

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

April 5, 2021

7:00 p.m. –GoToWebinar

Interpreters are:

- Spanish – Micaela Yang
- Portuguese - Edna Rosa
- Haitian -Jean Baptiste

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with a moment of silence and salute to the flag of the United States of America. The Superintendent to call the roll, results of which were as follows: **PRESENT** – 8– Ms. Krepchin, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Barish, Mr. Green, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Normand, Dr. Phillips and President McLaughlin
Absent - 1- Mayor Curtatone

III. REPORT FROM MAYOR CURTATONE (Taken out of order)

Chair green noted Mayor Curatone’s absence and asked Superintendent Skipper to provide an update on reopening.

- **Reopening Update**

Superintendent Skipper and Assistant Superintendent Mazza went over the plan for in-person return for the next few weeks.

Superintendent Skipper asked Asst. Superintendent Mazza to bring up the slides showing the Transition to In Person Learning Schedule of Phases. The hybrid is moving forward nicely. Students in remote learning are having changes in staffing based on staff taking leaves etc. They are trying to make changes with the least amount of disruption possible. They have been working with Human Resources to try to make as few changes as possible. The students are very happy to be back and are abiding by all the Covid restrictions and doing a fabulous job. All phases are going ahead as scheduled. After April vacation the students will be in person five days a week. There will be a delayed opening on the first day in person so that all staff can test first thing in the morning before students get to school. For the district it is important that families comply with the CDC restrictions to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Asst. Superintendent Mazza said that there are about 30-45 CTE high school students who are doing internships within the schools to help out with the younger students. Juniors and Seniors alternate weeks so there are always students in the building. This goes toward the time they need for their CTE credits and it is a huge help within the buildings. They will continue to work with the negotiating teams to get the rest of the high school students back.

Questions:

Ms. Krepchin asked about the internships, is this something that usually happens and is it just the Early Childhood Education students who are involved in the internships? Mr. Mazza answered no, this does not usually happen but we wanted to give all students the opportunity to help with our younger students to form relationships with them and to be mentors for them while still working toward their CTE goals. Superintendent Skipper added that earlier in the year the state offered this idea to districts so that juniors and seniors would have the support they needed as they transitioned back into in person learning.

Ms. Normand from a constituent asked how we are keeping kids with food allergies safe within the classrooms. Superintendent Skipper answered that Lauren Mancini, Director of Food & Nutritional Services is working with the schools who identify students with allergies. They will be provided with wipes for their hands which will remove the proteins and then can sanitize after using the wipes.

Ms. Barish asked about the various phases and the line about the seventh and eighth graders is incorrect and would like to have it corrected and posted on the website. Also the return of the high school students and where that stands right now. Superintendent Skipper said that they did not get any directives yet from the state regarding the high school students. Also there is significant space being taken up at the high school by several elementary schools so they have to see how much space they have available. Also there is a lot of testing that has to take place and again they have to see how much space is available for that. Mr. Mazza put up a slide that showed the Welcoming Students & Staff Plan, it is an

additional slide that shows the 4B return plan.

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representative Brian Recinos, a 10th grader reported on the following topics:

- Senior updates: A survey will go out regarding the banners for seniors that will be showcased throughout the city
- Graduation will be organized by house and on Monday June 7th and Tuesday June 8th at Dilboy Stadium. It will be a drive through event, photographers will be available, and it will be live streamed. The students would like to involve the more faculty in the celebration.
- SHS has two programs for current students to take college classes. Both the Early College program with Cambridge College and dual enrollment with Bunker Hill Community College are finishing their semester. These programs allow current tenth and eleventh graders get a jump start on college and earn up to 12 college credits and high school credit at the same time.

