

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, April 3, 2023 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – City Hall Chambers

Members present: Ms. Krepchin, Ms. Barish, Ms. Dion, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Phillips and Mayor Ballantyne
Members Absent: Dr. Ackman and President Ewen-Campen.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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, Mayor Ballantyne, Chair Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone and Ms. Dion.

ABSENT – 2 - Dr. Ackman and President Ewen-Campen.

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Ben Cruz - Portuguese

Erika Garcia - Spanish

Gina Miranda - Haitian Creole

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 13, 2023

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Krepchin, seconded by Ms. Dion, to approve the School Committee minutes of February 13, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

III. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representative, Katerina Dinka, was present via zoom and reported on the following:

- Masquerade Ball update
- Spring sports
- Superintendent Visits
- MCAS
- Quarter Closing
- Class advisory/ school spirit events, etc.
- Multicultural Fair
- Women’s History Month events

IV. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES (Taken Out of Order)

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

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote

A. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: March 8, 2023

Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting March 8, 2023

Via Remote Participation

Members Present: Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips and Ellenor Barish.

Also in Attendance: Director of Finance Fran Gorski, Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Academics Jessica Boston Davis.

Audience Members: There were 2 audience members

Ilana Krepchin called the meeting to order at 6 pm

There were 4 items on the agenda

FY24 Budget

Enrollment trends - we were relatively steady for a number of years. After a dip during covid, we are rebounding in terms of enrollment. Currently close to 5,000 students.

Prek/K numbers - we opened the portal a little earlier this year, in an attempt to give parents assignments a little earlier. Total seats for preK is 234. This means everyone in the first round will get a seat - though not necessarily their first choice. K numbers look good - most families will get their first choice - hoping for 95 or 96%. Trying to publish this info in real time for families.

Majority languages - Spanish and Portuguese with 50 Languages spoken across the district. Very few changes for next year, in terms of classroom numbers at each school. Main challenge next year with enrollment and space - 4 aim classrooms that will have to transition to the winter hill and we are out of space - we might lease some space at the adjacent parochial school which is closed.

Homeless transportation - state reimbursement for ever increasing transportation costs. We went out to bid and have a contract with NRT. There is a reimbursement which goes directly back to the city. The fact that the governor is increasing this line is a good thing. Chapter 70 - main source of state funding for education. Minimum aid is \$30/pupil. Supplemental budget with some left over funds - extends remote and hybrid meeting options though March 2025. \$65 million to extend free lunch for all.

Admin - reduction of enrollment study costs

Smart find express- part of the HR system that was purchased two years ago.

Curriculum - purchasing math curriculum.

Greater Boston Breakthrough - rising costs.

Student Services - ed plan 504 software

Tech - will need to address tech needs over the next few years.

PD - proposal to provide leadership development to principals.

Transportation - cost is going up.

Nursing - Contracted nursing services that come up occasionally.

East - reduction in cost - unidos programing - they are actually able to spend less.

HS - reduction in accreditation costs

Athletics - costs related to Reeves field at the high school. Items that were not picked up as part of the building costs.

Health/PE - moved from HS directly into that budget

Library- Added some for purchasing books

SPED - increase in cost of out of district tuition. Inflation set by the state - is 14% this year. Will prepay again this year, as much as we are able to.

Total non payroll - 1.5 million increase - over 9%

5.61% budget increase at the moment. Things will get challenging if the city holds us to a certain number.

ESSR - projection is about 3.2 million left as of July 1.

YTD Expenditure Update

Comparison of arts/athletics and music.

Part of the complication is that our salaries are all in one bucket. It should be easier to break down in the future. We spend the most on music. Music and art are both heavy on salaries. Athletics budget is more split between salaries and operating. This includes school day expenditures and after school. It's still a little confusing, as art and music are mostly during the school day, athletics are afterschool.

YTD through March 1st - snap shot at $\frac{2}{3}$ of way through the year. We have spent 66% of allotted budget. Right on pace.

SC in deficit - related to MASC contract because of the superintendent search. We are paying MASC \$10,500, could be bumped up to \$13,000 total. Facilities - in deficit. Not unusual. We purchased a lot of covid tests earlier in the year.

January Bill Rolls

Motion to approve the bill rolls - Sarah Phillips and seconded by Sara Dion. Passed unanimously.

Facilities Update

Card readers at the Edgerly to make the building more secure and new visitor policy. Partitions - creative ways to split one room into two and provide separate spaces for multiple uses. Used at the HS to partition during evening events so people can't wander the building freely.

