

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, January 13, 2014 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

Members present: Curtatone, Roix, White, Normand, Futrell, Bockelman, Pitone (7:07), Sweeting, and Rafal.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8– Curtatone, Roix, White, Normand, Futrell, and Bockelman and ABSENT – 1 - Pitone.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Marcelo Brociner, presented the following report/information regarding happenings at Somerville High School:

- Welcomed new members and reported that he is looking forward to working with them.
- Reported that last weekend was a very exciting one for our sports teams. On Friday, the girls basketball team defeated Malden 56-31, and the boys basketball team lost in double overtime at what was a very exciting game. We also had 11 members of our track team participate in the Dartmouth relays. This was a fun time and quite successful with a couple of personal records set!
- The Student Council Lunch Questionnaire is now ongoing and more specifics about students' opinions on food offerings, etc. are being sought. At the next meeting, the results will be discussed.
- The Trivia Team competes against Nantucket High School on January 25 at WGBH. There is a live audience and topics range anywhere from geology to geography and more. Somerville High has a five person team.
- The Spanish National Honor Society is collecting donations for a town in El Salvador (Teosinte) with the goal of providing medical supplies to the town through funds collected.
- Now that it's January, midterm time is approaching. Students are working hard to get grades as high as possible prior to exams just in case the worst happens with the exams!

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 16, 2013

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the minutes of December 16, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote

Ms. Pitone arrived at 7:07 p.m.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

- The Superintendent, in follow-up to Marcelo's report about the exciting sports weekend for Somerville High School, announced that Marcello was one of the top five finishers in the 1000 meter race and the number one runner in the 1000 meters in New England – congratulations!
- Kindergarten Registration and Open Houses for the 2014-2015 school year begin later this month. Open Houses at all elementary schools are from 8:30am-1:30pm on January 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. Registration kicks off Saturday, January 25th, 10am to 2pm at the Parent Information Center. Please check the SPS Kindergarten website (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/kindergarten) for information in the 4 target languages.

Mr. Sweeting asked that the Superintendent explain the Kindergarten registration process to those who may not be aware of how registration and assignments are done.

Mr. Pierantozzi provided an overview of the process.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report on curriculum-related issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- The Mid-January push is on. Many teachers love this stretch of long, uninterrupted instructional time which gives them the opportunity to really focus on long-term projects, provided the weather cooperates! There are two weeks until the end of the grading period. We encourage students to make the most of this opportunity. Mid-Terms at Somerville High School are January 23, 24 and 27.

- Educational Programs Subcommittee meeting is tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street. We will be providing you with information relative to the School Improvement Plan presentations which begin next week:
January 21 Brown, West Somerville, and Kennedy at the Kennedy
January 23 Argenziano and Somerville High School at Somerville High

This is an opportunity for school leaders (parents, teachers, administrators, and students) to present their plans. The process has included much planning and strategic thinking about how to improve their schools. School Improvement teams approach this task with great thought and care, using current data to guide their planning. They are looking forward to their presentations.

The following week's presentations are:

January 28 Next Wave/Full Circle, Capuano and East Somerville at East Somerville

January 30 Winter Hill and Healey at Healey

All presentations begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Superintendent continued his District Report

- The Somerville Public Schools Food & Nutrition Services Department continues to set the standard in healthy nutrition. SPS added a fresh salad bar option for students in grades 5-8 at the Kennedy School in December and at the new ESCS earlier this month. All K-8 schools throughout the District now offer fresh salad bars as a lunch option.
We extend the offer of the salad bar to students in lower grades as the staff's and students' comfort levels are reached. Also, all students have access to premade salads every day.
There are stringent nutritional standards by government that limit the amounts of food students can be given; however, there is no limit to salad bar!

Alderman White asked about the salad dressings? Do we know how many calories are in the salad dressings, the sugar content, whether they contain high fructose corn syrup, etc? Mr. Pierantozzi will get this information and communicate it to the School Committee.

- The City-Wide Beginners' Instrumental Concert will be held this Thursday, January 16th, 6:30pm at the SHS Field House
- Tickets for this year's SHS High School Musical, *Annie*, are now on sale. The musical production will be held at the Somerville Theater on February 6th, 7th and 8th. Visit SHS website and click on the SHS Musical link on the left-side menu for details.
- The Kennedy Winter Concert is Thursday, January 30th, 6pm at the Kennedy Cafeteria—great chance to see the beautiful new stage curtain!

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Finance Director, for her report on budget and financial matters. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Work has begun on the FY15 budget and she has sent sheets to principals and administrators for planning for next year. She has asked principals and administrators to budget using level service scenarios and list additional funding to maintain current service and new program initiative requests with backup information.
She has also requested that they provide information regarding any program improvements that are/may be needed.
One area where she foresees an increase in budgeting is pupil transportation as the current three-year contract ends August 31st. Bids will be going out for a new contract fairly soon.
- Grants – We have submitted approximately 15 cluster grant applications to Boston University through their School of Education Consortium. Amounts range from \$215-\$1600 for a broad range of activities.
Today an application was submitted for a federal grant to promote adolescent health in the amount of \$1500.
We have been awarded \$50,000.00 for competitive academic support for student success for a 3rd year and will be used for planning and summer orientation for high school students.
- Final item – In December, we submitted our quarterly reporting regarding ARRA (federal stimulus) details on spending. The last ARRA grant is the Race to The Top Grant which ends in September 2014.

Mr. Sweeting thanked Ms. Durette for her report and asked what the parameters are that principals have when advocating for programming?

Ms. Durette responded that we encourage submissions and prioritize those that link with school improvement plans and ask that principals document strategic goals with their school councils. All are encouraged to make requests within these parameters.

Discussion ensued regarding the bidding process for student transportation, including specifications, length of contract, possible parent/guardian input, legal obligations, etc.

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that there are three real levels of standards that bid documents must comply with: state guidelines, federal guidelines, and industry standards. The Somerville Public Schools is a member of the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) and they also provide sample standards and contracts which we also follow. The bottom line is that we must comply with City and charter and all other business requirements.

Disqualifying a low bidder is an extensive legal process – contentious and unsuccessful

If the bidder provides ways to improve in their bid, that is acceptable

Alderman White asked if we have a termination for convenience provision in our contracts. Mayor Curtatone responded that the majority of the school and city contracts have such a clause because they all go through the Purchasing Department of the City of Somerville and this is a standard clause for the City.

The Superintendent continued his District Report

- Wednesday, January 15th is a Half Day Wednesday
- Monday, January 20th – All SPS schools and offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DRAFT 2014-2015 School Calendar

The Superintendent reported that this item was reviewed at our last meeting in December, but the decision was made that it should be brought back now so that the new members could make the decision. He reminded members that the calendar is a mandatory subject of collective bargaining with the Somerville Teachers and Somerville Administrators Associations.

Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to have school on Election Day. Issues include safety and security, accessibility, logistical issues, etc. The calendar was tabled until our next meeting to give members time to take all issues into consideration prior to voting and also to allow time to seek input from the STA and SAA.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

1. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$150.00, from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.
2. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$100.00 from Lee Bollacker of Denver, CO, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.
3. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$500.00 from David and Renee Scott of Somerville, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.
4. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$100.00 from Janine Fay of Somerville, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.
5. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$200.00 from Jennifer Bullard of Somerville, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.
6. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a 4/4 violin, valued at \$100.00 and a 1/4 violin, valued at \$50, from Dana Guthrie of Somerville, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.
7. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$250.00 from Annie Silverman of Somerville, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.
8. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$30.00 from Mary Jane Gruninger of Boston, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

9. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a \$500.00 grant from the Active Schools Acceleration Project, to the Healey School.
10. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of a \$5,000.00 grant from Gosder Cherilus, a Somerville High School graduate and player for the Indianapolis Colts, to the Somerville Public Schools to be used in their football program.
11. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of a matching \$5,000.00 grant from the National Football League as part of their Player Matching Grant Program (see donation above).

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Alderman White, to accept the donations, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Pierantozzi recently met with the Music Supervisor and El Sistema Director; funds donated are put into a revolving account for use by the El Sistema Program. Donated instruments are used by the Music Program and El Sistema. For instance, students may use the donated instruments for music lessons both during the day and over the summer at our String Camp and then these same instruments may be used by students in El Sistema for practices and performances outside of the regular school day.

B. Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

Jan. 18, 2014

Somerville High School Indoor Track Team to Providence Technical High School, Providence, RI for East Coast Track Invitational. Transportation via mini-bus at no cost to students.

Feb. 9, 2014

Somerville High School Outdoors Club to Mt. Sunapee, NH for skiing and snowboarding. Transportation via mini-buses. Cost to students is between \$45-\$72, depending on chosen activity.

March 14-16, 2014

Somerville High School Indoor Track Team to New York, NY to compete in the National Scholastic Championship Meet. Transportation via mini-bus at no cost to students.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Alderman White, to accept the donations, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

White

1. Recently, Attorney General Holder and Education Secretary Duncan announced new information regarding zero tolerance and the potential abuse of zero tolerance and its impact as well as severe discipline that may not be warranted. Alderman White asked if the Superintendent will be reviewing and analyzing these guidelines. The Superintendent responded that Massachusetts does not have a zero tolerance policy and that he and the Director of Student Services have reviewed the guidelines and explained the process of hearings, appeal rights, etc. He also reported that with the new State law going into effect on July 1, 2014, no student may be expelled. In preparation for this new law, Somerville has already started a supervised online learning program to determine whether it is a viable alternative for students who cannot attend school for a variety of reasons, including safety. Alderman White thanked the Superintendent for thanked the SOS

Bockelman

1. Welcomed the new members and chair.
2. The Ed Programs Subcommittee will meet tomorrow night and there is a long agenda but not a particularly heavy one. It is a good first agenda to discuss the coming year. The agenda includes a presentation by the CVTE Program, an overview of Ed Programs activities, and multiple program updates.
3. There are upcoming open houses and lots of information nights and Mr. Bockelman expressed the wish to get a consolidated list to share. He knows that Healey, Unidos, Brown, and others have events over the next couple of weeks.
4. Thursday winter hill fashion show to see models

Sweeting

1. Everything is Thursday night—the Fashion show—this is something that is really interesting and part of their innovation plan to get students thinking about attire, and bring whole community along. Mr. Mazza exudes excitement about this project!
2. Regarding the School Improvement Plan presentations, Mr. Sweeting encourages attendance. These are great opportunities to hear what's happening in the schools. Listen and learn!

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Sweeting expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Jennifer Cabral, daughter of Virginia Roche, secretary at Next Wave/Full Circle.
- William E. Hoffman, father of Karen Woods, Science Department Head at Somerville High School.
- Mary Willey, mother of Buddy Willey, retired Supervisor of Attendance, and David Willey, retired Principal from Next Wave/Full Circle and mother-in-law of Betsey Holland, retired Assistant Principal from the Argenziano School.
- Dolores DeVellis, former teacher at SCALE.
- Kayla Cummings, daughter of Jane Cummings, housemaster at Somerville High School.
- Reverend Rufus Mosby, father of Beverly Mosby, music teacher at Somerville a High School.
- Albert Leach, brother of Julie Sahlas, teacher at the Winter Hill Community School.
- Debra Splaine, sister of Denise O'Donnell, and aunt of Dan O'Donnell, both paraprofessionals at the Kennedy School.
- Alexander Foster, brother Diana Foster, teacher at the Capuano Early Childhood Center and Megan Foster Costa, former Ward 5 School Committee Representative.
- Helen Griffin, mother of Kathy Ambrogio, retired Reading Teacher from the Somerville Public Schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. by voice vote

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of December 16, 2013 for approval
3. The Draft 2014-15 School Calendar
4. 11 donation acceptance letters
5. Three (3) Out of State Field Trip forms
6. One (1) Condolence Letter
7. Seven (7) thank you notes

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, January 27, 2014 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

Members present: Curtatone (7:56), Roix, White, Normand, Futrell, Bockelman, Pitone, Sweeting, and Rafal.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rossetti asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8– Roix, White, Normand, Futrell, Pitone and Bockelman and ABSENT – 1 - Curtatone.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Ms. Nicole Viele, Athletic Director – Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association District B Athletic Director of the Year

Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rafal, both parents of varsity athletes, presented a citation to Ms. Viele for all of her great work as Athletic Director and commended her for being selected Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association District B Athletic Director of the Year and praised her fostering of camaraderie, team spirit, and sportsmanship as well as her tremendous leadership.

Ms. Viele thanked the School Committee for recognizing her and stated that it was an honor to serve as Athletic Director in Somerville and to be recognized by the School Committee and administration.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Marcelo Brociner, presented the following report/information regarding happenings at Somerville High School:

- Issued congratulations to Nicole Viele and commended her on her excellent work as Athletic Director
- Midterm exams have started and this means a slowing of pace for students as they review for midterms. Students use many types of preparing and it is nice getting out early for 3 days.
- Many clubs have postponed meetings until after exams are finished and will resume this week
- Along with sports, the trivia team has been working hard to prepare for their competition at WGBH!

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 13, 2014

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of January 13, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting: Jan. 9 (Mr. Sweeting)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone

Also in attendance: Ms. Normand, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Roix, Ms. Durette and Mr. Pierantozzi. Also Dorothy Scally was in the audience.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. and adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

1. FY14 Expenditure report
2. FY14 Bill Roll
3. Other

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the FY14 bill rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the Chair of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of January 9, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote

Mr. Sweeting assumed the Chair so that Ms. Rafal could report on the training by the MASC.

B. School Committee Finance Training by the MASC: Jan. 9 (Ms. Rafal)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Ms. Rafal, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Normand, Mr. Roix, and Mr. Bockelman.

Also in attendance: Ms. Durette, Mr. Pierantozzi and Mr. Hardy (MASC Presenter)

1. Training session by the Mass Association of School Committees
2. Field Trip approval – Selected and qualifying members of the Somerville High School Track Team to Dartmouth, NH to compete in the Dartmouth Relays on January 10 & 11, 2014. Transportation via school mini buses. Cost to students is equal to the cost of dinner for one night.

School Committee Workshop on School Finance

Meeting was held on January 19, 2014 in the Central Office Conference Room at 42 Cross Street
The meeting started at 7:08 pm.

Presenter from MASC, Jim Hardy. We had asked MASC to provide some of their training starting last year, but we didn't continue after we realized there would probably be a lot of new members for 2014. So this represented us resuming

Described basics of how school finance works in Massachusetts. He spent most of his time talking about state aid to cities and towns in order to try to provide ADEQUATE and EQUITABLE funding for education no matter where in the state a pupil lives. The basic formulae for state aid for education that we currently use was adopted in the Ed Reform of 1993.

Mr. Hardy said the Excel spreadsheets used to calculate each municipality's aid are available online, and the formulae are pretty long. In a nutshell, the state determines how much it should cost a municipality to educate the number of students they have. Then that amount is incremented a certain amount for certain additional needs students might have, like how many are learning English, how many come from low-income families, how many have IEPs. Then this is totaled up and the amount is called the "foundation" budget. Because of taking into account students' additional needs, different towns can have very different foundation budgets.

So Mr. Hardy found a town with the exact same enrollment as Somerville in FY 2013 (and only 6 more students in FY 2014). That town was Needham. But Somerville's foundation budget is calculated at about twelve million dollars more than Needham's.

Next the state has formulae that take into account, based on property values and residents' incomes, how much the local government should be able to contribute toward that foundation budget. The state figures Somerville could afford to contribute 83% of our foundation budget. And so they offer the remainder in various kinds of state aid.

Only about a quarter of the urban districts actually manage to meet their required local funding level. Somerville is one that meets and even exceeds to some degree, the required local funding. Mr. Hardy did say that while the local government gives the School Committee a bottom line amount, they cannot tell us that they are funding this or that line item. School budget development and line item control belongs to the School Committee.

Since this system was developed in 1993, there have been some developments and adjustments.

Mr. Hardy also touched briefly on outside sources and federal grants and such.

AFTER Mr. Hardy's presentation, the School Committee addressed two pieces of business.

We approved a field trip for the winter track teams to the Dartmouth Relays (motion by Paul Bockelman, second by Carrie Normand).

We approved a motion authorizing the Superintendent to send a letter on our behalf regarding the governor's proposed FY 2015 budget and its potential impact regarding family homelessness, child health and education. (motion by Carrie Normand, second by Adam Sweeting.)

Laura Pitone moved to adjourn, seconded by Adam Sweeting.

Adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

The following motion was approved at this meeting:

MOTION: To approve the field trip to Dartmouth, NH.

MOTION: To accept the report of the Chair of the School Committee Finance Training by the MASC meeting of January 9, 2014.

C. *Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting:* Jan. 14 (Mr. Bockelman)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand, Ms. Pitone

Also in attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Dr. McKay, Mr. Pierantozzi and 23 audience members.

1. CVTE Advisory and Program Development
2. General overview of the Ed. Programs Subcommittee and future planning
3. Updates:
 - a. State accountability process: Coordinated Program Review
 - b. PARCC/MCAS
 - c. Somerville High School Guidance/College Readiness Study Progress Report
 - d. Preview of School Improvement Plan presentations
 - e. Curriculum
 - f. Somerville Public Schools Volunteer Program
4. Other

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The first presentation was on recent developments at the Center for Vocational and Technical Education led by Director Leo DeSimone. Leo was aided by staff members and advisory committee members and headmaster John Oteri. The overview included identifying several priority needs of the CVTE program. These include

- a new alignment rack and machine in the automotive department at a cost of about \$50,000;
- a new point-of-sale system for culinary arts estimated to cost \$25,000;
- a new cold saw and press brake safety light curtain for metal fabrication and machine technology valued at \$25,000;
- The director also requested funding to hire 10-20 high school students and two supervising instructors to paint and do other cosmetic work throughout the department at an estimated budget of \$50-100,000.

Next we went through numerous updates from Dr. McKay:

- It is our turn to have the state come in to do what is called a Coordinated Program Review. We start this process by conducting a self-assessment during January to May of this year. This will focus on special education, civil rights, English language learners, and career and technical education. This self-assessment requires loads of data and a critical self-evaluation of all of our facilities, programs, and staffing. We were told that we will submit the information in the summer and the schedule for when the visiting team will come in during the 2014-2015 school year.
- PARCC/MCAS: Vince reviewed the implementation of the trial administration of PARCC, which is the replacement test for MCAS.
- High School Guidance: Vince then gave us an update of the study being conducted by EDC of the High School guidance department and college and career readiness practices. The report, which is not yet completed, will focus on three main areas: academic services and supports, workplace readiness, and personal and social development as well as the supports the high school provides to families as students work toward their desired post-secondary opportunities. The report will be presented to the School Committee in March.
- School Improvement Plan presentations: The Superintendent shared the guidelines that were given to principals to guide the preparation of the school improvement plans.
- We were informed that Uri Harel and Brown School principal Kathleen Seward had worked over the winter break to create curriculum guides for families in each grade level, K-5. Their goal is to get them published on the school department website by the end of this week. With this

information available to parents and guardians, we hope that we parents will be able to better understand what and why is being taught to our children and how we can support their learning at home.

- Volunteer Coordinator Update: We received an update on the volunteer program and members had numerous questions about this program and how it was being implemented. We will discuss this more in the coming weeks.

At 9:45, Ms. Pitone moved to adjourn. Ms. Normand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the report of the Chair of the Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee meeting of January 14, 2014.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that members have a Personnel Report in this week's packet which includes the following:

- Four resignations for the purpose of retirement – Jill Charney, Patricia Kelley, C. Deborah Connell, and Anne Foley. Collectively, this group represents 96 years of service. Most of these 96 years are those of Ms. Connell.

Mr. Pierantozzi took a moment to speak to the resignations for the purpose of retirement briefly-

- Jill Charney has served as a School Adjustment Counselor for approximately 27 years and currently works at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School.
- Ms. Kelley is a Special Education teacher at Somerville High School and is retiring with 18 years of service in the Somerville Public Schools.
- Dr. Foley began her career in Somerville in January, 2006 with an extensive background in professional development, literacy, Special Education and English Language Learning.
- Ms. Connell began her career in the Somerville as a Special Education teacher at the Burns Elementary School in 1971. She went on to become a Team Facilitator, Supervisor of Special Education and then Director of Special Education with a total of 43 years of service to the District.

Mr. Pierantozzi wished all of our retirees health, success, and a long happy and healthy retirement. The rest of the Personnel Report included:

- 8 resignations.
- 18 Leaves of absence due to family responsibilities, etc.
- 11 Inter-district transactions –in many cases, the leaves of absences and transfers are linked

Alderman White issued his thanks to our retiring staff members, especially Debbie Connell. It is nice to hear her contributions to the city.

B. DISTRICT REPORT

- Congratulations to 4th grade students Tatiana Pineda (Argenziano) and Britney Flores (ESCS) for earning spots on the first All-State Treble Chorus. Tatiana and Britney were selected from a pool of 600 students from across MA to audition for the chorus. The 200-member Chorus will perform March 22nd at the Boston Seaport Hotel, during the MA Music Educators Association Conference.
- 79 incoming Kindergarteners registered at the PIC this Saturday during the first day of K Registration for the 2014-2015 school year. Registration continues today and tomorrow from 9am to 2pm at the Capuano, Wednesday from 9 to 2 at the West Somerville, Thursday from 2 to 7pm at the Healey School, and February 4th from 8 to 6pm at the PIC. In addition, ongoing K registration is available Monday through Friday starting this Friday, January 31st, from 10am to 4pm at the PIC.

Mr. Sweeting asked that the Superintendent explain the Kindergarten registration process to those who may not be aware of how registration and assignments are done.

Mr. Pierantozzi provided an overview of the process.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report on curriculum-related issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

Midyear update on evaluation system

This is the 2nd full year and pleased to say training and implementation hurdles are behind us and we are working together and moving forward. On the technical side, we had some challenges with software implementation. Last year we used an entirely paper based system. The handout at members' seats

shows a screen shot of work flow. Rollout has gone quite well. Some glitches but past month has gone much better. Promotes dialogue between educator and supervisor.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:56 p.m.

Everyone is involved with this software system - from the top down – including the Superintendent. Two (2) important points – done right, the system has huge potential to help educators improve practice. Our job and challenge is to keep focus and try to cut through the amazing numbers of initiatives from the state and elsewhere (managing mandates, etc.).

PARC assessment (replacing MCAS)

During the first week of April, a limited number of grades will be tested

Grades were chosen by state

Somerville made the decision to limit elected local assessments—no spring MAP testing which results in a net reduction in testing time

Curriculum guides are now posted under the Curriculum section of the District website and 2 page descriptions for grades K-5 have been provided.

Next Ed Programs – preview – report on early learning and early education and care

Excited to bring forward a comprehensive report

Mon Cochran will present the report to the School Committee

Mr. Roix thanked Dr. McKay for posting the curriculum guides. He asked questions regarding the educator evaluation software and whether this one, particular software is it mandated by state and if the same software is being used everywhere? Is it web-based, etc.?

Dr. McKay responded that it is secure and web based, supports tablets so iPads can be used, and that this software company has most districts as their clients. We were given an approved list of vendors and underwent an extensive process to choose the best software for Somerville.

Mr. Futrell asked, regarding evaluations, what is the biggest worry going forward?

Mr. Pierantozzi responded that the greatest challenge is the amount of time it takes for both educator and evaluator to go through steps. We have had some leeway regarding deadlines with STA, Unit A, during the process. The main thing with the new evaluation is that an evaluation is “Not being given to someone, but is more a process of collaboration with lots of back and forth.”

Mr. Bockelman asked if any other districts have similar concerns. Do you foresee any staffing implications?

Mr. Pierantozzi responded that the administrative team discussed this today. They see the possibility but it has not totally been vetted out yet. One concern is the work load of our assistant principals who have an evaluation load, along with discipline, building safety, recess and lunch supervision, etc. No conclusion was reached yet. There may be implications during the budget development process and will be discussed further at a Finance and Facilities meeting.

The Superintendent continued his report

Follow up on PARC – finishing touches on letter and translation to parents/guardians within a week

- Last Sunday's FAFSA Day at Somerville High School was a tremendous success. 53 families (114 individual participants) took advantage of this 2-hour opportunity for students to complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid in preparation for college.
- Negotiations between the STA, Unit A, MTA and Steam Academy took place for 2.5 hours today and 3 more meetings in February are being planned. The Academy is financed by the state, with a facilitator leading discussions.

Step 5 of the process requires negotiation for the startup of the school and the ultimate decision lies with School Committee. The Plan is quite in-depth and needs to be compared to existing contracts and debated. We are currently on step one. Following the STA, then SAA, STA, Unit B (paraprofessionals), and Food Service unions also need to be reviewed (may be impacted by plan). Unit A has the greatest impact and therefore the longest negotiations. Ground rules have been established and we meet and negotiate in confidentiality.

Ms. Rafal asked what grade levels the school will start with. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that currently, it will start with grade 9 only.

- Advance tickets for this year's SHS High School Musical, Annie, are on sale. The musical is at the Somerville Theater February 6th, 7th and 8th. Visit the SHS website and click on the SHS Musical link on the left menu for details.
- Wished good luck to the Trivia Team, but did not say their names because last year he announced the names and they didn't win. He doesn't want to jinx them!
- Tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m., at the MSBA Board of Directors meeting, the Board will entertain a motion to enter Somerville High School into stage 1 of the process – feasibility study

Mayor Curtatone announced that, hopefully, this will be good news to an important step on Somerville High School.

Questions still exist relative to whether we are going to renovate or build new? Is it here or somewhere else?

If approved tomorrow, BOA president to seek funds to undertake extensive and

Lead to an answer

Lot of engagement

Hope it will lead to an answer to many concerns

10s of millions of dollars of liability on exterior alone

Capital plan will have this study as part of it

President White asked that, assuming it is approved, and comes to Board of Aldermen (BOA), what is timeline anticipated for completion of the feasibility study and then subsequent steps?

Mayor Curtatone responded that, if approved, we have 120 days to have a local approval on reimbursable funding. The entire process is about a yearlong (feasibility) and the Mayor will keep everyone informed. He also assured members that the city is not bound by this.

President White asked if the city would still be reimbursed if we chose not to move forward.

