

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, December 17, 2018 – Regular Meeting

6:45 p.m. - Board of Aldermen Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Futrell, Ms. O’Sullivan, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Normand, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone, and Alderman Ballantyne.

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone and Ms. Palmer.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Chair Green asked Superintendent Skipper to call the roll, results of which were as follows: PRESENT – 7 – Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman, Ms. O’Sullivan, Ms. Normand, Alderman Ballantyne and Mr. Green. ABSENT – 2 – Ms. Palmer and Mayor Curtatone.

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representatives Emily Nash and Emily Cannistraro were present. They reported on the following topics:

- Last week, Teen Health Advisory partnered with the Community Service Club to write and send holiday cards to the CHA Adolescent Psychiatry Assessment Unit. All were welcome to attend.
- The Personal Finance Team, made up of Kyle Finigan, Dylan Zrocket, Chris DeSousa, and Calvin Wicks won the Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge.
- The Captain's Leadership Breakfast for Winter Sports also took place last week.
- Somerville High's Music Ensembles performed across different schools in the district today. Exchange Students from Gaeta came last week and were hosted by Somerville students.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- NOVEMBER 19, 2018

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Max Nadeau: increased support for the college and career process. Mr. Nadeau appreciates the support of Ms. Kessler but these are opt-in services. We have 300 seniors for 1 college seniors. Prospect Hill Academy (PHA) has 50:1 students to college counselors. There is also not a lot of time set aside for students to work on college essays. At PHS, students have lots of time set aside to develop and revise their college essays. This is an equity issue. Some students have resources to supplement, but many students do not. 95% of PHA students matriculate at college.
- Ben Bortner: senior at the Somerville High School, representing Somerville Student Council. Here to talk about “open campus” policy which would increase student happiness. Students could go outside more, get lunch, and be better prepared for college. This would better prepare for students for the freedom of a college experience. Cambridge and Lexington have “open campus” policies which limit the district’s liability. Mr. Bortner thanked the committee for the chance to share.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

As we wind down 2018 and get ready to ring in the New Year, we invite you to join us in celebrating the music of the season at one of our many school **Winter Concerts**. We have enjoyed several wonderful concerts in the last couple of weeks, and the music continues this week and into 2019. The Brown School will hold its Winter Concert this Wednesday, December 19th, starting at 6:30pm at the Somerville High School Auditorium. On Thursday, December 20th, Somerville High School hosts its Winter Concert at the school auditorium from 6:30-9:00pm. Finally, the Argenziano School hosts its Winter Concert on Friday, December 21st, from 9:15-10:45am at their school Cafetorium. Please check our website for additional concerts coming up in January.

Congratulations to the **Highlander Theatre Club** at Somerville High School and Mr. Charles Jabour, Director and Faculty Advisor of HTC, for their outstanding production of the musical *RENT: School Edition* last week. *RENT* was the first of several musical productions on the HTC schedule for this year, and it set the stage for an outstanding season. Next up is a public performance of “Holy Broth” on February 8th at 7:00pm at the SHS Centennial Auditorium. “Holy Broth” is being co-presented with the SHS Welcome Center and the SHS ELE Department, with support from Somerville Arts for Youth. Please visit the HTC website at

www.highlandertheatre.org to learn more about their complete 2018-2019 production schedule.

If you haven't already done so, you have only a few more days to stop by the Edgerly Education Building (Cross Street between Otis and Bonair) and purchase a tree at the **Next Wave/Full Circle Tree Lot**. The lot is open Monday through Wednesday this week from 4:00-8pm. The lot is managed by Next Wave/Full Circle students and staff members, and all proceeds go toward student programs. Stop by before the lot closes on Wednesday!

Just another reminder to please make sure that we have your **current contact information on file**. If your contact information has changed since you registered or updated your information at the start of the school year, please call or email your school secretary and ask them to update your contact information in Aspen. We hope not to have ANY snow day cancellations this year, but if we do, we want to make sure to be able to reach you. You can expect an email and call from us notifying you of the cancellation. We will also post school cancellation notices on our website, on Facebook and Twitter, and will notify local television outlets.

Finally, it is hard to believe but we are getting ready for **Winter Break**. All schools will be closed from December 24th through January 1st for the Winter Break. Friday, December 21st is a full day for all students. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 2nd. All district offices will be closed only on December 24th and 25th, and on January 1st; they will remain open the remainder of the winter break. Please note that offices will close early (1:00pm) on Dec. 31st.

- 2019 – 2020 School Calendar

Dr. Abeyta shared the proposed 2019-2020 school calendar. She noted that the calendar generally mirrors the current year's school calendar, but it's helpful to notice the change in Election Day which will now have parent teacher conferences. Ms. Pitone expressed her appreciation for the hard work that goes into this calendar. Ms. Normand requests that early release days for the high school be added. Ms. O'Sullivan asked if we could add a note on to the calendar of where parents can find the SHS half days. June 12th seems like an early end date. She also asked if we will be able to start summer school before the July 4th holiday. Ms. Skipper responded that she hopes to begin summer school before the July 4th dates.

