Superintendent's Evaluation this year was 1.75. - an excellent rating!

As School Committee Members - this is one of our most important tasks and I would like to share with the public some of the positive comments made during our evaluation of the Superintendent:

STANDARD #1: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The Superintendent has done a good job overall in this area, and has implemented many programs and initiatives to improve student learning. He continues to tweak existing efforts to make them work better and bring in new ideas and ways of organizing the SPS staff to improve teaching and learning.

The Superintendent uses multiple indicators, data sets, and curricular strategies to enhance instruction and student performance. He has done so in a way that does not lead to excessive attention to test scores.

STANDARD #2: Management and Operations

The Superintendent has done a superb job in the area of Management and Operations. In a time of financial hardship, he has enabled the SPS to do more with less. He has made progress on diversifying the workforce and does a terrific job with the budget.

He also possesses an outstanding understanding of laws and policies to be considered by the School Committee. The Superintendent also insists that student health and safety must be paramount in all discussions of schools and their programs.

STANDARD #3: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Superintendent does a very fine job ensuring continuity between school and student homes. He insists that materials are appropriately translated and communicated to the entire school community while also welcoming input from others. At times, frustration with parents bubbles up. I have seen the Superintendent engage quite pleasantly and thoughtfully with community members so I know he can work on this. He is a terrific ambassador for the school system in the broader community. While the Superintendent has done a good job of communicating with the community and with parents/guardians, he and his staff could do more to engage community partners such as universities and businesses in the SPS.

Finally, with the development of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, things are starting to happen in this area.

STANDARD #4: PROFESSIONAL CULTURE STANDARD

The Superintendent and his staff have created a strong culture of professional development and growth for SPS employees and especially teachers. He has been particularly strong in creating an atmosphere that welcomes students and staff of all backgrounds and in creating a safe and nurturing environment in our schools.

DISTRICT GOAL #5: MONITOR THE EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND MAINTAIN THE EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL COMMUNITY AT TEMPORARY LOCATIONS AT THE EDGERLY AND CUMMINGS SCHOOLS.

The Superintendent does not have direct oversight of the ESCS reconstruction, so it is difficult to assess his work in that area. He does a good job of keeping the School Committee informed of developments and delays. He deserves high marks for insisting that the pursuit of educational excellence is not compromised by the split of the school community into different locations.

DISTRICT GOAL #6: RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Superintendent has a respectful and thoughtful relationship with School Committee members. He keeps the SC fully informed and is responsive to SC requests for information and action.

I appreciate that the Superintendent gives extremely thorough reports at the School Committee meetings.

DISTRICT GOAL #7: LONG RANGE GOALS

There has been significant success on staff diversity, after-school programs, and inclusion for Special Education students.

The District has made solid progress in its long-range goals. I have been particularly impressed with the work on inclusion and the commitment to the middle grades project. These matters take time and it is clear that we are making progress on all of them. Perhaps not as quickly as any of us would like, but the progress is apparent when looking back over the last several years.

DISTRICT GOAL #8: EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Superintendent is a capable manager, hard worker, and a strong organization builder. He has improved the way the SPS operates in many areas with a number of reorganizations. He provides strong leadership as a manager and as the CEO of the SPS. He has hired good people and gives them the room and space to thrive.

Overall, I think the Superintendent does a good job in a very difficult and demanding position. He always treats people with courtesy and respect and he has a very strong work ethic. I appreciate how devoted he is to each individual school and to making our school system as strong as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 7PM.

Also, Mrs. Cardoso would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in this evaluation process – our principals, supervisors, central office administrators, my school committee colleagues – the Superintendent and last but of course not least – Patti Marques – she is always there for this and all of the task we need done throughout the year!

