# CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# Monday, November 7, 2016 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Central Office Conference Room - 8 Bonair Street

Members present: Ms. Palmer, Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone (7:12), Ms. Normand, and

Alderman White (7:15)

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 7:01 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 -5 – Palmer, Roix, Futrell, Green, Normand and Absent -3 –White, Curtatone and Pitone.

## II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Dessources Domond, provided a report regarding the fact that some students are upset that their grades have not been kept up-to-date in the Aspen database. He and the other students feel it is important that they know where they stand, especially at the end of a quarter. Dr. McKay will contact Mr. Oteri to ask for this matter to be looked into. School Committee members thanked Dessources for his report and for bringing this matter to their attention.

## REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

#### A. <u>Presentations:</u>

• ELL Update

Ms. Normand reported that, with no objections, the next item of business would be a presentation by the ELL Department – from which many staff members were present this evening.

Dr. McKay introduced Dr. Sarah Davila and her team who provided a PowerPoint presentation (slides at end of these minutes). Dr. Davila's presentation included the following:

- Statistical data relative to enrollment for past three years
- Content gaps over time
- ACCESS Wida Levels and English Proficiency
- MCAS historical data
- Brief stories that highlighted the life of ELL/SEI students
- SHS ELL Pathways
- Partnerships
- Taskforce
- Ways to support the program

Presenters, in addition to Dr. Davila, included Anna Doherty, Anne Herzberg Eden, Nancy Macias-Smith, Sunita Mehrotra, Zach Shufran, Anna Leversee and Ben Clark from Enroot, and two Somerville High School students – Marie Eduarde and Giovanna.

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 17, 2016 Regular Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Green made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to approve the minutes of October 17, 2016. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. October 24, 2016 Regular Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Palmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the minutes of October 24, 2016. The motion was approved via voice vote.

## IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management Subcommittee: Oct. 17 (Mr. Futrell)

Started the meeting at 6:05pm

Attending were subcommittee members Mr. Roix, Ms. Palmer, along with Superintendent Skipper and Assistance Superintendent McKay, Parent Information Director Ms. Bertholdo, and Supervisor of Health & Physical Education Mr. Simolaris.

In the audience were Ms. Normand, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone, and two other audience members.

- Access to policies
  - we first spoke about access to the district policies on the website, and landed on possible solutions to add most requested policy links on the main policy page and to rework the indexes for the policy sections.
  - o Patti and Susanna will come back to a future Rules subcommittee meeting to propose specifics.
- School lottery
  - we then talked about the school lottery.
  - We asked the district to talk through the lottery process to increase understanding for all school committee members. There was no request to change anything but just for an opportunity to ask questions.
  - Ms. Bertholdo described the process as it exists today, explaining the Unidos-only lottery and the school choice lottery. She reported that siblings have preference, including in Unidos, and that proximity to first choice of school is considered.
  - She explained that kindergarten is the biggest lottery.
  - Wellness Policy
    - o lastly, we discussed the existing Wellness Policy (File EFD)
    - o this policy covers a variety of items from food to recess to parent input on wellness
    - we talked through FDA requirements, which our district adheres to, and communication of menu choices to parents.
    - o The director of food and nutrition services will come back to the committee to continue the discussion.
    - we then discussed recess policy across the district
    - o one question answered about the differing length of recess across schools explained that the timing of recess was different based on the makeup of each school. For example, a school with more students and limited space alternates recess to ensure that there is room on playgrounds.
    - the district reported that there is a very small variance in total minutes of recess across the district, and will provide actual figures to the committee.
    - o the district also affirmed that recess is NOT dependent on specific teachers, and that if a parent hears from their child that recess has been skipped, that parent should reach out to the teacher of principal.
- Wellness Advisory Committee
  - A wellness advisory committee exists today, and we talked about ways to increase awareness of these public meetings, and to encourage parent participation.
- The meeting ended at 7:05pm.

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 October 19, 2016.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

# B. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee: Oct. 19 (Mr. Futrell)

Started the meeting at 6:32pm

Attending:

Ms. Pitone arrives at 6:40pm.

