

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, February 13, 2023- Regular Meeting

6:00 p.m. – Zoom

Members present: Ms. Krepchin, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Barish, Ms. Dion, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Phillips, Mayor Ballantyne and President Ewen-Campen.

Members Absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Green asked Superintendent Curley to call the roll, results of which were as follows: PRESENT – 9 – Dr. Phillips, Ms. Krepchin, Mr. Ewen-Campen, Mayor Ballantyne, Chair Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone (6:08), Dr. Ackman and Ms. Dion. ABSENT – 0 –

Chair Green made a statement regarding the Superintendent Search to announce that due to family medical reasons Dr. Mendonsa has withdrawn her application as a finalist for the Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools.

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Erika Garcia - Spanish

Benvido Cruz - Portuguese

Gina Miranda - Haitian Creole

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representatives Marcia Narh-Botchway and Anna Sophia Protopapas were both present and reported the following:

- Black Student Union led showcase will be on February 28. Poetry, slides for Black history Month etc.
- SRO Discussion. Is there an update on process/feedback
- Course selection is due
- Winter Sports have come to an end
- Student Reps got to meet the candidates for the Superintendent Search and had lunch with them.

Questions/Comments

Ms. Pitone asked the Chair if a copy of the Special Policing Subcommittee recommendations could be sent to the students for them to review, and recommended that the students join the conversation.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Green read the public comment regulations and asked those who signed up, to comment at this time.

Erich Ludwig, Berkeley St. in Ward 3. Commented in support of the motions passed by The Special Policing Subcommittee.

Sara Halawa, from Safe Schools Somerville, thanked the Policing Subcommittee and the Somerville educators for their work. She also commented in support of the motions passed by The Special policing Subcommittee.

Shana Berger, Oak St. in Ward 2. An educator and parent to an SPS child. Also wanted spoke as a member of Safe Schools Somerville and thanked the subcommittee for their hard work. She commented in support of the Special Policing Subcommittee motions. She mentioned that she would have spoken in support of Dr. Mendonsa if she had not withdrawn.

IV. NEW BUSINESS (Item A Taken Out of Order)

A. Superintendent Search Candidate Deliberations and Vote

Chair Green spoke to the Superintendent Search and what the next steps would be. He first asked members if any of them wanted to make a motion to push forward any of the two candidates left. With none of the members making a motion, Chair Green put forth three options to the committee:

- Reopen the current search now.
- Appoint an Interim and do another search to appoint in September.
- Start the search from scratch again now.

Conversation ensued regarding the next steps.

Ms. Pitone asked about the work perhaps being split between School Committee members and the screening committee.

Ms. Barish asked if a new subcommittee could be appointed. Chair Green said it is possible but wanted Mr. Koocher to weigh in. As the committee waited for Mr. Koocher to arrive they continued with other items on the agenda.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

Notes-Superintendent's Update: *School Committee Mtg – Monday, Feb. 13, 2023*

Student Honors

We love to highlight the incredible work of our students and our staff, and this week it's our great pleasure to recognize a number of students who recently garnered local and national attention for their accomplishments. Because there are many to highlight this evening, I'll briefly mention the award or recognition each student received, but please be on the lookout for more formal press releases that the district will be sharing over the next few days to honor these achievements:

- SHS students **Leila Smee, Ultraviolet Gates, Leo Ellsworth, and Alice Gamache** were selected to participate in the Massachusetts Music Educators Association's Eastern District Music Festival. **Ultraviolet and Alice** made it through to the next level of competition, qualifying to perform at the MMEA All-State Concert on March 4th.
- SHS Junior **Ian Born** won a gold medal for his social science research paper as part of the Alpha Scholars program through Harvard International Review, and his paper is now published on the internationally recognized site.
- Two SHS teams won top prizes in a 2022 U.S. Crystal Growing Competition. The SHS teams are students in Susan Schmidt's Chemistry 1 classes and grew crystals as part of a class project. Students on these teams are: **Jameer Perez Sinclair, Camden Pereira, Brian Rodriguez, Sebastien Ungar, Lex Moulton, and Juan Gabriel Santos.**
- SHS Senior **Julian M. Bresler** was named a Commended Student in the competitive 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- And, last but definitely not least, a number of our creative students earned awards in the Scholastic Arts & Writing Competition, chosen from more than 7,000 entries nationwide.
 - Arts winners are: **Natalie Covin, Leo Chiu, and Reeves Beckley**
 - Writing winners are: **Jack Granowetter and Sam Turin**

Congratulations to all of the winners. We are so fortunate to have talented students like you in the Somerville Public Schools and we can't wait to see what other great things you will accomplish.

