

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, June 13, 2022 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Zoom

Members present: Ms. Krepchin, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Barish, Ms. Normand, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone and Dr. Phillips. Mayor Ballantyne, and President McLaughlin.

Members Absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Green asked Superintendent Skipper to call the roll, results of which were as follows: PRESENT – 9 – Dr. Phillips, Ms. Krepchin, Mr. McLaughlin, Mayor Ballantyne, Chair Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman and Ms. Dion. ABSENT – 0 -

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Micaela Yang-Spanish

Elaine Meztker-Portuguese

Angie Surprise-Haitian Creole

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A. Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's Awards

SHS Principal Buchanan Introduce Marie Lessard Brandt and Lucy Gunther and read some remarks that were submitted by their school counselors.

Class of 2022 Valedictorian

Marie Lessard-Brandt

Going to Rutgers to study Education

Offered National Merit Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Scholarship

Whether it is on the soccer field or in the hub of climate justice group, Marie is counted on for her leadership initiative and ability to collaborate with peers. Marie has embraced a leadership role that has been noticed and appreciated by both peers and adults. She is known as a person who is always open to other's ideas and opinions. Marie believes it is important for everyone to share ideas without being subjected to criticism. This spirit has made her a successful leader who is admired by staff and students alike. What is particularly nice about Marie is that although she is a very bright student, she is not one to boast. She is cognizant about her grades, but is very self-aware, which I think is something that has helped her earn respect and admiration amongst her peers. She also has a passion for languages and although students are only required to take one language, Marie has elected to take French and Spanish. This speaks to the dedication she shows towards learning.

-Jeremy Rischall

Class of 2022 Salutatorian

Lucy Gunther

Going to Carnegie Mellon University to Study Engineering

Lucy is equally dynamic outside of the classroom. She is a natural leader who collaborates with peers at ease. Whether it is through her work with our theatre program or with student council, Lucy can best be described as dependable. She listens to others and offers her own insights, while ensuring her peers can also share their views. Her work with our student council has been impressive and Lucy's input on ways to improve our high school have been beneficial to our school community.

Lucy's inquisitive nature and high intellect has impressed our teaching staff. She is a student who truly loves learning and being challenged. Her inquisitive nature has led her to an interest in engineering, which I think is truly a good fit for her.

-Jeremy Rischall

Superintendent Skipper, Principal Buchanan and Chair Green all took the time to congratulate Marie and Lucy and to offer them well wishes

B. Recognition of Services

- Retirees for the 2021-2022 School Year

Retiring Staff

School	Name	Title	Retiring Date	Sharing Remarks
ESCS	Margarita Lopez	Grade 1 Paraprofessional	1/13/2022	Maureen Hughes
HLY	Kathleen Donahue	Kindergarten Paraprofessional	10/15/2021	Mary Ellen
HLY	Marybeth Bernstein	Occupational Therapist	11/22/2021	Mary Ellen
HLY	Kim Conley	Kindergarten Teacher	8/31/2022	Mary Ellen
KEN	Anne Oshima	SEEK Paraprofessional	6/30/2021	Steve Marshall
SHS	Antonio DiCecca	Utility Aide	3/14/2022	Matthew Buchanan
SHS	Harry Regis	Geometry/Algebra teacher	6/30/2022	Matthew Buchanan
WSNS	Donna Romeo	SPED Paraprofessional	5/13/2022	Kathleen Seward
Retiring Admin				
CAP	Cheryl Piccirelli	Principal	6/30/2022	Susana Morgan
Central Office	Sarah Davila	District Administrator of MLE Programs	6/30/2022	Nomi Davidson and Regina Bertholdo
District Wide	Charles LaFauci	K-12, Supervisor of Library & Media Services	6/30/2022	Chad Mazza

- Resolutions for Retireing Administrators

Susana Hernandez- Morgan then read a resolution for Cheryl Piccirelli, Principal of Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center:

Cheryl Piccirelli

WHEREAS, Cheryl Piccirelli earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Worcester State College, a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Anna Maria College, and completed Educational Leadership coursework at Cambridge College; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Piccirelli began her career in Education in 1995 in the Marlborough Public Schools where she served as a School Adjustment Counselor, Assistant Principal, and School Principal before joining the Somerville Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Piccirelli became a member of the Somerville Public Schools team in 2015 and has served as Principal of the Capuano Early Childhood Center for the last seven years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Piccirelli's steady leadership has been instrumental in ensuring that the Capuano Early Childhood Center provides students with a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Piccirelli has demonstrated a selfless commitment to students, families and staff, grounded in a firm belief that all students are exceptional and able to grow and achieve given the opportunity and the support; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Piccirelli has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring equitable access and opportunities for our city's youngest learners through active involvement in and support of the development of Somerville's mixed delivery system as a member of the Early Education Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Piccirelli has demonstrated throughout her tenure the highest ethical standards and work ethic, earning her the appreciation and respect of colleagues, families and staff and

WHEREAS, Ms. Piccirelli's thoughtful and kind approach as a leader and colleague have been vital to creating a caring and supportive school culture that fosters a lifelong love of curiosity and learning for our youngest learners,

NOW THEREFORE; be it

RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee, publicly and proudly, expresses its deepest gratitude for her leadership and vision in guiding the students and staff of the Capuano Early Childhood Center, and wishes her a long, happy, and healthy retirement with her family; AND FURTHER

RESOLVED: That this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to Ms. Piccirelli.

Nomi Davidson and Regina Bertholdo then read a resolution for Dr. Sarah Davila District Administrator of MLE Programs:

Dr. Sarah Davila

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila grew up in Cambridge, MA and started her career in the Somerville Public Schools as the coordinator of the Multicultural Literacy Links Project in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila holds a BA in Political Science from UMass Boston and an MFA from MA College of Art; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila went on to become the first Director of Somerville's Parent Information Center in 1995 where she created an indispensable support and resource center for families in the Somerville Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Parent Information Center (PIC) became a state model for equity and access under Sarah Davila's leadership and provided an essential cultural and linguistic infrastructure that did not exist previously in the community; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila developed and implemented a wide range of professional development workshops and institutes, bringing together educators from SPS and other communities and becoming a leading expert on issues of Anti-Bias pedagogy, engaging participants from a wide range of skill levels, class backgrounds and academic readiness; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila went on to pursue a PhD in Child Development from the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development at Tufts University and became the Director of English Language Learners Education committed to education equity; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila demonstrated a commitment to creating a system that ensures synergy between schools, family and community, and was appointed the District Administrator of Multilingual Learner Education and Family and Community Partnerships and co-founded the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila became an Adjunct Professor at Lesley University teaching courses on Education Equity, Cultural Responsive Teaching, and Language and Literacy; and

WHEREAS, Sarah collaborated with multiple colleges and universities to provide training for many student interns in English Language Learner Education and to engage them with the realities of an urban educational system; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila developed partnerships with community agencies that led to Parent English Classes serving hundreds of Somerville Public School parents, grounded in a Popular Education Model; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila was a founding member of the Somerville Sanctuary City Steering Committee and co-facilitator of Educators for One Somerville/Sanctuary Schools; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila is truly committed to grappling with the impact of race, gender, culture, and poverty and their effect on education and social policy and has demonstrated a tireless effort to hire and support staff of color, dramatically changing the face of Somerville Public School employment; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila has demonstrated throughout her tenure the highest ethical standards and work ethic in her professional performance, earning the trust and respect of the entire district, and supporting the learning and growth of thousands of Somerville students; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila has demonstrated exceptional commitment to ensuring equitable access to programs, services, and rich and authentic learning experiences for all students; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Davila played a pivotal role in the Somerville Public Schools and leaves a lasting impact through her bold and transformational leadership, NOW THEREFORE; be it

RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee, publicly and proudly, expresses its deepest gratitude for her leadership and vision in guiding the students and staff of the Somerville Public Schools, and wish her a long, happy, and healthy retirement with her family; AND FURTHER

RESOLVED: That this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to Sarah Davila.