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

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Chair, Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Documents used:

Jan 22 Local Bill Rolls
Jan 22 Revolving Bill Rolls
Jan 22 Grants Bill Rolls
FY24 Level Service
Finance Enrollment Data
School Finance - Chapter 70

B. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: March 15, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Personnel Meeting of the Whole March 15th, 2023

Via Remote Participation

Members Present: Andre Green, Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Sarah Phillips, and Ellenor Barish

Also in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Academics Jessica Boston Davis

Audience Members: There was 1 audience members

Andre Green called the meeting to order at 7 pm

There was one item on the agenda

Motion made by Sarah Phillips, seconded by Ellenor Barish to approve the appointment of Will Verbitz as interim director of Special Education.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Vice Chair

C. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: March 22, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting March 22th, 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, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Academics Jessica Boston Davis.

Audience Members: There were 2 audience members

Ilana Krepchin called the meeting to order at 6 pm

There were 3 items on the agenda

FY24 Budget

City is still working on their revenue projections. City has long range plans for 5% increase for the schools for the future. Curriculum - math at \$100,000, we might be able to address it this year.

New scope for Breakthrough - extra \$40,000. Still unclear if we can get some funding from Biogen for that.

Student Services - embedded counseling contracts - had been moved to ESSR. This is an area we will start to look at what the appropriate amount is going forward. Need to look at data and impact

Technology - historically was more like \$650,000, because we had other funds to purchase chromebooks, it went down. Now we need to look at budgeting for replacements going forward. Facilities - additional classroom space needed related to AIM at the Winter Hill Enroot - jointly funded with the city. We expanded it last year. The city is expanding their commitment.

PE - funds to make sure the rock wall can be opened up.

Salaries - 3.6 million in adjustments. We've had a lot of retirements in the last few years. Not seeing that same level this year. The expectation is that when they retire, they are at the higher end of the pay scale, sometimes the new position is at the lower end of the payscale.

ESSR will 3.3 million left starting on July 1. There were 55 positions on essr at the beginning of this year. Trying to bring that risk down over this fiscal year.

Bottom line is a 6.18% increase. If we looked at a 5% increase, we would have to take out about 1 million from the budget we just looked at.

Feb. Bill Rolls

SC Food for superintendent search

Legal Council - a few months worth - student services and labor
Seesaw learning - software for schools
Partitions for winter hill and the HS
Motion to approve - Mrs. Pitone, seconded by Mrs. Barish, passed unanimously.

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

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Chair, Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Documents used: Jan 22 Local Bill Rolls, Jan 22 Revolving Bill Rolls, Jan 22 Grants Bill Rolls FY24 Budget
MASBO/DESE Update

D. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: March 22, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Personnel Meeting of the Whole March 22nd, 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:** Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Academics Jessica Boston Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza.

Audience Members: There were 20 audience members

Andre Green called the meeting to order at 7 pm

There was item one the agenda

The superintendent screening committee recommended 5 candidates as finalists for consideration.

There was a discussion of the plan for questions for this round of interviews - each member will come up with their own questions in their assigned category.

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

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Vice Chair

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Courtney Koslow- Parent at the WHCIS, she commented in support of the Statement of Interest for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and asked members not to release the 1895 building to the city.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (Taken Out of Order)

A. MSBA Statement of Interest (Dr. Curley)

Chair Green introduced Mayor Ballantyne who wanted to make a statement regarding this item.

Mayor Ballantyne began by making it clear that she supports and invests in our youth and our schools. She has been a parent of the district for 21 years and has had children at the Healey School, the East Somerville Community School and most recently now at Somerville High School. She believes that Somerville can deliver on more progressive and equitable goals if we invest in our youth. She then provided some context of some of the things the city has been working on since she presented her budget as the Mayor of Somerville 8 months ago:

- Gave the highest budget increase to the School Department in its entire history at 10%.
- Have opened two teen centers.
- There is a Youth Services Director and a Youth Services Coordinator in place.
- Continuation of the Mayor's Jobs Program.
- T- Passes for middle school students and high school students.
- Racial Social Justice Ambassadors and Youth Ambassadors.
- She has supported the SOI submissions since January and again in March.

Mayor Ballantyne reaffirmed that she believes in inclusive leadership, she understands that it may get a little messy or take a little bit longer but in the end, better results are achieved. The city and schools have been working collaboratively;

Dr. Curley along with city staff sit on the Capital Planning Team and Assistant Superintendent Mazza and Melissa Woods, Capital Projects Manager, have walked every school building and facilities.

