

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, April 24, 2023 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – City Hall Chambers

Members present: Ms. Krepchin, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Barish, Ms. Dion, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone and Dr. Phillips.

Members Absent: Mayor Ballantyne and President Ewen-Campen.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Green asked Interim Superintendent Curley to call the roll, results of which were as follows: **PRESENT** – 7 – Dr. Phillips, Ms. Krepchin, Chair Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman and Ms. Dion. **ABSENT** – 2 - President Ewen-Campen and Mayor Ballantyne.

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Erika Garcia - Spanish

Ben Cruz - Portuguese

Gina Miranda - Haitian Creole

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

There were no Student Representatives present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 27, 2023
- March 6, 2023

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Barish, to approve the School Committee minutes of February 27, 2023 and March 6, 2023.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Green read the public comment regulations and asked those who signed up, to comment at this time.

Emily Hickey commented against the common planning time proposal, she is not in favor of adding time for instructional planning.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- Winter Hill Community Innovation School – School Improvement (Ms. Gosselin)

Dr. Curley introduced Principal Gosselin to share her [Winter Hill Community Innovation School Improvement Plan](#).

Following the presentation members made comments and asked questions.

Comments/ Questions

Superintendent Dr. Curley thanked Principal Gosselin and Assistant Principal Ames for all the work they have put into putting together this presentation. All the details that were included in this presentation are clearly shown and could be used as a template for future presentations.

Ms. Pitone thanked Ms. Gosselin for her comprehensive report and asked a question in regards to older students and literacy and programming that may be available to help with this area. Ms. Gosselin responded that one of the programs that worked very well was the Citizen School Program; our peers worked with our older students, went into their classrooms and helped them in areas where they needed support. We are always open to other programs; however, our focus is more on the work that happens during the school day.

Dr. Curley added that there would be a broader presentation on Out of School Time at the next meeting. The district has been working on partnerships with companies like Springboard to move forward.

Chair Green really appreciates Principal Gosselin's approach and strategies to move forward for growth. Ms. Gosselin said her focus is for all students at her school to be able to achieve like other students across the district.

Ms. Dion wondered how students are selected to be part of a program. Ms. Gosselin said they put it out there for any student who wants to participate; the student support team also identifies which students could benefit from such programs.

Dr. Phillips directed a question to Dr. Boston Davis and asked about what opportunities principals may have to work together on school improvement plans. Dr. Boston Davis responded that discussions and feedback were done during principal meetings; principals may have worked together or on their own. She added that this is something that the administration has discussed to put into planning for next year. Dr. Boston Davis added some examples of ways Principals are beginning to collaborate around best practices for next year, like the learning walks. There is planning for a PD on how to support principals.

Dr. Ackman commented on the inclusion of more literacy in the goals, she understands this speaks to the school population and appreciates it.

Ms. Dion was very impressed by the literacy growth in the lower grades and asked what the success plan is for the LTEL students. Ms. Gosselin responded that any student who does not make 1-year plan growth goes to LTEL.

Ms. Barish asked about students who transition and what supports remain for them once the transition occurs. Ms. Gosselin explained that once the school identifies student progress, they identify where supports are needed and monitor the student progress.

With the conditions of the current building, Dr. Phillips wondered if they could make it to another 4 years. She commented that SC should be advocating in the mean time to make things better for everyone in the WHCIS community. Ms. Gosselin responded that conditions in their building are stressful, especially now that they are adding three new AIM classrooms next year. There are two constraints that she sees; the actual physical space and that they service two high needs programs, the Newcomers Program and the AIMs Program. These students require high levels of support. Next year the WHCIS will have 16 homerooms that will be high needs programs and 21 general education homerooms. The Winter Hill's ability to support two very high needs programs long term is very concerning.

Dr. Curley added that this is the last year we can afford possible growth in the Winter Hill and have started looking at additional space; Saint Ann's will not be an option. This is an urgent priority for the district and we need to have a plan by next year for any possibility that we would need additional space.

- School Improvement Plan Memos: Capuano, ESCS, JFK, and SHS (Dr. Boston Davis and Ms. Eligene)

Dr. Boston Davis introduced Ms. Sam Eligene to speak to the School improvement Plan memos included in the packet from the schools who will not submit full PowerPoint presentations this year.

