

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, August 28, 2017 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers – Somerville City Hall

Members present: Mr. Futrell, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Roix, Ms. O'Sullivan, Ms. Normand, Alderman White, Mr. Green and Ms. Pitone.

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Laura Pitone called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Central Office Conference Room at 7:07 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 – 8 – Futrell, Roix, O'Sullivan, Normand, Palmer, White, Green and Pitone and Absent – 1 – Curtatone.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 12, 2017
- June 19, 2017

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the minutes for 6/12 and 6/19/17.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

II. APPROVAL AND RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

The Executive Session minutes for the following years have been reviewed by Attorney Hollender and Attorney Long and have been recommended for release.

- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016

Discussion ensued relative to why minutes had not been released until now and steps will be taken to follow a routine system of review and release, going forward.

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the minutes of the Executive Session meetings of the Somerville School Committee, for 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 and to approve said minutes for public release.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

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

The Finance Subcommittee of the whole met on Monday May 22 to deliberate on the Superintendent's budget presented five days earlier on May 17. In attendance were myself, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Roix, Ms. Palmer, Superintendent Skipper and Finance Director Gordon. There were four members of the public in the audience.

The meeting started at 7:10pm.

At a high level, we discussed visioning work for the future, liaisons, community schools, after school at Argenziano, the summer camp wait list, advocacy for immigrant families, increased access to language programming, interpretation at School Committee meetings and hearings, and bus loops for after school enrichment.

Specifically, of note, the budget presentation of the Superintendent proposed an additional 6.7 FTEs for FY18 (as compared to 13.6 in 15, 9.7 in 16, and 9.8 in 17). The proposed budget also proposed a 4.78% increase in funding of \$3.1M for a total budget amount of \$68,549,180. Of that \$3.1M increase, \$2.1M

was for level service and new positions, \$584k was allocated for program improvements and growth, and \$370k was allocated for Middle School Enrichment and technology.

Ms. Pitone spoke about the need for some specific work in visioning for the future of Somerville Public Schools. The goal is to get community participation in broader discussions about equity (or other important topics brought forward by the community) to allow the district to be more bold in pursuing future initiatives to meet long term goals (especially any that make involve significant change.) Ms. Pitone expressed that this was not something she expected the SPS staff to lead and suggested that there may be value in hiring a consultant to assist here. She also talked about the need to have a deeper discussion on the role of Liaisons in the district, especially in their role of interpreter, translator, unofficial social worker, and generally a traffic cop towards services in the district. Lastly, she spoke about Community School staff and how we might creatively work towards higher retention of part time staff.

We continued the discussion around the continued professionalization of our paraprofessionals, pay for substitute teachers, and career paths within the district.

Ms. Palmer brought the issue of recycling to the fore, asking how we were allocating resources toward the goal of city-wide recycling in our schools. She also asked for an update on the conversation with the city, and specifically with DPW, on how the city was planning to invest here.

She spoke about the after school programming at the Argenziano and how community schools is not currently serving many low income families. We discussed being more intentional about expanding access to lower income families, potentially by altering the admissions process to that it's not simply first come/first served. The Superintendent explained that, at the time of this meeting, there were a portion of low income slots being held at community schools. These slots were eventually filled.

Ms. Normand discussed after school programming and bussing, on how we might ensure equity of access. The Superintendent responded by estimating that \$18-25k would pay for a loop cycle of a bus for after school programming, from 2:45-5:30pm.

Mr. Green discussed Unidos expansion and expansion of language programming more broadly, and about what we could do to support parents who want language programming earlier. He also brought up the issue of advocacy for immigrant families, as was brought forward in the budget hearing.

Ms. Pitone moved and Ms. Normand seconded a motion to approve a budget request of \$68,549,190, with a contingency for an additional \$25,000 approved if the Superintendent recommends supporting bussing for after school enrichment. After this meeting, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent ultimately recommended that we support a bussing program.

The meeting ended at 8:50pm.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities of May 22, 2017.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Rules Management Subcommittee: June 19, 2017 (Mr. Green)

The Rules Management Subcommittee met on June 19, 2017 in the Central Office Conference Room at 8 Bonair Street.

In attendance were: Ms. Palmer, Mr. Roix and Mr. Green

Also present were: Ms. Pitone

The meeting was called to order at: 6:11 p.m.

