

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, March 6, 2023 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Zoom

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

Members Absent: Mayor Ballantyne

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 – 8 – Dr. Phillips, Ms. Krepchin, Mr. Ewen-Campen, Chair Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone (7:09), Dr. Ackman and Ms. Dion. ABSENT – 1 - Mayor Ballantyne.

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Erika Garcia – Spanish

Geldelize Mullen - Portuguese

Gina Miranda - Haitian Creole

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representative Marcia Narh-Botchway was present and reported the following:

- Spring sports begin on 3/28
- Semiformal Dance March 24, 2023

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 23, 2023

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, second by Ms. Dion, to approve the School Committee minutes of January 23, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Grace Lotti commented in support of policing subcommittee recommendations.

Marianne McPherson, Parent of 8th and 5th grade students, commented in support of policing subcommittee recommendations.

Alexandra Epstein, 1 Tremont Place, commented in support of policing Subcommittee recommendations.

Suelin Chen, 15 Greenville Terr., commented in support of policing Subcommittee recommendations.

Eileen Bucker, 47 Greenfield St., commented in support of Policing subcommittee recommendations.

Erich Ludwig, commented in support of policing subcommittee recommendations.

Molly Fraust-Wylie, 75 Concord Ave, Submitted her comment to be included in these minutes.

I'm the parent of two students at Argenziano in K and 4th grade.

I'm writing today to speak on behalf of the leadership of Safe Schools Somerville. We would like to urge this group to pass ALL the motions that the policing subcommittee has sent you- at a minimum- and to continue to work with members of the community - particularly students and students of color- to ensure transparency on an ongoing basis around everything related to police in our schools.

I want to remind this group that in 2021- during public comment, a letter signed by nearly 200 Somerville Teachers & Educators was read aloud that included specific asks, including Exploring the SRO program and working to replace it with more social workers in the building as well as ensuring that school policy does not contribute to the school to prison

pipeline. An overwhelming body of evidence has been put in front of this group, the special policing subcommittee, and our country that shows time and time again the harm policing children causes. The motions put forth by the subcommittee are backed by evidence and supported by the leading experts in this field. Plenty of other people can and should build community with our children. There are people who are trained and educated to work with children, specifically, to support their ever changing developmental and social emotional needs- those people are not police. We also heard from the Somerville teachers that they wanted to see clear identification of roles and responsibilities of staff and administration when handling issues regarding discipline and being transparent with outcomes of reporting incidents. This goes for parents too- I hope that the next step from all this incredible work will be to better inform the parent community of the practices.

I want to thank the members of the Policing Subcommittee particularly those who are not in elected roles, for your hard and thoughtful work and to you, our school committee. I'd also like to note, that since we started this work in Support of Flavia Perea and her son, who is a dear friend of my sons, we've seen a Somerville High School student, Sayed, Arif FAisal, shot and killed by police during a mental health crisis... and just this past week, a group of cambridge students of color with guns drawn on them, accused of breaking & entering one of their own houses, while filming Tiktok videos and being children in their community. I believe in Somerville- I believe in this moment- and I know together we can work towards a police-free learning environment for our children so that incidents like these, like those of Flavias son, and countless others, never happen again.
Molly Fraust-Wylie

Meg DiMaggio, 14 Bailey Street, Spoke as a community member in support of the policing subcommittee recommendations.

Dayshawn Simmons, SPS middle school educator commented in support of the policing subcommittee recommendations.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

• Arthur D. Healey School Improvement Plan (Dr. Cobbs)

Dr. Boston Davis introduced Dr. Mary Ellen Cobbs, Principal of the Healey School, to share her School Improvement Plan presentation. Dr. Cobbs shared her presentation with the school committee members, which is attached below and spoke to the following:

- Literacy and Math Academic Goals
- Data of Dibels in 2021-2022 vs 2022-2023
- MCAS data 2019 vs. 2022
- Equity Goal
- Social Emotional Wellness
- And the root-cause analysis, progress indicators and the strategies and timeline for each of these categories.