- 2019 School Committee Meetings Calendar

Mr. Curley shared his framing of the School Committee meetings calendars for all regular and subcommittee meetings. He highlighted that the calendar includes maximum deliberation for the authorization of Powderhouse Studios should the union vote to approve the contract carve out. Ms. Skipper shared the purpose of these proposed dates, with a goal for as much public deliberation as possible if the Powderhouse Studios (PHS) school is brought to School Committee for consideration. Ms. Pitone thanked Dr. Curley for pulling this off. We want to have as much public deliberation and discussion as possible. We will have an online form and many opportunities for the general public to ask questions and contribute to the deliberation about the school. Ms. Skipper stated that The PHS innovation plan is a new entity which is funded by \$10 million XQ Institute grant. This is a small, innovation high school which would serve 120-160 students. Mr. Futrell asked whether the master calendar reflects changes made at the most recent Finance and Facilities subcommittee meeting. Dr. Curley said that it should, but invited Mr. Futrell and the Finance Director to confirm. Ms. Pitone commends the district for including monthly Long-Range Planning meetings. Mr. Futrell shared that meetings starting at 6:00pm can be difficult.

- Somerville High School (SHS) Building Project

Ms. Skipper then introduced SHS Principal Sibby LaGambina and Assistant Principal Leo DeSimone. Ms. Normand gave a brief update of the recent work of the SHS Building Committee. Ms. Normand thanked Mr. LaGambina and Mr. DeSimone for their support for students and work on this large project. Mr. DeSimone then shared some news about the old asbestos recently found on the construction site. Right now, the asbestos that they have found is no bigger than a tissue and dates back to the 1700's. Recently the crew found an old steam

pipe beneath the "C wing" which required a non-traditional abatement plan overseen by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Around November 21st, while excavating the first asbestos, the digging crew found more asbestos which required a new DEP abatement process. There have been some delays with sites that can accept contaminated soil. The end date of September 2021 has not shifted, but the first phase of the project is behind schedule as a result of this excavation.

Ms. Skipper appreciates all of the work of the Building Committee, particularly the leadership of Mr. DeSimone and work of Carrie Normand.

Ms. Ballantyne asked for clarification; this abatement will not affect the end schedule for the SHS building project, but will affect the schedule in between? Mr. DeSimone confirmed that is correct. The biggest challenge is relocating the 11 Career and Technical Education (CTE) shops in the interim. We are working closely with Superintendent Skipper and Dr. Curley to make this temporary relocation work. Ms. Ballantyne clarified that the state and independent consultants monitor all asbestos abatement on a daily basis. Ms. Ballantyne asked what the financial impact is. Ms. Skipper responded that this is typical in a large project. Understanding the financial impact will be part of the coming months of work with the Building Committee, building contractor, and construction teams. Ms. Pitone asked if he could share more about the timeline and plan for CTE displacement? Mr. DeSimone replied that in April 2019 a number of CTE programs will come offline. We will have a full plan in place for their temporary relocation by January 15th.

Mr. Green echoed the comments of Superintendent Skipper in support of Principal LaGambina and Assistant Principal DeSimone. We are trying to build a new high school, on top of an existing high school, while running a high school.

B. Personnel Report

VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction: October 15, 2018 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

Education Programs & Instruction - Meeting Minutes - October 15, 2018

The Education Programs & Instruction sub-committee held a meeting October 15, 2018. Sub-committee members in attendance were Paula G. O'Sullivan, Emily Ackman, and Dan Futrell. Participating district staff included Assistant Superintendent Almi Abeyta, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator Uri Harel, Innovation Project Specialist Jason Behrens, and SHS Math Department Chair Trish Murphy-Sheehy. School Committee Chairperson Carrie Normand also attended. There was one member in the audience.

Ms. O'Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Emily Ackman made a motion to approve subcommittee minutes from May 30, 2018, June 18, 2018, and September 24, 2018. It was seconded by Dan Futrell and passed unanimously.

The main agenda item was an update on the Somerville Math Challenge Initiative that was launched last spring. The goal of this initiative is to increase access to higher levels of mathematics for all students, with a multi-prong approach that includes in-class curriculum extensions, parent workshops, professional development for teachers, targeted interventions for students, and supplemental mathematics programs. Director Uri Harel provided a comprehensive document with details on project updates, milestones and goals. At the meeting, participants focused the discussion on primarily what is happening for students. The comprehensive document is on the initiative's public website and will be updated on an ongoing basis.

Milestones already achieved include rolling out the curriculum extensions in all grade 3-5 classrooms districtwide, expanding the targeted student interventions to five schools (and planning for the remaining two schools), and providing computer science curriculum to all 6th graders. Extensions at grades 6 and 7 are under development.