Mayor Ballantyne explained what has been going on since she came on board; in May last year the SEU sent an email talking about problems at the WHCIS. Commissioner Jill Lathan and Building Superintendent Marc Hamel have gone through the building and collected all the outstanding requests to determine what DPW could do to address the maintenance. Mayor Ballantyne was under the impression that the checklist had been completed by the time students returned to school in August of 2022, and that seems to be the case. Since then complaints that could be handled by DPW are addressed, if they are bigger than what DPW could address the issues are moved to the Capital Projects department and then a plan has to be put in place.

Mayor Ballantyne believes that all students and staff need healthy learning and working conditions and she will continue to invest in our schools. The reality is the City is working on an accelerated plan. In the time that she has been in Somerville the majority of schools have been rebuilt, and now it's time for the Winter Hill and the Brown Schools. A new field has been added to the Argenziano, the Healey field is currently under construction and she added investments this year to go towards the new playgrounds at the Brown and the WSNS, and three years ago, the turf at the Capuano School was redone. She vouched not to change the investments that have been put into schools. She strongly believes that we need to invest in all the children and staff and their learning environment needs to be the best that it can be. The city will continue to work collaborative with the school administration and will continue to be transparent.

Dr. Curley began by first thanking the educators and the parents who were present to advocate for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School. This is an important, complex issue and one that the administration is committed to addressing as a team. The city has many maintenance needs and a lot of deferred maintenance challenges across the city; it is a very densely populated, complex city. The WHCIS and the Brown facilities are both at a point where they are past their likely life use and not meeting the educational needs of the students in those buildings. The good news tonight is that there are two completed statements of interests for the Massachusetts School Building Authority; the Statements of Interest (SOIs) for the Brown School and the Winter Hill Community Innovation School have been drafted. They require a committee vote tonight and a vote from the City Council to move forward with the submission. Dr. Curley made it clear that the SOI is just one step in the grand scheme of things, this is a long and complex process that requires many steps and we are not guaranteed to get funding, but city administration staff are working together on a contingency plan if this doesn't work and we lose space.

Comment/Questions

Dr. Phillips asked if they were seeking a vote tonight. Chair Green confirmed that there would not be a meeting before the submission deadline and therefore a vote would be necessary this evening.

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Barish, having convened in an open meeting on April 3, 2023, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Somerville in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 2023 for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School located at 115 Sycamore Street, Somerville MA 02145 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority 4 - Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments; and Priority 7 - Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Somerville and/or Somerville Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Barish, having convened in an open meeting on April 3, 2023, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Somerville in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 2023 for the Benjamin G. Brown School located at 201 Willow Avenue, Somerville MA 02144 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority 7: Replacement of or

addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Somerville and/or the Somerville Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

Chair Green tabled the school buildings resolution included in the package to be discussed at a future meeting.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- **Albert F. Argenziano School - School Improvement Plan** (Ms. Soto)

Dr. Curley introduced Principal Soto from the Albert F. Argenziano School to present her School Improvement Plan. Principal Soto introduced her team, Amy Candelora, Angela Rodriguez, Aisha Banda. She then shared her slide show presentation with School Committee members and the public.

Chair Green asked Ms. Krepchin to take over chairing the meeting at 7:38.

The AFAS Presentation continued.

Chair Green returned at 7:55 p.m.

Comments/ Questions

Chair Green thanked Ms. Soto and her team on behalf of the entire committee.

Dr. Phillips Commented regarding the discipline referrals and the difference in reasoning given race. Ms. Banda responded that they have been tracking this data for 3-5 years now and the data shows that there is a still conscientious bias.

Ms. Pitone spoke to the topic of curriculum and wanting to have a broader discussion, she has referred this to Ed Programs in the past. She has asked questions about the STAR testing and does not get a concrete response. She also asked about responsive classroom and if there is a model for trained teachers to train others. Ms. Soto said that the focus now is to ensure all teachers are trained as part of Tear 1.

Ms. Barish asked if only people who receive the Restorative Justice Training can give conduct referrals. Ms. Soto said that only teachers could give conduct referrals but they have attempted to get all teachers trained.

Ms. Krepchin asked about the curriculum and if the lessons being used now were crafted during the pandemic. Ms. Soto said they were.

Ms. Dion asked about the practice of ESL students not receiving reading interventions and where that practice comes from. Ms. Soto responded that it is a district practice because reading intervention proficiency is too low. It has been this way long before she became a principal.