Assistant Superintendent Chad Mazza then read a resolution for Charles LaFauci K-12, Supervisor of Library & Media Services:

Charlie LaFauci

WHEREAS, Charlie LaFauci earned a Bachelor of Elementary Education/Music Education in December, 1991 from Emmanuel College, Boston, MA and a Master's Degree

in Computer Technology in May, 1995 from Lesley University, Cambridge, MA;

and

WHEREAS, Charlie LaFauci began his career as a Music Educator from 1992 – 2006 at the East Somerville Community School in the Somerville Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Charlie LaFauci continued his career with the Somerville Public Schools as the District Supervisor of Library/Media Services from 2006 – 2022; and

WHEREAS, Charlie LaFauci was instrumental in creating a library media center at the Albert F. Argenziano School in 2007 – 2008; and

WHEREAS, Charlie LaFauci was instrumental in bringing a robust media program to Somerville High School, to include an online newspaper, a technologically

advanced media studio and video-based school bulletins in 2013; and

WHEREAS, *Charlie LaFauci served as an Assistant Golf Coach, Freshman Coach for*

Girls Basketball, a Mentor Teacher, a Peer Supporter; and

WHEREAS, *Charlie LaFauci has demonstrated throughout his tenure the highest ethical standards and work ethic in his professional performance, earning the trust and*

respect of the entire district, and supporting the learning and growth of

thousands of Somerville students,

NOW THEREFORE

RESOLVED: *That the Somerville School Committee, publicly and proudly, expresses its deepest gratitude for his leadership and vision in guiding our city's schools and*

the safety of our students, and wishes him a long, happy, and healthy retirement

with his family; AND FURTHER

RESOLVED: *That this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to Charlie LaFauci.*

III. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representatives Bryan Recinos and Marcia Narh-Botchway were both present and reported the following:

- Marcia and 2 student walked out in support of women's rights
- Proud of recent events
- Closing up projects
- Fall registrations has open for sports.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 9, 2022
- May 23, 2022

Tabled.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Green read the public comment regulations and asked those who signed up, to comment at this time.

Sauhail Purkar – Stated off by congratulating retiree's also thanked student representatives for their reports. Requesting a time line and clear process for students survey regarding SRO's

Chair Green- This survey will be shared in the fall.

Rafaya Raquib- concerned community member regarding having SRO's in schools she shared some data related to SRO's in schools

Matthew Kennedy has learned that attorney has recommended that the school system adapt the State MOU. He encourages the SC to adapt the MOU created the Justice for Flavia Group. He went on to express his feelings about policing.

Erich Ludwig 36 Berkeley St in Ward 3- Comment submitted to be included in these minutes and is added as an attachment below due to length.

Christine Doherty 445 Artisan Way - Community member speaking in support of Policing in schools

Erin Hemenway- Speaking to a plan of COVID testing for schools in the fall. It is reported that there will be many infectious diseases. Has attended budget meetings and it is unclear if there is a plan for testing and the state will no longer be providing it. Requesting that staff publicized a plan for testing for the upcoming school year.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- Grade 9 math Curriculum update (Mr.

Superintendent Skipper first asked Assistant Superintendent Mazza to share his verbal update with the Committee.

Mr. Mazza reported that the presentation for Math Curriculum will take place in the fall and will take some time to meet with the different PTA's through the City beforehand.

Ms. Dion – When will the meetings with PTA's will be, it going to be with the PTA councils? Assistant Superintendent Mazza the meeting will be PTA's council something in the fall.

Dr. Phillips requesting that material for those meeting be shared on the website with the public Assistant Superintendent Mazza Sure, no problem.

Ms. Pitone- Summarized some questions she has received from constituents She does not expect an answer for those today but still would like constituents to know those questions have been recorded.

-Share the specific sustain additional investment in training and development and possible staffed to successful deliver this integrated math and open honor courses if that is approved.

- will Algebra 2 material will be cover in the new sequences if the student is taking the pre-calculus in the junior year

-How have we assess the integrated math Curriculum in the middle grades and has the middle grades staff collaborated on creating the new high school proposal

-Will student will be able to place on 9th or 10th grade integrated math course if they are pursuing online or summer courses

-How are variable student readiness for complex an abstract math better serve in this new proposed model than the old model?

-What is the student needs to learn cover in SHS to be able to prepare to study STEM in college or to be competitive when applying for STEM programs.

Mr. Mazza agreed to answer these questions through his presentation in the fall.

Superintendent Skipper appreciate the depts. Of questions coming from parents.

Dr. Ackman would love to see the research that has been explored. Thinks is significant work that is being done through a lenses of equity

- MLE Presentation (Dr. Davila)

Superintendent Skipper than welcome the MLE team to share their presentation.

Dr. Davila's share MLE presentation along with her team and stated that team members will speak on their areas of expertise

- 357 Newcomers enrolled in SPS during 21-22
 - o 216 Students from Brazil
 - o 75 Students from Central America
 - o 49 are considered unaccompanied youth
 - o 103 are considered SLIFE
- Multilingual Learner Education Team Highlights
 - o Erika Da Silva- Spoke to Newcomer Enrollment
 - o Maureen Hughes- spoke to the Unidos Program development
 - o Paulina Mitropoulos- spoke to SEI expansion
 - o Emily Blitz- spoke to SHS Newcomer programing and supports

Emily also introduce Dr. Martha Fran Co. who shared some data from her dissertation, which focused on Educational experience of Central American Unaccompanied Youth. She spoke to Education as opportunity and as a challenge of the education in their countries and the benefit of education here in Somerville.

Dr. Davilas then introduced Dr. Sarah Bruhn who also shared some slides of her own speaking to fragile belonging motherhood and migration in sanctuary cities her dissertation project. She shared two findings from her research.

She spoke to the care during time of crisis and managing family reunification.

Dr. Davila then continued her presentation and spoke to the MLE strategic vision, which is included in the presentation.

Questions

Dr. Ackman how are undocumented families typically connected with the schools? Dr. Davilas most important thing to remember when providing services to undocumented families is that we do not present them as such and it is not something families are required to disclose families are welcome to share this we find creative ways to provide services to them and make them aware of those.

Sara B. These relationships began at enrollment they are nervous to approach schools but then find that the school is willing to hear them in and help them.

Ms. Pitone thanked the team for sharing this research it is really valuable to hear what is working and what is challenging listening and taking action is so important.

Ms. Dion thank you

Chair Green thank the team for their hard work after no further questions from the committees.

Superintendent Skipper then read her district report.

Superintendent's Notes: *School Committee Meeting – Monday, June 13, 2022*

As we wrap up the '21-22 school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate our **Class of 2022 graduates**. Their determination and perseverance in getting to this important milestone is nothing short of remarkable. Over the last two weeks, we have had the opportunity to acknowledge our Class of '22 graduates – from Somerville High School, Full Circle, and SCALE – and to celebrate **with** them as they prepare for the next phase of their journeys. Many are heading to college, others are ready to enter or re-enter the workforce, and others still are preparing to enter the armed forces. All of them are moving on having demonstrated exceptional fortitude and compassion in the face of multiple challenges, including a global pandemic that impacted their daily lives in ways that none of us could have predicted.

We are so proud of every one of our Class of '22 graduates, and hopeful for our future as a community because of their determination to persevere and overcome. Thank you, Somerville High School, Full Circle, and SCALE Class of '22 graduates!