In addition, two parent workshops will take place this fall, with two more scheduled for the spring. The plan is to annually offer 4 workshops for parents and guardians, rotating locations and time of day. Parents are invited to attend any workshop that is convenient, not just the one at their child's school.

The updates included information on two specific supplemental math programs, each in the second year of implementation, The Calculus Project and Mx2. The Calculus Project ran for 3 weeks of the summer, with rising 7th, 8th and 9th grade students. There were 66 students participating and six SHS students served as peer mentors. Project staff are exploring options for continuing the program support for students during the school year. The second program, Mx2, has 39 students currently enrolled. These students, currently in 8th grade, participated in an online Introduction to Geometry class over the summer. They are now continuing in an online geometry class, with once-a-week face-to-face sessions. This program was offered to all rising 8th graders.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. O'Sullivan, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of October 15, 2018.

Motion approved via voice vote.

B. School Committee Meeting for Rules Management: October 17, 2018 (Ms. Pitone)

Rules Minutes/Report - October 17, 2018

Submitted by Rules Vice Chair, Laura Pitone

Attendees: Emily Ackman, Lee Palmer, Laura Pitone, Dr. Jeff Curley SPS Chief of Staff

Agenda: (1) After school pick-up age guidelines, (2) Chromebook agreement and take home policy, (3) GBEBD - Online fundraising and solicitation

(1) After school pick-up age guidelines

A concern was raised by a few parents regarding the current community schools pickup policy which appears to differ from school release policy. Specifically, how old a student must be to release themselves from school or Community Schools and how old (if specified) does someone have to be to pick them up (consider siblings or sitters/childcare providers?) Research showed variability in a few states about age requirements to be allowed to be left at home, from 8 - 14, with DCF stating that MA was 12 and over (though mass.gov states there is no age.) ESSA (Fed Every Student Succeeds Act) states mode of transport to and from school is parents authority. Although ages for release were discussed, the primary recommendation was made to include parent consent for student release on the SPS emergency reference form - either or alone or who could release them. There was also a request for admin to check in with MASC and report back (though a cursory review didn't yield examples.)

(2) Chromebook agreement and take home policy

There was some initial confusion as to why the Rules committee was considering a Chromebook agreement and take home policy before a recommendation to implement this had been brought to the SC. It was clarified that there was some interest in a pilot at the high school and district technology leadership was interested in getting SC input to the process. Rules members briefly introduced questions about value/risk in distributing laptops for home use, particularly interested in demonstrated evidence of the value as well as family challenges with general device overuse/abuse. Administration did verify that student's would not be required to take laptops for home use. In the interest of time and without a pressing need date this potential policy was tabled to a future date, to be specified.

(3) GBEBD - Online fundraising and solicitation

With an increase in online fundraising and solicitations, MASC recommends a policy to provide oversight to and guide this process of accepting funds for public school activities.

There was a general question about alignment of this policy with the current requirement that the district report in public donations to the district at the SC. There was also concern about the right level of oversight for fundraising -- what principals should be administering and reporting to the Superintendent's office and what the Superintendent (or designee) should be overseeing. The draft policy was very specific in defining that monies raised should become the property of the district/SC and not the individual raising the money, as well as how the solicitation should be communicated.

The group spent a limited amount of time reviewing the new MASC language. There was general agreement about the draft language, some questions, and some revisions. Motion made by Laura Pitone, 2nd by Emily

Ackman to:

1. Eliminate paragraph 5
2. Eliminate "every attempt will be made..." "the donation(s) will not be returned and will otherwise be used for educational purposes at the principal's direction."
3. Add to the end of para #8 "All donors will be made aware of this policy in the solicitation of funds."
4. All approve

No decision to move this forward, work to be continued.

Meeting adjourned by Lee Palmer.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Rules Management of October 17, 2018.

Motion approve via voice vote.

C. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: October 24, 2018 (Chair Green)

D. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: November 28, 2018 (Chair Green)

Mr. Green then gave a joint report on the equity work lead by NYCLA consultant Sahara. These discussions included how to improve our diverse staff pipeline, student enrollment and placement, and weighted student formula. School committee members worked on an equity theory of change and how the members could help Superintendent Skipper better promote equity in the school district.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to approve joint (Oct 24th and Nov 28th) Long Range Planning reports from October and November.

Motion approved via voice vote.

E. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: November 6, 2018 (Mr. Futrell)

The Finance & Facilities Subcommittee met at 6:30pm on November 6th at 8 Bonair Street. In attendance was the full subcommittee of myself, Ms. O'Sullivan, and Ms. Normand. Also in attendance were Superintendent Skipper, Dr. Abeyta, Dr. Curley, Assistant Administrator for Community Schools Ms. Rosanna Paribello, as well as 3 people in the audience.

We had four items on the agenda: community schools, FY18 End Of Year report to DESE, October Expenditure Report, and October Bill Rolls.