Student Representative Natalia Salmeron

- Today was the first open house for juniors to enter the building
- Today was the first day for internships where SHS juniors traveled to the middle schools to help out. Some juniors like it to get out of the house and have social interaction. Others do not since it happens during their CTE classes and they feel they should be focusing more on their trades. Some students would prefer to be in the classroom and students don't know how long the internships are supposed to be and they would like more information regarding the program.
- Fall Sports have begun, soccer, volleyball and football conditioning and practices have resumed
- Winter sports had their senior nights, they made posters decorated the areas where they competed, more information is available on the SHS Highlanders on Instagram
- Boys basketball team are in the semi-finals and they are waiting to hear the results

Superintendent Skipper added that Principal LaGambina is present and would like to discuss the graduation. Principal LaGambina said the plans for graduation are tentative, the pandemic could get better or worse before graduation and the school would like to offer more to students and families than they did last year. None of the plans are finalized and options are open and if they can do more they will.

Asst. Superintendent Mazza said he will clarify and give more information to the students regarding the internships and make them feel more comfortable.

Chair Green asked student Representatives to stay on to comment on the two policies on the agenda.

B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Item B from New Business Partially Taken Out of Order)

The Following policies are being presented this evening for a second reading as amended:

- File JIB: Student Involvement in Decision Making

Ms. Barish then read the policy out loud for committee members and the public.

File: JIB

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

As appropriate to the age of students, class or school organizations and school government organizations, such as student councils, may be formed to offer practice in self-government and to serve as channels for the expression of students' ideas and opinions. The Somerville School Committee will take into consideration student opinions in establishing policies that directly affect student programs, activities, privileges and other areas of student sensitivity. Students will be welcomed at Somerville School Committee meetings and granted privileges of speaking consistent with the privileges extended to the general public.

Student Advisory Committee

Starting in January of 2022, as required by state law, the Committee will meet at least once every other month while school is in session with its student advisory committee, which is composed of five students elected by the high school student body and is representative of Somerville High School demographics. Additionally, there will be at least one elected representative from Full Circle. The Student Advisory Committee will appoint two students per semester to represent the committee as ex-officio nonvoting members of the School Committee without the right to attend executive sessions unless such right is expressly granted by the School Committee.

Revised: January 18, 1996
Amended: December 2009

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:38M
MASC

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Normand, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to approve the policy as it was read.

Chair Green asked the student representatives what they thought of being involved in the School Committee subcommittees. Natalya expressed her support for increased student participation. She and her colleague Brian know what goes on with the School Committee but most students don't and she thinks it would be a good idea to get more students involved in the subcommittees.

MOTION: There was a motion made by Dr. Phillips and seconded by Ellenor Barish, to amend File JIB and insert the following language "The purpose of the student advisory committee will be to offer input on school committee policies, the school district budget, the district education goals and the School Committee evaluation of its policies and their implementation while also supporting public relations. The superintendent is authorized to designate a student outreach coordinator with responsibility for establishing and supporting the on-going success of said committee"

Dr. Phillips stated how much young people make a difference by contributing their many different opinions and perspectives on important matters. She supports students taking a bigger role in the decisions made by the School Committee. She would also like to see a Student Outreach Coordinator chosen by the superintendent to support the work of the students and the School Committee.

Ms. Normand thanked Dr. Phillips for her motion and she wants to make sure that the students know that this is a conversation and they do not need to be experts in policy to become involved because they are the experts on the student experience.

Ms. Pitone offered a friendly amendment to Dr. Phillips' amendment to change "the purpose of the student advisory committee will be" to "the student advisory committee is invited to offer input". Dr. Phillips accepted the friendly amendment to her motion.

The motion made by Dr. Phillips to amend the policy was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

After the motion passed Ms. Pitone wanted to find out why they are having students come on the student advisory committee by semester? Ms. Barish said that students' schedules change by semester and they could be involved in after school activities or sports or may have an after school job and would not always be available to be on the committee. Also, they want to give as many students as possible the opportunity to be able to serve and learn more about the running of the School Committee

Superintendent Skipper said they should be more specific with the period students will serve. Potentially there would be two levels of involvement for the students.

Ms. Pitone clarified that the advisory committee would choose who their representatives would be; there would be two each semester. Superintendent Skipper asked that they consider a stipend for the students, which would help them decide to serve.

Ms. Normand agreed she is very much in favor of compensating student representatives for their leadership and advocacy. They know what they want to say, they just need some help with the mechanics and hopefully this will help them do so.