The celebrations continue this week for middle grades students across the district. Congratulations to the Argenziano and Next Wave 8th graders, who held their celebratory events this evening. Here's a list of other **Moving Up/Moving On Ceremonies** this week:

- Brown School: June 16, 9:00 a.m. outdoors at the Brown School
- East Somerville Community School: June 15, 12:30 p.m. at the ESCS soccer field
- Healey School: June 16, 5-8 p.m. at the Healey School

· Kennedy School: June 17, 9:00 a.m. at the Kennedy School · West Somerville Neighborhood School: June 16, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at WSNS · Winter Hill Community Innovation School: June 15, 2022, 5 p.m. at the WH soccer field

Congratulations to Charles Jabour, SPS Theatre Arts Instructor, for being selected by the Educational Theatre Association to serve as a Teacher Leader on a national project. The project is a 5-year Connected Arts Networks project made possible by an \$8.5 million U.S. Dept. of Education grant awarded to the National Art Education Association. Mr. Jabour joins a national team of educators who will collaborate on creating and leading professional development related to the arts, social-emotional learning, and equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are incredibly proud of Mr. Jabour, the impact he has made in Somerville through an innovative and student-centered approach, and the impact he will undoubtedly make across the country through his participation in this Networks project.

We are thrilled to partner with the Mayor's Office, Somerville Parks & Recreation, and the Department of Health and Human Services, in supporting three **Teen Centers** in Somerville. On Friday, Mayor Ballantyne announced the opening of temporary spaces for teens. This summer, the City will begin efforts to identify a permanent and long-awaited Teen Center home in Somerville. Teen spaces available now or in the next few weeks are:

- Somerville Public Library, Central (79 Highland Ave.) – Teen Room; Open during regular Central Library hours, for Ages 13+
- Edgerly Education Center (33 Cross Street); open weekdays 2:30- 8:00pm starting Monday, June 13, for Ages 14+
- Powerhouse Park (838 Broadway), **starting Tuesday, July 5th**; open weekdays 2:30-8:00pm, for ages 14+

Teens can stop by to relax and socialize and can also participate in a variety of events and activities, connect to services, or access City social workers. Visit www.somervillema.gov/teencenter for more information.

A couple of quick schedule reminders for the remainder of this month: · Due to 2 snow days, the **last day of the '21-22 school year** is this Friday, June 17th and will be a half day for all students.

· All district offices will be closed on Monday, June 20th, in observance of Juneteenth.

Ms. Pitone Thank you for sharing efforts to create teen spaces ID Access? Can students access without an ID. Superintendent Skipper there should not be any issues of access for students.

VII. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Special Policing Subcommittee: April 6, 2022 (chair Green)

In attendance: Susana Hernandez Morgan, Ellenor Barish, Elizabeth Doncaster, Andre Green, Anuj Bhardwaj, Sarah Phillips, Dayshawn Simmons, Aisha Banda, Johanne Thomas Silvia Martinez de Mejia, Les Lartey, Mary Skipper joined later. Paige moved from the audience. One in audience

We came to order at 6:02pm

Agenda: What is the SEL and mental health support landscape in SPS?

We began with a thorough presentation (available on the Policing Subcommittee website) of Somerville's mental health supports for students, by Susana Morgan and Elizabeth Doncaster.; covering curriculum, in house supports, outsourced supports, mediation, and crisis supports. The goal was to get a sense of what the district is currently doing to disrupt the school to prison pipeline. Committee members spoke approvingly of recent investments in mental health, while wondering if they were sufficient to the level of the crisis our young people are facing this year. Questions were also asked about how to access resources, especially for students who might not yet have triggered on the district's radar as having trouble yet.

Subcommittee members suggested that more staff, particularly social workers, and greater investment in communicating the breadth of resources and how to access them could be of value to better provide coverage for

all young people. While no votes were taken, as this is technically outside the subcommittees purview, I am happy to say the ideas reflected in the discussion ended up reflected in the FY 23 SPS budget, as approved by School Committee.

We adjourned at 7:17

MOTION: There was a motion by Chair Green, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Special Policing Subcommittee April 6, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

B. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: May 25, 2022 (Ms. Phillips)

Report of Educational Program May 25, 2022, submitted by Sarah Phillips

The Educational Programs Subcommittee met on May 25, 2022, via Zoom. Members present were Sarah Phillips, Sara Dion, and Emily Ackman. Also in attendance were Superintendent, Mary Skipper; Assistant Superintendent, Chad Mazza; and representatives from the Social Studies and Library and Media departments.

Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. There was one person in the audience.

There were three items on the agenda:

1) Social Studies Grades K-8 Curriculum Review and Development Update

The subcommittee received a report on the study and develop years of the Social Studies grades K-8 curriculum review. During the study year, Content Alignment Leaders developed a "Commitment" statement for the content area, analyzed stakeholder feedback, assessed current practices, and researched trends and other approaches to delivering instruction in the content area. Key findings and lesson learned indicate that teachers are excited to see changes to social studies, K-4 teachers are looking forward to having high-quality pre-made units to implement, while 5-8 teachers hope to balance classroom autonomy with support from pre-made units. During the develop year, Content Alignment Leaders revised and created curriculum plans and began developing curricular units. Key findings and lessons learned indicate that teachers are excited but overwhelmed by the task of teaching and developing curriculum, scheduling social studies time in grades K-2 is expected to be challenging, and the committee is excited about the possibility of integrating the curriculum across content areas, the committee believes it may be useful to partner with the multi-lingual learner and special education departments to ensure curricula are universally accessible. The committee reviewed the proposed scope and sequence for K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 as well as shared unit examples for each grade band. Next steps include, reviewing and revising completed units, completing all units, piloting units, and deciding on a strategy for stakeholder feedback. Dr. Ackman moved to approve the Social Studies curriculum report. Ms. Dion seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2) Library/Media Grades K-8 Curriculum Review and Development Update

The subcommittee received a report on the study and develop years of the Library/Media grades K-8 curriculum review. During the study year, Content Alignment Leaders developed a "Commitment" statement for the content area, analyzed stakeholder feedback, assessed current practices, and researched trends and other approaches to delivering instruction in the content area. The committee concluded that the department is teaching a lot of different content in varying ways and decided as a team to streamline this while also ensuring that the needs of each individual school community were still being met. During the develop year, Content

Alignment Leaders revised and created curriculum plans and began developing curricular units with nearly the entire library department. The committee reviewed the proposed scope and sequence for K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 as well as shared unit examples for each grade band. Next steps include, finalizing the department's mission statement, finalizing the scope and sequence, ensuring alignment across grade levels, working on the units and lesson plans for each grade band, and selecting units to pilot during SY2022-23. Ms. Dion moved to approve the Library/Media curriculum report. Dr. Ackman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Handbooks

The subcommittee reviewed the proposed template handbook for grades PK-8. Suggestions included: replacing language about parents with language about caregivers and replacing he/she with they to improve inclusivity; adding language to the placeholder heading without content; removing policy language that parents don't need and emphasizing the language they do need; adding more information about who to contact for different items. Dr. Ackman moved to approve the handbook, pending the revisions discussed in the meeting, and forward it to the full committee for review. Ms. Dion seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Phillips adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:05pm.

Documents used:

Handbook.pdf

Curriculum Presentation to Education Programs Subcommittee.pdf

LIBRARY_MEDIA Curriculum Presentation to Education Programs Subcommittee.pdf

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, second by Ms. Pitone, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: May 25, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Charter Review Changes- SC Input Request (Ms. Pitone)

Ms. Pitone gave a quick overview of the review and introduced Hope Williams who in attendance. Ms. Pitone provided a memo to the committee and shared some of the high points from her Memo

Charter Review Update and Request for Input/Questions from School Committee 6/10/2022 To: Somerville School Committee, Superintendent Skipper

From: Laura Pitone, Ward 5 School Committee Representative

Purpose: The Charter Review Committee seeks to complete its recommendation to the City Council and Mayor this summer and as the School Committee's representative I am seeking feedback on the work to date from the School Committee and Superintendent. I am sharing this summary and documentation of the work to date and in the meeting will summarize the items in the draft charter that directly impact the SC.

