

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday February 1, 2016 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Ms. Palmer, Alderman White, Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Mr. Green, Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Normand

Members absent: Ms. Pitone and Mayor Curtatone

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carrie Normand called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers at City Hall at 7:05 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Normand asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Palmer, White, Roix, Futrell, Green, Bockelman and Normand and ABSENT – 2 – Curtatone and Pitone.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Mr. Ojo was absent this evening.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Statement of Interest

Ms. Normand announced that we would be taking Item V. A – Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statement of Interest for the Winter Hill Community School, out of order.

Rob King from Capital Projects was in attendance to answer any questions members may have had. At this time, we are seeking consideration regarding the repair/replacement of the roof and windows at the Winter Hill Community Schools. Approval of this Statement of Interest in no way obliges us; this is merely a way of letting the MSBA know that we have an interest in having this project considered. Filing of this paperwork merely adds us to the list of projects up for consideration by the MSBA.

MOTION: Mr. Green made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockleman, as follows:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 1, 2016, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of the City of Somerville, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated Friday, February 12, 2016 for the Winter Hill School located at 115 Sycamore Street, Somerville, MA 02145 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Category 5 - Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility (specifically roof and window replacement for this project) and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Somerville to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

Mrs. Skipper provided her district report as follows:

- Our District central offices have moved across the street to the Edgerly Education building at 8 Bonair Street while some work is completed at the 42 Cross Street building. Once the work at 42 Cross has been completed, the Superintendent's, Curriculum, Student Services, and Communications offices will remain at the Edgerly, and the Finance, Payroll, and Human Resources offices will relocate back to 42 Cross. Additional district curriculum staff members will also be moving to the Edgerly at that time. We will continue to keep you updated on district office changes as they occur. A lot of people have been instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition, but I want to especially acknowledge Pat Durette for her outstanding work in coordinating the move, our Technology Department for ensuring very

minimal technology down time during the transition, DPW for their work in preparing the Edgerly facility, and Capital Projects for their continuing work on 42 Cross Street.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- I'm looking forward to the "Student of the Quarter" awards beginning this week. Here's a schedule of upcoming Student of the Quarter celebrations throughout the District:
 - Thursday, February 4th @ 12:45pm - Next Wave/Full Circle
 - Friday, February 5th @ 8:30am - Healey School
 - Monday, February 8th @ 1:30pm – East Somerville Community School
 - Thursday, February 11th @ 8:45am – Winter Hill Community Innovation School
 - Thursday, February 11th @ 1:30pm - Brown School
 - Friday, February 12th @ 8:30am - Argenziano School
- Parent-Teacher Conferences kick off this week at the Capuano and Kennedy schools. Conferences will continue throughout the month. We look forward to seeing parents and guardians at our schools during these conferences. Here's the schedule:
 - Wednesday, February 3rd, 2:45-4:45pm and 5:30-7:30pm – Capuano
 - Thursday, February 4th, 2:45-4:45pm – Kennedy School
 - Monday, February 8th, 2:45-4:45pm – Winter Hill
 - Tuesday, February 9th, 2:45-4:45pm – Brown School
 - Tuesday, February 9th, 2:45-4:45pm – Next Wave/Full Circle
 - Wednesday, February 10th, 2:45-4:45pm – Somerville High School
 - Thursday, February 11th, 2:45-4:45pm – Argenziano School
 - Tuesday, February 23rd, 2:45-4:45pm – Healey School
 - Wednesday, February 24th, 2:45-4:45pm – WSNS
 - Thursday, February 25th, 2:45-4:45pm – ESCS
- Somerville High School Open Houses and Tours are this Thursday and Friday, February 4th and 5th from 8:15-10:00am and from 12:30-2:15pm each day. We encourage families interested in learning more about the high school to stop in during one of those times. It's a great way to meet some of the students and staff, learn about the curriculum and extracurricular programs offered at the high school, and to get a tour of the facility. No reservations are required. Just stop in at 8:15 or at 12:30 on the 4th or 5th.
- This year's Somerville High School musical production of "*Into the Woods*" will be showing at the SHS Auditorium on Thursday and Friday, February 4th and 5th, at 7:00pm each evening, and on Saturday, February 6th, at 2:00pm. Students have been working on this production of the full-length musical, written by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, since August. Tickets can be purchased online at ticketstage.com. Again, just a reminder that the annual high school musical is a highlight of the school year, and is often a sell-out, so don't delay getting your tickets.
- A reminder that on February 9, we will have a public conversation at Ed Programs about the current State resolution calling for a Moratorium on Standardized testing. This will be an opportunity as part of Ed Programs for the School Committee to have a conversation and to hear various stakeholder opinion on the subject. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9th at the Edgerly Building in the 2nd floor conference room.
- Finally, on February 8th, there will be an event for providers to learn about community concerns about immigration raids in Texas, Georgia and North Carolina. Oscar Chaco, Executive Director of the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities, will lead the event by giving a national overview. Representatives from City Hall, the Somerville Public Schools, Somerville Police and Fire and the community will affirm the message that Somerville is a Sanctuary City where City officials stand by the immigrant community. The meeting will take place from 9:30 – 11:30 in the Alderman's Chambers at City Hall.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2016-2017 School Calendar