Ms. Salmeron said she is also excited to hear the conversation and see where it goes and how it could be a great opportunity for students. She would like to see what the future SHS students will do with it and can't wait to see what the future SHS students will bring to the table.

Dr. Ackman added that the committee should make sure to run by legal counsel whether the stipend portion is legal.

Ms. Barish made a friendly amendment to insert "annually" after "elected" to make the time frame clearer.

The Motion to approve File JIB as amended was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

- File JIE: Pregnant Students

Ms. Barish wanted to make sure everyone knew that this revised policy is more inclusive of anyone expecting a child or is a new parent. She then read the policy out loud for Committee members and the public.

File: JIE

School Age Parents or Expectant Parents

School-age parents, unless they receive adequate assistance, might drop out of school without acquiring the necessary education or without marketable skills. Expectant or new parents will be actively encouraged to continue in school. The students and their physician, in cooperation with the school staff, will develop an appropriate educational plan if it is agreed they should no longer attend school regularly. Every effort will be made to see that the educational program of the student is disrupted as little as possible; that health counseling services, as well as instruction are offered; that return to school after delivery is encouraged; and that every opportunity to complete high school is provided.

Adopted: January 1996

Revised: March 2009

Reviewed: September 2009

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:84

Title IX: 20 U.S.C. 1681

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve File JIE.

Dr. Phillips offered a friendly amendment to add "case management" after "health counseling services" in order for parents to be able to obtain a voucher for daycare as this is one of the stipulations of receiving a voucher.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (Taken out of order)

A. District Report

Superintendent Skipper asked Dr. Curley to give an update COVID Testing in the district.

Dr. Jeff Curley, Chief of Staff presented the following:

- Covid-19 Assurance Testing Program March29-April 2
- Students tested 1524
- Staff tested 697
- Test processed 2724
- New baselines 505
- Average time collection to result 9.48
- Positivity Rate 0.18

Testing Schedule

- Seven Testing Sites
- 20 Testing Events per Week

Total Tests Performed 3/1-4/2

- March 9000 total tests
- Average time from sample to result is 12 hours 54 minutes
- 17 total student positives since March 1st
- 19 positive students cases March 1-April 2
- 100% positive cases handled through home or outpatient treatment
- 818 staff tested with zero positive cases
- 4002 staff tests since March 1st
- Zero positive cases since March 1st
- Positivity Rate less than 0.5%

April Break Testing & Return

- Tuesday April 20th Times & Locations TBD
- Thursday April 22nd Times & Locations TBD
- Monday April 26th
 - All schools two hour delay to rapid test teachers & staff
 - Students Pk-8 will return to full time in person
 - Staff & students will test on Monday & Thursday

Everyone has pitched in to make this work and thanks to students & parents for helping with all the moving pieces.

Superintendent Skipper then asked **Athletic Director Stan Viera** and **Athletic Trainer Michele Kelley** to discuss COVID testing of the athletes. Policies from the Greater Boston League and cross over sports. Cambridge Health Alliance has been the one doing the testing on the athletes every Wednesday. The fan policy for winter sports was no fans except for senior games because of the high risk of infection. For senior days two parents could attend for every student athlete for indoor sports. Before each season, based on the CDC and state guidelines, their recommendations will be sent over to the superintendent for approval so we will have a consistent method for all parents and the message and policies are consistent.

Cross over sports have also been a major discussion, one of our priorities was keeping students and families safe. If you are playing a sport for SHS you cannot play a club team or travel team. He feels it is irresponsible to allow this. Some parents are not happy and if they feel club sports are the thing they want their student to do, that is great but they cannot play on a high school team at the same time. They also surveyed the students and they fully agreed with the decision of the high school.

Michele Kelly added that she was in touch with the epidemiologist who advises her MIAA sports medicine committee, Dr. Sandra Nelson from MGH, and she was in full support of this decision. Public and private schools across the state are following this plan of action. Many youth sports events have been linked to many outbreaks across the state of Massachusetts. There is a higher likelihood of introducing the virus by playing cross over sports. The biggest concern is having students miss out academically with positive results ending in quarantine and the student missing out on important academics across the board.

