

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, May 13, 2019 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent: Mr. Green, Mayor Curtatone (7:45 p.m.).

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Normand called the meeting to order at 7:06 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, Ms. O’Sullivan and Alderman Ballantyne (7:08 p.m.). ABSENT – 2 – Mr. Green and Mayor Curtatone (7:45 p.m.).

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A. Citation of Recognition

- Alice Comack

Chair Normand recognized Alice Comack with a distinguished award on behalf of Mayor Curtatone in recognition of 34 years of dedicated service to Somerville Public Schools as Director of the Somerville Mediation Program and for constructive and positive community building in Somerville.

The body took a five-minute recess to celebrate Mrs. Comack and came back to order at 7:19 p.m.

III. ITEM F FROM NEW BUSINESS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER (FIELD TRIP 2)

June 9, 2019 – June 13, 2019

3 Students from the Healey school will travel to Washington D.C. for National History Day. Transportation via bus. Student cost is \$615.

DeShaun Simmons, 5th and 6th grade Social Studies and ELA teacher at Healey School approached the podium. Three 7th grade students asked him in the fall to be their faculty advisor for a small project they were working on at the time. These students researched women of the American Revolution and created a ten-minute play, in which they wrote, researched and performed, titled *Friendship Between the Pages: The Story of Abigail Adams and Macy Otis Warren*. This performance tied for first place in the Massachusetts Regional History Day Competition and won first place at the Massachusetts State Level History Day Competition. This gave them the opportunity to compete at the national level in Washington D.C this coming June, they are the only Somerville students to participate this year and the first time in many years for the Healy School. It was an honor for him to work with them this year and he hopes the School Committee will support them as well.

MOTION: Motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. O’Sullivan to approve the field trip to Washington D.C.

Motion approved via voice vote. Ms. Pitone abstained from voting due to her daughter being one of the attending students.

Ms. Normand then thanked Mr. Simmons for going above and beyond.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- APRIL 1, 2019

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Palmer to approve minutes from April 1, 2019, seconded by Dr. Ackman.

Motion approved via voice vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lydia Torres, a student at West Somerville Neighborhood School. Lydia spoke about non-reusable lunch trays; every day we spend \$70 on lunch trays. To buy reusable trays would only be a one-time purchase of \$2000. There is a major environmental impact that effects our society. Friends and classmates will do whatever can be

done. She asked that whatever decision is made, that it be one we can defend in 50 years.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- Equity Policy Update

Jessica Boston Davis gave an update on the Equity Policy draft and process. Dr. Davis has scheduled 3 student and teacher focus groups for next week. Students have been very committed to the equity policy and follow up steps. Dr. Davis and Chair Normand recently met with the Black student Union at Somerville High School and listened/spoke with them for over an hour. They spoke about topics they are concerned about and changes they hope to see at the High School going forward. They talked about things like restorative justice, student voice and participation, and having an officer of equity at the school who they could air their concerns to. Chair Normand added that students also asked about how get involved with the School Committee, many of them did not know there are student representatives on the School Committee, and so that is something we as a district need to work on. They spoke about guidance and course selection. It was a very rich conversation.

Superintendent Skipper wanted to remind everyone that a lot of the work Dr. Davis did through her cap stone for the Harvard Program has been in helping to set us up for a very successful next set of steps relative to equity in the district. This is the very beginning for equity in our district, we currently have a Director of Equity and Excellence position posted and will be screening for it next week.

Dr. Ackman asked about how teachers have been recruited to join the focus groups.

Dr. Davis responded she sent out a district email to all staff, she spoke to all the principals and asked them to send a follow up email as well. In addition, she asked school representative to post a flyer she created for the focus group, in a place where teachers often visit. Informally, there have also been many conversations with different groups and spaces throughout the district to advertise it in that way as well.

Next, Chair Normand asked Superintendent Skipper to share her District Report.

Superintendent Skipper invited Rosanna Paribello to speak about the Community Schools registration process.

Ms. Paribello said there was a system error and although it seems like there is a waitlist at this time, there isn't, it was a glitch. We build the program around enrollment, we are looking to add a classroom at Capuano, West Somerville, Argenziano, and Brown to meet the needs of the parents in the district.

Ms. Palmer thanked Ms. Paribello for attending tonight's meeting. There is concern from some parents about not knowing they can return and enroll.

Ms. Skipper replied that we will do a script and robocall. She also complimented Rosanna and her staff for recognizing in a short amount of time, the need in the district and being very flexible. And Thanked Rosanna for her leadership.

Ms. Palmer also asked if Pre-K and K are part of the universal goal?

Rosanna responded yes.

Ms. Skipper then turned to her report.