Update on Hiring

Several school and district hiring processes are under way! Interviews for several K-8 principal positions will be taking place this week, and the Somerville High School and SCALE hiring processes kick off next week. We are also wrapping up searches for the Assistant Superintendent of Operations and the Chief Professional Officer positions, with finalist interviews taking place this week.

February Break

A quick reminder that February Break is next week, and includes Presidents' Day. Schools will be closed all week. District offices will also be closed on Monday in observance of President's Day, but will be open Tuesday through Friday. We are

distributing at-home COVID-19 tests this week and are asking all students and staff to self-test next Sunday before their return to school Monday morning.

Department Shout-Out

A huge shout-out goes out to our Personnel/HR team! Karen Woods, Mariana MacDonald, Sharon Ellis, Jean Cabral, and Patti DiFraia have been rock stars in helping to coordinate and manage the many hiring processes that are under way, implementing new personnel systems, and supporting staff throughout the school year. We appreciate all they do, and for their always-positive attitude!

Questions/ Comments

Dr. Phillips asked about hiring processes and what is making them work so well.

Chair Green asked what the district's plan is for COVID Tests, since the Federal Government will no longer be providing them. Dr. Curley responded that we have purchased extra tests in anticipation, currently we are in good shape to continue with this program.

- **2023-2024 School Calendar** (Dr. Boston Davis)

Dr. Boston Davis reported an update to the school Calendar for 2023-2024:

- Thank you to Nomi Davidson for the feedback and partnership.
- Holidays that appear on the first page have been removed from the second page, as well as any inappropriate holidays, per feedback from SC members.

Conversation ensued about potential edits to the calendar.

Dr. Boston Davis clarified that the second page is an effort for constituents to feel seen and an attempt to be inclusive; it is not a matter of policy.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (Item A Continued Out of Order)

A. Superintendent Search Candidate Deliberations and Vote

Chair Green asked Mr. Koocher to join the podium to answer questions.

First question: If we were to reconstitute the screening committee, could we look at existing resumes, is there the possibility of encouraging new people to apply. Could we repost the ad?

Mr. Koocher responded that if School Committee elects to repost and create a new search, technically a new screening committee would need to be appointed, which does not disqualify previous screening committee members from joining if they were to be appointed.

Second Question: If the screening committee were to change and new members of school committee were to be appointed, would they be able to look at resumes from the previous search.

Mr. Koocher said that with the permission of the candidate members could look at the resumes, but the candidates would need to reapply.

Third question- the Principal hiring process requires two committees, one for screening the resumes and the other one for interviews, how is this different from the Superintendent search.

Mr. Koocher the principal reports to the superintendent and a principal search is not covered by open meeting law.

Dr. Phillips clarified that the way she understood it, SC could not violate open meeting law and wondered if five of the members could be in the screening committee.

Mr. Koocher responded that the majority of SC members may not be on the screening committee, for this body four members would be the maximum.

Mayor Ballantyne asked if the three members on the screening committee would want to remain.

Chair Green mentioned potentially needing more Administrative Support. Would doing a new search require new focus groups and so forth.

Mr. Koocher said it would not because the open meeting law allows for a broad process.

Chair Green asked Mr. Koocher to share the options of the committee

- Could Invite any of the applicants to come in front of School Committee for public interview
- Could appoint interim and start a new search in September
- Could speak to folks who did not apply and ask them to apply now

Ms. Pitone asked Mr. Koocher to define reaching out to folks who did not apply; would this be recruiting. Mr. Koocher clarified that at this point anybody who is recruited would go straight to a public interview.

Dr. Phillips wondered if there is enough time left.

Mr. Koocher said the committee should attempt to appoint someone by June.

Mayor Ballantyne asked if the committee would start the search over.

Dr. Ackman responded that the current feedback from active constituents is not to start over.

Dr. Phillips asked for more clarity on what the body is looking for.