As far as testing, it is going very well. The students are very polite, the four nurses do compliment the student athletes every week and they are also very helpful with students who are quarantined. The charge nurse will set up times for that student and their family to test. Usually Thursday and Friday after regular testing.

Report Out of Multilingual Learner Education DESE Audit (Dr. Davila) (**Item A from New Business** taken out of order)

Superintendent Skipper introduced **Dr. Sara Davila, District Administrator of Programs** to give an update on the ELL audit that DESE gives every few years. Dr. Davila spoke about the following:

- Tiered Focus Monitoring
- Compliance review in regards to legal rights of students and families
- Legal responsibility of the district
- Requirements of the law include parental informed consent
- Requirements of the law include ESL and meaning access to contact learning

DESE Tier Focus Monitoring Completed March 26th

- No Corrective action findings
 - NKE data indicators have been stagnant at plus or minus 50% gap for ACCESS SGP & ACCESS Progress
- Our goalie to do better for our Multilingual Learners

Castaneda Three Pronged Test

- Included in TFM as Self Assessment
- Required as a result of court decision to determine compliance with Title VI of Civil Rights Act of

1964

- Requires ELE program
 - is based on sound education theory or research
 - is implemented with adequate and appropriate resources
 - results in demonstrable academic outcomes for ELs
- MLE Action Steps Based on Self Assessment
 - Program Articulation and alignment
 - MLE Assessment and placement
 - SLIFE identification & appropriate multilingual supports
 - Focus on Curriculum, instruction & Success Planning
 - Expansion of dual language opportunities
 - Continue to build bilingual/dual language educator pipeline
- Multilingual Learner Student & Family Engagement
 - MLE Parent Advisory Council
 - SHS Welcome Center Support Liaisons
 - Collaboration with The Welcome Project for Parent English Classes
 - Collaboration with City and Community Partners for support of unaccompanied minors and sponsor families

Superintendent Skipper congratulated Dr. Davila and her team on getting an audit with no findings. She attributed that to adding social and emotional supports for underlying trauma will make a difference in the long term. Unidos and the core leadership at ESCS have done an amazing job. With the excellent team of teachers and administrators that we have in place, these students have a concrete base on which to maintain and progress in their mastery of English and furthering their academics.

Ms. Krepchin asked how the 50% Dr. Davila talked about, compared with other years? Dr. Davila said it compares to other years in the same 50%. They haven't seen the bump up they would like to see yet. Superintendent Skipper said the high school students have outperformed the other districts and it is the younger students where they see the stagnation. It is the opposite in other systems, it is the structural things that have to change.

Dr. Phillips asked if ELL student growth is on average for all the other ELL students throughout the state. Dr. Davila said there are two growth indicators, one is ACCESS SGP and they were a little higher than the state about 55-60% and the other progress indicator is the question, did the student make progress, yes or no. That's the question where we will fall short around 50%. That means that 50% of our students are not making progress and gets more difficult to close these gaps as students get older. That's where we need to make the changes in the early grades so that these students get the support they need earlier.

Chair Green has felt for some time that the ELL program needs to make more progress and invest in the program to make more progress.

- **Equity Update** (Dr. Boston Davis)

Superintendent Skipper continued her district report and introduced **Dr. Jessica Boston Davis, Director of Equity and Excellence** who will speak to equity in the district.

