

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, June 22, 2015 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Somerville High School Library – 81 Highland Avenue

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Roix, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand, Mr. Futrell, and Ms. Rafal

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone, Alderman White and Ms. Pitone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Library of Somerville High School at 7:03 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 6 – Sweeting, Roix, Rafal, Normand, Bockelman, and Futrell, and ABSENT – 3 – Pitone, White and Curtatone.

Mr. Sweeting announced that this is our last meeting of the school year and also happens to be the meeting where there are a few festivities that take place.

Mr. Sweeting announced that the Mayor and Alderman White are in a budget meeting at City Hall and that Ms. Pitone is traveling.

He also announced that we have a special guest this evening, incoming Superintendent Mary Skipper. Ms. Skipper officially begins on July 6. Ms. Skipper took a seat at the horseshoe next to Mr. Pierantozzi and we started our action-packed agenda!

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Joshua Ojo, provided the following report on happenings around Somerville High School:

- Since this is the last meeting of the year, he has the summer free. Joshua thanked the School Committee and administration for allowing him to serve on the committee
- Class elections were conducted with a record-breaking number of students participating, in part due to elections being held during advisory block instead of just at lunches.
- The Lockdown Drill was a good experience. It made students feel safe, but they already feel protected anyway!
- Planning for the House Cup Challenge for next year is underway and people are getting excited.
- Proud and excited about the All-America City award. Joshua was one of the participants in the Denver competition. There was, however, a question regarding why Ms. Post, the GSA Advisory was represented by another person at the competition and that Ms. Post knew nothing about it, nor was she asked to participate herself.
- The Class of 2016 is in the process of preparing their class gift, a full year ahead. Their gift is a legacy gift of a mural depicting students, both as they are in the present, as well as in the future (career, etc.).

Mr. Sweeting and other members thanked Joshua for his great work this year; his detailed honest, unfiltered and substantive reports, and his ideas and initiatives. Mr. Sweeting also expressed his appreciation to the Music Department for their performances at the festivities for Mr. Pierantozzi and to those students who performed as part of the All-America City competition.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

• **Retiring staff members**

Anthony Ciccariello

Martha McGurl

Jane Cohen

Elizabeth McKenney

Aida Corredor

Edith Medeiros

Stephen Cronin

Lisa Mitrano

Thelma Davis

Maureen O'Connor-Lis

Joyce DeAcetis

Timothy O'Keefe

Thomas Glannon

Eduarda Palhinha

Claire Guy

Donna Perry

Jay Hart

Maryanne Ryan

Pamela Holmes

Maria Sciarappa

Karen Lawrence

Nancy Trane

Carla Lincoln

Denise Walsh

Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi

School Committee members presented citations (copy at end of these minutes) to retiring staff members by school/ward. All members wished the retirees a happy and healthy retirement and thanked them for

their years of service to our students, families and community. Retirees whose names are bolded were in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Superintendent Pierantozzi was honored at the end of the meeting. More information is found later in these minutes.

- **Duhamel Education Initiative grant awardees**

Mr. Siraco gave a history of the Duhamel group and their desire to keep Paul Duhamel's memory alive. Volunteering to help our staff to help our students is one of the main missions of the organization.

In 1996, after the passing of their friend and colleague, Paul Duhamel, who was a clergyman, community activist and member of the School Committee, a champion of the disenfranchised and a kind and gentle man, seven friends founded the DEI in his honor.

The DEI holds three fundraising events: the spring pancake breakfast (which the School Committee helps with), the June DEI Walk to support the Somerville Public Schools and the fall supper, usually in late September, Early October and usually assisted by the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Siraco announced that together we can help our children shine into the future and that investing in our children's education is the wisest investment. For more information, please visit the DEI's website at www.duhameleducationinitiative.org

With Mr. Pierantozzi's assistance, Mr. Siraco made the following presentations and gave a brief overview of what each project entailed and the amount of the grant award:

- ✓ Kim Conley – Healey School – Raising a Reader
- ✓ Roxane Scrima – Kennedy School – Home/School Connection
- ✓ Betsey Reardon – East Somerville – My Dream Bag
- ✓ Meghan Grosskopf – SHS – Improvement Luncheon
- ✓ Alicia Kersten – SHS – Living History Speakers
- ✓ Alicia Kersten – SHS – Local History Club Outfits
- ✓ Michelle Crawford-Cranmore – Healey – Literacy Goes Home

The School Committee recessed at 7:36 p.m. to congratulate and thank the honorees. The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:49 p.m.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 8, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of June 8, 2015. The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: June 10 (Mr. Sweeting)

The School Committee met as a Committee of the Whole for Long Range Planning on June 10, 2015 in the library of Somerville High School. School Committee Steve Roix, Dan Futrell, Christine Rafal, Laura Pitone, Paul Bockelman, Carrie Normand, and Adam Sweeting were in attendance.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi and Assistant Superintendent Vince McKay. There were approximately 15 members of the public in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. There were two items on the agenda:

- 1) The Superintendent's recommendation that the Brown School become a K-5 school effective September 1, 2015
- 2) The potential expansion of Unidos, the district's two-way bilingual program.

The School Committee took no actions or votes.

Brown School: The School Committee reviewed the several letters from Brown School Principal Kathleen Seward outlining educational inequities arising from the crowded conditions at the Brown. This continued discussion that has occurred at several meetings of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee and with the Brown School Council. Superintendent Pierantozzi outlined his reasoning for his recommendation; Assistant Superintendent McKay added additional support for the recommendation.

School Committee members asked numerous questions concerning the timing of the proposed move and where spaces would be available at other elementary schools should the proposal be adopted. Several

members of the School Committee expressed interest in having a longer detailed discussion about space issues in the district, conversations that will most likely take place in the fall of 2016. The Chair opened conversation to members of the audience, many of whom expressed interest in making sure that a decision be reached in time for families to plan should a change be adopted.

The Chair indicated that the School Committee would likely vote on the proposal at its meeting of June 22.

Unidos: This topic had been discussed at length at a previous meeting of the Educational Programs Subcommittee. Members of the School Committee indicated that they had received numerous calls and emails inquiring into the possibility of expanding the Unidos program since there was widespread interest in the program within the Somerville community. The Superintendent outlined the history of applications to the Unidos program, including the number of Spanish-dominant and English-dominant students who had applied in each of the last several years. Superintendent Pierantozzi and Assistant Superintendent McKay indicated that the program could not simply be expanded without complicating the controlled choice plan the district uses to enroll students. They also indicated that staffing an expanded program would be difficult

Adding a third or fourth strand of Unidos at the East Somerville Community School or another facility would require planning for additional classroom space currently allocated for students in other programs.

Discussion ensued for approximately 75 minutes, after which the Chair announced that there would be no expansion of the Unidos for the 2015-2016 year.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of June 10, 2015.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

A. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee: May 19 (Ms. Pitone)

Members present: Christine Rafal (arrived at 8:40 pm), Paul Bockelman, and Laura Pitone

Others present: Adam Sweeting, Carrie Normand, Steve Roix, Dan Futrell, x audience members

SPS Administrators present: Vince McKay, Karyn Novakowski, Lauren Mancini, Sarah Davila, Nomi Davison, Regina Bertholdo, Lisa Kuh

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Farm-to-School Grant/Program:

Karyn Novakowski, the director of Farm-to-School Program provided an update. The current work is funded by the two-year 2013 USDA Planning Grant for farm-to-school in conjunction with Ground Works Somerville. The application for the USDA Implementation Grant has been submitted. The primary goal of the program is to educate mindful eaters, with a focus on the food system. The program hosted several activities in different schools including sensory taste tests, agriculture literacy week, and a pilot 6-week cross-subject (literacy and STEM) farm-to-school curriculum, school garden support and a pilot food education events co-sponsored with the SFLC. The program began capturing data on school garden use and volunteer activity in the gardens. The program does not fund cafeteria food, though our food services director has been collaborating with the Farm-to-School grant activity. There is a long-term goal of 30% of our food served in the cafeteria's being locally sourced (excluding milk which is generally 100% regionally sourced by practice.)

2. Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) presentation:

Sarah Davila and the SFLC team shared updates of SFLC work. Their activities are strongly aligned with the goals set forth by the SC in 2014. SFLC activity is now all housed at the former Cumming School, which is positive for families and in increasing staff collaboration. New signage will match a visitor's visual experience with the welcoming nature of the staff and its work. SFLC efforts have resulted in increased participation in parent-teacher conferences, increased availability of interpreters for meetings and events, and greater promotion of services available for families, particularly summer and early childhood programming in the city. As SPS has increased services to families, the demand for more support has increased. There has been positive feedback on the parent liaison program but this staff still struggles with lack of visible space in buildings and the difficulties maintaining staff in part-positions.

SFLC continues to work to assess the impact of this investment, particularly the impact on student learning.

3. Updates and New Business:

A written update on Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) was received. SPS is doing their homework to compare the characteristics of TSG with the assessments currently being done in SPS and have identified that SPS should investigate observational tools to use through the district. However, if the K grant is funded in the Governor's budget, SPS plans to submit for a waiver of the TSG requirements.

A written report on the Volunteer Program from Jen Capuano, the SPS volunteer coordinator and Sarah Davila, District Administrator of Programs was received.

The Unidos incoming K selection process was discussed, in response to this year's waitlist, which includes both Spanish and English dominant students. The current program model, as updated per the recommendation of the program review two year ago, requires a balance of students from Spanish and English dominant families. Some parents are advocating for an expansion of the program with additional classrooms to meet the perceived demand. SC recommended that this topic be included in a future SC Meeting for Long Range Planning. Several questions were posted to the Assistant Superintendent, including comparative outcome data for ELL students in SEEP and the Unidos Spanish-English language emersion program, attrition data for Unidos in older grades and characterizing the ripple effect throughout the SPS if considering an additional strand of the Unidos program.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 16th at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.

At 9:45 p.m. Ms. Rafal moved to adjourn. Mr. Bockelman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair for the Educational Programs & Instruction Meeting of May 19, 2015.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: June 16 (Ms. Pitone)

This subcommittee report is tabled until our August meeting.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Personnel Report

The Superintendent gave a brief report on the Personnel Report that was included in members' packets this week. His report included the following:

- 24 retirements
- 21 resignations
- 10 Leaves of Absence
- 13 Intra-District transactions
- 1 new hire

The Superintendent commented on remarks from the visiting team given during the recent Coordinated Program Review regarding the stability of our staff. We tend to retain staff longer than is the norm. Discussion ensued regarding the experience level of our staff and if there has been any change over the past few years. The level of experience has increased as a result of the District's quest to hire the best teachers regardless of where they are on the pay scale, rather than following the previously-followed budget driven method. We also have had a number of applicants from a variety of districts where the remuneration has been known to be quite good. This reflects the fact that Somerville is well known as a good place to work, live, etc.

B. District Report

- Mr. Pierantozzi gave a brief update on the mediation with the STEAM Academy. No action was taken and there is still discussion underway relative to any possibility of arbitration. Somerville students continue to "lead the way" in so many endeavors.
- Congratulations to recent SHS graduate Isaiah Lombardo, who was honored by the MA State Track Coaches Association as a recipient of the Frank Kelly Adversity Award. Thank you for your commitment to your team, and for representing your school, our district, and your city with great distinction.
- Congratulations also to Stephka Lubin (Argenziano), Joselyn Torres (Healey), and Ashley Sousa (Kennedy), winners of the Arbor Day Poster Contest. Stephka's poster entry depicting how "Trees Are

Champions in My Community” placed 1st in the competition. Joselyn and Ashley earned Honorable Mention honors.

It’s a time of transition for many of our students, not just graduating seniors. Several schools are hosting “Moving On Ceremonies” in the next few days.

