

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, November 21, 2022 - Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. – Zoom

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

**Members Absent:** Mayor Ballantyne and President McLaughlin.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 with a moment of silence dedicated to the victims of the shooting in Colorado and to all LGBTQ victims of hate crimes, 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 - Mayor Ballantyne and President McLaughlin.

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Mercedes Escorihuela - Spanish

Deborah Duarte Calorio - Portuguese

**II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Student Representatives were not present.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- October 3, 2022
- October 17, 2022

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Barish, second by Dr. Ackman, to approve the School Committee minutes of October 3, 2022 and October 17, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**Michele Lippens of 24 Thorpe St-** Parent of three SPS students also Director of SEPAC. November is SEPAC Awareness Month. The SEPAC Mission is to offer support for parents of all children with disabilities, assist with communication, provide opportunities to build community around the special Education Process and to understand IEPs and 504s. Also requesting that SEPAC have a line in the budget for next year to support all of their work, with it being a parent-driven organization, it would be ideal to have school budget support to be able to better support families. Finally, Ms. Lippens expressed her sincere gratitude to all teachers for everything they do.

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. District Report**

Superintendent Curley began his report by taking a moment to acknowledge the tragic event in Colorado this weekend in which a gunman, in what is being investigated as a hate crime, killed 5 individuals at an LGBTQ+ nightclub and injured many others. It is a sad reality that these types of incidents have become all too common, and regardless of where they occur, they have a tremendous impact on marginalized people across the country. As we noted in our joint statement yesterday, we steadfastly reaffirm our "commitment to remain a safe and welcoming community for all people who call our city home, and to all students" [and staff] in our schools. Our counselors and support staff will continue to be available throughout the week for students and staff who may need additional support in the wake of this and other recent events.

The question of how we can each be supportive often comes up. One simple way to do that is to be an ally, in whatever way you can. In a previously scheduled event, tomorrow afternoon at 3:00 p.m., the City of Somerville, Somerville Health and Human Services, and the Somerville High School Gender and Sexuality Awareness Alliance will be holding our annual Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony and flag raising in memory of those who have lost their lives to violence. The event takes place on the City Hall Concourse and is open to the public. Update - Teen

Center @ the Edgerly The Teen Center at the Edgerly Education Building is going full steam ahead. Students ages 12-18 looking for a fun and safe place to connect with friends or make new ones are encouraged to join the Teen Center. The Somerville Parks & Recreation Department has created a great space and is working with teens to continue to improve the resources and center offerings. The Center is open Monday-Friday from 2:30-8pm. Students should register on the Parks & Recreation website to become a

Teen Center member. Contact Jeremy Vallesio at [jvallesio@somervillema.gov](mailto:jvallesio@somervillema.gov) or (617) 625-6600, x2999 for more information.

Teen Snow Shoveling Crew Teens 13 years and older are invited to earn some extra money by helping out a fellow community member, as part of the Teen Snow Shoveling Crew. Teens will be matched with a senior in the community requesting assistance with snow shoveling.

Applications are available on the city website at [www.somervillema.gov/ApplytoShovel](http://www.somervillema.gov/ApplytoShovel).

### **Pre-K to 8 School Open Houses**

It's that time of year already. School Open Houses to help incoming new families prepare for enrolling in our schools for the 2022-23 school year are coming up. Guests will have a chance to visit classrooms, meet staff, and take a tour. No registration is required - just drop in during the following Pre-K to 8 Open House dates:

- Wednesday, November 30, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 8, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 13, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Snow date, if necessary, is Wednesday, December 14th.

Visit our Open House webpage ([www.somerville.k12.ma.us/OpenHouses](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/OpenHouses)) for more information.

