

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, January 22, 2024 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – City Hall Chambers

Members present: Ms. Barish, Mr. Green, Mr. Biton (via zoom), Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman, Dr. Phillips, and Chair Krepchin

Members Absent: Mayor Ballantyne and President Ewen-Campen

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Krepchin asked Superintendent Curley to call the roll, results of which were as follows:
PRESENT – 7 – Ms. Barish, Mr. Green, Mr. Biton (via zoom), Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman, Dr. Phillips, and Chair Krepchin
ABSENT – 2 - President Ewen-Campen and Mayor Ballantyne.

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Erick Cabron- Spanish

Sue DeCarey- Portuguese

Angie Surpris- Haitian Creole

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representatives Marcia Narh-Botchway and Anna Sophia Protopapas were both present and reported the following:

- Members are invited to attend the Valentine’s Day Cupid Crush Bash Dance at the high school on January 26.
- Pilot program at the high school to incentivize Harry-Potter like “good highland habits” which involve getting to class on time and being respectful of others. The class with the most points wins with its choice of a pizza party. Points can be deducted for misbehavior and at the present time the freshman and senior classes are in last place. Points are given for attending girls’ athletic events and attending theater/musical performances, etc.
- Question on the status of field trips in general, as they are not happening with any frequency.
- Fundraising is currently underway for orchestra/chorus field trip to New York City in April with attendance at museums and Broadway shows. Proceeds from the winter chorus were raised as well.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr. Green commented that the field trip discussion arose last year, and high school administration pledged to address. He recognized the importance of field trips as one of his own favorite memories of his high school years and acknowledged that these trips are often sponsored by clubs and extracurricular activities and may experience challenges.

Dr. Carmona thanked the students and recognized the importance of their eloquent voices in advocating for hands-on-experiential learning outside the academic classroom.

Ms. Boston Davis will follow-up with high school administration.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 16, 2023

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to approve the School Committee minutes of October 16, 2023.

The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ryan Williams of Kingston St. asked the Committee to consider the formation of a middle school in the community which could better address the whole child at a critical time of development socially, artistically, athletically, educationally and mentally. At a time when children are spreading their wings and exploring their identity, resources focused on growth and development will benefit the child and ease the transition to high school.

He added that seventeen out of twenty-one core cities have a middle school model. Having access to extracurricular resources all in one place enhances equitable access to all students and not just students who have parents that can "shuttle them around to activities." He advocated for bringing resources to children in an open space where joining an activity is as easy as "walking down the hall." Having the middle school model has the additional benefit of allowing elementary teachers to refocus on the core skills of reading and math without being distracted by supervising middle school behavior.

He urged the Committee to consider shaping the vision of SPS through 2050 now when there is the opportunity to make concrete choices.

The following parents appeared via zoom.

Ksenia Samokhvalova of 75 Irving Street, mother of a fifth grader and first grader at Brown, agreed with Mr. Williams that a middle school model would benefit not only the developing child at that age but would also free up space for focusing on the whole child at the grades. She stated that most parents would be in favor of a neighborhood school at that age in easy walking distance for their child.

She stated that Brown is the only school that does not have a middle school and as a result these students are placed together as a cohort split between the West and Kennedy. She expressed dismay that last Thursday parents were informed there were not enough spots available at the two schools for twenty-nine children. She also urged the Committee to add capacity now so that the emerging Brown fifth graders could be granted their first/second choices of Kennedy and West so that they could be together with their classmates in the sixth grade.

Elena Ghanotakis of Powderhouse Blvd. spoke as a mother of two students at Brown and one at Capuano. She agreed with the sentiments expressed by Ms. Samokhvalova. Middle school is a sensitive age and many children are terrified of transitioning to middle school, and the transition is made worse if they are separated from their peers to face middle school on their own or with few peers. With some opting for private school there are fewer peers.

She urged the Superintendent and School Committee not to take the extreme path but to meet with parents to consider alternative solutions to add a classroom to the Kennedy or expand class sizes where possible in order that children stay together as a cohort and not to experience isolation at this sensitive age.

Judi Nemser-Abrahams of Hancock St. spoke as a mother of a first grader and pre-k and a younger child not in the system. She *expressed* dismay that the Edgerly recent experienced inoperable bathrooms that received a delayed response. Echoing problems with the decrepit building on Sycamore St., she urged the School Committee to ensure the Edgerly receives the "greatest care."

She also expressed dismay that there has been no announcement on busing for next year. Moving to the Edgerly has greatly impacted families. She urged transparency with families not only on transportation but the progress of a school on Sycamore Street. While she is in favor of the middle school model currently being advocated, she urged that this not delay any progress on Winter Hill which is the priority at this time. She urged the Committee to have the "strongest possible voice with the city about issues. You are our link."

Eric Nygren of Irving Rd. spoke as a father of two children at Brown. He urged the Committee to reassess its capacity study and consider having neighborhood "walkable" schools that are environmentally good for the city long term.

Mr. Biton joined the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report
• **Superintendent Update**

Fun News:

The **SHS Quiz Show Team** will be competing this Saturday, January 27th, in the qualifying stage of the Quiz Show on WGBH. Our Highlanders will be competing against Phillips Academy. Congratulations! We know you will be excellent and we can't wait to see you shine this weekend

Entry Plan Update:

Within my first several months as Superintendent, my team and I have engaged in a comprehensive community engagement process in order to hear feedback and incorporate diverse and representative voices from across the District to support the development of a strategic plan that will outline our collective vision for the future of SPS.