Ms. Eligene talked about the memos included and what criteria was provided to principals:

- Asked Principals to look at their previous School Improvement Plan pre-pandemic.
- Set three areas of context to set goals for next year.
- Worked collaborative with a school team and SIP counsel to identify areas of improvement.
- Were asked to set goals that were achievable and actionable.

Questions/ Comments

Ms. Dion asked how it was decided which schools would present? Ms. Eligene explained that five of the School Principals are new principals this year, which are the schools who have provided the memos. The other five Principals kicked off the return of the School Improvement Plans with their presentations.

Dr. Ackman asked if there is a plan in place to support the new principals presenting next year. Dr. Boston Davis responded that they are working on ways to creatively support all principals but specifically new principals be it through coaching or PD's.

Chair Green announced that if members have questions they should contact Ms. Eligene and the specific school principals.

Dr. Curley then delivered what remained of his district report.

Notes-Superintendent's Update: *School Committee Mtg – Monday, April 24, 2023*

Welcome back from what I hope was a relaxing and restorative April break. We are heading into the home stretch with just 8 weeks left in the school year. This is always an inspiring time of year. In the coming weeks, you will hear about a number of events and celebrations to highlight the outstanding work that our students and staff have been doing throughout the year. We invite you to join us in celebrating them and their accomplishments as events come up. As you will hear tonight, we have a lot to celebrate.

SHS Students Shine at National History Day Competitions

Congratulations to Somerville High School students Adwoa Ampene and Ruthanna Kern for their outstanding performances at the Regional and State National History Day Showcases. At the Regional competition, Adwoa won in the Senior Individual Exhibit category with her work titled *"Nobody's Free until Everybody's Free: How Fannie Lou Hamer United Women."* Ruthana took the top prize in the Senior Individual Performance category for her piece, *"Broken: The Treaties of Fort Laramie and the Myth of the Frontier."* Both students advanced to the State competition held earlier this month, where Ruthana earned a Gold Medal to move on to the National competition in June, which will be held in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to both students and to their advisor, SHS History Teacher, Adda Santos. Best of luck to Ruthanna at Nationals!

SHS Students Earn Recognitions at 2023 MAEA Juried Art Exhibit Five Somerville High School students were invited to represent SHS at the 2023 Massachusetts Art Education Association (MAEA) Recognitions Juried Exhibition. The students' incredible artwork is on exhibit at the MAEA Web Gallery (maearecognitions2023.artcall.org/pages/web-gallery), a virtual exhibit which opened on May 17, 2023. Congratulations to Hayley Machado (Ceramics), Reeves Beckley (Photography), Caden Yarberry (Sculpture), Leo Chiu (Ceramics), and Jane

Paradis (Fashion) for their outstanding work. A special congratulations to Leo and Jane, both of whom received 2023 MAEA Recognition Awards. Leo Chiu won the Virginia M. Diani Adams Memorial Award, which included a \$300 prize, for his Ceramics entry (teacher, Taylor Byrne). Jane Paradis won the Davis Publications Media Category Award in Fashion (teacher, Jessica Howard). Congratulations to all!

Students Excel at Regional SkillsUSA Competition

In early March, 13 SPS students representing our Career and Technical Education programs medaled at the Regional SkillsUSA Competition. Somerville students earned 13 medals, including 9 Gold and Silver award-winners who advanced to the State Competition slated for later this month. Our Gold-medal winners were: Daniel Campos and Mushraf Mahin in Additive Manufacturing, Julian Zielinski in Architectural Drafting, Michaela Hurley in Cosmetology (under 500 hours), and Gricelda Mendez in Graphic Communications. Somerville Silver-medalists were Finley Cooke in Advertising Design, Sharon Kaur in Architectural Drafting, Kimberly Fuentes Ladaverde in Dental Assisting, and Elle Gys in Technical Drafting. Bronze Medal winners were Haley Machado in Architectural Drafting, Anthony Loder in Automotive Service Technology, Karine de Jesus in Dental Assisting, and Gylie Gorman in Medical Math. Congratulations to all of the participants and the CTE educators for an outstanding showing at the Regional competition, and best of luck to our Gold- and Silver-medal winners advancing to State!

