

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, December 19, 2016 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carrie Normand called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers 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, and Normand and Absent – 1 – Curtatone.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Normand announced that, unless there were objections, the next item, a presentation on Early Education, would be taken out of order. We have lots of guests present tonight to present information related to the Early Education Department. The PowerPoint presentation is included at the end of these minutes.

A. Presentations:

- Early Education Department

Announced that we have the Early Education Team with us tonight to talk about the vital work they are doing throughout the District – Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, Parent Information Center, SPED, PEP. Early Education is one of the School Committee's goals and this group does an incredible amount of work to assure that we are successful in meeting this goal.

Dr. Lisa Kuh, Director of Early Education, introduced some of her Steering Committee members who are here tonight:

- Christine Trevisone, Director of Special Education
- Nomi Davidson, Director of SFLC
- Michelle Laskey, Playgroup Coordinator
- Fernanda Villar, Parent Child Home Program
- Amy Bamforth, Parent Support Groups
- Susana Morgan, Director of Communications and Grants
- Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Kuh's presentation included information on the following:

- Key Components of Early Education and Care in Somerville
- Preschool and Kindergarten Enrollment Snapshots
- Outreach, Registration, Screening and Transition to School
- SFLC: Birth-3 and Family Engagement
- Parent Support Groups and Playgroups
- Home Visiting
- Mixed-Delivery Partnerships
- Community Schools Partnership: Out of School Time
- Building a High Quality System: Curriculum and Assessment
- KESI Data: Approaches to Learning and Social Emotional Learning – Room to Grow
- KESI: English Language Arts – Moving Along
- Instructional Coaching
- Environments Ready for Learning
- Workforce Development
- Mental Health, Behavioral Services
- Early Identification: Maternal – Age 3 Services, Alignment with Health and Human Services

Following the presentation, discussion ensued which included the following:

- Smile registration dates and waitlist status
- Free play vs. Universal K Readiness
- Comprehensive Screening

- Work with Early Intervention
- Domestic Violence victims and programming for these students
- Increasing the number of home visits (would cost \$9,000.00 to do 100 visits)
- Curriculum development
- Mental health and behavioral services
- Priorities for budget season
- Outreach to home daycare and other groups

Members expressed their thanks for this critical work and Dr. Kuh assured members that the dialogue will continue.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Presentation to School Committee Chairman Carrie Normand for her service to the School Committee.

Ms. Pitone stepped to the podium and asked Ms. Normand to join her as a plaque was presented to Ms. Normand in appreciation of her service as School Committee Chair for 2016.

Members shared comments about Ms. Normand which included:

- Her no nonsense style
- Passion for every student
- Willing ear
- Genuine, caring spirit

Ms. Normand thanked everyone for their kind words and the plaque commemorating her year as Chair. She also thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their support both financially and philosophically.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Domond was not present this evening.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. December 5, 2016 Regular Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Green made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the minutes of December 5, 2016. The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE

- A. Rules Management Subcommittee: Dec. 5 (Mr. Futrell)

In attendance were: Mr. Roix, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Futrell, Mr. Melillo, Mr. Green, Ms. Normand, Superintendent Skipper, and Asst. Superintendent McKay.

We began the meeting at 6:07

On the agenda were:

- School ceremonies and observances, File IMD
- Service and therapy animals, File IMG
- Student attendance, File JE

On school ceremonies and observances, we discussed how we could adjust our calendar to better reflect the diversity we have in Somerville, ensuring that we acknowledge holidays and consider them in scheduling of important school and district level events. The district provided a few examples from other school districts and after agreeing a new format for our calendar, the district agreed to have the SFLC recommend a list of holidays that will be on the calendar, and then to bring it back to the School Committee for approval.

On service and therapy animals, we reviewed previous amendments to File IMG that were intended to update the current policy so that it reflected the reality in our schools. No additional changes were made to the policy and I'll be presenting this policy for first reading later tonight.

Ms. Palmer motioned and Mr. Roix seconded to forward File IMG to the full school committee, which passed unanimously.