Focus groups

In that time, I have participated in 40 separate focus groups and or meet & greets. Focus groups were 1 hour open discussions that have included between 10-30 individuals during each session. See below for more detail:

- **8** parent groups/meet and greets (PTAs, school food markets, Padres Latinos, Somerville Asian Family Network, Parent English Groups, and more)
- **6** student groups (6th-12th grade groups at SHS, Healey and AFAS)
- **26** staff groups across 10 schools and 16 departments

Survey

We have also distributed surveys to students, staff, parents and community members asking community members to share their thoughts on what is going well and what needs improvement at SPS. I'm thrilled to share that we have received over **2,275** unique survey responses from students, staff and SPS families. See below for more detail:

- **70%** of survey responses were student responses
- **20%** of survey responses were family responses
- **8%** of survey responses were staff responses
- **2%** of responses were from community partners

334 families shared that they use/access one or more of the following resources: Carrot Cards, the free food market, MBTA cards, SFLC family liaison support, SPS social media/Connections newsletter.

We received responses from students who speak a wide variety of languages at home. The most common languages spoken outside of English included Spanish (**482** respondents), Portuguese (**204** respondents), Arabic, Haitian Creole and many more.

Preliminary Themes

While we have yet to formally assess the data, preliminary themes arose during focus groups. It's important to note that some of this may change as we do a comprehensive assessment of the data. Some preliminary themes include:

- **Strengths:** Commitment to equity; commitment to social emotional learning; access to interpretation/translation services; the CTE program; and a positive community feel across the district.
- **Areas for improvement:** Curriculum updates; more instructional support for educators; OST expansion; facilities maintenance.

- **2024-2025 School calendar (Dr. Boston Davis)**

Ms. Boston Davis reviewed the latest draft of the 2024-2025 school calendar which included feedback and suggested revisions of the Committee (see attached.)

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the School Committee SY24-25 School Calendar.

The motion was approved unanimously.

- **Partnership to maintain safe/healthy teaching/ learning environments within school buildings/grounds**

(Assistant Superintendent Operations Chad Mazza)

Mr. Mazza shared the Partnership to maintain safe/healthy teaching/ learning environments within school buildings/grounds report including the following highlights:

School Committee will provide the SEU with bi-annual updates on progress on:

Partnership with the City to maintain safe and healthy teaching and learning environments within school buildings and school grounds

The City of Somerville and Somerville Public Schools are working in partnership to maintain safe and healthy teaching and learning environments. We are deeply committed to being responsive to the building and grounds needs of all SPS schools. SPS and the City will continue to partner on the goal of eliminating non-academic barriers that negatively impact teaching and learning. Below is a non-exhaustive list of recent examples of efforts that directly impact school buildings and grounds.

- **Air quality control post-COVID:**

- o MERV 13 filters were added at every school. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) has tested these filters and confirmed they capture small enough particles to address viruses and bacteria. The EPA has found that improved ventilation in classrooms leads to reduced absenteeism and improved test scores, as well as overall health and performance in both students and teachers.¹
- o In addition, filter replacement protocols have been revised to shorten the service period, improving environmental conditions as well as HVAC performance.
- o UV lighting has been installed in the air handling equipment wherever feasible. According to the EPA, these lights have been shown to eliminate mildew and mold, kill viruses and bacteria in the airstream, and prevent contaminant build up on the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (“HVAC”) components.² These efforts lead to improved airflow and system performance as well as increased energy efficiency in the HVAC systems.
- o In October 2022, SPS was awarded a \$700,000 Improving Ventilation and Air Quality (IVAQ) Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The goal of this grant funding is to improve ventilation and air quality in school districts with students and communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID pandemic. SPS projects will include replacing various cooling and heating equipment at the Healey, Brown, West, and Kennedy schools.

- **Resiliency:**

- o The City recently updated its climate vulnerability assessment with new data to understand how assets will be impacted by heat and flooding. The City’s Office of Sustainability and Environment is currently hiring its first ever Resiliency

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools/how-does-indoor-air-quality-impact-student-health-and-academic-performance>

² <https://www.epa.gov/mold/does-ultraviolet-uv-radiation-uv-lamps-kill-mold>
Planner. This new position is tasked with leading a citywide assessment including municipal buildings.

- o The position will also lead a Resiliency Task Force, joining the partnership with Somerville Public Schools to make buildings and grounds more resilient to climate stressors and their consequences.

- **Efficient Systems and Work Order Processes**

- o SPS leadership continue to partner with the City to improve the current work order process for addressing and tracking facility needs.
- o The Assistant Superintendent of Operations met with SPS Principals to identify a central point person for all 311 submissions. Moving forward, requests will also copy Assistant Superintendent Chad Mazza.
- o Since October 2023, Assistant Superintendent Mazza has met with Lammis J. Vargas, Chief Administrative Officer, and Steve Craig, Director of Constituent Services to create a draft dashboard of SPS related 311 work orders.
- o The SPS Assistant Superintendent of Operations and City Chief Administrative Officer and DPW Commissioner will be meeting regularly to review 311 School Building Data Submission Reports.

