

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, April 1, 2019 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – City Council Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Futrell, Ms. Palmer, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Normand, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone, and President Ballantyne.

Members absent: Ms. O’Sullivan, Mayor Curtatone (7:45 p.m.).

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Normand called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Chair Normand asked Superintendent Skipper to call the roll, results of which were as follows: PRESENT – 7 – Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Normand, Alderman Ballantyne and Mr. Green. ABSENT – 2 – Ms. O’Sullivan, Mayor Curtatone (7:45 p.m.).

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Nash gave an overview of the student report:

- SHS chapter of the National Honor Society will hold its annual induction ceremony on Thursday at 6:00.
- Seniors are hearing back from colleges and making post- secondary plans
- Ms. Eustis and the GSA will present an “LGBTQ+ Stories Matter” series after school in the auditorium tomorrow after school.
- Mr. Moriarty’s social media class is having a school-wide scavenger hunt over the next few days. Students have the opportunity to win prizes, including prom tickets and gift cards.
- Career Fair will be held on April 10.
- Next week, some students will be traveling to France for April break. Students who hosted Italian exchange students last fall will also be leaving for Italy next week.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- FEBRUARY 25, 2019

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Green to approve minutes from February 25, 2019, seconded by Dr. Ackman.

Chair Normand asked for clarification about a reference to the Homework Policy and Ms. Skipper confirmed this was refereeing the original homework policy. With that clarification, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion approved via voice vote.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment this evening.

V. ITEM D FROM NEW BUSINESS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER (Field Trip)

April 16, 2020 – April 23, 2020 (presentation) A group of Somerville High School Juniors and Seniors will visit Southern California to explore STEM fields and increase student engagement in Science. Transportation via airplane and charter bus. Student cost may vary from \$0 - \$2000.

Chair Normand then took the field trip out of order and invited Mr. Yaron Teich to talk about his proposed 2020 field trip. He talked about the education purpose of the trip, which includes a number of astronomical visits. Mr. Teich gave an overview of the proposed agenda. Dr. Ackman asked about camping and Mr. Teich said he planned on doing tent camping.

Ms. Pitone asked about how students would be selected. Mr. Teich said there was a lot of funding for women in STEM, minorities in STEM and high school STEM careers. Total cost for the trip should be around \$50,000. Mr. Teich felt this would easily be raised by corporate sponsors. He plans to get every student funded. Ms. Pitone also asked if there would be a continuance if the trip is not funded? Supt. Skipper said we will keep an eye on the funding levels for the trip and expect to update the School Committee in the future.

Ms. Pitone asked what the application process is? Mr. Teich responded that students will need to fill out an application where they will need to disclose who their assistant principal is, what connects them to STEM, if they've traveled to California before, interest in going etc. The Goal is to select a group of students who are representative of Somerville Public Schools and interested in science.

Ms. Normand commends Mr. Teich for his leadership in putting this together. And for raising funding.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to approve the 2020 field trip to Southern California.

Motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- SHS Construction and Career/Technical Education Update
Along with item C- St. Ann's License Agreement, from NEW BUSINESS which is being taken out of order.

Ms. Skipper shared the context for the moving pieces of the building committee meeting.

Mr. DeSimone spoke about current changes. He said the E Wing of the building project will come off in April, the FabLab will be moved to the Healey and opened to the public, and Automatic Tech and Residential Carpentry will be moved to the library. Suffolk Construction has vacated the library. Most of the moves will happen over April vacation. The gymnasium comes off April 12 and won't be back until 2021.

In May, Mr. DeSimone will come back to review the June moves.

Ms. Ballantyne asked what room the Fab Lab will be in at the Healey? Ms. Normand responded that likely the 2nd floor Science classroom.

Ms. Ballantyne thanked Leo and his staff for their support during this transition.

Ms. Pitone thanked Mr. DeSimone and the CTE staff.

Ms. Normand asked how exploratory will work next year.

Mr. DeSimone said that we have approximately 200 freshman signed up for exploratory next year.

Supt Skipper added that this is why we are talking with the Department of Education about creative problem solving.