Dr. Curley added that this is a practice that he and Dr. Boston Davis noticed this year and are looking to change.

Ms. Pitone shared her concern at the alarming data and wants to bring the curriculum discussion back as soon as possible.

Conversation ensued about the data shared and it was decided that the Curriculum discussion would be brought back on a later date.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Interim Director of Special Education Contract Authorization

Dr. Curley requested a motion to assigned Will Verbits as the Interim Director of Special Education.

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Krepchin, seconded by Ms. Barish, to authorized Chair Green to sign the contract for the Interim Director of Special Education on behalf of the committee.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

C. Assistant Superintendent of Academics Appointment

Dr. Curley announced the recommendation to appoint Dr. Jessica Boston Davis as the permanent Assistant Superintendent of Academics for Somerville Public Schools.

Chair Green decided to hold voting on this recommendation as Dr. Boston Davis was not present at this meeting and could only join via zoom to say a few words.

IX. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report (Continued)

• Enrollment Projection Committee Update

Dr. Curley introduced Rebeca Wright and Charles Rynerson from FLO Analytics who were present and shared an Enrollment Forecast Presentation and an Enrollment Forecast Report Memo, which are both included below under attachments.

Question/ Comments

Ms. Dion wondered about the two purple spots outside the district on the density map. Mr. Rynerson explained that all districts have some out of district students.

Ms. Barish wondered whom questions should be directed to as members look more closely into the data. Chair Green confirmed that questions should be directed to him and the Superintendent.

Ms. Dion asked what SP stands for? Mr. Rynerson clarified that it is for Special Education Students.

Dr. Phillips commented that most of the population growth are immigrant students; she did not see this reflected and wondered if it would be included in separate data.

Chair Green encouraged members to take a deep look at the presentation and the data to discuss it in the future.

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

Notes-Superintendent's Update: School Committee Mtg – Monday, April 3, 2023

Good evening and happy April. As we enter the final quarter of the 2022-23 school year, we invite you to join us in celebrating the work of our students and staff at the various end-of-year events that will be coming up in the next few weeks. We are also looking ahead, and preparing for the summer and the 2023-24 school year.

Superintendent Search Feedback Opportunities

Last week, the community had an opportunity to hear from the four finalists for Superintendent of Schools through public interviews. The School Committee welcomes and invites community members to share their thoughts on the four finalists to help inform their deliberation process. Video recordings of the finalist interviews, as well as a feedback form, are available on our [Superintendent Search website \(www.somerville.k12.ma.us/superintendent-search\)](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/superintendent-search). Feedback can be provided through the [Superintendent Finalists Feedback Form](#), or by attending any of the scheduled [Spring 2023 School Committee Office Hours](#), a list of which is also available on the website. Thank you for making your voice heard in this important process.

Week of the Young Child Celebration

Join us for Somerville's Week of the Young Child Celebration on Wednesday, April 12th in front of Somerville High School (81 Highland Avenue) from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The event will include a short speaking agenda, fun activities, music, and pizza. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) designates a week in April as the Week of the Young Child to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families. Join us in celebrating our youngest learners!

Diversity Recruitment Fair

On Saturday, April 1st, thanks to the incredible work of Caeli Gallitano, our Director of Equity and Excellence, SPS hosted its 2023 Diversity Recruitment Fair. This annual

virtual event supports our commitment to creating welcoming, equitable, safe, and inclusive spaces for our students, families, and staff. As Director Gallitano stated in outreach efforts for this event, "we are passionate about recruiting strong, talented, diverse educators and creating classrooms for our students and staff that are full of learning, curiosity, safety and bravery." More than 60 attendees registered for the event. Participants had an opportunity to hear from, meet, and talk with various members of our team and to learn about career opportunities in our district. This district-wide event included outreach to more than 30 colleges and community partners and agencies. We are excited about the impact of this effort and the prospects that it brings to advance our diversification efforts. The following note from a participant demonstrates the impact of this event: "What an amazing and inspiring event! I left feeling energized at the prospect of joining SPS. An overall sense of pride came to mind after the Zoom ended." Our sincere thanks to all who participated and particularly to Caeli for organizing such a powerful event.

Upcoming Half Day and School Holidays

April 12th is a Half-day Wednesday for all students in grades pre-K through 8. PreK students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. and K-8 students will be dismissed at noon.

Friday, April 7th, is a school holiday. All schools and district offices will be closed.