- **Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)**

- o The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) has specific requirements for the way school districts identify, manage, document, and inspect asbestos-containing materials (ACM).
- o While AHERA is a reporting requirement for school districts, within Somerville, DPW is the designated department for the AHERA management plan and compliance.
 - o DPW staff completed the AHERA Awareness Training on December 28, 2023.
 - o DPW is working on completing an Asbestos Management Plan for each building.

- **Snow removal**

- o During the winter months, SPS and the City share a high priority of keeping students and families safe on their way to and from school. The Department of Public Works and other relevant departments prioritize the following during any snow event:
 - 1st priority: school entrances, drop-off areas, staircases and walkways
 - 2nd priority: school crossings
- o Staff use several methods of de-icing and removal depending on the surface. These include pretreating with plant-safe ice melt or salt, and removing snow with shovels, snow blowers, brooms and squeegees.
 - o In addition, the City continues its pilot of Sidewalk Snow Clearing on Broadway and School Streets. On these two routes, Inspectional Services staff ticket property owners who do not remove snow from their sidewalks after an allotted amount of time. City workers then clear snow to promote pedestrian safety.
- o To improve safe passage for WHCIS students, DPW works proactively with DCR, advocating that the Otis street bridge is clear of ice and snow.

Partnership with the City to become carbon neutral

As various building systems require replacement, the City will be identifying and installing new technologies that reduce each building's carbon load, improve resiliency and energy efficiency. Active projects advancing those goals include:

- **Kennedy School** - The specified modular chiller and project have several important roles to reduce energy use, including to:
 - o better match the load of the building, without excessive energy consumption
 - o be compatible with future heat recovery add-ons like pool heating and/or solar hot water
 - o enable chillers to also provide the heating, thereby reducing reliance on the existing natural gas boiler.
- **West Somerville Neighborhood School & Healey School** - Both schools have gone through a conceptual design process. The next steps involve design and construction. Both schools will have the same modular chiller system (as described above for the Kennedy School), new roofs with added insulation, and will be solar ready. In addition, downstream heating and cooling units will also be replaced to accept modern sustainable design strategies which will maximize efficiency.

- **Somerville High School:** The City is advancing its efforts to implement rooftop solar at the Somerville High School. This installation will generate 12% of the electricity the school uses every year, eliminating the equivalent of approximately 30 household's worth of carbon dioxide. The City and Schools look forward to planning a Flip the Switch celebration when the work is complete.
- **East Somerville Community School:** The City recently installed a rooftop solar array at the East Somerville Community School. A Flip the Switch celebration was held to mark the moment. This installation will generate 55% of the electricity the school uses every year, eliminating as much carbon dioxide emissions every year as burning 33,850 gallons of gasoline
- **City-wide:** The City is methodically investigating the mechanical systems in school buildings, starting with retro-commissioning or "stress-testing" of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems and their controls. Through that effort, the City is identifying systems that are not functioning or are nearing the end of their useful life and developing proactive system replacement projects to replace that equipment. One primary design objective in the evaluation and selection of alternatives to address those issues is advancing the City's climate goals.

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.

Mobility is a priority across both the City and SPS administrations. The City's Parking Department issues free on-street parking passes to SPS staff. The City has implemented SPS priority street parking regulations at Somerville High School as a pilot program due to the unique challenges of major construction in the neighborhood. To improve travel choices and advance Somerville's commitment to climate-friendly transportation, Mayor Ballantyne also approved the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and operating budget funds to provide free universal MBTA transit passes to both SPS and City employees. These programs are in a pilot phase, which includes a robust program evaluation component to document lessons learned on how to best administer an employee transit benefit program. In addition, the City provides free Blue Bikes bikeshare passes to City and SPS staff, which includes a reduced-cost benefit for use of the system's new electric assist Blue Bike program.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The following questions were asked, and Mr. Mazza will follow-up with answers:

- Update on Co2 monitors in classrooms.
- Plan for new roof on West and Healey to be completed over the summer.

Discussion ensued on the stairs outside the Next Wave Full Circle not being shoveled and presenting a danger to a vulnerable population. Dr. Carmona reported that discussions are underway with the city for creative resolutions to the new concrete in the curing stage impervious to de-icing materials. While sand is an option, it does not melt icing formation.

Mr. Mazza also addressed the impact of ice accumulation on the driveway to the automotive program and leaving the gate open for access to cars for students to work on and gain necessary hours required.

Mr. Biton requested a list of items that need to be addressed by the city in building maintenance of those that are prioritized and not prioritized. Mr. Mazza stated, when thinking of prioritization of submissions, those that involve health and safety are prioritized, and he works with DPW to ensure that they are addressed in a timely fashion. These projects will be listed and updated for community edification.

Mr. Green addressed the matter of voiding warranties for stairs, sidewalks and driveways in weighing the risk of injury. He noted that Montreal's example of sanding concrete surfaces right after snowfalls is the standard for municipalities. Dr. Carmona stated that he has talked with the Mayor on this standard and discussion continues. He acknowledged the DPW's quick response to his requests for prompt service to the schools during snowfalls. While he does not yet know the cost of voiding warranties, he noted the importance of tracking the city's investments.

Dr. Ackman noted that, insofar as there were lessons learned from the recently MSBA-funded high school, that the Committee use that knowledge as the new school is built. Mr. Green suggested that the Committee work with the consultant on the project to get a sense of how to do things differently "now that we know things now that we didn't then and start out on the right foot."