Michelle Kelly Named MSSADA Athletic Trainer of the Year

Congratulations to Michelle Kelly for being recognized as the 2022 "***Yoshitaka Ando***" ***Athletic Trainer of the Year***! Michelle was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the field during the 48th Annual Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Director Association (MSSADA) Conference. Michelle is in her 16th year as the SPS Head Athletic Trainer and is also the district's Concussion Coordinator. According to the MSSADA, the *Yoshitaka Ando Athletic Trainer of the Year* award

reflects "a lifetime of servant-like attitude, dedication, and a willingness to go above and beyond what is expected in the field of Athletic Training."

VI. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

MOTION; There was a motion by Ms. Dion, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to approve all the Subcommittees Reports listed on the agenda.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

A. School Committee Special Personnel Meetings of the Whole: March 27, 2023 – March 30, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Personnel Meeting of the Whole March 27th, 2023

Via Remote Participation

Members Present: Andre Green, Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips, Ellenor Barish, Mayor Ballantyne and President Ewen-Campen **Also in Attendance:** Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza. **Audience Members:** There was audience member (in person)

Andre Green called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm

There was item one the agenda

Interviewing Dr. Marisa Mendonsa for the position of Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Vice Chair.

B. School Committee Meeting for Rules Management Subcommittee: April 10, 2023 (Ms. Barish)

Rules Subcommittee Report for April 2023

Submitted by Ellenor Barish

The April 10 meeting of the Rules Management Subcommittee was called to order at 5:16 pm. Subcommittee members Ellenor Barish, Sara Dion, and Sarah Phillips were present. The meeting was held in person in City Council Chambers. There were five items on the agenda.

1. Approve March Minutes

Sara Dion moved to approve the minutes from March with Sarah Phillips seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

2. File JB - Equal Education Opportunities

Ellenor explained to her colleagues that one of the revisions to File JB voted out of Rules at the March meeting was not compatible with state law and recommended reverting to the original language. Sarah Phillips moved to accept the amended changes in light of state law. Sara Dion seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Policing Subcommittee Recommendations

Chair Green had tasked the Rules subcommittee with drafting policy in response to two of the recommendations from the Special Policing Subcommittee: first, that any MOU negotiated between the SPS Superintendent and the Chief of the SPD would come before School Committee for approval; and second, that the SPS budget would not support police programming in the schools. Ellenor asked if her colleagues had suggestions about how such policies might be written. Dr. Phillips volunteered to draft some language and send it to Matt Cregor and/or to the School Committee lawyers as well as to Director of Finance Fran Gorski for their feedback.

4. File BED/BED-H - Public Comment

In light of a recent decision from the Massachusetts Supreme Court regarding freedom of speech in public meetings, subcommittee members considered the related MASC reference policy. They agreed to review the current SPS policy on their own and to bring any revisions to the next meeting, noting that some aspects of the

reference policy may not be appropriate for SPS. Ellenor volunteered to consult with Ms. Santiago regarding how interpretation might work under the current hybrid-meeting model.

5. File KCD - Public Gifts to Schools

This is another policy that has been updated by MASC. Subcommittee members wondered if this means School Committee must approve all monetary gifts to individual schools and to what degree our current practice is compliant with the law. Ellenor volunteered to confer with School Committee's lawyers and with Mr. Gorski before proposing specific changes to the policy at the next meeting.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm.

Documents used: ProposedRevisionstoKCD_2022, MASC reference File_ BEDH - Public Comment at School Committee Meetings, March 2023 Rules Report, Infogram re SJC Decision regarding Public Comment at Meetings 03.09.23, File_ JB - Equal Educational Opportunities - 3.9 Revisions

C. School Committee Meeting for Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: April 10, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)
Personnel Meeting of the Whole April 10th, 2023
City Hall Chambers

Members Present: Andre Green, Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips, Ellenor Barish, Mayor Ballantyne and Ben Ewan-Campen. **Also in Attendance:** Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza and Assistant Superintendent of Academics Jessica Boston Davis. **Audience Members:** There were 5 audience members (in person)

Andre Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

There was item one on the agenda - Superintendent Search Candidate Discussion and Vote Each member chose their top two candidates. There was then deliberation about Rubén Carmona, Marisa Mendonsa and Toby Romer. Each member spoke to the pros and cons of each candidate.

