

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, June 17, 2019 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent: Ms. Normand, President Ballantyne and Mayor Curtatone.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Ackman 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.

Dr. Ackman asked Superintendent Skipper to call the roll, results of which were as follows: PRESENT – 6 – Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Green, Ms. O’Sullivan and ABSENT – 3 – Ms. Normand, President Ballantyne and Mayor Curtatone

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A. Recognition of Service

- Jackie Lawrence

Dr. Ackman shared an Award of Special Recognition to Jackie Lawrence for her 10 years of service as Somerville Teacher’s Association Union President.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 22, 2019
- May 13, 2019
- May 20, 2019
- June 10, 2019

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to approve minutes from April 22, 2019, May 13, 2019, May 20, 2019 and June 10, 2019.

Motion approved via voice vote.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- New Administrative Staff

Ms. Skipper opened the meeting by introducing new staff, starting with Nicole Viele, as Assistant Principal at Somerville High School.

She introduced John Braga, as the new Assistant Principal for the Argenziano. He comes fluent in Portuguese and brings a student-centered education from Boston Public Schools. Mr. Braga spent a lot of time in Somerville growing up.

Ms. Skipper then introduce Courtney Gosselin as the new Interim Principal for the Winter Hill School. She taught in Salem for 14 years as a Spanish teacher. Ms. Gosselin thanked Principal Mazza for his support. She’s looking forward to growing the AIM program for autistic students and Sheltered English Immersion Program for newcomers.

Superintendent Skipper introduced Dr. Mary Ellen Cobbs as the new Principal of the Healey School; she comes from a Horrace Mann school in the Boston Public Schools for 10 years; she spent two years in Chelsea Public Schools.

With Nicole moving into the Assistant Principal role, we knew we had big shoes to fill. Stan Vieira, new district Athletic Director, was most recently the Athletic Director in Arlington.

Ms. Skipper then introduced Liz Doncaster as the Interim Director of Student Service.

With the departure of Almi Abeyta, Chad Mazza joins us as Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Chad thanked and congratulated Courtney for taking over as principal of Winter Hill Community Innovation School and thanked the Superintendent for believing in him.

Superintendent Skipper then talked about how when she arrived at SPS, she wondered about the relationship with the union. She recognized Jackie Lawrence for her work as the head of the Somerville Teachers Association. Jackie spoke next to say she came to Somerville 31 years ago; Somerville has been her second home.

Dr. Ackman then shared an Award of Special Recognition with Jackie Lawrence.

Ms. Skipper then turned to Dr. Abeyta and thanked her for her service to Somerville. Dr. Abeyta shared that she's learned so much from Ms. Skipper.

Mr. Green spoke about the strength of our partnership with the Somerville Teachers Association. He thanked Jackie Lawrence for her focus on students.

Dr. Ackman mentioned that she has done work in Chelsea Public Schools and is excited to see what Dr. Abeyta will do there.

The meeting broke for a brief recess at 7:30 pm. The meeting came back to order at 7:42 pm.

Ms. Skipper then turned to her report.

Superintendent's Notes: *School Committee Meeting - Monday, June 17, 2019*

Congratulations to Healey School 7th graders, now rising 8th graders, Avery Cole, Ruthanne Kern, and Lily Thompson for an outstanding performance at the **National History Day competition** in Washington, DC last week. The trio competed in the junior group performance category, performing a 10-minute play titled "Friendship between the Pages: The Story of Abigail Adams and Mercy Otis Warren". The students took first place at both the regional and state competitions to advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C. While the group did not place at the DC competition, they represented the Somerville community extremely well, and are already planning for next year's regional contest, determined to make a return to the national competition in 2020! Congratulations to Avery, Ruthanne, and Lily, as well as their outstanding teacher Dayshawn Simmons for a great showing!