Overview: The Charter Review Committee, established by the Mayor and City Council, has been meeting since the beginning of 2021 to create recommendations for changes to the City Charter to represent the values and desires of the community. Committee members include representatives from the CC, SC, the Mayor's office and the community. Hope Williams and Anna Corning of the City are coordinating this work, with support from [The Collins Center](#). Efforts have included creation of a guiding values statement and capturing community input through a survey and workshops as well as interviews of city and community representatives, in addition to thorough discussion and deliberation. The [Charter Review website](#) lists all members of the committee and publishes its work to date.

The committee is in the last stages of the process, which will include reviewing and deliberating on more complex elements of the Charter, a public hearing, and a vote on all decisions on July 14th, 2022. The final language will be crafted over the summer, then submitted to the City Council and Mayor for consideration.

Documentation of Charter Review Process:

- Committee Values Statement
- Full Charter - Draft
- Charter Review - Decision Summary

Key Areas of Consideration/Decisions Related to the School Committee: • Codifying Budget Timeline

- Annual budget meeting to be called by the Mayor (versus joint CC/SC) • Filling vacancies, which is proposed to be different then CC
 - Reducing signature requirement for SC from 100 to 50
 - No change to term length or makeup of members (7 wards, Mayor and Pres of CC), Mayor term proposed to be changed from 2 to 4 years
 - No longer duplicate role description of Chair and Vice-Chair (already in SC policy) and well as not calling for clerk
 - Addition of a Chief Administrative Officer (in lieu of a City Manager) for operational leadership
 - Maintain the Mayor-Council system of governance
 - Participatory budgeting and community engagement through group petitioning for hearing on defined topics, City Council Only
 - Municipal vote rights to non-citizen residents and 16/17 year olds
 - Creation of ranked choice voting commission to explore how and to draft a separate home rule petition
- Charter Review Update and Request for Input/Questions from School Committee 6/10/2022 To: Somerville School Committee, Superintendent Skipper
From: Laura Pitone, Ward 5 School Committee Representative

- City Council to have authority to hire advisory legal counsel and hire staff

It was decided that this item will be also added to the next meeting agenda for a discussion. Ms. Williams then added her remarks and referenced one of the charter documents added in the packet.

B. FY22 SCALE/ADP Diploma Request(Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Dion, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to approve FY22 SCLAE/ADP Diplomas request for the Students listed below:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Liz Rosemary Esposito | Revere, MA |
| Jose E Portillo | Lynn, MA |
| Edwin Vladimir Abrego Merino | Somerville, MA |
| Kebedom Tsegay Gebremariyam | Waltham, MA |
| Abbas Ali Ibrahim | Somerville, MA |
| Mussie Mekonen Oqubay | Somerville, MA |

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote

C. FY22 Somerville High School Diploma Request

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Dion, to approve FY22 Somerville High School Diploma request for the Students listed below:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Sharnell Scott | Somerville, MA |
|----------------|----------------|

Tomas De Tuya
Joao De Toledo

Somerville, MA
Somerville, MA

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote

D. ACCEPTANCE OF FY2021 GRANTS FUNDS (Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Ms. Dion, to accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below:

State Grant

ASOST-Q Grant - \$38, 436 - To support The Calculus Project summer programming.
Proficiency-based Outcomes in Languages Other than English - \$11,250 - To support the World Language Department.
Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) Grant – Additional funds of \$8,440 - To support our mixed delivery system.

Private Grant

BU Consortium -
· Project Based Counseling Grant - \$5,000 - Revamp of the Healey Indoor Gardens
· Desmos Math 6-8 Curriculum Grant - \$4,250 – for Next Wave
Cummings Foundation Award for adventure programming - \$25,000 - To target student populations in FY23. It Gets Better Project Grant from the Iola Foundation - \$10,000 - for LGBTQIA Programming Support.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Dr. Phillips updates on which options the District is exploring for testing next year.
- Ms. Pitone requesting update from the City about pending items at the WHCIS to prepare the school for the fall
- Ms. Barish announced that herself, Ms. Pitone and City councilor would be outside the Brown school to hear from constituents about requested changes to the Brown.
- Chair green will be attendance next meeting but will ask Ms. Krepchin to chair because he will be away.
- Others members expressed they will be away a quorum will be confirmed for next meeting.
- Ms. Pitone first building committee meeting is on June 30th she will be in attendance and Mr. Green announced he will join.

X. CONDOLENCES

Superintendent Skipper and the Somerville School committee extend their deepest condolences to the families of:

Marshall J. Smith, *father in law of Nancy Macias-Smith, school adjustment counselor of Somerville High School.*

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned 9:36 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

[MLE Presentation](#)

Charter Review Changes

FY SCALE/ADP Diploma Request
FY22 Somerville High School Diploma Request

Submitted by: E. Garcia

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 13, 2022
ZOOM WEBINAR– 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the School Committee will be conducted via remote participation.

We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to preregister or on the date and time of this meeting to view it live: <https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/87970629394?pwd=dndNa2twVnJGTIR6SSStXOStQQWtUdz09>

Webinar ID: 879 7062 9394

Password: SPSSC22

Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2019 - 2022

Through the following long-range goals, we commit to addressing deep-rooted systemic barriers that have prevented us from achieving our district vision of equity and excellence and ensuring that all students, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the supports and resources they need to achieve educational success in our district now and in the future. By 2022, we will ...:

...increase the percentage of support staff of color by 6 percentage points, teachers and counselors of color by 5 percentage points, and administrators of color by 4 percentage points through evaluating and strengthening all elements of our human capital system.

... 1) conduct a district enrollment study to understand the prospective future population of the district and 2) craft a vision for school assignment and programming aligned with the district's equity policy.

... design, evaluate, and partially or fully implement student-based budgeting to ensure that every student has equitable access to rich learning opportunities that help them thrive.

... design a robust system of aligned developmental academic and social-emotional benchmarks which will be used to inform practices, policies, and resource allocation.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Call to order with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A. Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's Awards

- *Marie Lessard-Brandt*
- *Lucy Gunther*

B. Recognition of Service

- *Retirees for the 2021-2022 School Year*
- *Resolutions for Retiring Administrators*

III. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 9, 2022
- May 23, 2022

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- MLE Presentation (Dr. Davila)
- Grade 9 Math Curriculum Verbal Update (Mr. Mazza)

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Special Policing Subcommittee: April 6, 2022 (Chair Green)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Special Policing of April 6, 2022.

B. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: May 25, 2022 (Dr. Phillips)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of May 25, 2022.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Charter Review Changes – SC Input Request (Ms. Pitone)

B. FY22 SCALE/ADP Diploma Request (Recommended action: approval)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Liz Rosemary Espozzito</i> | <i>Revere, MA</i> |
| <i>Jose E Portillo</i> | <i>Lynn, MA</i> |
| <i>Edwin Vladimir Abrego Merino</i> | <i>Somerville, MA</i> |
| <i>Kebedom Tsegay Gebremariyam</i> | <i>Waltham, MA</i> |
| <i>Abbas Ali Ibrahimi</i> | <i>Somerville, MA</i> |
| <i>Mussie Mekonen Oqubay</i> | <i>Somerville, MA</i> |

C. FY22 Somerville High school Diploma Request (Recommended action: approval)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Sharnell Scott</i> | <i>Somerville, MA</i> |
| <i>Tomas De Tuya</i> | <i>Somerville, MA</i> |
| <i>Joao De Toledo</i> | <i>Somerville, MA</i> |

D. ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2021 GRANT FUNDS (Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: To accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below:

State Grant

- ASOST-Q Grant - \$38, 436 - To support The Calculus Project summer programming.
- Proficiency-based Outcomes in Languages Other than English - \$11,250 - To support the World Language Department.
- Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) Grant – Additional funds of \$8,440 - To support our mixed delivery system.