Questions/Comments

Dr. Ackman is super pleased with the presentation from the Healey School. She was curious about the DEBILs data. Dr. Cobbs clarified that it was an average of all the data.

Ms. Pitone asked about the academic goals; she is excited to see growth but thinks the goals are very ambitions; she is a firm believer of incremental growth and thought these goals may be somewhat unattainable. Dr. Cobbs responded that with ambitious goals, not to think of individual students but rather the growth overall. It is an indication of the commitment to get them there.

Ms. Barish showed interest in the Social Emotional wellness goals. She asked if there are enough spots in the district available for this goal. Dr. Cobbs said there is a commitment to obtain those goals it is the support that is needed.

Chair Green asked what the grades are for the academic engagement. Dr. Cobbs said the condition for learning survey was for grades 4-8, also noted that we do not have an official tool for capturing K-2 data. The other data to look at is peer mediation notes and counseling notes and this is being looked at in an aggregate sense. In addition, the third piece is that as a district we are working on tools to obtain more student feedback. Chair Green appreciates that we are using other sources beside survey to obtain this data.

Ms. Pitone acknowledged there is significant Social Emotional growth at the Healey and appreciates the frankness for the inconsistencies; she is looking forward to seeing how this is being shown through the budget process. Dr. Cobbs understands this is not a budget meeting but one thing that should be expected is that their site council sent a survey to

their families with a good response about what their priorities are and she hopes that will be helpful information.

Dr. Curley gave a shout out to Dr. Cobbs because one of the clear focuses that come through is the high standards. There was a program that was recently brought to the District where the Healey exceeded above all schools.

Chair Green also made a comment of appreciation for Dr. Cobbs setting high standards and not making excuses.

- **Next wave/Full Circle Schools School Improvement Plan** (Mr. Green)

Principal Margaret Green and Assistant Principal/Special Education Department Head, Jack Haverty, of Next Wave /Full Circle School shared their School Improvement Plan presentation, which is also linked below and spoke to the following:

- Program Design Priorities
- Overview of the Redesign Work from 2016 - 2023
- The focus areas and goals for Equity, Academics and Social Emotional Learning

Questions/ Comments:

Chair Green would like to break tradition and have School Committee members involved in the Full Circle graduation in some way shape or form. He also asked about the growing pains of being in a new building and where things are now. Principal Green said there is some challenging ongoing work that needs to happen; it is tough for the students to acclimate to the change when transitioning within the same building.

Ms. Pitone offered kudos for the competency based education. She wondered if the bar foundation data would be used in the future again as we move forward. Principal Green chose not to continue with the grant last year because of the focus on returning to in person and transition to a new building, she is always looking for new ways to collect the data and get students feedback.

Dr. Phillips thanked Principal Green for her presentation and wondered what opportunities there are to spread project based learning across the district. Dr. Boston Davis is hoping that the common Planning Time could create an opportunity for educators to share practices, but also for Principal Green to showcase this great work to other principals. Principal Green added that project based learning takes some time and she would love to share her practices.

Ms. Krepchin commented that it is sad to hear of students not having a plan after graduation. She also talked about how often students come visit and perhaps they could be used as student mentors. Principal Green said it is ongoing work; they have guidance counselors that meet with students one on one and have found that students are relying a lot on teachers and guidance counselor to create their plans for them. They are working on helping students to become more independent and come up with plans for themselves.

Dr. Ackman was interested to know if Praise- Prompt Leave plan is something we are looking to implement district wide and if not, is it under consideration. Principal Green responded that her instructional coach has been working with Ms. Seward and the Praise prompt leave is now a PD and it is something they have adopted even during the pandemic. Dr. Boston Davis added that there is a lot of best practices here that can be shared with and implemented across the district. Speaking to the high qualities and high expectations, this is an example that should be shared.