- We discussed the expenditure report and the FY17 Bill Rolls.
- We made a couple minor administrative changes to how we report the figures. Specifically:
- We had been including the FY17 and FY17 Adjusted budgets in the expenditure report, which showed an
  artificial difference of \$570k. The adjusted budget is the budget that the School Committee approved and
  is the source of truth for our FY17 budget.
- We also requested to rename the budget lines marked as "SHS" and "SHS Principal" to more accurately reflect that the SHS Principal line reflects district wide administration expenses.
- Regarding the FY17 Bill Rolls, we discussed our support and expenses for professional development for early childhood educators, among other minor items.
- Ms. Pitone moved and Mr. Green seconded approval of the FY17 Bill Rolls, which were approved unanimously.
- We then moved to a Facilities update from Finance Director Gordon and Superintendent Skipper.
- Mr. Gordon explained recent inspections for Radon at the Brown, which found all normal readings except
  for one janitorial closet that children did not have access to and that is rarely used. He is coordinating with
  DPW to address that closet.

• Mr. Stan Coty will attend a future finance meeting to discuss, specifically whether various construction projects will impact air quality and health at schools.

- We discussed improvements at the Edgerly, including creation of a Human Capital central office that will serve as a first point of contact for SPS employees on HR issues.
- Lastly, we discussed improvements at Winter Hill (Finance Director Gordon is at a community meeting regarding these improvements right now) that include a playground upgrade, a U-8 field, and windows/roof updates from MSBA.
- Mr. Green followed up on whether we've been able to post infrastructure improvements to the website. The district hasn't yet posted them but expects to soon.
- We talked through how 311 requests are channeled and prioritized through David Gordon, and we talked through updates at the Healey.
- The meeting concluded at 7:30pm
- I move to accept the report of the Chair of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee for the meeting of October 19, 2016

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 October 19, 2016. The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

# C. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: Oct. 19 (Mr. Roix)

The Educational Programs Subcommittee met in the Central Office Conference Room at 7:30 p.m. on October 19.

Members in attendance were Steve Roix, Laura Pitone, Andre Green;

Also in attendance were Superintendent Mary Skipper, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Vince McKay, School Committee member Lee Palmer, Ward 6 School Committee candidate Paula O'Sullivan, Parent Information Center Director Regina Bertholdo, Early Childhood Director Dr. Lisa Kuh, and 10 other members of the public.

We had a couple of items on the agenda for discussion not necessarily presentations like our September meeting but rather discussion items that had been referred through the full School Committee in response to members responding to parent questions and concerns. There was also an Early Childhood update from the district.

The first item we took up was a discussion on dual language programming. This was in some ways the revisiting of an earlier discussion, one that the committee has had a couple of times in the past couple of years that was driven by the fact that the two-way English/Spanish UNIDOS program at East Somerville has become quite popular and has had waiting lists for students who are from English speaking families, as well as continuing a long-standing waiting list for students from Spanish-speaking families.

We had a good discussion and heard questions and comments from many parents who attended for this particular item, some who are current UNIDOS parents, as well as those who have - currently or in past years children on the waitlist; and at least one who had a younger child not yet enrolled but had interest in the program. Also, we heard from a parent from another school who had a more general concern about specialized programs being present only in certain schools, and in serving a limited number of students so that lotteries needed to be used to determine who was given access - and of the inequality, or perception of inequality, generated by that, both in terms of access for families and she was concerned about additional resources that the district may expend to support particular programs that don't serve every student at every school. We did not take any action on this, nor did we anticipate that we would be in this meeting, but it was an opportunity for the Superintendent and Dr. McKay to hear directly from some of the parents who are pushing for expanded two-way language availability like an expansion of the UNIDOS program or the creation of some other similar programming. I can say we barely touched on the logistical, curricular and staffing/resources planning challenges that we would need to navigate to craft a substantial expansion of UNIDOS or a parallel program at another school, oh I should note that Dr. McKay reminded the committee of the amount of work that has gone into restructuring the UNIDOS program In recent years to make sure the curriculum was aligned and the overall education quality was up to the high standards we hold for all of our district, even though the delivery is slightly different in that it is delivered in Spanish as well as English.

So, to conclude, the Superintendent and Dr. McKay agreed to talk this over internally and brainstorm with the staff a little bit and revisit it with the School Committee in the near to medium future with some ideas, alternatives, and/or recommendations of a long-term philosophy after having heard this discussion and had some time to digest it with their staff.

The next item on our agenda was about homework - and this was again in response to a parent interest and school committee questions on this topic we were able to have a discussion and parents at the meeting gave comments as did of course and the superintendent and Dr. McKay. Essentially there was sort of a broad classification of questions on homework - relating to the district homework policy – although we clarify that this was not the subcommittee that would recommend any changes to the policy, we sort of agreed to start with educational programs – because the questions were as much about implementation of the policy and the general Philosophy of the district on this topic.