April Vacation is the 17th through the 21st, and includes Patriots Day on Monday, April 17. All schools and district offices will be closed on Patriots Day. Schools will remain closed through April 21st. District offices will be open April 18th through the 21st.

Department Shout-Out

Tonights "behind the scenes" shout-out goes to our Technology Department. Under the exceptional leadership of Director of Technology, John Breslin, our Technology

team does a fantastic job keeping our teaching and learning, and our district operations, running smoothly. This amazing team very ably meets the demands of ensuring that we stay online and have ready access to the many technology and online resources we need daily to operate effectively and efficiently. We appreciate their incredible knowledge, skill, and efficiency, and their "always ready and willing to help" attitude!

X. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

D. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The Following policy was presented for a **second** reading:

- File JICA: Student Dress Code

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Ms. Dion, to approved File JICA: Student Dress Code.

Chair Green offered a friendly amendment to add "Clear" between demonstrate and gang on the last bullet point on the second page.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

E. SHORE Collaborative Update (Dr. Ackman)

Tabled.

F. Field Trips (Recommended action: Approval)

June 12, 2023

Forty-five 8th Grade Students from AFAS will travel to Canobie Lake Park in Salem NH.

Travel via bus, student cost \$30

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Ms. Dion, to approve to field trip on June 12, 2023 for Forty-five 8th Grade Students from AFAS to travel to Canobie Lake Park in Salem NH.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

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

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville public schools listed below:

State

- **FC 542 Summer Food Service Program - \$10,650** - This grant will allow the district to continue the summer food program by partially supporting equipment

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

H. Somerville High School 2023 Graduate (Recommended action: approval)
Tatiana Thomas Somerville, MA

MOTION: There was motion by Ms. Dion, seconded by Ms. Barish, to approve a diploma for Tatiana Thomas.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

I. Donations (Recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Programs Donated to
17 - 1/2", 4 - 3/4", and 2 -1' Iron Conduit Bender w/Angle Setter	Klein Tools	Lincolnshire, IL	\$2000	SHS CTE Electrical
20 - 6 Piece Klein Tool Sets	Klein Tools	Lincolnshire, IL	\$1700	SHS CTE Electrical

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to accept with gratitude, all donations listed above.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone gave a shout out to the Citywide PTA for their very successful game night, raising money for SHS student scholarships. She also took the time to announce the upcoming office hours.

XII. CONDOLENCES

The Somerville School Committee extends its deepest condolences to the families of:

Judith Ann Taylor, Retired Paraprofessional at the East Somerville Community School and Mother of Carolyn Taylor, Speech/Language Therapist at the John F. Kennedy School.

Michael S. DaRocha, Son of AnnMarie DaRocha, Retired Paraprofessional for the Special Education Department at the East Somerville Community School and Winter Hill Community Innovation School.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

[Albert F. Argenziano School- School Improvement Plan](#)

[Enrollment Forecast SC Presentation](#)

[Somerville Enrollment Forecast Memo](#)

File JICA: Student Dress Code

Submitted by: E. Garcia

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 3, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

Amended – 04-03-23

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 13, 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**

- Albert F. Argenziano School - School Improvement Plan (Ms. Soto)
- Enrollment Projection Committee Update

VI. Report of Subcommittees**A. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole:** March 8, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of March 8, 2023.

B. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: March 15, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole of March 15, 2023.

C. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole: March 22, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of March 22, 2023.

D. School Committee Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: March 22, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole of March 22, 2023.

VII. NEW BUSINESS**A. MSBA Statement of Interest** (Dr. Curley)**B. Assistant Superintendent of Academics Appointment****C. Interim Director of Special Education Contract Authorization****D. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual**

The following policy is being presented this evening for a second reading:

- File JICA: Student Dress Code

E. SHORE Educational Collaborative Report (Dr. Ackman)**F. Field Trips** (Recommended action: approval)

June 12, 2023

Forty-five 8th Grade Students from AFAS will travel to Canobie Lake Park in Salem NH. Travel via bus, student cost \$30.

G. 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

- **FC 542 Summer Food Service Program - \$10,650** - This grant will allow the district to continue the summer food program by partially supporting equipment purchases, and expanding outreach and translation services for the summer program.