Ms. Pitone noted that the Otis Street Bridge overpass is often icy and slushy. Dr. Ackman noted that the developer of the apartment building committed to maintaining the bridge as part of the variance he received from the city to build the apartment complex. She suggested that the city be held accountable for enforcing maintenance of the bridge.

Dr. Mazza said he would explore the situation, but in the meantime if 311 is called he immediately contacts Commissioner Lathan to escalate the complaint.

B. Personnel Report
• December 2023

Dr. Carmona announced the following retirements and thanked them for their service.
Hugh Wallace CTE Teacher at Somerville High School retiring after 16 years of service
Teresa Delgado Castillo Teacher at East Somerville Community School retiring after 7 years of Service

Also announce that the following Paraprofessional have now moved to teacher assignments:
Paula Chavez at Argenziano School and Gina Natale at Capuano school

SPS continues to hire Paraprofessionals and Substitutes, and welcome our new CTE Automotive Instructor Joshua Richardson

VI. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole and the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee both of January 17, 2024 as amended.

Dr. Ackman stated that the reference to an item that needed review at the June education meeting should be changed to the April education meeting.

The motion was approved unanimously.

A. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole :
January 17, 2024 (Dr. Phillips)

Report of The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee, January 17, 2024, submitted by Sarah Phillips

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on January 17, 2024, via Zoom. Members present were Emily Ackman, Ilana Krepchin, Sarah Phillips, Andre Green, Ellenor Barish, Laura Pitone, and Leiran Biton. Also in attendance were Superintendent Rubén Carmona; Chief Financial Officer, Fran Gorski; and Assistant Superintendent, Chad Mazza. Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were two people in the audience. There were seven items on the agenda:

- 1) FY25 Budget Timeline
Fran Gorski provided an update on the FY25 budget timeline through June, including the finance meetings of the whole and other district activities to develop the budget.

- Ilana Krepchin, seconded by Laura Pitone, moves to approve the budget timeline. · Laura Pitone, seconded by Ilana Krepchin, moves to amend the motion to add SC office hours at an unspecified date in April. The motion passed 6/7.
- Leiran Biton, seconded by Ilana Krepchin, moves that an item be added to the budget timeline reflecting Superintendent budget discussions with key groups such as the MLEPAC and SEPAC. The amendment passed 4/2 with 1 abstention.
- The original motion to approve budget timeline passed 6/1.

2) Revenue Forecast

Fran Gorski reminded the committee that the Governor instituted state-level budget cuts. There is some concern at the state level about revenue. The district is meeting monthly with the City to discuss the revenue forecast for the district. The district has identified several considerations to the City during these preliminary meetings—moving the remaining ESSER positions and contracts to the General Fund; funding all COLA and STEPs increases, Operation and maintenance increases, including a new legal contract and the rising cost of transportation; and creating new organizations to create transparency in the district budget for Out of School Time and Vocational Education. The City has raised concerns about immediate facilities issues related to moving the district administration to the TAB and Winter Hill to Edgerly. Andre Green reminds the committee that the City has already committed to an 8% budget increase for FY25.

3) FY25 Level Service Budget

Fran Gorski provided an overview of the FY25 Level Service Budget. At this point, based on contracts and notes, considerations for reductions include \$10,000 for absence management support; \$151,000 for Wi-Fi hotspots at the Edgerly; \$125,000 for Chromebooks; \$25,000 in contracted nursing services; \$22,00 for College Advisors. Considerations for additions include \$25,000 for increased legal costs; \$20,00 for Greater Boston Breakthrough; \$50,000 for additional embedded counseling contracts; \$250,000 for transportation; \$32,000 in costs for Youth Harbors for unhoused students not covered by grant funding; \$800,000 in ESSER contracts moving to the General Fund; \$3,250,000 in negotiated and estimated raises, longevity, and step increases adjusted for retirements; \$2,600,000 in ESSER positions moving to the General Fund, \$400,000 in unbudgeted positions added during the current fiscal year; \$60,207 in Circuit Breaker Offset including FY24 receipts. Further considerations include the City considering moving to a single Human Resources platform citywide. The level service budget reflects a total budget increase of 7%.

4) ESSER

Fran Gorski reminded the committee of the positions and contracts remaining on the ESSER budget and noted the district is on-track to expend nearly all the funds by June 30, 2024. Any remaining funds will be spent on FY25 summer school.

5) YTD Expenditure Detail

Fran Gorski provided an update on year-to-date expenditures. We have spent just over half our budget, which is to be expected. Fran highlighted student services and the SFLC because they are both over budget due to additional contracts/funding for contracts that did not materialize as well as some small purchasing—e.g., walkie talkies.

6) December Bill Rolls

Fran Gorski provided an overview of our December local, revolving, and grant bill rolls.

- Ilana Krepchin, seconded by Andrew Green, moves to approve the December local bill rolls. The motion passed unanimously.

7) Facilities Update

Chad Mazza reviews an update from the Department of Public Works regarding air quality in our schools. In most schools, the upgrades put in place during COVID are still operational. At the Brown, the staff and principal asked for their air purifiers to be removed. Chad Mazza will check on CO2 data being collected by the city. Air quality will be referred to Ilana Krepchin to refer to the Rules subcommittee to decide how to proceed.

There has been little movement on the movement of the production kitchen to Argenziano. That work will be completed over the summer.