We first discussed Community Schools, structural changes to programs over the last 3 years that have affected the finances for Community Schools, demographic and enrollment trends within Community Schools, and how Community Schools supports our higher achievement and social/emotional learning goals for all students that we commit to serve.

Two important pieces of context informed our discussion: first, Ms. Jennie McGoldrick, the current Administrator for CS, will be departing shortly. And second, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the district has asked Community Schools to evolve structurally to support all kids in Somerville, with supports that reflect the broad array of needs and demographics within our district. Finally, Community Schools are but a slice of the pie of our continued and holistic investment in out of school time, and our efforts to ensure that all out of school time supports academic and social/emotional achievement. As such, there are out of school programs available to students that are not within the purview of Community Schools, that we did not address in our subcommittee meeting, that help to serve the broad needs of our students.

Community Schools is tasked with supporting teaching and learning through Out of School time. We've asked them to expand services and enrollment, improve access for diverse learners, and to realign the fee scale with affordable housing guidelines.

In order to expand services and enrollment, CS has increased services for PreK-5 students while also increasing enrollment. CS has discontinued serving 6-8th grade due to other SPS partnerships (such as Citizen Schools, the Calculus Project, and others) that are more targeted to middle school students.

- New nurses, Special Education services, ELL services, and more
- Additionally, we have increased the level of partnership between CS and SPS through a Mini Student Support Team that meets to discuss students who may be struggling and to determine what kinds of supports are needed. This deep cooperation has been made more effective with the build out of the Student Insights tool, which CS site coordinators have access to, so that all adults who interact with a child can more fully understand the context that the child is bringing to every situation.

Related to increasing the number of kids served, in 2010, Community Schools served under 300 kids. Since then, we've more than doubled the number of kids served to over 700 today and Community Schools are continually enrolling more kids throughout the year. At some grade levels within some schools, there are waitlists of families who want to get in but can't due to a shortage of staff. The district has agreed to report wait list figures back to the subcommittee soon. We asked the district whether or not they could make a statement about the demographics represented in that increase, which they reported is only recently possible with new tracking tools and methods. Superintendent Skipper described CS as only a portion of our out of school programming and that, other more targeted programs intended to reach specific minorities, where successful, could show that the CS population diversity has decreased, though she didn't have the figures at hand during the meeting.

In an effort to increase enrollment and ensure that Community Schools could be available to families at all income levels, the fee structure was amended to include rate reductions at low, middle, and higher income levels than previous structures. Today, all families that qualify for free & reduced lunch will also qualify for reduced pricing within Community Schools. Importantly though, the new pricing structure of Community Schools also provides reduces prices for families whose income puts them just above the free & reduced lunch threshold but who, in Somerville, still struggle to get by. In other words, we've gone above state and federal standards to ensure affordability for more families that otherwise couldn't attend Community Schools. This is in line with the values of our district and our community and is reflective of changing economic realities for our families. One impact of this is that, for those families who make the most in our community, the price for Community Schools has increased.

Of note, the price for Community Schools had only increased one time in the previous 10 years, in 2012.

Following our discussion on Community Schools, we reviewed the FY18 End Of Year Report. There was nothing in here that hadn't been previously discussed but as noted previously, the district's prudent financial management resulted in a \$55k surplus in a \$68M budget. Additional highlights include the fact that we had 4 students transfer into Somerville from Puerto Rico after the hurricane, in addition to the Puerto Rican families already in our district, for whom we received some Federal Aid. We looked into our charter school reimbursement from the state, which Finance Director Gorski is going to get back to us on as the figure in the report appeared too low to be accurate, against an \$8.2M expense. You should expect to hear an update on this after our next meeting.

We next reviewed the October 2018 Expenditure Report and Bill Rolls. Of the expenses, we noted that the Brown was over 90% encumbered but not spent, and we expect to hear back on this point in our next meeting. We also had a question about a \$230k expense for SP&R transportation. While we spend quite a bit on transportation monthly, we noted that this was unusually high and so, without an explanation, we delayed approval of the Oct 2018 Bill Rolls until next month when we better understand this expense.

At our next meeting, we will discuss weighted student formula and the budget timeline. We have tentatively scheduled for January, which could be a new composition of the finance subcommittee, a review of athletics finances and a review of mid-year personnel additions.

We adjourned the meeting at 8:01pm.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the School Committee

Meeting for Finance and Facilities of November 6, 2018.

Motion approved via voice vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

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

- Homework Policy

Ms. O'Sullivan introduced and framed the Homework policy, which has been the result of two years of work. Dr. Ackman added that the limits to homework time are not a requirement. Ms. Normand commented that for some of our kids, they may want to have homework over the weekend. She then asked if with this policy, there will be instructions for teachers to be flexible? To which Ms. Skipper responded, my sense is that particularly in grade 6-8, the weekday is busy. Dr. Abeyta added, homework will vary, but we want this policy to be flexible by grade. Ms. O'Sullivan stated that homework policy is for grades K-8. It is Important to encourage innovation and flexibility.

