

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, May 8, 2023 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – City Hall Chambers

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

Members Absent: Mayor Ballantyne

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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, President Mr. Ewen-Campen, Chair Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman and Ms. Dion.

ABSENT – 1 - Mayor Ballantyne

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Erika Garcia - Spanish

Ben Cruz - Portuguese

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representatives Anna Sophia Protopapas was present and reported the following:

1. Met with Karyn Novakowski regarding Nutrition
2. AP Exams
3. 10th Grade MCAS
4. Multicultural Fair is on May 26th
5. Seniors Leave the 19th, Prom on Friday, June 9th
6. Lacrosse Team

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 20, 2023

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, second by Ms. Krepchin, to approve the School Committee minutes of March 20, 2023.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

22 People signed up for Public comments including staff, parents and community members, most of which signed up to comment in support of renovations to the WHCIS building and to ask the Committee to withhold the 1895 Building as leverage for the Mayor to guarantee updates sooner to the WHCIS.

One person commented regarding the Community Schools waitlist, requesting that more staff be hired to allow for more sports.

Caitlin Donaldson spoke in support of common Planning time and training for Paraprofessionals.

Two speakers commented in support of keeping the math interventionist position for the WHCIS.

V. NEW BUSINESS (Taken out of Order)

A. School Building Update (Dr. Curley and Ms. Pitone)

Dr. Curley shared some remarks to frame where things are since the last building update a few weeks ago. He thanked all the staff who took time to attend this meeting to show support for their building.

- The SOI for the WHCIS has been submitted
- Will be kicking- off the Gap Analysis in the next few weeks
- In the next 6-12 month a Building Committee will form to start working on this project

Ms. Pitone then shared a few remarks and mentioned the school building resolution.

Comments/ Question

Ms. Krepchin commented that the School Committee would not be releasing the 1895 Building until there is a resolution for the WHCIS.

Ms. Barish asked for clarification.

Ms. Pitone commented that until there is a plan in the interim, a Winter Hill mitigation plan.

Ms. Dion asked if the Committee would consider releasing the 1895 building ONLY until these things are in place.

Ms. Krepchin commented and suggested the following resolution language "The School Committee will not consider releasing the 1895 Building to the city until the body is satisfied that the plan for a new building is in place, there is a plan for what to do in the interim and there is a plan for a swings space if we need one".

Dr. Phillips would like a resolution in the next two years.

Chair Green asked if they could potentially find the upgrade of the Cummings school to use as a potential swing space as the WHCIS is upgraded. He does not see the committee voting to turn over the 1895 building until there is some progress.

Conversation ensued and members offered changes to the resolution, which Ms. Pitone and Ms. Santiago will incorporate.

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to approve the Resolution as amended. The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

There was a 5-minute recess to thank the Educators who attended for Public Comment at 8:16 p.m.

The meeting was called to order again at 8:21 p.m. Ms. Krepchin Chaired the meeting while Mr. Green quickly stepped out.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- **Community Schools Enrollment Presentations** (Ms. Paribello)

Dr. Curley introduced Ms. Paribello, Dr. Hernandez Morgan and Assistant Superintendent Mazza for the presentation of the Out of School Time Restructure.

Chair Green returned to Chair the meeting at 8:31p.m.

Comments/ Questions

Dr. Ackman followed up on a request that was previously made for families to receive frequent updates about where they are on the waiting list. Ms. Paribello reported that families were updated in March to let them know where they are on the list.

Dr. Ackman asked for a more concrete timeline. Ms. Paribello reminded the Committee that there are 110 students waitlisted and they do not want to cause alarm when it is not necessary, but they will work on a plan for better updates.

Ms. Krepchin asked who the Director of OST reports to, they will report to Mr. Mazza.

Ms. Dion agreed with Dr. Ackman and asked for frequent updates.

Ms. Barish asked if the data shown is reflective of demand. Ms. Paribello confirmed that they are.

Dr. Phillips wondered if afterschool needs to be licensed by the EEC and asked where the ratios come from. She also

wondered about opportunities for students to do Co-op work with the Early Childhood Program at SHS and is funding based on staffing or is it space shortage.

Ms. Paribello clarified that Community School is licensed by EEC, and they do follow the standards for ratios. They have been working diligently to create a partnership at the high school Early Childhood Program; they currently have 6 per school with them being promoted to assistant lead teachers.

Mr. Mazza added that it is a staffing issue, if we have staff we find the space.

Ms. Pitone was curious as to how the 500,000 will be invested and asked if all the roles have been filled.