### **Thanksgiving Break**

A quick reminder that this Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> will be a half day for all students. The Thanksgiving break begins mid-day on Wednesday. All schools and district offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our schools on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Department Shout-Out**

Tonight, we want to highlight our school nursing department and the tireless work of our school nurses. We all know that the last two years have been unbelievably challenging in so many ways. The medical profession, including school nurses, has been on the front lines of the many challenges that a global pandemic presented. As we have continued to emerge from COVID-19 and into a new normal, our school nurses have been steadfast in their commitment to our students. They provide continued support and guidance through a wide range of illnesses, focused on helping students stay healthy and safe, especially as we enter the winter season and all that comes with it – such as flu and other illnesses. We are so grateful for their dedication and for their hard work. A huge shout-out to Nurse Manager, Karen Hart and the amazing School Nursing Team!

Ms. Barish took this time to point out that Somerville High Open House will be on February 7, 2023 and February 8, 2023. She also thanked the district for the distribution of the COVID-19 test for students to use before returning from Thanksgiving Break.

- **Spring 2022 MCAS Presentation (Ms. Eligene)**

Dr. Curley introduced Sam Eligene, Director of Data and Accountability, to present her report on [Spring 2022 MCAS results](#).

Ms. Eligene shared her presentation explaining MCAS results for students in grades 3-8 and 10<sup>th</sup> grade pertaining to Math, ELA & Science. Before she began her presentation she highlighted that the 2022 MCAS Assessment is the first full administration of the exam for students in grades 3-8 and 10. 10<sup>th</sup> grade students have not taken a full exam since they were in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students in grades 3-5 had never taken a full exam until this year. The PowerPoint presentation is also linked under attachments.

### **Questions/Comments**

Ms. Dion noted that even though scores are below the state average, Somerville is above other urban district networks, when compared with other districts with similar student population.

Ms. Barish was curious about what we might learn from increase in 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science scores. Was

there something different being done and how is the district responding to this data.

Dr. Curley said these results are in line with what we are seeing across the nation, which is troubling due to the loss in the past few years. The District recently signed a partnership with Spring Work Collaborative, a vendor DESE has rated extremely high, to help close the early education literacy gap for K-4 students. There still a lot of work to be done, we are taking this on at the district level and looking to bring targeted intervention from outside vendors.

Dr. Boston Davis echoed everything Dr. Curley said and added that last year there was a large focus on retuning to in person and social emotional supports. This year admin is shifting the focus back to academics and figuring out the new normal, working through the district ILT to focus on instruction without losing the social emotional piece. They have begun doing things like learning walks for school level admin to share successful practices and rethink District PD's.

Dr. Phillips asked if there is a strategic plan of how we get back to where we were and can it be shared out when it is ready. Dr. Curley is thinking along the same lines and will bring that back in the spring. He understands an accelerated plan is needed but one that will work long term.

Dr. Pitone appreciates of the positivity and creativity going on across the district for multilingual learners and asked if there is a way to capture the success level of journey students. Dr. Curley said he does not have an immediate response but definitely something, we as a district want to look at. Dr. Boston Davis also responded and added some information pertaining to the access data and testing.

Chair Green reminded everyone to keep in mind that these test do not tell a lot. When you look at national data, you see the same learning loss. What this is telling us is that classes have become more important than they were before the pandemic. We are seeing growing economic gaps even if COVID-19 did not strike the country. Poor families, families of color were hit especially hard by COVID-19. It is also hard to marginalize those communities and it is not surprising that those populations are underperforming. Our actual argument that this time it becomes more important to move away from filtering and sorting kids and really focus on how education great equalizing actually finally becomes that and not subsidizer of inequalities. We also need to look at solution difference not just as degree of magnitude we need to act fundamentally differently and accept that an equitable district in the future will look very different from what we have today.

Ms. Dion asked what the district is doing to make learning walks not stressful for teachers. Dr. Boston Davis responded that they have only done one so far, but a memo and schedule is sent out before hand, which give the teacher the option of opting out. The groups are made up of about 3-4 people and time spent in the classroom is no more than 5 minutes. Also by expressing gratitude to the teachers after the fact.