H. Somerville High School 2023 Graduate (Recommended action: approval)

Tatiana Thomas Somerville, MA

I. Donations (Recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Programs Donated to
17 - 1/2", 4 - 3/4", and 2 - 1' Iron Conduit Bender w/Angle Setter	Klein Tools	Lincolnshire, IL	\$2000	SHS CTE Electrical
20 - 6 Piece Klein Tool Sets	Klein Tools	Lincolnshire, IL	\$1700	SHS CTE Electrical

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**IX. CONDOLENCES****X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

JICA - STUDENT **DRESS CODE**

The responsibility for the **personal attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items (e.g. backpacks and bookbags)** ~~and appearance~~ of the students will rest with individual students and **their parents or guardians**, unless a specific school dress code has been voted on and adopted by the school community, in which case student attire will be in accordance with the dress code adopted. Students are permitted to dress in compliance with this dress code in a manner consistent with their gender identity.

~~They have the right to determine how the student will dress providing that attire is not destructive to school property, complies with requirements for health and safety, and does not cause disorder or disruption. The administration is authorized to take action in instances where individual dress does not meet the stated requirements.~~

Schools are responsible for ensuring that student attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items do not interfere with the health or safety of any student and do not contribute to a hostile or intimidating environment for any student.

~~This does not mean that~~ Student, faculty, or parent groups may ~~not~~ recommend appropriate dress for school or special occasions, ~~It means that~~ **However**, students will not be prevented from attending school or a school function, or otherwise be discriminated against, so long as their **attire** and appearance meet the requirements set forth above.

Core Values

As a teaching and learning community that values diversity, we believe:

- Students should be able to dress for school and style their hair for school in a manner that expresses their individuality without fear of unnecessary discipline or body shaming.
- All students have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. The enforcement of our dress code policy will not create disparities, reinforce or increase the marginalization of any group, nor will it be more strictly enforced against students because of racial identity (***race to include traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture, hair type, hair length, and protective hairstyles**), ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, gender nonconformity, sexual orientation, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.
- Students and staff are responsible for managing their personal distractions.
- Opportunities for growth and learning shall be the driving force behind efforts to address non-compliance with this policy.
- Every effort should be made to support students and minimize loss of time on learning, including having clothing items available for loan as needed.

Universal Dress Code

Students may not come to school shirtless, pantless, shoeless, or visibly displaying their underwear. Students must wear the following and not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance if they are in compliance, so long as their attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any students or contribute to a hostile or intimidating environment for any student, as noted above.

- Top that covers the majority of the torso and does not expose private parts. Appropriate tops include but are not limited to a shirt, blouse, sweater, sweatshirt, tank.
- Bottom that does not expose private parts or undergarments. Appropriate bottom clothing items include pants, shorts, skirt, dress.
- Footwear.

Students are expected to follow all school rules with respect to wearing any protective clothing, footwear, safety glasses or other protective or safety equipment that may be required for participation in specialized programs. Additionally, this policy allows for reasonable variation in required student attire for participation in activities such as swimming.

Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, or personal items that:

- Are pornographic, contain threats or vulgar language, or promote illegal or violent conduct such as the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug paraphernalia;
- Demonstrate hate group association/affiliation and/or use hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or other protected groups;
- Intentionally show private parts (nipples, genitals, buttocks) or undergarments (with the exception of bra straps). Clothing must completely cover private parts in solid, non-sheer material;
- Cover the student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable (except clothing/headgear worn for a religious or medical purpose); or
- Demonstrate gang association/affiliation.

Attire worn in observance of a student's religion is not subject to this policy.

Clothing that displays profanity or other vulgarities create an intimidating and/or hostile environment and disrupt the learning environment, and are not permitted.

Policy Enforcement

Principals are required to ensure that all staff are aware of and understand the core values and associated guidelines of this policy.

Conversations about student apparel should be facilitated where both parties have an equal voice. Such conversations should not occur in front of a class or other students.

Staff will use reasonable efforts to limit disciplining or removing students from class as a consequence of wearing attire in violation of this policy unless the attire creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment, poses a hazard to the health or safety of others, or factors into a student behavior rule violation such as malicious harassment or the prohibition on harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Further, no student shall be referred to as "a distraction" due to their appearance or attire.

Typical consequences for a violation of this policy may include parent/guardian contact or conference and the directive to cover, change, or remove the non-complying attire. A student may be instructed to leave their classroom briefly to change clothes, and every effort shall be made to have clothing items available for loan at the school. The Principal or their designee will notify a student's parent/guardian of the school's response to violations of the student dress code policy. Refusal to abide by this policy and/or repeat

violations could result in progressive discipline.

Adopted: June 1996

Revised: March 1998

Legal References: Dress and appearance of students protected [[M.G.L. c. 30. §83](#)]

*[Acts of 2022, Chapter 117](#)