MR. Mazza responded that they are looking at the funds for before school care, redesigning the box program and strengthening the numbers of seats by securing staffing but also looking to invest in the new programming. They have been working closely with Chris Hosman from SomerPromise to strengthen the city partnership and city programming.

Ms. Pitone requested an org chart that reflects the school staff and city staff and their roles. She also wondered where research falls in this redesign, are there other ways to address the challenges that have been helpful to other communities.

Mr. Mazza agreed and said they are also looking at the 500,000 and the current resources they have and what we can do differently to attract more partners.

Chair Green wondered if there has been thought given to more equitable ways for enrolling for families who may need it. Ms. Paribello explained that although it seems like it's come first serve, coordinators are work very closely with the families and do everything they can to support families who need the help.

Dr. Curley added that all other programs except for Community Schools and El Sistema are free for families, and part of the reason Community Schools is licensed through EEC is to open up access.

Mr. Mazza added that they are always in conversation about how they could improve and how to make the registration process better for families.

Ms. Barish has heard over the years that the enrollment platform could be difficult to navigate and asked if there is any way to look into finding ways to make it easy to navigate for the parents. Mr. Mazza said they would look into it.

Dr. Ackman thanked the team for the presentation, she then asked about opportunities for the middle grade students and other ways to promote the programs to our students. Mr. Mazza said they are currently working on that and know that in middle school in general there is a short fall on the amount and type of programming the district has, this is one of the areas they want to improve for the upcoming year. They will be working with SomerPromise and the City to find ways to promote this program.

Ms. Krepchin asked what Soccer Without Borders is. Mr. Mazza clarified that MLE students at the WHCIS play soccer and are participating in a soccer league out of school.

Dr. Phillips commented that as we think of the restructure she wondered if out of school time should be provided by a different entity in the City. Mr. Mazza responded that it is very important to work together with SPS providers, City providers, and Community providers to make the Ecosystem work.

Dr. Phillips would love to see community Schools on the City side.

Ms. Pitone commented regarding the different level of enrollment across the district and wanting to ensure staffing is being distributed equitably. Mr. Mazza clarified that the Brown School only has community Schools where other schools have other out of school time programming offered.

Ms. Barish in response to Dr. Phillips one of the benefits to the cross-sector collaboration is that if one of the programs is not funded it does not all fall apart. She also asked is the OST manager was hired. Ms. Paribello responded that there are two finalists at the moment.

- **Out of School Time Update** (Mr. Mazza)

The OST Update was included in the Community Schools presentation.

- **FY24 Public Budget hearing** (Dr. Curley)

Dr. Curley reminded everyone that the Budget presentation would be discussed at a Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:00 following the Budget Hearing that took place on Wednesday, May 4, 2023.

Notes-Superintendent's Update: School Committee Mtg – Monday, May 8, 2023

The school year is quickly winding down. With only 6 weeks remaining in the school year, students and staff are excited to share their great work. There is always a sense of anticipation that permeates this time of the school year as students close one chapter and prepare for the next. We cannot be more proud of our students and staff, and very much look forward to acknowledging and celebrating them.

Teacher Appreciation Week

While we recognize and appreciate the work that our teachers do to support students every day of the school year, in celebration of **Teacher Appreciation Week**, we thought it fitting that tonight's notes center around our educators.

There is no profession that impacts youth as deeply as educators do. Teachers are the foundation of our profession. There has likely never been a more challenging time for educators than the last three years, as schools and communities navigated a global pandemic and the unexpected realities that surfaced through that experience. As always, our teachers handled it with grace and humility, always keeping the student at the center. We are so grateful for our amazing teachers. We acknowledge and celebrate you – for your passion, commitment, and strength. And for making our school communities places of joy and creativity.

National School Nurses Day

This week we also celebrate our school nurses. **National School Nurses Day** is Wednesday, May 10th. The impact of school nurses goes beyond supporting students' health and wellness. Through their work, school nurses are a gateway to access, helping make sure that our students are ready and able to actively participate in their learning. Thank you to our wonderful school nurses for the work they do to keep our students safe and healthy throughout the school year, and to instill in them healthy habits that will lead to healthy lives.

Team Shoutout

Tonight's "behind-the-scenes" shoutout goes to our fantastic Superintendent's Office "dynamic duo" – Katherine Santiago and Erika Garcia. Think about the gears that keep a system running smoothly. Katherine and Erika are those gears – constantly in motion, efficiently juggling multiple tasks and projects, and always ready to lend a hand or take the lead. Equally important – they approach their work with creativity and enthusiasm. We are fortunate and grateful to have this dynamic duo as part of our team.