Each member was then asked for their top two candidates, in order of preference. Dr. Ackman - Rubén Carmona and Toby Romer, Mayor Ballantyne - Rubén Carmona and Toby Romer, Mrs. Pitone - Toby Romer and Rubén Carmona, Dr. Phillips - Toby Romer and Rubén Carmona, Mrs. Dion - Rubén Carmona and Marisa Mendonsa, Mrs. Barish - Rubén Carmona and Toby Romer, Mr. Ewan-Campen - Toby Romer and Rubén Carmona, Mrs. Krepchin - Rubén Carmona and Toby Romer, Mr. Green - Rubén Carmona and Toby Romer

There was a motion by Dr. Ackman - I move to appoint Rubén Carmona as Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools commencing July 1st 2023 subject to reaching an agreement with them on a contract of employment mutually agreeable to the candidate and the school committee and signed by both parties or their designees and subject to an acceptable background check. Seconded by Mrs. Dion. Dr. Ackman votes yes, Mayor Ballantyne votes yes, Mrs. Pitone votes no, Dr. Phillips votes no, Mrs. Dion votes yes, Mrs. Barish votes yes, Mr. Ewan-Campen votes no, Mrs. Krepchin votes yes, Mr. Green votes yes. Motion carries with a vote of 6 yeses and 3 nos.

There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Dion to show support for Dr. Carmona as he starts the new job as Superintendent. Motion passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

D. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: April 12, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting April 12th, 2023 Via Remote Participation **Members Present:** Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips, Andre Green and Ellenor Barish.

Also in Attendance: Director of Finance Fran Gorski, Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley **Audience Members:** There was 1 audience member

Ilana Krepchin called the meeting to order at 7 pm

There were 3 items on the agenda

FY24 Budget

Admin - reduction in enrollment studies cost. Curriculum - confident we can reduce this number, from 100,000 to 50,000. Student assessment software that we will purchase.

Student services - technology - took 125,000 off of this budget. We might want to keep this on essr this year, then move it back over to the general budget next year.

Nursing - need for some contracting for the summer and during vacation weeks. Reducing from 50,000 to 25,000.

Decided to add \$2,500 to each school's budget, \$5,000 at the HS.

Health/PE and Library were moved out of the HS and into the general budget for each of those dept.

We can pre-purchase library books as opposed to adding \$ here.

SPED - reduced from 900,000 to 750,000, based on enrollment.

Total non payroll number - over 7% increase.

Absorbing SPED positions that were on ESSER, but also have added positions for new AIM classrooms.

Looking at 5.74% for now - which doesn't include any movement from ESSR for staff or programs, plus some additional requests.

3.5 million left on esser. 1 million left for tutoring.

Motion by Dr. Phillips that this body empowers the chair to craft a strategy to communicate with the community about what we need and what they can do to support us, seconded by Mrs. Dion. Dr. Ackman votes No, Mrs Barish votes No, Dr. Phillips votes Yes, Ms. Dion votes Yes, Mrs. Piltone votes No, MR. Green votes No, Mrs. Krepchin votes No, motion does not carry. Esser positions -some positions that have been vacant or contracts that we can either remove or reduce.

Director of operations and extended learning, we haven't filled this position. Tutor at the HS that was never filed, we can take it out. Two social workers that were district wide, this was prior to the build out of social worker staffing last year, so we can cut these. Just putting one person in and asking them to fill the void doesn't work. We need to work with the city on growing community programs. CS is serving 200 more students now than they were 6 years ago. We have increased capacity. Maybe we need a better narrative. There is currently a lot of money in the budget that goes to OST.

Esser shifts - sped translators - has been a challenge to fill. Proposal to shift to easy IEP translation services.

Assistant health service director - shifting back to essr.

Enrollment health specialist position - shifting to CSHS grant, otherwise we would lose this funding.

Nursing was under sped director, which is not ideal. Health services director makes more sense.

YTD Expenditure

SC - related to superintendent search, Facilities - covid tests, Transportation - rising costs, School Health services - related to contract nursing.

We have spent 77% of our budget and are projected to be on budget or finish the year in surplus.