E. Rules Management Subcommittee – Dec. 12 (Mr. Niedergang)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Rules Management Subcommittee meeting of December 12. The meeting was held in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Mayor Curtatone and Mr. Niedergang. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. There was a very long agenda; however, not all items were addressed at this meeting. The agenda items addressed were:

1. Wellness Policy – recess/lunch update. Mr. Pierantozzi shared a memo he had written to the principals at all schools regarding lunch and recess guidelines. Mr. Niedergang read excerpts from the memo which included the following:
 - *No student, regardless of grade, is to be required to arrive in the lunch room, get food, eat and then leave the lunch room in 15 minutes.*
 - *Any school that has a 30 minute lunch divided into two sections, 15 minutes for eating/15 minutes for activity, is to change their schedule as soon as possible, no later than January 3, 2012.*
 - *Kindergarten students will have 30 minutes to eat lunch and 30 minutes of recess daily.*
 - *Students in grades 1 and 2 should receive a minimum of 20 minutes to eat lunch and 10-15 minutes of activity related to lunch. Mr. Pierantozzi recommended the extension of lunch to 40 minutes with 20 minutes for eating and 20 minutes for activity.*
 - *These same guidelines have been suggested for grades 3 and 4, if feasible.*
 - *These new guidelines will be implemented on January 3, 2012.*

There was some discussion regarding having recess before lunch, but, at this time it was decided to focus more on the length of time of lunch, rather than the scheduling of recess and lunch.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, in a memo dated December 9, 2011, regarding lunch and recess guidelines as a pilot, with a report to come back to the Rules Management Subcommittee in February 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. Concussion Policy and Procedures – State law requires all school districts to adopt a policy regarding the management of students with concussions. Although we have had procedures in place, we must now adopt a formal policy. The Massachusetts Association of School Committees has developed a policy for adoption by districts and the subcommittee agreed to forward this policy to the full School Committee for consideration.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to forward the Concussion Policy, Files: JJIF and JJIF-R, to the full School Committee for first reading.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

3. Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment Policy – This new policy was forwarded for consideration by the full School Committee. The policy will facilitate compliance with the United States Department of Education regarding students’ and parents’ consents regarding surveys.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to forward the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment Policy, File: JRC, to the full School Committee for first reading.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

4. Social Networking Policy – this policy would provide guidelines for staff members regarding the use of Facebook and other social networks relative to interaction via these sites with students. The Rules Management Subcommittee reviewed the policy, after receiving input from the District’s legal counsel and has asked for some additional revisions before giving it further consideration. Mr. Pierantozzi will facilitate these revisions and bring the policy back to Rules.

Mr. Niedergang informed the School Committee that the following items are still awaiting action in Rules: Social Networking, the Student Assignment Plan, Use of email by School Committee members, eliminating the requirement of School Committee’s signature on purchase orders, and public comment at School Committee meetings. Mr. Niedergang wanted to share this information as he likely will not be the Chair of the Rules Management Subcommittee next year and he wanted the next Chair to know where things left off.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

F. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee – Dec. 13 (Ms. Rafal)

1. Healey School Unification update
2. Foreign Language Survey Results

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on December 13, at 42 Cross St. The meeting started at 7:05p.m. Present were Mark Niedergang, Paul Bockelman, Teresa Cardoso, myself, Vince McKay, Tony Pierantozzi, and presenters from the Healey School Principal Purnima Vadhera, teacher Josh Wairi, parent Maria Gemma Cruz, Consultant Dan French and also head of the foreign language department Jane Cummings. In the audience was a representative from the Somerville Teachers’ Association.

The first agenda item was an update on the Healey School Unification. The unification appears to be rolling out pretty much as planned. The principal Ms. Vadhera emphasized that each component of the Unification plan is focused on improving instruction. She said this is very challenging as it is the most diverse school she has ever worked in. One focus of the professional development is on embedding differentiated; standards based instruction into project-based and service learning units. The math and ELA coaches are also invaluable aids to improving instruction; they have a great relationship with the teachers and function as part of the Instructional Leadership Team. They are using data to drive improvements in teaching and learning.

Many structural changes have been put in place. The changes include:

Recess now happens before lunch. The principal says lunchroom behavior problems are markedly down this year.

New loops started for grades 1-8, and also—for social studies and science-- mixing grades 3 with 4 and 5 with 6.