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that we will be working in concert to get detailed guidelines and lock steps and the BOA, etc. will have every detail. He is optimistic, but the MSBA has set steps and Mr. Pierantozzi is not sure about reimbursement.

Mayor Curtatone announced that there will be conversations with public, as well before final decisions are made, but there is a definitive process before any of that takes place. He went on to state that, just to shore up the building exterior is \$10m. The North wall cracks are unstable and will affect the inside of the building. At a minimum, the building needs major renovations and we need to figure out how to get it done.

Mr. Bockelman asked about the current project to repair the cafeteria and auditorium and the Mayor assured members that we will move forward on those projects now, regardless of the MSBA study.

The Superintendent announced that we are maintaining the facility as well as we can for the age of the building, but expect to see steps taken in order to continue to accredit SHS regarding its facility. For instance, City Hall is heated by a boiler in SHS. We have up to date connectivity, but huge needs!

RFPs are out on the two projects with a 2/11 bid closing and we are on schedule.

The bid process was elongated one week at the request of design team but we are still looking at 9/1/14 as a reopening date.

Mr. Sweeting asked that members receive regular updates on what is happening at SHS and questioned if that will be part of the facility report?

Mr. Pierantozzi will give as detailed a report as he can.

Status report – BOA – Thursday \$2.6 m to rebuild auditorium and kitchen 117,000 to close gap for room 143 to nurses' station and necessary accommodations (older SKIP) students

Will give p/gs an option

Thanked the BOA and Mayor for their support of these projects.

Lots of time going through details and information prior to voting – due diligence, extensive discussion, necessity understood, etc.

Letter in process

The Superintendent deferred to our Finance Director, Patricia Durette, for her report on financial matters. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

Brief report—

Finance next week – at meeting – 2/5

1st draft of level service budget – reflect anticipated funding needs to provide same level of service as currently provided

Baseline and anticipated costs to maintain services

Not adding new services at this time

Contract settlements, enrollment projections (adding/closing), etc. status quo

Any new needs/initiative has been meeting with principals and department heads and reviewing budgets and working on detailed request and discuss recommended changes, new staff, changes to programs, etc.

Other ways to identify changes are through SIPs.

Asking principals to identify which part of the SIP links to requests

Prioritize request

Gather as much information as possible from as many sources

All info gathered and presented at March F&F meeting

Detailed budgets due to PD by 2/14

The Superintendent continued his report

- The SFLC invites all dads of young kids in Somerville to an Activity Time for Dads and Kids this Saturday, February 1st, 10am to noon at the Argenziano. This activity is open to people who are not Dads, too!

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DRAFT 2014-2015 School Calendar

The Draft 2014-2015 School Calendar was taken off the table and the Superintendent opened discussion.

The Superintendent spoke with the STA and SAA presidents and they suggested that they would prefer to have Professional Development on November 4th rather than putting up with the disruption of opening on Election Day.

Discussion ensued among members regarding the fact that school is open during other, smaller elections. Also discussed was security every day as well as when elections are taking place and teacher staffing should the PD be moved to November 10.

The Superintendent explained that, although all schools have different circumstances the location, police presence, loss of teaching space, is squarely on the shoulders of the School Committee. We will do our best to make our schools as safe as humanly possible.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the draft calendar as presented with 11/4 as the PD day.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 8 – Curtatone, Roix, White, Normand, Futrell, Pitone, Sweeting and Rafal and NO – 1 – Bockelman.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, that the Superintendent work with the Police Chief and Board of Elections Commissioner to provide a safety plan for every polling place in the Somerville Public Schools and bring back to the School Committee to review. The motion was approved via voice vote.

TP—that would be an executive session report

PB - good

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Director of Special Education Hiring Process

The Superintendent reported that he had a stack of papers that he would go through quickly. He reported on:

Focus groups for staff, parents/guardians, Sped PAC and Community members and gave the dates, times and locations

He also shared the draft timeline, vacancy, annual salary job description, advertisement, and cost of ads, advertisement strategy and the policy on hiring.

We are seeking broad representation on the interview team.

Information relative to the focus groups next week will be communicated via electronic media/emails/etc.

Discussion ensued regarding hiring process, roles of Superintendent and School Committee, salary, the position being open until filled, public observation of finalist and confidentiality being maintained as long as possible.

B. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

Ms. Rafal announced that we are indeed fortunate to have so many wonderful donations to our school system. In effort to streamline the approval process, the Superintendent will read all donations and then the School Committee will approve all donations with one motion.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of 10 violin cases, valued at \$1000.00, from Johnson Strings, Inc. of Waltham, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$100.00 from Ludwig and Allison Ross of Somerville, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of 22 1' X 3' office solution lockers, valued new at \$6,000.00 and two (2) 4-drawer office solution filing cabinets, valued new at \$1,000.00, from Tufts University facilitated through their Office of Community Relations to the Vocational Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of the following 24 donations to the Somerville High School Cheerleading Program of the Somerville Public Schools. Total donations equal \$2531.74.

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Francis McPherson of Somerville, MA	\$ 48.50
2. Lisa Morris of Somerville, MA	\$ 58.21
3. Valerie Fitzpatrick of Somerville, MA	\$ 24.23
4. Katlyn Kelly of Medford, MA	\$ 19.37
5. Margaret Flynn of Somerville, MA	\$ 48.50
6. Rachel Muristrone of Winthrop, MA	\$ 48.50
7. Ali Jenkins of Ashland, MA	\$ 9.66
8. Jennifer Grande of Somerville, MA	\$ 24.23
9. Christina Del Priore of Somerville, MA	\$ 38.79
10. Jillian Fitzpatrick of Somerville, MA	\$ 33.94
11. Tonya Soares of Brighton, MA	\$ 24.23
12. Stavros Kapotas, Jr. of Somerville, MA	\$ 200.00
13. Eva Smith of Leesburg, VA	\$ 48.50
14. Jill DelSignore of Naples, FL	\$ 24.23
15. Maureen and Louis Bennett of Naples, FL	\$ 24.23
16. Patricia Oppedisano of Somerville, MA	\$ 48.50
17. Maria Moran of Medford, MA	\$ 9.66
18. Margaret Flynn of Charlestown, MA	\$ 48.50
19. Rod Kreimeyer of Somerville, MA	\$ 95.05
20. Beverly Schwartz of Somerville, MA	\$1,456.45
21. Julie Nocella of Stoneham, MA	\$ 24.23
22. Mike Browne of Somerville, MA	\$ 24.23
23. Larry Abrantes of Somerville, MA	\$ 50.00
24. Craig Resmini of Somerville, MA	\$ 100.00

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

C. Declaration of Surplus Goods

Request to dispose of two Ford Vans from the Career and Vocational Technical Education Department as detailed below:

- 1997 Ford, M58088 - Mileage, 53,378 - Vin #1FBJS31L3VHB53994
- 1997 Ford, M58076 - Mileage, 58,847 - Vin #1FBJS31L4VHA53421

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mayor Curtatone, to declare the vehicles as surplus.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Field Trip (recommended action: approval)

Feb. 7-9, 2014 Somerville High School Junior Statesmen of America to Arlington, VA/Washington, DC to participate in the Annual Winter Congress. Transportation via Greyhound bus with a total cost to students of \$165-\$180.

Mar. 21-22, 2014 Somerville High School GSA to Storrs, CT, to attend the True Colors Conference at the University of Connecticut. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$50 per student.

June 12-13, 2014 Healey School Grade 7 & 8 Students to New York City. Transportation via bus with a total cost to students of \$275.00

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Sweeting

1. Next week, in addition to open houses at elementary schools, Somerville High School will hold an Open House on Wednesday and Thursday from (times). Not enough people take advantage of this event. Mr. Sweeting encouraged all to attend, take a tour and meet students and teachers.
2. Members of the School Committee are jointly sponsoring some information sessions on February 4th at Tringo Real Estate on Willow Ave., adjacent to the bike path and also on February 8th at the Somerville Public Library. No quorum – just informational and informal discussion and dialogue. All members of the community are invited

X. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Sweeting expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Richard Garrity, retired teacher from the Art Department at Somerville High School and brother of Patricia Garrity, also a retired teacher from the Somerville Public Schools.
- Rita Houghton, retired teacher from the Somerville Public Schools, sister of Kathleen Houghton, Recreation Specialist in the Special Education Department and aunt of Diana Foster, teacher at the Capuano Early Childhood Center and former Ward 5 School Committee Representative Megan Foster.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of January 13, 2014 for approval
3. The Draft 2014-15 School Calendar
4. A packet of information relative to the hiring of the Director of Special Education
5. 27 donation acceptance letters
6. Three (3) Out of State Field Trip forms
7. 10 Condolence Letters
8. 11 (7) thank you notes
9. MASC Board of Directors' Meeting Notes

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, February 3, 2014 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

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

Members absent: Mr. White

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 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 – 8 –Rafal, Sweeting, Roix, Futrell, Pitone, Bockelman, Normand, Curtatone and Absent – 1 – White

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Brociner's report included the following:

- Thanking the School Committee for \$2.6 to repair Somerville High School
- GBL track meet, the girls won, boys came close.
- Girl's Basketball team is now 6-0
- Multicultural Fair sign-ups are happening soon
- The National Honor Society will be again at the Armory
- NHS students will be giving tours of SHS to families of potential students
- Mr. Leach's class will now be working with short films
- Outdoor Club going to Mt. Sunapee Sunday
- SHS Drama Club's presentation of Annie will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Somerville Theatre
- SHS Student Council completed a lunch survey. Once all information has been gathered, they will present a summary.

Mr. Sweeting congratulated Mr. Brociner for his win in the 1000 meter and stated he has qualified for the National Championship. Mr. Brociner recorded the fastest time in GBL.

Mr. Pierantozzi stated that our Food Service Department has been challenged this year by the lack of a kitchen. He has had a series of meetings with the Food Service Director and Assistant Director. He would like Mr. Brociner to keep an eye out this month, as a new menu will be rolling out.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Improvement Plan Presentations: Ms. Rafal

- January 23, 2014 – Argenziano and Somerville High School
- January 28, 2014 – Next Wave/Full Circle, Capuano and East Somerville
- January 29, 2014 – Brown, West Somerville and Kennedy
- January 30, 2014 – Winter Hill and Healey

I want to thank the Superintendent for once again arranging for all of us to listen to the School Improvement Councils presenting their School Improvement Plans. This is a courtesy to us and we find it very helpful. All seven ward-elected members of the School Committee attended each presentation, as did the Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, and Ms. Patricia Durette.

We heard from:

- Argenziano School and the Somerville High School at SHS – January 21
There were approximately 24 people in the audience
- Next Wave/Full Circle, Capuano Early Childhood Center and the East Somerville Community School at ESCS - January 28.
The Mayor was able to join us for this presentation.
There were approximately 36 people in the audience.
- Brown, West Somerville and Kennedy at the Kennedy School - January 29.
There were approximately 28 people in the audience.
- Winter Hill and Healey at the Healey - January 30.
There were approximately 20 people in the audience.

Some of the themes:

The School Improvement Plans all addressed data from the state accountability system, like MCAS and resulting calculations like Student Growth Percentiles, Composite Performance Index and the amount of progress schools and students have made toward target goals. The plans also presented My Voice survey data for both students and staff. The Argenziano School also surveyed families. Several schools are experimenting with improvements to systems for parent-teacher conferences. Some schools also talked about different specific tasks the student aspirations teams or student government or other student volunteers are doing in the schools. A couple of schools mentioned that the pre-school math curriculum seems to bring pupils to a stronger starting place than the current Kindergarten math program expects them to be. Schools also talked about ways they were addressing the School Committee's goals, and several mentioned that it is very useful to have volunteers help during X-block. Schools presented their requests for investments that they believe would help them improve their students' academic success. Several requested continuing special stipend positions or new staff positions.

For the next steps, the Finance Director and the Superintendent will carefully consider these requests and make recommendations to be discussed during the budgeting process.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to accept the School Improvement Plans, pending funding.

The motion was approved.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

1. The Superintendent congratulated the SHS Trivia Team for making it to the Final Four, which was the best we have ever done.
2. The Superintendent stated that he made a collection of items brought before the School Committee from each school's School Improvement Plan meeting and brought it to his Administrative Team meeting earlier today. He and Dr. McKay will meet with Principals to prioritize the list. Then, the Administrative Team will review again, before it is brought before the School Committee at budget time. Superintendent Pierantozzi thanked everyone involved in the School Improvement Plans, commending them also for aligning with the School Committee goals.
3. Kindergarten Registration is underway and the Superintendent stated that as of January 31, our Parent Information Center had 220 completed applications, ahead of last year's 200 applications.
4. The Superintendent stated that two weeks ago, on a Wednesday, due to a snowstorm, Kindergarten Open House was cancelled. That has been rescheduled to tomorrow.
5. SHS Open Houses are this week also.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

February 3, 2014

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vince McKay*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

An update on several Somerville initiatives, places where the school district has been successful in raising significant grant fund to support important work. In both cases, the Somerville schools are already well established as leaders state wide.

Grant money tends to follow strong program structure, as good work is recognized by the funding agencies, which gets rewarded and reinforced.

The first involves dropout prevention, \$21,000. I recently reported that the dropout rate went from 4.1% to 3.4%. This is one area where we have significant expertise.

The second involves our early childhood work. We have a strong kindergarten readiness grant already in place. The current grant which was just submitted today will allow us to extend and expand the work currently underway.

- Partnership with one of the city's private PK providers
 - Support for a summer kindergarten readiness for 40 incoming kindergarent students without any prior pre-school experience.
 - Teacher training programs
6. The Superintendent stated that it's time for our PTA meetings, which are starting tomorrow and will run all month except for February vacation. Contact the school office or check our website. He stated that since we have had interpretation, our numbers have skyrocketed. We're looking at alternative methods, a variety of styles, to have PTA meetings in the future.
 7. Superintendent Pierantozzi stated that volunteers are critical partners in helping our students succeed. The SFLC invites you to a Volunteer Workshop: Helping English Language Learners Succeed on Thursday, February 13th, 6:00-7:30pm at the East Somerville Community School.
 8. A remarkable event was held Saturday, 1st Annual Dad's Day, which was mostly attended by Dads at the AFA, but moms, aunts, uncles, grandparents attended also.
 9. Join us for this year's SHS High School Musical, Annie at the Somerville Theater February 6th, 7th and 8th. Visit the SHS website and click on the SHS Musical link on the left menu for details. Advance tickets are on sale now. The Superintendent thanked the Somerville Theatre for allowing us use of their theatre.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Pat Durette*, Director of Finance for her report regarding finance issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

The district recently received notice of three grants. We received two grants for professional development through District and School Assistance Centers or DSAC: The Title 1 – School Support grant is a federal grant that totals \$46,684 and runs through August 2014. This grant will be used for professional development in the spring and over the summer. The second is a state grant in the amount of \$9,156 that runs through June 2014 and will provide teacher training with an emphasis on our special education staff.

I would also like to mention that Friday we submitted an application for a Perkins Grant. The grant is for Instructional equipment and we are requesting 3 pieces of equipment that total \$49,990.

10. Superintendent Pierantozzi mentioned that this Wednesday, February 5th, is a half day, if in fact we have school. Check your email and media for school status, pending the upcoming storm.
11. The Superintendent reminded everyone that the February vacation is February 17 to 21. All offices will be closed February 17th for the holiday.
12. The Superintendent reminded the community that searches are continuing, because last week he told you that Debbie Connell, our SPED Director and Anne Foley, Kennedy's Principal will be retiring June 30, 2014. There are focus groups planned for the SPED Director position. He understands that not everyone can attend the meetings, so you may go to our website and complete a survey, which will collect data for himself and the interview team to craft questions.

Sunday, there was an ad in the Boston Globe for the positions. Mr. Bockelman asked if a search team had been appointed yet. The Superintendent responded, not yet. During the focus discussions, those attending are asked if they want to serve on the search committee. The list goes to Policy, then to rep stakeholders. The Superintendent will then decide which individuals will be on the committee, made up of teachers, administrators, community members, parent/guardians, other staff (paras, food service employees, secretaries). Mr. Bockelman asked if anyone with SPED experience would be on the committee, for which the Superintendent replied, "Yes".

V. NEW BUSINESS**A. Acceptance of Donation**

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$700.00 from Scholarship America via Target Corporation, to the East Somerville Community School to be used towards the cost of a field trip to Wheelock Family Theater in Boston for 50 students.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of two Dell Optiplex 755 computers, two Dell Monitors and two Dell Keyboards, value to be determined, from the Tufts University, to be used in the Dental Assisting Program of Somerville High School.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mayor Curtatone to accept the two donations.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

B. MSBA Initial Compliance Certification for Somerville High School

There were discussions regarding meeting deadlines, identifying school building committee members, hiring architectural firm. Mr. Brociner thought it would be a good idea to have a panel of students, those involved in sports, clubs, vocational, to discuss what students think the high school is lacking. Mayor Curtatone thanked Mr. Brociner for his suggestion and suggested that nobody would have any objection to that idea.

MOTION: Mayor Curtatone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to authorize the School Committee Chairperson to sign the MSBA Initial Compliance Certification for Somerville High School.

The motion was approved by roll call vote.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A thank you note from Shannon Gilligan in appreciation of the remembrance of her late father at a recent meeting.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**Mr. Sweeting**

1. School Committee is hosting an event for parents/guardians of kindergarten aged children tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. at Tringo Real Estate Office
Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the Public Library
Come share your stories. Someone for each school will be in attendance if you have any questions.
2. There will be a Finance and Facilities meeting on Wednesday, February 5 at Cross Street at 7:00
 - Beginning of budget process
 - Discuss the changes in the Governor's budget
 - Facilities update

Mr. Bockelman

1. There will be an Ed Programs meeting on February 11th.
 - Early Learning Progress Report

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Sweeting expressed the School Committee's condolences for the passing of:

Ruth Moccia, mother of Joseph Moccia, retired teacher from the English Dept. at Somerville High School

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m., by voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Two (2) donation acceptance forms
3. MSBA Initial Compliance Certification for Somerville High School
4. A thank you note from Shannon Gilligan

Maryann Coulombe
Administrative Assistant

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, February 24, 2014 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

Members present: Roix, White, Normand, Futrell, Bockelman, Pitone, Sweeting, and Rafal.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8– Roix, White, Normand, Futrell, Pitone and Bockelman and ABSENT – 1 - Curtatone. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the Mayor was attending a community meeting and, therefore, could not attend this evening's School Committee meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 27, 2014 Regular Meeting
- February 3, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of January 27, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the minutes of February 3, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our student representative, Marcelo Brociner, provided the following report on happenings at Somerville High School:

- Reported on extra help opportunities for students including Math MCAS Prep, SAT Prep via Kaplan (Sundays) and also Saturday tutoring
- Counselors are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help seniors with completing their common college applications.
- The first Asian American Night was held on February 12 at the East Somerville Community School. There was great food, arts and crafts, diversified performances and a pretty good turnout and Marcelo loved the new East Somerville Community School
- The Science League team placed 4th of 30 and competed in three different events in recent competition.
- The Green Club is collecting old cell phones to send to soldiers and also collecting old jeans for homeless teens
- Athletic team captains meet the first Tuesday of every month. They are currently working on the development of a handbook for athletes.
- The Boys' Soccer Banquet was held last week and this past season brought the city together. Thanked Coach George Scarpelli and the assistant coaches for all they have done for the city and community.
- The Girls' Basketball team are GBL champs for the second year running
- Both the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams are in post-season tournament play
- Congratulation Joao Baptista for his great performance in the High Jump during the recent MIAA All State Meet. Joao placed 4th with a jump of 6 feet 4 inches.
- The senior class is beginning to feel more and more like seniors as the year progresses. There was a local scholarship assembly today. Marcello urged his classmates to abide by the deadlines and to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities available.

**IV. REPORT OF
SUBCOMMITTEES**

A. Rules Management Subcommittee: (Feb. 3) Mr. Roix

Members present: Mr. Roix, Ms. Normand and Mr. Futrell

Others present: Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, and Mr. Sweeting

Staff present: Mr. Pierantozzi

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Committee Room of Somerville City Hall, 93 School Street.

The Rules Management Subcommittee reviewed Policy BEDG – Minutes at the request of the full School Committee in order to assure proper production and approval of subcommittee minutes.

The MASC and the current Somerville Public Schools policies were reviewed.

Minor changes were made in the first paragraph of the policy and the following motion was made and approved.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve File: BEDG Minutes, as amended and forward to the full School Committee.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

At 6:53 p.m., Ms. Normand moved to adjourn. Mr. Futrell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell to accept the report of the Chair of Rules Management.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee: (Feb. 11) Mr. Sweeting

Members present: Dan Futrell, Laura Pitone, Adam Sweeting (chair)

Others present: Carrie Normand, Steve Roix, Paul Bockelman, Christine Rafal

Staff present: Superintendent Pierantozzi, Finance Director Durette

Others present (audience members, etc.)

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room at 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA.

Overview of meeting and motions:

The meeting was called to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2014 meeting of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee and to discuss Statements of Interest to be filed with the Massachusetts School Building Authority regarding the Brown School and the Winter Hill Community School.

Motion: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2014 Finance meeting. The motion was approved via voice vote, 3-0.

Motion: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve Statements of Interest for the Brown School and the Winter Hill Community School and to bring this motion to the full School Committee. The motion was approved via voice vote, 3-0.

At time, 7:20 Ms. Pitone moved to adjourn. Mr. Futrell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept the report of the Chair of Finance and Facilities.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Educational Programs Subcommittee: (Feb. 11) Mr. Bockelman)

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone

Others present: Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, Joe Curtatone, Dan Futrell, Steve Roix

Staff present: Vince McKay, Susana Hernandez Morgan, Nomi Davidson, Regina Bertholdo, Honey

Schnapp, Sarah Davila, Tony Pierantozzi

Others present (audience members, etc.) Mon Cochran, Anna Fox Doherty and about five members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. in the conference room at 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA.

Ms. Normand moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2014. Ms. Pitone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Early Childhood Education Report

Assistant Superintendent Vince McKay introduced a report entitled "SomerReady: Creating a Citywide, Universal Kindergarten Readiness System" and the team that worked on the report which included Dr.

Moncreiff Cochran, Dr. Vince McKay, Nomi Davidson, and Anna Fox Doherty.

Ms. Doherty and Mr. Cochran presented an executive summary of the report. They described the current landscape of early childcare in Somerville, which is a complex of public, private, and parochial providers offering services that range from childcare to early childhood education. As they said, there are "lots and lots of various programs, services, and resources ... that lack formal pathways of connection."

The recommended model includes a clear starting point or single point of entry – both online and in person – where families with young children can easily access resources that meet their needs and answers to their questions, big or small.

The model is based on important new research that is being done in neuroscience and brain research, evidence gathered from the experience with the pipeline concept offered in Promise neighborhoods, and developing recognition that many of the successes in later years are laid in the very early years of a child's life.

Since this is a complicated world of services, the team has worked to include the many providers in developing this model including CAAS's Head Start program, The Open Center for Children and other private providers, and Tufts University and its early education centers.

The recommendations are to develop closer relationships and sharing resources and professional development with all of the players. The goal is to upgrade the services offered across the board, not replace any resources.

Members of the School Committee, School Administration, and Mayor Curtatone all expressed enthusiasm for this effort and encouraged the District to move forward with fleshing out the plan and developing a budget and funding plan to advance this initiative as soon as practical.

After extensive discussion, the Ms. Pitone moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Ms. Normand second the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the Chair of Ed. Programs.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- *Our student representative, Marcelo Brociner apologized for not announcing this with his report, but wanted to send congratulations to Melissa Baptista on scoring her 1000th point!*

School Committee members discussed invite Melissa to a future School Committee meeting for recognition and will make a list of all invitees who should be invited and recognized.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on this week's Personnel Report (in members' packets)

There were two (2) resignations for the purpose of retirement –

- George (Tom) Cardon, High School CVTE teacher after 33 years
- Carolyn Richards, High School Guidance Department Head after 8.5 years

The Superintendent wished these retiring staff members a long, healthy, happy retirement.

Regarding the Director of Guidance and Testing, the recommendation for future leadership is being developed through the current study being conducted by EDC and the report will be available at our next Ed Programs meeting.

There were also: seven (7) resignations, 11 Leaves of Absence for various reasons, two (2) inter-district transactions and two (2) new hires.

Discussion ensued regarding the hiring process, timelines, etc. for the Guidance Department. More will be known after the report is presented at Ed. Programs.

B. DISTRICT REPORT

- The Superintendent announced that members received a copy of the March SFLC flyer at their seats this evening. He continued by highlighting a few upcoming events:
- Tuesday, February 25th: The SFLC presents the 2nd in a 4-part series on The Middle School Years. Join Dr. Silas Pinto from Tufts Univ. for Developmental Stages - Brain Development of Teens. 6-7:30pm at the Healey School

- Wednesday, February 26th: Honey Schnapp from the SFLC presents Ages & Stages - The Early Years. 6:30-8pm at the Kennedy School Library
The Superintendent is proud of all of the wonderful offerings being presented by the SFLC staff.
- DRAFT Goals document (5) rough drafts result of discussions at retreat
- Provided an update on the Somerville High School kitchen and auditorium renovations. The timeline has not changed but, last week, the Superintendent met with Skip Bandini, Mayor Curtatone and Omar Boukili. More testing was done on Friday at SHS and, as a result, the scope of work needs to an adjustment downwards (less work may be necessary) and construction time may get shorter. There is still an expected August 15th finish date.
- Discussion ensued relative to the bidding process, timeline window, the architectural firm, the reason for additional testing, etc.
- First day back after vacation—really important time of year for students and district. A crux of days without many gaps between now and things that occur in students' lives. Lots of important work – important to come to school every day and on time.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report on curriculum-related matters. Dr. McKay's report follows:

Farm to School Grant

Back in November, Somerville was one of just 71 recipients nationwide selected to receive a fiscal year 2014 U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm to School grant. The federal program seeks to better connect school cafeterias and students with local farmers.

We are welcoming Karen Novakowski to the Food and Nutrition Services Department, working with Lauren Mancini and based at the WHCIS.