Congratulations to Somerville High School senior **student-athletes Robert McCarthy and Isabel Silva** for earning recognition by the Northeastern Conference for their academic and athletic achievements over the past four years. Both students have excelled in the classroom and in their respective athletic endeavors throughout their time at Somerville High School. They have also demonstrated exceptional leadership, and a deep commitment to their community. Robert is a 3-season athlete who has earned varsity letters in cross country, football, and in both indoor and outdoor track & field. He is also a member of the student council and President of the Class of 2019. He will be attending Harvard in the fall and plans to major in computer science. Isabel is a 3-sport athlete who has earned varsity letters in volleyball, swimming, and softball. She is a member of the National Honor Society, serves as an officer of Best Buddies, is an officer of the senior class, and also teaches

Sunday School. Isabel will attend Northeastern University and plans to major in computer science and math. Congratulations to Robert and Isabel, and thank you for representing your school and your community so well.

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the **2019 Career and Technical Education Senior Awards** and join in celebrating the more than 100 Somerville High School seniors who completed their Chapter 74 requirements and are preparing to move on to the next phase of their journeys. I was honored and incredibly proud to recognize their work and their commitment to their school community. This is an annual event that is coordinated by CTE students and staff. As you know, there's a little construction project under way at the high school right now, which made the planning for this year's event even more challenging. The CTE team was clearly up to the task, putting together a wonderful event that included an amazing array of hors d'oeuvres for guests to enjoy in the cafeteria prior to the awards ceremony, and a joyous awards presentation in the auditorium. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your fantastic work!

As the school year winds down, students and educators are eager to share what students have been learning throughout the year. We invite you to join us whenever you can, at the many **concerts and ceremonies** that are taking place in schools across the district in the next few weeks. Check our district website calendar or your school calendar or newsletter for information about upcoming events.

Among the events coming up is the annual **Special Olympics** celebration. I hope you will join us at Trum Field (541 Broadway) on Thursday, May 23rd, for an afternoon of fun and celebration as we cheer on and support our incredible Special Olympic student-athletes. This is a free family event that takes place from 9:00am to noon, and it is always a wonderful event to be part of. We hope you can join us.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank our many **community partners** for your support throughout this school year. It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another school year and very much into preparations for the summer break. Our work as educators is enhanced greatly by the ideas, the passion, and the commitment of our many, many partners. We are thankful for you, and for the work that you do to support our students.

Ms. Skipper than invited Dr. Kuh to present on Early Childhood Education.

VII. NEW BUSINESS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

A. Early Childhood Presentation

Dr. Kuh gave special thanks to Superintendent Skipper and Assistant Superintendent Abeyta for their investment in early Education. She introduced her team, Heidi Gibbons, Valerie B., Allyssa Corrigan. Dr. Kuh also acknowledge Nomi Davison, Director of SFLC, who has been instrumental to this work.

Dr. Kuh gave a brief view of what's happening in early education in our district, starting with the broader policy related work and funneling down to the more hands on work. The School Committee has a goal to develop a comprehensive plan for Universal Kindergarten Readiness that supports intellectual, physical, and social/emotional growth from birth to pre-K that has driven the Early Childhood work for the past few years. She highlighted Somerville's mixed delivery system which develops new educational opportunities in both public schools and early childhood programs in the community, a strategy that leverages the existing capacity, expertise, and public investments that support early learning and healthy development. Such a system has the potential to more rapidly expand the availability of high quality early education and also offers families a choice of preschool settings.

Please see presentation in related items.

Ms. Norman thanked Dr. Kuh for her work.

Ms. Pitone thanked Dr. Kuh for her detailed presentation. She also asked how broadly implemented is this vision currently in the district and with our partners and how long is it going to take to get us there.

Dr. Kuh responded that it started out with professional development in September and October for rolling out these practices. Teachers received binders with curriculum guides, which may be found on the Somerville Early Education website. Last year they started to set the stage for what is a big idea, they did very intentional,

focused PD on the difference between a weekly theme and a big idea. Teachers have started to get that and it's become part of the work. In addition, the coaches have gone in and done workshops at places like Elizabeth Peabody House and Open Center on big ideas. People are starting to see that going deeper means they can spend more time doing small group work and really unpack some of these concepts more deeply.

Ms. Palmer said there's a lot in the media about the stress of young people, particularly around standardized testing. How much emphasis has there been around free play, gross motor, and imaginative play in our district?

Dr. Kuh replied that one of the piece of project approach for young children is about field trips and bringing in experts. We explained that it could be as simple as going on a walk around the neighborhood to explore was happening around us and the expert could be someone that's right in the area. It doesn't have to be an extravagant field trip, and so what we've seen is people actually going out and exploring. They have been very specific about helping teachers to shift their practices, in terms of center time. They've worked really hard to help teachers understand that offering kids free choice allows them more motor planning and the ability to move about the classroom freely.