Mr. Green had the opportunity to talk about considering another high school building project. He appreciates Mr. DeSimone for all he does with logistics and keeping this off School Committee's plate. He would like to have a map of all shops once that's all settled.

Mr. DeSimone has been invited back to School Committee on May 20th and said we have a plan for all students on CTE. He appreciates the staff and administration for supporting this effort.

Ms. Normand asked for confirmation that students will all receive credits throughout this process. Mr. DeSimone agreed.

Supt Skipper commented and said this has been a city effort involving the mayor, community members like Tom Bent.

St. Ann's license agreement. Dr. Curley gave an update on the draft license agreement.

With the SHS gymnasium going offline this month, we are seeking extra space to ensure PE/fitness are not disrupted. In packet is the License agreement for the lower level of the old St. Ann's school building. The property is located at 50 Thurston St, Somerville 02145, right next to the Winter Hill. The length of the license is April – December 2019. PE classes would use the gym on a daily basis Monday - Friday. The Supervisor of Health and PE will have an office onsite. At least one SHS administrator and one PE teacher will be onsite with students at all times. In addition to the gym, the lower level includes one classroom for instruction and another for equipment storage. We've been working with City Solicitors Office, Mayor's Office and Treasurer to put this agreement together but need the School Committee's review and authority for the Superintendent to sign the agreement.

Mr. Green asked if there is a reason why we could only get the gym for the purpose of physical education classes for students at SHS and not also for sports or practices.

Dr. Curley responded that this was the original language discussed by legal counsel, but we could push for a change in language if this is a concern.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Dr. Ackman to authorize Superintendent Skipper and Chair Normand to sign the St. Ann's License Agreement.

Ms. Pitone made an amendment and then withdrew her motion.

Motion approved via voice vote.

Ms. Pitone then gave an update on the SHS Building Project.

The primary topic was value management, the idea that right now we have used up more than our contingency (money set aside for over-runs) on the project. We had a contingency of about \$17.7 million, and right now the prediction is that we are over the contingency. And so this value engineering activity came to the Building Committee, there was an exceptional amount of work done by the team to try and identify areas where we could reduce scope and return that money to the contingency. You may have heard that there was a significant amount of contaminated soil found on the property as well as different types of asbestos, in particular a type that involved stopping work. Which delayed everything, depending on which element of the project, anywhere from 2 weeks to 2 months. They are still processing how much impact this would have on the overall budget.

Right now the largest cost-over runs were \$2.2 million allocated for the contaminated soil, several million dollars for the schedule shift and a component that is not uncommon, is the bids they got in general came in at \$4.5 million over budget. At the meeting they provided a spreadsheet with several items to consider taking out of the project scope. For the most part everything was approved and several of the items had moneys allocated that wasn't completely used, and so that money as returned to the contingency.

There were three items that were identified and tabled, which are landscaping, replacing the walkways and the field. The recommendation was made particularly by City Council Person Mary Jo Rossetti to table those items. She wanted to table partially because she knew that her Finance Committee meeting as well as a Regular City Council meeting were coming up and she could bring this to her colleagues for feedback. Some context about putting these items off was related to an expectation that both City Hall and 1895 would be renovated and doing that work would probably damage some or all of those items in the process. However, there is nothing currently bonded to do that work, so it's a little bit on a wish the expectation that this work will happen. When that work n, then the city would pay for the landscape, walkways and field.

President Ballantyne added that This could have a significant impact on the city's bonds. She said that when this was brought to the City Council Finance Committee their sentiments were similar to that of Council Person Rossetti. Ms. Rossetti said that they, the Building Committee and Mr. Rais, acting Director of Capital Projects, are going to go back and look at the numbers.

Ms. Pitone wanted to clarify that if they are going back to the drawing board, there may be additional concerns people have. We don't want to impact the educational program — this is our primary mission.

Superintendent Skipper agreed, the Committee has done a good job holding in reserve anything that would impact the Education Plan.

Mayor Curtatone added that the Building Committee has done an excellent job. There will be no compromise of the education plan or architectural plan. There have been some unexpected issues, but this will not hold us back. We will overcome these challenges.