- ESCS – Wednesday, June 24, 1:30pm
- WSNS – Wednesday, June 24, 5:00pm
- Next Wave – Wednesday, June 24, 5:00pm @ the Lions’ Club

Upcoming Calendar Reminders & Calendar Changes:

- Tuesday through Thursday will be FULL DAYS for all students.
- Friday, June 26th will be an Early Release day for PK-8 students, except at the Brown School; it will be a FULL DAY for Brown School students
- Monday, June 29th will be an Early Release Day for all PK-8 students.
- Tuesday, June 30th is a half day for ALL students, and the LAST DAY of SCHOOL.

As we wrap up another year, we offer our sincere congratulations to all of the Somerville High School, Full Circle, and SCALE Class of 2015 graduates. We wish you much success in your future endeavors! Mr. Pierantozzi also thanked Ms. Marques for her assistance to him during the years they have worked together and also the entire Somerville Community for their support and commitment to education.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Educational Challenges and Space Issues at the Brown School: Superintendent's Recommendation

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, that the School Committee approve the Brown School being made a K-5 school beginning in the 2016-2017 school year and that the Superintendent take all necessary steps to notify and inform and assist parents/guardians in finding the appropriate placement for their students.

Discussion ensued among members with all members expressing their support for this proposal. Members spoke about the history, community involvement, logistics and timing of the change and were adamant about this not being a first step to closing the Brown School. Following discussion, the motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 6 – Bockelman, Normand, Sweeting, Rafal, Roix, and Futrell and ABSENT – 3 – Pitone, White and Curtatone.

Mr. Bockelman asked what the plan was to communicate this information to the Brown School Community. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that he has discussed this issue with current principal Seward and incoming principal Maguire. They are working together to get the word out.

B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

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

- File BEDF: Voting Method

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve File BEDF: Voting Method, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2015 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas:

Zebranique leaks-Ngomba	25 Canal Lane, Apt. #2501	Somerville	02145
Edwin Vladimir Portillo Ramos	11 Columbus Ave, Apt. #2	Somerville	02143
Jarred Gil Resmini	1 Dow Street	Somerville	02144

Manual Mendes	30 Wolcott Street	Boston	02121
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MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the SCALE ADP graduates, with special congratulations.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Field Trip (recommended action: approval)

August 28-31, 2015

Somerville High School football and male and female soccer athletes to Cape Cod Sea Coast Camp. Transportation via bus. Cost to students is \$100.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, 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
Monetary	Jane Carey & Molly Van Nice	Somerville, MA	\$200.00	El Sistema
Monetary	Reserve Media	NY, NY	\$160.00	El Sistema
Monetary	Adam Cort & Michelle Liebetreu	Somerville, MA	\$110.00	El Sistema
2 Deck Pizza Oven	Jeremy Papadinis	Salem, NH	\$5000.00	SHS Culinary Arts
Monetary	Somerville Lodge of Masons	Somerville, MA	\$2500.00	SHS Summer School

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

D. Student Accident Insurance - (Recommended Action: Received and placed on file)

The Superintendent advising that the contract for Student Accident Insurance for the 2014-15 school year has been renewed with Moran Insurance Agency, 23 Spruce St., Suite B, Malden, MA 02148 at the following rates:

Plan A – STUDENT INSURANCE

Premium: School Time \$ 7.50
Premium: 24-Hour Coverage \$49.00
Dental: Extended \$10.00

Plan B - ALL-SPORTS, SHOP AND LAB COVERAGE

Premium: Gold Plan \$5,549.00
Catastrophic Cash Benefit \$ 860.00

E. MASC/MASS Joint Conference – November 2015

A reminder to members regarding Early Bird Conference registration discount information for the November conference.

F. Participation in National School Lunch and Breakfast Program

The Superintendent of Schools recommending that the School Committee vote to participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services for the 2015-2016 school year, as in previous years.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services for the 2015-2016 school year, as in previous years.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

G. Acceptance of FY2016 Grant Funds

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools during FY2016 and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal. The motion was approved via voice vote.