Valerie Giltinan, an Early Childhood Instructional Coach, added that since they've unpacked big ideas with teachers there has been a big shift in teacher's comfort level with allowing play to be more open ended and extended and more spontaneous. Looking in this may seem less structure, but the learning through the play and the hands on experiences become much deeper.

Chair Normand thanked Dr. Kuh for such amazing detailed work.

B. CPPI Early Education Grant

C. Superintendent's Evaluation Plan

Dr. Ackman stated that per Somerville School Committee Policy GCO-R-3 and CBI and our legal obligation she is putting forth the frame work for the Superintendent's 2019 Evaluation. This year has been an exceptional one with the vote on Powder House taking up multiple meetings as well as numerous high-level hiring's that the district has had to undertake. That in conjunction with the fact that we are working on crafting new School Committee Goals in line with our emerging equity plan, means that this year we are going to evaluate the superintendent under the 4 DESE standards. The necessary artifacts to inform the evaluation are already posted in our Drop Box. Dr. Ackman will email out a copy of the rubric and asks that it be returned to her by Sunday June 2nd. The Plan is to conduct our evaluation at the regular meeting scheduled for June 10th.

Ms. Pitone asked if there was anything in the packet pertaining to this, making sure she didn't miss anything. She also asked if there is a recommendation to do the DESE standards, but not the School Committee goals and when the last time was the goals were done

To which Dr. Ackman responded, correct, and that the School Committee goals were done a year ago.

Ms. Pitone asked and if there would be a vote on this because it is a deviation from the normal process and policy.

Dr. Ackman responded that per the policy, which was amended on February of 2018, there is no need to vote the goals in.

Ms. Norman asked Dr. Curley to send the evaluation policy to the School Committee Members tomorrow.

Conversation ensued regarding when the goals will be revisited and the overall evaluation process.

D. MCAS Harmless Resolution

Ms. Palmer then introduced a motion to hold harmless the MCAS because of the recently publicized racist MCAS question.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Palmer, seconded by Dr. Ackman to approve the MCAS Harmless Resolution.

Dr. Ackman thanked Ms. Palmer for bringing this forward.

Mr. Futrell has a logistical question about the MCAS. In what sequence do the essays generally occur?

Ms. Palmer stated that Mr. Green worked on this resolution and enthusiastically supports it.

Ms. Pitone stated this is not ok and having this question on the test is not okay. DESE does have a bias and sensitivity committee that reviewed this question. What does the district think about this issue?

Ms. Skipper replied this likely affected a number of our 10th grade students. We don't know whether this would be a barrier to graduation, but there may be other unintended consequences from this such as scholarships.

Ms. O'Sullivan agreed the question was terrible, but I want some more time to think about the implication of this resolution.

Ms. Pitone said this resolution is to hold harmless. It doesn't mean that we couldn't use the data to evaluate the impact of the question.

Ms. Normand asked whether we could put this motion off for a week?

Ms. Skipper stated we have done a lot of work on historical narrative writing. There are a lot of different layers to this. She is hoping we get more from the department to illustrate that they are thinking about this more deeply.

Ms. Pitone appreciates that this has been brought forward and that we are being challenged by this.

Ms. Palmer is more than happy to receive amendments and table this for another week. Friendly amendments can be sent to Ms. Palmer.

E. Asthma Awareness Month Resolution

Dr. Ackman took the podium so Chair Normand could introduce this resolution.

Ms. Normand stated that this resolution was passed by the City Council last Thursday, it is Asthma awareness month and this resolution is in support of it. She said this is personal to her as one of her sons was asthmatic and many of her friends have been affected by asthma.

Ms. Normand then showed a video of an asthma public service advertisement.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Normand, seconded by Ms. Pitone for the School Committee to endorse the recently passed Asthma Awareness Month Resolution.

Motion approved via voice vote.

Ms. Pitone thanked Chair Normand for bringing this forward based on the tragic loss. Is the plan for this to be every May?

President Ballantyne offered to look into this.

Ms. Palmer thanked the chair for bringing this up. She supports it wholeheartedly. It is her understanding that there are significant racial disparities in the data of who is affected by asthma.

Chair Normand said this is a terrific example of the City Council and School Committee working together.

F. Field trips (Recommended action: approval)

May 18, 2019 – May 19, 2020

SHS Girls and Boys Ultimate Frisbee Team will travel to Northampton, MA for the Pioneer Valley Invitational Tournament. Transportation via SHS

June 5, 2019

mini-bus. Student cost \$0.

Grade 8 AFAS students will travel to Canobie Lake in Salem, NH. Transportation via bus. Student cost is \$25.