Ms. Pitone requested an update or status of the working group working on the schedule complexity pertaining to FC & CTE. She also spoke to the competency-based work through MCIEA and the fact that it has been happening for ten years. She is also requested an update on where this work is going because when it started other work was also happening and she wondered if this work is continuing.

Dr. Boston Davis thanked both schools for their wonderful presentations. Thank you to Dr. Cobbs for her framing and for setting high expectations and to the NW/FC team thank you for focusing on the student engagement piece; she attend and observed a presentation of the Museum Heist, she truly enjoyed it.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Special Policing Subcommittee Recommendations (Ms. Barish)

Chair Green has been working to figure out how to convert the recommendations into School Committee language/procedures for procedural purposes. He framed the four recommendations and what his plans are for each as follows:

The first recommendation is a directive to the district for behavior and can be voted on as is. The second recommendation has guidance for the Superintendent on how we push the negotiations for the MOU and it also includes an agreement that the MOU would be approved by the School Committee from now on, which is a matter of policy and has been referred to the Rules Subcommittee. The third recommendation can be voted on as is. And lastly, for the fourth recommendation, the district has not done anything like this before, he is requesting a vote for it tonight and if it passes, he will also refer it to the Rules Subcommittee to figure out the details.

Dr. Ackman wondered why goal number four would be referred to Rules. Chair Green explained that it could be that or it could also be put in a resolution.

Dr. Phillips felt more comfortable voting on all four recommendations and then putting them forward.

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Dion, to accept the four recommendations of the Policing Subcommittee.

President Ewen- Campen thanked the Subcommittee members for their work.

Ms. Barish then provided some general historical context to the work done by the subcommittee and the recommendations.

Ms. Pitone fully supports the recommendations and thanked the subcommittee for all the thorough and transparent work.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

Dr. Phillips took some time to thank the students who brought their concerns forth, Dr. Curley for not giving up and sticking to his values, Chair Green for bringing this to the table and making it a conversation among members and Ms. Barish and the subcommittee for all the work.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (Item E Taken Out of Order)

E. Conflict of Interest Disclosure from CFO in Relation to contract for SPED Translation Services

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to determine that Mr. Gorski's financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services the District may expect from him in his role as CFO and to authorize Andre Green to sign Mr. Gorski's Disclosure Form on behalf of the School Committee.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

Dr. Curley then shared his District Notes to conclude his report.

Notes-Superintendent's Update: *School Committee Mtg – Monday, March 6, 2023*

The next few months will be a whirlwind of activity as the school year starts to wind down. We invite you to join us when you can over the next few months at the many student events that showcase the work that our students and staff have been doing this year. Please check our website calendar of events often to learn about upcoming concerts, fairs, and other events.

Community Schools Registration: Grades 1 - 6

Starting tomorrow (March 7th) the enrollment portal will be open for the 2023-24 Community Schools afterschool program for grades 1-6. The registration period will run through March 31st. The registration link is available on the afterschool webpage - somerville.k12.ma.us/afterschool, and we'll also share the link on social media this week.

As a reminder, families with students in PreK or Kindergarten who registered for the afterschool program will be notified about afterschool placement immediately after school placement letters from the enrollment office have been sent out. First batch PreK and Kindergarten school assignment notifications will be going out the week of March 20th.

Boys' Ice Hockey

Congratulations to the Somerville High School Boys Ice Hockey team for an outstanding season! The team finished the regular season with an 11-9 record and advanced to the MIAA Tournament. The team won the first round of MIAA Tournament play, defeating Minnechaug Regional High School in a dramatic 6-5 overtime game. Three SHS Ice Hockey players earned GBL All-Star honors this season: Richard Gaskin (class of 2024), Matthew DeAngelis (Class of 2025), and Dillon Marujo (Class of 2023).