Superintendent Skipper continued, for K-2, in the spirit of learning, reading can be great homework. Let's get back to the intent of homework and love of learning. Dr. Ackman would like to see in K-2 homework barred for the point of assessment. Ms. Pitone appreciates the language of the Superintendent about the love of learning and importance of reading. Chair Green gave his thanks for everyone who helped make this policy.

B. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Program donated to
Monetary	Alice and David Dinisco	Somerville, MA	\$500	SFLC Parent Support and Playgroups
Monetary	Beth Gibson	Somerville, MA	\$100	SFLC Playgroups
Office Supplies	Christopher Timmel	Melrose, MA	\$23	Parent Information Center

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Normand to accept the donation, with gratitude, seconded by Mr. Futrell.
Motion was approved via voice vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

MS. O'SULLIVAN

MOTION by Ms. O'Sullivan to amend the new Wellness Policy to include the following language from the new Recess policy. Chair Green: barring no objection, we will not refer this back to Rules. This motion was seconded by Ms. Pitone. All in favor to add the following language to the new Wellness policy.
Motion was approved via voice vote.

Lunch and Recess

1. Schools will allow students to have sufficient time to eat lunch within the lunch period.
2. Principals are encouraged to provide recess before lunch for PK-8 students when possible.
3. Recess is an important activity in the school day for elementary school students. Studies have shown recess provides academic, social and physical benefits. Students should be given sufficient recess time to provide opportunities for social development in a safe environment and a chance to expend physical energy, thereby resulting in improved alertness in the classroom through a break in routine.
4. Recess should not be used to motivate or punish student unless there is a safety reason to do so.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. via voice vote.

Related Items

Agenda

December Personnel Report

2019 School Committee Meetings Calendar

2019 – 2020 School Calendar

Homework Policy

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN CHAMBERS
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 17, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.**

Amended 12-14-18

Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Vision Statement/Goals

We believe in developing the whole child - the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential of all students - by providing students with the skills, opportunities, and resources that will nurture innovative ideas, foster pride in diversity, inspire students to become lifelong learners and empower them to enrich their communities.

- Goal #1: Increase achievement and access for all students. Reduce all performance gaps by half.
- Goal #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.
- Goal #3: Increase engagement with the community to reflect the community in which we live.
- Goal #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.
- Goal #5: Develop a comprehensive plan for Universal Kindergarten Readiness that supports intellectual, physical, and social/emotional growth from birth to Pre-K.
- Goal #6: Develop and implement a strategy to recruit, develop, and retain a diverse and talented staff.

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. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 19, 2018

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- 2019-2020 School Calendar
- 2019 School Committee Meetings Calendar
- SHS Building Project

B. Personnel Report

VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: September 26, 2018 (Chair Green)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range of September 26, 2018.

B. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction: October 15, 2018 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of October 15, 2018.

C. School Committee Meeting for Rules Management: October 17, 2018 (Ms. Pitone)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Rules Management of October 17, 2018.

D. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: October 24, 2018 (Chair Green)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of October 24, 2018.

E. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: November 6, 2018 (Mr. Futrell)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of November 6, 2018.

F. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: November 28, 2018 (Chair Green)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of November 28, 2018.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

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

- Homework Policy

B. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

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

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VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT



Somerville Public Schools
Education • Inspiration • Excellence

PERSONNEL REPORT
2018-2019 School Year
December 2018

RESIGNATION FOR PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT FOR SY 2018-2019:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	DATE OF RETIREMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
SHS	History/Biology Teacher	Ana Nogueira	10/31/18	12
ESCS	Physical and Health Education Teacher	Timothy Cronin	03/09/19	18
SHS	Assistant Principal - Beacon House	Jane Cummings	06/30/19	31
SHS	Special Education Teacher	Joanne Dunn	06/30/19	39
SHS	Adjustment Counselor	Barry Friedman	06/30/19	28
WSNS/Food Services	Cafeteria Helper	Linda Russell	08/06/18	30
WHCIS	Grade 5 Teacher	Ana Potter	06/30/19	33
PIC	Principal Clerk	Rosie Federico	12/07/18	19 + 161 days

RESIGNATION NOTICES FOR SY 2018-2019:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	DATE OF RESIGNATION
AFAS	Grade 4 Teacher	Taylor Benoit	01/02/19
ESCS	Library Utility Aide	Ariana Fiorello	12/04/18
ESCS/Food Services	Lunch Attendant	Afsana Rahman	11/30/18
HLY	Grades 1/2 Teacher	Madeline Mayerson	12/21/18
HLY	Grade 7/8 SPED Inclusion Specialist/RR Teacher	Jesalyn Memont	12/14/18
HLY/Comm Schools	PT Lead Teacher	Jose Torres-Morales	12/14/18
PIC	Utility Aide	Susana Campos	11/12/18
SHS	PT Redirect Tutor	Samuel Potel	12/21/18