B. Personnel Report

- **April 2023**

Superintendent Curley announced the following retirements:

Patricia Creedon Brown School 3rd Grade teacher retiring after 25 years of service.

Everett Roscoe SHS/CTE Social Studies Teachers retiring after 27 years of service.

VII. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Motion: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Pitone to approve all Subcommittees Reports on the agenda.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

A. School Committee Meeting with the Student Advisory Council: February 14, 2023 and April 4, 2023
2/14/23 Student Reps' Meeting with School Committee Minutes

Main Office Conference Room (7:30am)

1. Introductions

Present at the meeting were Marcia Narh-Botchway, Anna Sofia Protopapas, Emely Portillo-Pena, Liam Vitti, Katerina Dinka, Beatriz Thomas, Shannon Donnellan, Dr. Curley, Andre Green, Ilana Krepchin, Ellenor Barish, Laura Pitone, Sarah Phillips, Susana Hernandez Morgan and Katherine Santiago.

2. Purpose of Meeting

3. Item 1: Monday night School Committee Meetings

- Meetings have been via Zoom and now will be in person. Students can still attend via Zoom through the end of March. Can this be continued going forward?
- Can students attend meetings on a rotating schedule? Right now, the language states that two students can attend/semester - can this policy be changed going forward.

Item 1: Can students attend meetings hybrid?

- Andre Green: - possibly, might be possible for non-voting members.
- Ellenor Barish: will bring up rotating schedule at March Rules Meeting.
- Katherine Santiago: Students can rotate schedule now - but has to be 2

4. Item 2: School Committee Meetings next two calendar dates

- a. All School Committee members - should this be rotating?
- b. Can it be during school hours?
- c. Any other things we want to set in place/ change her

Item 2: Meetings during school hours for next two calendar dates

- Legal/ payroll issues for sponsors —> will look into it, might not happen this year but maybe worked out for next year. Will take that into account
- Laura Pitone: School Committee Members work during the school day, full time. Glad we are going to look into up and that it was brought up.

5. Item 3: Lunch

- a. Portions
- b. Range of options
- c. Availability of food after lunch period

Item 3: Lunch

- Marcia: portion sizes, athlete concern, slice of pizza, range of option, surveyed for student input, food available after lunch - extras, pass them out, go and get seconds — think those are things that should be changed.
- Ellenor Barish: Meeting with the wellness committee this afternoon and will bring it up. Lots of challenges/ rule s- federal lunch program (sodium/ portion sizes/ whole grains, etc.) - makes increasing portion sizes. I am happy to bring it forward there and ask the nutrition department
- Interim Superintendent Dr. Curley:
- Bring back up to food service (Buchanan advocated for its last year) if that was helpful — will bring it up to food service again.
- The Federal Lunch Program (Department of agriculture - support farms not necessarily supporting kids).
- Don't get tons of money in reimbursement so apportion sizes aren't as large as we would want them to be.
- Will talk to food services today
- Ellenor Barish: meet wellness committee every month or so. Discussing incorporating student voice will get update on it today.
- Susana Morgan - is wondering how can we utilize this existing group to provide consistent feedback and generate ideas to resolve this concern. That might be one consideration - part of regular meetings - this be an agenda item and can be brought forth to wellness committee.

Interns las year to develop new menu items – will check on that (vegetarian items)

Wellness committee - updating policies and communicating it out to schools, students, families, includes things like food served at food and other messaging around wellness (sleep, physical activity, mental health),

Majority of funding — can we add funding to it? (Green)

Barish: don't know, can't provide competing food they can pay for, but not sure if you can provide competing food that is free. Will raise question at wellness today.

Pitone: is there another solution to this? That can parallel that is happening? Glad Curley is going to look into what we did last year. Can't be the only district that is struggling with this

Wellness meetings are open meeting s- send schedule to them and students can go (Chair would love this but cannot speak for chair of the committee). Make connection between your group and their group. Hope we can come up with a swift resolution.

Susana Morgan: really appreciative of students offering being involved.

Marcia: thinking about having a sports bar —> Michelle/ ganbys (Athletic trainers) officers —> apples, graham crackers, etc.

Ms. Marshall's snacks at end of school day -

Curley: what could make it more helpful?

Anna Sofia: quality. Graham cracker pack vs. cereal and milk which is better

Curley: same in the athletic office?

Marcia yes but take money out of their pockets

Curley: more sensitive issue – but some schools like Rindge have a school pantry is that something you hear of a concern?