This year's team included 8 eighth-graders, and also started an eighth-grade goalie at the beginning of the season. The future of the team looks very promising! Congratulations to every member of the SHS Boys Ice Hockey team for a fantastic season!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are continuing this week. Conferences are scheduled for the Brown School and at Somerville High School on Thursday. Families can expect to receive information from their school about the conferences. Conference dates and times are also scheduled on our website calendar of events.

Upcoming Half-day Wednesday

A quick reminder that next Wednesday, March 15th, is a half day for students in grades PreK to 8. Pre-K students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. and K-8 students will be dismissed at noon. Staff will participate in professional learning that afternoon. We look forward to another excellent afternoon of professional growth.

Department Shout-Out

A special shout-out to our fantastic and incredibly hard-working Payroll and Finance Team! CFO Fran Gorski, Deputy Financial Officer Joan White, Joanne Hosman, Mary Kelley, Robin DiMaggio, Leah Arredondo, Sabrina Caprigno, Lida Gonzalez, Kellee Kucharski, and Lisa Glus are the foundation behind the efficient fiscal operations of our district. With more than 1,300 employees on our payroll, and approximately 25 schools and departments providing services to our students, this amazing team is busy year-round processing payroll, requisitions, invoices, setting up contracts, coordinating and reserving school facility spaces, onboarding new staff members on purchasing procedures, and managing other efforts to ensure that we are operating in a fiscally sound and efficient manner. We are very grateful for their guidance and support, and glad to have them on our SPS team!

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Common Planning Time Proposal (Dr. Boston Davis)

Dr. Boston Davis reintroduced the topic of the Common Planning Time Proposal in an effort to gain clear guidance and feedback from the committee.

Conversation ensued about thoughts on the CPT proposal, similar to the last meeting.

Dr. Ackman commented about her concern of students losing downtime.

Ms. Pitone voiced that she would like to further discuss this but is not quite ready yet, given other district priorities at the moment.

Dr. Phillips and Ms. Krepchin would be on board if the district prioritizes out of school time.

Ms. Barish and Ms. Dion are both in support of the proposal.

Chair Green then read a resolution submitted to him by a group of city council members in support of addressing out of school time for families in Somerville.

"Resolution (ID # 23-0073)

Sent for Discussion: By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Gomez

Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Scott

That the Administration and School Department prioritize fully meeting Somerville Public Schools families' demand for after school and vacation programming in the 2023-24 school year, including expanding the offerings of after-school enrichment clubs."

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Superintendent Search Screening/ Interview Committee Announcements

Chair Green announced the Superintendent Search Subcommittee appointments as follows:

Andre Green - Chair
Ilana Krepchin - Vice Chair
Emily Ackman - SC member
Laura Pitone - SC member
Karen Woods Central Office
Caleb Centeio – Enrollment Office
Alicia Kersten - Administrator
Sam Patton - Administrator
Charles Deboer - Faculty
Alzemir Oliveira – Faculty
Uma Muruga - Parent
Martha Fortes - Parent

B. Assistant Superintendent of Operation Appointment

Dr. Curley put forth his recommendation to appoint Mr. Chad Mazza as the Assistant Superintended of Operations.

Mr. Mazza thanked the hiring committee for choosing him as a finalist, he also thanked Dr. Curley for the opportunity to sit down, discuss his role, and what the work looks like moving forward.

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Dion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to appoint Chad Mazza as Permanent Assistant Superintendent of Operations
The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

Dr. Ackman thanked Mr. Mazza for taking care of operations across the district.

Chair Green also thanked Mr. Mazza and commented that the schools and DPW have never been more aligned.

Dr. Curley also shared some remarks to thank Mr. Mazza for all the work he has been doing to alleviate the stress of not only Principals but of various departments.

C. Somerville public Schools Policy Manual

The Following policy was presented for a first reading:

- File IHAM-R: Health Education

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to suspend rules and waive the second reading.
The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to approve File IHAM-R: Health Education.
The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

D. SHORE Educational Collaborative Report (Dr. Ackman)

Tabled.