Private Grant

- BU Consortium -
 - Project Based Counseling Grant - \$5,000 - Revamp of the Healey Indoor Gardens
 - Desmos Math 6-8 Curriculum Grant - \$4,250 – for Next Wave
- Cummings Foundation Award for adventure programming - \$25,000 - To target student populations in FY23.
- It Gets Better Project Grant from the Iola Foundation - \$10,000 - for LGBTQIA Programming Support.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

X. CONDOLENCES

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The items listed 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.

	A	B	C	D
1	Topic	Vote	Decision	Deliberation Summary
2	School Committee - Vacancy	Vote 5a, One 3	There will be a special election if more than 1 year is remaining in term. The school committee will appoint if less than a year remains in term, and the filling of vacancies will be open and transparent. It will not be filed if the election is within 120 days and the person elected will start immediately. Committee approved a 4 year term length for the mayor.	Committee discussed if the charter should keep or change the process of filling School Committee vacancies, specifically to remove the possibility of special elections. Bill White, City Council appointee, mentioned that special elections don't affect the city's budget significantly. The committee discussed that it's important for Sonoma Valley voters to have a say in who represents them instead of just School Committee members.
3	Office Term Length - Mayor	One 5, Six 4a, Three 3a	Committee approved a 4 year term length for the mayor.	Committee discussed options for term lengths of mayor, city council, and school committee. A committee member brought up the instability of working for a mayor who is running for reelection every two years. Libby shared a consideration that the role of mayor is a full-time role, and shorter terms creates job insecurity for both the mayor and mayoral staff. A committee member mentioned the positives of a 4 year staggered term for SC. Committee members brought up that although the process is working okay for now, they don't know if there are groups of people who might not accept for the risk associated with giving up a job for a two year term. Balance of power is important to the committee, and some committee members are not sure about further strengthening mayoral power.
4	Office Term Length - City Council	Four 5a, Five 4a, One 3	Committee approved a 2 year term length for city councilors.	see above
5	Chief Administrative Officer	Four 5a, One 4, Four 3a	Committee approved CAO language which was more in depth language with a note to simplify the language as much as possible and address equity concerns.	Committee discussed pros of including this in the charter to ensure it is an appointed position, and to create the terms in the charter so they carry over from when a mayoral term ends. The Mayor's office is very comfortable including this role in the Charter. It could be a critical managerial role in an administration, and it would allow for stability in critical day to day operations of a city. Committee members brought up concerns regarding the accountability of a CAO role and about creating more bureaucracy. Some committee members brought up the importance of qualifications not including education, to ensure equity in hiring.
6	Ordinance Emergency Measure	Seven 4a, One 3	Committee voted to not add an emergency measure provision to the charter.	Committee discussed adding an emergency measure provision to the charter, which is a way for City Council to pass ordinances in an expedited way in the case of an emergency. The committee members felt mostly neutral on the issue and could not find much of an upside to the provision.
7	Department Heads - Terms	Two 5a, One 4, Two 3a	Committee approved removing terms for department heads.	Hope reminded the committee of the department head term length discussion from the last meeting and called for a straw poll for the term length options. Four year terms - 0 No term - 0 No term - 6 No term - 4 Committee discussed additional pros and cons of terms and no terms. Committee members shared some of the current processes, balance of power and challenges that exist with the confirmation process as it currently stands.
8	Compensation Committee	Four 5a, Two 4a, Four 3a	Committee approved the option to draft a version of compensation language that will go into the charter. The language will be process focused but still maintain the values and intention of their original compensation idea, include a study committee, and will have a review of wage compensation every 5 years.	Ana presented the compensation language option to go in the charter which was drafted by Kar and Laura. The committee deliberated if the newly drafted language was process or values centric, and if language that was strongly values centric should go in the charter or belong elsewhere. The committee felt strongly about finding a way to get compensation language for municipal staff into the charter. The committee also deliberated the proposed implementation committee, specifically who should be on an Equitable Wage Distributor Committee. Members of the writing team and Sav emphasized the ability for the writing team to draft a successful process centric option in the charter with a review every 5 years. Zoe brought up that the writing group will make sure this is an operationalizing of the values. Straw Poll with 4 options: Study committee - 1 In charter and transition provisions - 4 In charter and transition provisions but process focused - 5 Do nothing - 0 Hope provided a review of previous meeting deliberations regarding holdover candidates in multiple member body seats, and outlined the potential language drafted by Hope and Ana. Committee members discussed what the current process is and what if any language is included in the current charter. Libby from the Collins Center explained the reasoning for the language was to address committee concerns over the extent of emergency holdovers on Sonoma Valley boards and commissions, and that typically charters simply state holdovers remain "until successor is qualified." George brought up previous practices from different administrations and explained the operational burden of tracking 400+ appointments. Committee members brought up comments regarding opaque concerns, length of holdovers, tracking administrative concerns, and the possibility of including this in the administrative code. Straw poll on edited potential language, specifically adding the line: "Except where such vacancy would prevent the MMG from obtaining a quorum and fulfilling its duties pursuant to statute... in such an instance, the appointment shall remain in holdover status until a successor is qualified." Suggested language directly in the Charter - 7 Suggested language in transition provision - 2 Not in Charter - 0
9	Multiple Member Bodies - Holdovers	Two 5a, One 4, Three 3a	Committee approved multiple member body holdovers for an initial 150 days and option for the mayor to file 60-day extensions with City Council approval, and including language explaining that if there is a conflict with MA law, MA law prevails.	Hope provided a review of previous meeting deliberations regarding holdover candidates in multiple member body seats, and outlined the potential language drafted by Hope and Ana. Committee members discussed what the current process is and what if any language is included in the current charter. Libby from the Collins Center explained the reasoning for the language was to address committee concerns over the extent of emergency holdovers on Sonoma Valley boards and commissions, and that typically charters simply state holdovers remain "until successor is qualified." George brought up previous practices from different administrations and explained the operational burden of tracking 400+ appointments. Committee members brought up comments regarding opaque concerns, length of holdovers, tracking administrative concerns, and the possibility of including this in the administrative code. Straw poll on edited potential language, specifically adding the line: "Except where such vacancy would prevent the MMG from obtaining a quorum and fulfilling its duties pursuant to statute... in such an instance, the appointment shall remain in holdover status until a successor is qualified." Suggested language directly in the Charter - 7 Suggested language in transition provision - 2 Not in Charter - 0
10	Posting Requirements	Seven 5a, Two 4a	Committee approved decision to include city website in posting requirements and to affirm OML requirements in definitions of posting requirements.	
11	Domestic	One 5a, One 4, Three 3a	Committee approved to not include addition of domestic requirements in the charter.	Committee discussed adding domestic language to eligibility sections throughout the charter. Presently to run for office in Sonoma Valley you must be a registered voter. The committee discussed additionally requiring a candidate's citizen residence be Sonoma Valley to run for office.
12	Start Date for Taking Office	One 5a, One 4, Three 3a	The term shall begin on the first weekday in January, following the municipal election, except when that day is a legal holiday, in which event the term shall begin on the following day.	Committee discussed the official start date of the Mayor, School Committee and City Council to ensure no conflicts with cultural, religious or federal holidays.
13	City Council/President and Mayor Reside on School Committee	Five 5a	Committee approved keeping the City Council/President and Mayor as members of the School Committee.	Committee discussed the current structure of the school committee that includes the City Council/President and Mayor as members of the committee. The committee overall agreed that this does work well for collaboration and efficiency of school operations.
14	Ward vs At-Large School Committee Members	Eight 5a, One 4, One 3a	Committee approved keeping the current composition of 7 ward school committee members.	Committee members voiced support for keeping the ward committee structure to ensure representation and ease of access. Multiple members expressed concern regarding converting entirely to an at-large structure. Committee discussed positives adding at-large members that could improve representation across the city.
15	Compensation	One 5a, One 4, Three 3a	Committee approved existing compensation for the school committee in the charter.	Committee discussed the option to include compensation for the school committee in the charter. Committee members emphasized the importance of compensation that aligns with the community's values.