Congratulations also to our **2019 SCALE Graduates and awardees**. Last Wednesday evening, June 12th, the Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences celebrated the presentation of ELL Awards, HiSET Certificates, and ADP Diplomas at a very moving ceremony held at the East Somerville Community School Auditorium. Congratulations, SCALE graduates and awardees. We applaud your determination and perseverance, and wish you much continued success.

As you know, the **Somerville High School building project** progresses is in full swing, with renovation work on the Atrium wing of the existing building going well and the foundation of the new building beginning to take shape. In preparation for an intense year of building, we are relocating many of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to the Edgerly Education Building in east Somerville for the 2019-2020 school year. This summer, we will be retrofitting classrooms on the 1st and 2nd floor of the Edgerly so that they are ready for SHS student use at the start of the new school year. We will also temporarily be relocating the Somerville Childcare Center from the Edgerly to the Capuano. I want to extend a sincere thank you to Leo DeSimone and the CTE staff for their incredibly positive attitude and commitment to maintaining the high teaching and learning standards during the transitions that this project has and will require. Thanks also to Tricia Kennedy and her team at the Somerville Childcare Center, for their flexibility. We are excited about the upcoming moves, and even more excited about the ultimate outcome of this work. Stay up-to-date with the project by visiting the building project website at www.somervillema.gov/highschool. You can click on the camera feed link to see the progress through the coming months.

A special thanks to the **Somerville Education Foundation** and the Somerville Chamber of Commerce for their commitment to supporting quality summer learning in our community. Thanks to their efforts and the generous support of at least 70 donors to date, SEF will be donating nearly \$30,000 to four community organizations (Center

for Arts at the Armory, Parts and Crafts, Mystic Learning Center, and the Somerville Media Center) to support summer programming for Somerville youth.

Speaking of summer programming, please visit the Somerville Hub (www.somervillehub.org) or the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families) websites and view or download the **Somerville Summer Guide** to learn about the many summer programs available to kids throughout the Somerville community. We look forward to having many of your kids in our programs this summer, and hope students stay active and curious throughout the coming summer months.

Finally, don't forget that starting July 1st, all Somerville kids under the age of 19 can enjoy **free breakfast and/or lunch** this summer, Mondays-Fridays, courtesy of our Food & Nutrition Services Department and the Somerville Recreation Department. Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/summer-meals-program for a list of locations and times.

VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: April 24, 2019

(Mr. Futrell)

Mr. Futrell read the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole of April 24, 2019

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Ms. Palmer to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of April 24, 2019.

Motion approved via voice vote.

B. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: May 21, 2019

(Mr. Futrell)

Mr. Futrell read the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole of May 21, 2019

Mr. Green prefers the terminology mental products, rather than feminine hygiene.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole of May 21, 2019

Motion approved via voice vote.

C. School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction: May 21, 2019 (Ms.

O'Sullivan)

Education Programs & Instruction - Meeting Minutes - May 21, 2019

The Education Programs & Instruction Subcommittee held a meeting on May 21, 2019. Subcommittee members in attendance were Paula G. O'Sullivan, Emily Ackman and Laura Pitone. Participating district staff included Superintendent Mary Skipper, Assistant Superintendent Almi Abeyta, Winter Hill principal Chad Mazza, Kennedy teacher Lindsey Tosches and Innovation Specialist Jason Behrens. Ms. O'Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:09pm. There was one topic on the agenda, an update on innovation within the district and on the work of the district Innovation Specialist.

Ms. Tosches, the "STEAM/Innovation" teacher at the Kennedy, began with a presentation on the last four years of STEAM initiatives and innovation at the school. The work was prompted by a request for more science in the classrooms from the School Improvement Council, and has grown to a multi-year collaboration with Lesley University, with nearly all teachers involved in some way. The initiative connects hands-on maker projects with mindfulness, growth mindset, and resilience, and is almost entirely curriculum based, in all content areas. After-school clubs in the makerspace are run with parent volunteers providing support. Literacy Maker Nights have been big hits with parents. This year, the school created a STEAM/Innovation position, held by Ms. Tosches. She works with grades 1-5, seeing each grade once per week, and also works with some of the SEEK classrooms. Staff have presented their work at professional conferences, and those interested can follow them on Instagram at Kennedy makerspace. Ms. Tosches attributes the initiative's success to several factors, including teachers providing PD on

their work, and Principal Hurrie encouraging teachers to take risks in their classrooms.