F. Field Trips (Recommended action: Approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, Seconded by Ms. Barish, to approve an out of state field trip on May 5, 2023 for 15 students from NW/FC to attend Mount Monadnock in NH. They will travel via NW/FC van and the student cost is \$0.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

G. Acceptance of FY23 Grant Funds (Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Dion, to accept all federal entitlement and continuation

grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below:

State

- **Mass Cultural Council STARS Residency Program Grants** - SPS educators applied for these grants to support their programs/classes. We received the following grants for FY23:

- **Kennedy:** \$6,100
- **Capuano:** \$5,950
- **Healey:** \$5,950

All three schools for an "Imagination Station" Puppetry Residency that uses music and art to deepen K students' understanding and application of the social emotional skills needed to recognize and celebrate diversity.

- **ESCS:** \$6,100 to produce an audio documentary with students of the school's debate club about their learning journey.

- **State School Nutrition Equipment Assistance for Schools** - \$15,282 - to purchase a blast chiller for Food and Nutrition Services at SHS.

Private

- **Somerville Arts Council Grant for the Healey School** - \$1,200 - To bring award-winning Puerto Rican spoken word poet and teaching artist Anthony Febo to Emma Daniels's 7th grade ELA classroom to perform his work and co-facilitate as students write and perform their own poetry.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

H. Donations (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a monetary donation from Rogers Foam Corporation of Somerville, MA in the amount of \$750 for SHS Robotics.

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to approve the acceptance, with gratitude, of this donation.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone Brought to the district's attention that the PTA will have their biggest night for SHS fundraisers called GAME SHOW NIGHT on Friday, March 31, 2023, which happens to be scheduled the same night of the Citywide Swim Meet. Wondering if the Swim Meet could be rescheduled.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

[Healey School Improvement](#)

[NW/FC School Improvement](#)

Common Planning Time Proposal

File IHAM-R: Health Education

Submitted by: E. Garcia

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 6, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

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**, or to participate in Public Comment, 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_ZMsQsp01SSCIsQXOKcunug

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 23, 2023

IV. 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_ZMsQsp01SSCIsQXOKcunug

Meeting ID: 847 5813 4927

Password: SPSSC23

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

- Arthur D. Healey School - School Improvement Plan (Dr. Cobbs)
- Next Wave/ Full Circle Schools – School Improvement Plan (Ms. Green)

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Special Policing Subcommittee Recommendations** (Ms. Barish)**B. Common Planning Time Proposal** (Dr. Boston Davis)**VII. NEW BUSINESS****A. Superintendent Search Screening/ Interview Committee Announcements****B. Assistant Superintendent of Operations Appointment****C. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual**

The following policy is being presented this evening for a first reading:

- File IHAM-R: Health Education

D. SHORE Educational Collaborative Report (Dr. Ackman)**E. Conflict of Interest Disclosure from CFO in Relation to Contract for SPED Translation Services.****F. Field Trips** (Recommended action: approval)

May 5, 2023

15 Students from NW/FC will attend Mount Monadnock in NH. Travel via NW/FC Van, student cost \$0.

G. Acceptance of FY23 Grant Funds (Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: To accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below:

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H. Donations (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommends acceptance, with gratitude, of the following donations:

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Programs Donated to
Monetary Donation	Rogers Foam Corporation	Somerville, MA	\$750	SHS Robotics

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**IX. CONDOLENCES****X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

For Simultaneous Interpretation in Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole See below:**Español - Para Interpretación**

Para **ver** la Reunión Regular del Comité Escolar el 27 de Febrero a las 7:00, 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_ZMsQspO1SSCIsQXOKcunug

Identificación de la reunión: 847 5813 4927

Contraseña: SPSSC23

Português - Para Interpretação

Para **assistir** à Reunião Regular do Comitê Escolar 27 de fevereiro às 7:00, 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_ZMsQspO1SSCIsQXOKcunug