Karyn recently relocated to Somerville from Hudson, NY where she worked as the Community Coordinator for the Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood.

USDA Farm to School grants help schools respond to the growing demand for locally sourced foods and increase market opportunities for producers and food businesses, including food processors, manufacturers, and distributors. Working with a number of community partners, including Groundwork Somerville and the City's nationally recognized Shape Up Somerville initiative, Karyn will work with us to develop a long-term district-wide strategy that supports local sourcing and helps expand current farm to school efforts.

Grant activities will include development of programs for students regarding the value of a farm to school approach to nutrition by introducing students, school tasting and sampling events, and other school-based activities.

Regarding Unidos, Somerville's two-way bilingual Spanish immersion program:

HR Director Mariana Macdonald and Unidos program leader Betsey Reardon attended the Massachusetts Dual Language Leadership Network winter meeting on Friday Feb. 7, 2014 in Providence RI. In attendance were educators as well as representatives from local Universities and state departments of education from Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts. The meeting provided opportunities for networking and new ideas for attracting, training and retaining quality staff.

Southern New England Regional Dual Language Conference is just 5 weeks away and we are very pleased to share with you some of what will make this conference so valuable and enriching for all of us. Congratulations to Principal Hatch and the Unidos staff who recently learned they will be the lead presenters at the 2014 Southern New England Regional Dual Language Conference to be held on March 22, 2014 in New Haven, Ct. - "Using External Evaluation Recommendations to Build Support for a Dual Language Program"

The Superintendent continued his report:

- On Saturday, March 29, the Annual Duhamel Pancake Breakfast which raises money to provide grants for teachers and learning initiatives for our students. The School Committee will be cooking and working at this event and we encourage everyone to attend and support this wonderful organization!

Upcoming PTA Conferences:

- Tuesday, February 25th, 3-5pm: Kennedy School
- Wednesday, February 26th, 2:45-5:15pm: Brown School
- Thursday, February 27th, 2:45-4:45pm and 5:30-8pm: Capuano

- Tuesday, March 4th, 2:45-5:15pm: East Somerville Community School
- Wednesday, March 5th, 2:45-5:15pm: Healey School

Superintendent Student of the Quarter Awards:

- Thursday, February 27th, 8:30-9:30am: Healey
- Thursday, February 27th, 1:30-2:15pm: ESCS

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director, Patricia Durette, for some financial updates. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Ms. Durette was at SHS at the end of last week and met Mr. DeSimone who showed her the new dental assisting suite. Installation is almost complete. Equipment was obtained from a \$95,000.00 state grant, donations totaling \$140,000.00 from Tufts and private donations as well. A company is finishing wiring, water lines, and other plumbing and the room and area looked great with new cabinets, etc. Ms. Durette commends Mr. DeSimone for his work on getting this program up and running!
- FY15 budget development continues
There is a Finance meeting tomorrow night (makeup meeting) and a level service budget will be presented. Ms. Durette has been meeting with all players for more detail on budget requests. A list is being developed for our Finance meeting next week (3/5). Ms. Durette reminded members to please bring their packets to tomorrow night's meeting.
- Ms. Durette has started to get requests for transportation bids – pupil transportation – ell program and athletics and field trips, clubs, etc. The Pre-bidders' conference is on March 15th with the bid closing date of March 27th.

The Superintendent continued his district report:

- Wednesday, March 5th: The SFLC hosts the 2014 Somerville Summer Camps and Activities Fair at the Healey School Gymnasium. Somerville families are invited to get an early start on summer planning. Stop by from 5:30-7pm to find out about many of the summer options available from an estimated 30 youth camp and program providers from Somerville and the surrounding area.
- Wednesday, March 12th: The Somerville community is invited to join us for a presentation by award-winning author David L. Kirp, who will discuss his book *Improbable Scholars: The Rebirth of a Great American School System and Strategy for America's Schools*. 7-8:30pm at the East Somerville Community School Auditorium.

- Hiring processes update for two administrative positions:

For the Director of Special Education, four (4) focus groups have been held

For the Principal of the Kennedy School, three (3) focus groups have been held

A list of criteria and comments was put together and has been sent to our HR director for sharing with interview teams.

This week, we are finalizing the screening committee to review applications and determine who will be interviewed. The screening committee consists of administrators, teachers, etc.

Applications received were approximately 20 for the Director of Special Education position and 40 for the Kennedy Principal position.

We are also working with the various stakeholder representatives to select interview team members.

There are usually between 11 and 15 people on the interview teams.

Our HR Director will schedule daytime and evening interviews to accommodate the applicants and these should be held within the next 2-3 weeks

Letters and forms of those interested in serving on these interview teams are still being accepted and may be sent to the Superintendent, Ms. Marques, Principals, stakeholder group representatives, etc.

We are about two weeks away from completing the team composition.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

Mr. Roix presented the following policy tonight for first reading, as amended:

- File BEDG – Minutes

B. MSBA Statements of Interest

Massachusetts School Building Authority Statements of Interest for non-emergency renovations to Somerville Public School Buildings

- Winter Hill Community Innovation School
- Brown School
- MSBA Statements of Interest Priority

Mr. Pierantozzi explained that, in this week's packet are two full packets of information – one for WHCIS and one for the Brown—last year we had 3 (SHS) was included. The Superintendent announced that the motion language must be read in its entirety. Documents will be submitted to the MSBA on April 13, 2014.

Discussion ensued regarding why both projects are not being designated for the same construction/renovation projects.

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix as follows:

The School Committee of Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 10, 2013, for the **Brown School** located at 201 Willow Avenue which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future (7). Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements (7) The Brown School is not able to offer art, music, physical education, or science in specialized learning environments. State Requirements for these programs are for dedicated classrooms consistent with MSBA guidelines, and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Discussion ensued regarding the same wording on page 5 of the SOI packet regarding rebuild/renovate was not the same for both schools.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Alderman White, as follows:

The School Committee of Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 10, 2013, for the **Winter Hill Community School** located at 115 Sycamore Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future (7). Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements (7) The current conditions provide intermittent, but regular interruptions of the normal school day in regards to the typical delivery of curriculum. While the lack of soundproofing does not prohibit the district from providing the required programming, staff must be cognizant of the noise level in activities being presented during the school day. This could have a limiting effect on the type of activities offered, and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Following the vote, more discussion ensued regarding the wording on page 5 and the School Committee agreed that the wording should be the same for both schools.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following motion was moved:

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand to designate the Winter Hill Community School as the priority school when submitting the Statements of Interest to the Massachusetts

School Building Authority.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the process after filing these SOI's. Essentially, these filings are merely a placeholder letting the state know that we have buildings that are in need of renovation, etc. We can change our priority school should a situation arise that warrants the change. For instance, Somerville High School became the priority school once damage from Superstorm Sandy and other deficiencies warranted.

C. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$1570.00 from the following people, given in memory of the late Richard M. Garrity, retired art teacher from Somerville High School, to be by the Art Department at Somerville High.

• Owen B. Lynch of Lynnfield, MA	\$ 75.00
• John and Christine Oteri of Melrose, MA	\$ 25.00
• Linda A. Fiore of Lexington, MA	\$ 50.00
• George H. Wood of Arlington, MA	\$ 25.00
• Carol Caruso of Woburn, MA	\$ 25.00
• Thomas and Diane O'Brien of Norwell, MA	\$ 200.00
• Margaret & Paul Chisholm of Medford, MA	\$ 100.00
• Georgia A. Petrasko of Hyannis, MA	\$ 50.00
• Donna L. Wade of Somerville, MA	\$ 50.00
• B. Warner of Stoneham, MA	\$ 50.00
• Francis X and Mary Catherine McLaughlin of Kensington, MD	\$ 50.00
• Paul E. and Anita L. Kelley of Medford, MA	\$ 5.00
• Patrick R. Renna of Billerica, MA	\$ 25.00
• Walter J. McDonald of Somerville, MA	\$ 50.00
• Stuart W. and Anne Marie Noyes of Avon, CT	\$ 50.00
• Laura M. Hayes & the parishioners of St. Catherine of Genoa Church in Norwood	\$ 160.00
• Noreen F. Santucci of Somerville, MA	\$ 50.00
• Amelia Oppedisano-Hinton of Winchester, MA	\$ 10.00
• Eugene D. and Joan L. Hill of Pebble Beach, CA	\$ 500.00
• C. Browne of Wellesley Hills, MA	\$ 20.00

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to waive the reading of the donations listed above and to accept the donations, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$400.00 from Warren Anderson of Westborough, MA to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

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

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a \$2,000.00 grant from the Biogen Idec Foundation Micro-Grants for Science, to the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park to be used for Science Education.

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

D. Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

March 6-8, 2014

Somerville High School DECA to the Boston Marriott Copley, overnight, to participate in the State Competition. Transportation via school van with a cost of \$300.00 per student for lodging and food.

Mar. 31-Apr. 4, 2014

Brown School Grade 6 students to Nature's Classroom in Groton, MA. Transportation via school bus with a total cost to students of approximately \$190.00.

May 23, 2014

Next Wave/Full Circle students to Mount Monadnock. Transportation via school van with a total cost to students of \$10.00 each.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. FY2014 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:

Julio Alberto Chiquillo	30 Oak Point Road	Saugus	01906
William Nunez	26 Annunciation Road	Roxbury	02120

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the Scale ADP Graduates. The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rafal announced that members received National School Board Association Conference Notes from Ms. Rossetti and reminded members about the Stand Up for Public Schools and consider representing Somerville in this initiative.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Futrell

1. The Argenziano PTA and Parent Aspiration Team will have a meeting this Wednesday.
2. Joh Camara is presenting percussionist workshops at the AFA for 4th through 8th graders (over 200 students) culminating in a concert on March 13th. This project is funded by the Arts Council and the AFA PTA.
3. Heritage Night at the Argenziano will be held on April 10th.

Mr. Roix

1. Capuano is holding its PTA meetings on Thursday.
2. The ESCS PTA will be held next Tuesday.

Ms. Normand

1. WSNS PTA is hosting a Family Game Night is Friday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Sweeting

1. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee is meeting tomorrow evening – please bring your packet. We will meet again next week. On the agenda are a look at a level service budget, an update on the Governor's budget, Chapter 70, charter school reimbursement and Sped circuit breaker.

Ms. Pitone

1. Kennedy PTA is Tuesday at 2:45 p.m.
2. Brown PTA is Wednesday at 2:45 p.m.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Reminded members that they are expected at 7:00 a.m. on March 29th for the Duhamel Pancake Breakfast. The School Committee works at this event with Tony and Vince doing the majority of the cooking. This is always a fun time with lots of people and the event always raises more money than the dinner when the Board of Aldermen volunteer!!

Ms. Rafal asked if the next Finance meeting should be a meeting of the whole?

After discussion, it was agreed that Finance meetings going forward for the next few months will be posted as meetings of the whole.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Francis Raymond Fahey, step-father of Kathleen Brosnahan, teacher in the CVTE Program at Somerville High School.
- Liberta Leonard, mother of Maureen Leonard and William Leonard, both retired teachers from Somerville High School.
- John "Ted" Parrish, brother of Amy Parrish, retired Counselor Educator from the Somerville Public Schools.
- James O'Brien, son of Maureen O'Brien, Paraprofessional at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 a.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of January 27, 2014 and February for approval
3. The February 2014 Personnel Report
4. A copy of File: BEDG Minutes for first reading
5. Two (2) packets of information relative to SOIs for the Brown and Winter Hill Schools
6. Two (2) requests for ADP diplomas
7. Three (3) Out of State Field Trip forms
8. NSBA Conference Notes
9. Three (3) Condolence Letters
10. 28 thank you notes for donations received

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, March 3, 2014 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Ms. Rafal, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand, Mr. White (7:08 p.m.) and Mayor Curtatone (7:14 p.m.)

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Rafal, Sweeting, Roix, Futrell, Pitone, Bockelman, Normand, and Absent – 2 – White and Curtatone.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our student representative, Marcelo Brociner was not at the meeting this evening.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee: (Feb. 25) Mr. Sweeting

Members present: Adam Sweeting (Chair), Dan Futrell, Laura Pitone

Others present: Christine Rafal, Steve Roix, Carrie Normand

Staff present: Superintendent Pierantozzi, Finance Director Durette

Others present (audience members, etc.) Dorothy Scally (STA) and one member of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA.

Overview of meeting and motions.

1) Approval of Minutes of 2/11/14 Finance and Facilities meeting.

2) FY 2015 Budget. The Finance Director and Superintendent presented, as a first step in the budget discussions, a level-service budget for review. Members of the subcommittee asked questions about operations and salaries. At the March 4 Finance meeting the Finance Director will present a full list of all of the requests for additional services and programming submitted by principals, School Councils, and PTAs.

3) Governor's Budget. The Finance Director briefly presented initial budget proposals for Special Education circuit breaker, Chapter 70 funds, and charter school reimbursements. The Superintendent stressed that it is still quite early in the budget process and that these numbers are likely to change over the course of the spring.

4) Facility Report. The Superintendent presented an update on facility issues at all school buildings in the district. He identified what work had been completed and what repair work and/or routine maintenance will be completed soon. The Superintendent answered questions from School Committee members about the status of various maintenance projects. In addition, the Superintendent updated the Subcommittee on the proposed Sub-slab Depressurization System Modifications at the Capuano Early Childhood Center. Subcommittee members also received a copy of a letter addressed to the Superintendent from Betsy M. Allen, the City of Somerville's Disability & Compliance Officer, regarding possible renovation of a portion of the Brown School. The Chair of the Subcommittee asked that this be placed on the agenda for the March 4 meeting, where it will be discussed.

5) FY 2014 Expenditure Report of 1/31/14. Finance Director Durette addressed questions raised about the status of spending on school accounts to date. She informed the Subcommittee that she closely monitors expenses throughout the year but particularly once we enter the second-half of the academic year.

6) FY 2014 Bill Rolls of 2/5/14. The Subcommittee reviewed and approved the bill rolls.

There were two motions:

1) MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone to approve the minutes of the February 11,

2014 meeting of the Finance and Facility Subcommittee.
The motion was approved 3-0 via voice vote.

2) MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone to approve the FY 2014 Bill Rolls
The motion was approved 3-0 via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to have the full School Committee approve the FY2014 Bill Rolls.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

Documents used for discussion purposes at the meeting:

- 1) FY 2014 Expenditure Report of 1/31/14
- 2) FY 2014 Bill Rolls of 2/5/14
- 3) FY 2015 Level Service Budget Projection
- 4) Department of Elementary and Secondary Education FY 2015 Local Aid Estimates.

At 8:54 p.m., Ms. Pitone moved to adjourn. Mr. Futrell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Alderman White arrived at the March 3rd Regular meeting at 7:08 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the FY14 bill rolls.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair of Finance & Facilities
The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rafal asked members to decide if they would still prefer to get their Finance & Facilities packet on paper or just electronically. She encouraged them to think about it and let Ms. Durette know their preferences.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

The Superintendent provided the following information with his district report:

- Update on hiring process for the Director of Special Education.
Screening of applications took place on February 27
Mr. Pierantozzi met with the School Committee's representative for this hiring process to review the applications on February 28
Nine (9) applicants were offered and interviewed and all those offered accepted the opportunity to be interviewed.
Interviews will take place during the late afternoon/early evening on March 12 (4 interviews) and during the day on March 13 (5 interviews).
An interview representative of the various stakeholder groups is being finalized now and will consist of principals, central office staff, SAA, STA, Unit A, other staff, parents/guardian – including PTA, School Council and Sped PAC members with a total of 14 people.
All applicants are considered to be highly qualified.
Mr. Bockelman asked when the public may have the opportunity to view interviews/candidates.
Mr. Pierantozzi responded that the School Committee will interview the finalist that he forwards to them at the conclusion of his interview process and that interview will be open to the public.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:14 p.m.

This process is consistent with April 2013 School Committee policy which specifies that the Superintendent will forward a name at end of process to the School Committee and the School Committee will decide on how to go forward. There will be an open interview/meeting by the School Committee.

- Update on hiring process for the Principal of the Kennedy School
28 applicants from both inside and outside the system
Screening taking place tomorrow afternoon (March 4)
Based on screening, a representative interview team will be decided upon and will represent all of the relevant stakeholders.

The interview schedule has yet to be developed, but we expect to need 10 days lead time to set the schedule.

- Update on Joint Study Committees (JST):
The first meeting of the JST regarding the calendar and religious holidays was held on February 26. Sample calendars are being developed and the committee will meet again in about 10 days. The Social Networking JST will have its first meeting on March 5. This JST consist of teachers, IT staff, and District Administrators. As of right now, we do not have a Social Networking Policy but rather a letter to staff. After the JST reviews and makes tis recommendations, the issue will be forwarded to the Rules Management Subcommittee for its review.
- Upcoming PTA Conferences:
 - Tuesday, March 4th, 2:45-5:15pm: East Somerville Community School
 - Wednesday, March 5th, 2:45-5:15pm: Healey School
- Superintendent Student of the Quarter Awards:
 - Tuesday, March 4th, 8:45-9:30am: Kennedy School
 - Thursday, March 6th, 8:45-9:30am: West Somerville Neighborhood School

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Vincent McKay for some curriculum-related information:

Dr. McKay had a few informational updates for this evening.

Preview of next week's Educational Programs subcommittee meeting.

For the second month running, you will be presented with an in-depth report. Last month, Kindergarten readiness, of course.

Main agenda item for next week's meeting, we move to the far end of the educational spectrum for a presentation of the High School's Guidance and College/Career Readiness.

This study, conducted by EDC, was a large and comprehensive under-taking! Data collection phase began in October and concluded in January, 2014. Since then, the EDC team has been writing the report and synthesizing all the data.

Individual interviews with over 25 people, including SHS and elementary staff and community members

Two parent focus group interviews

Five student focus group interviews

Extensive document review including

Final report will be released to you at the end of this week, and I look forward to a full discussion of the report next Tuesday. I anticipate that the subcommittee meeting format will be similar to last month's with a presentation by the lead researcher, Anna McTigue, followed by a detailed question and answer session and school committee discussion.

Thank you for supporting this research. It's a big deal for us..... It's not often we have this opportunity take a detailed look at one slice of our organization, and we will make the most of this.

Ms. Rafal asked if this report will include recommendations and comments about best practices elsewhere.

Dr. McKay believes recommendations are included in the report.

Preview of summer PD catalog

Shout out to students at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.

Last Friday, the Superintendent and I pleased to attend a presentation by the Grade 8 class at AFA. This was a debate format presentation, in front of the whole class, teachers and guests. The issues included a number of high interest topics including "should the drinking age be lowered to 18?" Students had very well prepared positions, which they argued forcefully and with passion. Congratulations to 8th graders, they are a very impressive group.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- Negotiations have been ongoing regarding the Somerville STEAM Academy proposal for an innovation school within Somerville High School. The team has met four times as of today and currently is negotiation with the Somerville Teachers Association. This is the 5th step in the approval process for an

innovation school and the Superintendent will bring the issue to the School Committee when the process is completed. This process will take a considerable amount of time as bargaining will likely have to be done with the SAA, Clerical and Food Service bargaining units. The applicant has agreed to delay the opening of the school until September 2015 so that there is time to work out all details. Mr. Sweeting, who was the School Committee's representative on the planning committee, asked about any timeline restrictions we may be under with the State. Currently, there is no clock ticking while negotiations are being conducted. Once negotiations are completed, the clock starts and there must be a public hearing conducted by the School Committee and then a decision to approve/deny based up the recommendation of the Superintendent. Discussion ensued relative to whether the School Committee needs to accept the plan, as presented, or edit the plan prior to approving. The applicant may alter the plan at his/her discretion and he/she may or may not bring the plan back to the planning committee. The School Committee may approve/disapprove as presented or approve with conditions which allows the School Committee some flexibility.

- Somerville families are invited to get an early start on summer planning at the 2014 Somerville Summer Camps and Activities Fair hosted by the SFLC at the Healey School Gymnasium on Wednesday, March 5th, 5:30-7:00pm.
- Drama Club – did not move forward but proud of their work this year congratulations
- Somerville High School students participate in the 2014 SHS Science Fair from 8:30-noon on Thursday, March 6th. (judging will be held in various science classrooms at the high school)
- Top finishers from the SHS Science Fair will advance to the Regional Science Fair, which will be hosted at the Somerville High School Atrium on Saturday, March 15th. Projects will be open for public viewing from 1-3pm, and the awards ceremony will be held from 3-4pm. Almost 40 years only at SHS
- Wednesday, March 12th: Please join us for a talk by award-winning author David L. Kirp, who will discuss his book *Improbable Scholars: The Rebirth of a Great American School System and Strategy for America's Schools*. From 7-8:30pm at the East Somerville Community School Auditorium. SC member on planning team
- On Thursday, March 13th: The SFLC hosts a Financial Literacy Workshop, 5:30-7pm at the East Somerville Community School Auditorium.
- Pi Night for all District 6th through 8th grade students will be held on Friday, March 14th, from 5:30 to 8pm at the East Somerville Community School Cafeteria and Gymnasium. East Somerville will also be hosting a middle grades information night from 4:30-5:30pm that afternoon.
- The District Elementary Swim Meet was held last Saturday. No real details are available, but the Argenziano team won for grades 6,7, and 8; the Healy won for grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; and the Healey won the participation award!
- We invite you to stop by for the annual Somerville High School Center for Career and Technical Education Open House, which will be held Saturday, March 22nd, from 9am to 1pm. The day includes tours of the CTE facilities by student ambassadors, information on each program, and hands-on activities.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

Mr. Roix policy BEDG – Minutes presented this evening for second reading, as amended:

- File BEDG – Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve policy BEDG - Minutes, as revised, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$595.00 from the following people, given in memory of the late Richard M. Garrity, retired art teacher from Somerville High School, to be by the Art Department at Somerville High.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Diane Depczenski of Dennis, MA | \$ 25.00 |
| • Msgr. Paul V. Garrity of Norwood, MA | \$ 500.00 |
| • Ann Diamond of Lexington, MA | \$ 15.00 |
| • Marguerite Callahan of Salem, MA | \$ 20.00 |

- Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Grieco of Arlington, MA

\$ 35.00

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve donations listed, with gratitude. The donations were given in memory of the late Richard Garrity, a retired Art Teacher from Somerville High School.

Ms. Rafal announced that a School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning will be held on March 24th at 7:00 p.m.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Sweeting

1. Last Friday, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Pitone and Mr. Roix attended a Teen Empowerment gathering at their headquarters on Cross Street. Student leaders were there and met with members of the School Committee and Board of Aldermen. There as good discussion and students appreciated hearing from us and us them. Powerful stories and discussions on issues kids are dealing with and other issues—not just in Somerville! Mr. Sweeting was impressed by how the organization works with these students and wanted to give them a public shout-out!

Mr. Futrell

1. The Argenziano School's PTA is looking for new officers for next year. Please contact the PTA if you are interested.
2. Preparations are still underway for the AFA's upcoming Heritage Night
3. World Percussion Concert with Joh Camara on March 13th at AFA.
4. The Parent Aspirations Team met last Wednesday and one topic of discussion was the Community Club afterschool program which is run in partnership with the Recreation Department for 8 weeks at a low fee. The Aspiration team is working to keep late bus going to allow for the continuation of the community club which is a play group of older students.

Before adjourning, Ms. Rafal referred members to a memo from Pat Jehlen which includes references to the Superintendent's work on changing the formula. Maybe members can discuss at our next meeting whether to send a letter of response.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 via voice vote.

Related Documents:

1. Agenda
2. The March 2014 Personnel Report
3. A copy of File: BEDG Minutes for second reading
4. Five (5) donation acceptances
5. NSBA Conference Notes
6. Four (4) Condolence Letters

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, March 17, 2014 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Ms. Rafal, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand, Mr. White (7:07 p.m.) and Mayor Curtatone (8:02 p.m.)

Members absent:

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:03 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Rafal, Sweeting, Roix, Futrell, Pitone, Bockelman, Normand, and Absent – 2 – White and Curtatone.

I. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A. Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Awards

✓ Ms. Susan Hassan

The Superintendent introduced Ms. Susan Hassan, the Salutatorian of the Somerville High School Class of 2014, and shared her outstanding academic and extracurricular accomplishments with the audience. Ms. Hassan has a grade point average of 4.54, has served over 1,100 volunteers hours in four years, is a member of the National Honor Society and French National Honor Society and is also very involved in the Somerville High School DECA program and will compete at the State level DECA competition on March 6, 7, and 8. Mr. Pierantozzi presented Ms. Hassan with a certificate from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and read the text to the audience.

✓ Ms. Celine Lessard-Brandt

The Superintendent introduced Ms. Celine Lessard-Brandt, the Valedictorian of the Somerville High School Class of 2014, and shared her outstanding academic and extracurricular accomplishments with the audience. Ms. Lessard-Brandt has a grade point average of 4.72, the highest the Superintendent has ever known of! She also has numerous volunteer hours, is an accomplished musician, has been involved in many school-based clubs and activities and is a member of the National Honor Society and French National Honor Society – to name just a few. Mr. Pierantozzi presented Ms. Lessard- with a certificate from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and read the text to the audience.

Alderman White arrived at 7:07 p.m.

The School Committee recessed at 7:13p.m. to congratulate the two students.

The meeting resumed at 7:23 p.m.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our student representative, Marcelo Brociner, provided the following report on events at Somerville High School:

- Apologized for missing the last meeting
- The LGBT club has begun a campaign to be a good bystander. Posters are hanging in hallways and cafeteria and students can show their support by signing their name on a star-shaped paper which will be hung at the High School.
- Kaplan SAT prep is now underway for juniors. The first class was diagnostic and now the classes focus on specific subject-related help.
- The Student Council's school lunch survey report is now complete. Approximately 200 students participated and Marcelo will send the report to the School Committee
- During the new advisory period last Wednesday, a man who was a six year old child soldier during the Cambodian Genocide spoke to student at the High School. To learn more, visit www.lostchildthefilm.org.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

- The Regional Science Fair was held on Saturday. 10 groups, totaling 17 students, qualified for the State Fair. Marcelo read a few of the project titles – which were quite impressive and congratulated all of the students who participated and who will go on to the State competition.
- Members of the Ultimate Frisbee, Soccer and Track teams helped at the Saint Patrick's Day Road Race
- The next couple of weeks should be pretty good - spring sports started today, MCAS week, and though there is pressure on sophomores, freshman, juniors and seniors get to arrive to school late, which is pretty great!
- Next week is the Multicultural Fair which always features good food, many colors, and wonderful performances.