Next, Innovation Specialist Jason Behrens shared several examples of other innovative work around the district, such as a robotics team at Winter Hill that grew out of a small group of students interested in robotics and computers, Fabville working within the Healey for a few months, and the BioBus, a biology lab on wheels that travels to schools. Ongoing district initiatives include 1:1 Learning, digital literacy and computer science, and several non-profit partnerships to support the work. Mr. Behrens identified keys to scaling impactful innovation, such as flexible PD options, coaching, community expert partnerships, and most importantly, student and teacher representation and voice. He's developing a three-year plan to scale up this work, anticipated to be released this fall.

After the presentations, Emily Ackman made a motion, seconded by Laura Pitone, to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meetings on April 3, 2019 and April 22, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Dr. Ackman appreciates that the Superintendent had the Innovation Specialist present.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. O'Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction of May 21, 2019.

Motion approved via voice vote.

D. School Committee Meeting for Rules Management: June 10, 2019 (Ms. Palmer)

Rules 6/10/19 Subcommittee Report

Called to order 6:11pm

Attendees: Lee Palmer, Dan Futrell, Jeff Curley, Mary Skipper, Nicole Viele (Director of Athletics)

Agenda

Review of policies

1) Online Fundraising – File FBEBD

New policy approved unanimously based on prior deliberation last fall and language having been reviewed by Attorney Long and approved.

2) Homeschool Student Participation in Out of School Activities

District has previously communicated to our homeschool families (37 currently in the district) that they can participate in district after school activities if space permits. Discussion about extending this opportunity for home school students to participate in SPS sports. Committee agreed to have the district survey the current home school families to gauge interest and impact on our sports programs. General consensus was that we'd like to invite home school families' participation in SPS sports, space permitting (i.e. they wouldn't bump current SPS students from opportunities to play on specific teams but there are teams that are generally underenrolled where it wouldn't likely be an issue to have home school students join). Dir. of Athletics/admin will get us specific policy language to review at a future meeting.

3) Life Threatening Allergies

New policy drafted by head of nursing to create protocols for increasing awareness and safety for student with life threatening allergies. Committee supports the administration in the creation of this new policy (to help save

students’ lives) and will look to approve the policy language once it’s cleaned up at our next meeting.

Quick brainstorm of Rules agenda for fall 2019:

- Harassment policies review/update from administration
- Life threatening allergies policy
- Home school student out of school time activities
- Health curriculum update/policy implications
- Recess
- Revisit new homework policy in light of bargaining over impact

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Ms. Pitone asked if we allow homeschool students to participate in after school programs. Ms. Skipper responded that we have allowed this, space permitting, for the last two years.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Palmer, seconded by Mr. Green, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Rules Management of June 10, 2019.

Motion approved via voice vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policy is being presented this evening for first reading, as amended:

- File GBEED: Online Fundraising and Solicitations – Crowdfunding

Ms. Palmer introduced the GBEED Online Fundraising policy. This was recommended by MASC in the Fall of 2019.

B. Somerville’s Welcoming Ordinance

C. 2019 Somerville High School Graduate – (Recommended action: approval)

- Nolan Roche Somerville, MA

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to approve the above requested Somerville High School Diploma.

Motion approved via voice vote.

D. FY19 SCALE/ADP Diploma Request – (Recommended action: approval)

- Michelle Marie Furtado Somerville, MA

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the above requested ADP Diploma.

Motion approved via voice vote.