June 11, 2019

Grade 8 Kennedy School students will travel to Canobie Lake in Salem, NH. Transportation via bus. Student cost is \$20.

June 11, 2019

Grade 8 ESCS students will travel to Canobie Lake in Salem, NH. Transportation via school bus. Student cost is \$25.

June 12, 2019

Grade 8 Healey School students will travel to Canobie Lake in Salem, NH. Transportation via bus. Student cost is \$35.

MOTION: Motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Palmer to approve field trips.
Motion Approved via voice vote.

Ms. O’Sullivan asked about whether there will be fundraising for the National History Day trip.

Dr. Abeyta said the Healey friends and family is covering the transportation costs.

Ms. Pitone stated she will follow up with Friends of Healey. Right now, parents feel like they’re covering the \$615 per student. Will the district pay for the teachers?

Dr. Abeyta replied that we will cover half of the teacher costs.

G. 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
Telescope	Jeffrey Chagnon	Somerville, MA	\$150	SHS Science Department
2 Stylist Tool Kits	Jaclyn Sarmiento	Cambridge, MA	\$500	To be awarded to the 2 top Cosmetology Seniors of the 2019 Class
Monetary	Heather Boutet	Somerville, MA	\$125	SFLC Clothing Closet
Monetary	Christina Linkiater	Somerville, MA	\$100	Lunch Debt Donation
Monetary	A. Russo and Sons, Inc.	Watertown, MA	\$1,500	CTE- For Student Banquet Scholarships
Monetary	Irene Clasby	Nashua, NH	\$1,000	Library/Media Department

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Palmer seconded by Mr. Futrell to accept these donations with gratitude.
Motion approved via voice vote.

VIII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction: April 3, 2019 (Ms. O’Sullivan)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction of the Whole of April 3, 2019.

Tabled.

B. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: April 10, 2019 (Mr. Futrell)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole of April 10, 2019

Tabled.

C. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction: April 22, 2019 (Ms. O’Sullivan)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and

Instruction Committee of the Whole of April 22, 2019.

Tabled.

D. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: April 24, 2019 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole of April 24, 2019.

Tabled.

E. FY20 Budget Hearing: May 2, 2019 (Mr. Futrell)

On Thursday, May 2, the Finance & Facilities subcommittee of the whole convened at 6:06pm for the public hearing on the FY2020 budget of Somerville Public Schools. In attendance were myself, Ms. Normand, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Green, Ms. O'Sullivan, and Ms. Palmer. Additionally, approximately 23 staff and 19 members of the public were in attendance.

The Superintendent's budget recommends an increase from \$72,679,325 to \$76,257,481, representing new spending of \$3.5M or 4.92%.

The Superintendent's emphasis in building her budget this year, in addition to overall supporting our vision of educating the whole child, is focused on increasing equity, access, and opportunity for all students.

From a financial perspective, of the new spending represented in the FY20 budget, 79% (\$2.8M) is allocated to salaries, while 21% (0.7M) is allocated to non-salary expenses in operations, contracts, transportation, and out of district tuition, among other things. Notably, there are only 6 new FTEs added to the current staff, including an Equity Administrator, a Special Ed Integration Specialist in Theater Arts, a Dean of Students at Argenziano, an Educator Counselor at the East, a College and Career Advisor at SHS, and a Pre-K SPED Teacher for the ASD program at Winter Hill. Outside of these new positions, the majority of new spending in salaries is structured to support increases in pay to our bargaining units.

The district highlighted FY2019 successes, which include the district's leadership role in the By All Means initiative at Harvard's Education Redesign Lab and as a founding district of the MCIEA consortium, an investment in long term equity work within this committee as well as the district's administrative team, redesign of educational models for Next Wave/Full Circle, our pilot recycling and composting program, and the launch of the Somerville Learning 2030 Visioning process. In addition, the district's track record of success has garnered over \$2.9M in grant funds in support of preschool, mental and behavioral health services, and other planning initiatives.

The district reported increased graduation rates in the district overall (91.2% grad rate in 5 years from SHS) paired with a falling dropout rate. Additionally, suspension rates have fallen over the last 6 years from a peak of 3.9% out of school suspension to 2.1% in 2018. Attendance rates hover in the mid 94% and students largely report positive plans post-graduation, with 71.9% planning on a 2-year or 4-year college or some other post-secondary plans, and 24.7% planning to enter directly into the workforce.

Though this was not a highlight of the Superintendent's presentation, I noted that the demographics of our district are changing slowly. The number of students with a first language other than English has slowly been decreasing from 51% in 2013 when I first ran for School Committee to 48% in 2018. The state reports 21% first language not English. Students recorded with "high needs" has decreased from 75% to 60% over the same time period.