To strengthen the middle grades program, teachers in grades 5-8 have several common planning periods per week. There is also an additional math block for grades 7 & 8. One block provides the basic lesson; the additional block is for enrichment or exploration or remediation depending on what each student needs. The goal is that every student knows how to do their homework each day.

School wide paraprofessionals have been deployed from the office into classrooms as needed so that teachers in all grade levels have common planning time at least once a week. There is a protocol for what teachers do during common planning time, including looking at student work. The goal is that once common planning time is well-established, it won’t make much difference what teacher a student gets.

Grade level teams are planning their first Project Based Learning projects for this spring. Service learning technology projects have started in grades 7 & 8.

Parent Engagement has increased.

The Parent Resource Room—referred to as the Welcome Center in the Unification plan—opened in January. The Parent Connectors continue to refine their work having bilingual parents help English-learning parents be involved. Now 93-94% of families have shared their emails.

The integration of students from the two programs has been rather seamless. The principal did say the teachers seemed to be more “segregated” in their views of teaching and she has launched a Peer Observation program. 28 of the 47 teachers have signed up to watch one another teach and to be watched as well. They have a protocol for doing the observations and for talking to each other about them afterwards. Peer Observations were not anticipated in the Unification Plan, but the principal noticed a need for them and took this initiative.

In terms of experiential learning, 87% of 3rd-6th graders participated in Nature’s Classroom. This required huge fundraising efforts. For the future the thinking about this is that students will go to Nature’s Classroom only once during their stay at the Healey, at one grade level, but that each grade level will have its own off-site special learning experience. For example, the principal mentioned possibly collecting maple syrup for one of the younger grades.

Many items from the unification plan are still ahead, as the implementation plan did lay out. For example, the Healey will continue to implement common planning time for all grade level teams; embed service learning and Integrate the arts into the curriculum, better integrate the work of the Community Council and the PTA; Implement the All-school Meeting model, perhaps have an international week; plan a Healey Gala to raise money for arts integration and continue supporting the vibrant after-school program there.

All in all, the core values of Excellence, Openness, Joy, and Creativity are coming to life at the Healey and the presenters said that people are happy to come to the Healey and teachers want to go to work there. Consultant Dan French said that last year’s My Voice survey revealed a very weak collaborative culture among faculty. All the most successful schools are marked by a unified vision among the faculty. He expects that next year’s My Voice data will be much better in this regard.

When Mr. Bockelman asked the principal to characterize the educational philosophy of the Healey School, she called it “innovative and rigorous.” The consultant said it is still evolving, teachers are developing a common language and operationalizing the core values, but all the teachers have embraced project based learning and more engaged learning opportunities that will lead to meeting standards.

Mr. Niedergang asked how the journey might proceed and what resources might be needed. The principal said they absolutely need common planning time and experts in various topics to professional development but expects that they themselves will be experts in 3 years. She would like another year with the consultant. Also experiential learning takes money.

At 8:30 we started talking about the foreign language survey results. All middle grades parents were surveyed about their preferences for which foreign language should be taught in the middle grades beginning next year. Spanish came in a strong first place with 77% of the vote. The assumption is that only about half of our middle grade students will be academically in a position that makes studying another language possible, so we could hire three teachers to cover the six schools where we have 7th and 8th graders. We are still discussing whether to offer one language across the city, which feels right now like it might be both simpler and fairer.

But we do bring to the whole SC a motion to re-introduce foreign language study for grades 7 and 8 district-wide pending funding, and we ask the superintendent to develop an implementation plan.

We also bring a motion to approve a professional development course in Balanced Literacy Curriculum.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, that the School District will introduce foreign language for grades 7 & 8, District-wide, in September, 2012, pending funding, and to ask the Superintendent to develop an implementation plan.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve Balanced Literacy curriculum professional development work.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9pm.