Ms. Normand thanked everyone for their remarks and Ms. Pitone for her report.

Ms. Normand stated that the Homework Policy was originally on the agenda, but is no longer, due to the fact that the STA Union has asked for impact bargaining. She then invited Mr. Long to talk about the plan for impact bargaining.

Mr. Long said that there is a date set for the impact bargaining, it will take place on April 23rd.

Ms. Pitone asked if there is communication to parents to inform them that the Homework Policy is on hold until this is sorted out.

Superintendent Skipper responded that she could come to an agreement with counsel of something to send out to parents that indicates this is being taken off line to have further discussion with the union, and at the end of that a notice will follow with further steps.

Ms. Palmer asked for clarification on the Open Meeting Law restriction and speaking to PHS constituents. We received guidance from counsel suggesting that any individual School Committee member meeting with representatives of the Powerhouse Studios would likely be a violation of Open Meeting Law. This led me to the conclusion that meeting with constituents about the Homework Policy may also be a violation. Is this accurate, what might the distinction be?

Mr. Long explained that the context of the question about PHS was that it was anticipated that there would be a series of conversations initiated by Powerhouse Studios advocates that would be in a fairly compressed timeframe and could be considered serial deliberation and therefore result in an Open Meeting law violation. The President of the City Council has asked whether there is a durational limitation on that bar, which I will look at. But I think it is different from the questions about the Homework Policy because that is a more traditional constituent service conversation. It does not seem that there would be arranged meetings with members of the committee in series, which was the concern about the powder house conversations. So they are not comparable.

Mr. Green asked, keeping in mind the rights of Somerville residents to lobby city officials protected by the First Amendment, for legal advice on ways in which those conversations could be had in ways that keep with the spirit of Open Meeting Law and the First Amendment.

Counsel Long responded that this is a complicated question, but it's a matter that could be brought back at the request of anybody as an agenda item. This is more of a vendor situation than a constituent situation with respect to conversations with Powder House representatives. With the public on the other hand we'd expect to be able to have that conversation with somebody not connected to the organization. But he will look at it further.

Mr. Futrell thanked Mr. Long for weighing in on this issue. He continued, I have a number of questions and asks. I'm interested in hearing what part of the statute we are looking at that would show the difference of homework policy vs. opening a school. I am also curious about what "condensed" means. I

would also like to better understand what constrains issues that can come back to the committee, "Items that can be brought back".

Mr. Long had asked whether the committee follows a specific set of legal rules, such as Roberts Rules of Order. If so, there is a process for reconsideration and revisiting things. Having said that, the committee is free to alter these rules simply by taking action that is contrary to whatever the established rule is. He will look into this, and see if there is a motion where the committee adopted Roberts Rules.

Ms. Normand added that we use a loose version of Roberts Rules of Order.

President Ballantyne clarified that her question to counsel relative to Powderhouse Studios was when are we allowed to speak with the constituents.

Ms. Palmer asked about a colleague suggesting that we appoint a liaison so there is no serial deliberation.

Dr. Ackman asked what exactly the person would liaise?

Mr. Futrell asked for some clarification from counsel on the difference of meeting with Powderhouse versus meeting with an individual who led the efforts for Powderhouse?

President Ballantyne commented she doesn't feel comfortable as an elected official with another elected official acting as a liaison where she represents a different ward.

Ms. Palmer said we could decide as a body that its unidirectional and that the individual we appoint go and meet with Powderhouse.

Mr. Long replied this could be an option. There is a relationship that exists between the central office, particularly Dr. Curley, and the Powderhouse team.

Ms. Normand added she would encourage discussion of this to be public.

Superintendent Skipper said that her and Dr. Curley will be meeting with Alec Resnick and Shaunalynn Duffy this coming Wednesday. We do not yet know what has been communicated to the funder XQ. As a committee you may want to distinguish between meeting and speaking with Powderhouse representatives and/or the community and differentiate that with any kind of active deliberation that's ongoing on the project. The committee may want to, in fact, send something in writing to assure what has transpired and to indicate that for the remainder of this year, for instance, this isn't something that would or would not be taken back up again.