ASSIGNMENT ENDED BY 2018-2019:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
CAP/Comm Schools	Door Monitor	Gabriella Gonzalez	11/15/18
CAP	Temporary ECIP Paraprofessional	Phoebe Tateronis	12/06/18

LEAVES OF ABSENCES FOR SY 2018-2019:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
CAP	ECIP Teacher	Jessica Couture	12/31/18-01/08/19
KEN	SEEK Paraprofessional	Patricia Messina	12/10/18-02/14/19

INTRA-DISTRICT PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS FOR SY 2018-2019:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
District Wide	ESL Specialist/Interventionist	Rachel Shapp	12/10/18 - New Assignment
BR/Comm Schools	PT Lead Teacher	Max Doyle	11/26/18 - New Assignment
CAP/Comm Schools	Ana Taveira	Kim Baugh	12/10/18 - Additional Assignment
Community Schools	Interim Director of Community Education	Rosanna Paribello	11/19/19 - Reassignment
Community Schools	Temporary Assistant Administrator	Adriana Guereque-Khan	12/03/18 - Temp Reassignment
District Wide	Technology Coordinator	Stephen Nace	12/03/18 - Reassignment
ESCS	El Sistema Homework Helper	Veronica Olivier	11/26/18 - Additional Assignment
ESCS	Coordinator of After School Programs	Inmaculada Sanchez-Dorado	09/04/18 - Additional Assignment
AFAS/Food Services	Lunch Attendant	Loretta McGonagle	12/03/18 - Location Change
KEN/Comm Schools	Temporary Afterschool Site Coordinator	Brianna Flaherty	12/17/18 - Temp Reassignment
KEN/Comm Schools	PT Lead Teacher	Duguy Aytac-Mullin	11/15/18 - Additional Assignment
SHS/Athletics	Assistant Swim Coach	Jamie Ballerini	12/03/18 - Additional Assignment
HLY/Food Services	Homebound Tutor	Meghan Clark	11/14/18 - Additional Assignment
HLY/Food Services	FT Cafeteria Helper	Tracy Camara	11/19/18 - PT to FT
PIC	Principal Clerk 1	Colleen Flynn	12/10/18 - Senior to Principal Clerk 1
PIC	Utility Aide	Silvia Mejia	12/10/18 - Additional Assignment
SCALE	PT ABE Education and Career Advisor	Patrick Melo	11/26/18 - Additional Assignment
SHS	Temporary Guidance Counselor	Kayla Schutte	01/19/18 - LTS to Temp FT
SHS	School Safety & Security Coordinator	Harry Marchetti	11/15/18 - Additional Assignment
WHCIS/Food Services	FT Cook	Leena Nayer	11/19/19 - Reassignment/PT to FT

NEW HIRES FOR SY 2017-2018:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	VICE	EFFECTIVE DATE	Dual/SEI
AFAS	Temporary .50 Spanish Teacher	Emilio Cabanas	Katie Caliva	1/3/2019-revised start date	
AFAS	Temporary SPED Resource Room Teacher	Mackeba Gustave	Sarah Eldridge	12/10/18	NA/NA
CAP	Library Utility Aide	Terri Beebe	Kristopher Rodriguez	11/12/18	NA/NA
EEC	SPED Assistant for Interpreting and Translation	Raynoli Tejada	Emma Provenzano	12/19/18	NA/NA
ESCS	PT Utility Aide-Reception	Veronica Olivier	New Position	11/14/18	NA/NA
ESCS	El Sistema Winds Teaching Artist	Marta Siemieniaka	Anastasia Mousouli-job share	10/25/18	NA/NA
ESCS	El Sistema Brass Teaching Artist	Samuel Hausman	Eric Bowman	11/07/18	NA/NA
ESCS	El Sistema Clarinet Teaching Artist	Diego Tunjano	Anastasia Mousouli-job share	10/23/18	NA/NA
ESCS	El Sistema Homework Helper	Matias Selena	Selena Matias	11/05/18	NA/NA
ESCS/Food Services	PT Lunch Attendant	Reeta Verma	New Position	12/03/18	NA/NA
HLY	Temporary Resource Room Paraprofessional	Lindsay MacDonald	Melissa Ziobro	11/20/19	NA/NA
HLY/Food Services	PT Lunch Attendant	Claude Genty	New Position	12/03/18	NA/NA
KEN	Temporary Kindergarten Paraprofessional	Peter Rotundo	Julie Dabenigno	12/10/18	NA/NA
KEN/Food Services	PT Cafeteria Hleper	Kathy O'Leary	New Position	12/03/08	NA/NA
KEN/Comm Schools	Temporary SEEK Paraprofessional	Kayleigh Kane	Patricia Messina	12/10/18	NA/NA
KEN/Comm Schools	PT Assistant Teacher	Meghan McCormick	Mariah Vasquez	12/03/18	NA/NA
SCALE	Head Clerk 1	Annette Goodrich	Sabrina Caprigno	12/17/18	NA/NA
SHS/Athletics	Junior Varsity Basketball Coach	Michlle Hagerty	Indira Evora	12/17/18	NA/NA
SHS/Food Services	PT Cafeteria Hleper	Sanjeev Kumar	New Position	12/03/08	NA/NA
WHCIS/Food Services	PT Cafeteria Hleper	Harjot Kaur	New Position	12/03/08	NA/NA
WHCIS/Food Services	PT Cafeteria Hleper	Usha Rani	New Position	12/03/08	NA/NA