On student attendance, a question from the subcommittee was asked about enforcement of student attendance across the district, and whether our policy was applied equally. Mr. Melillo, our Director of Student Services, attended the subcommittee meeting to help answer our questions. In this discussion we spoke both about execution of a policy from school to school and about intent. I'll try to capture the essence of that discussion here:

As Mr. Melillo explained, a child's absence is an indicator of an issue that the district immediately needs to engage with. That issue will vary depending on a student's age and circumstances. For example, tardiness in 3rd grade or earlier is typically an indicator of a problem with parents, but tardiness in 6th or 7th grade is usually an early warning sign for decisions that a child is making. As such, the primary role for the district is to engage and address the root of the problems through a comprehensive set of services and partnerships we have available in the district.

All that said, there are consequences for tardiness and absenteeism that result. After the school has met with a parent to discuss the tardiness or absenteeism, one of those consequences is detention which in many schools is used as a homework session. We discussed whether detention ought to be punitive or supportive in nature, and in general how we communicate that to parents and students. If it is truly meant to be supportive, does the label 'detention' communicate that to all involved?

Additionally, the Superintendent described the discretion she leaves to her principals, many of whom use detention only after four tardies. She and Mr. Melillo described how different circumstances - whether family scenarios, or whether a school has easy access to public transportation - require a policy that is not overly prescriptive or blanket in nature. As a result, parents may see things done differently in each school that reflect that school's unique culture, status as an innovation school, or a family's unique circumstances.

At the end of the conversation, the district agreed to look at our concerns and come back with recommended changes to the language of this policy.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the report of the Chair of the Rules Management Subcommittee for the meeting of December 5, 2016. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee: Dec. 12 (Mr. Futrell)

In attendance were: Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Futrell and Finance Director Gordon

We began the meeting at: 6:30pm

On the agenda were:

- Expenditure report
- FY 17 Bill Rolls
- Review of Federal Funds in the SPS budget

On the Expenditure Report and FY17 Bill Rolls, we discussed several departments that have spent near or over 100% of their budget line for FY17, which included Physical Education, Special Education, and the West Somerville Neighborhood School. For our expenses in physical education and at the West, we have been accounting for a number of district wide purchases as if they were for a particular program or school, and so those expenses will be adjusted to more accurately reflect the budget line that was intended for them.

Regarding our expenses in Special Education, we are seeing a high percentage in December for two reasons. The first is due to how we encumber, or commit, funds for the year. If we have a service provider that we historically spend \$100k with annually, we budget the next year at the same amount and then encumber that full \$100k at the beginning of the year, representing an artificial increase for that budget line at the outset of the year. Then as the school year progresses, we spend against that encumbrance, or commitment, until the end of the year when we may have funds unspent in that commitment or when we may have overspent the commitment. In either case, funds are moved around within the budget to account for services actually rendered. This process normally happens as an accounting mechanism.

In order to provide more transparency and to improve our forecasting of such funds, Director Gordon is leading a process now with the Special Education department to dig into each vendor at the per-student level to map when services are provided by each vendor. This is expected to result in the district encumbering funds closer to the actual expense of those funds, which will improve our ability to monitor expenses throughout the year.

The second reason that we are seeing a high percentage this month in Special Education is due to a higher number of 45 day placements. As our district continues to focus on removing all roadblocks to learning for each and every one of our students, we are providing additional short term services around mental health, among other things. The district is making this investment within the context of reworking our special education department so that it is both transparent and effective for all families. Further discussion on our special education programs, and how they impact our budget, will take place at a later date.

Ms. Pitone moved and Mr. Green seconded approval of the Bill rolls, which passed unanimously.

On the review of Federal Funds in the SPS budget: I asked Finance Director Gordon and Superintendent Skipper to report back to the subcommittee on how our district would be impacted if President-elect Trump followed through on his campaign promise to withhold federal funds from Sanctuary Cities. The mayor is on record citing 6% of our city's budget comes from federal funds, and doubling down on our commitment to our immigrant community in remaining a Sanctuary City.

The district received approximately \$3.7M of federal funds, which is just under 4% of our total budget of approximately \$98M. Of note, the City of Somerville funds \$65M of that budget and is approved annually by the Board of Aldermen, the remainder includes funds from the commonwealth through Chapter 70 and other sources, the federal government through programs like ESSA, and other public and private grants and independent revenue sources like our food services program.

