

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, June 12, 2017 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Central Office Conference Room – 8 Bonair Street

Members present: Mr. Roix, Ms. O’Sullivan, Ms. Normand, Mr. Green, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Futrell (7:44 p.m.) and Ms. Pitone (7:44 p.m.).

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone and Alderman White

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Andre Green called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Central Office Conference Room at 7:01 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Green asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 5 –, Roix, O’Sullivan, Normand, White, Green and Palmer and Absent – 4 – Curtatone, White, Futrell and Pitone.

Mr. Green announced that Mrs. Skipper, Ms. Pitone and Mr. Futrell were at City Hall presenting the FY18 School Committee budget to the Board of Aldermen and would be at the meeting following their presentation. Dr. McKay is filling in for Superintendent Skipper.

Mr. Green also announced that, due to some items needing Ms. Skipper, Ms. Pitone and Mr. Futrell to be in attendance, the agenda items will be taken out of order so that matters that can be handled in these members’ absence will be taken care of.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 24, 2017 Regular Meeting
- May 1, 2017 Regular Meeting
- May 15, 2017 School Choice Public Hearing
- May 15, 2017 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the minutes listed above. The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Program donated to
Monetary	Kiwanis Club of Somerville	Somerville, MA	\$500	SomerBaby Project
Monetary/Credit	Harbor Freight	Calabasas, CA	\$500	SHS Carpentry Program
Monetary	Nick Perl and Katie Dyson	Somerville, MA	\$3,000	Community Activities - TBD

MOTION: Ms. Palmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the donations, with gratitude. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Field Trip (recommended action: approval)

August 25-28, 2017

SHS Athletics (girls and boys soccer and football) to Cape Cod Seacoast Camp, overnight, to prepare for fall sports season. Transportation via charter bus with a cost of \$100 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the field trip. The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. FY2017 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted his diploma:

Jacob Cremin Robinson

Glenda M. Flores

Maria de Fatima Ortet Vaz da Costa Pereira

24 Dane Ave.

36 Princeton St., #2

130 Norwell St., Apt. 1

Somerville, MA 02143

East Boston, MA 02128

Dorchester, MA 02121

MOTION: Ms. O’Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the SCALE ADP graduates, with congratulations.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

- Information relative to the MASC Conference in November

A reminder was provided to members that, in order to qualify for early-bird discount fees, they should notify Ms. Marques of their intent to attend and forward their registration forms to her so that she can acquire a purchase order and register members, centrally.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

- District/School Committee Goals – Metrics

Members reviewed the most current document (included at the end of these minutes) and discussion took place in an attempt to better understand certain aspects of the metrics. This included:

- How we track student persistence – National Clearing House tracks
- Performance based assessments
- Second Step – how we measure
- Early Education – how we measure
- Volunteers – demographics?

The School Committee meeting recess at 7:23 p.m. to await the arrival of Ms. Pitone, Mr. Futrell and Mrs. Skipper.

Ms. Pitone and Mr. Futrell arrived at 7:44 p.m.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**A. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities:** May 2, 2017 (Mr. Futrell)

On May 2, the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee began promptly at 7:00pm. In attendance were myself, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Green, Ms. O'Sullivan, Mr. Roix, and Ms. Palmer.

During the meeting, we discussed the FY18 budget, and approved the April Bill Rolls, moved by Mr. Green and seconded by Ms. Palmer.

During our in-depth discussion of the FY18 budget, we reviewed a budget that showed a 4.783% increase (amounting to a \$3,128,299 increase resulting in a total FY18 budget proposal of \$68,528,380).

We discussed the budget collaborative process, and a length list of investments the district is making in alignment with our SPS goals. These included, but were not limited to, investments in Special education and autism, a transition coach for career and college, a wraparound position on SHS that focuses on ELL kids, increased access to all day pre-school, social/emotional investments at 5 schools in capacity and in partnerships, the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, an effort to redesign community schools, roll out of technology and additional support of maker spaces, deeper interventions in math, and balancing music electives across the district.

Committee members had questions around out of school time and how our incoming Assistant Superintendent can play a role here, the merit of increasing sports programming (specifically, Lacrosse), and increased support for interpretation and translation. There was an additional request and discussion around seeing the Community Schools Budget by Ms. Palmer, and a request by Mr. Roix that we pay increasing attention to mental health supports in response to increased stressors on our community due to the threat of an immigration crack down.