Following Marcelo's report, Mr. Sweeting announced that, last week, Marcelo was one of two Somerville High School students to compete in New Balance Nationals in New York City. Joao Baptista jumped 6 feet 2 inches and placed 8th in the nation and Marcelo ran in the 800 meter and placed 25th in the nation. Congratulations to both of these young men!

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 24, 2014

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand to approve the minutes of February 24, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- March 3, 2014

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the minutes of March 3, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities:* March 5 (Mr. Sweeting)

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the report of the Chair of the Finance & Facilities for the meeting of March 5, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The School Committee met as a Committee of the Whole for Finance and Facilities on Wednesday, March 5 at School Department Headquarters at 42 Cross Street. Members present were Adam Sweeting, Laura Pitone, Dan Futrell, Christine Rafal, Carrie Normand, Steve Roix, and Paul Bockelman.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi and Finance Director Durette. There was one member of the public in the audience.

Mr. Sweeting called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

There were six items on the agenda.

1) Approval of the minutes from the February 25, 2014 Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Futrell made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Pitone. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

2) FY 2015 Budget – The Finance Director presented a list of all requests for additional staff and/or programs submitted by principals, School Councils, PTAs, or department heads. For items associated with a particular school the list was broken down with a ranking of priorities made by each by the principal. The list did not include recommendations or priorities from the Superintendent. He will submit his recommendations to the School Committee at the next meeting for Finance and Facilities, scheduled for March 26.

The total cost of all these requested additions comes to \$1,344, 795 and amounts to 21.3 FTEs.

3) SY 2014 Elementary Class Sections and Projections

School Committee members received and discussed the first projection for class sizes for the 2014-2015 school year. At this point in the year it's difficult to project accurately what next year's class numbers will look like. A lot can change between now and September.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

We discussed the large number of students in K-3, which is an exciting trend for SPS but one which will require considerable planning as these students age through the system. We already have a space crunch that is likely to increase in the coming years.

4) Facility Update:

A) Brown School - The School Committee discussed a letter drafted by Betsy Allen, the City's Director of the Office of Disability & Compliance. The letter was generated because of interest by members of the Brown School community in renovating a portion of the top floor of the school for possible use either as a classroom or office. The Brown School is currently fully utilized and there has been interest in relieving some of the space issues by renovating the closet on the top floor.

The letter indicates that if renovation costs amount to less than \$100,000 the requirements of the Americans for Disabilities Act would not come into play. If costs total more than that figure, there would need to be substantial work done to bring the building into full compliance of the Act.

There was considerable discussion about how the space might be used and the School Committee asked the Superintendent to determine how it would be utilized should renovations be approved. School Committee members also sought clarification on whether any recent maintenance at the Brown School counted toward the \$100,000 threshold listed in Ms. Allen's letter.

Members of the School Committee stressed that the Brown School is vital to our school programming, given the space needs in the District and the high level of satisfaction reported by parents/guardians at the school. They asked the Superintendent to explore how the city might utilize the full space in ways that comply with ADA and that are not prohibitively expensive.

B) High School – The Superintendent reiterated that the scope of work for repairs for the SHS auditorium and cafeteria has been reduced and that we are still on track for completion of the repairs before the start of school in September.

We also discussed briefly the renovations of Room 143 for the Special Education Department. We received a signed document from Mr. Bandini, the Director of Capital Projects, and the Construction Company that will be doing the work.

5) Expenditure Report – Ms. Durette reviewed the March 3, 2014 Expenditure Report. She noted that this is time of year when Principals are asked to complete all their budgeted requisitions so that we can properly plan for the end of the year. The Superintendent and Finance Director stressed that we are on track to remain within the budget and that all expenditures will be met.

6) FY 2014 Bill Rolls – The School Committee reviewed the Bill Rolls dated March 5, 2014.

Ms. Pitone made a motion to approve the Bill Rolls, which was seconded by Mr. Futrell. The motion unanimously passed by voice vote.

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

Mr. Bockelman reported on a subsequent meeting involving the Brown PTA and a few School Committee members regarding 6th to 7th grade transition. Discussion took place regarding where seats are in district. Lots of listening was done by both sides and different suggestions—all well intentioned—were made. The transfer process was described and discussed. All in all, the meeting lasted about an hour to an hour and a half. The main issue is keeping all students together for 7th grade. Mr. Bockelman also reported that this will be likely be an ongoing issue since there used to be just one 6th grade at the Brown and now there are two and this looks like it will be a continuing trend. Mr. Bockelman asked about discussing this more at a future Long Range Planning meeting.

Ms. Pitone thanked Brown School Principal Kathleen Seward and the 30 or so parents. There was a great tone to meeting.

Ms. Rafal thanked Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Pitone for their reports and assured them that this topic will be added to Long Range Planning in the future.

B. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting: March 11 (Mr. Bockelman)

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone

Others present: Steve Roix, Dan Futrell, Adam Sweeting, Christine Rafal

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Staff present: Vince McKay, Tony Pierantozzi, Susana Hernandez Morgan, John Oteri

Other present: About twenty other staff and members of the public

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: Carrie Normand moved to approve the minutes of February 11, 2014. Laura Pitone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Community Partnership Update: Assistant Superintendent McKay reported on an exciting new partnership between Tufts University and the District that would create a formal relationship between the University and the Healey School.

He introduced Dr. Christine McWayne of Tufts University. Dr. McWayne is the Director of Early Childhood Education at Tufts and an Associate Professor.

Dr. McWayne said that, although the deal was still being finalized, she and the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent thought it timely to inform the School Committee of this new initiative. She said the agreement focused on PreK through second grade and had two key features. The first was pre-service training in which about five graduate students would devote 30 hours per week to working in an individual classroom in the Healey School. This work is a requirement of the graduate program at Tufts.

The second feature was in-service work with current teachers at the Healey School utilizing the resources at Tufts University. Healey teachers involved in the program would take on a master-teacher role and help mentor budding student teachers.

Superintendent Pierantozzi added that this partnership would be mutually beneficial for both the University and the District.

Dr. McKay said an important component was the use of data to inform the learning going on with the student teachers.

Dr. McWayne said there would be a more formal ceremony on March 31st at 9 or 9:30 a.m. at the Healey.

Members of the subcommittee were very pleased by this news and encouraged the Superintendent and Dr. McWayne to move this partnership forward aggressively so that the upper grades could benefit, also.

Somerville High School Guidance and College and Career Readiness report presentation:

Dr. McKay then introduced Dr. Anna McTigue from the Education Development Center, which was engaged to study the high school's college and career readiness practices and to support a 3-5 year strategic plan. The full committee had received the 50+-page report in advance.

Dr. McTigue provided numerous recommendations, which are outlined in the report and the PowerPoint presentation. Some of the recommendations were to fill the vacancy of Guidance Department Head, reassign the testing coordination away from the Head, and create a second position titled Director of College and Career Readiness.

Dr. McTigue found that the staffing levels of the guidance counselors was appropriate and in accordance with state and national standards. She found that the Department needed an annual plan and calendar of activities that was shared throughout the department. She stressed that college readiness was a K-12 mission. She recommended that we take steps to initiate college and career readiness curriculum beginning in the 7th grade, instead of waiting until the 9th grade. She was pleased that the Headmaster had already purchased the Naviance software which will provide important information for the high school for both current and graduated students and would provide a user-friendly portal for students and parents as they manage the college admission process.

She commended the current staff in the guidance department calling them dedicated and caring. This impression was confirmed by her interviews with some high school students who all said they felt valued at Somerville High School, a key indicator of success.

She said the District could do better with communication and engagement of families but that the demographics (non-native English speakers, etc.) presented a unique set of challenges.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Members question the Superintendent on the logic of having the Director of College and Career Readiness report to the Assistant Superintendent instead of to the Guidance Department Head, who reports to the Headmaster. This discussion will continue during the funding request for this position in Finance and Facilities Subcommittee.

Program Updates:

Dr. McKay provided quick program updates on the Unidos Program noting that 15 teachers were scheduled to attend a teachers' conference, which was very exciting.

He said the Kindergarten Readiness initiative was moving forward, as well.

MOTION: At 9:11 p.m., Ms. Pitone moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Normand and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the report of the Chair of the Educational Programs & Instruction of the Subcommittee meeting of March 11, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Personnel Report

The Superintendent announced that members received the March Personnel Report in this week's packet. This report included the following:

Two (2) resignations for purpose of retirements –

- Paula Olsen Counselor Educator at Brown School after 27 years
- Mary Moreira, Early Childhood Paraprofessional at Capuano, after 17 years

The Superintendent wished the retirees a long, happy, healthy retirement.

There were also three (3) resignations, eight (8) leaves of absence for various reasons, four (4) intra-district transfers and five (5) new hires.

- Mr. Pierantozzi read the following letter announcing his retirement from the Somerville Public Schools into the record:

Dear Chairwoman Rafal and members of the Somerville School Committee:

This letter serves as official notice to you and the Somerville Public Schools community that July 5, 2015 will be my last day as Superintendent of Schools for the City of Somerville. Effective on that date, I will be retiring. I hope that this notification will allow ample time to conduct the search for my successor. If I can be of service to assist the School Committee, in any way in the future, I will make myself available.

Looking ahead, I will sorely miss the students, faculty and staff, central office staff, parents and guardians, community and the School Committee, but will always remember my service to the Somerville community with fondness and pride. I am confident that the relationships developed during my tenure as Superintendent will endure and deepen after my departure.

It has been my immense honor and privilege to serve our City, a city that respects and supports education like few others, as Superintendent for a decade. During my stewardship, due to the outstanding work of our staff, students, parents, guardians, and community partners, the School District has flourished in many ways. The collaboration, teamwork and unity of purpose developed during my tenure are the genesis of our work and emblematic of a City truly committed to helping every student maximize his or her potential. The children and youth of Somerville have been the beneficiaries of our work together, but the entire City has and will be positively affected.

I am deeply appreciative to the former members of the School Committee and Mayor Curtatone, who gave me an incredible opportunity by hiring me in 2005, and to all of our community members who have served on the School Committee and Board of Aldermen, all of whom have consistently valued education and supported the Somerville Public Schools. I will leave my position knowing that, without a doubt, serving as the Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools was the best job I ever had. Thank you!

Please accept this notice of my resignation as Superintendent for the City of Somerville for the purpose of retirement, effective July 5, 2015.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Following the Superintendent's announcement, members shared congratulations, appreciation, thoughts on the District's improvement over the past nine years, plans for the future – including the hiring process for the next Superintendent, and much more.

Members also commented that they will have another year and a half to work with Mr. Pierantozzi and look forward to this time.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:02 p.m.

Mr. Pierantozzi thanked everyone for the kind words.

B. District Report

- A School Committee member requested Mr. Pierantozzi's Bull's Eye and Values document and there is one at every member's seat this evening.
- A School Committee member asked for an organizational chart for the District and there is one at members' seat tonight—in draft form.
- Congratulations to the 2014 Region IV Science Fair winners. Somerville High School hosted the 38th Annual event Saturday night at the SHS Atrium. The 42 projects will be advancing to the State Engineering & Science Fair, which will be held at MIT in April. Nine (9) Somerville High School projects were among the top 42. Cosmos
- Saturday's *Learn about the PARCC* event, sponsored by the SFLC, Somerville Teachers' Association and Citizens for Public Schools, was informative and well-attended, offering parents/guardians, students and other community members a first-hand experience of PARCC. To find out more, visit the Somerville Public Schools website and type parcc into the info box—lots of information will pop up. This year's test is a Pilot test and no results will be shared.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Instruction for his report on curriculum-related issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

I'd like to acknowledge, too, the great work by Somerville High students at the Regional Science Fair on Saturday. It's always a highlight for me in the annual calendar of events, usually with my own kids keeping me company. As usual, the student presentations posters were outstanding, but even more impressive were the students themselves as they pitched their work with great enthusiasm and deep knowledge of their subjects.

Tomorrow is a very big day for us in the annual state testing calendar... the first day of the 2014 MCAS season! It all starts tomorrow with the Long Composition, taken by all 4th 7th and 10th grade students across the state. This is a single essay that the students write, first a draft and then a final essay. They write this out long-hand, over the course of the whole morning.

2013 WRITING PROMPT Gr 4

Imagine that you are digging in your yard or in your neighborhood and you find an old trunk. When you open the trunk, you discover something very different than what you expected.

Write a story about finding the old trunk. Be sure to describe what you find inside the trunk and what happens after you open it.

WRITING PROMPT Gr 7

People's character traits define who they are and can help them throughout their lives. These character traits could include honesty, bravery, loyalty, compassion, determination, or creativity.

In a well-developed composition, select **one** character trait you believe is very important in life and explain why that trait is so important.

Our operating words for our school admin teams: be organized and calm so the students can be focused and confident!

For most of our students, the essay will take them the whole morning tomorrow.

So for those 4th, 7th and 10th graders getting ready to write.... rest up, have a good breakfast tomorrow then show us what you've learned!

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

PROGRESS MONITORING MEETINGS:

I am now in the midpoint of my next round of School Progress Monitoring meetings, now in their third cycle for the school year. These face to face meetings, held with the school principals, guided the development and refinement of this year's school improvement plans.

As you know, the recommendations and strategies that were reflected in the individual school Plans were aligned with the school committee and district improvement goals. Just like the data we used the school data to determine priorities in our first round of meetings last fall, the data is used, in the current monitoring cycle, to track progress. These strategies were used to create many of the budget priorities, and you can expect to see these.

Last Wednesday, March 12, we hosted a talk by David L. Kirp a prominent thinker about educational issues in the US, and Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. In his seventeen books and scores of articles, Mr. Kirp has studied some of America's biggest social problems, but his main focus has been on education and children's policy, including a work as a policy adviser for the Obama transition team.

So we were very honored to welcome Mr. Kirp to Somerville to discuss his newest book, *Improbable Scholars: The Rebirth of a Great American School System and a Strategy for American Education*. The book carries a critically important message about public education today, and is being recognized by the American Education Research Association: *Improbable Scholars* will receive its Outstanding Book Award for 2014.

Mr. Kirp gave a very compelling and thoughtful presentation about the lessons of the book which was followed by a question and answer session and a great sharing of ideas.

I want to thank you for attending, as we welcomed many members of our school staff, parents, elected leaders university partners and officials from state agencies such as the Dept. of Early Ed and Care. Mayor Curtatone provided some terrific opening remarks and the Supt. Wrapped up the evening with a summary and next steps for our action.

As a longtime educator, I was inspired by the message of hope, and a common sense path to improved learning for all of our children.

Thanks to Tony, for always putting students first.

The Superintendent continued his district report:

- Personnel decision processes update

Director of Special Education

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the search for a new Director of Special Education:

20 candidates screened

9 candidates offered interviews, 6 accepted, 1 dropped out.

3 finalists being interviewed this week

The Superintendent met with the 15 members of team after interviews. The team worked well together and Mr. Pierantozzi commended Mariana MacDonald for facilitating the group – the best one ever!

Mr. Pierantozzi will interview the finalists, and then cycle back to the interview team to learn their preferences, perform reference checks, and make a selection, forward to School Committee.

Kennedy School Principal

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the search for a new Kennedy School Principal:

Over 30 candidates screened

13 offered interviews,

Next week, Mr. Pierantozzi will meet with team before and after the interviews, the team will forward names, and then the Superintendent will follow the same process as with the Director of Special Education.

Mr. Futrell asked about stakeholder involvement, particularly with the SPED PAC and Mr. Pierantozzi responded that the SPED PAC forwarded names and the first two people on their list were on the interview team. Both of these people were very happy with this process and some of the questions from the group were blended into the established interview questions.

- School Safety and Security Review Committee Update

This Committee was authorized in fall by the School Committee following an incident at an athletic camp. The Committee met nine (9) times for about 2 hours per meeting. Mr. Pierantozzi met with the Committee on February 27 and March 10 and discussed potential recommendations. No final

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

recommendations as of yet. The Committee will forward a formal report to the Superintendent and he will share with the School Committee. The SSSR Committee suggests the development of a public procedural handbook or document for students, staff, parents/guardians, etc. for field trip planning to ensure safety, security, health and supervision. There are no policy changes needed, however, if School Committee members wish to have current policies reviewed by the Rules Management Subcommittee, that can be done. Mr. Pierantozzi issued his thanks to SSSR Committee Chair Gerry Leone and the entire committee for an outstanding job of synthesizing many different documents. The Committee was very transparent, with a broad group of stakeholders.

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director Patricia Durette for her report on finance-related issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Ms. Durette has requested that final spending plans be submitted by April 11 by all principals and department heads. All requisitions will be entered into the Munis system and ordered and delivered so that payments can be completed by June 30th. Updated expenditure reports have been provided to all so they can see their balances/available funds and formulate spending.
- Ms. Durette provided information relative to the process for charter transportation bid. There are two separate bids – one for pupil transport and one for athletics. Tomorrow is the date of the pre-bidders conference. All interested parties are invited to go through the bid documents and have any questions answered. The bid opening is March 27 for a September 1 start.
- Extraordinary relief - Circuit Breaker – Somerville Public Schools will be applying for this money. This is the provision that allows districts to recoup some money when our sped costs exceed 125% of what was claimed the prior year. Ms. Durette is in the process of filing for this now. Last year, we were able to be reimbursed approximately \$250,000. Hopefully this year's results will also be positive.

The Superintendent announced that a representative from Powers and Sullivan will be at Central Office next week to audit the end of year report.

Ms. Durette meant to mention this during her report. The auditors will be here next Thursday and Friday, March 27th and 28th.

- The third workshop in a four-part series on Middle School Youth will take place this Wednesday, March 19, 6:30-8pm at the Argenziano School. I and a panel of middle school students will discuss students' strategies for success. This workshop, titled "Focus on Success" is open to all. Please join us! The final workshop of this 4-part series (*How does a Parent Deal with the Changes?*) is scheduled for April 2nd, 5:30-7:30pm at the Winter Hill.
- The 12th Annual Brian Higgins Foundation Trivia Night is this Thursday, March 20th, starting at 6pm at Tufts University's Cousens Gym. It's a fantastic community event that supports a great cause, and it's incredibly fun. I look forward to seeing you there.
- Mark your calendars for a great annual event this Saturday, March 22nd. The 2014 Career & Technical Education Fair (Vocational Fair) will take place at Somerville High School from 9am to noon. Student Ambassadors will lead you through tours of each of the 13 CTE programs and facilities, and guests will also have a chance to participate in some hands-on activities. It's a great way to learn about the many programs and state-of-the-art resources available to students interested in a CTE program. This is a FREE family event. Everyone is welcome.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$50.00 from the following people, given in memory of the late Richard M. Garrity, retired art teacher from Somerville High School, to be by the Art Department at Somerville High.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • Thomas and Virginia Galligani of Billerica, MA | \$ 25.00 |
| • Anna Greene of Norwood, MA | \$ 25.00 |

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

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of five (5) working laptop computers and one (1) desktop, valued at \$175.00 each from Jonah Feld of Somerville, MA to be used for training

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

in the Information Support Services and Networking Program in the CVTE Department of Somerville High School. Total value of donation is \$1050.00.

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

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of 350 books entitled, "Remember Beauty and Songs for a Blue Time" from the author – Ms. Nila J. Webster of Revere, MA to be donated to every 3rd grade student in the Somerville Public Schools. Total value of donation is \$1350.00.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the donation with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of two (2) leather couches and four (4) leather chairs donated by the Beta Mu Chapter of Tufts University, Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, to be used at Somerville High School.

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

B. 2014 Somerville High School Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent, upon the request of Mr. Oteri, Headmaster at Somerville High School, recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for a Somerville High School diploma, be granted his diploma:

- Daniel Camara

MOTION: Alderman White made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the Somerville High School diploma with congratulations.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trip (recommended action: approval)

May 3-4, 2014

Somerville High School Ultimate Frisbee Girls and Boys Teams to Amherst, MA, overnight, to compete in the Amherst Invitational Tournament. Transportation via school van, rental van and possibly by car with a total cost to students of \$10.00 each for food.

Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Futrell

1. AFA events: (translation is available via the SFLC)
 - a) On Thursday, the 3rd grade teachers support math learning at home grades 2-4
 - b) April 3rd Family Math Night for grades PK-5 (3rd year) led by Math Coach Donna Driscoll
 - c) April 10th at 5:30 - Heritage Night

Ms. Pitone

1. Tuesday, March 18th - fundraiser for the Kennedy Drama Club at the Potbelly Sandwich Shop
2. March 29th - Duhamel Breakfast
3. Kennedy Book Fair next week
4. April 5th - Friends of Healey Porter Square Books fundraiser

Ms. Normand

1. West Somerville Neighborhood School – Tuesday April 1 – fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza
2. West Somerville Neighborhood School – Wednesday April 9 – Books for Bingo from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for all levels

Mr. Roix

1. Friday, March 28 – East Somerville Community School First Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament fundraiser for PTA from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Mayor Curtatone

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

1. Submitting the Capital Improvement Plan for the City, including school needs, this month and coordinating with President of the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Brociner

1. Last Friday, the due date for the first round of scholarship applications has passed and the second round is due this Thursday, March 20th.

Ms. Rafal announced that next week there is a Long Range Planning meeting on Monday and Executive Session and Finance & Facilities on Wednesday evening.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

William "Bill" Medeiros, father-in-law of Maria Medeiros, teacher at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, April 7, 2014 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Ms. Rafal, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand, Mr. White (7:11 p.m.) and Mayor Curtatone (7:35 p.m.)

Members absent:

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:09 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Rafal, Sweeting, Roix, Futrell, Pitone, Bockelman, Normand, and Absent – 2 – White and Curtatone.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Marcelo Brociner, provided the following report on happenings at Somerville High School:

- Reminded students that there is free and convenient academic help available to them.
- Summer job applications are due by, not on, April 24, 2014.
- The 16th Annual Multi-Cultural Fair was a huge success. Students shared meals, desserts and wonderful performances showcasing the countries of their heritage. This was a grand celebration of the diversity of Somerville High School and Marcelo saw several School Committee members in attendance, as well!

Alderman White arrived at 7:11 p.m.

- The Sophomore/Junior Gala is this weekend and tickets are \$40.00. On the subject of tickets, it is rumored that ticket prices for the Senior Prom may be near \$100.00 or more. In an attempt to offset these high prices, members of the senior class have been selling various flavors of popcorn to raise funds.
- Last Wednesday night's National Honor Induction Ceremony was a wonderful celebration of students' successes and accomplishments.
- Mr. Brociner apologized for not yet forwarding the results of the survey regarding school lunches conducted by the Student Council. The advisor is currently refining and editing the result document and it will be sent to School Committee members once ready.
- Mr. Brociner and other students from across the state participated in a "Mock Congress" last week at the State House and debated two (2) bills; one regarding the physical education requirement for all students and the other regarding the prohibition of cell phone use by teens.
- Mr. Brociner encouraged all high school students to join the Student Council and become involved!
- Congratulated the Choir for being awarded a silver medal at the World Strides Heritage Competition in Nashville, TN this past weekend. This is the second time our choir has competed and the second time they have won a silver medal!
- Congratulated Melissa Baptista for being named an All-Scholastic by the Boston Globe. (get text from article)

Ms. Rafal announced that, if there were no objections, she would like to take item IV. B out of order.

Special Meeting for Executive Session: March 26 (Ms. Rafal)

- Memorandum of Agreement with the Somerville Administrators Association

Ms. Rafal reported that the School Committee voted in executive session on March 26, 2014 to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with the Somerville Administrators Association for a three-year successor collective bargaining agreement, commencing July 1, 2013 and expiring June 30, 2016. The vote on a collective bargaining agreement, unlike the vote on a non-unionized employee's contract of employment,

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

may be taken in executive session. Ms. Rafal also invited SAA President, Sebastian LaGambina to join her at the front of the Chambers to sign the contract with her. Following the signing, Mr. LaGambina took a few minutes to thank the School Committee and stated his appreciation for a fair agreement. He also extended his appreciation to Director of Operations, Joe Tringale, and the Superintendent for the values and integrity shown by them during the bargaining process.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 17, 2014

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the minutes of March 17, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:* March 24 (Ms. Rafal)

The School Committee met for Long Range Planning on March 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Healey School Library, 5 Meacham Street, Somerville.

Members present: Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, Paul Bockelman, Dan Futrell, Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone and Steve Roix

Staff present: Tony Pierantozzi

Others present (audience members, etc.) Former School Committee Representatives Maureen Bastardi, Teresa Cardoso and Roberta Bauer

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Superintendent's Search - The Committee appointed Mr. Bockelman as the Chair of the School Committee for Personnel and a tentative calendar was developed:

Development of the Request for Proposals (RFP) – April 7, 2014

Consultant Chosen – May 15, 2014

Recap of Retreat -Brief discussion ensued relative to the two School Committee retreats.

School Committee Goals - Members reviewed the draft version of the goals developed after the last School Committee retreat and made some edits. The new draft will be produced and forwarded to members for their review.

Appointment of a representative to the Kennedy School Innovation Planning Group

The Committee appointed Laura Pitone as their representative to the Kennedy School Innovation Planning Group.

Other: Appointment of a representative to the Somerville High School Building Committee -

The Committee appointed Steve Roix as their representative to the Somerville High School Building Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Goal 1: Support the "Whole Child" by working with stakeholders to increase and improve activities that develop the intellectual, physical, social and emotional potential of all students.

- Maintain and expand access to co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for all students.
- Develop an analysis of activities that support the "Whole Child".
- Decrease chronic absenteeism and tardiness by 10%.

Goal 2: Improve Student Achievement.