6. Item 4: SRO Discussion (bringing up during School Committee Monday Night Meeting on 2/13) a. Update on process/feedback

Item 5: (Marcia) - SRO - we are going to be emailed a copy of the policy. Is there going to be any feedback from students again?

Green: Would love to hear your thoughts on it: would love for student reps to be part of the debate. We will not make any of those policies before the first, last meeting in march. Therefore, you can get and share more feedback on that.

Barish: "debate" - more sharing ideas and thoughts. Do not have to prepare and argue with people. The subcommittee on policy did bring forth 4 recommendations - there is a policing subcommittee webpage on the district website with notes from all of our meetings – with documents and slide presentations. If you want to play catch up in addition to the recommendations —> if those recommendations are emailed with you, I will follow up with more information so they make more sense. I hope that is helpful.

Marcia: it is, thank you.

Marcia: did justice of flavia and students input go into those

Pitone: the recommendations you are getting today are not MOUs between schools and city - so not official agreements.

Barish: these recommendations are how we move forward and what the next steps are - they are not the specific nitty gritty how those relationships exactly will be.

Katerina: thank you, etc.

Green: superintendent process - happy to hear feedback, ask questions, etc.

Pitone: if you cannot do the whole chunk/ comparative sit down with screening committee, etc. if you can do parts - you are invited to different bits and pieces.

Marcia: work in processes in the city?

Green: we will work on it and get it to you.

4/4 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Marcia, Anna Sofia, Liam, Ms. Donnellan, Ms. Thomas, School Committee, Katerina

1. Item 1: Field Trip Opportunities

- Field trip opportunities
- Funding parent vs. school - elementary schools vs. high school
- Brown School field trips
- Educational field trips at the beginning of the year - bond the classroom
- Second semester - more fun field trips, a lot of tests during that time, end of the year, getting warmer - more fun field trips
- HS students can't go on field trips for resources? - is that something that happens - anecdotal or does the school won't support them?
- Should be a budget or backup plan
- Katerina: school dances - a lot of students aren't able to go to events because they're not able to pay for them, if tickets are more than \$5 or \$10 tickets
- Lots of kids are more hands-on - learn in different ways -
- Superintendent Curley:
 - School field trip logistical
 - Out of Covid - let this drop
 - Will check in with Ms. Kersten
 - Will follow up at lunch today
- Andre Green: students don't know that paying is ok,
- Katerina: we have a lot of resources - so unless students go out of their way to look for resources they don't know that we have them
- Andre Green: makes sense, and totally fixable
- Eleanor Barish: the difference is scheduling field trips at k-12 vs. high school, and participation in other classes - is that another barrier or hurdle but as folks continue to work on high school schedule, I hope that's something we can keep in mind
- Katerina- permission slip, email, have to make up work - use school time wisely, but I never went on a field trip
- Marcia- went on a field trip and had to ask for extensions to make up work from all 7 classes
- Ms. Thomas: logistics are hard - barrier on the teacher side - planning for a 9th-grade field trip in June in March
- Katerina: lots of teachers want to, but don't have the support to do it - a better
- Question from School Committee: How connected are the students to the PTSA? - pretty organized group that does fundraising - if you make a connection -
- Katerina: yeah, they help with the dances donate food, etc.
- Marcia:
 - how hard would it be to do a whole school field trip?
 - Look at other schools that do that, others do that
 - Ask teachers and admin at the school

2. Item 2: Support for more diverse staff (Marcia introduce issue)

- Andre Green: very true you can get through k-12 and not have a teacher of color
- We are working on that
- -Diversity fair
- -biggest challenge, every district has realized that
- -competing with all other districts trying to draw from a pool that is still too small
- Being near Cambridge - doesn't help
- Another problem to have - not a high turnover of teachers- which is a good thing - not a lot of teachers to hire - only one retirement this year.
- Don't always have open positions for folks to come in, but it is something we're working on

Questions:

- Why do student reps not have a vote on the School Committee?
 - Liam: Why do student reps not have a vote on the School Committee?
 - Andre Green: State law - cannot

- Hybrid School Committee meetings can continue until March 2025

Updates:

- Eleanor Barish: asked last time about more than 2 students per meeting, passed the rules committee and now it is in the work
- Fill out the Google form on about school committee search - feedback is logged and in a more data form.
- Will give you link when we meet for lunch

A. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting:

April 24, 2023 (Dr. Ackman)

Education Programs Subcommittee Report – April 24, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

In attendance:

Emily Ackman

Sara Dion

Laura Pitone

Dr. Jessica Boston Davis – Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Dr. Lisa Machnik – K-12 World Language Supervisor

Topic: world languages curriculum

The meeting opened with Dr. Boston Davis introducing Dr. Machnik to the subcommittee, followed by a presentation by Dr. Machnik on the SPS World Languages Curriculum Development Cycle in Somerville.