16	School Committee - Powers and Duties	Eight 5a, Three 4a	Committee approved drafting the Powers and Duties section of Article 4 - School Committee, using the exemplar language with the amendment of deleting bullet 4 and 5. Additionally, the writing group will simplify the language as much as possible.	Committee deliberated what School Committee powers and duties should be included in the charter. Libby from the Collins Center explained how and why the presented options included specific general laws. There was discussion regarding control of the buildings and if previous policy decisions are things that can be fixed in the charter or not, specifically regarding the maintenance provision.
17	School Committee - Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk	Seven 5a	Committee approved drafting School Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk Section - School Committee officers and procedures shall be determined by method prescribed by School Committee policy, and the Mayor and City Council/President may not serve as chair (see office).	Committee deliberated if the charter should establish the school committee officer roles and their powers and duties in the charter. Laura, School Committee appointee, mentioned that the School Committee has never had a clerk. Laura mentioned she's unsure why we need to have this in the charter when it's already in the School Committee policy and procedures, and the committee agreed. There was a sense to keep things as they are since they are working.
18	Approve Short Title, Incorporation, Definitions	Eight 5a	Committee approved the writing team to start drafting Article 1 of the Charter, noting the comments about feasibility of definitions and simplifying the language as much as possible.	Committee deliberated the exemplar incorporation, short title and definitions section, to create a baseline of agreed upon definitions. Hope emphasized this is a starting point for the definitions and they might evolve as the committee makes additional decisions. There was a discussion regarding combining similar terms as much as possible for clarity. There was also a discussion regarding the multi-member body definition and to include an advisory committee back force to that definition. Overall the committee wanted the writing team to start drafting this ASAP.
19	Voter Eligibility - Non-citizen Residents	Eight 5a	Committee approved expanding municipal voting rights to include all non-citizen residents of Sonoma Valley who are otherwise eligible to vote.	pro/consensus term - consensus on home rule petition status. Committee members discussed drafting the process whether necessary to include in the charter in addition to the existing home rule petition, and the strategy regarding this process. Several committee members described their support for this change, and that it is a foundational issue for Sonoma Valley. A committee member brought up the significance of this change and the potential opposition from a specific population of Sonoma Valley. Several committee members referenced the alignment with the values statement.
20	Term for Eligible Sonoma Valley Voters	Seven 5a, One 4	Committee approved for the writing team to draft language that defines eligible voters in Sonoma Valley municipal elections (term to be determined at a later date, depending on home rule petition status).	Committee members discussed the pros and cons regarding term usage between "municipal voter" and "local voter" in the Charter language, aligning the term with the home rule petition draft, and making it clear as possible for individuals to understand.
21	Voter Eligibility - 16/17 Year Olds	Seven 5a, One 4	Committee approved expanding municipal voting rights to include 16/17 year olds who are otherwise eligible to vote.	Committee deliberated expanding municipal voting rights to include 16 and 17 year olds who are currently ineligible to vote solely because of age. Several committee members brought up the alignment with the values statement, the long term positive impacts of voting starting, and the value it brings to young people.
22	Candidate Eligibility Requirements	Seven 5a, One 4	Committee voted to not make a change to eligibility to run for municipal offices.	Committee deliberated expanding eligibility to run for municipal elections. Hope explained the impact the above decisions would have on the current eligibility requirements. Committee members brought up concerns regarding employment eligibility, need for additional research, and the possibility of recommending a study group to explore the change.
23	Ward Group - Candidate Eligibility Requirements	Seven 5a, One 4	Committee voted to table the option to recommend a study group to explore a change in eligibility requirements to run for office.	
24	Ballot Election Process	Eight 5a	Committee voted to keep the existing process if a tie occurs in a primary election open to simplify language as much as possible.	Committee discussed the current process for handling tie votes in primary elections. The committee agreed to keep the current process if a tie occurs in a primary election open to simplify language as much as possible.
25	Signature Requirements	Ten 5a	Committee approved including signature requirements in Article 7 - Elections of the charter.	convention started 12:0. Committee deliberated previously tabled signature requirements and expressed the importance of making sure requirements are as low as possible. The sense of the room is that the committee thinks the best thing to do would be to keep signature requirements in the charter itself, as it is a value for the committee to keep it low to create easier entry for candidates.
26	Signature Requirements - Mayor	Ten 5a	Committee approved drafting the mayoral signature requirement at 200 signatures, the same requirement as the current charter.	Regarding specific numbers, the committee deliberated if the numbers should stay the same or be lowered. Laura Pirose explained the amount of time it takes for people to get 50 signatures for contest, explaining it is a lot of work to get signatures. Bill mentioned he only knows of one person who could not achieve the requirements in his time as an elected official. The committee decided to vote on specific numbers for each office.
27	Signature Requirements - At Large CC	Nine 5a, One 4	Committee approved drafting the at-large city councilor signature requirements at 150 signatures, lowering the requirement from the current charter.	see above
28	Signature Requirements - Ward CC	Ten 5a, One 4	Committee approved drafting the ward city councilor and school committee member signature requirements at 50 signatures, lowering the requirement from the current charter.	see above
29	Signature Requirements - Ward Requirements	Ten 5a	Committee voted to not include ward-specific signature requirements for the mayor and at-large candidates in the charter.	Committee deliberated adding ward-specific requirements to at-large positions, which represent all of Sonoma Valley. Multiple members expressed concern about this, explaining this adds a burden to the candidates trying to run for office. Bill White was especially against this change. Ben Cervantes explained it would make it more difficult to get all the voters of how to implement or recommend RCV. Libby provided context for the committee, consider whether the current elections process is working for Sonoma Valley, and if not, what are some of the concerns and how we might change those issues. Committee discussed the impact approving RCV might have on the ability of the charter passing at the state level. Several members mentioned the strong indicators the community has shared regarding the support for RCV. Committee members discussed several pros and cons of RCV.
30	Ranked Choice Voting - Consideration	Nine 5a	Committee voted to recommend RCV in some form.	Committee discussed the process for adding names on the ballot. The current method is drawing by lot, and the Collins Center recommends that. There was no consensus to change this.
31	Ballot Position	Seven 5a	Committee voted to keep the current drawing by lot practice for determining ballot position.	
32	Public Financing of Campaigns	Nine 5a	Committee voted to create a study committee to explore public financing of campaigns.	Committee deliberated implementing public financing of campaigns. Committee members asked questions regarding how this could be implemented, via charter or ordinance? Committee discussed the importance of leveling the field and reducing barriers to campaigning.
33	Ranked Choice Voting - Inclusion	Three 5a, Five 4a	Committee approved including the creation of a Ranked Choice Voting Commission to study strategy, context, and implementation and to draft a home rule petition for ranked-choice voting in the transition provisions.	Committee discussed the different RCV language options, specifically the new hybrid language written by the project managers and technical consultants. There were some logistic questions about how a ballot question could affect the timeline of the charter, and the timeline affect the implementation of the language. Matt McLaughlin said he has the feasibility of this option. Megan brought up the importance of having the Commission do an analysis of other voting systems alongside RCV, and Emily brought up the importance of ensuring the Commission focuses on equity concerns.
34	Mayor/CC vs. CC/Manager	Nine 5a	Committee approved keeping the Mayor/Council system of governance.	Ana introduced the topic of keeping the Mayor/Council system or shifting to Council/Manager, highlighting the lack of support for any change from both the community and elected officials.
35	Mayor on City Council	Eight 5a, One 4	Committee approved keeping the current practice of the Mayor not sitting on City Council.	Ana introduced the practice of the mayor not sitting on the council, and the committee voted to keep current practice.
36	Office Term Length - School Committee	Four 5a, Five 4a	Committee approved a 2 year term length for school committee members.	see above
37	Ordinance - Process	Ten 5a	Committee approved current ordinance process.	Hope presented the current status of how ordinances are drafted, passed, vetted, overriden. There was no community/interim indication that this should change. Committee discussed this process, and brought up some issues regarding enforcement. Libby brought up the City Council ability to investigate and conduct reports, but ultimately the Mayor is accountable to voters.