We asked for an additional level of detail on the \$3.7M of federal funds, down to the budget line, to better understand exactly which programs would be impacted if these funds disappear. Of note, we expect that if any changes were to occur, it wouldn't likely happen until 2018. Additionally, and some of you may have read this in the Globe today, there appears to be legal grounds on which Sanctuary Cities could challenge any budget-based coercion from the incoming administration and our Mayor's strong stand on this issue indicates that we would engage legally to protect our community. Director Gordon will bring additional line-item detail to the January Finance and Facilities Subcommittee.

Lastly, we spoke briefly about the pros and cons of accepting presentations from education-related vendors at subcommittee meetings, and agreed to refer the issue to the Rules Subcommittee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the FY17 bill rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to accept the report of the Chair of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee for the meeting of December 12, 2016. The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee: Dec. 12 (Mr. Roix)

This report was deferred to our next meeting.

D. School Committee Meeting for Personnel: Dec. 14 (Ms. Pitone)

The School Committee met, as a whole, at a meeting for Personnel on December 14, 2016 in the Central Office Conference Room at 8 Bonair Street.

In attendance: Dan Futrell, Andre Green, Carrie Normand, Lee Palmer, Laura Pitone, Mary Skipper, 2 audience members

Started: 6:45 PM

The purpose of this meeting was discuss the Superintendent Evaluation of Mary Skipper. The process was briefly reviewed:

- School Committee met October 26th to confirm the scope of the evaluation and timeline
- SC determined that because goals were adopted in late Spring, an evaluation of progress to goals was not appropriate. As Superintendent has been in position for 1 year 4 months, SC members decided to evaluate State defined Standards and could provide commentary on District Goals.
- Staff, including Cabinet members, principals and other administrators (including the STA president) provides input to share with SC (compiled in three groups.)

- Each SC member complete individual evaluation that would be compiled into a single summative evaluation to be reviewed and approved by the SC in this meeting.

There are four standards defined by the Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE); Instructional Leadership, Management Operations, Family & Community Engagement and Professional Culture. There are four levels of performance ratings, Unsatisfactory, Developing/Needs Improvement, Proficient and Exemplary. These ratings mirror teacher and staff evaluation. For context It is important to note that per DESE, "Proficient practice is understood to be fully satisfactory. This is the rigorous expected level of performance. A rating of Exemplary indicates that practice significantly exceeds Proficient and could serve as a model of practice regionally or statewide. The format of the evaluation included a short narrative, selected quotes from individual evaluation and a bulleted list of examples that demonstrated the standard. A summary of the narrative is shared below.

Instructional Leadership - Superintendent Skipper demonstrates high expectations to truly leave no child behind. She has created new positions and programs, based on student centered data analysis, to meet the needs of all students and works to develop the analytical capabilities of leadership and staff.

Principals in all schools own instructional leadership -- and say they have the time and resources to execute. Though data is important, she consistently expects a student's personal story is part of the data -- to never lose site of the individual child in the analysis. Superintendent Skipper's vast experience in middle school and high school is clear and her knowledge of elementary and pre-K1 is growing. Rated as Exemplary.

Management Operations - Students are at the center of Superintendent Skipper's management. She has expanded her cabinet to better represent all student's needs and established a leadership forum for principals to empower and develop shared responsibility across the district for the success of all students.

Superintendent Skipper has an aggressive pace for action coupled with collaboration that fosters buy in for new initiatives and change. Some concerns were raised about sustainability of rapid growth, the need for long-term planning of staff and systems to support growth as well as a cohesive approach to assessment of new initiatives. An enhanced HR strategy is putting staff quality, growth and retention at the forefront of district priorities. Rated as Proficient.

Family and Community Engagement - Superintendent Skipper leads by example in her responsiveness to parents concerns with words like "warmth and sincerity" found in the staff evaluations.

She is extremely sensitive and effective in her personal interactions with families (leading by example), however as a district we still have work to do to realize her vision of "meeting families where they are" within our schools consistently. Superintendent Skipper effectively balances the concerns of active parent advocates and those who do not have a voice, a testament to her sophisticated listening and communication skills and commitment to all children. Rated as Proficient.