Dr. Ackman thanked Ms. Eligene for her presentation and Ms. Dion for her perspective. She would love to hear about students teaching students, if it is happening.

Ms. Pitone commented to Dr. Ackmans point that she is very impressed with how much student –student collaborative teaching is happening at SHS. She believes that last year we talked about UDL Universal Design for Learning and asked if that is still moving forward.

Dr. Curley responded that the student-to-student learning is happening in pockets, but he will take it back to the team to think more about it. To Ms. Pitone's question, we are working on a district level incorporation and have collaborated with Katie Novak UDL expert and MTSS process, Teir1 and Tear2 support at the school levels. This is happening through District ILT and Special Education Department, and talking to principals to get back to the basics about ways to improve upon and systematize some of that work.

Dr. Boston Davis clarified that the learning walks are not a tool for evaluations, there is nothing that we are going to see that will be recoded as an observation to go towards and educator's evaluation.

Chair Green took the time to emphasize our educators, while the country is obsessed with learning loss and repairing the damage from the pandemic, we must be clear that we recognize our educators have been and will continue to work hard for our students, we appreciate them and thank them for their efforts.

- **Equity and Excellence Department Update ( Ms. Gallitano)**

Dr. Curley introduced Ms. Caeli Gallitano, Director of Equity and Excellence, to present a [Department Update](#), which is also linked under attachments.

### **Questions/ Comments**

Dr. Ackman thanked Ms. Gallitano for her presentation and asked how Special Education students are being incorporated in the equity work. Ms. Gallitano said that one of the things we are looking closely at is how students are being identify with a disability especially in the emotional piece and outside of emotional impairment how are those students being identified. Also, how is the district equipping teachers to help students at the classroom level.

Ms. Pitone spoke to audits and how this work is being measured and if there are any potential changes to how it is being shared out. She asked about how the department is supporting systemic data and if they are looking at suspensions, behavioral referrals, course placements etc. Lastly, she wanted to know how we might make this information available to the public.

Ms. Gallitano responded that this is something she would need to give thought to in collaboration with Dr. Boston Davis. Dr. Boston Davis added that Ms. Gallitano has created a foundation to build the platform that Ms. Pitone is requesting.

Chair Green commented that so far what we have learned is to be mindful of an over reliance on quantitative data. This is what got us in this situation in the first place. It is easy to use data points to move to short-term quick non-transformative solution. At this point, we will never know what an equitable; multiracial school system will look like. When we talk about scarce resources is the point to advance the most vulnerable student or to advance with a piece of mind to the people who have privileges. A lot of the work being done will not be pleasing to people of power and at times could be upsetting.

Ms. Krepchin asked if there were any thoughts of ways to educate the broader communities. Ms. Gallitano said there are the PD's that are offered to staff, she would love to see if there is a way to share some for the public.

- **Math Curriculum Changes Memo**

Dr. Boston Davis gave a quick update on Math Curriculum Changes Memo, which is included in the attachments at the end of these minutes.

- The objective remain the same
- We want more equitable access to higher-level math courses
- Still considering implementation of illustrative math curriculum.

She announced that there would be a full update to share with the committee in a future date.

Dr. Phillips said one of the things she did not see on the memo is that this is not closely linked to college careers and she wondered how the college and career department is helping look at this. Dr. Boston Davis responded that we are hoping Tufts will help us address these questions. We still need to learn what are the full implications of how it would influence students. Mr. Mazza added that one of the things we want to see is the level of deeper learning that students get in this different curriculum. Now the idea of the deeper learning is that we do a lot of surface level teaching. In collaboration with Tufts, we are going to see the analysis and know whether what we are doing is correct for our students.

Ms. Pitone wanting to understand the timetable, wondered if this would be presented to School Committee in the winter/spring of 2023 for implementation of fall of 2023?

Dr. Boston Davis as a point of clarification asked if the research in the middle grades had already been done. To which Ms. Pitone confirmed that a decision was made a few years ago.