Year 1 of the cycle was from July 2022 – June 2023. Two educators serve in the role of Content Alignment Leaders (CAL). During year 1 the CAL:

- Reviewed & analyzed data
- Conducted educator focus groups
- Engaged in an equity pause
- Researched & reviewed trends in the field
- Completed a curriculum status report

Next steps:

- Create & update an aligned content area commitment statement
- Create a scope & sequence
- Form a curriculum development team

Areas of strength and areas for growth

- 7th & 8th grade students receive Spanish for All

CAL suggested world language growth and expansion

- Create a curriculum aligned with ACTFL & MA Curriculum frameworks
- Look for curricular materials that represent diverse countries & languages
- 3rd party proficiency assessment

After Dr. Machnik's presentation, committee members asked questions.

- Member Pitone asked about purchasing a curriculum vs. having teachers write curriculum and how that works with efficiency, cost, and autonomy.
 - o Dr. Machnik noted the purchase of the "Adios Textbook" for the world language teachers to use/adapt as needed
 - o Dr. Davis noted that purchased curricula is less likely at the junior high/high school level, which is where world language instruction currently sits in SPS (7th-12th grade)
- Member Dion inquired about which schools have Spanish for 7th & 8th grade students as a class vs. as part of the x-block.

Education Programs Subcommittee Report – April 24, 2023

o Dr. Machnik shared:

o Class:

- Argenziano

- Healey
- WSNS
- Kennedy
- o X-Block:
 - ESCS
 - Winter Hill
- o Dr. Davis noted that this difference comes down needs, constraints, and schedule of each individual school.
- Dr. Ackman asked if there is the possibility of exchanging/reconsidering one of the languages at the high school with an equity focus (e.g. taking away Italian and bringing in Arabic or ASL)
 - o Dr. Machnik responded that they have considered adding languages, but have not seen evidence of a need to reduce any of the language classes at the school. She noted that French is so popular that they needed to add a class recently, which is different from trends in neighboring districts.
- Member Pitone asked if SPS is considering elementary school language as a long-term strategy? If so, how would it be explored? How long it would take to develop?
 - o Dr. Machnik responded that she has seen two ways. One is a new program that starts with Kindergarten and grows and the other is to start by decreasing from current grades where the language is taught (e.g. now in 7th & 8th grades, next year 6th grade would be added, with 5th grade added in the following year, etc.)
 - o Dr. Davis responded that it would take at least two years to budget and plan.
- Dr. Ackman ended by saying, "I want to share a compliment on the equity work that is integral to the plan you presented. Superintendent candidates waited in a high school Spanish classroom before their interviews. Multiple candidates complimented the diversity of Spanish speaking countries represented in the classroom."

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

B. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: April 27, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting April 27th, 2023 Via Remote Participation **Members Present:** Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips, Andre Green and Ellenor Barish.

Also in Attendance: Director of Finance Fran Gorski, Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley, Assistant Superintendent for Academics Jessica Boston Davis, Interim SPED Director Will Verbits, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza, Director of Student Support Liz Doncaster

Audience Members: There was 1 audience member

Ilana Krepchin called the meeting to order at 6 pm

There was 1 item on the agenda - **FY24 Budget**

Mayor Ballantyne announced that she will be adding \$500,000 for out of school time. Admin - reducing enrollment study cost, smart find - absence management software. Math curriculum, greater Boston breakthrough price has increased, Restorative justice training - adding additional funding, Technology - chromebooks are back in the budget. (had purchased with external funds during the pandemic), Facilities - new classrooms opening next year, so we'll need furniture, PD - adding for principals.

Additional funding for field trips at each school based on enrollment

One goal program - has a cohort of students junior, senior year and then follows them for one year after graduation, Health curriculum - might purchase in the current year About \$17 million in non-payroll.

MBTA passes added to pay for the summer.

New staffing - Community engagement specialist NW/FC - might be some coverage at SHS as well, World language specialist at NW/FC - will it be .5 or less? Not sure yet, RISP coordinator at SHS - related to in school suspensions

Additional SEEK classroom at Kennedy, AIM class at Cap, language-based classroom at AFA. Shifts in SPED - some moved to other grants, some need to come to the general fund. We've cut our liability down to half what it was, so we set up the next superintendent for success. We can't bring everything over all at once, because then we would be leaving some federal money on the table.