The district's proposed expenses show a per pupil expenditure that exceeds \$20,000 for the first time, at \$20,232 in FY2018, up almost \$800 per pupil from the year prior. This figure normally has a 1 year lag so this is the most recent data available. The district also reported an average class size of 19.0, and not exceeding an average of 20.5 students in any single grade.

Finally, the FY2020 budget includes shifted and new programmatic investment in innovation, out of school time, early education, special education, ELL programming, the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, Social-Emotional and Wellness Supports, and Educator Development. Visit somerville.k12.ma.us/finance to view the presentation and find more details.

Of the approximately 19 members of the public who attended and provided comment, there was advocacy in support of Groundworks Somerville, the snack program, additional resources for equity and cultural proficiency, family liaisons, and support for the college admissions process. Several of the items were already included in the administration's budget.

Lastly, we noted that the additional opportunities for discussion on this budget would be the Finance Committee of the Whole's deliberations on May 7 and May 21, as well as our full committee meetings tonight and on May 20.

We transitioned from the administration's presentation to public comment at 7:15pm, and adjourned at 7:50pm.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Dr. Ackman to approve the report for the May 2, 2019 FY2020 Budget Hearing.

Motion approved via voice vote.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Palmer: Directed members to a bill which would allow elected officials to pay for childcare during their service. Ms. Palmer will be testifying at state house this Wednesday. All members fully support this.

Ms. Normand: Mentioned the Mystic Learning Center fundraiser this Wednesday, May 15th.

Ms. Pitone: Would like plans on student representation on School Committee. Ms. Skipper said that Mr. LaGambina is working on helping to identify some new students.

Ms. Normand: student recently asked for interpretation at Somerville High Graduation.

VIII. CONDOLENCES

The Somerville School Committee would like to extend its deepest condolences to the family of Margaret Burke, Mother of Joe Burke, retired Somerville High School Teacher and House Master, who passed away on April 25, 2019.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Related Documents

Agenda
Early Childhood Presentation
MCAS Harmless Resolution
Asthma Awareness Month Resolution

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 13, 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. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A. CITATION OF RECOGNITION

- Alice Comack

III. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 1, 2019

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- Equity Policy Update

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

F. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction: April 3, 2019 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction of the Whole of April 3, 2019.

G. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: April 10, 2019 (Mr. Futrell)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole of April 10, 2019

H. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction: April 22, 2019 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole of April 22, 2019.

I. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: April 24, 2019 (Ms. O'Sullivan)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole of April 24, 2019.

J. FY20 Budget Hearing: May 2, 2019 (Mr. Futrell)

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Early Childhood Presentation

B. CPPI Early Education Grant

C. Superintendent's Evaluation Plan

D. MCAS Harmless Resolution

E. Asthma Awareness Month Resolution

F. Field Trips (Recommended action: approval)
May 18, 2019 – May 19, 2020

SHS Girls and Boys Ultimate Frisbee Team will travel to Northampton, MA for the Pioneer Valley Invitational Tournament. Transportation via SHS mini-bus. Student cost \$0.

June 9, 2019 – June 13, 2019

3 Students from the Healey school will travel to Washington D.C. for National History Day. Transportation via bus. Student cost is \$615.

June 5, 2019

Grade 8 AFAS students will travel to Canobie Lake in Salem, NH. Transportation via bus. Student cost is \$25.

June 11, 2019

Grade 8 Kennedy School students will travel to Canobie Lake in Salem, NH. Transportation via bus. Student cost is \$20.

June 11, 2019

Grade 8 ESCS students will travel to Canobie Lake in Salem, NH. Transportation via school bus. Student cost is \$25.

June 12, 2019

Grade 8 Healey School students will travel to Canobie Lake in Salem, NH. Transportation via bus. Student cost is \$35.

G. 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
Telescope	Jeffrey Chagnon	Somerville, MA	\$150	SHS Science Department
2 Stylist Tool Kits	Jaclyn Sarmento	Cambridge, MA	\$500	To be awarded to the 2 top Cosmetology Seniors of the 2019 Class
Monetary	Heather Boutet	Somerville, MA	\$125	SFLC Clothing Closet
Monetary	Christina Linkiater	Somerville, MA	\$100	Lunch Debt Donation
Monetary	A. Russo and Sons, Inc.	Watertown, MA	\$1,500	CTE- For Student Banquet Scholarships
Monetary	Irene Clasby	Nashua, NH	\$1,000	Library/Media Department

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

X. CONDOLENCES

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Somerville Early Education

READY TO LEARN, READY FOR K
SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION
MAY 13, 2019

School Committee Goal

Goal 5: Develop a comprehensive plan for Universal Kindergarten Readiness that supports intellectual, physical, and social/emotional growth from birth to Pre-K.