Dr. Boston Davis said this could be addressed in a full presentation. One thing that is on the memo is that this will not be implemented on the fall of 2023.

## **VI. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **A. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction: October 7, 2022 (Dr. Phillips)**

Chair Green wave the reading of the Education Programs and Instruction Report of Educational Programs Subcommittee November 7, 2022, submitted by Sarah Phillips. The Educational Programs Subcommittee met on November 7, 2022, via Zoom. Members present were Sarah Phillips, Sara Dion, and Emily Ackman. Also in attendance were Interim Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jessica Boston-Davis; and Interim K-12 Health and Physical Education Director, Nicole Viele. Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. There were four people in the audience. There were two items on the agenda:

**1) Approve Educational Programs Subcommittee Report**

Sara Dion moved to approve the October 3, 2022, Educational Programs Subcommittee report. Emily Ackman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**2) SPS Health Education Presentation**

The subcommittee received a report on SPS' sex education curriculum, which is being delivered through the Health Smart curriculum—the health curriculum the district is implementing for the first time this year. In addition to sexual health, Health Smart includes content in mental and emotional health, personal health and wellness, safety/injury prevention, food and nutrition, physical activity, alcohol and other drugs, and tobacco. The presentation included an overview of the sexual health content at each grade band and examples of the extent to which the curriculum is inclusive of LGBTQIA students and addresses issues of consent. The Health Department is considering requesting 1-2 more PreK-8 health educators, money for additional Health Smart curriculum materials, expanding the curriculum to PreK-8 and into the Capuano, offering professional development to all high school educators in Health and PE, and additional summer curriculum work. Next year, the Health and PE Curriculum is up for curriculum review and will be entering the study year.

Chair Phillips adjourned the meeting at 5:55pm.

Documents used:

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Krepchin, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and instruction October 7, 2021.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**B. School Committee Public Forum for Special Policing: November 14, 2022 ( Ms. Barish)**

Special Policing Subcommittee Public Forum

November 14, 2022

Subcommittee Chair Ellenor Barish called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Interpreters introduced themselves and explained how to access the interpretation channels. Ms. Barish invited subcommittee members to introduce themselves then presented a slide show with the following goals:

- Clarify the task of the Special Policing Subcommittee
- Provide information about the role of School Resource Officer, the STEPS program, and the history of these programs in Somerville.
- Provide an update on community outreach

After the slide show, Ms. Barish invited those in attendance to sign up in the chat in order to make public comments. Sixteen people provided public comment, including one person who read a statement from a high school student who was unable to attend. Commenters included caregivers of children in SPS, SPS staff members, current and former SPS students, and community members without children in the district. Most of those who spoke expressed support for the People's Policy MOU put forth by Safe Schools Somerville. All commenters spoke against the reinstatement of the SRO at the high school.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

The meeting was recorded and has been posted on the Special Policing Subcommittee webpage.

Three people who made public comments also submitted their remarks via email and one person submitted an email in lieu of public comment. Those are attached below.

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Hello and good evening. My name is Damon Sidel. My wife Marianne McPherson and I live at 10 Grand View Ave. We're parents to an 8th and 5th grader at the Argenziano School. We stand with the group Safe Schools Somerville, working to limit police presence in Somerville Public Schools.

I urge this body to recommend the adoption of the People's MOU, to keep SROs out of our schools; as well as to fund additional counselors, restorative justice programs, and anti-racist and implicit bias trainings.

We know--both from extensive national research and from families' experiences right here in Somerville--that police in schools cause harm and do not prevent the biggest harms. This isn't about "good" or "bad" police or having more or better training. Unfortunately, it's how the system of policing works in the US. We don't want this to continue to happen to Somerville children, especially to our students of color, students with disabilities, and students who are immigrants--the students harmed most.

Our Somerville community has loudly and consistently demonstrated broad support for alternatives to Police. We don't want police in schools, we want to build community and provide mental health support.