	A	B	C	D
38	Independent Auditor	Feb 5a	Committee approved moving the independent auditor appointment to the City Council and mandated the appointment.	Hope presented the current process for independent auditor, which is a voluntary regional appointment. It is a current best practice to have the role as a required City Council appointment. This provides a City Council check on the city finances.
39	CC Composition - Ward & At Large	Feb 5a	Committee approved keeping the current City Council composition: 7 ward and 4 at large seats.	Committee discussed the composition of City Council composition, and the pros and cons of ward and at-large councilors representation. Committee members focused on the realities of the current system.
40	Advisory Legal Counsel for City Council	Eight 5a, One 4	Committee approved drafting language for City Council to hire their own advisory legal counsel and ensuring the language includes guidelines and a funding mechanism.	Committee discussed the option to add advisory legal counsel for City Council to the charter. Matt McLaughlin expressed the importance of the issue for city government. Committee members agreed that it is important to have clear funding mechanisms and guidelines in the charter, similar to the City of Beverly. The committee agreed it is important to not have the funding mechanism be a blank check.
41	Staff for City Council	Nine 5a, One 4	Committee approved drafting language allowing City Council to hire staff.	Committee discussed the option to streamline City Council's ability to hire staff in the charter. City Council is currently enabled to hire staff, but this provision would make the ability permanent in the charter. Many committee members agreed that this is an important provision to add to the charter and there was a discussion of the history of this issue in Somerville.
42	City Council - Full vs Part Time	Nine 5a, One 4	Committee voted to not include a time requirement for City Council in the charter.	Committee discussed the benefits of adding specific time allocations around City Council sitting as the two its capacities that are full time do not state this in their charters, and the only way other municipalities do this is via a prohibition or other work. Committee members weighed the positives and negatives of including this in the charter versus not.
43	Mayor / SC / CC - Compensation	Feb 5a	Committee approved drafting language stating compensation must exist for the Mayor, City Council, and School Committee, and that the language will be as similar as possible.	Committee discussed including the requirement of compensation for the work of the Mayor, City Council, and School Committee. Many committee members agreed that this is a value-based decision and it should be included in the charter. Committee discussed when pay increases should take effect, either in the current year or following year. Anna mentioned it is a best practice and the current practice for it to not take place until the following year. Committee members felt overly neutral on this.
44	Mayor / SC / CC - Compensation	Feb 5a	Committee approved drafting language stating that compensation changes should not take effect until the next election.	see above
45	Ordinance Enforcement	Feb 5a	Committee approved drafting stand and ordinance enforcement language.	Committee discussed the ordinance enforcement language.
46	Preamble	Feb 5a	Committee approved the drafted preamble language with minor edits.	Committee discussed the preamble drafted by the writing group. Committee shared positive feedback on the committee, with a few simplification and equity suggestions.
47	Department Heads - Offer Letter	Nine 5a, One 4	Committee approved changing the department head process so that candidates have a conditional offer prior to City Council confirmation.	Previous Meeting - Committee began deliberations on the topic of the department heads, which Anna pointed out is a large topic. Anna stated the difference between best practices and the current Somerville practices, which mostly surround time limits (and a lack thereof). City Council President Matt McLaughlin emphasized that the lack of accountability around provisional appointments makes city councilors feel that the process is unfair. Other committee members agreed with Matt, and emphasized the importance of having reappointments come up every election. Anna clarified that having a limit on the number of days a temporary appointment can serve would solve this issue, and the terms limits question is something the committee must address. Hope outlined the current process of appointing department heads in Somerville, the best practices, and the difference between them. Committee discussed the appointment process, including the necessity for a 30 days threshold, importance of an efficient process to respect the appointee and general hiring process, and ensuring City Council has some authority over the process. Committee discussed the possibility of including only the most meaningful roles to be confirmed by City Council and whether the Charter should include guidance to City Council regarding candidate qualifications.
48	Department Heads - City Council Approval	Six 5a, Four 4a	Committee approved requiring City Council to take up appointment of department heads within 30 days from filing.	see above
49	Department Heads - City Council Selection	Nine 5a, One 4	Committee approved requiring City Council to provide an explanation for rejection of department head appointments.	see above
50	City Council Exercise of Powers, Quorum, Rules of Procedure	Feb 5a	Committee approved drafting the City Council Exercise of Powers based on the exemplar language.	see above
51	City Council President & Powers	Nine 5a	Committee approved drafting the City Council Officers language based on the exemplar language, change temporary presiding member to longest serving, and then alphabetical.	Committee discussed the change of the temporary president as the longest serving, and then alphabetical.
52	Department Heads - Reinstatement Hearing	Eight 5a	Committee approved removing the current provision allowing reinstated department heads to request a reinstatement hearing in front of city council, and approved including only language that department heads serve at the discretion of the mayor and may be removed by the mayor.	Anna reviewed the 4 decisions made by the committee on department heads, and brought up the reappointment process/terms lengths and the removal process for department heads. Committee discussed the term lengths for these roles, specifically between 3 or 4 year terms versus no terms. The committee deliberated the core purpose of the reappointment. The committee continued the conversation around the core purpose of reappointment, especially considering the complicated relationship between City Council and department heads. Laura Pflanz brought up the HR difficulty of having department heads being able to be reappointed by City Council every 3 to 4 years when they are not regularly accountable to City Council. The committee discussed the uncertainty no matter what based on the mayor/election. Liberty Curbo from the Collins Center brought up the difficulty about the issue or a labor and employment front. Sam Schwartz explained a shift in her position from terms to no terms, pointing to a shift in the committee based upon the deliberations. Straw poll: 4 year terms or no terms? 4 year terms - 0 No terms - 6 Abstain from vote - 2 Anna tabled the final vote on this to the next meeting, and moved the conversation forward to removal of department heads. Anna explained that currently in Somerville, there is a provision that allows for a removed department head to request a hearing in front of City Council and City Council can reinstate them. The committee discussed that some positions might need a safeguard, like the Director of Racial and Social Justice, and that those would be able to stay in place. The committee considered if it is best for the city to have a hostile work environment between a mayor and a department head, and that wrongful termination is covered in employment law. Many committee members express support in getting rid of this provision.
53	Department Heads - Temporary Appointments	Nine 5a, Two 4a	Committee approved changing temporary appointments to an initial 150 day limit with possible 60 days extensions with City Council approval.	Hope refreshed the committee on the current temporary appointment process, lack of parameters, and the previous discussion of establishing parameters on the temporary appointments. Committee discussed potential time limits and the best extension terms.
54	Vacancies - City Council and School Committee	Eight 5a, Two 4a	Committee approved that ward City Councilors and School Committee members that move from their ward but remain within Somerville can remain in their seat for the remainder of their term.	Committee discussed if a ward councilor or school committee member moved from their ward but stayed within Somerville during their elected term if can they finish their term. Committee discussed that this case would be rare and the impact of additional special elections is large.
55	Vacancies - Mayor	Nine 5a	Committee approved in the case of a mayor vacancy, in the first 17 months of the term there will be a special election, in months 18-21 there will be a regular election added to regular city election, and in months 22-42 there will be a special election, in months 43-66 regular scheduled election. The City Council President will serve as acting mayor in all cases.	Committee discussed the process of filling mayor vacancies. Committee discussed the pros and cons of defaulting to the City Council President to temporarily fill the Mayor's role, and if this should be considered when selecting the City Council President. Committee discussed if there should be a special election in the first two years of the term, since it would be a long period of time to have the City Council president serve. Several committee members expressed support for adding a special election to the second half of the mayor's term if there is a vacancy.
56	Vacancies - Ward Councilor	Nine 5a, One 4	Committee approved keeping the vacancy process for ward councilor the same as the current charter - if a vacancy occurs more than 180 days until the next municipal election, a special election is held.	Committee discussed the vacancy provisions for the charter. Some committee members expressed interest in keeping the vacancy process for ward seats the same as the school committee members. Others emphasized the importance of having ward seats elected in a special election. George Proskis reminded everyone that this was a recent issue and debate for City Council, which Matt McLaughlin echoed.
57	Vacancies - Councilor At Large	Twelve 5a	Committee approved keeping the vacancy process for at-large councilor the same as the current charter - if a vacancy occurs with more than 180 days until the next municipal election, the defeated candidate w/ largest # of votes replaces them - if they decline or there isn't anyone, there is a special election.	see above
58	Temporary Absence of the Mayor	Twelve 5a	Committee approved the process of the city council president serving as acting mayor in the case of a temporary absence of the mayor.	The committee deliberated the process for what happens if there is a mayor vacancy. Sam emphasized that in these cases it can be chaotic, so the committee should lean towards the stability of the city council president serving and not having city council elect someone from amongst themselves. The committee agreed.
59	Access to Information Provision	Feb 5a, Two 4a	Committee approved the City Council Access to Information provision with the change from "employee" to "department head," as well as other simplification edits.	Hope discussed the newly drafted language, which was written up post-deliberations from a former meeting. George explained something like this happens already, and Anna responded that this is a formalization of the current process. Some committee members expressed discomfort with the idea of any employee being called in front of council. A proposed solution to the aforementioned concern was removing "employee" and instead focusing on the provision on "department heads."
60	Charter Enforcement	Six 5a	Committee approved adding a charter enforcement provision to the charter.	Anna explained that the writing team felt it was important for everyone on the committee to vote individually on the Enforcement of Charter Provisions section.
61	Multiple Member Bodies - Appointments	Seven 5a, One 4	Committee approved a provision that the mayor is responsible for all multiple member body appointments unless otherwise stated in ordinance or Massachusetts General Law.	Committee discussed the general Multiple Member Body (MMB) process. Anna explained the current appointment process, which allows the mayor to appoint all members of MMBs. George made it clear that what we are discussing is a baseline process - not necessarily the process for MMBs governed by MGLs or through ordinance. The committee discussed the evergreen provision of MGL. If City Council should have a timeframe to take action on appointments, and if the mayor should have a timeframe to appoint.
62	Multiple Member Bodies - Appointments/Approval	Eight 5a, Two 4a	Committee approved a provision that the City Council has 45 days from filing to confirm or reject any mayor appointments, with the possibility of filing 15 day extensions as needed with the City Clerk.	Committee discussed the length of time City Council should have to approve or reject appointments. Matt McLaughlin explained that 30 days seems too short, so would like the length of time to be extended from 30 days to 60 or 90 days. The committee agreed, but wanted to stay somewhat close to the best practice of 30 days. Committee landed on 45 days with the possibility of a 15 day extension if the City Council files an extension with the City Clerk.
63	Multiple Member Bodies - Terms	Eight 5a, Two 4a	Committee approved a provision that Multiple Member Body members are appointed for terms (terms are not defined in the charter).	see above
64	Administrative Code	Six 5a, One 4	Committee approved a provision that the City will be organized via administrative code under the Administrative Organization article of the charter.	The committee deliberated organizing the city via administrative code instead of having all city organization and structure defined through the charter. Administrative code has previously passed via Home Rule Petition for Somerville. The committee emphasized that this is important to include in the charter, and the importance of the administrative code as an administrative code.
65	Multiple Member Bodies - Removal	Nine 5a	Committee approved keeping the removal of MMB appointments the same as it currently stands, with the appointing authority also being the removing authority.	Hope provided an overview of the current process of removing multiple member body appointments and stated that the exemplar best practice is the same. There were minimal concerns brought up by the committee.
66	Multiple Member Bodies - Specifics	Nine 5a	Committee voted to not include specifics regarding structure of any multiple member bodies in the charter.	The committee briefly discussed the best and most flexible process to make changes to the structure of multiple member bodies and agreed this would best be addressed by administrative code, not in charter.
67	Multiple Member Bodies - Mayor in Office	Nine 5a	Committee approved the mayor serving as office on all multiple member bodies.	Hope and the Collins Center provided an overview of why it is a best practice to have the Mayor serve as office on all multiple member bodies, including the caveat that this provides the mayor space to comment on board actions or address concerns, but the mayor doesn't count toward quorum or have the ability to vote. The committee shared general support for this and noted the benefits of the Mayor having the space to discuss actions with MMBs.
68	Multiple Member Bodies - Uniform Governing Procedures	Nine 5a	Committee approved including the uniform governing procedures for multiple member bodies in the charter with a few committee edits.	Hope shared that including the uniform procedures for MMBs in the charter is the best practice and enforces Open Meeting Law. Committee discussed executive session specifics, ensuring posting includes to the city website, and to add an intro sentence that gives context explaining that the provision is MGL.
69	Multiple Member Bodies - 10 Year Review	Nine 5a	Committee approved adding a 10-year review of all multiple member bodies to the charter, with the first review happening immediately after the charter is passed.	Committee brought up the immediate need for this comprehensive review of all MMBs in Somerville and a review should happen every 10 years after the initial review. They also brought up removing the line that states members of the review committee should be voters, so it can include staff if appropriate and necessary.
70	Budget - Annual Meeting	Nine 5a	Committee approved adding an annual budget meeting led by the Mayor to the budget process.	Hope provided an overview of the current best practice for including an annual meeting as part of a city's budget process and reminded the committee the current charter requires a budget review by City Council and School Committee. Committee members mentioned the current joint meeting is not a regular practice but has been done before. Committee supported adding this provision to the charter, noting the importance of making a typically private process more public and the benefits of including it into the elements required.