Mixed-Delivery System

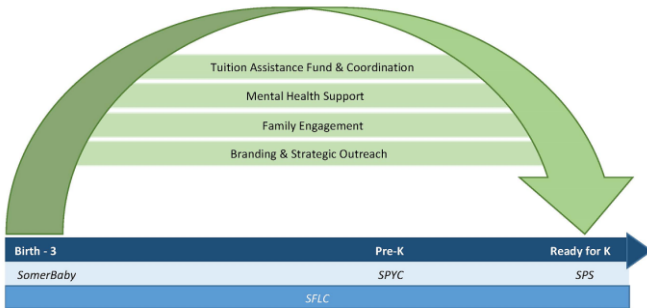
Services offered through a variety of programs and providers such as Head Start, licensed family and center-based childcare, public schools, and community-based organizations supported with a combination of public and private funding.

Voices for Virginia's Children (2016). Piece by Piece. Building on Early Learning Mixed-Delivery System in Virginia

To support expansion....a mixed delivery system, develops new educational opportunities in both public schools and early childhood programs in the community, a strategy that leverages the existing capacity, expertise, and public investments that support early learning and healthy development. Such a system has the potential to more rapidly expand the availability of high quality early education and also offers families a choice of preschool settings.

Center for Children's Initiatives, School Community Partnerships, Policy Brief 1 (2014). Community Level Challenges in Implementing a Mixed-Delivery System.

Historical Overview of Early Education in Somerville



Somerville Partnership for Young Children



Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative Grant Somerville Partnership for Young Children: Program Plan Elements		
QUALITY	COMPREHENSIVE WRAP-AROUND	ACCESS & OVERSIGHT
Coaching Support for Directors and Teachers	Screening: Early Screening Inventory (ESI), Ages & Stages (ASQ)	Somerville Partnership for Young Children (SPYC) Coordinator
Stipends for Directors and Teachers	Assessment: SPS Assessment Tools	Single Point of Entry Development
Development of Equitable Salary Scale	Itinerant Special Education Service Provider	Outreach and Awareness Marketing Campaign
Professional Development and Degree Attainment	Mental Health and Behavioral Consultation	Tuition Assistance for Families
Curriculum Alignment (Approach, Materials, Furnishings)	Family Engagement & Home Visiting	QRIS & CLASS, ECERS Data Analysis

Goals: Somerville Early Education for Somerville Families

- Equitable access for all children as early as possible – affordable, high quality early education options.
- Improve outreach and awareness of the importance of early education and care.
- Build a consortium of engaged, high quality partners and scale it in the community.
- Universal Kindergarten Readiness

Voices of Somerville Partners:

- Elevate the story of early childhood at the municipal level – the challenges and values.
- Coaches and other professionals support teachers, engaging with them in their environment.
- Working with EEC as a partner.

"Build an institutional infrastructure. Childcare centers are marginalized and we want to boost the system."



How the CPPI Grant Supports Our Goals

- Funding adds capacity via new positions: SPYC Coordinator, Alyssa Corrigan
- Additional instructional coach, SPED Service Provider
- Development of infrastructure to sustain efforts and system building supported by City Hall
- Technical assistance for systems development
- Outreach strategy to boost awareness of importance of early experiences and inform families of options
- Resources for our partners that will help them with overall quality, professional experiences, and QRIS attainment



Support teaching and learning through Early Education

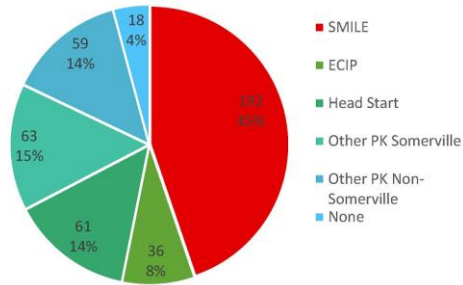
Supported by current budget:

- Continued rollout of Universal Kindergarten Readiness curriculum and assessment initiatives and materials
- 2 EC Instructional Coaches support 24+ SPS and center-based classrooms in mixed delivery model; delivered PD to 100+ SPS and center-based teachers
- Three Head Start classrooms within SPS that included afterschool programming by CS for full-day service
- Supported high school learning in CTE Early Education program
- Screened 270+ incoming preschoolers
- K Entry Skills Inventory (KESI) to support transitions to preschool and Kindergarten
- Materials and training for SPS Preschool Balanced Literacy curriculum developed in conjunction with Lectio Group (Nonie Lesaux and Kelly Kulrud)