Our community wants restorative justice, mental health supports, and training for our teachers, staff & students about anti-racism and implicit bias. We know this from the hundreds of comments that Safe Schools Somerville has collected and organized at meetings like this one and from at least 2 student surveys in Somerville High School. Again and again, these comments oppose bringing back the SRO or having police in schools.

We want our children and our teachers & staff to be safe--police don't stop school shootings. The response to put police in schools to protect kids and staff from the things we fear most does NOT provide protection--it actually makes students feel unsafe.

Marianne and I urge you to support the People's MOU. This plan, created by Safe Schools Somerville, will protect us from the harms we're worried about, all while limiting the harm that police in schools produce. This MOU limits police presence to the legal requirements under MA State law and involves parents at every step when police are engaged by the Somerville Public Schools.

Thank you for listening and for your hard work.

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Hello my name is Eline. I live on Prospect Hill with my family. The eldest is in first grade at Argenziano and the other two will follow shortly.

I stand with the Safe Schools Somerville group about keeping SROs out of school.

I am married to an American, and I myself am an immigrant and naturalized a few years ago, and I only learned about Police in schools when my eldest started going to Argenziano. I found this notion very, very shocking and a very foreign concept to me.

We should all see childhood and adolescence as a 'safe' time when our kids can mess up and learn from mistakes. Their brains are rapidly developing, and they are trying to make sense of a lot of things. Schools should be a safe place where our kids can mess up. Some kids mess up more than others. Having a police officer in school means that incidents are responded to with force, no matter the nature of the incidents, and then a report is written and the kid now has a record and that is so destructive to this kid's future. We also know that Police in the United States simply do

not effectively de-escalate situations. So things can go from innocent to really bad very quickly - for often minor things that could have been better resolved through a counselor. In schools, we need **life guides**, counselors and mental health support, not police with tasers and guns.

I worry deeply about how police in schools will harm our friends of color, our friends with disabilities and our friends who are immigrants. By choosing to place a police officer in our schools, we are choosing to perpetuate and prolong these harms in our city.

Finally, I would like this group to know that we kept our first grader home during the safety/lockdown drill at Argenziano last week, because the experience is too traumatic and there is insufficient evidence to show their effectiveness.

Please adopt the People's MOU. Please keep police out of schools and instead fund additional counselors, restorative justice programs, and anti-racist, implicit bias trainings, and additional de-escalation trainings.

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I stand with the group Safe Schools Somerville (formerly known as Justice for Flavia), working to limit police presence in Somerville Public Schools.

I urge this body to recommend the adoption of the People's MOU, to keep SROs out of our schools; and to fund additional counselors, restorative justice programs, and anti-racist and implicit bias trainings.

The presence of police in schools harms students of color, students with disabilities and students who are immigrants. By choosing to place a police officer in our schools, we are choosing to perpetuate and prolong these harms in Somerville.

Our Somerville community has loudly and consistently demonstrated broad support for alternatives to Police. We don't want police in schools, we want to build community and provide mental health support.

Thank you,

Donald Cronin  
251 Summer Street  
Ward 5 - Precinct 4

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I am deeply opposed to having uniformed and armed officers in the schools. The harm caused is well known; the lack of increase in safety is also well known. I know you are fully aware of the research so I won't belabor that point. I will add that having a gun around exponentially increases the likelihood of someone being shot. This is also an entirely unacceptable risk to our students and school staff, especially with no other appreciable benefits.

What I want to speak to is the message received by so many members of our school community when police are present. It tells people that their safety and well being does not matter. It tells people that elected officials and school administrators don't care about them as much as they do white, middle class families. It is the polar opposite of the welcoming and inclusive environment SPS claims to have. Imagine the trauma caused to children and families who have experienced violence at the hands of police, or who come from places with uniformed authoritarian regimes when they see police at school. The amount of trauma felt by BIPOC, immigrants, disabled people and the LGBTQ+ at the hands of police gets reinforced by the presence of police in schools. It creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation and is a visual reminder of who matters and who does not. In my opinion, as the mother of a Black child and 2 LGBTQ+ children, I find the idea of placing police in schools to be cruel and unconscionable.