Positions that are going away - in-house labor attorney was never hired. We had added two reading specialists this year, but the data shows that they aren't truly addressing the issue. The suggestion is that there will be other supports, including a million dollars in ESSER for tutoring. A few positions based on enrollment at SHS that are no longer needed Shared social workers are no longer needed now that we have the school based social workers. ESSER reductions and shifts - Tutor at SHS that was never filled and they don't need it. Two social workers added to ESSR prior to the model

that we added this year. Riverside social worker contract is underutilized so not needed. Interventionist positions that we added that were vacant - curriculum team didn't think we needed them.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Chair, Finance and Facilities Subcommittee.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Assistant Superintendent of Academics Announcement and Vote

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman seconded by Dr. Phillips to approve Dr. Jessica Boston Davis as the Permanent Assistant Superintendent of Academics for Somerville Public Schools and to authorize Interim Superintendent, Dr. Curley, to enter into contract negotiations with Dr. Boston Davis.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

B. Special Education Director Announcement and Vote

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to approve Ildefonso Arellano as the Permanent Director of Special Education for Somerville Public Schools and to authorize Interim Superintendent, Dr. Curley, to enter into contract negotiations with Mr. Arellano.

The conversation ensued about School Committee not having met the candidate and making sure that happens in the future.

Dr. Curley clarified that the candidate went through an extensive interview process where they met with Principals and District Leadership.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

C. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (MS. Barish)

The Following policies were presented for a **first** reading:

Ms. Barish took the time to speak a little bit to each of the policies. Some of the changes were per DESE but all changes are pretty straight forward.

- File LBC: Relations with Other Schools and School Districts
- File JB: Equal Educational Opportunities
- File JIB: Student Involvement in Decision-Making
- File GBA: Equal Employment Opportunity
- File GCF: Selection Process for Professional Positions
- File AC: Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Relation
- File AC-R: Procedures for Responding to Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation

Policies will be brought back to the Committee for a second reading and vote.

D. Resolution to Support of the "THRIVE" Act (Ms. Krepchin)

Chair Green announced that unless there were questions from members this resolution would be brought back for a second reading.

Resolution in Support of the THRIVE Act

Whereas, access to a high-quality, publicly funded education is a guaranteed right written into the Massachusetts Constitution; and

Whereas, an effective public education program meets the needs of students who present a variety of abilities and learning styles; and

Whereas, a successful system of public education nurtures and supports students and offers opportunities for growth along a continuum that begins in preschool and extends through higher education; and,

Whereas, the goal of public education is to teach students how to be critical thinkers, engaged citizens and lifelong learners; and

Whereas, the introduction of high-stakes standardized testing through the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System has undermined the most important goals of public education; and

Whereas, the punitive use of MCAS has restricted curriculum and narrowed the focus of education in our public schools; and

Whereas, MCAS testing has unjustly targeted communities with underfunded public schools for state takeovers that have failed to improve student performance by any measure; and

Whereas, using MCAS testing as a high-school graduation requirement has prevented or delayed countless students from earning a diploma, either interrupting or derailing education or career plans; therefore, be it

Resolved that the Somerville School Committee urges the state Legislature to pass the THRIVE Act, ending the use of MCAS tests as a graduation requirement and for purposes of placing school districts or individual schools into state receivership; and be it

Resolved that Massachusetts develop an alternative to the high-stakes MCAS tests

E. Field Trips (Recommended action: Approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approved field trips below:

May 13, 2023 – May 14, 2023	forty students from the SHS Ultimate Frisbee Team will visit Northampton, MA for an Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. Travel by mini bus, student cost \$0.
June 8, 2023	Ten students from Next Wave will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH. Travel via school van, student cost \$20.
June 12, 2023 – June 15, 2023	One student from SHS will travel to Washington, DC for National History Day. The student will travel with their mother.
June 15, 2023	Seventy-two 8th grade students from the East Somerville Community School will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH. Travel via bus, student cost \$29.
June 15, 2023	Forty-eight 8th grade students from the Healey School will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH. Travel via bus, student cost \$40.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice call vote.

F. FY23 SCALE / ADP Diploma Request (Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to approved FY23 SCALE/ ADP Diploma request for the students below.