Andre Green asked who maintains the stairs on Medford St. that lead to the library and high school. Those stairs were very icy today because their warranty requires that they cannot be treated with de-icing materials for a year, and the City does not want to void the warranty. Laura Pitone noted similar concerns on the Otis St. overpass over McGrath for Winter Hill families. The Superintendent will follow up.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Documents Used:

December Grant Bill Rolls 2023.pdf

December Local Bill Rolls 2023.pdf

December Revolving Bill Rolls 2023.pdf

Draft Budget Timeline FY25.pdf

ESSER III_Contracts.pdf

F&F Air Quality Update.docx

FY25 Level Service Budget.pdf

Healey announces spending cuts amid tax revenue shortfall.pdf Level

Services vs Level Funded.docx

YTD Exp Detail 1-1624.pdf

B. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:

January 17, 2024 (Dr. Ackman)

Educational Programs subcommittee – January 17, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 2:49 pm

In attendance were:

- Emily Ackman, Chair
- Ellenor Barish
- Jessica Boston Davis, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction · Kathleen Seward, Coordinator of K-8 Humanities Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment · Laura Pitone joined at 3:00 pm

Attendees

- Aili Contini-Field
- Kathleen Hornby
- Kelly Petitt
- Liz [no last name]

After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Ackman turned it over to Dr. Boston Davis who noted that Ms. Seward is K-8 curriculum coordinator. The presentation today is for K-5 and that this subcommittee will receive a presentation on middle grades curricula in a future meeting, this year.

Dr. Boston Davis noted that SPS will be partnering with Hill for Literacy to review the curriculum. Hill for Literacy has worked with hundreds of schools and districts in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.
<https://hillforliteracy.org/solution/our-clients/>

Dr. Boston Davis presented:

Background

- In recent years, many districts have gone through audits to ensure that their literacy programming (curricular materials, assessments, pedagogical practices) align with the science of reading. · We have heard questions and some concerns about some curricular materials used at SPS and want to ensure we are providing the very best, research aligned curriculum and pedagogical practices for our students.
- Regular reviews of curricular materials, assessments, and pedagogy is best practice in strong and positive learning environments.
 - Our data suggests that there are some areas that can be improved.

- Building on current curricula including Foundations, we are training all teachers in use of decodable texts as core practice in K-2 literacy

Ms. Seward presented:

What will we do?

Over the next 6 months, SPS will partner with Hill for Literacy to complete a needs assessment on a k-5 literacy programming.

What is Hill for Literacy?

“We are an education nonprofit that helps teachers better translate literacy research and assessment data into highly effective instruction that results in long-term success. The HILL is different in that our focus is improving pedagogy and leveraging insights mined from research and raw data to drive continuous, tactical classroom improvement. With the HILL as your partner, you are not only improving academic outcomes, but constantly testing and adjusting leading indicators of success that drive those outcomes in the desired direction.”

Dr. Boston Davis presented:

Highlights:

When deciding to partner with Hill for Literacy, the district really liked:

- Research-based
- Leader in Science of Reading training
- Educators are a crucial part of the needs assessment process
- Not vendors for any specific curriculum (in other words, not selling one curriculum package)
- Partnerships with many other districts and schools in our area
- Support GLEAM work (early childhood)

Ms. Seward presented:

Scope Of Work

Assessing current practices focus groups Leadership Team with Educators & Admin Planning for the future (a 3–5-year strategic literacy plan, including a literacy leadership plan). · Purpose: Conduct a comprehensive, in-depth analysis of current equitable literacy practices within the district and provide detailed recommendations for improving literacy achievement via a lens of equity, inclusivity, and cultural responsiveness.

Dr. Boston Davis presented:

Timeline

Month tentative	Activity/ Topic
January	Hill, Admin, and SEU Intro and Planning Meetings
February	K-5 Literacy Strategic Planning Committee Meeting: Needs Assessment Overview
February/ March	Needs Assessment Completion (Inventories and Surveys)
March / April	Focus Groups
Early May	K-5 Literacy Strategic Planning Committee: Needs Assessment Report
May	K-5 Literacy Strategic Planning Committee Meeting: Literacy Planning Session

Ms. Seward presented:

Outcomes

By June we will have:

- Report with recommendations

- o Priorities for next year
- Collaborative literacy plans with recommendations for
 - o Leadership (admin moving priorities forward)
 - o Tiered Instruction
 - o Professional Learning
 - o Assessment
 - o Family Engagement

Dr. Ackman then opened the meeting to questions.

Question from Member Pitone: Who will be on the literacy leadership team that will be established? Response from Ms. Seward: Educators from all buildings. Ideally all buildings will be represented, as will Special Education, English Learner Instructors, and administrators. We are looking for balance.

Question from Member Barish: Will Hill for Literacy be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of implementation of any new practices or curriculum that stem from this?

Response from Dr. Boston Davis: We are hoping that we can continue to partner with them next year as we roll out. Until we figure out what the recommendations are, we don't know how to evaluate them. As of now, working with them has been beneficial, but we will see what our needs are during the next school year.

Question from Member Barish: How is this being funded?

Response from Boston Davis: This is coming from the general budget. This is just under \$15,000. The superintendent connected us with Hill for Literacy because he believes in audits and needs assessments.

Question from Member Pitone: I'm excited & encouraged that this is looking at practice. I'm also curious about how this evaluation will look at data and outcomes.

Response from Dr. Boston Davis: They look at data and assessments to inform practice. Not just inputs, but how are we addressing gaps to improve outcomes for all kids.