Chair Green said members of the body have the ability to hire based on whichever criteria they are looking for; he does not want to create a restrictive profile.

Ms. Pitone thinks it would be valuable to at least have a conversation about the candidate profile.

President Ewen-campen asked for the pros and cons of the three options.

Chair Green comfortably said that there are other candidates in the pool of 27 who committee members should reach out to.

Conversation ensued on possible processes to follow.

Dr. Phillips commented that a new search could be both inclusive and efficient.

Ms. Barish reminded folks to take into account district bandwidth.

Ms. Pitone asked for recommendations from the Administration for Wednesday's Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole.

VIII. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Dion, to suspend the rules and accept all the Subcommittee reports listed on the agenda.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

A. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction: January 23, 2023 (Dr. Phillips)

Minutes from Education Programs & Instruction for January 23, 2023

Called to order at 5:34 pm

In attendance Emily Ackman & Sara Dion

Chris Glynn (interim director of educator development), Caitlin Donaldson (K teacher – Winter Hill), Dr. Boston Davis (interim Asst. Supt of Academics), and Dr. Curley (interim supt.)

Ms. Pitone joined at 5:40 pm

Dr. Boston Davis led the presentation on Common Planning Time that will be presented to the district on February 6. Questions at the end of the presentation.

Ms. Dion: Will CPT be free-form or scheduled

Dr. Davis: There will be schedules and different opportunities for different types of planning.

Ms. Pitone: CPT is exciting – extra 5 minutes in the morning might just be on paper and would be more stress and a cultural shift.

Some parents might be excited about consistency and others might be frustrated by less time on learning.

How are we holding ourselves accountable?

Dr. Curley:

There is a common sense and professional courtesy to allowing teachers time to work together. As we work to tackle pandemic learning loss, it is important to keep this as a way to work to recover.

Ms. Pitone:

What about a 1:15 or 1:30 release?

Mr. Glynn:

Would have been too difficult to maintain building time and travel time and make this work in order for it to be meaningful, deep, intentional work.

Ms. Donaldson: If you want to have quality CPT, it needs to be not during the school day. There is the possibility of creating a new classroom culture around the additional 5 minutes of learning time in the morning.

Dr. Ackman: can you guarantee SPED & MLE will be included, but that is essential to the success of CPT
Minutes from Education Programs & Instruction for January 23, 2023

Mr. Glynn: that is the plan

Dr. Ackman: how soon are we looking at a return on investment of the time that will be taken from students time in front of teachers?

Dr. Davis: I see us seeing increased positive outcomes within one academic year.

Mr. Glynn: this will allow for district-wide assessment design. We can start to drill down and create more common assessments across the district.

Dr. Davis: there is a theme of assessment & data in all our ILT meetings. I think having the space to look at student work will allow for future assessments be created.

Dr. Ackman:

I suggest that you share the value of educators looking at and analyzing artifacts together when you share to the full body.

Ms. Pitone:

I suggest that we need to seriously evaluate and then readjust this work based on the evaluation.

B. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: January 25, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting January 25th, 2023

Via Remote Participation

Members Present: Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips and Ellenor Barish.

Also in Attendance: Director of Finance Fran Gorski, Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley, and Interim Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza

Audience Members: There were 2 audience members

Ilana Krepchin called the meeting to order at 7 pm

There were 3 items on the agenda

Facilities Update

Edgerly panic buttons - 7 were installed over the holiday break. Training for all staff on how to use them. Now all schools have panic buttons.

Sysco phone integration - one can now initiate a lock down from any phone Rock wall at the HS - contacted insurance company and waiting to hear back. Hopefully we can just add it to existing athletics coverage. Once that is established, we can do inspection and then do some trainings. There is a budgetary consideration - perhaps add a stipend position, there will be on-going maintenance and repairs as well.

Budget

We are waiting on the governor's budget. Under circuit breaker there is increased funding for transportation for special education.

In terms of the student opportunities act, we are a minimum aid district - we will get about \$30 more per student.

We are currently sending out budget worksheets to principals and we have budget collaborative meetings set up for the first two weeks in February, there will be time in March for additional meetings.

ESSER - 50 positions and contracted services, two BAM programs. We could keep all of that under ESSER, but then we would create a budget bubble next year.