Dr. Davis presented the following:

- Equity and Excellence in SPS
 - The vision is an educational environment where all students are affirmed and can thrive academically, emotionally and socially
- 2020-2021 Policies
 - Establish systems & structures which advance equity

- Create robust professional development
- Support each school community by meeting them where they are at with needs
- Responding with appropriate supports
- District Wide Initiatives
 - Advancing Equity Task Force
 - Affinity Group Working Group
 - Dese Diversity Network
 - Educator Professional Goals
- School Based Initiatives
 - School Based Equity Specialist
 - Administrator Coaching at SHS
 - Explicit Equity Focus at Each School
- District PD for Admin & Educators, partnered with the following for professional development
 - UnboundED racial equity focused PD for Administrators
 - The SEED project
 - BetterLesson will offer two PD for schools & educators
 - Anit-Racial Fundamentals
 - Anti-Racial Instruction for Pre-K-8 Integrating Racism & other Critical Topics into your Lessons
 - Dr. Daren Graves & Dr. Scott Seder - Critical Consciousness in Schools
 - Mass Transgender Political Coalition - Understanding & Supporting Transgender & Non Binary identities
- Quotes from Surveys and their Impact
- Examples of PD Offerings, District Wide & School Based
- Grants
 - DESE Teacher Diversification Grant
 - Educators for Black Lives through Nellie Mae
 - Equity in Action Dashboard through Boston Foundation to visualize inequities & spark action
- Coming Soon
 - First Ever SPS Diversity Recruitment Fair on April 10th from 10-12
- 2021-2022 Priorities
 - Create systems which elevate and amplify student voice
 - Continue to build systems & structures
 - Curriculum work
 - Programs across schools (for example RJ)
 - Build Partnerships- Call Me Mister, BAM
 - Continue School Support (Equity Specialists)
 - Continue to build district initiatives (Advancing Equity Task Force)

Questions:

Dr. Ackman asked if in the dashboard will there be a portion for students with disabilities? Dr. Davis answered that the dashboard is a work in progress. She does recognize that persons with disabilities should be included in the dashboard. Right now the focus of the dashboard is race but that is just the beginning and it should expand from there. Superintendent Skipper added that they looked at how equity fit into all aspects of their work. The idea of the dashboard was initially about race but once it is up and running they hope that there will be ways to broaden the umbrella that it covers and starts to include things that we should look at for equity and their lack of it. It is not just outward facing but inward facing and having both students and educators looking at it from many different experiences by everyone involved.

Ms. Krepchin was reading some of the PD and would love to see some of these as workshops for parents in future. PD is required but you can choose what you want from the offerings, she is wondering if the right people are signing up for equity workshops and will actually be doing them and how can they work around someone avoiding taking a PD that they should take? Dr. Davis answered that some people come to every PD and others do not. She wants a multi-tiered way to reach everyone, all of our goals need to be through the lens of equity. Some educators reached out to Karen Woods or their school equity specialist also school based PD. Some of the work is being done by the equity specialists, talking to folks and diagnosing where the school is at and everyone must attend the school based ones. They also talked about what if all PD fell under this umbrella of equity and this is in development right now.

Chair Green had a suggestion for the future of PD and the physical trauma we have experienced this past year, he would like to have the Affinity Group of People of Color send equity PD suggestions to their white colleagues.

Dr. Phillips would like to know more about the racially disproportionate discipline. Can she speak about the systems and structures where people are addressing racially disproportionate discipline, what they are working on right now and why they decided to choose that as a starting point. Dr. Davis answered that when the equity policy was created several years ago the discipline was one of the top things she heard from School Committee members and when they spoke about changing the system and recognizing the inequities in the system. The way it affects black, hispanic and Latinex students disproportionately. So there are a few systems in place right now that are giving her some hope. One is the equity specialty teams to identify at the school level key barriers in advancing equity. Either the approach to discipline, the way it is handled and the outcome of discipline throughout the system. They are working with the EDC consultant, Dr. Ann Wang and keep looking at the data cycles by trying something out, making sense of the data and seeing where we are at with our goals. There are folks looking at school data and are continuing to bring that up, like school group based PD to look at data together and figuring out what it means for students of color. How are students referred, approaches to discipline, restorative justice and even the way we speak about students. The other system is the advancing equity task force where they have different committees, based on educators' interest, data and things that they have heard from students. One committee is looking at the district wide policies around discipline. It's digging into it more and looking at the policies in place and how we can improve on them. Superintendent Skipper is eager to meet with these committee members and learn from them and hear their recommendations. She will partner with Liz Doncaster to dig deeper into this and learn more from the data.