Question from Member Pitone: I know there will be recommendations. Do you know if recommendations will be focused on practice or whether structural pieces will be considered? What about interdisciplinary considerations?

Response from Dr. Boston Davis: Their recommendations are all encompassing with practice, curriculum, and schedule/instructional options. I don't know to what extent interdisciplinary considerations are taken into account.

Response from Ms. Seward: I would expect considerations that could touch other subjects, for example non-fiction writing. Students need to show evidence. I expect we will have interdisciplinary recommendations.

Comment from Member Pitone: How are we sharing this Needs Assessment with families and the community? We should promote this.

Response from Dr. Boston Davis: I agree and will get back to you on that.

Question from Dr. Ackman: What were recommendations about Hill For Literacy that were appealing?

Response from Dr. Boston Davis: We know that we have gaps and we need the best organization to help us examine them. Through the GLEAM grant we learned about Hill for Literacy as well as other organizations. We landed on them because they're thorough and are not selling anything. We are figuring out logistics they show high expectations. They are recommended by DESE, RIDE, and CSDE.

Dr. Ackman: We plan to present the outcomes for the curriculum review during June's Ed Programs meeting.

Question from Member Barish: Do you plan to have this complete in time for a budget ask? Dr. Boston Davis: We are hoping to put tentative budget numbers in place best on recommendations from Hill for Literacy so that we

can be thoughtful to hold resources for the future. Ms. Seward: There will be financial implications and we will put placeholders in the budget.

With no additional questions or comments, Dr. Ackman closed the meeting at 3:31 pm

C. VOTE ON DECEMBER BILL ROLLS

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to approve the December bill rolls. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MSBA Timeline

Dr. Carmona explained the MSBA Timeline

Timeline and Next Steps:

- *Initial Compliance Certification* by April 4 or within 30 days
- *Formation of School Building Committee* by May 4th or within 60 days
- *Submit Educational Profile Questionnaire (EPQ)* by June 4th, or within 90 days
- *Online Enrollment Submissions* in conjunction with the EPQ
- *Agreement on enrollment certification* by August or within 180 days
- *Provide Maintenance and Capital Planning Information* in conjunction with enrollment certification

Local vote/Appropriation of funds - by November or within 270 days

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

In response to Mr. Green's question, Dr. Carmona stated that the plan had been reviewed by the attorney.

Dr. Phillips stated the importance of being clear with the community that the reason we can't have a middle school at this time is due to the decisions made to submit the MSBA statement of interest before completion of the feasibility study, and the subsequent approval of the statement of interest led the district in that direction. While the district still has options, at this moment in time the middle school project is not viable without another submission of statement of interest to the MSBA. If the district decides to pursue the model of the middle school, the district would have to forward on the Winter Hill project on its own.

Dr. Carmona noted that the taxpayers are presently bearing the cost of the high school building. Funding the Winter Hill project without the MSBA would cost the district \$300-350million. Once the building is complete, the district can decide who inhabits the building.

Dr. Green stated that the district has several leverage points to inform ways to influence getting the building that the district needs. The building committee designs the building, and the School Committee's expertise influences everything else.

Dr. Carmona noted that when he came into the district, there were some things "already in motion." The district faced an emergency situation and responded to the crisis. The Winter Hill community was promised a neighborhood school in the same location. As the district looks at other options for a middle school, the district needs to make sure that the immediacy of the needs for the Winter Hill community are made priority.

Chair Krepchin noted that the agenda item for a vote needs to be placed well in advance of the due date.

Ms. Pitone noted that, insofar as there is local discretion on who is appointed to the building committee and roles required, she suggested that the Superintendent and Chair provide their opinion with the Mayor with regard to the most effective representatives of the community, including parent, students and those with construction expertise. She added that the School Committee has the right to be part of the conversation while being respectful of city data and resources.

B. Long Range Plans to Discuss Middle School Model

Chair Krepchin asked Dr. Carmona to frame the scope of the Middle School Model

Dr. Carmona stated the following to my understanding, we are the most densely populated community in Massachusetts and we value that. The notion of the schools being part of close-knit communities, the idea that we have community schools but also have some choice of schools. Many K-8 tradition in our district. As I've gathered feedback from folks, K-8 teachers have shared concerns. I've heard it from this group, some families, in the focus groups as part of my entry plan was to address this. We have to understand the root-cause analysis. There are some concerns about transition, about scale, about making sure we have students with equal opportunities. Teachers who don't have enough exchange with other teachers. As I understand it, based on the research, results and the impact of others, there is no significant difference. I've been in K-8 schools and there are significant challenges in terms of providing access, transitions, rites of passage. There is a challenge there, but also value in terms of students not having a transition from elementary to middle School. Other educators tell me their middle schoolers are like high schoolers, 500 or 1000 students acting out their reptile brains. This was already built into my entry plan, to address the concerns. But to the School Committee, if you're asking me to redirect attention to answering the question, that should be something that is voted on. I'm open to that conversation but I want to make sure to do it systematically. I spoke to three different K-8 principals, and they said, "it hasn't come up much." I want to make sure we are fixing the right things. Wanted to frame the conversation, I am curious and interested, but also want to make sure our identity of our community is clarified for our community members.

Mr. Green stated that, insofar as there are a multitude of projects on the Superintendent's plate, i.e. Winter Hill, curricular initiatives, the middle school model should not be undertaken at this time but possibly revisited in the future. He suggested hiring a consultant to guide the process.