H. Authorization for Summer Months – (Recommended Action: Approval)

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to: Authorize the Superintendent to act on the School Committee's behalf to:

- a. Pay bills on school department accounts for which commitments have been made by bid or purchase order before the close of schools, said bills to be ratified by the committee at the first meeting in September.
- b. Expend from FY2016 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel under all federal grants beginning in September.
- c. Expend from the FY16 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel as detailed in the FY16 budget.
- d. Use Salaries Account and School Operations Account funds to pay encumbrances and salaries for summer programs.
- e. Authorize and/or reauthorize school department revolving accounts. To accept all monies received by the School Committee in connection with the conduct of said revolving accounts according to the purposes of the program or programs from which receipts in each account were derived.
- f. Accept all state and federal grant monies awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Early Education and Care and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

I. Requested Item of New Business

Mr. Sweeting asked that an item please be added to a future Rules Management agenda relative to the transportation of our students. Specifically, who is transported and why?

At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, Mr. Sweeting announced that, with the assistance of Mr. Bockelman, the School Committee had a citation and gift to present to the Superintendent at this, his last meeting. Mr. Sweeting read the citation into the minutes of the meeting (included at end of these minutes) and Mr. Bockelman and other members presented Mr. Pierantozzi with a commemorative wooden rocking chair which had been engraved with the City seal. Members shared their thanks, congratulations and best wishes with Mr. Pierantozzi.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

X. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Normand expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relative of a staff member who has recently passed away:

- John Monteiro, father of Maria Medeiros, teacher at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of June 8, 2015 Regular Meeting
3. Citations for retirees
4. June 2015 Personnel Report
5. One policy for second reading and inclusion in Policy Manual
6. One (1) out of state field trip request
7. Five (5) Donation Acceptance Forms
8. Four (4) SCALE ADP graduate approvals
9. Four (4) condolence letters
10. Seven (7) thank you letters for donations
11. Conference information for the November MASC/MASS Conference
12. Four (4) copies of letters sent to state legislators regarding "LOOK" bills

Somerville School Committee Official Citation

This certifies that

Retiree

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted
this Certificate of Award for years of Dedicated Service
to the Students of the Somerville Public Schools.
Presented with special thanks and many warm wishes for
a very happy and healthy retirement!*

Somerville School Committee

Adam Sweeting, Chairperson

Steven Roix

Dan Futrell

Laura Pitone

William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

Carrie Normand, Vice Chairperson

Paul Bockelman

Christine Rafal

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

June 22, 2015

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
School Committee

Tony Pierantozzi

- WHEREAS, Tony Pierantozzi served with distinction as the Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools from 2005 to 2015, and*
- WHEREAS, Under Mr. Pierantozzi's leadership the Somerville Public School System became the top performing urban district in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and*
- WHEREAS, Mr. Pierantozzi consistently promoted the Whole Child by investing in the physical, emotional, psychological, and intellectual health of all students, and*
- WHEREAS, Mr. Pierantozzi skillfully managed the District's finances and budget, particularly during the deep recession of 2008-2010, in ways that enabled the District to continue to invest in key educational programs, and*
- WHEREAS, Mr. Pierantozzi oversaw the final stages of the construction of the Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park, the complete reconstruction of the East Somerville Community School, and the first stages of planning for a new Somerville High School, and*
- WHEREAS, Mr. Pierantozzi worked collaboratively and creatively with community and university partners to support education of Somerville students, and*
- WHEREAS, Mr. Pierantozzi served as a vital liaison linking Somerville Schools to statewide organizations and leaders supporting public education in the Commonwealth, and*
- WHEREAS, Mr. Pierantozzi demonstrated the highest ethical standards and work ethic in his professional performance, earning the trust and respect of the entire community, therefore, be it*
- RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee, publicly and proudly, expresses its deep gratitude for his leadership and vision in guiding our city's schools toward new levels of excellence, creativity, and unending commitment to all students, and wishes him a long, happy, and healthy retirement with his family; and be it further*
- RESOLVED: That this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of a future School Committee meeting and that a framed copy be presented to Mr. Pierantozzi.*

Somerville School Committee

Adam Sweeting, Chairperson
Steven Roix
Dan Futrell
William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President
Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

Carrie Normand, Vice Chairperson
Christine Rafal
Laura Pitone
Paul Bockelman

June 22, 2015