Public Comment

Conversation centered on the MASC proposed public comment policy and the Cambridge School Committee policy which is nearly identical. No one seems to know precisely why Somerville doesn't allow Public Comment or how long it has been that way, though we seem like an anomaly among school committees in not allowing it. Members of the subcommittee expressed a belief that some level of predictability and regularity in allowing public comment would serve both to allow a new venue for members of the Committee to get feedback, but also allow for a needed release valve for parental frustration Superintendent Skipper shared some experience from Boston where parents would routinely come to complain about individuals, despite that being in violation of the district policy, ethics, and the Open Meeting Law. The other concern from Boston's experience was the ability for Public Comment to

take over the meeting. Members of the subcommittee concurred, and also mentioned the possibility of the same people coming repeatedly to dominate the conversation. Most of the conversation focused on ways to address the concerns. Some of the ideas discussed included:

- Restricting Public Comment to one meeting a month
- Setting a max time per meeting, say 20-30 minutes
- Not allowing the same people to speak in consecutive meetings
- Limiting comments to topics on the meeting agenda

Additionally, there was discussion about the role of the Chair in public comment. There was widespread agreement that the Chair would have to be vigilant and assertive in cutting off comments that singled out individuals in keeping with employees' legal right to be made aware and be available for conversations about them. The idea that the Chair should also read out the policy and rules at the beginning of every public comment period was also addressed. Over the summer the Rules committee chair will work with District staff to draft a policy to present to the Committee at their September meeting

Transgender protections

District Staff was asked to present a potential policy at the September meeting. Additionally, outreach to the SHS GSA will be done asking for testimony.

The meeting was adjourned at: 6:58 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Green made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the report of the Rules Management Subcommittee meeting of June 19, 2017.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: June 21, 2017 (Ms. Normand)
In Attendance: Carrie Normand, Paula O'Sullivan, Lee Palmer.

Also in Attendance: Andre Green, Laura Pitone, Superintendent Mary Skipper, Assistant Superintendent Vince McKay, STA President Jackie Lawrence, SHS Housemaster Sebastian LaGambina, and one audience member.

Ms. Normand called the meeting to order at 6:30.

There were four items on the agenda.

1. SHS Advisory Becoming a Credit Bearing Class

STA President Jackie Lawrence and Housemaster Sebastian LaGambina reported that starting in the 2017-18 school year SHS students will receive pass/fail credit for the required Advisory class. This change was negotiated earlier but not enacted. The change is being made to in recognition of the upcoming changes to Advisory class content, to give students credit for their effort, and to encourage increased student participation and attendance. In the past, attendance could at times be uneven in the none-credit last period of the school day.

2. Next Wave/Full Circle Program Review

Superintendent Mary Skipper presented highlights from the *Program Review of Next Wave/Full Circle School* including the school's moving towards becoming a competency based school, the multiple efforts to unify the school, and as the school evolves from its original design the need to consider ways to rebrand the school to better reflect current practices.

3. Summer School 2017 Update

A brief update on the Summer School 2017 included the status of the 11 SPS summer programs including current enrollments, schedules, and updates. The prediction is that more students will participate in summer programming than in years past and that the Summer School staff will report to the School Committee in the fall.

4. Accelerated Math Opportunities in SPS, Planning Concepts, Current Initiatives

What started at the Healey School as a pilot program with 1-2 students a year independently studying Algebra 1 in Grade 7 and taking Geometry 1 at SHS in Grade 8 has grown into a cohort of ten students. Recognizing that the number of students at the Healey and across the district needing more personalized math opportunities, SPS will implement a hybrid blended learning for

middle grade math during the 2017-18 school year while developing district-wide curriculum to differentiate middle grade math. This development is in part a result of strong math instruction in the early and elementary years.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07.

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to accept the report of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee of June 21, 2017.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities: June 21, 2017 (Mr. Futrell)

On June 21, the Finance & Facilities subcommittee met at 7:17pm. Attending the meeting were myself, Ms. Palmer, Ms. O'Sullivan, Ms. Normand, Mr. Roix, Ms. Pitone, and Mr. Green. Also in attendance were Superintendent Skipper and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Vince McKay.

During this meeting, we discussed the Bill Rolls, Expenditure Report, a budget timeline and process debrief, and Topics for Finance & Facilities for Fall 2017.