Improve student achievement by meeting the following annual targets:

- Each school will meet or exceed the State Performance and Progress Index (PPI) targets for each school.
- The District will meet or exceed the State Performance and progress Index (PPI) target for the District.
- Achieve a minimum District-wide student growth percentage (SGP) average of 60 and implement intervention measures for any student who does not meet this standard.
- Reduce the achievement gap by 10%.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

- Increase MCAS scores by 10%.
- Increase the number of students ranking Proficient or Advanced on MCAS by 10% in all subgroups.
- Increase the number of students ranking Proficient or Advanced on Science MCAS by 10%.
- Improve the four year and five year graduation rates by 10%.

Goal 3: Establish and begin implementation of a plan for Universal Kindergarten Readiness and grade-level literacy.

- Ensure that every child enters Kindergarten with the skills necessary to be successful.
- Ensure that every child can read to learn by the end of the 3rd Grade.

Goal 4: Promote a culture of Innovation and Collaboration.

- Support Professional Learning Communities aligned with best practices.
- Enhance teamwork and partnerships regarding student learning and school activities.

Goal 5: Improve Communication.

- Improve two-way communication and outreach with all Somerville Public Schools community members.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the School Committee Goals.

Discussion ensued regarding what constitutes an achievement gap, accountability reports, Universal Readiness, and how measuring achievement is done.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Following discussion the motion to accept the School Committee Goals was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the report of the Chair of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of March 24, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Following discussion regarding the School Committee Goals, Mr. Brociner asked about whether students would be part of the interview team for the new Superintendent. Mr. Bockelman explained that the School Committee is the hiring authority for this position and, as Chair of the Committee; he will make sure all stakeholder groups are involved.

B. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities: March 26 & April 2 (Mr. Sweeting)

The School Committee met as a Committee of the Whole for Finance and Facilities on Wednesday, March 5 at School Department Headquarters at 42 Cross Street. Members present were Adam Sweeting, Laura Pitone, Dan Futrell, Christine Rafal, Carrie Normand, Steve Roix, and Paul Bockelman.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi and Finance Director Durette. There was one member of the public in the audience.

Mr. Sweeting called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

There were three items on the agenda.

1) Approval of the minutes from the March 5, 2014 Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting Ms. Pitone made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Futrell. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

2) FY 2015 Budget – The Finance Director and Superintendent presented a list of the Superintendent's recommended budget increases for the upcoming school year. At the previous meeting the School Committee received a list of all requests for additional staff and/or programs submitted by principals, School Councils, PTAs, or department heads. That list did not contain priorities or recommendations from the Central Administration. For this meeting, the Superintendent reviewed each request and explained why he was or was not recommending it for the School Committee's consideration.

The Superintendent's recommendations total \$981,461 in additional spending over a level-service budget. The list of recommended additions includes \$95,000 for an Assistant Principal at the Capuano Early Childhood Center, \$95,000 for a new position of Early Childhood Director, and \$40,000 for a new College and Career Readiness Director.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

School Committee members asked several questions about the various recommendations and will take them under advisement as it moves toward approving a final FY15 budget.

3) Equipment Requests – Finance Director Durette presented the list of equipment requests for FY15. The list includes several photocopiers that need to be replaced. Ms. Durette explained the process and time line for purchasing new copiers at each school. Other equipment requests include a new vehicle for the Food Service Department, bleachers at the High School Field House, and updated machinery for the Center for Technical Education.

Superintendent's Recommendations – Program Improvement Requests, 3/24/14
Capital Equipment Requests – FY 2012-2015, 3/7/14

The total cost of all these requested additions comes to \$1,344, 795 and amounts to 21.3 FTEs.

3) SY 2014 Elementary Class Sections and Projections

School Committee members received and discussed the first projection for class sizes for the 2014-2015 school year. At this point in the year it's difficult to project accurately what next year's class numbers will look like. A lot can change between now and September.

We discussed the large number of students in K-3, which is an exciting trend for SPS but one which will require considerable planning as these students age through the system. We already have a space crunch that is likely to increase in the coming years.

4) Facility Update:

A) Brown School - The School Committee discussed a letter drafted by Betsy Allen, the City's Director of the Office of Disability & Compliance. The letter was generated because of interest by members of the Brown School community in renovating a portion of the top floor of the school for possible use either as a classroom or office. The Brown School is currently fully utilized and there has been interest in relieving some of the space issues by renovating the closet on the top floor.

The letter indicates that if renovation costs amount to less than \$100,000 the requirements of the Americans for Disabilities Act would not come into play. If costs total more than that figure, there would need to be substantial work done to bring the building into full compliance of the Act.

There was considerable discussion about how the space might be used and the School Committee asked the Superintendent to determine how it would be utilized should renovations be approved. School Committee members also sought clarification on whether any recent maintenance at the Brown School counted toward the \$100,000 threshold listed in Ms. Allen's letter.

Members of the School Committee stressed that the Brown School is vital to our school programming, given the space needs in the District and the high level of satisfaction reported by parents/guardians at the school. They asked the Superintendent to explore how the city might utilize the full space in ways that comply with ADA and that are not prohibitively expensive.

B) High School – The Superintendent reiterated that the scope of work for repairs for the SHS auditorium and cafeteria has been reduced and that we are still on track for completion of the repairs before the start of school in September.

We also discussed briefly the renovations of Room 143 for the Special Education Department. We received a signed document from Mr. Bandini, the Director of Capital Projects, and the Construction Company that will be doing the work.

5) Expenditure Report – Ms. Durette reviewed the March 3, 2014 Expenditure Report. She noted that this is time of year when Principals are asked to complete all their budgeted requisitions so that we can properly plan for the end of the year. The Superintendent and Finance Director stressed that we are on track to remain within the budget and that all expenditures will be met.

6) FY 2014 Bill Rolls – The School Committee reviewed the Bill Rolls dated March 5, 2014.

Ms. Pitone made a motion to approve the Bill Rolls, which was seconded by Mr. Futrell. The motion unanimously passed by voice vote.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

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

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the Chair of the Finance & Facilities for the meeting of March 26, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to accept the report of the Chair of the Finance & Facilities for the meeting of April 2, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

The Superintendent provided the following report on happenings around the District:

- Congratulations to the Somerville High School Chorus, under the direction of Beverly Mosby, for another outstanding performance at the WorldStride Heritage Foundation Eastern Regional Competition held in Nashville, TN this year. The SHS chorus earned their second silver medal in as many years at this competition, competing against 12 other groups from around the U.S. SHS was the only group from Massachusetts to be invited to this event. During their trip, the Chorus also visited the Hermitage Museum, President Andrew Jackson's estate, and stopped by the Country Music Hall of Fame.
- The Next Wave/Full Circle Basketball team claimed its second straight Greater Boston Basketball League Championship title last week, capping off an undefeated regular season with a 77-51 win over Lighthouse School to claim the GBBL title. Congratulations!

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report on curriculum-related matters. Dr. McKay's report follows:

On March 31 was the public event at the Healey, the announcement of a new district-wide collaboration between Somerville Public Schools (SPS) and Tufts University. Thanks to the Mayor and the school committee members who were able to attend. This initiative the STELLAR program (Somerville + Tufts Enhancing Leadership, Literacy and Readiness), brings together SPS and student teachers focused on children preschool through second grade. The Tufts students will do full-year internships in Somerville classrooms mentored by SPS teachers, but STELLAR will go beyond an internship program.

Mentors and interns will participate in a collaborative form of professional development, in which they will jointly develop classroom strategies and test them in the classroom.

Seminars will take place both at the participating school and at Tufts University, which offers resources such as the Curriculum Resource Lab and the Eliot-Pearson Children's School.

The program is launching initially at the Healey School. Through STELLAR, student teachers enrolled in the master's program of Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development in Tufts will work as full-time interns in Healey School classrooms. Each student teacher will gain valuable classroom experience in an urban school district with a diverse range of students that is typical of Somerville. At the same time, the classroom teacher and Somerville students will benefit from a highly-skilled intern who can target the individual needs of each child.

Support for our Teachers is Job #1: Somerville Schools work hard to cultivate and support teachers, and having high-quality professional development available to them. This collaboration offers great benefits to our teachers, providing the opportunity for professional advancement that benefits them and the Somerville students who learn from them.

SC Goals: Congratulations on these

This is one piece of the fabric of support that supports the Universal K readiness initiative and the overall the alignment

Ed Programs preview:

Science Curriculum development will be a major focus for the coming year, and the outline of that plan will be presented at the April 8 Ed Programs meeting tomorrow. As part of the launch of this initiative, we recruited 19 teachers attend the National conference for Science Teachers, in Boston last week.

<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/schedule.aspx?id=2014bos>

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Comments from one teacher who attended: I wanted to take a minute, before we start the busy week, to thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the NSTA Conference. [My fellow teacher] and I went Friday and Saturday and we attended about 10 different workshops each, all very exciting. I learned a lot and obtained new ideas for my classroom. Being around so many dedicated educators gives you an energy boost. I want to incorporate so many things in my classroom. The bad thing is now I want to go every year!

It was a great experience, thank you so much for the opportunity!

Unidos Program Update, the district's two-way Spanish/English program housed at the East Somerville Community School. Unidos lottery on Wed, and as

National Honor Society ceremony was held last Thursday. Congratulations to those inducted.

The Superintendent continued his district report:

- Personnel Updates:

The Superintendent provided an update on the hiring processes for the Director of Special Education and Kennedy Principal positions which included dates of preliminary interviews, number of candidates interviewed, number forwarded as finalists, interviews by Mr. Pierantozzi, reference checks, etc. The Superintendent stated that the Director of Special Education finalist should be forwarded to the School Committee within a week and the name of his choice for the Kennedy Principal should be announced with the next 48 hours.

- Congratulations to Sylvia Jenkins, a second grade student at the ESCS, for having her Youth Art Month entry, Watercolor Landscape Collage, selected for display at the National Art Education Association's convention recently held in San Diego, CA. Sylvia's artwork, along with numerous other pieces from SPS students, is currently on display at the State Transportation Building in downtown Boston as part of the Youth Art Month exhibit. The exhibit is open from 9-5 weekdays through April 25, 2014.
- This Thursday evening, April 10th, our own Regina Bertholdo, Director of the Parent Information Center, will be honored at the Welcome Project's 2014 YUM: A Taste of Immigrant City annual event. Regina will receive the Second Annual Intercultural City Award. The event is Thursday evening, 7pm, at the Arts at the Armory.

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director, Patricia Durette, for her report on finance-related matters. Ms. Durette's report follows:

- March 27th was the bid opening for the pupil and charter transportation contract. There were two bids submitted for each and Eastern Bus Company was the lowest bidder for both. The contract will have a September 1, 2014 start date and will be three years in duration. Ms. Durette will now make adjustments to the proposed FY15 budget to include the increases for transportation that have resulted from this new contract.
- On April 4, Regina Bertholdo and Ms. Durette attended a meeting at Worcester Tech. regarding a potential grant opportunity from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for supporting homeless students via supplemental services. More information will be shared as it becomes available.
- On March 27 and 28, an auditor from Powers and Sullivan was at Central Office performing an audit on the FY13 End of Year Report, which is quite lengthy. There were no findings and we anticipate a clean audit report from this process. Ms. Durette thanked Mr. Tringale and his staff for their assistance with this process.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of homeless students in the District and how the funds will be distributed throughout the State. The Superintendent reminded members that the number of homeless students is part of the monthly PIC Report.

Ms. Rafal announced that although an audit report may be considered boring, she sends her thanks for great work by all involved!

The Superintendent continued his report:

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

- Congratulations to Melissa Baptista, senior guard for the SHS Basketball team, for making the Boston Globe All-Scholastic team. Melissa has averaged 20.9 points and 12 rebounds per game this season. In addition to Melissa being named a Globe's All-Scholastic team member, 19 other SHS student-athletes earned All-Star honors this year. They are:
 - Girls' Basketball: Ella Tyler
 - Boys' Basketball: Fru Che and Rayoni Matos
 - Boys' Hockey: Cam Alves
 - Girls' Track: Kaba Alison, Saragrace Magre, Catherine Nakato, Melissa Sanon, and Amber Theobold
 - Boys' Track: Joao Batista, Nigel Baugh, Marcelo Brociner, Demar Chapman, Travis Dolcine, Malcolm Ducasse, Kevin Ma, and Ben Pierre
 - Girls' Swimming: Rachael Berry and Marisa Rafal
- The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative invites you to a Raising a Reader workshop on Wednesday, April 9th at the Capuano Center. The workshop is for Somerville parents/guardians of young children, and begins at 6:30 pm.
- Somerville High School hosts a Career Fair this Thursday, April 10th, 9-11am at the school Atrium.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2013-2014 Calendar Update

Mr. Pierantozzi provided members with an update on this year's school calendar relative to the last day of school, etc. The last day of school for all students will be June 25th and this will be a half-day of school for all students. In addition, June 24th will be a half-day of school for elementary students only to make up for a negotiated early release day that was cancelled due to inclement weather.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trip (recommended action: approval)

April 19, 2014

Somerville High School Boys and Girls Track Teams to Nashua, NH to attend an MIAA sanctioned meet. Transportation via two minibuses with no cost to students.

May 9-10, 2014

Somerville High Boys Track team to White Plains, NY to participate in the Glenn Loucks Games. Transportation via school minibus with a cost of \$15.00 per student for dinner on Saturday.

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

B. 2014 Somerville High School Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Oteri, Headmaster at Somerville High School, the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for a Somerville High School diploma, was granted her diploma:

- Jessica Arita

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

C. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of 28 Dell Optiplex PCs and 26 LCD monitors from Lisa Berard of Cambridge, MA to be used in the Information Support Services and Networking Program in the CVTE Department of Somerville High School. Total value of donation is \$4939.46.

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

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**Ms. Pitone**

1. Kennedy School Coffee Hours on April 10th at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
2. Literacy Thursday on April 17th at Kennedy
3. Production of Schoolhouse Rock on May 2 and 3 by Kennedy Drama Club
4. 40th Annual PTA Dinner Dance on May 2
5. Healey Arts Gala on May 4 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Futrell

1. Heritage Night at the Argenziano on April 10 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Normand

1. Books for Bingo at the West Somerville from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for all students in grades K-8

Mr. Sweeting

1. Mr. Sweeting spoke about the March 31st event involving the STELLAR (Somerville + Tufts Enhancing Leadership, Literacy and Readiness) and stated that this is a significant development for the whole community which marshals creativity, draws on energies and meshes with the School Committee's focus on Universal Kindergarten Readiness.

Mayor Curtatone

1. Sad reports lately regarding the increase in Heroine abuse and the resulting deaths – over 100 in Massachusetts in the past few months. The Mayor, along with other key City personnel, are working on intervention, prevention, etc. including making sure funds are invested to fight this problem.
2. Assembly Square openings will begin in May. There will be a special "Somerville Day" for residents.
3. Lego Land will be offering special dates for Somerville students with field trip opportunities for SPS students and teachers.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Sweeting expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Ann Murray Paige, sister of Mary Beth Murray, Adjustment Counselor at Somerville High School.
- Robert Blaquiery, Jr., brother of Jacqueline Fourtounis, paraprofessional at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
- Delmiro Correia, father of MaryLou Carey-Sturniolo, School-based Family and Community Liaison at the Winter Hill Community and PTA President at the Brown School and Treasurer at Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of March 17, 2014 for approval
3. The 2014-2016 School Committee Goals
4. Two (2) Out of State Field Trip forms
5. One (1) Donation Acceptance Form
6. One (1) request for a Somerville High School diploma
7. Five (5) thank you notes for donations received
8. One (1) Condolence Letter

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, April 28, 2014 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mayor Curtatone, Ms. Rafal, , Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand, and Mr. White (7:04 p.m.)

Members absent: Mr. Sweeting

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:09 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Curtatone, Roix, Normand, Futrell, Bockelman, Pitone and Rafal, and Absent – 2 – White and Sweeting.

Ms. Rafal announced that Mr. Sweeting was not at tonight's meeting due to a family emergency.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Exciting time of year – with the improving weather come improving moods!
- Over vacation week there was an overseas trip to Spain and Portugal through an agency named *Explorica* and students visited cities such as Seville, Madrid and Lisbon.
- SAT testing takes place on May 3rd and students are studying diligently in preparation.
- 200 juniors will attend the NACEC College Fair on Thursday in Boston.
- The Spring Concert will be held in the field house at 6:30 on
- AP exams start next Monday and teachers and students are working diligently to prepare– exams start at noon and participating students can come in late the days of the tests. If a student receives a 4 or 5 on an AP test, the student can earn college credits and possibly opt out of classes.
- Getting closer to prom – girls have had dresses picked out for months and the guys are starting to think about getting something to wear! Cost of the prom is \$65 a ticket, which is better than the rumored \$100!
- Auditorium repairs beginning next week – exciting
- Pretty strange that there are only a few weeks left of school for our seniors. It is strange thinking it will be over in a matter of weeks, and he will attempt to make the most of the little time that is left.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 7, 2014

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell to approve the minutes of April 7, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *School Committee Meeting for Personnel:* April 7 (Mr. Bockelman)

The School Committee met in the Committee Room adjacent to the Board of Aldermen's Chambers at City Hall on April 7.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance were Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Normand, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Futrell and Ms. Rafal.

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi

Mr. Bockelman provided his report on the process for choosing a consultant re: RFP, etc. Members discussed the components they want to see in the RFP and also discussed the firms that they wanted information sent to. A draft timeline was also provided and reviewed by members.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair of the Personnel Committee for the meeting of April 7, 2014.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Rules Management Subcommittee: April 8 (Mr. Roix)

Mr. Roix provided the following report:

Members present: Mr. Roix, Ms. Normand and Mr. Futrell

Others present: Mr. Bockelman

Staff present: Mr. Pierantozzi and Dr. McKay

Other present: none

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2014 Rules Management Subcommittee meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Rules Management Subcommittee reviewed File IKF – Graduation requirements - at the request of the Superintendent in order to assure consistency between the District Policy Manual and the Somerville High School policy as was previously presented to the School Committee via the Educational Programs Subcommittee.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to amend file IKF in its entirety to align with the Somerville High School policy provided to the subcommittee by the Superintendent and forward as amended to the full School Committee.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

The Rules Management Subcommittee reviewed File IKEB – Grade Promotion - at the request of the Superintendent in order to assure consistency between the District Policy Manual and the Somerville High School policy as was previously presented to the School Committee via the Educational Programs Subcommittee.

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to amend file IKEB in its entirety to align with the Somerville High School policy provided to the subcommittee by the Superintendent and forward as amended to the full School Committee.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the Rules Management Subcommittee for the meeting of April 8, 2014.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee: April 8 (Mr. Bockelman)

Mr. Bockelman provided a brief report on the Ed Programs Subcommittee meeting of April 8, 2014.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Pitone and Ms. Normand

Others Present: Ms. Rafal, Mr. Roix and Mr. Futrell

Staff present: Dr. McKay, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Woods, Mr. Harel

There were also six members of the public in attendance.

1. Approval of minutes of March 11, 2014 – these minutes were approved by a voice vote of the Educational Programs Subcommittee members.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

2. SPED PAC – Update – brief discussion regarding the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee and its Advise the Advisory Committee. The Committee was provided with a handout prepared by the Superintendent for the Sped PAC's March 31, 2014 meeting
3. Science curriculum update – Somerville High School Science Department Head, Ms. Karen Woods and Mr. Uri Harel, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator provided a report on Science Department curriculum and other issues including staff attendance at the recent National Science Teachers Association Conference in Boston. Also discussed were Next Gen Standards and STEM.
4. Unidos program – The Committee reviewed a status report provided by Betsey Reardon, the Unidos Program Specialist. Here one-page update gave information relative to the Guiding Principles of Dual Language Education.
5. Program and assessment updates – there was also a review of summer professional development opportunities available to our staff at both the elementary and secondary level.

The meeting at adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair of the Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee for the meeting of April 8, 2014.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman assumed the Chair so that Ms. Rafal could provide her report.

D. School Committee Meeting for Personnel: April 16 (Ms. Rafal)

Ms. Rafal provided the follow report of the meeting:

The School Committee met as a Committee of the Whole for Personnel on Wednesday, April 16 at 42 Cross Street. Members present were Adam Sweeting, Laura Pitone, Christine Rafal, Carrie Normand, Steve Roix, Paul Bockelman, and Alderman White.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Vince McKay, and Mary DiGuardia. There were about a dozen members of the public in the audience.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

The only item on the agenda was to interview the candidate for the position of the Director of Special Education, Ms. Mary DiGuardia.

- 1) The Superintendent opened by reviewing the search process, in which various representatives from 15 stakeholder groups, had been involved-- from generating a list of criteria for a candidate through screening 26 applicants, interviewing several and fulfilling their charge to send several candidates they “could live with” [quote] to the Superintendent for his consideration. The interview team convened twice and sent a total of 6 such finalists to the Superintendent.

Before introducing his recommendation, the Superintendent gave some context about personnel decisions always being difficult and his concern about the rapid turnover that many districts are experiencing.

He explained that the 2005 comprehensive program review had not been complimentary, but the administration had worked on several issues since then and the most recent review complimented and commended our Special Education department. The SHS accreditation process also complimented Special Education at Somerville High School. The Superintendent said the staff are aware of our strengths and the staff ARE our strengths. He introduced Mary DiGuardia as the candidate, saying he was impressed with her organized vision for continuous improvement of the department, particularly in the areas of inclusion, collaboration with parents, technology and transitions.

- 2) Ms. DiGuardia introduced herself with a brief summary of her career so far and her respect for the many skilled colleagues in the district.
- 3) School Committee members then took turns asking their interview questions, largely borrowed or adapted from the questions generated by the SpEd PAC. We conducted two rounds of questions. Ms. DiGuardia answered our questions for about an hour and also offered us a couple of handouts* she

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

had prepared on some of the topics, including how to address the MCAS achievement gap for students with IEPs.

- 4) Ms. DiGuardia made a brief closing statement in which she was able to share important qualifications we might not have asked her about.

The Chair announced that the School Committee would vote on the appointment at the next regular School Committee meeting so that all members would be able to vote.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the report of the Chair of the Personnel Committee for the meeting of April 16, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Personnel Report

The Superintendent reported that the April 2014 Personnel Report is in members' packets. Highlights include:

As of today, there are 30 resignations for the purpose of retirement including the following three (3) new submissions:

- Maureen O'Brien – paraprofessional at the Capuano Early Childhood Center after 15 years
- Rosemary Ryan – vocational aide in the Culinary Arts Program at Somerville High School after 29 years of service
- Lorne Murphy – teacher at the Argenziano School after 33 years

We wish these retirees health, happiness and a long retirement!

There are seven (7) resignations, 23 leaves of absence for a variety of reasons – medical issues, child related and family related issues, etc. and three (3) intra district transactions.

B. District Report

- The Superintendent provided a report of the recent arrest of a former employee, Josh Wairi, which first came light on Thursday April 17 when he was contacted by the United States Attorney's Office. Mr. Pierantozzi provided background on Mr. Wairi. This is an active investigation and we continue to cooperate fully with all groups. Information to assist has been requested by authorities and we are complying. The Superintendent thanked the Mayor and staff, Somerville Trauma Response Network (STRN), Riverside Trauma Center, and Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.

At 11:30 a.m. on April 18th, a parent/guardian forum was held with approximately 75 people in attendance. Counselors and the STRN were available from noon to 8:00 p.m. to parents, guardians, etc. Staff meetings were held this morning from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and principals met with their staff. Also, one administrator from Central Office was in attendance at each school to provide support along with the STRN and other support staff. Handouts have been developed for parents and guardians as were talking points for principals. The Superintendent thanked Patty Contente and the STRN and Susana Hernandez Morgan for their assistance. In addition, Patty Contente is working with the Superintendent and Susana in developing guidelines for teachers to help them answer questions from students. There will be a 2nd forum tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. in the East Somerville Community School auditorium. Some Kennedy parents and guardians cannot attend this forum due to PTA so the Superintendent will meet with Kennedy parents on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Once this investigation ensued, the sharing of information became a one way street; we give information but don't get information. Anyone who has information that they feel may be relevant should contact the Somerville Police Department or call 311.

Discussion ensued relative to the District and City's response to this event. The Superintendent and Mayor jumped on this right away and were open and transparent at meetings - a hallmark of how we handle crises like this. Parents have been favorable of our response. There was also discussion regarding what to expect as the investigation continues, how to report information, etc.

The Superintendent announced that there are documents on our website that offer assistance to staff and parents when discussing the incident with students.

- The Superintendent announced that the Somerville Public Schools is out of the Styrofoam business – no use whatsoever – ahead of the ordinance. Only using paper or permanent products.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

- Update on auditorium and kitchen – work will begin as soon as permits, CORI's etc. are completed, but definitely by Monday. Noise levels, parking, refuse and other items were discussed at the pre-construction conference. There is a one person point of contact and Mr. Oteri will contact that person directly with any issues or concerns.

Discussion ensued regarding security protocols for construction personnel, the amount of the contract amount (\$2.47 million), the name of the successful bidder, and whether the contract included a clause regarding liquidated damages if not ready for school opening?