Curriculum - greater Boston breakthrough - provided a new scope for this year - goes out over 5 years. We've had discussions with Biogen about funding for this program. Transportation - Expanded with MBTA programs. With fuel costs high, we need to ensure we have enough funding in the budget. We get some reimbursement for homeless transportation. Nursing - need for some contract nursing services - need to make sure there is funding for that going forward.

East - third year of the UNIDOS curriculum. We funded FY23 in FY22 with efficiency dollars, so we might be able to do that again this year.

Winter Hill - we need to consider moving the BAM program over this year, or move that over next year

HS - BAM is on the general fund, WOW is charging to ESSER, so we need to think about that. Accreditation is coming up in the spring. That is a one time cost, will go away for FY24. SPED - out of district tuition - the inflation rate has been 2% every year for the past decade. This year it is 14%. One of the things we can prepay are out of district tuitions. The past few years, because of other reduced costs, we've been able to prepay 1.2 - 1.5 million annually, which has been very helpful. At the conclusion of ESSER, we will go back to what is more typical - about \$250,000.

Staffing - some positions we added post budget - about 9 FTEs

Circuit breaker offset - we get additional dollars based on transportation reimbursements. We can hold on to the money for entire fiscal year, which helps budget-wise. Bottom line- total payroll is just under 81 million, total change of 4.71%. 5.27% is total budget change - which doesn't include any of the things that are on ESSER.

December Bill Rolls

Consultant for payroll - it's been a challenging year staffing for payroll. We finally hired someone from within.

KNF&T - temp staffing agency for a temporary person at SCALE, for a position we couldn't hire Diversity career fair for HR

Legal Charges - a few months worth - labor relations and student services Motion to approve bill rolls - Sara Dion, seconded by Ellenor Barish, passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Chair, Finance and Facilities Subcommittee

Documents used:

Dec 22 Local Bill Rolls

Dec 22 Revolving Bill Rolls

Dec 22 Grants Bill Rolls

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Krepchin, second by Dr. Ackman, to accept the December Bill Rolls. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

C. School Committee Meeting for Special Personnel meeting of the Whole: January 30, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Personnel Meeting of the Whole January 30th, 2023

Via Remote Participation

Members Present: Andre Green, Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips, Ellenor Barish, Mayor Ballantyne and President Ewen-Campen

Also in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Academics Jessica Boston Davis

Audience Members: There were 15 audience members

Andre Green called the meeting to order at 6 pm

There were 3 items on the agenda

School Leaders Hiring Process Overview

Dr. Curley gave an overview of the timeline and process for hiring of principals and other central office staff

Superintendent Search Candidate Recommendations to the Full Committee Announcement of the three finalists chosen by the superintendent search screening committee

Superintendent Finalist Interview Questions

The questions created by the superintendent search committee were reviewed. There was a motion by Ilana Krepchin, seconded by Ellenor Barish to authorize the chair to compose a set of questions that we will ask all candidates. There was a friendly amendment by Sarah Phillips to add that the chair get feedback from our chief personnel officer. Motion passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Vice Chair

Documents used:

SPS Superintendent Candidate Biographies

SPS super interview questions

D. School Committee Meeting for Special Policing Subcommittee: January 31, 2023 (Ms. Barish)

Special Policing Subcommittee

The January 31 2023 meeting was held virtually and was called to order at 6:32 pm. Subcommittee members Andre Green, Sarah Phillips, Aisha Banda, Anuj Bardhwaj, Dayshawn Simmons, and Ellenor Barish were present. Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley was also in attendance. There were three people in the audience.

There were two items on the agenda.

1. SPS Update

Dr. Curley informed subcommittee members that he is working on internal guidance for staff and administrators on when to call SPD and limits of information sharing. At the same time, Somerville Police Chief Femino is working on a policy for officers, covering any interactions in the schools. Collaboration with the Mayor's Office and the police around an updated

MOU is ongoing. Dr. Curley hopes to have a draft of guidance ready by the time this subcommittee's recommendations are presented to the full committee.

2. Further Deliberations on Recommendation to School Committee

Dr. Phillips made a motion: **I move that this committee recommend that the superintendent work to establish an MOU with the SPD focused on calling an off-site SLO for the three incidents of criminal and delinquent conduct named in the State's 2022 model MOU.** Andre Green seconded the motion.