Superintendent Skipper added that districts take this on and look at a surfact practice level but it is when you go deep and look at the rates of suspension and are kids being treated equally for the same type of offenses across the board. Institutional racism is embedded in every layer of what we do and very easy to look away from. It is not just in the practices but in the policies. We are trying to peel it back at every level. You will see it in Unidos, in our recommendations, in math, in the tracking that has happened in mathematics, in parents ability to speak or give testimony or in comfortability to give testimony. It is in so many facets of the institution. How do you have the equity specialist actualize the students' voices here? The student advisory is one step and we are looking at others and the School Committee is giving us the encouragement to do so.

Ms. Barish added that in thinking about the metrics of the educators in the community she would like to see where we are with the adaptive change and would like to see more people in our community become involved in these equity challenges.

Dr. Phillips commented that there is a lot of work being done and she would like to see within the community a more active approach and would like to see the School Committee and the community become more involved in the work of equity, broadening it out to the parents and maybe in partnership with the city who now has an equity specialist as well, they can do more get everyone on the same page and recognize the inequities and work to change them.

Chair Green committed that the amount of work done so far has been tremendous and we are on the path to recognizing the inequities and putting in the effort to change them.

- **College Readiness Update** (SHS Team)

Superintendent Skipper introduced **Mr. Lagambina, Principal of Somerville High School and Melanie Kessler, Director of College & Career Readiness** to address college and career readiness during this remote learning period and they presented the following:

- College & Career Readiness Team
 - School Counselors
 - Mr. Rischall
 - Ms. Keymont
 - Mr. LaBerge
 - Ms. Eden
 - Aspire Advisor
 - Financial aid help
 - College & Career Team/College Advising Corps
 - Ms. Banks
- College & Career Services for Seniors
 - Introductory CCR phone call to every student/family in August/September
 - CCR visits to senior English Classes & CTE classes to introduce team & services
 - Individual Planning & meetings with seniors
 - Online Calendar to schedule appointments
 - Topics include list making, financial aid, career planning, interview prep, sending documents
 - CCR Team Member used Talking Points and Google Voice
 - Weekly college & Career Email Updates
 - Weekly Wednesday Workshops on Zoom
 - Virtual College Rep visits
 - Two evening workshops-Post HS Planning & Financial Aid Night
 - 98% of seniors have had come contact with college/career counselors
 - 243 have had at least one meaningful individual meeting with counselors
 - 181 have had multiple meaningful individual meetings with counselors
- FASFA Update
 - 150 FASFA's submitted
 - 50 other students do not have plans to submit
 - Next focus group is those attending two year school
 - Meeting individually student to compare/analyze financial aid packages & complete verification
- College & Career Good News
 - 19 students accepted to Tufts
 - Acceptances to MIT, Yale, Cornell, Boston Conservatory, BU, Northeastern, Pepperdine, Skidmore, Trinity College Dublin, Berklee College of Music, Vassar College, Temple University
 - 2 Posse Scholarships
 - Full Scholarship to UConn
 - Chancellor's Scholarship to UMass Boston
- Looking Ahead to Class of 2022
 - Monthly evening workshop series
 - Weekly Wednesday Workshop

- Individual & Group Meetings
- Google Classroom Posts
- Regular Email Updates
- Weekly Office Hours
- Essay Workshops
- Looking forward to in person in the fall
- SAT Updates 2021
 - National SAT News
 - College Board eliminated subject test & SAT essay
 - More than half of colleges in US have eliminated testing requirements for Class of 2022
 - SHS SAT Plan
 - Held practice test in SAT via Zoom
 - Offered an in per school Day SAT in March
 - Will offer the national exam in May and June
 - Offered Lentz & Lentz SAT Prep course for reduced cost
 - Offered Let's Get Ready SAT Prep
 - Held two SAT registration workshops for juniors
 - Advising students to still take SAT as an option
 - AP Exams 2021
 - College Board Plan
 - Three different administrations
 - No fees for cancelled or missed
 - Somer flexibility to change students between in person and online
 - SHS Plan
 - Bases on MCAS schedule, space, best format/date for different subjects
 - If priority date is in person family can choose to do it online
 - If priority date is online students will take it at home
 - 350 students signed up for 650 exams
 - Beyond the Classroom Learning
 - Added a BCL coordinator _Emily Singer
 - Strengthening partnership with Cambridge College
 - Increasing BHCC dual enrollment & creating policy focused on equity
 - Establishing internship program for juniors & seniors -in & out of school