Yeni C. Morales Molina	Somerville
Elmer W. Portilla Ramírez	Lynn, MA

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

The Superintendent Recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of the

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below:

Private

- **Tufts Community Grant: \$3,000** - This grant will allow the Enrollment Office to purchase multilingual children's books, and to give away winter hats & gloves for children and caregivers when families enroll.
- **Tufts Community Grant: \$3,000** - For SCALE to purchase laptop computers for English as a Second Language and Adult Basic Education classrooms.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice call vote.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone Requested a follow up on the superintendent search.

Chair Green announced that he would not be in person at the next meeting.

XI. CONDOLENCES

The Somerville School Committee extends its deepest condolences to the families of:
Cindy Rischall, Mother of Jeremy Rischall Guidance Counselor at Somerville High School.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned 9:32 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

[Out of School Time Update](#)

Personnel Report

Submitted by: E. Garcia

ATTACH DOCUMENTS STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 8, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.**

Amended: 05-08-23

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_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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 20, 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_ZMsQspO1SSClSgXOKcunug

Meeting ID: 847 5813 4927

Password: SPSSC23

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

- Community Schools Enrollment Presentation (Ms. Paribello)
- Out of School Time Update (Mr. Mazza)
- FY24 Public Budget Hearing (Dr. Curley)

B. Personnel Report

- April 2023

VI. Report of Subcommittees**A. School Committee Meeting with the Student Advisory Council:** February 14, 2023 and April 4, 2023

MOTION: To accept the reports of the School Committee Meeting with Student Advisory Council of February 14, 2023 and April 4, 2023.

B. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting: April 24, 2023 (Dr. Ackman)

MOTION: To accept the report of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting of April 24, 2023.

C. Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: April 27, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole of April 27, 2023.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Assistant Superintendent of Academics Announcement and Vote****VIII. NEW BUSINESS****A. Special Education Director Announcement and Vote****B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual** (Ms. Barish)

The following policies are being presented this evening for a first reading:

- File LBC: Relations with Other Schools and School Districts
- File JB: Equal Educational Opportunities
- File JIB: Student Involvement in Decision-Making
- File GBA: Equal Employment Opportunity
- File GCF: Selection Process for Professional Positions
- File AC: Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Relation
- File AC-R: Procedures for Responding to Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation

C. Resolution in Support of the "THRIVE" Act (Ms. Krepchin)**D. School Buildings Update** (Dr. Curley and Ms. Pitone)**E. Field Trips** (Recommended action: approval)

May 13, 2023 – May 14, 2023

forty students from the SHS Ultimate Frisbee Team will visit Northampton, MA for an Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. Travel by mini bus, student cost \$0.

June 8, 2023

Ten students from Next Wave will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH. Travel via school van, student cost \$20.

June 12, 2023 – June 15, 2023

One student from SHS will travel to Washington, DC for National History Day. The student will travel with their mother.

June 15, 2023

Seventy-two 8th grade students from the East Somerville Community School will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH. Travel via bus, student cost \$29.

June 15, 2023

Forty-eight 8th grade students from the Healey School will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH. Travel via bus, student cost \$40.

F. FY23 SCALE/ ADP Diploma Request (Recommended action: approval)

Yeni C. Morales Molina

Somerville, MA

Elmer W. Portillo Ramirez

Lynn, MA

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

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:

Private

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IX. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**X. CONDOLENCES****XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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**, rantrè 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

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Somerville Public Schools
 Education • Inspiration • Excellence
PERSONNEL REPORT
2023-2024 School Year
April 2023

RESIGNATION FOR PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS OF SERVICE
WHCIS	Grade 2 Teacher	Maureen Cronin	07/31/22	26 years
ESCS	Grade 5 UNIDOS	Fernando Cantillo	10/11/22	9 years
Central Office/SFLC	Director of SFLC	Nomi Davidson	02/01/23	31 years
SHS/CTE	Business Teacher - CTE	Debra Allen	06/30/23	25 years
Food Services	FT Utility Aide	William Brown	01/11/23	20 years
FC/NW/SHS	School Nurse	William Bingay	06/30/23	25 years
WSNS	Senior Clerk	Dignora Diaz	03/01/23	26 years
ESCS	Interim Principal	Samaria C. Hashem	06/30/23	2 years
WSNS	Grade 1 Teacher	Kathleen Hern	06/30/23	34 Years
BR	Grade 3 Teacher	Patricia Creedon	06/30/23	25 years
SHS/CTE	Social Studies Teacher	Everett Roscoe	09/27/23	27 years