How can Somerville claim to care about equity, diversity, or even just kindness, and entertain the notion of returning police to schools? These are mutually exclusive for our community. Don't be the school committee who chooses police over kids. Please.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Kasow

37 School St

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Barish, second by Ms. Dion, to accept the report of the School Committee Public Forum for Special Policing: November 14, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**C. School Committee Meeting for Rules Management: November 16, 2022** (Ms. Barish)

Rules Management Subcommittee

November 16, 2022

The Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. Laura Pitone, Sara Dion, Ellenor Barish, Nicole Viele, and Susana Hernandez Morgan were present. There were 2 people in the audience.

There were three items on the agenda.

1. Approve Minutes from October Meeting

Sara Dion moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Laura Pitone. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Health Education File IHAM

Sara Dion and Susana Hernandez Morgan shared redlined revisions of proposed policy changes presented at the October meeting. Conversation revolved around whether this policy should specify content to be covered by the health curriculum. Ms. Viele and Ms. Hernandez Morgan expressed concern that if the policy is too prescriptive it might limit educator autonomy and hinder the department from focusing on what a given group of students might need most. On the other hand, subcommittee members expressed a desire to signal support for a progressive health education curriculum as other communities limit what can be discussed in school. They see the health policy as an opportunity to codify the district's values and expectations so that integral parts of the curriculum can't be skipped or glossed over. There seemed to be consensus around the broad goals of "science-based, age appropriate, and affirming". Ms. Viele suggested that the specifics could be put on the website and in a letter to parents if they aren't included in the policy. Ms. Pitone added that health education should be provided to all grade levels and that it should be taught by qualified personnel. Ms. Barish will take one more pass at the language, working with Ms. Hernandez Morgan.

3. Dress Code File JICA

Ms. Hernandez Morgan provided a redlined version of File JICA, drawing from examples shared in earlier meetings. Members were supportive of the changes, for the most part. There was conversation about whether it is necessary to specify that students "not expose...underclothing (except for bra straps)". The exception was appreciated but members expressed concern that this stipulation might lead to unintended enforcement. The group came to a consensus that the examples of appropriate clothing should make the expectations clear without needing to say explicitly that undergarments must not be visible. Ms. Hernandez Morgan will share the proposed language with principals along with the request that they share it with staff and students in order to collect feedback. She will plan to bring feedback to this subcommittee by January.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Krepchin, second by Dr. Phillips, to accept the report of the School Committee



Meeting for Rules Management Subcommittee: November 16, 2022.  
 The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Somerville Educators Union Resolutions:**

Chair Green announced that in alignment with the new SEU contract there are four resolutions that require a School Committee vote by the end of the school year. He asked four volunteers to work on them in partnership with Ms. Hernandez Morgan, Interim Chief of Staff and Strategy, and Ms. Piques, Interim Director of Communications and Grants. Chair Green volunteered himself for the first one; Ms. Krepchin took the second one, Ms. Dion the third and Ms. Barish the last resolution. Drafted language will be brought to the first meeting in December.

- Resolutions to work in partnership with the city to maintain a safe and healthy teaching and learning environments in school buildings and on school grounds. ( Chair Green)
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to work towards a carbon neutral SPS. (Ms. Krepchin)
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to increase parking availability for staff around school buildings - particularly those without a dedicated lot and a large staff - and to reduce parking demand by incentivizing alternate modes of transportation. ( Ms. Dion)
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to support our families with school-age children facing possible eviction and pursue policies to prevent such evictions. ( Ms. Barish)

**B. School Committee Office Hours ( Ms. Dion)**

Ms. Dion announced the School Committee Fall Office Hours schedule:

<b>School Committee Fall Office Hours</b>			
<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Barish, Ellenor	11/26/22	10-11:30 am	West Branch Library Meeting Room
Green, Andre, Jesse Clingan, Christine Barber	11/28	8:00-9:15	Winter Hill CIS with Winter Hill PTA
Phillips, Sarah and Iana Krepchin	12/2	8:15-9:30am	Argenziano Outdoor Classroom Co-Sponsored with Argenziano PTA
Green, Andre	12/3	10:00-11:30	Zoom
Pitone, Laura	12/3	1:30-3:00 PM	Arts at the Armory Cafe
Barish, Ellenor	12/6/22	4:00-5:30 pm	West Branch Library Meeting Room
Dion, Sara	12/7/22	3:30-5:30 PM	Angelina's Pizzeria
Phillips, Sarah	12/10	11-12:30am	Central Branch Library, Children's Room
Ackman, Emily & Matt McLaughlin	12/12/22	7:00 PM	Connexion, 149 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145
Barish, Ellenor	12/12/22	11:30-1 pm	Zoom

Chair Green took this time to remind the public and the committee that he, Dr. Ackman and Ms. Krepchin would be part of the subcommittee for the superintendent search. He also announced that he increased the slots for educators and parents to two slots for each group, for a total of seven members for the screening committee.

Ms. Pitone asked whom members should send the feedback to from office hours. She also asked if there was a change to the office hours, who should be notified.

Chair Green responded that feedback should go to Dr. Ackman and Ms. Woods, Interim Chief of Personnel. And changes to office hours should be sent to Ms. Dion and Ms. Piques, Interim Director of Communications and Grants.

**C. Field Trips (Recommended Action: approval)**

**April 3, 2022 to April 4, 2022**

6 Students from NW/FC will attend the White Mountains in NH. Travel via NW/FC Van, student covered by grant funding.

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Barish, second by Dr. Phillips, to approve the Field Trip from April 3, 2022 to April 4, 2022 for students from NW/FC to attend the White Mountains in NH.

The motion was approved unanimously via rollcall vote.

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

***Federal Grants:***

IDEA Special Education Grant (Fund Code 240) - \$1,655,912

IDEA Early Childhood Special Education Grant (Fund Code 262) - \$63,206

Growing Literacy Equity Across MA (GLEAM) Grant - \$111,000

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Dion, seconded by Ms. Barish, to accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed above.

The motion was approved unanimously via rollcall vote.

**VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no items from board members.

**IX. CONDOLENCES**

**Margaret T. "Peggy" Brennan** - Retired Executive Secretary in the Superintendent Office

**Beatrice Shannon** - Retired Food Service Lunch attendant at Edgerly School and Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**Related documents:**

Agenda

[Spring 2022 MCAS Presentation](#)

[Equity and Excellence Department](#)

Math Curriculum Changes Memo

Submitted by: E. Garcia

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 21, 2022  
ZOOM WEBINAR– 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the School Committee will be conducted via remote 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.

**Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to preregister or on the date and time of this meeting to view it live:** [https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZMsQspO1SSClSjXOKcunug](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSjXOKcunug)

**Webinar ID:** 847 5813 4927

**Password:** SPSSC22

**Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2019 - 2022**

Through the following long-range goals, we commit to addressing deep-rooted systemic barriers that have prevented us from achieving our district vision of equity and excellence and ensuring 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. By 2022, we will ...:

...increase the percentage of support staff of color by 6 percentage points, teachers and counselors of color by 5 percentage points, and administrators of color by 4 percentage points through evaluating and strengthening all elements of our human capital system.

... 1) conduct a district enrollment study to understand the prospective future population of the district and 2) craft a vision for school assignment and programming aligned with the district's equity policy.

... design, evaluate, and partially or fully implement student-based budgeting to ensure that every student has equitable access to rich learning opportunities that help them thrive.

... design a robust system of aligned developmental academic and social-emotional benchmarks which will be used to inform practices, policies, and resource allocation.