Ms. Pitone agreed and stated that a long-range plan is needed to flesh out where the Superintendent is investing his energies. The conversation on the middle school model, and PreK for that matter, needs to happen at a later time. She noted that a long-range plan was developed five years ago on which prioritization was defined, and this plan should be revisited possibly in the next year to review and revise to current goals.

Dr. Phillips stated that she was "agnostic" about the middle school model. She expressed concern that the city is developing a K-8 master plan, but the Committee has not had a chance to review it. The city needs input on the vision of the Committee and educational leadership as part of the plan.

Mr. Green agreed. While the city can complete a short-term emergency K-8 plan, the longer conversation and political component needs to happen before finalization.

Mr. Biton stated that the longer the Committee stays silent on the matter of the K-8 master plan, the chances of the Committee weighing in on the matter decreases. He was in favor of hiring a consultant to guide and expedite the process of collaboration with the city on designing the master plan.

Chair Krepchin reiterated the city has control of the buildings, the district has contract of what happens in the buildings.

Dr. Carmona stated that during his transition with Dr. Curley, there was no mention of revamping of the K-8 system. There will definitely be collaboration with the city on the process. He cautioned against pursuing at this time because of the load on his plate of three curriculum and instruction initiatives and the significant of social/emotional challenges in the study body. He is also working on filling vacant coaching position to bolster student achievement across the board. Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the study body is key in putting together curriculum initiatives to handle all levels of academic learning.

Mr. Green noted that the district has been talking about Winter Hill before the current Mayor took office. The right thing to do now is to get the new school built and online as soon as possible. Community conversations on the middle school model must wait in order to have a sense of options to the neighborhood school model currently in place.

Ms. Barish noted that while the city is working on the K-8 master plan, it does not focus on the K-8 model but grades K-8.

Dr. Ackman stated there is clear dissatisfaction in how the present curriculum handles elementary and middle schoolers and administration needs to address this dissatisfaction with and resolve with educational leadership.

Mr. Green stated that defining the problem to be solved is addressing the perception of the middle grades being "weak" and address that perception.

Dr. Carmona stated defining what is appropriate for elementary and middle school development is key to developing effective practices and curriculum and embarking on that course. Looking at the data on how students progress, most students switch from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" in the second grade. Investments at the lower grades ensures that most students will be able to read to learn by third grade. Next is how middle school students are prepared for high school. All these practices have implications to the budget.

In answer to Mr. Green's question on the best way to deliver curriculum, Dr. Boston Davis stated that she and her team are "thinking very deeply" on curriculum shifts for the middle grades and rollout of different curriculums underway. More information will be shared at the educational programming meeting.

Dr. Ackman stated that the next meeting is scheduled for April 4th. The meeting shifted to virtual on weekdays at 2:30PM with the recording posted on the website for later viewing.

Ms. Pitone stated, that while she would not recommend any motion today for the Superintendent to shift gears and allocate time to the middle school model, she would ask the Chair and Superintendent to think about how feedback from different advocates providing a wholistic perspective of the community informs the strategic actions of the entry plan.

Mr. Green noted that the survey yielded over 150 responses cutting across diverse viewpoints in the entry plan and praised the Superintendent doing "an unprecedented job of hearing voices" the School Committee does not regularly hear from.

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Biton, that the Superintendent and Chair approach the Mayor and secure a commitment not to finalize the K-8 master plan until the School Committee can provide a facilities vision for the plan or talk to the School Committee if that is not possible.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Green wondered if a motion was needed. Chair Krepchin stated she would do so without a motion. Dr. Phillips noted that there have been many times when the city has declined invitations in the past to attend a meeting to discuss the plan, and that the Committee seizes the "force of this moment" to express its vision for the plan for finalization.

Roll call vote: Barish-Y, Mr. Green-N, Mr. Biton-Y Ms. Pitone-Y, Dr. Ackman-N, Dr. Phillips-Y. and Chair Krepchin-Y
The motion carried at 5-2.

Chair Krepchin stated that she and Dr. Carmona will meet to discuss how best to go forward with executing the motion.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY24 SCALE/ ADP Diploma Request (Recommended action: approval)
Mahammed S. Miahjee Boston, MA

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to approve the FY24 SCALE/ ADP Diploma for Mahammed S. Miahjee of Boston, MA.
The motion was approved unanimously.

B. FY24 Somerville High School Diploma Request (Recommended action: approval)
Katherine Cortez Somerville, MA
Franklin Alvarado Zelaya Somerville, MA

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve FY24 Somerville High School Diploma Request for Katherine Cortez of Somerville, MA and Franklin Alvarado Zelaya of Somerville, MA. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Acceptance of FY24 Grant Funds (Recommended action: approval)

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

State

- **“Collaborative Kindness with Bren Batadan,” \$3,750.** To support a guest artist’s work with K-5 students at Healey to collaboratively generate sketches and a finished mural around the themes of kindness and community.
- **“Jean Appolon Multicultural Immersive Learning Experience,” \$4,607.** To support a dance project at SHS with JAE, whose dancers will collaborate with SHS educators and students to teach, choreograph, and perform an original dance number for the entire SHS community.