When discussing the Bill Rolls, there were questions from the committee on the inclusion specialist at Winter Hill, homeless transportation, mediation programming, printing services, parental access to student work done with Chromebooks, and parent teacher conferences, among other things.

Ms. Palmer moved and Mr. Green seconded a motion to pass the Bill Rolls, which passed unanimously.

The main highlight during our discussion of the Expenditure report was that we've decreased down to 84 students in out of district placements, the lowest in two years. This is a reflection of the district's efforts to provide the right services for our students' needs, reallocation of resources, and significant attempts to keep students and their families in district.

During the debrief of the budget process, we reviewed the timeline of the FY18 budget development process (attached below in the written version of my notes and available upon request). We discussed a need for a clear documentation plan (i.e. which documents should be published and presented at which points in the budget process), the need for a budget book separated by schools that tells the story of staffing and operations, our contractual obligations around when HR changes can be posted, the coordination with the BOA on scheduling a budget presentation. The subcommittee noted that our community outreach earlier in the process was helpful throughout, and especially for the district in validating needs and identifying any gaps. We talked about different ways to aggregate all of the feedback we heard from the community so that every School Committee member was able to see the same inputs. The subcommittee discussed the need for bulleted talking points that would help to tell the story of the budget proposals, and about how we flag programs that were previously grant supported that we may not be funding in the future, or whose programming was absorbed into other existing programs (example, Playworks). Lastly, we talked about bringing Community Schools and SCALE into the process in the same way as the School Improvement Plans.

Lastly, we created a draft list of agenda items for fall Finance and Facility meetings that included how we display information to the subcommittee, the homeless transportation line item, fields and, outdoor space, a weighted student formula, an overview of grant funded programs, visibility into Community Schools, School fundraising, and enrollment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

Attached timeline:

- Timeline
 - Joint BOA/SC meeting
 - (T-18) Jan 10 - F&F: Reviewed budget process, dug into data behind budget, finance subcommittee orientation
 - Feb-Apr - Schools presented to SC (not budget, but relevant), SIP
 - (T-14) Feb 7 - F&F: Level Service budget review
 - (T-11) Feb 28 - SC/PTA Annual Meeting
 - (T-10) Mar 7 - F&F: Review budget requests for principals/administration
 - (T-8) March 19-26 - coffee meetings held by SC members

- Sunday, March 19, 11am-1 pm, Bloc 11, 11 Bow St. with Dan Futrell
- Sunday, March 19 1:30-3:30 pm, Armory Cafe, 91 Highland Ave. with Laura Pitone, Ward 5 School Committee and Mark Niedergang (Ward 5 Alderman)
- Tuesday, March 21, 8-10 am, Armory Café, 91 Highland Ave. with Laura Pitone and Mark Niedergang, Ward 5 Alderman
- Thursday, March 23 6:30-8:30 pm, Mystic Community Center, 530 Mystic Ave. with Andre Green
- Saturday, March 25, 10am-12pm, Diesel Cafe, 257 Elm St. with Paula O'Sullivan
- Saturday, March 25, 9-11am, Community Assembly Room, 50 Middlesex Ave., Assembly Row (Self-Storage Building) with Steve Roix, Lee Erica Palmer ***También se habla español and Matt McLaughlin (Ward 1 Alderman)
- Saturday, March 25, 11-1pm, Angelina's, 230 Holland St. with Carrie Normand
- Sunday, March 26, 10am-12pm, Winter Hill Brewing, 328 Broadway with Andre Green
- (T-7) Mar 29 - Get new budget ideas to F&F Chair
- (T-6) Apr 4 - F&F: Finish budget DRAFT review & discussion, fields update
- (T-2) May 2 - F&F: Presentation of total budget figures (4.78% increase), detailed run through of investments/re-assignments in the district
- (T-1 week) May 11 - City Finance Director budget presentation to SC + BOA
- (T-1 week) May 12 - Documents posted online
- (T) May 17 - Super presents FY18 budget
- (T+1) May 22 - SC deliberations, budget approval
- (T+2) May 31 - not used, tentative deliberation v2
- (T+4) June 12 - BOA presentation

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities of June 21, 2017.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Green assumed the Chair so the Ms. Pitone could present her reports.

E. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: June 27, 2017 (Ms. Pitone)

Attendees: Lee Palmer, Andre Green, Laura Pitone, Paula O'Sullivan, Carrie Normand, Mary Skipper, 3 audience members including Jason Behrens SPS Innovation Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 6:20 pm

Agenda:

- I. Somerville Public School diploma approval - Dillon Regonini
- II. Approval of Field Trip - SHS Cheerleaders to camp in Fitchburg, MA - Overnight 8/8-8/10/17
- III. Long Range Prioritization
- IV. By All Means Equity Discussions
- V. School Committee expectations and practice

Ms. Normand made a motion to approve High School Diploma for Dillon Regonini, per recommendation of Superintendent. Motion seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed.

Mr. Green made motion to approve SHS Cheerleader overnight field trip, and motion seconded by Ms. Palmer. Motion passed.

Community Member Input - Two members of the community spoke in support of SPS expanding the Unidos Program to allow for more students to participate citing the benefits of bilingual education (literacy acquisition, high school completion) and interest in advocating for members of the Spanish speaking community.

By All Means Equity Discussions

Superintendent Skipper provided an overview of the By All Means Consortium that the City and SPS has been participating in since 2016. By All Means is "aimed at developing comprehensive child wellbeing and education systems that help eliminate the link between children's socioeconomic status and achievement." Overall the goals of improving equity and access for our students to address both the achievement and opportunity gap that plagues many students, is directly aligned with the work of SPS

and the SC. Several districts are participating in addition to Somerville, including Salem Ma, Oakland California, and Providence Rhode Island. Superintendent Skipper provided an overview of Somerville focus areas which include access to high quality pre-k programming, out of school time (which includes afterschool and summer programming and partnerships) and integration of the City's health and human service data with the schools' data to better serve families. An additional initiative is under discussion, bringing the city, schools and the community together to define what growing up in Somerville should look like and how to get there. We hope to report out soon how conversations progress on this topic.

Long Range Prioritization

The School Committee last met and brainstormed in May on Long Range Planning and we spent this meeting discussing members' points of view on various topics from the original brainstorming. Members explored and advocated for several topics. The topics highlighted by several members included; Closing the opportunity gap for students, supporting a human capital strategy that provides the highest quality educators possible, and Opportunities for accelerated learners. Next steps include defining the prioritization process including best methods to engage the community.

School Committee expectations and practice - tabled to future meeting

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair for the Long Range Planning meeting of June 27, 2017.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

F. School Committee Meeting for Personnel: June 28, 2017 (Ms. Pitone)

In attendance: Dan Futrell, Andre Green, Carrie Normand, Lee Palmer, Laura Pitone, Mary Skipper (?)

Started: 6:05 PM

The goal for the June 2017 Personnel Meeting was to complete the goals portion of the Superintendent's evaluation to include ratings

Spring 2016, School Committee (SC) adopted the current district goals. The metrics to measure progress towards those goals were developed in Spring 2017. In December 2016, the SC completed a qualitative goal evaluation of the Superintendent and during this June 2017 personnel meeting the SC updated the evaluation to include ratings, except for Goal 3. The original December 2016 narrative compiled points of view of some Cabinet members, school leaders and SC members and the Superintendent on progress to date. Additions to the narrative were added by SC members in June 2017.

The June 2017 ratings were informed by the newly created metrics. Several SC goals imply a longer time horizon than the annual Superintendent evaluation cycle. Goals identified as "longer-term", the rating of "Significant Progress" is considered as positive outcome. Longer-term goals are expected to require more than one evaluation cycle to accomplish, as currently defined.

All members were asked to review the original Dec 2016 evaluation, particularly the section on goals, as well as the PowerPoint document shared on 6/19 and be prepared to discuss an evaluation rating -- which are identified as "Exceed", "Met", "Significant Progress", "Some Progress" or "Did not meet" -- for each goal.

School Committee Goal 1: Increase achievement and access for all students. Reduce all performance gaps by half. Rating - Significant Progress

June 2017 Additional Comments: In the Spring of 2017, SHS was recognized by the College Board for the highest increase in access for Advanced Placement Courses. Ms. Skipper lead the development of the systems to track and evaluate this longer-term goal (5+ years) initiating a significant shift in SPS culture and expectations to be realized over the next several years. 2017 data shows a 2.9% increase in college enrollment between 2015 – 2016.

The SC will consider specific future goals that will identify milestones over time for this longer-term goal.