**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**

- October 3, 2022
- October 17, 2022

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. District Report**

- Spring 2022 MCAS Presentation (Ms. Eligene)
- Equity and Excellence Department Update (Ms. Gallitano)
- Math Curriculum Changes Memo

**VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction:** November 7, 2022 (Dr. Phillips)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of November 7, 2022.

**B. School Committee Public Forum for Special Policing:** November 14, 2022 (Ms. Barish)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Public Forum for Special Policing of November 14, 2022.

**C. School Committee Meeting for Rules Management:** November 16, 2022 (Ms. Barish)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Rules Management of November 16, 2022.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Somerville Educators Union Resolutions:**

- Resolutions to work in partnership with the city to maintain a safe and healthy teaching and learning environments in school buildings and on school grounds.
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to work towards a carbon neutral SPS.
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to increase parking availability for staff around school buildings - particularly those without a dedicated lot and a large staff - and to reduce parking demand by incentivizing alternate modes of transportation.
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to support our families with school-age children facing possible eviction and pursue policies to prevent such evictions.

**B. School Committee Office Hours** (Ms. Dion)

**C. Field Trips** (Recommended action: approval)

**April 3, 2022 to April 4, 2022**

6 Students from NW/FC will attend the White Mountains in NH. Travel via NW/FC Van, student covered by grant funding.

**D. 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:

***Federal Grants:***

IDEA Special Education Grant (Fund Code 240) - \$1,655,912

IDEA Early Childhood Special Education Grant (Fund Code 262) - \$63,206

Growing Literacy Equity Across MA (GLEAM) Grant - \$111,000

**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.



**Dr. Jessica Boston Davis**

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**To:** The Somerville Public Schools School Committee  
**From:** Dr. Jessica Boston Davis, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Academics, and  
Dr. Jeff Curley, Interim Superintendent  
**Re:** Updates on Somerville High School Math Pathways  
**Date:** November 21, 2022

On March 24, 2022, we held a community meeting reviewing an initial proposal for a number of changes to the math curriculum and student experience at the high school. The proposal was voted out of the Education Programs Subcommittee, but it has not yet been brought to the full School Committee. We have been making progress on a number of fronts, including understanding community questions and concerns, scoping implementation, and evaluating potential changes. We are continuing exploration and planning efforts and will bring a revised proposal to the School Committee for further feedback in 2023.

**Our Objectives**

- Address issues of inequitable access and participation in higher level math courses for SPS students.
- Offer richer math learning experiences for all SPS students.

**Our Explorations**

We are considering the following:

- Utilizing a math curriculum called Illustrative Mathematics - already used in the middle grades, and geometry classes - for 9th and 10th grade students. Illustrative Mathematics encourages deeper, more conceptual learning and develops the problem-solving skills students need to better understand math concepts in the real world.
- Training Somerville High School teachers on Illustrative Mathematics pedagogical practices.
- Modifying the course offering for 9th and/or 10th grade students. (For the 2023-2024 school year, we will *not* be switching to integrated math courses and will continue to offer Algebra I and Geometry for incoming 9th grade students.)
- Creating more heterogeneous classrooms to promote further learning for all students.
- Implementing Open Honors course offerings across more math courses at the high school.

**Our Focus**

As we continue to plan the best approach we identify to meet our objectives, we are engaging in the following activities:

- We are exploring a partnership with Tufts University to help analyze the projected impact and efficacy of changes we may make.
- We are reviewing and analyzing student data (academic performance and course participation) across multiple dimensions.
- We are conducting a more thorough review of Illustrative Mathematics and accompanying professional development approach.
- We are exploring the full potential impact of changes being proposed, including understanding implications for other SPS departments such as Special Education and Multilingual Learner Education.

Should the research and efforts provide positive signals that we will meet our objectives, we anticipate we will present a detailed plan for community and School Committee consideration in 2023.