ID da reunião: 847 5813 4927

Senha: SPSC23

Kreyòl ayisyen - Pou entèpretasyon

Pou **gade** reyinyon regilye Komite Lekòl la 27 fevriye a 7:00, 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, rantr nan Zoom sa a epi chwazi lang ou vle a lè w klike sou balon entèpretasyon an:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSCIsQXOKcunug

Reyinyon ID: 847 5813 4927

Modpas: SPSSC23



Somerville Public Schools

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Joint Study Team: Common Planning Time Proposal at PK-8 Schools on Early Release Wednesdays for SY 2024 - 2025

Updates on Progress 3/6/23

Context/Background:

As a component of the Somerville Educators Union (SEU) contract agreement, a joint study between the district and the SEU convened to develop a plan for Common Planning Time. As stated in the signed [Signed SEU Unit A 2022-2025 MOA](#): *ARTICLE XLIV: JOINT STUDIES AND JOINT COMMITMENTS*

D: A joint study between the district and the SEU will develop a plan to restructure early release Wednesdays to enable additional and consistent Common Planning Time at the PreK-8 schools. The joint study will report their recommendation by January 31st 2023.

The members of the joint study team are as follows:

Dr. Jessica Boston Davis, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Academics

Rami Bridge, President SEU

Caitlin Donaldson, Kindergarten Teacher, Winter Hill

Chris Glynn, Director of Educator Development

Courtney Gosselin, Principal, Winter Hill

Alex Hershey, ELA Coach, East Somerville and Argenziano

Kathy Kumar, PreK Paraprofessional, Capuano

Kathleen Seward, Coordinator of K-8 Science and Social Studies Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Dayshawn Simmons, Social Studies Teacher, Kennedy

Glenda Soto, Principal, Argenziano School

Vision / Rationale for Overall Plan:

To ensure high quality and consistent instruction at all schools and at all grade levels in the district, educators need time to collaborate within their working day. This is especially true when a new curriculum is introduced. Educators need time to define, learn, and share instructional practices and to review student work across schools so that shared high expectations and consistent use of scaffolds and supports are met.

While collaborative planning time is vital in creating conditions for student success, it is also necessary to preserve individual planning time for teachers. Some aspects of educator work (grading, report cards, creating classroom materials, communicating and meeting with parents, making copies, reading IEPs and 504s, and planning appropriate accommodations) are typically done by individual teachers, and these tasks remain important and essential to teachers' roles.

Although the proposal detailed below would result in a small reduction of Instructional Hours in the school year (-1.1%), **we believe the addition of targeted, high quality, and meaningful Common Planning Time that is connected to school and district priorities will enhance the quality of those instructional hours. As a**



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result, and most importantly, this will lead to gains for our students and create a more supportive work environment for our educators.

Joint Study Team Recommendation:

	Current Schedule	Recommendation <i>*To be implemented in SY24-25*</i>
Days & Times	13 Wednesdays 12:00 - 2:45 p.m.	36 Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:45 pm
School Year Instructional Hours	937.5	927 (1.1% reduction)
Common Planning Time	0 hours / year	27.5 hours / year
Breakdown / Cycle of each Post-Dismissal Wednesday	13 Wednesdays: All Individual Planning Time	36 Wednesdays Divided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 12 Individual Planning Afternoons ■ 10 School Team CPT Afternoons ■ 10 Across-District Team CPT Afternoons ■ 4 District PD Afternoons

Rationale for Breakdown of Days in Joint Study Recommendation:

An effort has been made in this proposal to maintain individual educator planning time on 12 Early Release Wednesdays. However, the proposal's main feature is an increase in Common Planning / Learning Time coming in three different forms:

1) Common Planning Time in School-Based Teams (10 Wednesdays)