School Committee 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. Rating - Significant Progress

June 2017 Additional Comments: The SC will consider specific future goals that will identify milestones over time for this longer-term goal.

School Committee Goal 3: Increase engagement with the community to reflect the community in which we live. No rating given

June 2017 Additional Comments: The district is in the early stages of defining the scope of the metrics for this goal and the School Committee has decided to not evaluate progress on Goal 3 for the spring of 2017.

School Committee 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. Rating - Exceed

June 2017 Additional Comments: SPS is one of the founding districts of the MCIEA Consortium (founded in 2016) created to pursue development of performance based task evaluations and other alternatives to current assessments. The MCIEA is innovative in both the scope of the work and the structure including collaboration between union and administration.

Under Ms. Skipper's leadership, SPS is incubating competency based assessments at Next Wave/Full Circle. In addition to also exploring competency based assessments at Somerville High School, the new High School education plan includes the aspiration to explore portfolio based assessments in the future.

School Committee Goal 5: Develop a comprehensive plan for Universal Kindergarten Readiness that supports intellectual, physical, and social/emotional growth from birth to Pre-K. Rating - Met

June 2017 Additional Comments: In the spring of 2017, administration presented and is currently implementing a plan to engage children and families of the 0-3 population. The SC will consider refining this goal beyond plan development for the future, including targets based on metrics created in spring 2017.

School Committee Goal 6: Develop and implement a strategy to recruit, develop, and retain a diverse and talented staff. Rating – Met

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair for the School Committee Meeting for Personnel meeting of June 28, 2017.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Pitone resumed the Chair.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

The Superintendent presented her District Report, and began with recognition of the recent events in Charlottesville, VA and reassured members and the audience that the Somerville Public Schools welcomes all and will continue to be accepting of everyone.

Mrs. Skipper continued with the introduction of Dr. Almudena "Almi" Abeyta, our new Assistant Superintendent.

Dr. Abeyta reported that she started work here in Somerville on July 3, so she currently is in her ninth week. Her time, thus far, has been spent learning our systems and also in conducting meetings with district administrators. She has held 30, individual, hour-long meetings so far. She has asked each person the same five questions and is reviewing the answers. She has had an exciting nine weeks and has found everyone to be welcoming and friendly. She is excited to be in Somerville and to help to improve on what is already a solid foundation.

Mrs. Skipper continued with her report:

The preliminary MCAS data has been shared with district leaders and, though the results are embargoed, Mrs. Skipper is extremely pleased with the results, particularly with the closing of the performance gap. She is very proud of our staff and looks forward to sharing more detailed information in late September when the state releases the data fully.

We're excited about the start of the school year, after another outstanding Summer Experience program. Here are a few highlights from this summer:

- Nearly 1,200 of our students participated in one or more of 15 academic, enrichment, and recreational programs in our schools.
- New offerings this summer included The Calculus Project and a program at the FabLab.

- The SHS summer program increased class offerings from 14 to 25. Students were able to take up to 3 courses (up from 2 the previous summer). Angel Fund Scholarships were available to 40 students.
- Project Adventure worked with middle school students in the elementary SomerSession program, and the Elementary SPELL program introduced the REACH ELL curriculum this year.
- Free summer meals were provided daily, thanks to state grant funds and the great work of our Food & Nutrition Services department.

Earlier this summer, The Boston Foundation awarded Somerville Public Schools a 2-year, \$200,000 grant that allows us to continue development of our Student Insights data tool. Under the guidance of Uri Harel, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator, we have been working with a number of partners including Microsoft New England and Code for America to develop an open-source online student data system that offers near real-time information to help teachers provide timely, individualized interventions and student support. The Boston Foundation's generous award will allow us to expand the system and extend the software to other urban districts in Massachusetts.

We're excited to be introducing several new Out-of-School-Time partnerships this year as we continue to work toward expanding learning and enrichment opportunities for students.