E. Field trips (Recommended action: approval)

August 23, 2019 – August 26, 2019

The SHS Football teams and the Boys and Girls Soccer teams will visit Cape Cod Sea Camp for the Fall preseason. Transportation via bus. Student cost is \$100.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve this field trip.

Motion approved via voice vote.

F. 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

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell seconded by Ms. Pitone to accept these donations with gratitude.

Motion approved via voice vote.

G. Participation in National School Lunch and Breakfast Program

The Superintendent of Schools recommending that the School Committee vote to participate in the national School Lunch and Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services for the 2019-2020 school year, as in previous years.

MOTION: Motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve participation in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program.

Motion approved via voice vote.

H. Student Accident Insurance – (Recommended Action: Receive and place on file)

The Superintendent advising that the contract for Student Accident Insurance for the 2019-2020 school year has been renewed with Moran Insurance Agency, 23 Spruce St., Suite B, Malden MA 02148 at the following rates:

Plan A – Student Insurance

Premium:	School Time	\$7.50
Premium:	24-Hour Coverage	\$49.00
Dental:	Extended	\$10.00

Plan B – ALL-SPORTS, SHOP AND LAB COVERAGE

Premium:	Gold Plan	\$5,835.00
	Catastrophic Cash Benefit	\$1,039.50

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the renewal of the Student Accident Insurance for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion approved via voice vote.

I. Authorization for Summer Months – (Recommended Action: Approval)

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to Authorize the Superintendent to act on the School Committee's behalf to:

- a. Pay bills on school department accounts for which commitments have been made by bid or purchase order before the close of schools, said bills to be ratified by the committee at the first meeting in September.
- b. Expend from FY2020 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel under all federal grants beginning in September.
- c. Expend from the FY20 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel as detailed in the FY19 Budget.
- d. Use Salaries Account and School Operations Account funds to pay encumbrances and salaries for summer programs.
- e. Authorize and/or reauthorize school department revolving accounts. To accept all monies received by the School Committee in connection with the conduct of said revolving accounts according to the purposes of the program or programs from which receipts in each account were derived.
- f. Accept all state and federal grant monies awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Early Education and care and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal.

Motion approved via voice vote.

J. Acceptance of FY2020 Grant Funds

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Futrell, seconded by Mr. Green, to accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools during FY20 and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal.

Motion approved via voice vote.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone: Hoping to expand student voice and representation in the near future.

Ms. Futrell: submitted to the Elections department that he will be resigning August 31, 2019. He shared this letter with School Committee and strongly recommends that members appoint the one person currently running in Ward 2. Our policy says that this body appoints any vacancies.

Mr. Green asked the Chair to clarify when the process of replacing the resigning member can begin.

Dr. Ackman responded that the body would consult our legal counsel.

Ms. Skipper: Through their diligence, our Food and Nutrition Services has qualified Somerville High School as a CEP program so all students can eat school lunch free, without food applications.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Related Documents

Agenda

File GBEBD: Online Fundraising and Solicitations - Crowdfunding

August 23, 2019 – August 26, 2019

The SHS Football teams and the Boys and Girls Soccer teams will visit Cape Cod Sea Camp for the Fall preseason. Transportation via bus. Student cost is \$100.

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
Monetary	Bruce Johnson	Medford, MA	\$450	Capuano ECC

H. Participation in National School Lunch and Breakfast Program

The Superintendent of Schools recommending that the School Committee vote to participate in the national School Lunch and Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services for the 2019-2020 school year, as in previous years.