Question:

Ms. Barish liked the fact that AP exams could be taken at SHS. She is curious about the participation rates such as how many students who applied to a four year college were accepted and if a student was going into a career, who prepared them for that? What additional ways could we be supporting them? For the students who are disengaged how are they being supported in general?

Ms. Kessler said they do not have all the data yet since these numbers are just coming in. About two weeks ago at least 201 students filled out a college application. Participation rate is very strong. They meet weekly to check on their lists to check on every student.

Principal LaGambina added that they do have the house teams working with the students who are disengaged

both the house masters, the deans of students and the counselors. It has to be some very unusual circumstances that they have not met with any or all of these people. Superintendent Skipper mentioned that over the summer they want to continue to provide services for students because they are unsure of what they want to do now and need some additional support. That holds true for Full Circle/Next Wave as well.

Ms. Normand is very excited about the "13th year" and how we can support students after graduation and with so much so difficult at this time it is wonderful to see how much is going on with the students and how creative and innovative they are.

Superintendent Skipper said that the school counselors are going above and beyond to make sure to reach every student and thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the students of Somerville High.

That concluded the Superintendent's Report.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (Out of Order)

Chair Green read the public comment guidelines and asked those who signed up to comment in order in which they signed up.

Elizabeth Caffrey - 71 Alpine Street is very happy to have had the DESE guidance in getting the children back to in person learning but feels that the amount of learning that was supposed to have been provided remotely was significantly sub par. The students are owed educational hours that were not provided during remote learning. Somerville schools were not meeting the requirements and months ago members of the Committee said numbers were going to be provided to the public between March and April but yet we hear nothing. Supplemental hours for educational disparities have not been provided over the coming summer since. We have heard nothing from the district on how these hours are going to be made up which is even more frustrating.

Annie March - 29 Berkeley Street both of her kids went to school last week for the first time since 2020. She wants to thank Dr. Davis for her presentation earlier and would like to have the PTA's included in the equity in the equity discussions. She says the PTA's have been discussing this for quite some time and would like to have that discussion included with the equity specialists in the district. She would also like the police taken out of the schools and thinks that the only time a police officer should be called to the school is if there is an active shooter situation. Otherwise they have no place in our school system.

Georgie Cohen - 99 Moreland Street - would like to thank her daughters' teachers, principals and community schools staff for everything they have done for her daughters. She is very angry with the fact that Cohort B is losing two full days of in person learning to Cohort A. She wants one day taken from Cohort A and given to Cohort B just because the district says they cannot do anything about it. She also wants to point out the lack of communication within the district and how things can be better communicated to the families in the district.

KSenia Samakhvalova - 60 Irving Street her son just started back at school last week and loved being back in school with his friends and teachers. Then this week he had two remote days which he suffered through and wants to be back to school every day. She doesn't think the hybrid schedule is working for anyone. She wants the air quality to be tested in the Brown School so that all students can return in person. She is also very concerned about the lack of communication from the district to keep the families updated and fears rumors are the only things they have to listen to since no or very little communication from the Superintendent. She wants more updates for parents in the correct format.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Out of Order)

- November 16, 2020
- December 7, 2020
- December 22, 2020

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Barish, to approve the minutes listed above. The motion was approved unanimously motion via roll call vote.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction: March 22, 2021 (Dr. Phillips)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of March 22, 2021.

B. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole: March 24, 2021 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of March 24, 2021

Tabled.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The Following policies are being presented this evening for a second reading as amended:

- File EBCFB: Emergency 1-year Leave of Absence and School Placement Hold Policy

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to adopt File EBCFB.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Related documents:

Submitted by: C.White