March Bill Rolls

Motion to approve by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Dion. Passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Chair, Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Documents used: March 22 Local Bill Rolls, March 22 Revolving Bill Rolls, March 22 Grants Bill Rolls, FY24 Budget

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. School Buildings Update and Resolution (Dr. Curley and Ms. Pitone)

Dr. Curley announced that the two Statements of Interest (SOIs) for the Brown School and the Winter Hill Community Innovation School were submitted successfully on April 14th, this is the starting point, but there is going to be a need for interim planning as this is a long process.

Dr. Phillips asked if the district knows when we will hear back from MSBA. Dr. Curley said it is a competitive process, it all depends on how many applications they receive from other Cities and towns.

The School Committee Resolution regarding facilities was tabled once again; Ms. Pitone is not quite sure if the Resolution is still necessary.

B. Common Planning Time Discussion

Tabled.

C. Children's Cabinet Report (Ms. Barish)

Children's Cabinet Report

April 24, 2023

At the **March 14** meeting of Children’s Cabinet, agenda items included Recommendations from Winter Hill Community Innovation School students regarding supporting learners in the wake of gun violence in the community. There was general support among those in attendance for the recommendations. The Mayor noted that young people from SHA properties are among groups already prioritized for summer jobs and programming and that that would continue. Nancy Bacci talked about the strong relationship between the City and the SHA and how the SHA can help the City communicate with residents around summer jobs and more. The Recreation Department is doing a lot of outreach about summer jobs and is planning to offer application assistance - potentially in the Mystics and at other neighborhood sites.

A couple of challenges were discussed: there is concern that participation in the Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program may impact household income and consequently will result in a family’s rent being increased; and young people must have social security numbers in order to be eligible for employment with the Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program. Nancy Bacci reported that the City has provided letters to Jobs Program participants explaining the short-term nature of the employment which should help minimize impacts on rent. In general, though not specifically in the Summer Jobs Program, City departments look for alternative ways of compensating young people for their time if they do not have social security numbers.

There was discussion about the breadth of opportunities within the Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program - it’s not just the Recreation Department.

Conversation turned to current efforts to build a system for on-site recruitment and enrollment whenever there are job/programming opportunities, including multilingual application assistance. Finally, in response to the recommendation that school officials be notified of violence in the community, some suggestions were made: administrators at every school should be notified, incidents in any neighborhood should be reported, and SHA and SPD should both be included in this effort.

At the **April 11** meeting of the Children’s Cabinet, conversation opened with people’s budget priorities. A number of people noted out of school time programming, some reflecting on the connection between those opportunities and student safety. Facility improvements, and social/emotional supports for young people were mentioned multiple times. The importance of preparations for the end of ARPA/ESSER funding was also discussed. I asked about accessing programming over the summer when student MBTA passes would not be valid. The Mayor reported that her staff is looking into extending the passes for July and August. When I followed up about how that would be funded, she said that is part of what her staff is investigating. I also asked about how the City and private partners might be prepared to support families on Wednesday afternoons if SPS were to adopt the common planning time proposal presented to School Committee. While no specific suggestions were made, there was broad consensus that out of school programming needs to be a cross-sector effort. At the time of the meeting, a new Youth Services Coordinator had been hired and interviews were being scheduled for the Youth Services Director position. Chris Hosman requested that each Children’s Cabinet member send him a list of what is currently being funded by ESSER and what needs to be moved to the general budget when ESSER funding expires.

D. Field Trips (Recommendation for approval)

May 12, 2023 – May 13, 2023 Eleven students from the Boys and Girls Spring Track Team will visit White Plains High School in New York. Travel via school mini bus, student cost \$30.

May 31, 2023 – June 1, 2023 Twenty-two 5th grade students from the Brown School will visit Nature’s Classroom in Groton, MA. Travel via bus, student cost \$230.

June 5, 2023 – June 8, 2023 Seventy 5th and 6th grade students from the Healey School will visit Nature’s Classroom in Groton, MA. Travel via bus, student cost \$336.

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Dion, to approved field trips listed above. The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

E. Acceptance of FY23 Grant Funds (Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below:

State

- Farming Reinforces Education & Student Health (FRESH) Grant - \$32,000, Food Service Department.
- SCALE 1510 - Adult Basic Education Grant increased - from \$730,000 to \$999,172, for SCALE.