Mr. Green would argue that as a matter of procedure we have School Committee liaisons for lots of things, he is the liaison to SomerVision2040, Tufts Negotiations etc. We could do this to take this off Dr. Curley or Superintendent Skipper's plate.

Ms. Pitone commented in reference to Superintendent Skipper's statement, seeking clarification.

Superintendent Skipper responded that because it's clear that communication was a sticking point in the process, at this point further conversation without clarity of the meaning of that conversation can be left up for interpretation. It is my understanding that School Committee voted no and instructed me as Superintendent to focus on the budget and run the district for the remainder of the year. So unless you tell me further, we are not anticipating taking this back up again for the remainder of the year and through the summer. If that is different, we should state that, if that is not different, then I think it would be good to be clear and communicate that.

Ms. Pitone had a follow up question, in terms of the innovation statute, what rights do the applicants have? Do we have a right to define the timeline?

Mr. Long stated that it would be helpful to have a clear statement from School Committee to Powderhouse with concerns asking for a response as they consider whether their organization wants to resubmit. Not sure what the timeframe is for a response to be formulated and do not recall under Section 92 what the School Committee's window is for acting on the resubmission but can get that information for School Committee in the future.

Superintendent Skipper added that the intent of Wednesday's meeting is to present the list of issues, as well as financial concerns. I believe that in the statute there isn't another window other than the 60 days for resubmission because the plan would have major portions change. We would have to determine whether this would trigger another reevaluation of the STA carved out agreement; as well as reconvening of the Innovation Planning Committee.

Palmer asked for clarification of what would be helpful and if a motion on the floor would make sense in the event that the applicant were to reconvene the Innovation Planning Committee, that this body would not deliberate on a new plan before X date, is that date June 2019?

Ms. Normand explained that the applicant would have to reconvene the innovation committee, they would have to rewrite the plan. If there were changes to the bargaining agreement, they would have to renegotiate that with the STA. Realistically, I couldn't imagine that it would come back to us. One of the concerns with the possibility of it coming back to us is if there are conversations that are happening individually instead of in a public forum, she would be much more comfortable having it be transparent public conversation.

Mr. Long added that his concern originally with respect to the Open Meeting Law was the potential for a series of conversations with great substance taking place off line.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Pitone to ask Superintendent Skipper to craft a letter to XQ from the School Committee body to clarify the final and unanimous vote, seconded by Ms. Palmer.

Mr. Futrell thinks this is an interesting request. I would like to know what comes out of the Wednesday meeting. The funder has never shown an interest in building a relationship with this body, so I question whether this is a good use of the Superintendent's time.

President Ballantyne stated she is in favor of communication of the vote to the funder.

Mr. Futrell added that the Superintendent provided 4-5 pages of a statement. If the funder didn't take it upon themselves to read the statement, I question their involvement. I am worried about asking the Superintendent to represent all of our views.

Ms. Normand asked a clarifying question to Ms. Pitone. is the intention of your motion for the Superintendent to write on behalf of the School Committee or from her perspective?

Ms. Pitone responded that a letter from the Superintendent and Chair is what she would recommend.

MOTION TO AMEND: Motion to amend her original motion by Ms. Pitone, to include that the communication in writing should come co crafted from the Superintendent and the Chair of the School Committee, seconded by Dr. Ackman.

Ms. Palmer stated that there was a joint statement that was issued the following day. Could that not be sent perhaps with a cover letter to make sure they receive it?

Ms. Normand added that the joint statement came from Superintendent Skipper, Chair Normand and mayor Curtatone.

Mr. Green said that in addition to the joint statement, there are five meetings with open deliberations that have minutes that could also be sent. I don't think there is a need to "craft" a statement for XQ, if XQ wants to know what we did, we could send them what we have and they could read it or not.

President Ballantyne added that her thought is that maybe a cover letter with a small paragraph with the outcome of the vote would work. She sees this as proactive on our part.