- Update on Room 143 at SHS – Mr. Pierantozzi visited the room and it is gutted, partitions started and sheet rocking will be completed by the end of this week. This will be a Special Education room with a nurse's station, exterior door and ramp for small private recreation space. As early as September, Kennedy School students who have aged out of the program offered at the Kennedy, will be able to attend Somerville High School and stay in the district until age 22. This will be a state of the art center for our students.
- Congratulations to the Somerville High School Jazz Band who was invited to participate in the Boston High School Jazz Band Showcase tomorrow, April 29th, 6pm at the Boston Public Library. The SHS Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. Charles McLaren is one of 5 groups performing tomorrow night. They will be sharing the stage with the Roland Hayes School Big Band, the Milton Academy Jazz Ensemble, the Boston Latin High School Jazz Band, and the Boston Arts Academy Jazz Ensemble.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report on curriculum-related issues:

- As our student representative Marcelo Brociner mentioned earlier, a group of SHS students just returned from a 9 day trip to Spain and Portugal. I'd like to extend my appreciation to the World Language Department – and especially to the four teacher chaperones – for a super- successful trip. Our SHS students are very lucky to have the support and commitment from these dedicated individuals, who gave their time to make this experience possible. It's a big responsibility! I want to thank the trip leader, SHS Spanish teacher Rebecca Bowen! I'd also like to recognize teachers Cindy Guan, Gino Colontuono, and Giuseppe Formato who accompanied Ms. Bowen on the trip to Portugal and Spain.
- I would also like to take this opportunity announce that there will be a curriculum presentation at a Regular School Committee meeting, on May 19. For that meeting, the World Language Department will be in the spotlight, which will include a slide show from last week's trip and updates on our outstanding middle grades and high school language programs.
- Last week was April vacation, but the learning continues for Somerville students. Some of these are school-based programs. These include the host of enrichment activities at our Community Schools vacation camps. Academic programs were also held last week, with Mathematics Camps at both Healy and Somerville High. When I visited the High School last week, students filled the library space and were diligently working through math problems. As I walked through and checked in, they were so focused that they never even looked up!
- El Sistema our very successful orchestral music program currently serving 75 students in grades 3 – 5. El Sistema held fund-raiser April 17. Very successful. Thanks to a number of those present here tonight who lent their support for this very worthy program and their mission for bringing the gift of music to Somerville students.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- The 40th Annual PTA Scholarship Dinner Dance will be held this Friday, May 2nd, at Anthony's in Malden. Tickets to the event, which includes dinner, can be purchased until this Wednesday, April 30th. Social Hour begins at 6:00pm, followed by a 7:00pm dinner and dance. For more information, visit the PTA event website at: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/pta/dinner.
- The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative invites you to a family workshop, "Demystifying the Common Core Standards," 5:30-7pm on Thursday, May 8th at the West Somerville Neighborhood School. Register in advance for dinner and/or childcare at x6966 or online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families.
- Now that spring has finally arrived, School Gardens are taking center stage in promoting Farm to School efforts. The Farm to School Project team and Groundwork Somerville hosted Garden Planting Parties last week at the Winter Hill and Kennedy Schools. An indoor seedling garden was planted on

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

the top level of the Winter Hill School. More exciting school garden events will be held throughout the District this Spring and Summer. Stay tuned.

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director, Patricia Durette, for some great news on the financial front:

- Pleased to announce the Somerville Public Schools that they have been awarded the PEP grant large federal 3 year grant submitted April 2013 fund activities to support k-8 healthy lifestyles including structured before and after school activities, physical fitness, nutrition and cooking Year 1613554 Congrats to all who put the grant application together 0 more planting, growing and other food related activities
- Susana Hernandez Morgan submitted farm to school implementation grant this week funding for school gardens, etc.
- Working on submitting by tomorrow next 21st century grant to support after school activities
- At your seats are end of year report schedule one portion of the report with the section that outlines revenue received for education and second part is expenditures by school, city and grants and other revolving accounts and answer questions at next meeting

Alderman White asked to be provided with a dollar figure of what funds from last year's budget were not utilized. Ms. Durette will get back to Mr. White on this with an inaccurate number via email. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that there was only a small fraction not used by school department and the money was returned back to the city

Ms. Rafal issued her thanks and congratulations on being awarded the Pep Grant – only 2 districts in Massachusetts were recipients!

The Superintendent continued his report:

- The second annual World Language Awards Night will be held Tuesday, May 6th, 6:30pm at the Kennedy School.
- The Vocational Senior Awards Banquet will be held Wednesday, May 7th, 6:30pm at the SHS Atrium/Field House.
- Quarterly Superintendent Awards Presentations coming up:
 - Tuesday, April 29th, 8:30am – Healey School
 - Tuesday, April 29th, 12:45pm – Next Wave
 - Tuesday, April 29th, 1:30pm – Brown School
 - Wednesday, April 30th, 8:30am – Argenziano School
 - Wednesday, April 30th, 1:30pm – East Somerville
 - Thursday, May 1st, 8:45am – Winter Hill
 - Wednesday, May 7th, 8:45am – Kennedy School
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up. Here's the schedule:
 - Tuesday, April 29th, 6-8:30pm – Kennedy School
 - Wednesday, April 30th, 5-7:30pm – Next Wave/Full Circle
 - Wednesday, April 30th, 6-8:30pm – Somerville High School
 - Thursday, May 1st, 6-8:30pm – Argenziano School
 - Monday, May 5th, 6-8:30pm – West Somerville Neighborhood School
 - Tuesday, May 6th, 6-8:30pm – East Somerville Community School
 - Thursday, May 8th, 6-8:30pm – Healey School
 - Tuesday, May 13th, 5:30-8pm – Winter Hill Community Innovation School
 - Wednesday, May 14th, 6-8:30pm – Brown School

Website and connections email

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville School Safety and Security Review Committee Report

The Somerville School Safety and Security Review Committee's final report is in the packets this week. The Superintendent announced that the report speaks for itself. Many of the recommendations are already being put into place. We are already working with the Health Department regarding their pieces. This report is the ultimate result of all of the good work by the committee. The Superintendent issued thanks to the chair and committee members and will send a thank you on School Committee's behalf. The members spent lots of hours reviewing lots of documents. A Field Trip Handbook and processes will

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

be developed with protocols, procedures, etc. – some of which are already in place. The report will be forwarded to Rules Management so that policies may be reviewed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Candidate for the position of Director of Special Education (recommended action: approval)

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mayor Curtatone to approve the recommendation of Mary DiGuardia for the position of Director of Special Education.

Discussion ensued relative to members' feelings regarding this recommendation and factors that played into the applicant pool and members' votes this evening

The School Committee members thanked parents and others who have been involved in search committees, meetings, etc. They also thanked the members of the public for submitting their input regarding this process.

Discussion also ensued relative to the specifics of the contract for this position. This contract will be brought to the School Committee for their review at the next meeting for Executive Session.

Contract can be given for 1-3 years and for more than that to BOA. The Superintendent typically gives new employees contracts that are for two years.

Ms. Rafal called for a roll call vote, the results of which were – YES – 6 – Curtatone, Roix, White, Normand, Pitone, and Rafal; NO – 2 – Bockelman and Futrell and ABSENT – 1 – Sweeting.

B. Construction Management Association of America 2014 Building Project of the Year Award - less than \$40 million

- East Somerville Community School
- Mr. Pierantozzi represented the School Committee and City along with Capital Project officials at a luncheon where this award was given.
- The brochure in the week's packet in black and white copies do not do justice to the original
Mayor Curtatone departed at 8:41 p.m.
- Issued thanks to Gilbane, etc. and to all of us!
- The award will be hung in the school office.

C. Somerville Public Schools FY14 End of Year Financial Report Audit Report (recommended action: acceptance)

With annual great pleasure, lots of work on our audit results in a report of one sheet of paper, which means no instances of non-compliance which has been the case for all but one year since the Superintendent has been here. We handle money responsibly, spend it appropriately, and have good accounting. Congratulations to Pat Durette and Joe Tringale and the dozens of people who handle budgets under Pat and Joe's direction.

D. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

Mr. Roix announced that the following policies are being presented this evening for first reading, as amended:

1. File IKEB – Promotions, Grades 9-12
2. File IKF – Graduation Requirements
3. File IKFC-B – Headmaster's Recommendations for a Weighted GPA

Mr. White asked what the differences are regarding the GPA policy and Mr. Roix and Mr. Pierantozzi explained.

E. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$3,000.00 from the Boston Chapter of the Society for Information Management, Upton, MA to be used for purchasing equipment or subsidizing student activities in the Information Support Services and Networking Program in the CVTE Department of Somerville High School. This money will be put into CVTE revolving account.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of one (1) 3' X 4' and one (1) 4' X 5' Smart board and two (2) projectors given by Nadine Macolini of Somerville, MA to the Kennedy School. Total value of donation as determined by donor is \$100.00.

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

F. Approval of Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

May 9-11, 2014

Somerville High School Band members to New York City and New Jersey for a performance of music learned at concerts. Transportation via coach bus at a cost of \$60.00 per student.

June 2 – 4, 2014

Healey School grade 4 students to Red Gate Farm, Ashfield, MA overnight. Transportation via charter bus at a cost of \$230.00 per student.

June 4-6, 2014

A second group of Healey School grade 4 students to Red Gate Farm, Ashfield, MA overnight. Transportation via charter bus at a cost of \$230.00 per student.

June 9-10, 2014

Healey School grade 3 students to Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, MA overnight. Transportation via school bus at a cost of \$83.00 per student.

June 10, 2014

Next Wave students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$15.00 per student.

June 23, 2014

Kennedy School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$25.00 per student.

MOTION: Mr. White made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix to waive the reading and approve the field trips.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Futrell

Argenziano Events:

1. An assembly for grades 2 and 3 with a performance by the STOMP group from Tufts
2. The Community Club afterschool program where learning through play gets diverse students playing and understanding each other more than what is accomplished during the school day. This is more than just tutoring after school. 35 kids are participating in this program and the program is being run in conjunction with the recreation dept. K-3 starting tomorrow

Ms. Pitone

1. On May 2nd and 3rd, the Kennedy School Drama Club will present School House Rock Junior – a parent run program of less than 60 minutes.
2. On Sunday, May 3rd, there will be a Healey Arts Gallery event from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the school. Fundraising and activities for students will be a part of this event.

Ms. Normand

1. West Somerville Neighborhood School Events:
2. Book fair on Monday and Tuesday
3. Fundraiser at Kelly's Roast Beef on Tuesday
4. Friday night 4 and 5th and 6th

Mr. Roix

1. Saturday from 5-8 Teen Empowerment 8th Annual Peace Conference featuring music, poetry, performances, etc.

Mr. Bockelman

1. PTA dinner dance Friday night
2. Vocation awards may 7th must attend event
3. Cleanup day on last Saturday in the rain – 30 people in Davis Square and lots all over the place tremendous morning

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Ms. Rafal

1. Congratulations to Hillary Aberle for participating in the Boston Marathon on the Mass Mentoring Partnerships team.
2. Thanked the four newer members for spending a Saturday at the recent MASC training
3. Informed members that everyone should have received a booklet from the MASC with forms and scholarship opportunities. Ms. Rafal encouraged members to take a look at book regarding scholarship opportunities and think about the November conference and delegate, etc.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Sweeting expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Claire Hanlon, mother of Patrice Hobbs, teacher at the East Somerville Community School.
- James Brunet, father of Richie Brunet, Culinary Arts Instructor at Somerville High School.

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

Related Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of April 7, 2014
3. The April 2014 Personnel Report
4. A copy of the Report of the School Safety and Security Review Committee
5. A copy of the program from the 20th Annual Construction Management Association of America's New England Chapter Awards Ceremony of April 22, 2014
6. A letter from Powers and Sullivan, LLC regarding the recent audit of the Somerville Public Schools End of Year financial reports specifying that no issues were found
7. Copies of files IKEB, IKF, and IKFC-B presented this evening for first reading, as amended
8. Six (6) out of state field trip forms for approval
9. Two (2) donation acceptance forms
10. Three (3) condolence letters
11. One (1) donation thank you letter

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, May 5, 2014 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mayor Curtatone, Ms. Rafal, , Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand, and Mr. White (7:04 p.m.)

Members absent: Mr. Sweeting

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:03 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Roix, Normand, Futrell, Bockelman, Pitone, Sweeting, and Rafal, and Absent – 2 – White and Curtatone.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our student representative, Marcelo Brociner, provided the following report on happenings around Somerville High School:

- This is the most hectic and exciting time of the year. Last week saw the spring concert, college fair and SATs. The concert was fantastic but will be better when auditorium.
- TV/Media classes are producing Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos regarding the community and the winner appears on Fox 25. Four have been submitted this year covering topics such as the Multicultural Fair, History Day, Market Basket, and events in Somerville.
- Tomorrow is senior skip day and, prior to making this plan, research was conducted and tomorrow is the only day when there is not AP testing.
- First AP exams were today – Chemistry and Psychology and it was nice to see kids in as early as 9:00 this morning for a noon-time test to review material.
- Tomorrow, the Second Annual World Language Awards Night for students who have gone above and beyond in a foreign language – will be held at the Kennedy School.
- Vocational Senior Awards Night is this Wednesday and at the event, students who have taken advantage of our impressive CTE program are recognized.
- The Spring String Fling is Thursday and will feature beginners and experts alike.
- Next week, seniors have another easy schedule due to the Math MCAS on Tuesday and Wednesday-sophomores have been studying hard. Students not taking the test will follow a modified schedule.
- Outdoors Club went white water rafting in western MA last weekend. This event required lots of planning and all went well and the participants had lots of fun.
- A new Facebook page has been created. One student began the group for seniors to share future plans and it is exciting to see what everyone is doing and to see everyone be supportive and nice to each other.
- The Senior Prom is next Friday and forms were due today. Prom tickets are on sale throughout this week and are \$65.00.
- Boys' Track and Field won GBL after not winning since the spring of 2011. As captain, Marcelo reported that the team was 3-0 and our team really united and fought hard giving 110% to win this title. This is the culmination of so many hours of practice and dedication and he is proud of the team. Marcelo congratulated his fellow team members on the championship and wished everyone good luck on all of the upcoming tests.
- He is looking forward to the upcoming awards nights.

III. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- The Math & Science Awards Night is scheduled for Thursday, May 15th at 6:30pm in Somerville High School Library.

President White arrived at 7:13 p.m.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

- The World Language Awards Night will be held tomorrow night, May 6th, 6:30pm at the Kennedy School.
- The 40th Annual PTA Scholarship Dinner Dance was held Friday, May 2nd, at Anthony's in Malden. Once again, the event was a great success. To date, close to \$200,000 in scholarship funds have been raised through this event, to support Somerville High School students in continuing their educational endeavors. Congratulations and thank you to the Somerville Council of PTAs for their outstanding support of Somerville students. Congratulations to the following 2014 honorees and scholarship recipients:
 - A. 2014 PTA Honorees were:
 - Lorne Murphy, 4th Grade Math and Science Teacher at the Argenziano School, received the Founders Award
 - Thomas Bent, CTE Advisory Council Member
 - Lisa Brewster Cook, English Teacher at Somerville High School
 - Paula Olsen, Counselor Educator at the Brown School
 - Jennifer Sears, 7th & 8th Grade teacher at the Kennedy School
 - In Memory of Doris and John Quinlan, parents of Mary Jo Rossetti, Alderman at Large and former SC member
 - Congratulations to the 2014 Scholarship Recipients:
 - Joytica Bhargo, who attended the Argenziano School
 - Robert Bingham ... East Somerville Community School
 - Kellie Hagerty ... Kennedy School
 - Rebecca Killin ... West Somerville Neighborhood School
 - Adrianna Keefe ... West Somerville Neighborhood School
 - Llaquelin Miguel ... East Somerville Neighborhood School
 - Special recognition awards to:
 - Ellie Blute received an award and Certificate of Recognition for her role as founder of the Council of PTA's Dinner Dance
 - Leah Arredondo received the Mass PTA Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding contribution to Somerville students.

THANK YOU and Congratulations!

- Prom follow-up Mr. Pierantozzi is pleased to announce that a pre-prom safety event will be held this Wednesday and Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan will speak as will members of the Somerville Police Department and others.

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Vincent McKay, for some updates related to curriculum.

Assessment Update:

- The MCAS Mathematics testing period began today and continues for the next two weeks. Parents of students in grades 3 – 8 will have received letters from school
- The Grade 10 Math test is NEXT week, May 13 and 14.
- The PARCC assessment FIELD TEST concluded just before the April vacation. I want to provide a brief update on Somerville's experience with the new assessment and a look ahead to next steps. We had FIVE schools participate in the field test. Four of the five took the test in an online format, and the outcomes were uniformly very positive. I attribute this to good preparation of staff and students, smart technology investments over the past five years, and good test administration practices so the students. As part of the test administration, students and staff were given a brief survey about their experience with the test. 41,000 students, statewide, took the test online; some limited amount of data was released by DESE last week.

We knew the students would be able to handle the technology!
74% of ELA test takers reported preference of the online test over paper
That data will be compiled by the DESE and will be analyzed as we move into the next phase of planning for the possible replacement of MCAS with the PARCC. Further updates will be coming in the next month, as we receive more information and guidance from DESE and the State Board of Education. We will, of course, be monitoring these developments very closely! Because for next year, the DESE indicates that districts will need to choose between MCAS and PARCC.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

- Ed Programs preview for next week:

Somerville Family Learning Collaborative

Early Learning / K Readiness Initiative update, as well as coaching

The Superintendent continued his report:

- As a follow-up to Marcelo's report, the Superintendent spoke about the wonderful musical events across the District.

Check our website Calendar of Events to find out about the many music events happening in our schools and in our District in the next few weeks. Upcoming music events include *Spring String Fling* this Thursday, May 8th at the SHS Field House, the *Chamber Music Concert* on Wednesday, May 14th at the SHS Library, and the *All-City Middle School Spring Concert* on Thursday, May 15th.

The quality of art and music programs or "enriching academics" is wonderful in Somerville. Mr. Pierantozzi worked in Ithaca, NY which is known for its music and art programs and in Dennis Yarmouth, where their marching band were champs and he is confident that our music program is as good if not better than theirs. This has been accomplished under the enthusiastic guidance of Rick Saunders. Mr. Pierantozzi was moved by last week's concert, particularly the performance of the percussionists with life skills students which was truly amazing. This was the first time anywhere that this group performed and it was done with enthusiasm! Also the Chorus performed a West Side Story ballad in 6 part rendition. Just two years ago, the chorus consisted of two (2) boys and 20 girls and now there are 65 students including 12+ males. The Orchestra performed a difficult and moving piece from Phantom of the Opera and the Band sounded strong and terrific. The Superintendent issued his thanks to our music teachers for this outstanding transition. There is unbelievable participation and enthusiasm.

Thank you and congratulations to each teacher and student!

Also, the Art Department has a national award winner who will travel this July to Washington to win a national award. The student, her parent and her teacher will all be at the awards ceremony. There are clearly terrific things happening in our enriching academic areas.

Congratulations to all!

The Superintendent deferred to our Finance Director, Patricia Durette, for her brief report on financial matters:

1. At members' chairs are packets for the Finance Meeting on Thursday. The agenda includes budget development, fine-tuning the budget, classroom Sections, high school course selection, number of teachers and staff, etc.
2. Business office staff members are working to finish up orders for this fiscal year. All orders are to be done by June.
3. We received word that although we filed for Circuit Breaker funds, we were not awarded as we did not meet the threshold. Ms. Durette explained the 125% threshold requirement.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- Congratulations to all the students throughout the District who were recognized with Student of the Quarter Awards last week. I thoroughly enjoy visiting schools and making those presentations. Coming up this week is:
 - Kennedy School Awards on Wednesday, May 7th, 8:45am
- Parent-Teacher Conferences continue this week and next:
 - Tonight, May 5th, 6-8:30pm – West Somerville Neighborhood School
 - Tuesday, May 6th, 6-8:30pm – East Somerville Community School (will also host "Museum Night 2014" with guided tours of student artwork displayed throughout the school)
 - Thursday, May 8th, 6-8:30pm – Healey School
 - Tuesday, May 13th, 5:30-8pm – Winter Hill
 - Wednesday, May 14th, 6-8:30pm – Brown School
- In accordance with the City of Somerville's Ordinance No. 2013-03, the SPS Food and Nutrition Services Department discontinued the use of Styrofoam products effective May 1, 2014. It's just one of the many ways in which we are doing our part to promote healthy lifestyles in support of the City's vision of creating a positive culture of health and wellness. Thanks to Lauren Mancini and her staff for taking a leadership role in promoting healthy, nutritious eating habits and school environments.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual**

The following policies are being presented this evening for second reading, as amended:

1. File IKEB – Promotions, Grades 9-12
2. File IKF – Graduation Requirements
3. File IKFC-B – Headmaster's Recommendations for a Weighted GPA

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve policy IKEB – Promotions, Grades 9-12, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve policy IKF – Graduation Requirements, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve IKFC-B – Headmaster's Recommendations for a Weighted GPA, as revised, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of Field Trips** (recommended action: approval)

June 15-19, 2014

Kennedy School students to the University of Maryland to participate in National History Day Competition.
Transportation via coach bus with no cost to students.

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

June 16, 2014

West Somerville Neighborhood School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via school bus. Estimated cost to students is \$15.00.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the field trip.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Sweeting suggested that we move the Finance meeting this Thursday night to a site closer to City Hall so that School Committee members may be present at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. to honor former Alderman Thomas Taylor at the Board of Aldermen's meeting.

Ms. Rafal reported that she will try to schedule a School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning prior to the summer break and she will be sending an email regarding possible dates.

Mr. Sweeting also announced a date change for the Public Budget Hearing. The hearing will now be held on Thursday, May 22nd to avoid a conflict with another event. This date change will also impact the Executive Session meeting which will now also be on the 22nd.

VI. COMMUNICATION

- A. Thank you note from Amy Parrish in appreciation for remembering her late brother, John "Ted" Edward Parrish at a recent School Committee meeting.
- B. Packets and Notes from the MASC Day on the Hill, provided by Ms. Rossetti

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Regarding the Prom, from Mr. Bockelman's perspective, the prom is led by experienced staff that begins working on preparations well in advance and is well trained, etc.
2. An alternative to the prom is the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundations Raffle Event which is a fun night held in the Highlander Café at Somerville High School. All money goes directly to scholarships. Both the prom and the scholarship raffle are being held on Friday, May 16th.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

3. Spoke about his attendance at this weekend's PTA dinner dance– nice turnout, nice presentations, and an enormous amount of work in preparation!
4. Attended the Teen Empowerment event in the East Somerville Community Schools auditorium this past weekend along with Ms. Pitone and Mr. Roix and his family–this is absolutely one of the great events of the year. Mr. Bockelman issues his congratulations to all involved.

Mr. Futrell

1. The final parent aspirations meeting at the Argenziano is scheduled for
2. The Argenziano PTA is holding an 80s Night fundraiser at the Dante Club on May 30th.
3. The Memorial Day Concert will be held on May 21 at 9:15 a.m.

Ms. Normand

1. Busy time at the West Somerville – Kelly's Roast Beef fundraiser tomorrow; teacher appreciation lunch on Wednesday and family night and dance for grades 6-8 on May 9th.

Alderman White

1. Announced that there is an ordinance requiring a meeting in joint session of the Board of Aldermen with the School Committee prior to the budget process. Alderman White asking Mr. Lafuente to coordinate this meeting to review city finances.

Mr. Roix

1. PTA conferences at East Somerville and PTA elections - issued thanks to the officers for all of their work.

Ms. Pitone

1. Thanked our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Ms. Rafal

1. At PTA conference time, Ms. Rafal makes it a point to visit specialists because they are not usually visited but offer much to the students' education.
2. Mentioned a Boston Globe article regarding CTE.
3. Thanked all of our outstanding teachers!

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Anna Cook, retired Food Service worker from the East Somerville Community School, mother of Charles Cook, retired English teacher from Somerville High School and mother-in-law of Lisa Brewster Cook, English teacher at Somerville High School.
- Dr. Joseph Sweeting, father of Adam Sweeting, School Committee Representative from Ward 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. via voice vote.

Related Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Copies of Policies IKEB, IKF and IKFC-B for second reading, as amended, and approval
3. Two (2) out of state field trip approvals
4. A thank you note from Amy Parrish in recognition of the School Committee's remembrance of her late brother Ted.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, May 19, 2014 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Normand, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal, and Mr. White (7:07 p.m.)

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone and Mr. Bockelman

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Ms. Rafal announced that Mr. Bockelman sends his regrets for not being in attendance this evening because he is driving back from his son's college graduation.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

- The Orchestra won a gold medal at a recent competition in Springfield
- SAT's will be given two weekends from now.
- The prom was awesome and students made smart decision before during and after the prom. The pre-prom assembly sent a powerful message and taught students lessons.
- Next week is the last week of school for seniors and it is Spirit Week.
 - Monday is Pajama Day
 - Tuesday is Twin Day
 - Wednesday is Wacky Wednesday
 - Thursday is Throwback Thursday
 - Friday is College T-shirt Day
- Finals are this week. It has been difficult getting psyched up to study, but they are trying hard. Exams are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- After finals on Friday, there will be Class Day rehearsal to go over logistics, etc.
- Tomorrow night is the athletic scholarship night.
- On May 28TH the Somerville Scholarship Foundation will hold its scholarship awards night.

Alderman White arrived @ 7:07 p.m.

- Class Day and Graduation are coming so soon – it's hard to believe!
- This is Marcelo's last School Committee report and he thanked all of the members for their support and leadership.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

Ms. Rafal invited Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Brociner to the podium so that time could be spent acknowledging all of Marcelo's terrific contributions.

Mr. Sweeting began by stating that he first met Marcelo when Marcelo and Mr. Sweeting's son Ethan both attended the YMCA together. They learned then that they lived only three doors away from each other and the boys have been best friend ever since. Marcelo is the big brother Ethan doesn't have. Marcelo has done a terrific job as our student representative.

His initiatives and seriousness of purpose in bring issues to our attention was outstanding. Examples of his leadership include:

- ✓ Following up on work in the damaged cafeteria and auditorium
- ✓ Leading the student newspaper and news program
- ✓ Serving as one of the captains of the boys' soccer team during a difficult and trying time and really stepping up to meet the challenge.
- ✓ The team's appearance in the State Championship game is a tribute to his leadership.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Marcelo will be attending Brandeis University.

He is an outstanding soccer and track athlete, but he is also a poet who has created rap and pop lyrics!

Mr. Sweeting read the citation aloud and a copy is included at the end of these minutes.

Marcelo thanked Mr. Sweeting for the kind words and remarked that this has been an incredible year for him and that he has learned so much – from public speaking, to the link between the public and government and learning how government is run, he has been truly blessed with all of his wonderful experiences.

After attending Prospect Hill Academy for his freshman year, he transferred to Somerville High School and this was the best decision for him. He has bloomed as a person and has had so many great opportunities with news, sports and many other things.

He has been blessed to have met so many wonderful people at Somerville High School and to have the support of his family, friends, teammates and peers.

Though his is happy to be moving on, it will be tough not to see his friends, etc.

*The School Committee recessed at 7:15 p.m. to offer their thanks and well wishes to Marcelo.
The meeting resumed at 7:22 p.m.*

Ms. Rafal announced that, as long as there were no objections, Item VI. B – World Language Presentation would be taken out of order.