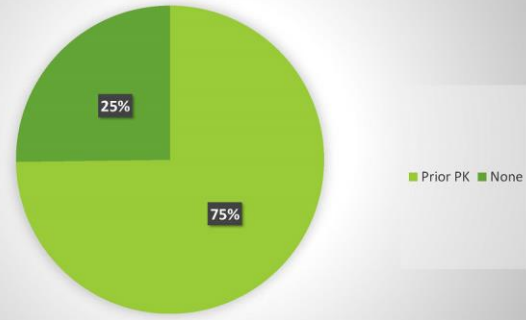
Hope to Support with FY20 Budget request:

- CPPI grant builds infrastructure for access to high quality Early Childhood programming in partnership with local childcare centers
- BU Grant supports teacher documentation of student learning and reflective practices
- Summer Explore Grant supports expansion of summer program to full day
- Development of high-quality curriculum with focus on Balanced Literacy and Montessori-inspired practices
- Anti-Bias Education focus to support culturally responsive teaching approaches
- Maintain screening of incoming preschoolers for early identification of support services and in-classroom supports
- Maintain implementation of KESI to support transitions to preschool and Kindergarten

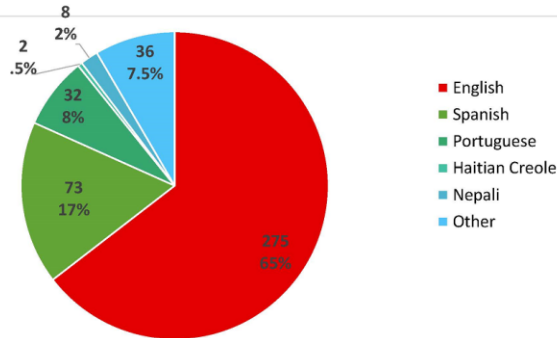
Preschool Experience Prior to Kindergarten



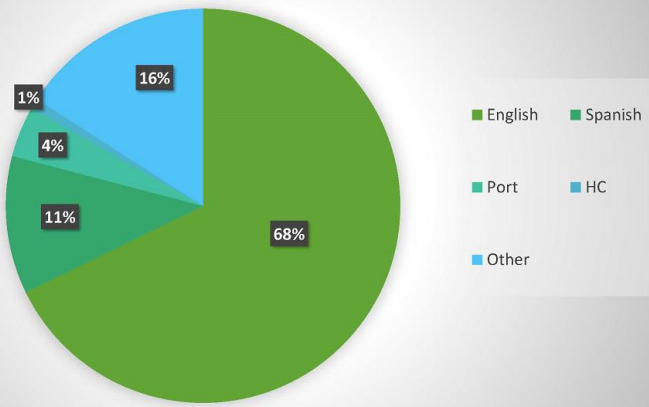
Experience Prior to Preschool



Home Language - Kindergarten



Home Language - Preschool



SPS PreK

232 preschool seats.

This year registration up slightly 248 in first batch.

- 2 CAAS Head Start classrooms at Capuano brings us to 268 in our buildings
- Does not include ECIP (16 community peers)
- Approx. 500-600 4 year olds city-wide K 2019-2020 426

Only 4-5% coming with no program.

14% from centers outside our realm of influence

More outreach and awareness needed

Families need care until 5:30

Enrollment alignment with afterschool programming still an issue for families.

Essential Practices & Strategies	Domain(s)	Dosage & Duration	Outcomes Children will ...
Oral Language and Concept Development <i>Read Alouds</i> <i>CROWD Strategies</i> <i>Meeting and Small Group Interactions</i> <i>Vocabulary & Concept Development</i>	Oral Language and Vocabulary Book Knowledge	• Read Alouds at least 1x daily, 10-20 minutes	Develop expressive and receptive language skills to ask questions, share ideas and concepts, use of rich vocabulary, and conventions of speech. Appreciate books and stories. Understand that pictures and words convey meaning.
Fine Motor, Drawing, and Writing <i>Fine Motor & Writing Center (Math, Science, Art, Sensory Areas)</i> <i>Writing Center & Fine Motor Guides</i> <i>Handwriting Without Tears</i>	Physical Development & the Mechanics of Writing Print Concepts	• Daily access & practice via centers and shelf work (minimum 60 mins/day) • 2-3x week small group with teacher	Develop hand strength, bilateral coordination, and the ability to cross the midline. Properly hold and use a variety of mark-making tools. Develop dexterity, fine motor control, grip, and coordination to draw and write with detail and accuracy.
Expressive and Written Language <i>Journaing Guide</i> <i>Story Book Acting</i> <i>Story Telling Story Acting</i> <i>Message Center</i> <i>Environmental Print</i>	Writing - Text Types and Purposes Print Concepts	• Daily access & practice via centers and shelf work (minimum 60 mins/day) • Journal: 1x week minimum • STSA 1-3x week	Use own words or illustrations to describe experiences, tell stories, and communicate information. Understand and access written symbols, print, in the environment.
Phonological and Phonic Awareness <i>Songs & Chants</i> <i>Montessori Literacy Practices (I-Spy, Sandpaper Letters, Sound Drawers)</i> <i>Alphachants</i>	Phonological Awareness Phonics and Word Recognition	• 2-4x week small group with teacher • Daily Practice via meeting time • Daily access & practice via centers and shelf work (minimum 60 mins/day)	Orally discriminate and identify sounds, rhymes, syllable segmentation. Visually discriminate and identify letters & sounds. Understand that written words are made up of individual letters and sounds.