Superintendent Skipper stated there has been a lot of public communication, if somebody wanted to go back and see where we stand, certainly that is there. She wanted to clarify what she is asking of the committee; we have approximately 10 weeks left of school, there's no chance for the PHS plan to be revised and come back to the School Committee in June. In those 10 weeks, do you want us to continue to work on this? Or to take back up in the Fall if the opportunity presents itself?

Mr. Futrell could you imagine anything moving so fast as to be back in 10 weeks? I hear the Superintendent asking for guidance on whether she should be spending time or not on this in the next 10 weeks.

President Ballantyne I do not think the Superintendent should be spending more time on this over the next 10 weeks. But I do hope the Innovation Planning Committee will reconvene.

Ms. Pitone asked the Superintendent to clarify whether she thinks a letter is helpful.

Superintendent Skipper stated that we are still in a grey area of persistence. My concern is that we have clarity of expectation both for us and for the funder and the applicant. I need your help to allow me and my staff to focus on closing out the year.

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a MOTION to withdraw her previous motion and amendment.

Ms. Palmer would like the administration to write to XQ to clarify the process and I would like to make it clear that this body is not authorizing the district to engage in any way with Powderhouse Studios, through the end of the school year.

MOTION to AMEND by Ms. Palmer, seconded by Mr. Green.

Mr. Futrell asked what is the initial motion and what is the amendment?

Ms. Pitone said the initial motion was to authorize the Superintendent to send a letter to XQ with a summary of the process and the outcome of the vote, and Ms. Palmer seconded that. This did not include anything about the 10 weeks because it hadn't been discussed.

Ms. Palmer made an amendment to that motion, that the School Committee has directed the Superintendent not to spend more time on Powderhouse through the remainder of the school year, and Mr. Green seconded that motion.

Dr. Ackman asked what does this amendment mean for Wednesday's meeting?

Superintendent Skipper stated that on Wednesday she and Dr. Curley will meet with Powderhouse to provide the list of concerns suggested by our counsel.

Mr. Futrell clarified that he is not in favor of any motion that directs the administration to write XQ.

Mr. Futrell calls for a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote on the AMENDMENT by Ms. Palmer, seconded by Mr. Green to include language instructing the Superintendent not to spend time on Powderhouse in the next 10 weeks to be included in the letter.

YES — Ms. Palmer, Mr. Green, President Ballantyne, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Normand.

NO — Mr. Futrell, Mayor Curtatone, Dr. Ackman.

Motion passes.

Roll Call Vote on the MOTION by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Ms. Palmer for Superintendent Skipper to write a letter to XQ.

YES — Ms. Palmer, Mr. Green, President Ballantyne, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Normand.

NO — Mr. Futrell, Mayor Curtatone, Dr. Ackman.

Motion passes.

Superintendent Skipper then read her report.

Congratulations to Somerville High School social studies teachers Sol Rheem and Andrew St. Pierre, for being selected to participate in the **2019 WGBH Educator Ambassador program**. They are among 16 educators from across the Commonwealth selected as this year's ambassadors for the program. As part of their fellowship role, they will be working with WGBH to understand what role public media plays in K-12 education. They will also offer advice and serve as a sounding board on ways that WGBH can continue to expand their impact in supporting K-12 education, and in particular with the use of PBS LearningMedia™, a free digital learning service for PK-12 educators and students. We are incredibly proud of the work of our educators, and the leadership they take in supporting public education across the state.

We are very fortunate to have incredible partners in our community that share in our commitment to supporting Somerville youth. Every year, the **Somerville Mathematics Fund** supports several events in our schools and in the community, celebrating and encouraging Math achievement in our community. They provide scholarships to Somerville students, and every year, they also award several Somerville teacher grants to support engaging Math curriculum and activities in their classrooms. Since the organization was chartered in 2000, they have awarded nearly \$122,000 to Somerville teachers. Please visit their website (somerwillemathematics.blogspot.com) to learn more about this year's teacher grant awardees, and to find out about this great organization. Our sincere thanks to the Somerville Mathematics Fund for their support to our students and teachers.