IX. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous and healthy 2012.
- Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the deepening of connections with the first of two of our local colleges/universities, which have developed over the past week or so. On December 8, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, Mr. Ciccariello and Mr. DeSimone attended a meeting at Bunker Hill Community College and met with Dr. Jim Caniff, Director of Academic Affairs, Dr. Donna DeSimone, Gretchen Lahey, Patrick Crozier, William Sakamoto and Sharon Caulfield regarding readiness for college work. Somerville Public Schools staff will receive professional development regarding remediation and standards. There will also be some expansion of the dual enrollment program for honors and AP courses. There will also be assistance with MCAS preparation and work on assuring courses are aligned with Bunker Hill's curriculum; not just MCAS. Evening School and SCALE students will benefit from credit recovery and, eventually, Dual Enrollment. More meetings are planned. Bunker Hill, in return, is interested in learning more about our biotechnology courses. The partnership is 100% grant funded at this point and all parties are very excited about this expanded partnership.
- The Superintendent reported that, since meeting with John and Don Kennedy from NESDEC, tours of buildings across the District are being scheduled, thus moving forward with the study in a timely manner.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. Provided a preview of the January 10 Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting. This is year two of the Literacy Plan implementation. The District has moved from a basal model to balanced literacy, which relies less on readers and more on classroom libraries. Curriculum guides are being revised to align with the Common Core. Study groups are working on these revisions now.
We are in the process of building classroom libraries and in providing professional development around literacy instruction. There are 20 Focused Classrooms across the District. The Literacy Plan is very much on the front burner for Dr. McKay and Mr. Harel.
 2. Dr. McKay and five teachers and six students from Somerville High School attended a presentation on e-portfolios at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education on Thursday, December 15. Dialog took place between our teachers and students and a group of researchers from Harvard and Suffolk Universities. These e-portfolios are used for college admissions, job applications, etc. Students also share them with family and friends. One student shared a very personal poem and saw the e-portfolio as a way to express herself in a new and powerful way.
 3. Announced that interviews for finalists for the position of SomerPromise Director will be held on Thursday. There has been an excellent field and the hope is to have a decision by the New Year.
- The Superintendent reported on the second expanded partnership which is with Lesley University. This partnership will focus on Lesley's Urban Education Prep. Program which prepares teachers to work with bilingual students in ELL classes. Enrolled students receive a reduced tuition, will do their student teaching in Somerville and receive a Master's degree. Currently, there are four teachers enrolled and registration is now open. Contact Dr. Sarah Davila for more information. There are six teachers signed up for next year – two from Unidos and four from SEIP. Some Somerville Public Schools teachers are enrolled. The people in this program will be able to work in our Community Schools program and summer program so that they can earn some money while working towards their degree.
 - Mr. Pierantozzi spoke about a survey from State Auditor, Suzanne Bump, regarding the cost of transporting homeless students from their temporary housing placement to their home school district. The costs associated with this unfunded mandate are extremely high and Ms. Bump feels that the state should pay these costs – not the cities and towns. Of course, Somerville is

totally in favor of the McKinney-Vento Act as it ensures students uninterrupted access to education in a setting they feel comfortable in.

- The Superintendent reported on a series of focus groups he has been offering in preparation for hiring new principals at the Healey, Winter Hill Community and Somerville High School. As of today, all but two focus groups have been completed. The feedback from these groups will be compiled and presented to the interview teams to guide them in the hiring process. In addition, online surveys are being conducted utilizing Survey Monkey and parents/guardians and staff have received ConnectEd calls directing them to the surveys. Having these surveys on the web allows for them to be translated into one of 38 languages through the Babel Fish feature. The schedule of focus groups is as follows:

Healey School

Tuesday, 11/22 @ 4:00 p.m.	School Site Council
Tuesday, 12/6 @ 2:45 p.m.	Community Council
Wednesday, 12/7 @ 3:00 p.m.	Staff
Thursday, 12/8 @ 6:00 p.m.	PTA/Parents/Guardians

Somerville High School

Tuesday, 12/13 @ 1:00 p.m.	Leadership Team
Tuesday, 12/13 @ 2:30 p.m.	Students
Tuesday, 12/13 @ 6:00 p.m.	School Council
Wednesday, 12/14 @ 2:30 p.m.	Staff
Wednesday, 1/4 @ 6:30 p.m.	PTSA/Parents/Guardians