Professional Culture - Superintendent Skipper has built a shared vision and district leadership echoes this vision -- often using her exact phrasing-- a powerful testament to how the vision resonates and the strength and consistency of her communication. Her high expectations for all -- students, staff and herself -- and her positive modeling ("leading by example") were two of the most repeated comments in this evaluation process. Change and improvement will necessitate continued investment in staff growth and development. Superintendent Skipper exudes positivity (grounded in reality) and her work ethic, collaborative spirit and belief that all students can (and will) succeed is infectious. Rated as Exemplary.

A motion was made by Dan Futrell and 2nd by Carrie Normand to accept the Summative Superintendent Evaluation with minor modifications to include a quote regarding Mrs. Skipper hosting community Q&A sessions in multiple languages, a quote acknowledging her collaboration with HR introduce the practice of celebrating the Professional Status achievement for new staff at a SC meeting, and minor formatting changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Goals - Although there was no formal evaluation or rating of the Superintendent's progress toward goals, they were discussed. It was agreed the Superintendent is on the right track to move forward on the goals, but particular progress on Enhancing Social and Emotional Support (goal 2) and Human Resources Strategy (goal 6) goals was acknowledged. Goal one, Closing the Achievement Gap, was discussed as a longer term goal. There are plans to do an evaluation on progress to goals in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 (motion by Dan Futrell, 2nd by Andre Green, passed unanimously).

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to accept the report of the Chair of the Personnel Committee regarding the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools for the meeting of December 14, 2016.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. School Committee Caucus for 2017 Chair and Vice Chair: (Ms. Normand)

Ms. Normand announced that the School Committee had met just prior to this meeting to hold its caucus for 2017 Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Normand was happy to announce that Laura Pitone has been elected Chair and Andre Green has been elected Vice Chair. Congratulations to all!

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

B. Personnel Report

The December Personnel Report was included in members' packets for their information. There were no new retirements to acknowledge.

C. District Report

Mrs. Skipper provided her District Report, as follows:

- Fourteen Somerville Public Schools students from grades 4-6 will be representing Somerville at the 2017 All-State Treble Chorus. The Chorus is an auditioned group of singers from across the Commonwealth. The group will perform in Boston as part of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) All-State Conference, which will be held on March 11, 2017 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. Congratulations to the following students for their selection to this prestigious group, and thank you in advance for representing your schools, the district, and the entire City of Somerville with distinction:
 - Argenziano: Rikita BK, Zach Fellingner, Catherine Kiely-ilich, Theresa Romano, and Condis Vinajero
 - Brown School: Calder Balfour, Alice Gamache, Isabela Membreno-Gomez, Sam Richter, Madeline Zucca
 - Kennedy: Elena Davis, Maya Hanley, Katja Szturma
 - Winter Hill: Rayssa DeOliveira
- It's been a music-filled week in our district, and the sounds of the season continue this week. Thanks to all of you who have been able to join our students and teachers in celebrating their hard work throughout the year at the many concerts in our schools. We have two more concerts on tap this week before the winter break:
 - Tuesday, December 20th, 6:30-7:30pm – Kennedy K-3 Winter Concert for families at the Kennedy School Cafetorium
 - Friday, December 23rd, 9:15-10:45am – Argenziano Winter Concert for families at the Argenziano School Cafetorium
- While we're not quite at the halfway mark of the school year, graduating seniors are already well into preparing for the next phase of their lives, working on their college and FAFSA applications, making final college visits, and pursuing scholarship opportunities. Many students are applying early decision. I'm excited to share some early highlights before we head into the winter break. I'm sure we'll have many more highlights to share as we move into 2017.

Congratulations to Somerville High School Posse Award winners:

- Abike Beke, who will be attending Bucknell University; and
- Dessources Domond, who will be attending Union College.

We also learned this week that Kate Churchill was accepted early decision to Stanford University, our first Stanford student in quite a while! Congratulations to Kate and her family on that outstanding accomplishment.

In addition, thus far we have had Somerville High School students receive early acceptance notices to Princeton, Tufts, Grinnell, Northeastern, and UMass Lowell Engineering program (2 students). We will be learning and sharing more in the coming weeks. Congratulations to our students and our staff for their outstanding work!