- FC186, Title III, Part A: Immigrant Children and Youth - \$29,755, the grant will support field trips for SPELL summer programming, CALS conference attendance for effective practices for immigrant students, and adapting SEL curriculum through Boston Children’s Hospital for newcomer Brazilian students.
- Northeast Food for Schools / Food and Nutrition Programs / Massachusetts Farm to School - \$50,000, in addition to expanding the capacity for procuring/providing local foods to schools, the program seeks to strengthen local food systems.

Private

- 2023 ACS-Hach Professional Development Grant - \$660.00 this grant was awarded to SHS Chemistry Teacher Susan Schmidt to attend the 2023 ChemEd Conference at the University of Guelph, in Canada.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

F. Donations (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent Recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of the

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Programs Donated to
3 Solar Panels with inverters and all racking for mock insulations.	Greentech Renewables	Auburn, MA	\$3,312.97	SHS CTE Electrical

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Dion, to accept all donations listed above, with gratitude.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone – Requested a debrief of the Superintendent hiring process.

Ms. Barish – Announced that it is After School program appreciation week and thanked all the staff from out of school programming.

Dr. Phillips – Requested an OST presentation about acceptance and waitlist letters to families.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

[Winter Hill Community Innovation School – School Improvement](#)

School Improvement Plan Memos: [Capuano](#), [ESCS](#), [JFK](#), and [SHS](#)

Submitted by: E. Garcia

ATTACH DOCUMENTS STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 24, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the School Committee will be conducted via hybrid participation.

We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

To **watch** this Regular School Committee meeting live from home please visit the following link and choose **GovTV**:
<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

To **listen** live to the simultaneous interpretation of this meeting in **Spanish, Portuguese or Haitian Creole**, or to participate in Public Comment, please join this **Zoom Webinar** and choose your desired language by clicking the **interpretation globe on the Zoom**:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSjQXOKcunug

Meeting ID: 847 5813 4927

Password: SPSSC23

Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2023 - 2025

In order to address the root causes of systemic inequity in our schools, the Somerville School Committee and SPS commit to the following goals, knowing that these can only be achieved through ensuring meaningful partnerships with Somerville families, district staff, city government, and community partners. Our goals attempt to address deep-rooted systemic barriers that have prevented us from achieving our district vision of equity and excellence and ensure that all students, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the supports and resources they need to achieve educational success in our district now and in the future.

1. Whole Child Teaching and Learning... we will:

- prepare students to demonstrate strong literacy and mathematics foundation by grade 3, grade 6, and grade 10
- provide all students with integrated classroom lessons from a high quality social-emotional learning curriculum that helps students value and develop their ability to build relationships with other students, to be self aware and socially aware, to self regulate, and to make responsible decisions
- expand access to real-world learning experiences through students' participation in Early College, Advanced Placement courses, CTE, and/or other learning experiences that help students build critical 21st century skills, meeting with their college and career counselor in their junior and senior year, and students graduating with a defined post-secondary plan.

2. Equitable Access to Programming... we will conduct a district enrollment study to understand the prospective future population of the district and create and begin implementing a strategy for school building development, school assignment, and programming that aligns with the district's equity policy, and which is based on results of the enrollment study and the projected 10+ year plan for school facilities.

3. Workforce Diversity... we will increase the percentage of support staff of color, teachers and counselors of color, and administrators of color by 6% per group compared to SY22 rates through evaluating and strengthening all elements of our personnel system – recruitment, processes, training, retention, development, advancement, and staff data collection systems on which we base and measure our improvement efforts.

4. Equitable Resource Allocation... we will design, evaluate, and partially or fully implement student-based budgeting by 2025, or identify alternative mechanisms to more equitably allocate district resources.

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. SCHOOL COMMITTEE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 27, 2023
- March 6, 2023

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – In person or via Zoom

To participate in Public Comment remotely please use the following Zoom link:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSjQXOKcunug

Meeting ID: 847 5813 4927

Password: SPSSC23

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- Winter Hill Community Innovation School - School Improvement Plan (Ms. Gosselin)
- School Improvement Plan Memos: Capuano, ESCS, JFK and SHS (Dr. Boston Davis and Ms. Eligene)

VI. Report of Subcommittees

A. School Committee Special Personnel Meetings of the Whole: March 27, 2023 – March 30, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the reports of the Special Personnel Meetings of the Whole of March 27, 2023 through March 30, 2023.

B. Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting: April 10, 2023 (Ms. Barish)

MOTION: To accept the report of the Rules Management Subcommittee meeting of April 10, 2023.

C. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: April 10, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole of April 10, 2023.

D. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole: April 12, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole of April 12, 2023.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. School Buildings Update and Resolution (Dr. Curley and Ms. Pitone)

B. Common Planning Time Discussion

C. Children’s Cabinet Report (Ms. Barish)

D. Field Trips (Recommended action: approval)

May 12, 2023 – May 13, 2023

Eleven students from the Boys and Girls Spring Track Team will visit White Plains High School in New York. Travel via school mini bus, student cost \$30.

May 31, 2023 – June 1, 2023

Twenty-two 5th grade students from the Brown School will visit Nature’s Classroom in Groton, MA. Travel via bus, student cost \$230.

June 5, 2023 – June 8, 2023

Seventy 5th and 6th grade students from the Healey School will visit Nature’s Classroom in Groton, MA. Travel via bus, student cost \$336.

E. Acceptance of FY23 Grant Funds (Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: To accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below:

State

- Farming Reinforces Education & Student Health (FRESH) Grant - \$32,000, Food Service Department.
- SCALE 1510 - Adult Basic Education Grant increased - from \$730,000 to \$999,172, for SCALE.
- FC186, Title III, Part A: Immigrant Children and Youth - \$29,755, the grant will support field trips for SPELL summer programming, CALS conference attendance for effective practices for immigrant students, and adapting SEL curriculum through Boston Children’s Hospital for newcomer Brazilian students.
- Northeast Food for Schools / Food and Nutrition Programs / Massachusetts Farm to School - \$50,000, in addition to expanding the capacity for procuring/providing local foods to schools, the program seeks to strengthen local food systems.

Private

- 2023 ACS-Hach Professional Development Grant - \$660.00 this grant was awarded to SHS Chemistry Teacher Susan Schmidt to attend the 2023 ChemEd Conference at the University of Guelph, in Canada.

F. Donations (Recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Programs Donated to
3 Solar Panels with inverters and all racking for mock insulations	Greentech Renewables	Auburn, MA	\$3312.97	SHS CTE Electrical

The items listed are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law

VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**IX. CONDOLENCES****X. ADJOURNMENT****For Simultaneous Interpretation in Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole See below:****Español - Para Interpretación**

Para **ver** la Reunión Regular del Comité Escolar el 27 de Febrero a las 7:00, en vivo desde casa, visite el siguiente enlace y elija **GovTV**: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Para **escuchar en vivo la interpretación simultánea de la Reunión Regular en español, portugués o criollo haitiano**, únase a este Zoom y elija el idioma que desee haciendo clic al globo de interpretación:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSdXOKcunug

Identificación de la reunión: 847 5813 4927

Contraseña: SPSSC23

Português - Para Interpretação

Para **assistir** à Reunião Regular do Comitê Escolar 27 de fevereiro às 7:00, ao vivo de casa, visite o seguinte link e selecione **GovTV**: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Para **ouvir ao vivo a tradução simultânea da Assembleia Ordinária em espanhol, português ou crioulo haitiano**, entre neste Zoom e escolha o idioma desejado clicando no balão de interpretação:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSdXOKcunug

ID da reunião: 847 5813 4927

Senha: SPSC23

Kreyòl ayisyen - Pou entèpretasyon

Pou **gade** reyinyon regilye Komite Lekòl la 27 fevriye a 7:00, an dirèk nan kay la, vizite lyen sa a epi chwazi **GovTV**:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Pou **w tande entèpretasyon similtane Reyinyon Regilye a an panyòl, pòtigè oswa kreyòl ayisyen an**, rantre nan Zoom sa a epi chwazi lang ou vle a lè w klike sou balon entèpretasyon an:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSdXOKcunug

Reyinyon ID: 847 5813 4927

Modpas: SPSSC23

The items listed are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law