There was some discussion about how narrow a directive should be. Dr. Phillips read aloud the descriptions of "incidents of criminal and delinquent conduct" as described in the model MOU. Conversation turned to what happens after the negotiation of a new MOU.

Mr. Simmons proposed a friendly amendment: **Upon a tentative agreement with the SPD, the superintendent will bring back a draft for approval by the full School Committee.** Dr. Phillips accepted the friendly amendment.

Chair Green noted that this change would require a new policy stating that any MOU must be approved by School Committee, something he would refer to the Rules Management Subcommittee. Dr. Curley clarified that negotiating the MOU would take time. His immediate priority is to bring clarity to the field with a guidance document and to ensure that responding officers will be trained to work with juveniles whenever possible.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Phillips introduced a new motion:

I move that this committee recommend the School Committee and district administration work together to ensure there are sufficient funds in the next SPS budget to implement and institutionalize the motions of this committee. Funds could be used to hire contractors to support the development of guidance and training for school staff as well as expand prevention programming such as the engagement specialists, the mediation program, or restorative justice efforts.

In response to Andre Green's concern that this wording could be interpreted to mean that the SPS budget has funded policing in the past or might in the future, Dr. Phillips amended her motion (*italics*).

I move that this committee recommend the School Committee and district administration work together to ensure there are sufficient funds in the next SPS budget to implement and institutionalize the motions of this committee *that are unrelated to paying for policing services.* Funds could be used to hire contractors to support the development of guidance and training for school staff as well as expand prevention programming such as the engagement specialists, the mediation program, or restorative justice efforts.

Though there seemed to be broad support among subcommittee members for prevention programming as well as a desire to convey that support to the full School Committee, the group discussed whether this motion was appropriate given that the purview of the subcommittee is the relationship between SPD and SPS.

Dr. Phillips withdrew the motion.

Conversation turned to whether the subcommittee would have an opportunity to assess and even approve an MOU between SPS and SPD. Mr. Green, who formed the subcommittee, stated that he believed the subcommittee had done all it could for the time being.

Dr. Phillips raised the issue of STEPS, which was included in former Superintendent Skipper's presentation at the first meeting of the subcommittee. She floated the idea of a motion to permanently disband STEPS which Mr. Simmons said he would second. Mr. Green argued that the wording left too much room for a similar program to be instituted under a different name and that if the School Committee were to adopt the motions already passed STEPS - or similar programming that would put police in schools in non-emergency situations - would not be possible.

Dr. Curley stated that any MOU between SPS and SPD should apply to any police present in any of our schools at any time. This raised concerns for Mr. Simmons - given the focus on safety of high school students and staff up to this point, he wondered if there should be a uniform policy across all grade levels. Mr. Green pointed out that some aspects of an MOU, such as the three incident categories, would be based on state law. Dr. Curley clarified that while an MOU would govern SPD involvement in all of our schools, it would not necessarily apply to all grade levels in the same way.

Dr. Phillips proposed a motion: **I move that this committee recommend the Superintendent focus the MOU on the three incidents laid out in the district's original proposal, revising the purpose, mission, goals, and objectives sections of the model MOU and cutting the second full paragraph on p. 3 that's about intervening in incidents that do not meet the thresholds of criminal and delinquent conduct.**

Mr. Simmons seconded the motion.

(At 7:30, Dr. Curley excused himself from the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.)

Mr. Green wondered if this motion was too detail-focused for this stage of the process. Dr. Phillips clarified her concern that the Commonwealth's Model MOU would allow school staff to invite police into the building to break up a fight, for example. Mr. Green raised the issue that School Committee has not yet determined whose job it is to get between students trying to harm each other. Ms. Barish worried that the specificity of the motion might imply that this subcommittee has no other concerns in the Model MOU. Mr. Green expressed concern that this language might leave district administrators without an important option.

Dr. Phillips called the question.

The motion passed with four in favor and two opposed.

Ms. Barish made a motion: **I move that this subcommittee recommend to the full committee that the SPS budget not fund police involvement in schools.**

Mr. Green seconded the motion.