- Activities may include: looking at student work together using protocols, previewing upcoming units and planning for needed accommodations, collaborating with colleagues regarding students in need of additional support, planning for grade-level initiatives tied to student learning, Assess and Reteach meetings, reflecting on new/district-wide common practices (restorative justice, student discourse).
- Largely facilitated by teacher-leaders, but will sometimes include district administrators, principals, assistant principals, and/or coaches.
- *School Principals will hold 5 grade-level meetings with each team on a rotating basis over the course of the year on these afternoons.*

2) Common Planning Time in Cross-District Teams (10 Wednesdays)

- Activities may include: looking at student work together using protocols to calibrate expectations across the district, reviewing and planning for teaching new units/curriculum, Assess and



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Reteach meetings, reflecting on new/district-wide common practices (restorative justice, student discourse)

- Largely facilitated by teacher-leaders, but will sometimes include district administrators, principals, assistant principals, and/or coaches

3) All-District Professional Development Days (4 Wednesdays)

- Common PD experiences targeted towards district priorities as identified by District Instructional Leadership Team and Executive Team.

In total, the 36 Early Release Wednesdays in the proposal would be divided the following way:

- 2/3 of Wednesday afternoons (24): dedicated to collaborative, Common Planning Time / PD Experiences.
- 1/3 of Wednesday afternoons (12): dedicated to Individual Educator Planning Time.
- **We believe this strikes a balance between maintaining what individual educators need, while also aligning our district values with our actions by prioritizing collaboration among educators within school- and district-wide teams**

****Facilitation & Teacher Leadership:**

The Joint Study Team believes that in order to make CPT most impactful on practice (and therefore district priorities and student outcomes), it will require the district to increase educator leadership capacity. This should include some forms of PLC facilitation training / coaching (not unlike the District Mentor Training Program), along with stipend positions for teachers assuming those leadership roles.

Other District Comparisons:

	K-8 School Year Instructional Hours	Common Planning Time on Early Release Days
Somerville Proposal	927	27.5
Arlington	~930	54 hours of release time. 25 of those hours are for common planning time.
Chelsea	940	4 Early release days for district wide PD. 0 for common planning time.
Lexington	898	N/A - 36 hours of early release day planning time not specified into Individual or Common Planning Time
Norwood	935	
Quabbin	939 10 mins.	10 early release days and 10 extended days in which educators stay late for common planning time.
Waltham	900-910	2 early release days for family conferences. Common planning time

		during the school day once per week.
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File: IHAM-R - HEALTH EDUCATION

(Exemption Procedure)

At the beginning of each school year, all parents/guardians of students enrolled in our schools will be provided in writing with an outline of the curriculum offered in grades ~~K-8~~ PreK-12 that primarily involve human sexual education or human sexuality issues. Parents /guardians of students who enroll in school after the start of the school year will be given the written notice at the time of enrollment. If the planned curriculum changes during the school year, to the extent practicable, parents/guardians will be notified of this fact in a timely manner before implementation.

Each such notice to parents/guardians will include a brief description of the curriculum health topics covered by this policy and will inform parents/guardians that they may:

1. exempt their child from any portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality issues, without penalty to the student by sending a letter to the school principal requesting an exemption. Any student who is exempted by request of the parent/guardian may be given an alternative assignment.
2. inspect and review program instruction materials for these curricula, which will be made reasonably accessible to parent/guardians and others to the extent practicable. Parents/guardians may arrange with the principal to review the material at the school and may also review them at other locations that may be determined by the Superintendent of schools/designee.

A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with a decision of the principal concerning notice, access to instructional materials, or exemption for the student under this policy may send a written request to the Superintendent for review of the issue. The Superintendent or designee will review the issue and give the parent/guardian a timely written decision, preferably within two weeks of the request. A parent/guardian who is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision may send a written request to the School Committee for review of the issue. The School Committee will review the issue and give the parent/guardian a timely written decision, preferably within four weeks of the request.

LEGAL REF.: MGL Chapter 71, [Section 32A](#)

Adopted: June 1, 2009