Dr. McKay introduced Mr. James Nocito, K-12 World Language Supervisor, who, in turn, introduced his team of presenters for the evening:

- Gino Colantuono, Italian Teacher
- Vanina Brown, Spanish Teacher
- Max Freitas, Somerville High School student

The presenters took turns reviewing the various topics included in their PowerPoint presentation (included at the end of these minutes). Highlights included:

- Professional Learning Communities
- Understanding by Design
- Curriculum maps
- Middle grades instruction
- Enrollment data
- Exchange with Gaeta, Italy
- Trips to foreign countries
- World Language Awards Night
- Textbooks and language lab

Following the presentation discussion ensued relative to expansion of language program in middle grades to include other languages, impact of Spanish instruction at the middle grades level on enrollment in other languages at Somerville High, etc.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 28, 2014

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix to approve the minutes of April 28, 2014. The motion was approved via voice vote.

- May 5, 2014

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the minutes of May 5, 2014. The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting: May 5 (Mr. Roix)

Mr. Roix provided his report on the Rules Management Subcommittee:

The Rules Management Subcommittee met in the Committee Room of City Hall on Monday, May 5, 2014. Members in attendance were Mr. Roix, Ms. Normand and Mr. Futrell.

Others present were Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Pierantozzi.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Minutes of 4/8/2014

The Rules Management Subcommittee met in the 2nd Floor Committee Room at City Hall on Monday, May 5, 2014.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

In attendance: Steve Roix, Dan Futrell and Carrie Normand

Also in attendance: Tony Pierantozzi and School Committee members Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, Laura Pitone and Paul Bockelman and Monica Jimenez a reporter for the Somerville Journal.

1. Approved the minutes of the April 8, 2014 Rules Management subcommittee meeting.
Motion by Ms. Normand, seconded by Mr. Roix to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. File IJNDB- Somerville Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy for Staff –tabled

3. File IJNDB-A Somerville Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy for Students – tabled

The Superintendent is working on a policy - it may be a combined policy rather than separate policies for staff and students; at his recommendation we tabled these after a brief discussion with the understanding he will bring his policy proposal back to the Rules Management Subcommittee when it's completed.

4. Somerville School Safety and Security Review Committee Final Report

This was of course the hot topic for the evening, and what the reporter for the Somerville Journal was there to cover. This was the School Committee's first deliberation since we received the final report of the school safety and security review committee chaired by Gerry Leone.

Members of the subcommittee and other members of the School Committee present in the audience asked questions and good open discussion was had on what is in the report and what, if anything, is different from what we do now and, in particular, what will be a policy change versus what will be an administrative change if we are to follow the recommendations of the report

More specific questions were asked about field trips - what constitutes a field trip, if sporting events are considered field trips, what is school committee policy and what is administrative procedure and other such questions were discussed;

The main question from a procedural standpoint as far as the Rules Management Subcommittee is deciding what if anything will be policy change for the Rules Management Subcommittee to recommend and send back to full School Committee? We did not answer this question as this was our first discussion - however the Superintendent is already working on drafting a field trip handbook that will be a large document - mainly due to the many, many different types of trips that we offer to our students. The handbook will be designed to spell out all the safety and security and other procedural guidelines and expectations for district staff leading field trips - either out of state, overnight or regular single day field trips. Due to the anticipated large size of this document, it's going to be something that's going to take at least the summer to complete so we won't see a final version until the fall and we're not sure what, if any of it, will be policy change as far as School Committee Policy or will all be administrative procedures; however the Superintendent, as is his habit, will certainly keep the School Committee apprised of the development of this handbook and in that vein the Rules Management Subcommittee made a motion to ask the Superintendent to draft a School Committee Policy on field trips that would indicate the development of a handbook. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair of the Rules Management Subcommittee for the meeting of May 5, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: May 8 (Mr. Sweeting)

Mr. Sweeting provided his report on the School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities of May 8, 2014.

The meeting was held in Gallery 81 at Somerville High School as was called to order at 7:55 p.m.

Members present included Adam Sweeting, Christine Rafal, Steve Roix, Dan Futrell, Laura Pitone, Carrie Normand, and Paul Bockelman.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi and Finance Director Durette. One member of the public was in attendance.

There were 5 items on the agenda:

1) Approval of Minutes of April 2, 2014.

Motion by Mr. Futrell and seconded by Ms. Normand to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

2) FY15 Budget Development.

The Superintendent presented revised figures for his proposed budget. The new budget proposal calls for a smaller increase in funding than had been discussed in previous meetings. School Committee members discussed the revised figures and the Superintendent answered questions.

The biggest adjustment was \$315,000 in projected savings from teacher retirements that had not been accounted for in previous draft budgets.

The new draft budget calls for salaries and operations of \$60, 317, 201 for an increase of 6.59%

3) Facilities Update.

The Superintendent updated the School Committee on the status of repairs to the auditorium, cafeteria, and Room 143. All three projects are still on target to be completed by September.

4) FY14 Expenditure Report.

Ms. Durette answered questions about the report and indicated that she anticipates the current school year will end with the School Department within budget.

5) FY 14 Bill Rolls.

Motion by Mr. Roix to approve the bill rolls, seconded by Mr. Futrell. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Alderman White, to accept the report of the Chair of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee for the meeting of May 8, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**A. Personnel Report**

Members have received a copy of the May 2014 Personnel Report. This report includes two (2) new recent retirees – Linda Geehan, a paraprofessional currently at the Healey School after 20 years and Ellen McPherson, a teacher currently at the West Somerville Neighborhood School after 36 years. The Superintendent wished the retirees a long retirement filled with health and happiness.

The Personnel Report also included 11 resignation notices for a variety of reasons. Exit survey data will be collected and a report will be developed and shared to find out the reasons for these resignations.

There are also #Loa's Mr. Pierantozzi did a review of leaves this year and since September, there have been between 43-46 leaves of absence this year which puts pressure on the budget because many leaves are paid and we also have to pay for a substitute teacher to cover the class during the leaves.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

B. District Report

The Superintendent provided his report on happenings around the District:

Students are busy with end-of-year projects, testing, and celebrations which included the following:

- The first-ever Somerville High School STEM Awards Night was held last Thursday at the SHS Library. Nearly 100 students were recognized for excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Among the award recipients were two STEM Scholars who were recognized for exceptional academic achievement in their respective areas. Celine Lessard-Brandt was named the Math STEM Scholar, and Kenneth Allen was the Science STEM Scholar. Students also received the following awards: STEM Passion Award, STEM Service Awards, Excellence in MCAS (perfect scores), Excellence in CAD Technology, Science National Honor Society Recognition, and "Teacher Awards" in Outstanding Academic Achievement, Outstanding Grit, Outstanding Passion, Exponential Growth, and Outstanding Leadership. Congratulations to all the STEM awards recipients.

As always, we have a great deal to celebrate. Here our engagement activities seem to always be increasing. Increasing the number of recognition events for student achievement and hard work is fantastic and other departments are also talking about doing these same types of ceremonies.

- More than 135 incoming Kindergarten students and their families got an early start to their Kindergarten learning adventure by participating in the 2014 Somerville Public Schools Welcome to Kindergarten event at the Boston Children's Museum last Friday evening. Families participated in a variety of hands-on, fun activities, while parents got an overview of what life for a kindergarten student is like in our schools. Welcome! We look forward to a great adventure starting in September.
- Students were inducted into the inaugural SHS Arts Honor Society last week, in a ceremony at the Somerville High School Library that included the unveiling of a mural by SHS art students, depicting the history of Somerville High School. Criteria for induction into the Arts Honor Society included demonstrated leadership, dedication to the arts and overall academic excellence. Congratulations to all the inductees!

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, Vincent McKay, for his report on curriculum-related matters:

- The only MCAS testing left to be done is at Somerville High School where the science and technology testing remains
- 1/6 off all of our students are English Language Learners who participate in another type of assessment testing. Those assessments (Access) were taken in January and the results are due back today. Dr. McKay will share these results at the June Ed. Programs meeting.

The Superintendent continued his district report:

- The All City Middle School Spring Concert program is at members' seats. There are 19 music events between now and the end of year, including Class Day and graduation. Thank you for being leaders who support the arts.
- The Superintendent spoke of his attendance at an evening of chamber music. The music was beautiful and relaxing and every year is better!
- The Senior Prom had approximately 265 attendees and there were no issues—great event!

The Superintendent deferred to our Finance Director, Patricia Durette for her report on financial matters:

- Ms. Durette and the Central Office Team have been busy preparing for the FY15 Public Budget Hearing this Thursday.
- One area being worked on is around staffing. She has been working with Human Resources looking at retirements, transfers, etc.
- Ms. Durette and her staff are also looking at federal grants – with staff components such as Title 1, Sped grants and trying to anticipate whether staff can be supported through these grants next year and also working to ensure that all programs can continue and be available for next year.
- There is a pending decrease in funding in the family engagement grant which will affect playgroups and Ms. Durette and staff are looking at other grants and funding sources to assist with this deficit.
- Auditors from Power and Sullivan will be in town during the first two weeks in June looking at federal grants and programs including the hot lunch program.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his district report:

- ESCS first-grade student Anahi (Ana-EE) Gutierrez was recently named a Regional Winner in the MSBA "My Ideal School" Contest. Anahi and 7 other Regional winners will be honored by State Treasurer and MSBA Board Chairman Steve Grossman at a ceremony and awards presentation at the Boston State House on Thursday, June 5th. One of the 8 finalists will be announced as the 2014 Grand Prize Winner at that ceremony; the Grand Prize winner's entry will be featured on the MSBA's next Annual Report. Nearly 2,000 entries were submitted for the contest this year.
- The EOS nonprofit foundation is providing the District with a \$12,500 grant to support breakfast in the classroom. There is some inconvenience of getting students to school in time to eat. This organization provides pilot grants to arrange to have breakfast delivered to classrooms at the start of the school day and provide all of the necessary equipment for safety and clean up.

Generally speaking, participation increases 30-40% with this program. We are piloting at WHCIS as the governance board has agreed to pilot the program there. Mr. Pierantozzi hopes it catches on and will keep the School Committee informed as the pilot progresses. A side benefit of an increase in numbers of students eating breakfast is an increase in federal reimbursement, etc.

Discussion ensued relative to criteria to evaluate success, sharing tables, and expected goals. Our goal is for 80% of students at WHCIS will eat breakfast

- The Somerville High School Scholarship Awards Night is Wednesday, May 28th, 7:00 pm in the Field House.
- Somerville families are invited to the SFLC PAC End-of-Year Family Picnic next Thursday, May 29th, 5:30-7:00 pm at the Argenziano School Playground and Cafeteria. Families are asked to bring dinner for your family, and a blanket or beach chairs to enjoy a fun afternoon with friends and neighbors. For more information, contact the SFLC at (617) 625-6600, ext. 6966.
- Somerville High School Class Day 2014 is Friday, May 30th, 9:00 am at the SHS Field House. Please join us and wear blue!

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2014 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:

Matthew Paul Figueiredo-Azul	36R Otis Street	Somerville	02145
Elizabeth Edity Palma Parham	19 Hinckley Street	Somerville	02145
Maritza E. Cuellar	19 Glenmere Avenue	Malden	02148

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the Scale graduates. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Acceptance of Donation

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$300.00 from Lorraine Roses of Newton Highlands, MA to the East Somerville Community School.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Approval of Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

June 20, 2014

Argenziano School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via bus. Cost to students is \$25.00.

June 23, 2014(3)

East Somerville Community School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via bus. Estimated cost to students is \$25.00.

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Healey School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park in Windham, NH. Transportation via bus. Cost to students is \$30.00.

Somerville Public Schools All City Middle Grades Chorus, Band and Orchestra to Derry, NH to perform at the Great East Music Festival. As part of the festival, participating students will then attend an awards ceremony at Canobie Lake Park in Windham, NH and enjoy activities there. Cost to students is \$30.00.

July 18, 2014

Somerville High School student to New York, NY to attend a ceremony in recognition of the student and teacher receiving a national award from Sargent Art. The trip also includes related activities. Transportation via air/train at no cost to student. All costs are being covered by Sargent Art.

August 22-25, 2014

Somerville High School Football Program to Brewster, MA to attend the Cape Cod Sea Camp. Transportation via bus with a cost of \$100.00 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Futrell

1. The Argenziano School's Memorial Day Concert will take place on May 21st at 9:15 a.m.
2. The final parent aspirations meeting will take place on May 28th

Mr. Roix

1. The El Sistema spring concert is tomorrow night at 6:30 and is open to public, with donations gratefully accepted!

Ms. Rafal

1. There is a fundraiser for the Healey School at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square tomorrow night, also.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

- John Joyce, former Assistant Superintendent of Schools and former Vice Headmaster of Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. via voice vote.

Related Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of April 28, 2014 and May 5, 2014 for approval
3. The May 2014 Personnel Report
4. Slides from the World Language Department's PowerPoint presentation
5. Three (3) requests for SCALE diplomas
6. One (1) donation acceptance form
7. Six (6) out of state field trip forms
8. Four (4) condolence letters
9. Two (2) donation thank you letters

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
School Committee

Marcelo Brociner

- WHEREAS, *Marcelo Brociner truly represented Somerville High School students in a collaborative, pro-active, participatory way, and*
- WHEREAS, *Mr. Brociner engaged the full School Committee on substantive matters including student activism and concerns regarding the auditorium and cafeteria and quality of lunches, and*
- WHEREAS, *Mr. Brociner has shown himself to be a leader and mentor among his peers and teammates, including captaining the soccer team during a difficult season in which they still managed to be runner-up in the state championship, and*
- WHEREAS, *Mr. Brociner excelled as an athlete in both soccer and track, and*
- WHEREAS, *Mr. Brociner challenged himself as a student and thought leader, including making significant contributions to the student newspaper and student news program, and*
- WHEREAS, *Mr. Brociner conducted himself with kindness, fairness, and professionalism at School Committee meetings, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED: *That the Somerville School Committee recognizes Mr. Brociner with gratitude and congratulations and that these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to him.*

Somerville School Committee

<i>Christine T. Rafal, Chairperson</i>	<i>Adam Sweeting, Vice Chairperson</i>
<i>Steve Roix</i>	<i>Dan Futrell</i>
<i>Laura Pitone</i>	<i>Paul Bockelman</i>
<i>Carrie Normand</i>	<i>Joseph Curtatone, Mayor</i>
<i>William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President</i>	
<i>Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools</i>	

May 19, 2014

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 9, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Normand, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal, and Mayor Curtatone (7:35 p.m.)

Members absent: Mr. White and Mr. Bockelman

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the Mayor and Alderman White are at budget hearings this evening at City Hall and Ms. Rafal announced that Mr. Bockelman is away on business for his day job.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Somerville High School Trivia Team

Ms. Pitone asked the Trivia Team coach, Ted Blake to join her as she read the resolution recognizing the Trivia Team for their accomplishments this year (copy at end of these minutes). Mr. Blake thanked the School Committee for their recognition and invited the members of the Trivia Team who were present this evening to join him as he presented each of them with a copy of the resolution.

- Next Wave/Full Circle Basketball Team

Ms. Normand asked the coaches of the Full Circle/Next Wave Basketball team, Joel Blackmer and David Aronofsky, to join her as she read the resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the team (copy at end of these minutes). Coach Blackmer remarked that this is a great group of kids and that one member of the team, Tyler Huynh is present this evening and invited him to join them to get a copy of the resolution.

- Melissa Baptista

Mr. Futrell asked Melissa Baptista to join him as he read a resolution recognizing her accomplishments as a student athlete at Somerville High School and her special achievement of being the seventh player in Somerville High School history to have scored over 1,000 points during her basketball career. A copy of Ms. Baptista's resolution is at the end of these minutes.

The School Committee meeting recessed at 7:21 p.m.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:27 p.m.

At this time item VI. A was taken out of order:

Award from Somerville Cares About Prevention

Mr. Cory Mashburn from the City's Office of Prevention made a presentation of a Gold Standard Award to the Somerville Public Schools for our assistance with efforts to reduce drug and alcohol. Mr. Mashburn stated that since he began his employment with the City in 2008, the Somerville Public Schools staff have been helpful in many initiatives and campaigns and he has partnered with the schools on public service announcements, bullying forums and, of course, the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys. The Somerville Public Schools are this year's Gold Standard Award winners because of the true excellence they display with respect to well-being of their students.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 19, 2014 School Choice Public Hearing

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2014 School Choice Public Hearing.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- May 19, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2014 Regular School Committee meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Special Meeting for Executive Session: May 22 (Ms. Rafal)

Contracts of employment for approval:

- Patricia Durette, Finance Director
- Mary DiGuardia, Director of Special Education

The School Committee met in Executive Session on May 22, 2014 to review the employment contracts for the Finance Director and Director of Special Education.

In attendance were – Ms. Normand, Mr. Futrell, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rafal.

The School Committee is voting this evening to approve both contracts. The Finance Director's contract begins July 1, 2014 and extends to June 30, 2017. The Director of Special Education's contract begins July 1, 2014 and extends to June 30, 2016.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the contract of employment between Patricia Durette and the Somerville School Committee for the position of Finance Director.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the contract of employment between Mary DiGuardia and the Somerville School Committee for the position of Director of Special Education.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rafal thanked and congratulated Ms. Durette and Ms. DiGuardia.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at the June 9th School Committee meeting at 7:35 p.m.

B. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities: May 27 (Mr. Sweeting)

School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities took place on May 27, 2014 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street.

Members present: Adam Sweeting, Dan Futrell, Christine Rafal, Laura Pitone, Paul Bockelman, and Carrie Normand

Also in attendance: Superintendent Pierantozzi, Finance Director Durette. There were approximately 15 members of the public also in attendance

The Chair (Mr. Sweeting) convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

There were two items on the agenda:

1) Approval of Minutes for May 7 Finance Meeting: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Ms. Pitone. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2) FY 2015 Budget

Mr. Sweeting recapped the comments from the Public Hearing on the Superintendent's Budget on May 22. Most of the discussion at that meeting focused on the West Somerville Neighborhood School's 4th grade class and the Healey School's 8th grade class.

The School Committee began with the questions about the 4th grade at WSNS. There was lengthy discussion concerning its status as a single strand with 24 students. Comparisons were made with other classes in the system of similar size and status. Some School Committee members expressed concern, as reflected in numerous emails, that the single strand caused challenges because students did not have opportunities to be combined in new formations. Others wondered what differentiated this section from other similar sections.

The Superintendent indicated that his budget included a paraprofessional in that class, but he did not recommend dividing the class into two sections of 12.

Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix: "To increase the budget to provide for a second strand of the West Somerville Neighborhood School 4th for 2014-2015.

The motion failed 5-2 by roll-call vote: No: Futrell, Sweeting, Rafal, Pitone, Bockelman. Yes: Normand, Roix.

The meeting recessed at 8:29 so the School Committee Meeting for Personnel could briefly come into session.

The Chair called the meeting back into session at 8:35.

After the Committee reconvened, discussion about the Healey 8th grade ensued. The Superintendent had not recommended in his budget that an extra teacher be added to this particular section. Some School Committee members suggested that the history of the Healey in recent years lent support to the idea that an additional teacher should be budgeted for this section (currently identified as having 47 students). Others believed the class size fit within the general, though non-binding guidelines established by the SC that direct the Superintendent to explore adding additional sections when class sizes reach 25 or more.

Ms. Pitone made a motion to add an extra section for the Healey 8th grade for 2014-2015, seconded by Mr. Roix.

The motion failed by a roll call vote of 4-3. No: Futrell, Sweeting, Rafal, Bockelman. Yes: Roix, Pitone, Normand.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the report of the Chair of Finance & Facilities for the meeting of May 27, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities: May 27 (Mr. Sweeting)

The School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities took place on May 29, 2014 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street.

School Committee members in attendance: Adam Sweeting (Chair), Steve Roix, Dan Futrell, Christine Rafal, Laura Pitone, Carrie Normand

Also in attendance: Superintendent Pierantozzi, Finance Director Durette, and Assistant Superintendent McKay.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

There was one item on the agenda:

1) FY 2015 Budget

Following some follow up discussion from the meeting of May 27, Mr. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand:

To approve the School Committee budget for Fiscal Year 2015 for a total local appropriation of \$60,317,201.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Yes: Roix, Futrell, Sweeting, Rafal, Pitone, Normand.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the Chair of Finance & Facilities for the meeting of May 29, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

The Superintendent provided his District Report which included the following:

- At this time of year there are events day and night, Monday through Friday. There is always something great going on!

- Thanked the School Committee and Mayor for their support in advance of the budget presentation before the Board of Aldermen. As he has said before, this is the best job he has ever had. It is great to see how Somerville puts education in its appropriate place in importance.
- Announced that ESCS first-grade student Anahi (Ana-EE) Gutierrez was recently named the Grand Prize Winner in the MSBA "My Ideal School" Contest and her entry will be featured on the MSBA's next Annual Report. Nearly 2,000 entries were submitted for the contest this year.
- Congratulated the Middle School Ensemble for winning a platinum award and the All City Orchestra and Band for winning gold awards at the Great East Music Festival.
- The El Sistema Spring Concert was great and featured the world premiere of "Phoenix Rising" to commemorate new building.
- SHS Highlander Awards Night was held on May 20th at Somerville High School
- May 30 was Somerville High School Class Day
- June 2 was Somerville High School Graduation
- June 4 was the Full Circle High School Graduation
- June 6 was the All-City District Track Meet for grades 3-8 after school and the Special Olympics in the morning.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report on curriculum-related issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

School Safety/Social Wellness

Bullying Prevention:

Report that each all 7th and 8th grades recently completed a special bullying prevention program that focuses on the by-stander. This program, organized by the Director of Student Services Rich Melillo, has three components.

1. Respect – Mr. Melillo
2. Alice Comack, Peer Mediation, introduces the concepts and then
3. Role – Play

Be an UPSTANDER not a by-stander

Focus on the skills of removing a friend from a difficult situation; intervening on behalf of someone; or reporting a situation, in order to get help to someone in trouble.

Cory Mashburn, Office of Prevention was also present and assisted with the signing of the Pledge Banner by the participating students.

Transitions

K/PK PD on May 21st. The District K teachers all went to the Capuano and were able to meet the PK teachers from SPS and many of the community programs that have children attending K in September. It is an opportunity to confer about the children's strengths and any concerns they may have. It helps us know who may be role models for the integrated K classes, lots of valuable information for the K teachers to have as they prepare for September.

SEI Transition News: This is the time of year that our English Language Learners program makes placement decisions for the coming year. These placements are closely monitored so as to meet our legal requirements for student's education, and of course to determine the most appropriate setting to have their instructional needs best addressed.

As a result of the January/February testing data, a significant number of our students made the transition out of the formal English – Language Learner program and are now officially FLEP or formerly English Language Learners. Many of these students are currently in 3rd and 4th grade, which is where we want them to be transitioning out. Those students' families received their notification letters last week. Congratulations to the students for their English language accomplishments! A detailed report on ACCESS will be presented at the Educational Programs meeting on June 26th.

On Saturday, 5 fifth graders from each elementary school in the District competed in a LEGO building contest held at the East Somerville Community School. The LEGO build contest winners were:

- 1) Elijah Maldonado - AFA
- 2) Justin Millette - Healey
- 3) Vedrana Stantic - WSNS

Second and third place winners win a year's pass to LEGO Land for themselves and their families. The grand prize winner wins the year's pass along with opportunities to work with LEGO Land's master builder to learn tips and techniques for improved building.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- All schools commemorated Memorial Day in different ways
- May 30th was Class Day at Somerville High School.
- June 2nd was Somerville High School's Graduation and the weather was perfect.
- Full Circle's Graduation was held at the Armory on June 4th.
- June 4th was also the Welcome to Kindergarten event and approximately 200 parents/guardians attended.
- The Special Olympics were held on June 6th, another beautiful weather day and approximately 150 athletes competed with everyone getting a medal.
- The All City Track Meet was held on Friday night and the results are still being compiled to see who the winners were.
- Attended the Hydroponics Center Open House today at the Edgerly. This is a grant funded program through the Urban Farm Grant where food is grown without soil.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B. Approval of Field Trip (recommended action: approval) June 23, 2014

Winter Hill Community Innovation School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via bus. Estimated cost to students is \$37.00.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the field trip. The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Somerville High School Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for graduation from Somerville High School, be granted her diploma:

- Lorena Dos Santos

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the Somerville High School Graduate.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. FY2014 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:

Filipe Augusto Calixto	21 Franklin Street	Somerville	02145
Taija Symone Clark	53 Newbury Street	Somerville	02144
Jason William Machado	27 Craigie Street	Somerville	02143
Junior Tobias Montiel	125 Heath Street	Somerville	02145
Pamela Alves Franklin	75 Winthrop Street, #25	Everett	02149
Saveena Jagarnath	179A Washington Street	Malden	02148

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

E. Acceptance of Donations

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of 250 flower bulbs from Lisa Halloran and the Cecelia Charitable Bulb Foundation to the Somerville Public Schools, for planting at the Argenziano, East Somerville Kennedy and Healey Schools. Value of donation - TBD.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$10,000.00 from C.A.S.IT., Inc. of Wakefield, MA to the Somerville Public Schools. Funds are to be used for Italian II, III, and IV Honors textbooks and readers for Somerville High School.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of the following donations to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools:

1. Casa B, Somerville, MA	\$1,800.00
2. Committee to elect Joseph A. Curtatone	\$500.00
3. Lisa Wong, Newton, MA	\$100.00
4. Cadore and Margaret Pricejones, Somerville, MA	\$400.00
5. Robert Shaver, Watertown, MA	\$50.00
6. Steve Frielander, Cambridge, MA	\$400.00
7. Tom Schneider, Winchester, MA	\$200.00
Total of monetary donations	<i>\$3,450.00</i>
8. Paul and Mimi Ezust, Cambridge, MA	
• Viola with case	\$6,000.00
• Violin with case and bow	\$1,750.00
• Folding music stands (10)	\$500.00
• Violin case	\$100.00
• Music books	\$250.00
Total of donations from Paul & Mimi Ezust	<i>\$8,600.00</i>
Grand total of donations to El Sistema	\$12,050.00

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

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

- Thank you letter from the Massachusetts State Track Coaches Administration.
- Thank you letter from Charles Cook for remembering his late mother at a recent meeting.
- 2014 Vocational Opportunity Challenge Grant Citation

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Normand

1. The West Somerville International Fair will take place on June 12th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
2. The Healey 8th Grade Immigration Projects are on display at the Somerville Museum.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Last Saturday, SATs were held at Somerville High School. This is the first round of testing following the free prep. sessions run by Kaplan and Mr. Oteri and others are enthusiastic about the test results. Tufts students also assisted with SAT preparation and we hope these opportunities continue.