To that end in our packets we received a memo to the teachers that have been sent out entitled "homework guidelines" and also a copy of our school committee district homework policy. A number of parents expressed concerns that the local philosophy on homework has not always been consistent from school to school and teacher to teacher; nor necessarily aligned with the Somerville Public Schools Homework Policy and perhaps even the more detailed "guidelines" memo. At least one parent raised the question of recent research that questions the value of homework at all – particularly for younger K through five students.

On the subject of K-5 homework The Superintendent acknowledged that while she thought of assigned independent reading as important and helpful; and certain kinds of thought-provoking assignments could enhance A child's curiosity and love of learning and even give parents an opportunity to feel more engaged with what their children are learning at school-, she acknowledged that some of what has traditionally passed as homework - particularly photo-copied worksheets - is many times accurately dismissed as busywork that has little or no educational value; and in fact can have a negative effect on a child's opinion of school in general. Also acknowledged was inequity that can be exposed by homework, particularly when some parents have the time, communication and literacy skills necessary to adequately assess the homework at home and subsequently either assist their child with it or question the child's teacher about the value of the assignments and in some cases, for younger children, parents have described making the decision for their child as to whether they should even be completing the homework assignments given, whereas many other parents will not likely question the teacher on the efficacy of the assignments.

This lead to a discussion of how the need for differentiation in general was relevant to the homework discussion, when one parent expressed her concern that a her daughter's homework would turn her off to school because she was so bored with it - and this is juxtaposed against another issue acknowledged; that is homework being a source of stress for children who are struggling with a particular topic, particularly in homes where the parents themselves are not always equipped to assist their children themselves, and those parents often are the same who don't have the time or confidence to question the child's teacher, leading to a child who feels defeated and frustrated by homework, the opposite of the educational intent of reinforcing what is being learned in the classroom.

So all this lead to a discussion of differentiated homework, and how the Superintendent would like to look at introducing blended learning opportunities with homework. Both the Superintendent and Dr. McKay urged - to both committee members and the parents present - to bring to them any issues that parents have with inconsistent application of the homework policy and other questions about inappropriate or unhelpful homework assignments, so that they can better address specific concerns in the midst of looking at the overall District strategy and philosophy on homework.

And the discussion is to be continued, the Superintendent indicated that she would discuss ideas internally with the academic leadership team and come back on this - and we thank all the parents for their continued input on this - no action taken, but discussion to be continued.

We had an update from Dr. Lisa Kuh, our Early Childhood Director on a potential partnership with Wildfire Montessori, which is an established Montessori program that has a partnership with the Haverhill public schools I believe - and that our district staff was planning on visiting their school in Haverhill and this was just a preliminary update to the school committee letting us know of this opportunity, which would be looking to target underserved preschool populations in Somerville - as part of our ongoing work towards our goal of developing a birth to Pre-K comprehensive support system for Universal Kindergarten Readiness - so we look forward to hearing more on that.

And the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to accept the report of the Chair of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee for the meeting of October 19, 2016. The motion was approved via voice vote.

# D. <u>School Committee Meeting for Personnel</u>: Oct. 26 (Ms. Pitone)

This report has been deferred to our next meeting.

## V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

## **B.** District Report

## Mrs. Skipper provided her District Report, as follows:

Today was a sad, but joyous day. It began when we laid to rest a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student from the Argenziano who fell ill following a serious asthma attack. We had two weeks of tragedy with him being on life support. Yesterday was his wake and, today, his funeral. 15 of his classmates, accompanied by their parents, attended today's services. Mrs. Skipper is extremely proud of the Argenziano Community for the support and caring they have demonstrated. Approximately 20 faculty members attended the services today as staff members from across the district reported to the AFA to voluntarily cover classes. Dr. McKay and Mr. Harel were at AFA to cover for the administrative team. This was a very special boy to have brought so much joy to so many in his 10 short years. 250-300 people were in attendance today. Please keep his family and his school family in your thoughts and prayers.

The joyous part of the day came this afternoon as our Boys' Soccer Team defeated Everett by a score of 3-1 to advance to the next round of tournament play. Mrs. Skipper is proud of our team who carried themselves in such a positive way. They are good sports, gentlemen and the definition of scholar athletes. Fans were also outstanding. The next game will be on Wednesday. Also, the Football Team has a tournament game on Friday night!