Ms. Barish wondered if she should amend the motion to allow the exception of paying for professional development for officers involved in SPS schools. Mr. Green clarified that the district does not generally pay for per unit of professional development. Dr. Phillips suggested changing the motion to say that SPS budget would not fund salaries and benefits for police officers. Mr. Simmons suggested a friendly amendment: "Not including already established professional development opportunities for SPS staff." Ms. Banda expressed her opposition to this friendly amendment, explaining that she did not believe the psychological safe space necessary for engaging in anti-bias/anti-racist/equity work could be established with police officers in attendance. Mr. Simmons withdrew his friendly amendment.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Phillips asked if the subcommittee needed to make a formal motion terminating the old MOU. Mr. Green said that was already in progress.

With nothing else on the agenda, Ms. Barish thanked everyone for their contributions to the subcommittee's work and adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

E. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: February 6, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Personnel Meeting of the Whole February 6th, 2023

City Council Chambers

Members Present: Andre Green, Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips, Ellenor Barish, and President Ewen-Campen

Also in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza

Audience Members: There were 2 audience members

Andre Green called the meeting to order at 7 pm

There 1 item on the agenda

Dr. Janelle Pearson-Cambell was interviewed for the position of Superintendent of The Somerville Public Schools.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Vice Chair

Documents used:

Pearson-Cambell-Janelle.pdf

SPS Super Questions by category

Approved SC Goals

F. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: February 7, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Personnel Meeting of the Whole February 7th, 2023

City Council Chambers

Members Present: Andre Green, Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips, Ellenor Barish, and President Ewen-Campen

Also in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza

Audience Members: There were 2 audience members

Andre Green called the meeting to order at 7 pm

There 1 item on the agenda

Kevin McCaskill was interviewed for the position of Superintendent of The Somerville Public Schools.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Vice Chair

Documents used:

McCaskill kevin.pdf

SPS Super Questions by category

Approved SC Goals

G. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: February 8, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Personnel Meeting of the Whole February 8th, 2023

City Council Chambers

Members Present: Andre Green, Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips, and Ellenor Barish

Also in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza

Audience Members: There were 2 audience members

Andre Green called the meeting to order at 7 pm

There 1 item on the agenda

Marisa Mendonsa was interviewed for the position of Superintendent of The Somerville Public Schools.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Vice Chair

Documents used:

Mendonsa Marisa.pdf

SPS Super Questions by category

Approved SC Goals

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Special Policing Subcommittee Recommendations to the Whole Committee (Ms. Barish)
Tabled.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no items from committee members.

XI. CONDOLENCES

The Somerville School Committee extends its deepest condolences to the families of:

Sullivan, Kathleen M. (Grassia), Paraprofessional at the Arthur D. Healey School

Georgette Sajous, Alexandre, Mother of Marjorie Alexandre Enrollment Specialist in the Enrollment Center

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Pursuant to Purpose 2 to conduct contract negotiations and strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with the Superintendent of Schools.

Not Needed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

2023-2024 School Calendar

Submitted by: E. Garcia

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 13, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

Amended – 02-09-2023

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the School Committee will be conducted via hybrid participation. We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

To **watch** this Regular School Committee meeting live from home please visit the following link and choose **GovTV**:
<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

To **listen** live to the simultaneous interpretation of this meeting in **Spanish, Portuguese or Haitian Creole**, please join this Zoom Webinar and choose your desired language by clicking the interpretation globe on the Zoom:
https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSgXOKcunug

Meeting ID: 847 5813 4927

Password: SPSSC23

Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2023 - 2025

In order to address the root causes of systemic inequity in our schools, the Somerville School Committee and SPS commit to the following goals, knowing that these can only be achieved through ensuring meaningful partnerships with Somerville families, district staff, city government, and community partners. Our goals attempt to address deep-rooted systemic barriers that have prevented us from achieving our district vision of equity and excellence and ensure that all students, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the supports and resources they need to achieve educational success in our district now and in the future.

1. Whole Child Teaching and Learning... we will:

- prepare students to demonstrate strong literacy and mathematics foundation by grade 3, grade 6, and grade 10
- provide all students with integrated classroom lessons from a high quality social-emotional learning curriculum that helps students value and develop their ability to build relationships with other students, to be self aware and socially aware, to self regulate, and to make responsible decisions
- expand access to real-world learning experiences through students' participation in Early College, Advanced Placement courses, CTE, and/or other learning experiences that help students build critical 21st century skills, meeting with their college and career counselor in their junior and senior year, and students graduating with a defined post-secondary plan.