Ms. Pitone

1. The Kennedy School will hold concerts on the evenings of June 11th and 12th.
2. The Winter Hill Community Innovation School will hold a car wash on Saturday, June 14th from 9:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Futrell

1. The Argenziano School's parent survey is underway and being reviewed now.
2. Saturday is the PTA Family Fun Day at the Argenziano with food and games and a dunk tank! On June 19, 20, and 23, the Argenziano will hold grade level award ceremonies.
Mayor Curtatone
1. Focusing on the FY15 Budget and preparations for the All-America City competition!

Ms. Rafal

1. The Somerville Museum is also holding a wonderful toy camera picture exhibit
2. Tomorrow is the day the Student Council elections are being held and there are currently four students in the running to be our student representative. We should know the results by Wednesday.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Louise Green, mother of Darius Green, Housemaster at Somerville High School.
- Ruth Hellen, mother-in-law of Mary Ann Hellen, paraprofessional at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. via voice vote.

Related Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of May 19, 2014 School Choice Hearing and May 19, 2014 Regular Meeting for approval
3. One (1) out of state field trip form
4. Six (6) requests for SCALE diplomas
5. Ten (10) donation acceptance forms
6. A thank you letter from the Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association
7. A thank you letter from Charles Cook for the School Committee's remembrance of his late mother at a recent meeting
8. A copy of the 2014 Vocational Opportunity Challenge Grant Citation
9. One (1) condolence letter
10. One (1) donation thank you letter
11. Letters to Somerville Public Schools retirees inviting them to a recognition ceremony on June 23, 2014

SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL TRIVIA TEAM

- WHEREAS, *The Somerville High School Trivia Team had its most active and successful year ever in 2013-2014, and*
- WHEREAS, *The most visible highlight of the season was Somerville's run to the semifinals of WGBH's High School Quiz Show, and*
- WHEREAS, *The team qualified for the show as one of the top 16 high school trivia teams in Massachusetts, and*
- WHEREAS, *Although the team fell short on the High School Quiz Show, they took home the championship of the North Shore College Bowl, a monthly trivia league in which Somerville competes against nine other schools, and*
- WHEREAS, *Along with the quiz show team of Celine Lessard-Brandt, Miles Bain, RJ Bingham, Julian Layton, Graham Lessard-Brandt and John Iacovino, other members - Brenna Forristal, Christina Bissereh, Joy Jarnigan, Nicole Morales and Will Quan all helped the team to a league-best 17-1 record and a playoff championship with Somerville defeating the defending league champion and old rival Rockport High School in the semifinal match, and*
- WHEREAS, *The team, led by Coach Ted Blake and their four senior stars – heralded as being the major factors behind the team's success, also competed in quiz bowl tournaments at Harvard and MIT this year, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED: *That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to the team.*

FULL CIRCLE/NEXT WAVE BASKETBALL TEAM

- WHEREAS, *The Full Circle/Next Wave Basketball Team finished its Greater Boston Basketball League (GBBL) regular season with a record of 11-0, and*
- WHEREAS, *The members of the Full Circle/Next Wave Basketball Team – Edwin Alfaro Acosta, Henry Augustin, Brian Carrington, Bobby Crump, Igor DeSouza, Donald Fuentes, Carlo Gerton, Shaheem Grant, Tyler Huynh, Terrell McCall, David Perez, Shawn Soares - demonstrated commitment, resilience, and a capacity to work together to achieve a common goal, and*
- WHEREAS, *The Full Circle/Next Wave Basketball Team secured the GBBL Division 1 Championship by winning all their tournament games at the Annual GBBL Tournament held at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell in March, and*
- WHEREAS, *The members of the Full Circle/Next Wave Basketball team have found success in areas both on and off the court. Members of the team have earned Honor Roll, won Academic Awards and are preparing to graduate, and*
- WHEREAS, *Throughout the entire season, the members of this team have represented Full Circle and Next Wave schools and the City of Somerville well, on the court and more importantly, in the classroom, and*
- WHEREAS, *These students are excellent examples of the definition of sportsmanship, respecting the game, their coaches Joel Blackmer and David Aronofsky and each other throughout the season, making the Somerville Community proud, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED: *That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to the team.*

MELISSA BAPTISTA

- WHEREAS, *Melissa Baptista recently completed an outstanding four years at Somerville High School, completing her basketball career there with 1,075 points, becoming the seventh player in Somerville High School history to earn 1,000 points and the fifth female to do so, and*
- WHEREAS, *Melissa was a four-year member of the Girls' Varsity Basketball Team, Captain in her Junior and Senior years, member of the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Greater Boston League Champions, three year Greater Boston League All Star, Greater Boston League Most Valuable Player in 2013 and 2014, and Boston Globe All Scholastic in 2013 and 2014, and*
- WHEREAS, *Melissa has also excelled as a four year member of the outdoor track and field team where she was a three year Greater Boston League All Star and on the girls soccer team also as a four year member and Greater Boston League All Star in 2013, and*
- WHEREAS, *Melissa was a standout student at Somerville High School who was an honor student, member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Junior Class Advisory, Ultimate Frisbee Club and Outdoors Club, and*
- WHEREAS, *Melissa, a first generation college student in a family that emigrated from Brazil twenty years ago, will take the next step in her educational and athletic career by studying and playing at Tufts University in Medford, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED: *That the Somerville School Committee publicly praise Melissa Baptista for her outstanding efforts at Somerville High School and wish her continued success as a collegiate athlete at Tufts University, and be it further*
- RESOLVED: *That these Resolutions be recorded in the minutes of tonight's School Committee meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to Melissa Baptista.*

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, June 23, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent: Alderman White, Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Somerville High School library at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Sweeting, Roix, Pitone, Bockelman, Futrell, Rafal, and Normand and ABSENT – 2 – Curtatone and White. Mayor Curtatone and Alderman White are attending a budget meeting at City Hall this evening.

Ms. Rafal introduced our new student representative, Joshua Ojo. Joshua was elected by members of the Student Council at Somerville High School to represent the students at School Committee meetings. Joshua is a junior and is also a member of the award-winning chorus and the president of the junior class.

I. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

• **Retiring staff members**

Catherine Cannan

George "Tom" Cardon

Jean-Baptiste Charles

Jill Charney

Jean Colandreo

Christine Colangelo

C. Deborah Connell

Elaine Cullinane

Maria Diaz

Anne Foley

Janet Galvin

Linda Geehan

Patricia Kelley

Linda McGillicuddy

Ellen McPherson

Mary Moreira

Sandra Moriarty

Lorne Murphy

Maureen O'Brien

Diane O'Callaghan

Paula Olsen

Helen Ortiz

Susan Palter

Carolyn Richards

Nina Romano

Rosemary Ryan

Sharon Staples

Joseph Tringale

Maryann Wall

Bryant "Lee" Walworth, Jr.

Ann Ward

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 italicized were in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Rafal announced that, unless there was an objection, Item V. D. would be taken out of order so that staff members from Somerville High School could provide an overview on the proposed trip to France.

V. D. Field Trip (recommended action: approval)

June 29-July 8, 2015

Somerville High School students to France.
Transportation via plane and bus with an estimated student cost of \$2,855.00 each.

Mr. James Nocito, World Language Department Head and Karen Lawrence, French teacher at Somerville High School provided an overview of the proposed trip to France and answered questions from members.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the field trip.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

- **Duhamel Education Initiative grant awardees**

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

- ✓ Amanda Tsoi and Sebastian LaGambina, Grade 9 Improvement Luncheon
- ✓ Jennifer Quinlan, Home School Connection Reading Program for Grade 2 ELL Students
- ✓ Ada Santos, Local History Club Outfits
- ✓ Linda Wiegenfeld and Liliana Skero, A Poem in your Pocket, A Song in your Heart
- ✓ Alicia Kersten, Living History Speaker

The School Committee meeting was recessed at 7:35 p.m. so that members could congratulate our honorees.

The meeting resumed at 7:52 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 9, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the minutes of June 9, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: May 13 (Mr. Bockelman)

This report was deferred to the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs meeting of June 26, 2014.

B. School Committee Meeting for Personnel: May 27 (Mr. Bockelman)

The School Committee met for Personnel on May 27, 2014 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting was recessed at 8:32 p.m.

In attendance were: Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Normand, and Mr. Bockelman.

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi and approximately 12 audience members.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

Discussion ensued relative to choosing a consultant to assist in the search for the next Superintendent of Schools.

After discussion, it was decided to move forward with interviewing three of the four consulting firms that submitted proposals.

The School Committee will not move forward with NESDEC.

The School Committee will move forward with: Hazard, Young and Attea; Ray and Associates and PROACT Search.

The School Committee would like to "interview" these three firms on one of the following dates at 6:00, 7:00 or 8:00 p.m.:

1. June 3rd
2. June 5th
3. June 4th
4. June 10th

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Schedule changes – Ed. Programs to June 17 and Long Range to June 18.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the minutes of the Chair of the Personnel Committee for the Superintendent's Search for the meeting of May 27, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Rules Management Subcommittee: June 9 (Mr. Roix)

The Rules Management Subcommittee met on June 9 in the Committee Room at Somerville City Hall.

Members in Attendance: Steve Roix (Chair), Dan Futrell, Carrie Normand

Audience in Attendance: School Committee Members Adam Sweeting, Christine Rafal and Laura Pitone plus 6 members of the public

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Actions Taken

Minutes of May 5, 2014 Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting

Motion: Carrie Normand motions to approve Minutes of May 5, 2014 Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting; Steve Roix seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Minutes approved.

File IJOA Field Trip Policy:

This policy review was a response to the recommendations of the School Safety and Security Review committee report received by the School Committee last month. Although most of the recommendations made in the report are administrative in nature and not directly subject to policy purview of the School Committee, we felt it was appropriate to include the requirement of a field trip handbook to be created and maintained by the Superintendent to codify administrative responsibilities and expectations for staff organizing and supervising field trips. And we in fact requested that policy draft at the prior Rules Management Subcommittee meeting, which would replace 2 somewhat overlapping policy sections IJOA and IJOA-1, and after some deliberation and a couple of minor wording changes requested by members we voted to pass this policy update for a first reading tonight.

Motion: Dan Futrell motions to Approve File IJOA (with noted modifications); Carrie Normand seconds; Motion passes unanimously.

File ADDA Background Checks & File ADDA-R DCJIS Model CORI Policy

These are policies written by Steve Finnegan, general counsel for the MASC, in response to Massachusetts becoming the final state in the nation to adopt a fingerprint-based national background check for educators. The new state legislation was amended from its original draft so as to be in agreement with Federal rules and regulations. This policy would replace our existing policies on background checks and CORI's for our staff. The fingerprint-based checks are a significant departure from existing policy and not all members of the Rules Management Subcommittee were comfortable with voting to approve the new policy without more extensive thought and deliberation. The Superintendent advised us that from an administrative perspective changes in law will be followed whether or not the School Committee policies had yet been updated AND that he cautions against making even minor revisions to a policy on a sensitive legal topic written by the MASC counsel without first at least consulting our own counsel....given that concern and the reassurance that the administration would comply with the law as needed anyway and the concerns of members and the time constraints of this particular meeting, we voted to table these items for a future meeting.

Both items were tabled.

File IJNRB-R Acceptable Use of Personal Electronic Devices

A timely topic, acceptable use guidelines for cameras or any electronic recording devices on school property or on a school sponsored event

- events open to the general public as long as not disruptive or unlawful
- students may use at direction of teacher as part of classroom activities
- prior written permission from school principal
- use of cell phone cameras always prohibited

- use of any device in bathroom is always prohibited

Motion: Dan Futrell motions to Approve File IJNRB-R; Carrie Normand seconds; Motion passed unanimously.

Chapter 222 of the Acts of 2012, An Act Relative to Student Access to Educational Service & Exclusion from School

- *For our information, this was a communication from the commissioner relative to an Act affecting requirements for students who are expelled or suspended from school, and specifically giving them the opportunity to continue to make academic progress while they miss school for disciplinary reasons. The MASC has not issued a sample policy in response to this yet, it was included in our packet to make members aware of possible policy changes resulting from changes to the law. We took no action.

File JICFB: Bullying Policy

- *Again, this is response to a change in the law which specifically calls out bullying of LGBT students as well students who may be bullied for reasons of race or nationality. The changes in this law could potentially require revisions to several of our policies; we tabled this for a future meeting as we expect MASC to issue a sample policy for revision. We took no action.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair of the Rules Management Subcommittee for the meeting of June 9, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee: June 9 (Mr. Sweeting)

The Finance & Facilities Subcommittee meeting was held in the Committee Room at Somerville City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. Members in attendance were Mr. Roix, Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Pitone.

Other members present were: Ms. Normand, Mr. Futrell

Also in attendance: Ms. Durette, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay and six audience members.

The only item on the agenda was the approval of the FY14 bill rolls.

Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the bill rolls and the motion was approved via voice vote.

With no further business before them, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the report of the Chair of Finance & Facilities for the meeting of June 9, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. School Committee Meeting for Personnel: June 10 (Ms. Rafal)

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Normand, Mr. Roix, Ms. Rafal, and the Superintendent

Presenters from NESDEC & Hazard & Young

One audience member: Mrs. Cardoso

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. in the conference room at 42 Cross Street.

We started with two consultants representing NESDEC (New England School Development Council). They also proposed a third consultant, NESDEC's Executive Director who would be working with them on our search, but could not attend the interview that evening. We gave them time to present their search process first, and then we asked questions.

Next we interviewed two consultants representing Hazard, Young and Attea, a firm who had also proposed three consultants to work on our search, although they said the person who would be mainly responsible for working on our search could not be there that night. The Hazard Young and Attea consultants said that our board would know each other much better after working with them.

Both first proposed a search process involving individual interviews with each School Committee member and then focus groups with representatives from various stakeholder groups, typically broad-based outreach and engagement, as well as an electronic survey. The purpose of such research is to create a profile of the kind of Superintendent that would best fit Somerville based on all the input. Then that profile goes into the advertisements or other recruiting materials and is used as a rubric for evaluation candidates. Each firm also described their recruiting process.

School Committee members' questions tended to focus on: how various aspects of the process work; how much the firm seemed to know about Somerville and how it would "market" our community to potential candidates; how much successful experience the firms had had with different contexts and different kinds of communities; how extensive and deep their outreach and community engagement could be; how they identified and evaluated candidates before finalists are presented to the School Committee.

One piece each firm talked about was when a candidacy became public under open meeting law. This seemed to be very much impacted by whether or not we set up a separate Search Committee, because a Search Committee's meetings would be subject to Open Meeting Law. After the consultants left we talked a little bit about how these interviews had brought some decisions we might still have to make, like the question of a separate Search Committee. We adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the minutes of the Chair of the Personnel Committee for the Superintendent's Search for the meeting of June 10, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

F. School Committee Meeting for Personnel: June 17 (Mr. Bockelman)

The School Committee Superintendent Search Committee met on June 17, 2014 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street.

Members present: Paul Bockelman (chair), Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, Joe Curtatone, Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone, Steve Roix.

Staff present: Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Search Firm Interviews:

The Committee interviewed Mr. Steve Kupfer from ProAct of Wilmette, Illinois. Mr. Kupfer presented his firm's credentials and the approach they recommended for a comprehensive, successful search process.

The Committee then interviewed Mr. Bill Adams from Ray and Associates of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mr. Adams, who participated in the meeting via Skype due to a recent operation, presented his firm's credentials and the approach they recommended for a comprehensive, successful search process.

At the conclusion of the two interviews, the Committee moved into deliberations and discussed the four firms interviewed. After extensive discussion, Mr. Sweeting moved that the Committee move forward with examining the references and background of ProAct. Mayor Curtatone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Committee agreed to meet again on June 23rd at 6:45 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to accept the report of the Chair of the Personnel Committee for the Superintendent's Search for the meeting of June 17, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

G. Special Meeting for Executive Session: June 17 (Ms. Rafal)

- STA Paraprofessionals Contract

Ms. Rafal reported that the School Committee met in Executive Session on June 17, 2014 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street.

In attendance were Mayor Curtatone, Ms. Normand, Mr. Roix, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rafal.

Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Mr. Tringale and Attorney Hollender.

The School Committee reviewed the latest contract proposal between the School Committee and the Somerville Teachers Association Instructional Paraprofessionals Unit.

After review, the School Committee voted to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Somerville School Committee and the Somerville Teachers Association, Instructional Paraprofessionals Unit for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement effective September 1, 2013 and expiring August 31, 2016. Ms. Rafal is pleased to announce this agreement this evening.

H. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: June 18 (Ms. Rafal)

The School Committee met for Long Range Planning in the Central Office Conference Room at 42 Cross Street on June 18, 2014.

Members in attendance were: Ms. Normand, Mr. Futrell, Mr. Roix, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rafal.

Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay and one audience member.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Since this was only the second Long Range Planning meeting ever for several members, I explained the criteria for placing something in Long Range. We should be thinking Long Range in ALL our planning and subcommittees. Topics go to Long Range when they cut across several subcommittee areas. Later we clarified questions to ask in making short-term decisions that have long-term impact include: What are the problems we want to solve? What is the educational plan we want to have married to the solution.

Discussion took place relative to the fact that most of our buildings are quite full. There has been less attrition lately. It's a good kind of problem. There is a space issue coming up because population projections suggest in about 9 years we will be back to 2003 populations levels, and while we have added the Capuano Early Childhood Center, two elementary schools have gone offline since then. There is some concern about whether the City's Capital Plan is accounting for this.

The Superintendent has submitted documents to MSBA for the next step in planning for a new high school. Plans include housing a lot of offices and programs in that new building hopefully to help with the space.

Still most of the buildings have SOME flexibility except for the Brown School. This was where the topic cut across subcommittee areas, as the space issues relate to policy of controlled choice and disproportionate demand, and also to educational programs we want to provide. We talked about marketing under chosen buildings and about a memo from the principal at the Brown School, which is overcrowded and lacking major "amenities" like a gym or cafeteria to name a few. We might need to talk about making the Brown a K to 5 school, and we should think about making that decision around January 2015. The soonest implementation would be September 2016. We need to address the overcrowding because it is becoming a program quality issue.

One thing to keep in mind is that in most of the rest of the city 6th graders are middle grades students. So Mr. Sweeting asked if we could look at our middle grades offerings. The topic to compare where we are now to the recommendation of a middle grades evaluation conducted in 2007-2008 was referred to Ed Programs for the Fall.

We talked about controlled choice, student assignments and capacity by area of city.

We talked about some of our data needs, especially as related to Goal 1 of our 2014 & 2015 goals. We will keep this topic in future (like September) Long Range meetings, including development of a data dashboard, quantitative data, qualitative data, whole child goal measures, etc.

Under "other" Steve brought up coding (computer programming) abilities as an equity issue that could soon separate the haves and have nots as literacy once did. It was mentioned that some computer-related instruction happens weekly at library/media. The Superintendent also related computer skills to a reason in favor of choosing the PARCC exam for next year, but that's for a different meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to accept the report of the Chair of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of June 18, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**A. Personnel Report**

Mr. Pierantozzi thanked the School Committee for hosting our retirement celebration. This year's retirees represent 975 years of expertise across the spectrum of grade levels/positions.

We currently have 106 positions to be hired – all permanent positions resulting from retirements and resignations.

The Personnel Report includes 15 resignations, six (6) leaves of absence, and five (5) intra-district transactions. This report is not a cumulative list of personnel transactions.

There have been 53 new hires thus far as well as additional resignations and leaves of absence not included on this report.

Offices are busy with paperwork galore, hiring committees (2-3 hiring groups each week), demonstration lessons, etc.

The Superintendent issued thanks to all who serve on these committees, which includes administrators, staff, stakeholder representatives and sometimes even students.

Once interviews and reference checks have been done, the principal/administrator forwards his/her recommendations to the Superintendent for approval.

Exit interview sheets are conducted and there have been no negative reports thus far, but returns are low

The most common reasons for leaving are relocation, higher pay, working closer to home, returning to school to continue their education, etc. A report on exit surveys will be distributed once it has been completed.

Mr. Sweeting asked if the Superintendent could provide information on the District's outreach efforts and if he could please explain what the District's global plan is with regard to recruiting?

The Superintendent responded that in the spring we do one significantly inclusive Boston Globe advertisement, which also gets posted online at boston.com, posting on an international education online search engine, the use of School Spring which allows hiring agents to filter applicants' information to find the best candidates for the position. We also send representatives to do recruiting at job fairs at colleges and universities, network with substitutes and interns, and participate in a minority recruiting consortium.

B. District Report

Mr. Pierantozzi provided his District Report:

- June 24 is a half day for elementary students
- June 25 is a half day for all students and the last day of school for all students
- June 26 is a Professional Development Day for teaching staff and the last day of work for Unit A members
- June 27 is a meeting day for administrators with a wrap up of the 2013-14 year.
- Members of the Class of 2014 were awarded approximately \$3,026,318.00 in scholarship money – the largest amount ever by about a million dollars. This included six full boat rides, three Posse scholarships, three scholarships from Tufts. This has been a tremendous year academically in all areas - athletics, art, music, citizenship, political science, CVTE where the skill set in shop, or academic progress or both has led to great success!
- Scale graduation is being held on Tuesday, June 24 at the Granoff Center of Tufts University

This has been a great year in many ways – thank you!

Dr. McKay provided a brief preview of Thursday night's Ed Programs which will include the latest information on the PARCC/MCAS issue and Access testing results – ELL 2nd cycle of this testing for ELL's—compares to MCAS for our English Language Learners.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

Mr. Roix reported:

The following policy was presented this evening for first reading, as amended:

1. File IJOA – Field Trips

The following policy was presented this evening for first reading for adoption:

2. File IJNDB-R – Acceptable Use of Personal Electronic Devices

B. Somerville High School Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for graduation from Somerville High School, be granted her diploma:

- Larissa De Paula

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the Somerville High School graduate.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. FY2014 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:

Elvis Antonio Alvarez	26 Kensington Avenue	Somerville	02145
Shakera R. Bowden	18 Dartmouth Street	Somerville	02145
Lucas Alves Campos	32 Ten Hills Road	Somerville	02145
Claudia Dias De Paula	5 Walter Terrace	Somerville	02145
Shykela Kiki McAndrew	420 Medford Street	Somerville	02145
Haley Catherine Rao	84 Hinckley Street	Somerville	02145
Jennifer Lynn White	162 Summer Street, #36	Somerville	02143
Khileigh Anne O'Leary	330 A Highland Avenue	Somerville	02144
William Russell Garland	7 Dreeme Street	Saugus	01906
Arianna Abby Gilmore	6 Minot Street	Stoneham	02180
Ana M. Guevara	3976 Washington Street	Roslindale	02131
Aviva L. Romero	31 Waverly Street	Everett	02149

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the SCALE ADP graduates. The motion was approved via voice vote.
Mr. Sweeting read the names of the Somerville residents.

D. MASC/MASS Joint Conference – November 2014

Ms. Rafal reminded members about the conference being held from November 5-8, 2014 and asked them to consider attending and registering early in order to get the Early Bird discount. Discussion took place relative to a proposed resolution for the conference. The resolution proposal was referred to Thursday night's Educational Programs meeting

E. 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 2014-2015 school year, as in previous years.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, 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 2014-2015 school year.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

F. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of one large ceramic banding wheel and two small ceramic banding wheels from Susan Bernstein Cambridge, MA to the Ceramics Department at Somerville High School. This gift is given in memory of the late Richard Garrity on behalf of the members of his class at the Mudflat Pottery Studio where he took adult classes during his retirement years. Total value of the donation is \$225.00

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

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$1,500.00 from Stephen Friedlaender of Cambridge, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$2,400.00 from Jill and Rich Guardia of Somerville, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the two donations totaling \$3,900.00 to the El Sistema program, with gratitude.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of 325 bike helmets from Breakstone, White and Gluck of Boston, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools for the Cycle Kids program. Value of donation is \$2,426.25.

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

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of an American flag from Mrs. Margaret Joyce of Somerville, MA to the Somerville Public Schools. Mrs. Joyce received the flag at the funeral of her late husband, John Joyce who was a former Assistant Superintendent of Schools and US Army Veteran of World War II.

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

G. Student Accident Insurance - (Recommended Action: Receive and place 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

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the contract for student accident insurance.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

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 FY2015 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel under all federal grants beginning in September.
- c. Use Salaries Account and School Operations Account funds to pay encumbrances and salaries for summer programs.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the authorization for summer months as detailed above.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Sweeting explained that because the School Committee does not routinely meet during the summer months, the actions taken this evening allow for all regular business to be conducted.

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Futrell

1. Family Fun Day at Argenziano was a huge success with many dunkees, laughter all around, great attendance and community building!

Mr. Sweeting

1. Have a great summer!
2. Ward 3 Resistat is Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. at the Izzo Café at Somerville High.

Ms. Pitone

1. Thanked the Superintendent for detailing the recommendations for MCAS/PARCC, which are posted on the Somerville Public Schools website.

Ms. Rafal

1. Commented on Scale's graduation and how it is great to see the students' progress.
2. Issued her thanks to all and wished everyone a good summer!

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Sweeting expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Modesta Hernandez, mother of Susana Hernandez Morgan, Coordinator of Grants and Information for the Somerville Public Schools
- Seymour Slive, father of Sarah Davila, District Administrator of Programs, English Learner Education / Family and Community Partnerships

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

***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

Christine Rafal, Chairperson

Steven Roix

Dan Futrell

Laura Pitone

William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

Adam Sweeting, Vice Chairperson

Paul Bockelman

Carrie Normand

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

June 23, 2014