

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE DESIGN FOR ALL SOMERVILLE SCHOOL
BUILDINGS AND SCHOOLYARDS**

- WHEREAS,** Inclusive design is a proactive approach that ensures the built environment is welcoming, usable, and accessible to all people, and that inherently supports physical, personal, and social-emotional safety, regardless of physical, cognitive, sensory, social-emotional, or developmental differences; and
- WHEREAS,** School buildings and schoolyards must serve and support a diverse student population, including multilingual learners and students with disabilities and varied developmental needs, with inclusive, responsive, and accessible spaces that go beyond simple compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and
- WHEREAS,** Students with and without disabilities mutually benefit from shared spaces that enable safe interactions and participation; and
- WHEREAS,** Both indoor educational spaces and outdoor play environments are essential for child development across all ages and abilities; and
- WHEREAS,** Inclusive school design affirms every child’s right to fully and meaningfully participate in all aspects of school life and contributes to broader goals of safety and instilling confidence, self-worth, and community belonging; and
- WHEREAS,** The project to replace the Winter Hill School building and the planned schoolyard redevelopment project at the Kennedy School represent meaningful progress in inclusive design practices in Somerville;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

- RESOLVED:** That the Somerville School Committee strongly recommends that all future Somerville school building and schoolyard projects incorporate inclusive design principles and features to the maximum extent practicable, including explicit consideration of physical, personal, and social-emotional safety;
- RESOLVED:** That the Somerville School Committee encourages all relevant City departments, committees, and commissions—including the Mayor’s Office; Somerville Public Schools (SPS); School Building Committee; Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC); Commission for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD); and the Departments of Public Space and Urban Forestry (PSUF), Racial and Social Justice (RSJ), and Infrastructure and Asset Management (IAM)—to collaborate fully in all school and schoolyard building projects with inclusion as a central design principle;
- RESOLVED:** That copies of this resolution shall be shared with the entities listed above to support coordinated implementation and mutual accountability;
- RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent will provide updates to the School Committee as needed about the coordination of inclusive school building and schoolyard design projects.

Vote: For - 7 | Against - 0 | Not Present - 1 | Recused - Mayor Wilson

Date: May the 4th, 2026

By: Somerville School Committee