- This summer we introduced The Calculus Project, a summer mathematics program with a school-year afterschool component. The summer program focuses on "pre-teaching" instead of remediation and is designed to launch African-American, Latino, and low-income students on a trajectory toward success in calculus in their senior year of high school. The program will serve students at WHCIS and WSNS.
- Breakthrough Greater Boston offers six years of academically intensive out-of-school time services to highly motivated, traditionally underserved middle and high school students. BTGB was recently awarded a \$500,000 Catalyst Grant from the Wellington Foundation to support their expansion into Somerville. They recruit rising 7th graders that they then work with through their high school graduation.
- Citizen Schools will be introduced at the ESCS. Citizen Schools is an afterschool middle grades program that serves adolescents in low-income communities. The program model allows students to work side by side with experts to explore new fields, learn new skills, and build a foundation for their future through 10-week apprenticeships taught by Citizen Schools teachers.
- We're also entering the second year of a partnership with Enroot, a multi-year out-of-school-time program that offers ELL students at SHS 1-1 mentorship and academic tutoring, internship opportunities, and weekly leadership seminars. 22 SHS students participated in the program last year, and we anticipate doubling that number this year with a second cohort of 20-25.

Back to School Nights begin next week. Check our website Calendar for dates. We look forward to welcoming parents and guardians to our schools.

Quick reminder about the upcoming school schedule:

- First day for students in grades 1-12 is Wednesday, August 30th. It will be half day for all students.
- Thursday, August 31st is a full day for all students in grades 1-12
- Schools are CLOSED on Friday, Sept. 1st. District offices will be open.
- Schools and District offices are CLOSED on Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.
- First day of school for PK and K students is Tuesday, September 5th. It will be a regular school day for ALL students.

Following the Superintendent's Report, discussion ensued re:

- Targeted afterschool programming and how participants are selected
- Potential programming for all students, not just specific populations
- A needs assessment to determine middle grade afterschool programming

Mrs. Skipper responded with specific information on each program and also reported that her administrative fellow from Harvard Graduate School of Education, Jeff Curley, was putting together a report on a survey as well as the possibility of future online registration for Community Schools and would share his report in the near future. We are also looking at yoga and other offerings.

Ms. Palmer thanked the Superintendent for acknowledging the recent events in Charlottesville and commended Mr. Green for speaking at the vigil held at City Hall. Ms. Palmer asked about professional development offerings to prepare staff for classroom discussions around these difficult topics. Mrs. Skipper responded that work is, indeed, being done on a school by school basis on how to hold difficult conversations and that we continue to focus on social emotional well-being and mindfulness. Mr. Green added that teachers are doing hard work as evidenced at today's professional development with Harvard's RIDES program at the East Somerville Community School.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. **FY2017 SCALE/ADP Graduate** – (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:

Genesis Valdez Mendoza 70 Perkins Street, Apt. #102 Somerville, MA 02145

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the SCALE ADP diploma. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. **Somerville High School 2017 Summer School Graduates** – (Recommended Action: Approval)

- Odali Diaz
- Noir Rayjon McGee
- Victoria DaSilva
- Alihya Thornton
- Otoniel Carela Navarro
- Janet Gomez Martinez

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

C. **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
Story & Clarke Baby Grand Piano	Michael Prange and Anne Judge	Shelburne, NH	\$3,500	SPS Music Program
Monetary	Ana Santos	Somerville, MA	\$100	El Sistema
Monetary (Grant)	The Boston Foundation	Boston, MA	\$100,000	SPS Student Insights
Monetary	Julie Engel and the Bender Foundation	Somerville, MA	\$20,000	SFLC
Trumpet	Harrison Greene	Somerville, MA	\$75	El Sistema

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

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Green

As a follow-up to past discussion of the Homework Policy, asked about the task force that was being put together to review the policy. Mrs. Skipper is consulting with Dr. McKay to see where this stands and is planning to expand the committee beyond the previously determined group. Dr. Abeyta will check and provide and update on September 11.

Ms. Palmer

As part of her Wellness Platform, Ms. Palmer is hosting a community meeting at her home on Thursday, September 7, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., to discuss food/recess. Mr. Green will also be in attendance. Ms. Palmer spoke about a recent UMass Medical School survey regarding wellness.

Ms. Palmer also requested that Mr. Green consider adding Wellness to a future Rules Management meeting agenda to review the Wellness Committee makeup and School Committee representation on the

committee. She would like to look at updating policy language and is requesting a report from that committee.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Green extended condolences to the family of Michael Pantaleo, brother of Laurie Foley, Health Careers Teacher at Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Committee minutes of June 12 and June 19, 2017
3. One (1) request for a SCALE diplomas
4. Six (6) requests for Somerville High School diplomas
5. Five (5) donation acceptances
6. One (1) thank you letter for a donation