RESIGNATION NOTICES:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
AFAS	ESL Specialist	Elizabeth Amero	06/30/23
District Wide	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Elizabeth Sonshine	03/02/23
District Wide	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Carlos Sefami	03/02/23
District Wide	School Nurse	Kristin Lichtenberg	03/24/23
ESCS/BR	SPED Department Chair	Marielle Wintersteen	04/14/23
KEN	ELA Teacher	William Van Dalsem	06/30/23
SHS	Life Skills Paraprofessional	Kathleen Jones	03/20/23
WHCS	Adjustment Counselor	Marah Paley	06/30/23
WHCS	SPED/ESL Paraprofessional	Lucian Bettencourt	04/04/23
WHCS	Building Substitute	Nicloe Doras	04/14/23
WSNS	Grade 7/8 Social Studies Teacher	Marissa Roque	06/30/23
WSNS/Comm Schools	High School Helper	Xinyi Zhu	03/14/23

ASSIGNMENT ENDED:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE

LEAVES OF ABSENCES:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATES
AFAS	Grade 2 SEI Teacher	Diana Garity	03/16/23-06/30/23
AFAS	Science Teacher	Michael Coughlin	04/24/23-09/27/23
AFAS	Grade 2 ELL SEI Teacher	Halley Snelling	08/28/23-06/30/24
AFAS	Grade 4 SEI Teacher	Gina Yarmel	03/20/23-04/03/23
BR	Grade 3 Teacher	Patricia Creedon	03/15/23-06/30/23
BR	Grade 2 Teacher	Charles Gurry	04/06/23-06/30/23
BR	Counselor Educator	Katel Melillo	01/24/23-06/30/23
Central	Senior Clerk	Cheryl McGovern	03/23/23-04/07/23
ESCS	Grade 6 Math Teacher	Caroline Burkard	08/28/23-12/22/23
ESCS	Art Teacher	Emily Alcott	04/24/23-05/22/23
ESCS	PK-8 Physical Education & Health Teacher	Matt Young	03/27/23-04/07/23
HLV	Resource Room Teacher	Emily M. O'Brien	05/15/23-06/30/24
HLV	Paraprofessional	Priya Plein	01/09/23-02/28/23
HLV	Grade 7/8 Humanities Teacher	Christopher Mitchell	03/20/23-04/05/23 - Extended
HLV	Library Media Specialist	Emily Rocha	11/28/22-02/07/23 - Revised
HLV	Kindergarten Teacher	Susanne Douglas	08/28/23-06/30/24
KEN	Grade 7/8 Social Studies Teacher	Dayshawn Simmons	08/28/23-06/30/24
KEN	SKIP Teacher	Michele Bennett	04/13/23-07/13/23
KEN	Grade 4 Math Teacher	Gina O'Keefe	08/28/23-06/30/23
SHS	Social Studies Teacher	Carlos Contreras-Loor	05/16/23-10/20/23
WSNS	Grade 7/8 ELA Teacher	Alison Kase	06/01/23-06/30/23 - Extended

INTRA-DISTRICT PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	REASON	VICE	EFFECTIVE DATE
BR	Provisional Grade 2 Teacher	Meghan Burrow	Temporary New Assignment	Charles Gurry	04/06/23
District Wide	Interim SPED Director	William Verbits	Temporary New Assignment	Christine Trevisone	03/13/23
Food Services	Utility Woker	Mode Dovovan De Klerk	New Assignment	William Brown	02/27/23
HLV	Provisional Grade 8 ELA Teacher	William Cole	Reassignment	Alison Kase	04/06/23
HLV/Comm Schools	PT Lead Teacher	Ross Wilkins	Additional Assignment	Kaycee Corea	04/11/23
SHS	Long Term Substitute Teacher - English	Jack Beimler	Temporary New Assignment	JOAnne Kim	03/14/23

NEW HIRES

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	VICE	DUAL/SEI	EFFECTIVE DATE
CAP/Comm Schools	Homework Helper	Jose Lopez	Enerst Pierre	No	03/23/23
HLV	High School Helper	Jacquelin Medrano	Christopher Thompson	No	03/20/23
SHS	SAT and AP Exam Proctor	Robert Butler	Yearly Appointment	No	5/1/23
WHCS/Comm Schools	High School Helper	Seline Pierre	Sarah Romero-Ferrufino	No	03/20/23
WHCS/Comm Schools	High School Helper	Leonardo Fuentes	Mohammed Mahjee	No	03/27/23
WSNS	Provisional Spanish Teacher	Claribel Mena-Sousa	Katie Whitton	No/Yes	04/24/23