2. Equitable Access to Programming... we will conduct a district enrollment study to understand the prospective future population of the district and create and begin implementing a strategy for school building development, school assignment, and programming that aligns with the district's equity policy, and which is based on results of the enrollment study and the projected 10+ year plan for school facilities.

3. Workforce Diversity... we will increase the percentage of support staff of color, teachers and counselors of color, and administrators of color by 6% per group compared to SY22 rates through evaluating and strengthening all elements of our personnel system – recruitment, processes, training, retention, development, advancement, and staff data collection systems on which we base and measure our improvement efforts.

4. Equitable Resource Allocation... we will design, evaluate, and partially or fully implement student-based budgeting by 2025, or identify alternative mechanisms to more equitably allocate district resources.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Call to order with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – In person or via Zoom

To participate in Public Comment remotely please use the following Zoom link:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSgXOKcunug

Meeting ID: 847 5813 4927

Password: SPSSC23

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**A. District Report**

- 2023-2024 School Calendar (Dr. Boston Davis)

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**A. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction:** January 23, 2023 (Dr. Phillips)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of January 23, 2023.

B. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole: January 25, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of January 25, 2023

C. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: January 30, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of January 30, 2023.

D. School Committee Meeting for Special Policing: January 31, 2023 (Ms. Barish)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Special Policing of January 23, 2023.

E. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: February 6, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)**F. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole:** February 7, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)**G. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole:** February 8, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the reports of the School Committee Special Personnel Meetings of the Whole of February 6, February 7, and February 8, 2023.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Special Policing Subcommittee Recommendations to the Whole Committee** (Ms. Barish)**VII. NEW BUSINESS****A. Superintendent Search Candidate Deliberations and Vote****VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS****IX. CONDOLENCES****X. EXECUTIVE SESSION****A. Pursuant to Purpose 2 to conduct contract negotiations and strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with the Superintendent of Schools.****XI. ADJOURNMENT**

For Simultaneous Interpretation in Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole See below:

Espanol - Para Interpretación

Para **ver** la Reunión Regular del Comité Escolar el 13 de Febrero a las 6:00, en vivo desde casa, visite el siguiente enlace y elija GovTV: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Para **escuchar** en vivo la interpretación simultánea de la Reunión Regular en español, portugués o criollo haitiano, únase a este Zoom y elija el idioma que desee haciendo clic al globo de interpretación:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSdXOKcunug

Identificación de la reunión: 847 5813 4927

Contraseña: SPSSC23

The items listed are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Português - Para Interpretação

Para **assistir** à Reunião Regular do Comitê Escolar 13 de fevereiro às 6:00, ao vivo de casa, visite o seguinte link e selecione **GovTV**: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Para **ouvir ao vivo a tradução simultânea da Assembleia Ordinária em espanhol, português ou crioulo haitiano**, entre neste Zoom e escolha o idioma desejado clicando no balão de interpretação:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSdXOKcunug

ID da reunião: 847 5813 4927

Senha: SPSC23

Kreyòl ayisyen - Pou entèpretasyon

Pou **gade** reyinyon regilye Komite Lekòl la 13 fevriye a 6:00, an dirèk nan kay la, vizite lyen sa a epi chwazi **GovTV**:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Pou **w tande entèpretasyon similtane Reyinyon Regilye a an panyòl, pòtigè oswa kreyòl ayisyen an**, rantre nan Zoom sa a epi chwazi lang ou vle a lè w klike sou balon entèpretasyon an:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSdXOKcunug

Reyinyon ID: 847 5813 4927

Modpas: SP55C23

2023-2024 School Calendar

First Day of School Grades 1-12: August 30

First Day of School for Pre-K and K: September 6

Last Day of School: June 13

AUGUST '23 (2 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

21—1st day for Administrator Prof. Dev.
28—1st day for Educator Prof. Dev.
29—Educator Professional Development
30—1st day for students 1 - 12 (1/2 day)

SEPTEMBER '23 (19 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1—No School (Offices Open)
4—No School - Labor Day
6—1st day for K and Pre-K students
16-17—Rosh Hashanah*
25—Yom Kippur*