Mrs. Skipper highlighted changes made to the calendar being presented this evening that differ from the calendar members reviewed last week. These changes were - removing the early release day in November (there was an extra early release day on the previous version) and designating the 180th day of school as a ½ day for all students. Mrs. Skipper also reported her verification that principals wish to keep Election Day as a no school day due to safety and disruption concerns. Also, the Friday prior to Labor Day is a no school day in accordance with language in the STA, Unit A, Collective Bargaining Agreement.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar, as presented.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policy is being presented this evening for second reading, as amended:

- File: EBC Emergency Plans

The latest version of the policy, dates 2/1/2016 is at members' seats this evening. This version has removed the reference to the opt-out clause under Chapter 71, section 1 of Mass General Law. The School Committee is still entitled to opt out, but reference to the law did not need to be included in the policy. This issue was brought to our attention last week by Alderman White.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve File EBC – Emergency Plans, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B. Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

March 10-12, 2016 Somerville High School DECA to Boston Copley Marriot, *overnight*, to attend state conference/competition. Transportation via school van/public transportation with no cost to students.

June 9, 2016 Healey School students to the Museum of Science, *overnight*. Transportation via MBTA with the cost to students TBD.

MOTION: Mr. Green made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.
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
ISS-Above	Doug Pearce	Somerville, MA	\$125	NW/FC Science Classes
Monetary	Gregory Papp/Christina Rossi	Somerville, MA	\$3,500	Maker Space

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the donation from Mr. Pearce, with gratitude.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the donation from Gregory Papp and Christina Rossi, with extreme gratitude.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Green

1. Thanked the Superintendent for sharing information regarding meetings to discuss immigration and Somerville being a Sanctuary City.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Took a few minutes to speak about Mr. Jack Hamilton, who passed away recently. Mr. Hamilton was the Executive Director and Founder of CAAS where he served for 26 years. Mr. Futrell and Mr. Bockelman serve on the CASS Board, as did Mrs. Cardoso. Jack was a remarkable person and a tremendous leader who led with humor, vision and passion. Mr. Hamilton was instrumental in establishing the Haitian Coalition, Head Start and Respond, just to name a few.

Ms. Palmer

1. Asked if the STEAM Academy discussion was still slotted to take place on 2/9. Mrs. Skipper responded that, since there is already so much on the agenda for 2/9, that she prefers to move the discussion to the Educational Programs meeting in March.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following staff member who recently passed away:

- Mary Williamson, retired paraprofessional from the Somerville Public Schools

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. 2016-2017 Somerville Public Schools Calendar
3. MSBA Statement of Interest for the Winter Hill Community School
4. Two (2) Out of State Field Trips forms
5. Two (2) donation acceptance forms
6. Two (2) letters of condolence
7. Eight (8) donation thank you letters
8. 1 policy for second reading and adoption
9. Open House data for the past several years