Somerville Early Childhood Literacy Fair - Hundreds of families gathered at the Healey School Gymnasium on Saturday for the 2016 Somerville Early Childhood Literacy Fair. Co-sponsored by the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative and SomerPromise, the annual event has become a community favorite among kids and adults. The event provides families with a chance to learn about and connect with a wide range of community organizations that offer services to families with young children, and it also offers plenty of hands-on creative, literacy-themed activities for children ages 6 years and older. Among the more than 25 organizations on hand at Saturday's event were Mass Audubon, the MUSCRAT Art Bus, the Reading Therapy Dog team, Somerville Libraries, Parts and Crafts, the Beautiful Stuff Project, the Space Park Dome, and many others. Parents had a chance to collect recipes, fun ideas for exercise, and tips for picky eaters. Every child received free book to take home. A sincere thanks to all the organizations and volunteers who made this year's event a great success! Adams Scholarship - Congratulations to the 84 Somerville High School seniors who qualified for the John and Abigail Adams scholarship awards this year, earning them a head start on their college journeys. In order to qualify for the award, students had to score Advanced in one of the three high school state assessment tests, and also score Proficient or Advanced on the remaining two tests. In addition, each students' combined score on all three tests had to rank them in the district's top 25%. Award recipients are eligible for a non-need based tuition waiver to one of 28 participating institutions. Congratulations, Highlander, on a job very well done! On Wednesday, November 16, from 6:30-8:30pm, a discussion on the design of the future park at the former Powder House Community school will be held at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.)

**Hour of Code** - Planning for the annual district-wide Hour of Code event is under way, and you are invited to be part of this experience. Between December 5th and December 11th, every student in the District will have the opportunity to experience the thrill of computing. Hour of Code will give every student in our district the opportunity to learn the basics of computer science. This phenomenal event can only be made possible with the help of community volunteers. It's fun and it's easy -- no coding experience required. We hope you'll join us in providing our students with an opportunity to experience the fun of coding through this world-wide Hour of Code movement. You can sign up to volunteer at <a href="http://somervillehoc2016.weebly.com/yolunteer.html">http://somervillehoc2016.weebly.com/yolunteer.html</a>. Or, visit the Connections Newsletter page on our website to access the Hour of Code volunteer link.

**Middle School Writer's Den Open to Students Throughout the District** - If you love to write and are in grades 5-8, then Middle School Writer's Den is for you. Middle School Writer's Den is a free workshop group for students in grades 5-8 who have a sincere interest in writing, from every school in the district. Writer's Den meets weekly on Monday evenings from 6-8pm at the Healey School, except when schools are closed. Fourth grade students who feel like they're ready for a writing group are invited to stop in and try it. Students should bring a short, completed work for sharing. Questions? Have parents email happening <a href="magazine@yahoo.com">magazine@yahoo.com</a>.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Field Trip** (recommended action: approval)

Nov. 20-22, 2016 Somerville High School CTE students to the Skills USA Fall Leadership Conference overnight in Marlboro, MA. Transportation via bus with no cost to students.

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

**B.** <u>Acceptance of Donation</u> (recommended action: approval)

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

| Donation    | Donor           | City, State          | Value | Program donated to  |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|---------------------|
| Photography | Kathleen Howley | South Burlington, VT | TBD   | SHS Photography Art |
| Equipment   |                 |                      |       | Program             |

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

Mr. Green requested that, for future meetings where PowerPoint presentations will be made, members receive a printout of the presentation before or at the meeting so that they can follow along more easily. Also, asked whether the update demographic slides from the HR presentation were available yet.

# VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

## Ms. Pitone

1. Spoke about her attendance at the recent MASC conference and thanked Mr. Futrell for serving as the voting delegate to the Resolutions Committee. Ms. Palmer asked about the voting and Mr. Futrell responded that all went in accordance with the School Committee's wishes and that he will make a formal presentation at our next Regular meeting.

#### Mr. Roix

- 1. Reminded everyone that tomorrow is Election Day and announced that the East Somerville PTA will be hosting a bake sale during elections.
- 2. Bake Sales are also planned by the Healey Middle Grades group, the Brown School, and by the ??? at the Dante Club. There will also be a Flu shot clinic at the East Somerville during elections.