Winter Hill Community School

Thursday, 12/15 @ 2:45 p.m.	Staff
Monday, 12/19 @ 4:00 p.m.	School Council
Tuesday, 12/20 @ 6:00 p.m.	PTA/Parents/Guardians (tentative)

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for her report regarding a couple of grants. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

1. Ms. Durette attended the East Somerville Community School Community meeting this evening and provided a brief report which included the following:
 - Bargaining Vendors – certain portions of the construction materials were put out to bid again with broadened specifications, which will allow for cost savings.
 - Design Changes – these were discussed this evening. The school will remain the same size with the same plan for the gym, auditorium, media center, playground and passive green roof. The Educational Technology equipment will remain the same. Some cost-saving changes include rethinking the process to save money. For instance, just installing materials vertically instead of horizontally saves money because less fasteners are needed.
 - The timeline for completion is May 2013 with a September 2013 opening.
2. There is another community meeting scheduled for January 10 at the Capuano Early Childhood Center at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Bastardi asked if that meeting could please be changed to the Edgerly Education Center at the request of parents/guardians. Discussion ensued among School Committee members. Questions included:
 - ❖ How many parents/guardians in attendance this evening? 7-8 parents.
 - ❖ How was the meeting advertised? Via backpack, a press release from City Hall and a ConnectEd message.
 - ❖ What is the status of construction now? Construction is going at full steam. Framing of the exterior walls with super structure steel is currently being done. Construction started around the second week of November.
 - ❖ Will the meeting on January 10th include new information or be a repeat of this evening's meeting? It will be somewhat repetitious.

Mr. Pierantozzi informed the audience that he has been involved recently with the hiring of an Owner's Project Manager (OPM). Having an OPM adds a layer of oversight to the project. There are three organizations working in concert as required by the MSBA – the general contractor, the sub-contractors, and the construction management at risk is Gilbane Construction. By January 10, the hope is that the OPM will be hired.

- Mr. Pierantozzi reminded the audience that there is tons going on across the District including several concerts which have been outstanding.

- Mr. Pierantozzi reminded the audience that there is still time to get a wreath or tree from the Next Wave/Full Circle lot at Foss Park.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2012-2013 School Calendar

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that a revised draft calendar for the 2012-2013 school year is at members' places this evening for consideration. Changes from the last draft include changing the half day on October 3 to October 31 and changing the half day on June 5 to June 19. Brief discussion regarding potential changes to this calendar as a result of collective bargaining.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to accept the draft 2012-2013 school calendar of 12/6/11.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

B. Report of Somerville School Committee Caucus for Chair and Vice Chair for 2012.

Mr. Sweeting announced that, prior to this evening's meeting, the School Committee met at 6:45 p.m. to elect the Chair and Vice Chair for 2012. He is pleased to announce that the Chair will be Paul Bockelman and the Vice Chair will be Mary Jo Rossetti. These elections will be made official on January 2, 2012 at the Inauguration. Congratulations!

C. Joint School Committee, Board of Aldermen, Mayor and Superintendent of Schools Resolution regarding proposed Charter School.

Ms. Rossetti did an excellent job reading the full resolution into the minutes. The resolution is included at the end of these minutes.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the resolution. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:40 p.m.

Discussion ensued among School Committee members regarding the how well crafted, strong and powerful the resolution was. Ms. Gewirtz reported that she is very happy to sign and bring to the Board of Aldermen. She also invited School Committee members to attend the Aldermen's meeting to speak to the issue and answer any questions. Mr. Sweeting announced that he would be in attendance.

Ms. Rossetti issued her thanks for Mr. Pierantozzi and the team. She also commented that the Public Hearing on December 14 was very well attended, which led her to reflect on how the School Committee engage the public in previous years. Ms. Rossetti referred to her many notebooks and was reminded that in 2003 and 2004, four Community Forums were held across the City. These forums had not set agenda; they were an open forum where questions and ideas were expressed. Ms. Rossetti also reported that, in the past, the School Committee held retreats and that these retreats were very helpful for members to set goals, etc. She is asking, at the discretion of the Chair, to consider reinstituting both retreats and forums.