OCTOBER '23 (21 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

9—No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day

NOVEMBER '23 (18 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

7—No School - Election Day (Offices Open)
10—No School - Veterans' Day
12—Diwali
22—Begin Thanksgiving Recess at noon

1st Quarter 8/30—11/3

DECEMBER '23 (16 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

8-15—Hanukkah*
22—Begin Winter Recess at noon
(Includes Christmas - 12/25 and Kwanzaa - 12/26)

JANUARY '24 (20 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

1—No School - New Year's Day
2—No School - Prof. Dev. for Staff
3—Classes Resume
6—Three Kings Day/ Día De Los Reyes
15—No School - Martin Luther King Day
2nd Quarter 11/6—01/23

FEBRUARY '24 (16 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	1	2

10—Lunar New Year
19-23—February Vacation
(includes Presidents' Day)

MARCH '24 (20 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

3/11-4/9—Ramadan*
25—Holi
29—No School - Good Friday
31—Easter

APRIL '24 (17 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

3/11-4/9—Ramadan*
10—Eid al-Fitr*
15-19—April Vacation (includes Patriots' Day)
23-30—Passover*
3rd Quarter 01/24—04/03

MAY '24 (22 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

27—No School - Memorial Day
31—Class Day (Tentative)

JUNE '24 (9 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

3—Graduation Day (Tentative)
13—Last day of school (180 days)
19—Juneteenth (Offices Closed)
20—185th day
4th Quarter 04/04—06/13

For more information or for questions, please contact
Katherine Santiago — ksantiago@k12.somerville.ma.us

Draft For 2-13-2023

Prof. Dev. For Educators

- Half-Day for ALL Students PK—12
- Special Dates for Seniors
- Half-Days for PK—8 Students

Major Religious & Cultural Holidays

Dates underlined under each month represent the district's major religious and cultural holidays. All holidays starred (*) begin at sundown the previous day. Somerville Public Schools staff members will do their best to refrain from scheduling one-time events, field trips, athletic competitions, auditions, tests, quizzes for these days. Long-term assignments will not be due on the day of or the day after one of these holidays.

Religious & Cultural Holidays

Somerville Public Schools is proud to be a rich and diverse community. Although schools are not closed in observance of all religious and cultural holidays, the Somerville Public Schools respect and acknowledge the holidays that our families, students, and staff observe. The list below includes many of the holidays observed. Students who miss school because of an excused absence for a religious observance, should not be expected to complete homework, assignments, study for test, or do any other schoolwork on the holiday. Prior to an excused absence, schools and teachers should be informed.

Name of Holiday	Religion/ Culture	Dates
Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	September 19
Mawlid Al-Nabi (Sunni)	Islamic	September 26-27
Sukkot*	Jewish	Sep. 30—Oct. 6
Mawlid Al-Nabi (Shi'a)	Islamic	October 2
Shemini Atzeret*	Jewish	October 7-8
Simchat Torah*	Jewish	October 8
Navaratri	Hindu	October 15-24
Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í	October 16
Birth of the Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	October 17
All Saints Day	Western Christian	November 1
All Souls Day	Christian	November 2
St. Nicholas Day	Christian	December 6
Bodhi Day	Buddhist	December 8
Epiphany	Christian	January 6
Feast of the Nativity	Orthodox Christian	January 7
Guru Gobindh Singh Birthday	Sikh	January 17
Ash Wednesday	Christian	February 14
Nirvana Day	Buddhist	February 15
Ayyám-i-Há	Bahá'í	Feb. 24—Mar. 1
Naw-Rúz	Bahá'í	March 19-20
Purim*	Jewish	March 24
Palm Sunday	Christian	March 24
Vaisakhi	Sikh	April 13
Hanuman Jayanti	Hindu	April 23
National Day of Prayer	USA—Interfaith	May 2
Orthodox Easter	Eastern Orthodox Christian	May 5
Ascension Day	Christian	May 9
Buddha Day	Buddhism	May 15
Haitian Flag Day	Haitian Heritage	May 18
Pentecost	Christian	May 19
Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	May 28
Shavuot	Jewish	June 11-13
Pentecost	Eastern Orthodox Christian	June 24