#### Ms. Normand

1. Reported that she always enjoys the MASC conference. She learns a lot about rural and regional issues and is always happy to come back to Somerville. She also is always pleased to learn how ahead of the curve Somerville is on so many issues - this year, the social-emotional piece.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Pitone expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following families of staff members and student who recently passed away:

- Edith MacDonald, mother of Ed MacDonald, retired Music Teacher from the Somerville Public Schools.
- Olga Aiello, mother of Anna Aiello, Principal Account Clerk in the Food & Nutrition Services Department.
- Jahmai Furtado-Cooper, grade 4 student at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. via voice vote.

# **RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

- 1. Agenda
- 2. Minutes of October 17 and October 24, 2016 for approval
- 3. One (1) Overnight Field Trip form for approval
- 4. One (1) Donation Acceptance form
- 5. Two (2) Condolence letters
- 6. One (1) donation thank you letter
- 7. One (1) thank you letter from a staff member for remembering her family member at a recent meeting

# English Learner Education Report to School Committee

NOVEMBER 7, 2016

# Somerville English Learners Have Many Strengths and Great Potential

48% of all Somerville Public School Students have a home language other than English

960 English Learners in our schools

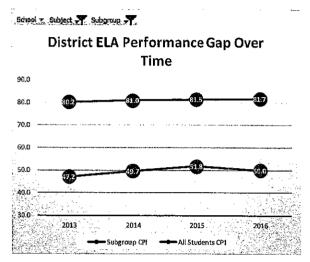
52+ languages are represented, many cultures, many reasons to come to Somerville

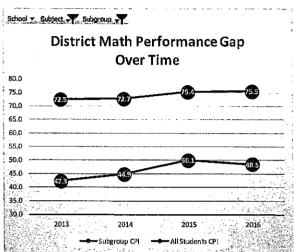
Our English Learners are making Progress Towards English Proficiency as measured on ACCESS SGP (median) 2014 – 2016

| 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|------|------|------|
| 47   | 51   | 63   |

Our Teachers of English Learners have specific knowledge, training, and tools to address English as a Second Language and academic language in the content areas

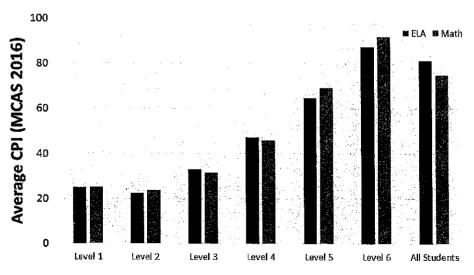
# ELL Content Gaps Over Time





# Gap closes as students gain proficiency in English

# **CPI Increases as English Proficiency Improves**



**ACCESS WIDA Level** 

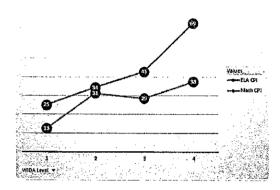
# Gap closes as students gain proficiency in English

# 2016 MCAS Pass Rates by ELL Student WIDA Level (SHS)

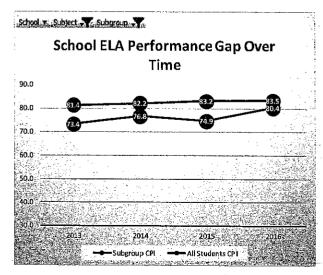
| WIDA<br>LEvel | # of Students<br>(Total n = 40) | ELA  | Math | Both |
|---------------|---------------------------------|------|------|------|
| 1             | 6 (5 for math)                  | 17%  | 0%   | 0%   |
| 2             | 11                              | 27%  | 27%  | 9%   |
| 3             | 10                              | 60%  | 40%  | 30%  |
| 4             | 10                              | 90%  | 80%  | 70%  |
| 5             | 3                               | 100% | 100% | 100% |

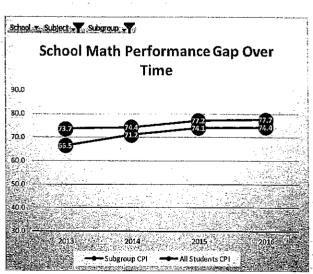
# 2016 ELA and Math CPI by WIDA Level (SHS)