Mr. Bockelman responded that a retreat should be held in early January and discussion about possible forums could be held at that time. Some discussion ensued.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, that the School Committee begin early in 2012 moving towards hosting a minimum of four community forums with no set agenda.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang was not in favor of this motion. It is his belief that the School Committee should reach out in new ways. He is not convinced that forums are the way to reach out. He also does not believe that parents/guardians should have to come to the School Committee. Mr. Niedergang spoke of several list serves where parents/guardians express concerns. Further discussion ensued regarding the consideration of a public comment period at School Committee meetings, as well as possibly adding a School Committee component to ResiStat meetings. The discussion will continue at a future meeting.

D. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policies were presented this evening by Mr. Niedergang for first reading:

- File: JJIF Athletic Concussion Policy
- File: JJIF-R Athletic Concussion Regulations
- File: JRC Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

E. Field Trips (Recommended action approval)

January 6 & 7, 2012	Somerville High School Boys and Girls Track athletes to Dartmouth, NH to compete in the Dartmouth Relays. Transportation via school van. The only cost to students will be to purchase their meals.
January 13, 2012	Next Wave Junior High School students to Pats Peak Ski Slope in Henniker, NH. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$10 per student.
February 3, 2012	Next Wave Junior High School students to Pats Peak Ski Slope in Henniker, NH. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$10 per student.
March 8 & 9, 2012:	Next Wave Junior High School students to Pats Peak Ski Slope in Henniker, NH, overnight. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$10 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to waive the reading and approve the field trips.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Bastardi

4. Congratulated Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Rossetti on being elected Chair and Vice Chair.
5. As this is our last public meeting, wished everyone a happy and safe break!

Ms. Rafal

2. Shared that she had received a card thanking the School Committee for their support for the Nature's Classroom trip.

Mrs. Cardoso

3. The Argenziano School's winter concerts will be held at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. tomorrow, December 20.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

Ingala, Eva, an assistant in the Special Education Department in the Somerville Schools for 17 years.
David Sears, father of Jennifer Sears, teacher at the Kennedy School
Michele "Mike" Scimemi, father-in-law of Francesca Scimemi, paraprofessional at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. via voice vote.

A RESOLUTION FROM MAYOR JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, THE SOMERVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, THE SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, AND SUPERINTENDENT ANTHONY PIERANTOZZI OPPOSING THE PROPOSED SOMERVILLE PROGRESSIVE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION.

WHEREAS, there is a proposal to create a second charter school in the City of Somerville called the Somerville Progressive Charter School (SPCS); **AND**,

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will vote on the basis of criteria set forth in the charter statute , G.L. c. 71, § 89, and the Charter School Regulations, 603 CMR 1.05(1) and 603 CMR 1.05(2); **AND**

WHEREAS, the SPCS Application fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the criteria set forth in G.L. c. 71, § 89(i)(3) and 603 CMR 1.05(1)(b), due to a substantially inadequate English Language Learner program that does not provide sufficient English instruction for Beginning and Early Intermediate English Language Learners to progress in English and to overcome language barriers that impede equal access to grade level curriculum; as well as inadequate staffing projections and a lack of an outlined ‘continuum of services’ to effectively address the needs of the Special Education population; **AND**

WHEREAS, the SPCS Application fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the criteria set forth in G.L. c. 71, § 89(i)(3) and 603 CMR 1.05(1)(d), due to an inadequate and poorly conceived recruitment and retention plan; **AND**

WHEREAS, the SPCS Application fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the criteria set forth in G.L. c. 71, § 89(i)(3) and 603 CMR 1.05(1)(e), due to a lack of broad-based parental involvement in the Application development process, particularly among its proposed target English Language Learner population; **AND**

WHEREAS, the SPCS Application fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the criteria set forth in G.L. c. 71, § 89(i)(3) and 603 CMR 1.05(1)(f), due the fact that the proposed school fails to enhance options for students in the district as it replicates or falls short of what the Somerville Public Schools is currently providing, which includes a comprehensive K-12 Sheltered English Immersion Program, a two-way bilingual program at *Unidos*, and a school with an explicitly defined progressive focus that was recently extensively revised at the Healey School at the direction of the School Committee; **AND**