I. Student Accident Insurance - (Recommended Action: Receive and place on file)

The Superintendent advising that the contract for Student Accident Insurance for the 2019-2020 school year has been renewed with Moran Insurance Agency, 23 Spruce St., Suite B, Malden MA 02148 at the following rates:

Plan A – Student Insurance

Premium:	School Time	\$7.50
Premium:	24-Hour Coverage	\$49.00
Dental:	Extended	\$10.00

Plan B – ALL-SPORTS, SHOP AND LAB COVERAGE

Premium:	Gold Plan	\$5,835.00
	Catastrophic Cash Benefit	\$1,039.50

J. Authorization for Summer Months – (Recommended Action: Approval)

MOTION: Motion to authorize the Superintendent to act on the School Committee's behalf to:

- a. Pay bills on school department accounts for which commitments have been made by bid or purchase order before the close of schools, said bills to be ratified by the committee at the first meeting in September.
- b. Expend from FY2020 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel under all federal grants beginning in September.
- c. Expend from the FY20 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel as detailed in the FY19 Budget.
- d. Use Salaries Account and School Operations Account funds to pay encumbrances and salaries for summer programs.
- e. Authorize and/or reauthorize school department revolving accounts. To accept all monies received by the School Committee in connection with the conduct of said revolving accounts according to the purposes of the program or programs from which receipts in each account were derived.
- f. Accept all state and federal grant monies awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Early Education and care and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal.

I. Acceptance of FY2020 Grant Funds

MOTION: To accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools during FY20 and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

VIII. CONDOLENCES

IX. ADJOURNMENT

File: GBEBD - ONLINE FUNDRAISING AND SOLICITATIONS - CROWDFUNDING

School District employees shall comply with all of the following provisions relating to online solicitations and the use of crowdfunding services for school-related purposes as well as all applicable laws, regulations and district policies. No online fundraising may occur except as provided below.

The Superintendent or Finance Director shall have final authority to approve any online fundraising activities by school district employees and shall determine and communicate to Principals the circumstances under which online fundraising proposals shall require Superintendent or School Committee approval in accordance with law and school district policy ([KCD](#)). The Principal of each school shall approve all online fundraising activities within their buildings prior to any employee posting any such fundraising solicitation.

Any solicitation shall be for educational purposes only (field trips, supplies, supplemental materials, books, etc.). The solicitation of personal items (coats, nutritional snacks, etc.) shall only be to benefit students directly. To the extent an employee solicits any technology or software, the employee shall secure the prior written approval of the Director of Technology or designee prior to any such solicitation. Any employee seeking to display or post a photograph of a student in conjunction with a fundraising solicitation must first secure the written consent of the student's parent or guardian.

Employees shall not use a crowdfunding source, or set up their appeal in such a way, that they are asking for donations directly from people over whom the employee making the request has authority, or with whom the public employee is having official dealings.

Employees may only use crowdfunding services that send the items or proceeds solicited by the employee directly to the employee's school or to the school district. Employees must verify under the crowdfunding service's terms and conditions that they meet all requirements for such solicitation. Items or proceeds directly sent to employees are considered gifts to the employee and may result in violation of state ethics laws.

If an employee's proposal is approved by the crowdfunding service, the employee agrees to use the donated materials solely as stated in the employee's proposal. If a solicitation is not fully funded within the time period required by the crowdfunding service, or the solicitation cannot be concluded for any reason, the donation(s) will not be returned and will otherwise be used for educational purposes at the principal's discretion. Donations unable to be returned shall only be used as account credits for future solicitations.

Unless otherwise approved by the Superintendent in writing, all goods and/or proceeds solicited and received through any online solicitation shall become the property of the School Committee, and not of the individual employee who solicited the item(s) or funds. The employee is prohibited from taking any such item(s) or funds to another school or location, without the Superintendent's written approval. All donors will be made aware of this policy in the solicitation of funds.

LEGAL REFS: MGL [44:53A](#); [71:37A](#); [268A:3](#); [268A:23](#);

Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion EC-COI-12-1;

CROSS REFS: [GBEA](#), Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest;

[GBEBC](#), Gifts To and Solicitations by Staff;

[KCD](#), Public Gifts to Schools

SOURCE: MASC February 2018

NOTE: Crowdfunding services are defined as any online service used for the solicitation of goods, services, or money from a large number of people via the internet or other electronic network. Examples include GoFundme, Kickstarter, Indiegogo, YouCaring, and DonorsChoose.