The budget as presented this evening shows 6.7 new FTEs, with a larger number of shifts to existing FTEs to reflect changing needs and priorities across the district.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

The following reports were deferred to our next meeting:

B. Somerville Public Schools Public Budget Hearing: May 17, 2017 (Mr. Futrell)

C. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities: May 22, 2017 (Mr. Futrell)

D. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction: May 23, 2017 (Ms. Normand)

Mrs. Skipper arrived at 8:00 and discussion resumed on the metrics. Discussion included:

- Recruiting and retaining staff, exit interviews, salary and benefits
- Whole School Quality
- Qualitative vs. quantitative assessment

- Social-emotional goal and how best to measure

Ms. Pitone announced that this is a work in progress and that there has been significant movement in this work.

B. District Report

- Powderhouse Studios

Alec Resnick, Molly Josephs and Shaunalynn Duffy were present to provide an update on the progress of the Powder House Studios Innovation School.

Shaunalynn went through the PowerPoint presentation (included at end of these minutes) and she and her colleagues responded to questions from members.

The presentation included the following information:

- Who is the school for?
- How will it be setup?
- A typical day/schedule by grade/age
- Progress toward graduation
- MCAS and Common Core
- Staff and Student models
- School year schedule
- Governance
- Next steps

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Normand extended condolences to School Committee Vice-Chair, Andre Green, on the recent passing of his mother-in-law, Jeanette Lee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. The April 24, 2017, May 1, 2017, May 15, 2017 and School Choice Public Hearing minutes for approval
3. The School Committee goals and metrics
4. Three (3) donation acceptances
5. One (1) overnight field trip form
6. One (1) SCALE diploma request
7. One (1) letter to the Mass. DPH re: concussion policies and practices
8. Two (2) letters of condolence
9. Two (2) thank you letters for donations
10. A correspondence from the City Clerk re the Winter Hill schoolyard

Proposed School Committee Metrics

May 2017

NOTE: Data collection dates are included in parentheses following each metric. A baseline year represents the first year of data collection and are emboldened. All other data collections dates are for SY16-17 and are continuations from the prior year.

1. Increase achievement and access for all students. Reduce all performance gaps by half. (all metrics below will be monitored by subgroup and aggregate)
 - College persistence rates (November 2017)
 - % of students accessing AP courses (May 2017)
 - MCAS Math SGP and MCAS ELA SGP in the aggregate and by subgroup (September 2017)
 - 4-yr and 5-yr graduation rates (February 2017)
 - % of 9th graders passing their core courses and bring promoted (Baseline – June 2018)
 - % of 8th graders completing Algebra I (Baseline – June 2018)
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive PreK-12 social-emotional learning framework that provides students with the skills they need for social and academic success.
 - % of students needing support services who are serviced (April 2017)
 - % of Student Support Teams that use Student Insights on a daily basis (**Baseline – May**

2017)

- Dropout rate (February 2017)
 - Suspension rate (Twice yearly: December 2016, June 2017)
 - Attendance rate and chronic absentee rate (Twice yearly: December 2016, June 2017)
 - % of teacher completing all Second Step units (**Baseline – March 2017**)
3. Increase engagement with the community to reflect the community in which we live.
 - Demographic breakdown of parents participating in decision-making bodies such as school councils, school committee, and other district bodies (**Baseline – June 2017**)
 - Demographic breakdown of parents participating in district workshops and events (**Baseline – June 2017**)
 - Demographics, # and % of families volunteering in schools and classrooms (**Baseline – June 2017**)
 4. Continue to develop and implement innovative ways of measuring student academic performance and school quality such as formative assessment, performance-based tasks, and whole quality indicators.
 - % of teachers and staff accessing and using Student Insights (**Baseline – June 2017**)
 - # of staff involved in using performance-based assessments (**Baseline – May 2017**)
 - % of teachers and students responding to the Whole School Quality survey (**Baseline – June 2017**)
 5. Develop a comprehensive plan for Universal Kindergarten Readiness that supports intellectual, physical, and social/emotional growth from birth to Pre-K.
 - % of kindergarteners who are kindergarten ready (**Baseline – October 2016**)
 - % of outside providers/partners calibrating with SPS standards (**Baseline - February 2017**)
 - Increase in instructional and classroom quality (**Baseline – December 2016**)
 - # of birth to 3 and playgroup participants (October 2016)
 - ECIP service receipt (Baseline – December 2017)
 6. Develop and implement a strategy to recruit, develop, and retain a diverse and talented staff.
 - % of SPS open positions filled by staff members with requisite experience and skills required for the position beyond licensure requirements (June 2017)
 - How representative (race, ethnicity, language) of student population newly hired staff are (June 2017)
 - % of teaching staff (non-retirees) and other staff retained year to year (**Baseline – July 2017**)
 - % of staff participating in district PD opportunities (Baseline – June 2018)