Another organization that goes above and beyond every year in supporting youth in our district is the **Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI)**. Among the really fun events they host to raise funds that support drop-out prevention efforts and innovative programs in our district, is their annual **DEI Pancake Breakfast fundraiser**, which took place this past Saturday, March 30th. The best part was that guests got to enjoy delicious pancakes prepared and served by our very own School Committee members! We are so grateful for the continuing support of the Duhamel Education Initiative. Please visit their website (www.duhameleducationinitiative.org) to learn more about their mission and other annual events.

Congratulations to SHS Robot "FRC6201" and its outstanding teammates on the **Highlander Robotics Team**, for an excellent showing at the FIRST Robotics Greater Boston District event at Revere High School two weekends ago. Led by SHS Science teacher Michael Friedman, the team ended qualifications in 8th place out of 28 teams. SHS also took home the Team Spirit Award for their outstanding community outreach program, which has included demonstrations at our K-8 schools and local community events, and supporting the first SHS Women in STEM Summit earlier this year. Congratulations, Highlanders!

This Thursday, April 4th, right here in the City Council Chambers, the Somerville Legislative Matters Committee will be holding two **public hearings** – one at 3:00pm and one at 6:00pm – on a Home Rule Petition to the State Legislature **requesting that 16- and 17-year old Somerville citizens be granted legal voting rights for municipal elections**. Students and other members of the public are invited to attend and speak. Visit the city website (www.somervillema.gov) for more information.

The annual **Week of the Young Child Celebration** takes place on Wednesday, April 10th, 10:00-11:00am here at City Hall. We will be celebrating Somerville's youngest learners and learn about their

work this year in exploring what it means to be kind and fair in our community. Children and teachers from childcare, preschool, and Kindergarten classrooms across the City will gather at City Hall for a day of celebration and civic engagement, and to be part of a proclamation reading by Mayor Curtatone. We look forward to a fun and inspiring event as we celebrate children and the important role they play as members of our community.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Skipper read the personnel report and noted the retirements of two teachers: Carol Murphy, retiring after 33 years of service in Somerville Public Schools, and Valerie Kostandos, retiring after 8 years of service in Somerville Public schools.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:

January 30, 2019 (Mr. Futrell)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole of January 30, 2019.

Mr. Futrell read a report but did not submit it for the minutes.

B. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of

the Whole: February 11, 2019 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

Tabled until next meeting.

C. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole: February 25, 2019 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

Tabled until next meeting.

D. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole: March 6, 2019

Tabled until next meeting.

E. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: March 6, 2019 (Mr. Futrell)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of March 6, 2019.

Mr. Futrell read a report but did not submit it for the minutes.

F. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: March 13, 2019 (Mr. Futrell)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of March 13, 2019.

Mr. Futrell read a report but did not submit it for the minutes.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Ms. Pitone to approve all the reports from the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole.

Motion approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell seconded by Mr. Green, to accept all the bill rolls of December 2018, January 2019 and February 2019.

Motion approved via voice vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Endorsement of the Home Rule Petition

Carrie Normand said this is the home rule petition for the voting age to be lowered to 16 year old. Members of the public are invited to attend and speak at two April 4 Public Hearings on a request from Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone to file a Home Rule Petition to the State Legislature requesting that 16- and 17-year-old Somerville citizens be granted legal voting rights for municipal elections.

Mayor Curtatone said this is a push to inspire more students to vote. Senator Kennedy pushed to have the voting age moved from 20-year-old to 18 year olds.

Mr. Green said he would be thrilled for this body to endorse this home rule petition. I will testify to that effect on Wednesday. The way you practice leadership and civic engagement is through practicing civic engagement. I am enthusiastic

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Palmer, seconded by Mr. Green to endorse the spirit of the Home Rule Petition.

Ms. Pitone said she doesn't feel comfortable voting on this at this time.

MOTION to Amend: Motion by Ms. Palmer, seconded by Mr. Green for a friendly amendment to support this language subject to deliberations by City Council.

All in favor, expect Ms. Pitone who votes present.