- Last week of school in 2016! Just a reminder that Winter Recess begins on Friday, December 23rd, at the close of the school day; it will be a regular day of school for all students. All schools will be closed December 26th through the 30th, and again on Monday, January 2nd. District offices will be closed on Monday, December 26th and on Monday, January 2nd. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3rd.

VII. NEW BUSINESS**B. Dissemination of Resolutions**

Ms. Normand reported that the School Committee has passed many resolutions through the years and, most recently, an important one in support of our immigrant population. Through the process of passing this recent resolution, discussion has ensued relative to how to publicize said resolutions.

Mrs. Skipper reported that the Resolution in support of the immigrant community was translated into the target languages and distributed at the recent school concerts throughout the district. Copies were also sent to each school for distribution/copying, etc. A decision needs to be made to determine exactly how to distribute resolutions going forward.

Mr. Green suggested that resolutions should be shared with our local media outlets, at the very least.

Mr. Futrell suggested that the topic will be an agenda item for Rules Management Committee where it can be discussed more deeply. Mr. Futrell also requested that discussion should take place in Rules about what topics/messages school leaders and School Committee members should/should be out front on.

Ms. Palmer suggested that the resolution include a link to the School Committee's webpage so that community members can learn more about what the School Committee is and does – perhaps a one liner link.

Ms. Normand also suggested that members share the resolutions through the various list serves and networks each member is a member of.

C. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

Mr. Futrell gave background on this policy, which included the need to amend it to reflect the reality of the district's needs relative to the practice of including service and therapy animals in our buildings. We currently have a staff member with a service dog, as well as a therapy dog that visits with certain students. This amendment reflects these practices as well as aligns the policy with state and federal law. If a student has a specific need for a service or therapy animal, this need would be reflected in his/her IEP and, as always, whether the student is on an IEP or not, our goal is to support all of our students in as best we can. Mr. Futrell presented the following policy tonight for first reading, as amended:

- File: IMG – Service and Therapy Animals

D. Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

May 30-June 2, 2017 Healey School grade 7 and 8 students to Washington, DC.
Transportation via bus with a cost of \$400.00 per student.

Jan. 29, 2017 Somerville High School Outdoor Club to Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH to snowshoe. Transportation via school min-bus with a cost of \$49.00 per student.

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

E. 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	Anonymous	Boston, MA	\$1,000.00	El Sistema
Monetary	Howard and Christine Rafal	Somerville, MA	\$ 250.00	SFLC Toy Lending

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

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**Mr. Roix**

Provided a SHS Building Committee update. Tomorrow, at 5:30 p.m., the committee will hold the last meeting of this year. Currently, work is being done relative to the schematic design report which will be submitted to the MSBA. There are over 80 items to be reviewed in order to get to the last part and final hurdle prior to the final design and construction phase.

Ms. Normand

On Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., the Healey School will hold its Sustainability Fair, which focuses on science, social studies and math.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Pitone expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following family of staff member who recently passed away:

- Irina Hyde, wife of Anthony Hyde, former Band Director at Somerville High School.

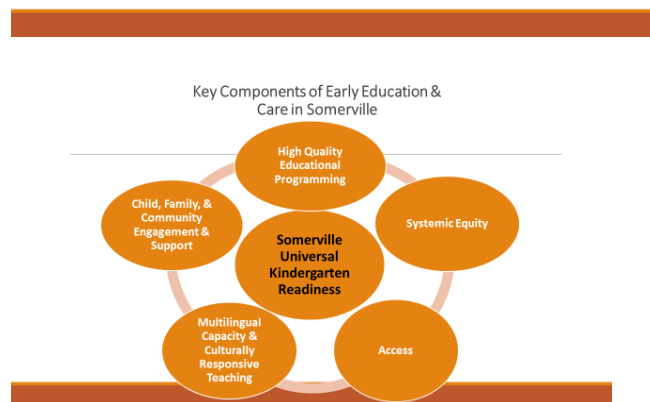
The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of December 5, 2016 for approval
3. December 2016 Personnel Report
4. PowerPoint presentation on Early Education
5. Policy IMG in current and draft form for first reading
6. Two (2) Overnight Field Trip forms for approval
7. Two (2) Donation Acceptance forms