WHEREAS, the SPCS Application fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the criteria set forth in G.L. c. 71, § 89(i)(3) and 603 CMR 1.05(1)(g), due to an oppositional posture with the Somerville Public Schools and a failure of the SPCS to involve any Somerville Public Schools staff or School Committee members in the Application development process; **AND**

WHEREAS, the SPCS Application fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the criteria set forth in G.L. c. 71, § 89(i)(3) and 603 CMR 1.05(1)(h), due to the lack of significant elementary school management experience among the Founder’s Group or the proposed Educational Advisory Board, as well as the fact that the proposed school is without a clearly defined management structure; **AND**

WHEREAS, the SPCS Application fails to meet the criteria for Proven Providers set forth in G.L. c. 71, § 89(i)(3) and 603 CMR 1.05(2), due to the fact that the Applicant has not named Proven Providers affiliated with schools or similar programs relevant to the proposed charter; **AND**

WHEREAS, the SPCS Application fails to meet the criteria for Proven Providers set forth in G.L. c. 71, § 89(i)(3) and 603 CMR 1.05(2)(a), due to the fact that the Proven Providers

named by the Applicant have inadequately defined roles and responsibilities in the proposed charter; **AND**

WHEREAS, the SPCS Application fails to meet the criteria for Proven Providers set forth in G.L. c. 71, § 89(i)(3) and 603 CMR 1.05(2)(c), due to the fact that it does not clearly identify management or financial leadership and structure as evidence of organizational viability; **AND**

WHEREAS, the SPCS Application fails to meet the criteria set forth in G.L. c. 71, § 89(i)(3) and 603 CMR 1.05(2)(d), due to the fact that the Proven Providers named by the Applicant do not serve student populations similar to the population to be served by the proposed charter; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, that Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, the Somerville Board of Aldermen, the Somerville School Committee, and Somerville Public Schools Superintendent Anthony Pierantozzi, hereby stand united in opposition to the establishment of the Somerville Progressive Charter School; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, the Somerville Board of Aldermen, the Somerville School Committee, and Somerville Public Schools Superintendent Anthony Pierantozzi, hereby urge the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to reject the application of the Somerville Progressive Charter School; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be filed with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education immediately following approval of this Resolution by the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen, the School Committee, and the School Superintendent.

**Approved this 19th Day of December,
2011, by the Mayor:**

Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor

**Approved this 20th Day of December,
2011, by the Board of Aldermen:**

President Rebekah L. Gewirtz

Vice President Thomas F. Taylor

Alderman Bruce M. Desmond

Alderman Dennis M. Sullivan

Alderman William A. White, Jr.

Alderman William M. Roche

Alderman Maryann M. Heuston

Alderman Walter F. Pero

Alderman Sean T. O'Donovan

Alderman Robert C. Trane

Alderman John M. Connolly

**Approved this 19th Day of December,
2011, by the School Committee:**

Chairman Adam Sweeting

Vice Chairman Paul Bockelman

Member Maureen Bastardi

Member M. Teresa Cardoso

Member Christine T. Rafal

Member Mark Niedergang

Member Mary Jo Rossetti

**Approved this 19th Day of December,
2011, by the School Superintendent:**

Anthony Pierantozzi

*Somerville School Committee
Official Citation*

This certifies that

Mark Antonelli

Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted this Certificate of Appreciation for having been named the 2011 Coach of the Year by the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association. The Somerville School Committee commends you on this award and thanks you for all of your fine efforts while serving as the Boys Basketball Coach for Somerville High School since beginning as the Junior Varsity Coach in 2003 and assuming the role of Head Coach in 2008. Congratulations!

Somerville School Committee

Adam Sweeting, Chairperson

Paul Bockelman, Vice Chairperson

M. Teresa Cardoso

Christine Rafal

Mary Jo Rossetti

Mark Niedergang

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

Maureen Bastardi

Rebekah L. Gewirtz, Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

December 19, 2011