Two Public Hearings on Youth Voting Rights for Municipal Elections April 4 at 3 and 6 p.m. Members of the public are invited to attend and speak at two April 4 Public Hearings on a request from Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone to file a Home Rule Petition to the State Legislature requesting that 16- and 17-year-old Somerville citizens be granted legal voting rights for municipal elections. The Legislative Matters Committee will hold hearings at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 4 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 92 Highland Avenue. Committee Chair and Ward 5 City Councilor Mark Niedergang said the 3 p.m. hearing is specifically so that Somerville High School and other local students and young people could attend at a convenient time, but both hearings are open to all members of the public. Written testimony will also be accepted, please see below.

B. Wellness Committee Update (Palmer)

Ms. Palmer would like to commend the Wellness Committee on the work they do. There was a discussion of all the different components of wellness going on in the District. What surfaced from the broad discussion and overview is the great need to do more work in support around mental health services.

C. St. Ann's License Agreement

D. Field Trips (Recommended action: approval)
April 25, 2019 – April 27, 2019

May 29, May 3, 2019

CTE Graphic Design and Computer Repair will be visiting Skills USA in Marlborough for the CTE Leadership Competitions. Transportation via bus, Student cos is \$0.

Full Circle/ Next Wave Students will visit Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire. Transportation via school van. Student cost is \$5.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Green to approve the field trips to Skills USA and Mt. Monadnock, seconded Dr. Ackman.

Motion approved via voice vote.

May 30, 2019 (Rain date: June 6, 2019)

10 Next Wave Students will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire. Transportation via school van. Student cost is \$20.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Green to approve the field trip to Canobie Lake, seconded by Ms. Palmer. Motion approved via voice vote.

E. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Program donated to
1 ARC Welding Simulator	Richard Brooks	Hampden, MA	\$9,600	CTE Metal Fab/Welding Dept.

MOTION: Motion by Dr. Ackman, to accept the donations with gratitude, seconded by Mr. Futrell. Motion approved via voice vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Ackman

when will we get a bigger report on CTE relating to Edgerly?

Superintendent Skipper said we will deliver that report in May.

Mr. Futrell

Request that we talk to counsel about digital communication.

Ms. Palmer

I made an informational request to the District that I would like to share with the Committee. DESE has a Problem Resolution System (PRS) office that handles complaints. I ask for redacted copies be given to School Committee if there are any filed against us. This would inform our practice.

Superintendent Skipper agreed we don't get many of these but believe it would be good practice to get these to members.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Related Documents

Agenda
Field Trip Presentation
Home rule Petition

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN CHAMBERS**

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 1, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.

Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Vision Statement/Goals

We believe in developing the whole child - the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential of all students - by providing students with the skills, opportunities, and resources that will nurture innovative ideas, foster pride in diversity, inspire students to become lifelong learners and empower them to enrich their communities.

- Goal #1: Increase achievement and access for all students. Reduce all performance gaps by half.
- Goal #2: Develop and implement a comprehensive PreK-12 social-emotional learning framework that provides students with the skills they need for social and academic success.
- Goal #3: Increase engagement with the community to reflect the community in which we live.
- Goal #4: Continue to develop and implement innovative ways of measuring student academic performance and school quality such as formative assessment, performance-based tasks, and whole quality indicators.
- Goal #5: Develop a comprehensive plan for Universal Kindergarten Readiness that supports intellectual, physical, and social/emotional growth from birth to Pre-K.
- Goal #6: Develop and implement a strategy to recruit, develop, and retain a diverse and talented staff.

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. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 25, 2019

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- SHS Construction and Career/ Technical Education Update

VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

G. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: January 30, 2019 (Mr. Futrell)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of January 30, 2019.

H. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole: February 11, 2019 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction of the Whole of February 11, 2019.

I. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole: February 25, 2019 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole of February 25, 2019.

J. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole: March 6, 2019 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole of March 6, 2019.

K. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: March 6, 2019 (Mr. Futrell)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole of March 6, 2019.

L. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: March 13, 2019 (Mr. Futrell)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole of March 13, 2019

VII. NEW BUSINESS

F. Endorsement of the Home Rule Petition

G. Wellness Committee Update (Palmer)

H. St. Ann’s License Agreement

I. Field Trips (Recommended action: approval)
April 16, 2020 – April 23, 2020 (presentation)

A group of Somerville High School Juniors and Seniors will visit Southern California to explore STEM fields and increase student engagement in Science. Transportation via airplane and charter bus. Student cost may vary from \$0 - \$2000.

April 25, 2019 – April 27, 2019

CTE Graphic Design and Computer Repair will be visiting Skills USA in Marlborough for the CTE Leadership Competitions. Transportation via bus, Student cost is \$0.

May 3, 2019

Full Circle/ Next Wave Students will visit Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire. Transportation via school van. Student cost is \$5.

May 30, 2019 (Rain date: June 6, 2019)

10 Next Wave Students will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire. Transportation via school van. Student cost is \$20.

J. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Program Donated to
1 ARC Welding Simulator	Richard Brooks	Hampden, MA	\$9,600	CTE Metal Fab/Welding Dept.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

IX. CONDOLENCES

X. ADJOURNMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

As a third-year science teacher at Somerville High School, I have seen the amazing qualities that the students in our community possess: integrity, a strong work ethic, humility, and occasionally sheer brilliance. I have done my best to nurture these qualities in my classroom, and provide rigorous instruction and set high expectations which will produce young adults with the necessary set of skills to succeed in the future.

I believe traveling far and wide is the best way to grow as a person, learn new things, and develop one's perspective of the world. There is so much to see, hear, feel, and experience; even a lifetime is not sufficient to do all the interesting things that should be done on this planet. Yet many of our students lack access to travel opportunities: most have never visited a foreign country, and a surprising percentage have never even ventured out of the state of Massachusetts.

Due to socioeconomic barriers and a host of other factors, these experiences are not distributed equitably among students in the Somerville community: Somerville is considered a high-needs school district.

In light of all this, I am planning a one-week trip to Southern California for approximately 20 juniors and seniors during our April break in 2020. My goal with this trip is to enrich the lives of students at Somerville High School by giving them the chance to see and experience firsthand some of the cutting-edge scientific organizations and beautiful natural environment that the West Coast has to offer. The pioneering institutions and locales that exist in that part of the country are truly world-class. It is a haven for astronomy, ecology, marine biology, aerospace engineering, and a variety of technology fields. Our students will be immersed in this environment for a week, meeting science professionals and learning what STEM looks like far outside the classroom. In addition, they will be exposed the vastly different geographic and cultural experience that is Southern California.

I strongly hope that you and your organization will consider supporting this experience for our students. If you have any specific questions regarding this trip, such as the dates and expected costs, please contact me at yateich@gmail.com or 240-515-1810.

Sincerely,
Yaron Teich
Yaron Teich
Physics Teacher, Somerville High School



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR LEGAL VOTING RIGHTS IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR CITY OF SOMERVILLE RESIDENTS AGED 16 AND 17 YEARS OLD

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any individual aged 16 or 17 years old residing in the City of Somerville, who is ineligible to vote due to age under state law, but who is otherwise eligible to vote under state law, may upon application have their names entered on a list of voters established by the board of election commissioners for the City of Somerville. Such individuals on the list of voters may vote in any election for local offices and local ballot questions in accordance with this Act. For the purposes of this Act, "local voters" are anyone who is eligible to vote pursuant to this Act in a local election or upon a local ballot question in the City of Somerville.

SECTION 2. Said board of election commissioners shall establish a separate registration list for local voters who shall fill out an alternative registration form. Upon turning eighteen, each local voter shall be taken off the separate list and notified that he or she must register as a regular voter in accordance with state law, regulations, and guidelines, in order to be eligible to vote. Said board shall create and print, at the city of Somerville's expense, the special registration form needed for the purpose of registering local voters.

SECTION 3. Said board is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations, guidelines and forms to implement the purpose of this act.

SECTION 4. If a local ballot question appears on a state election ballot, the board shall print a separate ballot for the local ballot question at the expense of the City of Somerville.

SECTION 5. The City of Somerville is hereby authorized to pass ordinances to implement the purpose of this act subject to all the provisions of the Somerville city charter.

SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.