Early Education Department

2016-2017 INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMMING



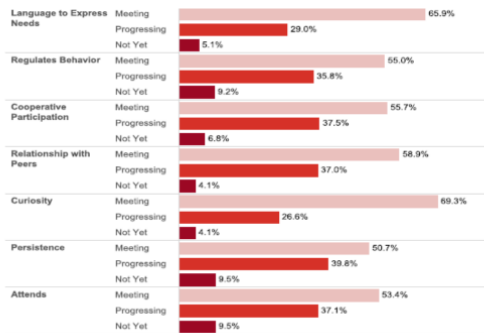
Kindergarten Readiness for All Initiative

- Curriculum Development & Professional Development
- Community Partnerships
- Instructional Coaching

- Key SPS Contributors:
 - Instructional Coach for Early Childhood – Valerie Giltinan
 - School Readiness and Transition Specialist – Nancy Holmes
 - Somerville Family Learning Collaborative
 - Michelle Laskey – Playgroups
 - Fernanda Villar – Parent Child Home Program
 - Early Childhood Advisory Council – Community Stakeholders
 - Early Education Steering Committee – Stewardship

Kindergarten Entry Skills Inventory (KESI)

- Kindergarten Teachers administer during September
- Most children have already been screened using the ESI-K so only DIBELS and KESI for Sept and early Oct.
- One snapshot of readiness skills
- Better aligned with report card
- Teachers will receive new forms during the first week of school
- They should have kits with tools, etc. from last year
- Contact our office if someone needs more materials, tools



Preschool Report Card & Assessment Curriculum Development

- New Preschool Report Card
- New Preschool Assessment Tool
 - Under development and ready October 2016 for formative and summative use
- Preschool Curriculum Development – SPS & Centers
 - Grant-funded team to develop a Somerville preschool curriculum
 - Building Blocks Math, Handwriting Without Tears, Second Step at core
 - Inquiry-based Project Approach, Montessori-inspired fine motor and independence activities
 - Identification of key Balanced Literacy elements – writing centers, Story Telling Story Acting, phonemic awareness

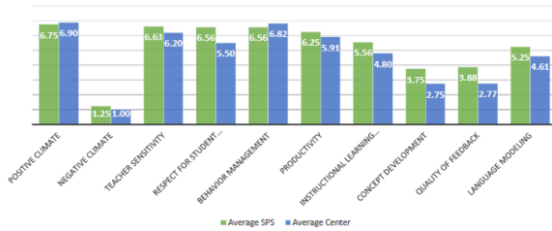
Community Partnerships

- Local Childcare Providers
 - Preschool Expansion Planning Grant (PEG) – Strategic Plan June 2016
 - Poised for expansion should state or federal funding become available.
 - Slots for low income children in our partner centers
- Head Start
 - Healey Head Start (SPS and HS Teachers) – 3rd Year
 - Capuano (HS Teachers only) - NEW
- Community Schools
 - Collaboration with HS to provide an extended day for income eligible families.
 - 7 at Healey & 11 at Capuano
 - Expanded afterschool at Capuano, Healey, and West Somerville (9 fee-based preschoolers)

CLASS – Classroom Assessment Scoring System

Domain	Dimension
Emotional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive Climate Negative Climate Teacher Sensitivity Regard for Student Perspective
Classroom Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavior Management Productivity Instructional Learning Format
Instructional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept Development Quality Feedback Language Modeling

AVERAGE SCORES BY DIMENSION FOR SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRE-K (N=4) AND CENTER-BASED PRE-K (N=5)



Instructional Coaching

- Valerie Giltinan, Instructional Coach for Early Childhood
- 10 week cycles
- SPS and Centers
- Uses the Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation tool (ELLCO)
- Agenda:
 - Teacher goals
 - Writing centers – including fine motor development & early literacy skills
 - Fostering independent learning
 - Child-centered, inquiry-based approach
 - Preparing Environments for Learning





Trauma Sensitive Classrooms



Reducing Clutter and Overstimulation



Accessible Materials and Choice



Importance of Presentation: Guided Discovery



Motor Planning, Working Memory



Excess Furniture



Enough Furniture for an Extra Classroom