SCALE (Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences)

Somerville Public Schools, Mary Skipper, Superintendent
167 Holland Street • Somerville, MA 02144

Lisa Cook
Director of Adult and Continuing Education
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June 3, 2022

Mary Skipper
Superintendent of Schools
8 Bonair Street
Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

Dear Ms. Skipper:

I am delighted to recommend the following students as FY2022 graduates of the SCALE Adult Diploma Program. Attached are student transcripts for your signature. Please return the transcripts to me after you have signed them. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Student Name	Student Address
Liz Rosemary Espozzito	██████████ Revere, MA 02151
Jose E. Portillo	██████████ Lynn, MA 01994

Sincerely,

Lisa Cook
Director of Adult and Continuing Education

Enclosures (x)



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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MEMORANDUM

TO: SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: MATTHEW BUCHANAN, PRINCIPAL
DATE: JUNE 7, 2022
RE: DIPLOMA APPROVALS

As of 6/7/2022, the following students have satisfactorily completed all of the Somerville High School and state graduation requirements. Please approve their diplomas.

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Course(s)/Requirements</u>	<u>SASID</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>
Scott	Sharnell	Out of District student who completed his high school program, and met SHS and state graduation requirements.		
De Tuya	Tomas	Out of District student who completed his high school program, and met SHS and state graduation requirements.		
De Toledo	Joao	Completed the transition program at SHS and met SHS and state graduation requirements		

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Buchanan
Principal