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
1/7/19 (Monday)	Inaugural	TBD	5:00 p.m.
1/9/19 (Wednesday)	School Committee Meeting with SEPAC	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:30 p.m.
1/14/19 (Monday)	Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
1/14/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
1/16/19 (Wednesday)	Executive Session	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
1/16/19 (Wednesday)	Long Range Planning Subcommittee Meeting	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
1/23/19 (Wednesday)	Powderhouse Studios Public Hearing One (Tentative)	TBD	6:00 p.m.
1/28/19 (Monday)	Ed. Programs and Inst. Committee of the Whole: 2 SIPs	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
1/28/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting: 1 SIP	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
1/30/19 (Wednesday)	Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
1/30/19 (Wednesday)	School Committee/BOA Joint Hearing (Tentative)	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
2/4/19 (Monday)	Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
2/4/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
2/6/19 (Wednesday)	Powderhouse Studios Public Hearing Two (Tentative)	TBD	6:00 p.m.
2/11/19 (Wednesday)	Ed. Programs and Inst. Committee of the Whole: 2 SIPs	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
2/13/19 (Wednesday)	Executive Session	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
2/13/19 (Wednesday)	Long Range Planning Subcommittee Meeting	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
2/25/19 (Monday)	Ed. Programs and Inst. Committee of the Whole: 2 SIPs	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
2/25/2019 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
2/27/19 (Wednesday)	Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
2/27/19 (Wednesday)	School Committee Annual Meeting with the Council of PTA's	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
3/4/19 (Monday)	Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
3/4/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
3/6/19 (Wednesday)	Ed. Programs and Inst. Committee of the Whole: 2 SIPs	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
3/13/16 (Wednesday)	Executive Session	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
3/13/19 (Wednesday)	Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
3/18/19 (Monday)	Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
3/18/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting: 2 SIPs	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
3/27/19 (Wednesday)	Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
3/27/19 (Wednesday)	Long Range Planning Subcommittee Meeting	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
4/1/19 (Monday)	Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
4/1/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
4/10/19 (Wednesday)	Executive Session	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
4/10/19 (Wednesday)	Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
4/22/19 (Monday)	Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
4/22/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
4/24/19 (Wednesday)	Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
4/24/19 (Wednesday)	Long Range Planning Subcommittee Meeting	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
5/2/18 (Thursday)	Budget Hearing	TBD	TBD
5/08/19 (Wednesday)	Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
5/13/19 (Monday)	Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
5/13/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
5/15/19 (Wednesday)	Executive Session	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
5/15/19 (Wednesday)	Long Range Planning Subcommittee Meeting	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
5/20/19 (Monday)	School Choice Public Hearing	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:45 p.m.
5/20/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting and Superintendent Evaluation	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
5/21/19 (Tuesday)	Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
5/21/19 (Tuesday)	Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole (HOLD)	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.
5/31/19 (Friday)	SHS Class Day	SHS	9:00 a.m.
6/3/19 (Monday)	SHS Graduation (Tentative)	Dilboy	5:30 p.m.
6/5/19 (Wednesday)	Full Circle Graduation	Armory	5:00 p.m.
6/10/19 (Monday)	Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
6/10/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
06/12/19 (Wednesday)	SCALE Graduation	TBD	6:00 p.m.
6/17/19 (Monday)	Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	6:00 p.m.
6/17/19 (Monday)	Regular School Committee Meeting	BOA Chambers- City Hall	7:00 p.m.
6/19/19 (Wednesday)	Executive Session	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	6:00 p.m.
6/19/19 (Wednesday)	Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole	Main Conf. Room- Ederly	7:00 p.m.



2019-2020 School Calendar

Important Dates

AUGUST '19				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER '19				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

OCTOBER '19				
M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER '19				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

DECEMBER '19				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

JANUARY '20				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY '20				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

MARCH '20				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

APRIL '20				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

MAY '20				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

JUNE '20				
M	T	W	TH	F
★	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

Quarters	
1 st Quarter 8/28-11/1 (45 days)	
2 nd Quarter 11/4-1/21 (45 days)	
3 rd Quarter 1/22-3/31 (45 days)	
4 th Quarter 4/1-6/11 (45 days)	

Half-Day Wednesdays

Dismissal @ 11:30 (PK) Noon (K-8)

Aug. 28	Feb. 12
Sept. 18	Mar. 11, 25
Oct. 2, 16	Apr. 1
Dec. 11	May 6, 20
Jan. 8, 22	Jun. 10