Working with BIG IDEAS
In-depth Studies based on BIG IDEAS
(Project Approach)

- Animals are living things and some grow in an egg.
- Birds have feathers and can fly, but some cannot.



Force is required to put an object in motion
Things move with pushes and pulls.
Things change speed. Things change direction.

Early Childhood Instructional Coaching

- 2 coaches (Valerie Giltinan & Heidi Given)
- 2 9-10 week cycles
- 28+ teachers
- 20+ Professional Development Sessions
- In-classroom support
- Impacting 400+ children



Environments Matter

- Montessori-inspired practices to support independence, competence, and confidence.
- Accessible, compelling materials linked to curriculum objectives.



Next Steps

- Develop outreach and awareness campaign and strategies. Universal and Targeted.
- Work with SomerPromise, Out of School Time, Health and Human Services to support positions and infrastructure.
- Coordinate efforts with partners to implement CPPI systems such as
 - Single Point of Entry
 - Tuition Assistance
 - Workforce Development
 - Curriculum Alignment and Quality through Coaching and Professional Development
- Continue curriculum development in Balanced Literacy, Math, Science, Anti-Bias Education & Equity
- KESI and PK Report Card Data

Questions



RESOLUTION TO HOLD HARMLESS 2019 10th GRADE MCAS

DUE TO RACIST QUESTION

WHEREAS the graduation requirement makes the tenth grade MCAS exam one of the highest stakes exams most Massachusetts students take; and

WHEREAS teachers, families, and schools all invest time and resources to give students the best possible chance at success on the exam; and

WHEREAS, the recent 10th grade MCAS English exam contained an essay that required students to write a journal entry from the perspective of an openly racist character; and

WHEREAS, DESE was unable to defend the question, quickly moving to not have it count, and

WHEREAS, we only discovered this because students had the courage to violate the rules about discussing specific MCAS questions, and

WHEREAS, research shows that exposure to negative stereotypes can have a negative impact on student performance, and

WHEREAS, the impact of the racist question on performance cannot be quantified;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it:

RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee calls on DESE to exempt students who took the test with the rejected question from the graduation exam requirement; AND FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee calls for DESE to immediately implement a policy of releasing old MCAS questions, so that there can be transparency to prevent such egregious errors in the future; AND

THAT: a copy of this resolution be delivered to DESE, the Governor and the Somerville state and local legislative delegations, and otherwise widely distributed.

VOTED:

DATE:

BY THE: Somerville School Committee

ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH RESOLUTION LANGUAGE

- WHEREAS, Asthma has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, affecting an estimated 25.9 million people; and
- WHEREAS, Asthma is a long-term, inflammatory, and potentially life-threatening disease in which the airways of the lungs constrict, causing wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing; and
- WHEREAS, Asthma is one of the leading causes of childhood hospitalizations, long-term illness, and school absenteeism, accounting for nearly 10.5 million missed school days each year; and
- WHEREAS, In 2017, 352 Somerville Public School students had an asthma diagnosis, representing 7.1% percent of the District's students; and
- WHEREAS, The Community of Somerville grieves the loss of two beloved young people from asthma attacks in the fall of 2016, Laura Levis at age 34 and Jahmai Furtado-Cooper at age 10, just as we mourn any asthma-related loss of life in Somerville that may not be known to us; and
- WHEREAS, Our community seeks to do all it can to prevent another tragedy; and
- WHEREAS, 10 people die each day of asthma in our country; and
- WHEREAS, Each year nearly 2 million people are rushed to the emergency room from asthma; and
- WHEREAS, exposure to highway pollutants can cause or aggravate asthma, and many Somerville residents live close to major highway traffic; and
- WHEREAS, Asthma, as a disease is unpredictable and each attack can differ from any other, in some cases leaving only minutes for a patient to receive life-saving medical care, thus requiring awareness of the possibility of severity from first responders, family, friends, caregivers, neighbors, and the patients themselves; and
- WHEREAS, The Community of Somerville seeks to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every resident and will continue to pursue and promote public education, reduction of exposure to asthma causes and triggers, and adoption of emerging practices in rapid first response; **NOW, THEREFORE**

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and the Somerville City Council hereby proclaim
May 2019 Asthma Awareness Month in Somerville, Massachusetts.