# Gap closes when EL students are reclassified as "Former" EL





# Each ELL student has a unique story

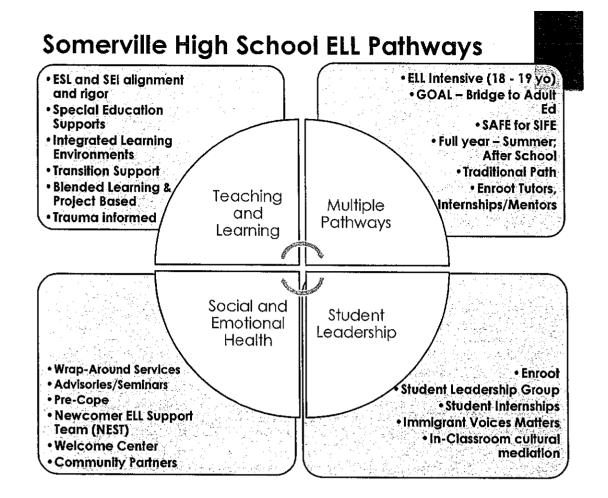
## Portrait of "Luis"

- ▶ Born in El Salvador, Luis is now 17 years old. Luis arrived in Somerville in 2014 to reunite with his family including his grandmother, mother, step-father, brother who is now in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and sister who is in first grade. Luis' sister was born in Cambridge and he first met her and his step-father two years ago.
- ▶ Luis' trip to the United States was treacherous. He traveled alone and after he was stopped at the border, Luis spent one month in an immigrant detention center in Texas.
- ▶ Luis takes a full load of classes at Somerville High School that are designed to teach him English and Content and to fill academic "gaps". He takes ESL (level A1), ESL Literacy Class, Algebra 1 and a Math support class taught in Spanish, pre-Biology, and electives.

# Each student has a unique story

# Portrait of "Luis"

- ▶ Luis' sister is in "SEI Integrated" class where she gets daily support in ESL. In September, Her family received a Welcome Phone Call from the School Liaison. Luis' brother has transitioned from SEI and ESL Supports and is fully mainstreamed, although his progress will be monitored carefully.
- ▶ Luis' mother and step-father participate in SFLC English Class in the evenings. Although they both work, they attend Parent-Teacher conferences and informational workshops as often as they can. The SFLC Liaison asked Luis' mother if she would like to become a "Parent Leader" to outreach to other parents and assist in English Class.
- ▶ Luis works part-time helping his step-father with small construction jobs. His friend, Arturo, is encouraging Luis to take a full-time job working nights in a restaurant in Union Square. Luis knows that the schedule will be tough and will interfere with his school work, but he knows that his family has made many sacrifices for him and he wants to contribute as much as he can.



# School, City, and Community Partnerships

# 2017 Initiatives: ELL Academic Success and the Whole Child

- ▶ SHS Pathways to Graduation
  - GOAL Program
- ELL Intensive
- SAFE for SIFE
- Traditional Pathway

- ► Enroot
- "Well-come" Grade One Family Engagement Demo Project

# School, City, and Community Partnerships to address the needs of English Learners

#### Resources 2016-17

- ELL Pathways Teacher (SHS)
- Language and Leadership Liaison (SFLC)
- Boston University Consortium Grant
- FLNE DESE America's Promise Grant
- ▶ Title III

# **Partners and Potential Partners**

- Boston Mobilization
- Bunker Hill Community College
- Cambridge Health Alliance

- ▶ Enroot
- Harvard Square Business Association
- Home for Little Wanderers
- ▶ Parenting Journey
- ▶ Parkour Generations Americas
- Riverside Community Care
- ▶ SCALE
- Somerpromise
- Somerville Chamber of Commerce
- SomerViva
- ▶ Tufts University
- ▶ Welcome Project
- Youth Harbors

# ELL Taskforce

- ► How do we ensure that our HS ELLs stay in school with barriers to learning removed?
- ► How do we ensure that our youngest ELLs enter school with barriers to learning removed?
- ► How can we engage the city, community, and employers in helping to remove barriers?

# How can the Community Support English Learners?

- ▶ Volunteer! Tutors are needed for ESL and Content
- ▶ Provide Internship Opportunities in collaboration with Enroot
- ► Advocate with employers to provide safe and supportive working environments for our students and families
- ▶ Donate winter clothing, prom dresses, other needed items
- ► Contribute to a safe and welcoming community climate. Ask a student about her experiences, hopes and dreams.
- ▶ Join the ELL Task Force
- ► Safe, affordable, after school options for help with school work, arts/music, and physical activities
- ► Creative credit options and/or local, safe, interesting paid work
- Additional funds for academic, social and emotional, and wraparound programs



- ▶ We believe that with barriers removed, all EL students will be successful to accomplish their goals!
- ➤ Contact: Sarah Davila 617-629-5478 sdavila@k12.Somerville.ma.us