August – 2 days

- 10* - Eid al Adha
- 26 - 1st day for Staff Prof. Devel.
- 27 - Staff Prof. Development, Para's Report
- 28 - 1st day for students 1-12 (1/2 day)
- 30 - No School (Offices Open)

September – 20 days

- 2 - No school Labor Day
- 3 - 1st day for Kindergarten and PK students
- 30 - Rosh Hashanah

October – 22 days

- 1 - Rosh Hashanah
- 9 - Yom Kippur
- 14 - No school - Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 27 - Diwali Begins

November – 17 days

- 5 - No school - Election Day Prof. Devel. 8-12/ PTA Conf. 12:30-2:30
- 11 - No School - Veterans Day
- 27 - Begin Thanksgiving Recess at noon

December – 16 days

- 23 - Begin Winter Recess (includes Christmas-12/25 and Kwanzaa-12/26)
- 23 - Hanukkah Begins

January – 21 days

- 1 - No school - New Year's day
- 2 - Classes resume
- 20 - No school - Martin Luther King Day

February – 15 days

- 5 - Lunar New Year
- 17-21 - February Vacation (includes Presidents' Day)

March – 22 days

April – 16 days

- 10 - Good Friday
- 19 - Passover begins/Easter
- 20-24 - April Vacation (includes Patriots Day)

May – 20 days

- 5* - Ramadan begins
- 25 - no school - Memorial Day
- 29 - Class Day (tentative)

June – 9 days

- 1 - Graduation (tentative)
- 3* - Eid al-Fitr
- 12 - Last day of school (180 days)
- 19- 185th day

Prof. Dev. For teaching staff only

Half-Day All Students PK-12

Special Dates for SHS Seniors

Major Religious & Cultural Holidays

Dates underlined above represent the district's major religious and cultural holidays. Observance of Jewish and Islamic holidays begins at sundown of the preceding day. Somerville Public Schools staff members will do their best to refrain from scheduling one-time events, field trips, athletic competitions, auditions, tests, quizzes for these days. Long-term assignments will not be due on the day of or the day after one of these holidays.

* Estimated

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

HOMEWORK POLICY

Definition and Purpose

Homework is an integral component of the learning process when it is developmentally appropriate. Homework is typically defined as any task “assigned to students by school teachers that are meant to be carried out during the non-school hours” (Cooper, 1989 a., p. 7). The purpose of homework is to improve the learning process, to aid in the mastery of skills, and to create and stimulate interest on the part of the student.

Background

Research shows that the association between achievement and homework grows progressively stronger for older groups of students (Cooper & Valentine, 2001). Homework should have a different purpose at different grade levels:

- For students in the earliest grades, it should foster positive a positive home to school connection and a love for learning and be optional;
- For students in upper elementary grades, it should play a gradual role in building academic skills, time management, organization and persistence.
- In grades 6 through grade 12, it should play an important role in building academic skills, time management, organization, and persistence.

Guidelines for Homework

The School Committee recognizes the importance for educators, families and students to promote a healthy lifestyle by balancing academic and non-academic activities, including, but not limited to clubs, extracurriculars, and private family time. In our committed work to develop all learners’ capacities to approach learning with persistence, resiliency, reflection, and adaptability, homework assignments shall be planned in accordance with the following principles:

- ***Assign Purposeful Homework:*** Legitimate purposes for homework include practicing a skill or process that students can do independently but not fluently, elaborating on information that has been addressed in class, and provide opportunities for student to explore their own interests.
- ***Design Homework to Maximize the Chances that Students Will Complete It:*** Students should be able to complete homework assignments independently with relatively high success rates, but still find it challenging.
- ***Involve Parents in Appropriate Ways:*** Parents should be involved in homework in ways that do not require the parent to act as teachers or to police students’ homework completion.
- ***Carefully Monitor the Amount of Homework assigned:*** Homework that is assigned should be appropriate to students’ age levels and should not take up too much time away from the other home activities.

Specific Time Parameters for Homework

- ***Grades K-2:*** Homework is optional. If assigned, it should not exceed 20 minutes each day, for no more than 2 days per week.
- ***Grade 3:*** 30 minutes maximum (2-3 nights per week)
- ***Grade 4:*** 30 minutes maximum (2-3 nights per week)
- ***Grades 5:*** 30 minutes maximum (2-3 nights per week)
- ***Grades 6-8:*** 60 minutes maximum (2-3 nights per week)

The aforementioned limits for homework should not be construed as a requirement. Additionally, no student in grades K-8 should have homework over weekends, holidays or school vacation weeks.

- ***Grades 9-12:*** the amount of homework will vary by subject.

With grades that are departmentalized, staff should be mindful of the cumulative amount of homework assigned.

Teachers will not make the assumptions about resources available in the home, including technology. Furthermore, Homework is not to be used as a form of punishment under any circumstances.