D. Donations (Recommended action: Approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Mr. Green, to recommend the Superintendent to acceptance, with gratitude, of the following donations awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Program Donated to
Percussion/Band Instruments	Arnold Johnson	Somerville, MA	10,750.00	Music Dept.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone shared items from the School Building Committee as follows: a) additional meetings have been scheduled in March and May for issues associated with the bleachers, hardware on outside doors as well as issues with interior doors and whether the high school field is being used.

Mr. Green noted the impressive achievement of high school students consistently appearing on the televised Quiz Show against suburban and private schools.

Ms. Pitone added that attendance in person is “super fun,” and tickets can be obtained on the WGBH website. Parking is included.

X. CONDOLENCES

There are no condolences at this time.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned 9:04 p.m.

Related documents:

- Agenda
- SY24-25 School Calendar
- Personnel Report

Submitted by: C. Barraford

ATTACH DOCUMENTS STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 22, 2024 – 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:
somervillema.gov/GovTVLive

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_5Qd-wwxSTTWhGcBlbxdpQ

Meeting ID: 828 3714 1335

Password: SPSSC24

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

- October 16, 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_5Qd-wwxSTTWhGcBlbxdpQ

Meeting ID: 828 3714 1335

Password: SPSSC24

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- 2024-2025 School calendar (Dr. Boston Davis)
- Entry Plan Update (Amara- Dr. Carmona)
- Partnership to maintain safe/healthy teaching/ learning environments within school buildings/ grounds
 - 311 Update
 - Air Quality Control Post COVID
 - Ahera Report
 - Snow Removal
- Carbon Neutral & Parking Availability (Mr. Raiche)

B. Personnel Report

- December 2023

VI. Report of Subcommittees

A. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole : January 17, 2024 (Dr. Phillips)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole for January 17, 2024

B. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: January 17, 2024 (Dr. Ackman)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: of January 17, 2024

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MSBA Timeline

B. Long Range Plans to Discuss Middle School Model

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY24 SCALE/ ADP Diploma Request (Recommended action: approval)

Mahammed S. Miahjee Boston, MA

B. FY24 Somerville High School Diploma Request (Recommended action: approval)

Katherine Cortez Somerville, MA
Franklin Alvarado Zelaya Somerville, MA

C. Acceptance of FY24 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:

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D. Donations (Recommended action: Approval

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Program Donated to
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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

Percussion /Band Instruments	Arnold Johnson	Somerville, MA	10,750.00	Music Dept.
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IX. FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**X. CONDOLENCES****XI. ADJOURNMENT****For Simultaneous Interpretation in Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole See below:****Español - Para Interpretación**

Para **ver** la Reunión Regular del Comité Escolar el 22 de enero 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_ZMsQspO1SSClSgXOKcunug

Identificación de la reunión: 828 3714 1335

Contraseña: SPSSC24

Português - Para Interpretação

Para **assistir** à Reunião Regular do Comitê Escolar 22 de Janeiro às 7:00, ao vivo de casa, visite o seguinte link e seleccione **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_ZMsQspO1SSClSgXOKcunug

ID da reunião: 828 3714 1335

Senha: SPSC24

Kreyòl ayisyen - Pou entèpretasyon

Pou **gade** reyinyon regilye Komite Lekòl la 22 Janvyè 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_ZMsQspO1SSClSgXOKcunug

Reyinyon ID: 828 3714 1335

Modpas: SPSSC24

AUGUST 2024 (2 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

19 – 1st day for Administrator Prof. Dev.
26 – 27 – Educator Professional Development
28 – 1st day for students 1 - 12 (noon dismissal)
30 – No School: Labor Day

NOVEMBER 2024 (17 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1 – Divali
5 – No School: Election Day (Offices Open)
11 – No School: Veterans' Day
27 – Begin Thanksgiving Recess at noon
1st Quarter: 8/28 - 11/1

FEBRUARY 2025 (15 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

17 - 21 – February Vacation, Presidents Day 2/17

MAY 2025 (21 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

26 – No School: Memorial Day
30 – Class Day (Tentative)

SEPTEMBER 2024 (20 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2 – No School: Labor Day
3 – 1st day for K and Pre-K students

DECEMBER 2024 (15 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

20 – Begin Winter Recess at noon,
Christmas 12/25, Hanukkah* 12/26 - 1/2,
Kwanzaa 12/26 - 31 and New Year's Day 1/1

Winter Recess begins 12/20 at noon.
Classes Resume on 1/6.

MARCH 2025 (21 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

3/1 - 3/30 – Ramadan*
14 – Holi
31 – Eid al-Fitr*

JUNE 2025 (12 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2 – Graduation Day (Tentative)
17 – Last day of school (180 days)
19 – Juneteenth (Offices Closed)
24 – 185th day
4th Quarter: 4/7 - 6/17

OCTOBER 2024 (22 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

3 - 4 – Rosh Hashanah*
12 – Yom Kippur*
14 – No School: Indigenous Peoples' Day

JANUARY 2025 (19 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

1 - 3 – No School
3 – Prof. Dev. for Staff
6 – Classes Resume, and Three Kings Day
20 – No School: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
29 – Lunar New Year
2nd Quarter: 11/4 - 1/24

APRIL 2025 (16 days)

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

13 - 20 – Passover*
18 – No School: Good Friday
21 - 25 – April Vacation, Patriots' Day 4/21
3rd Quarter: 1/27 - 4/4

KEY

- No School
- Professional Development For Educators
- Noon Dismissal for ALL Students PK - 12
- ★ Special Dates for Seniors
- E Early Release Wednesday
- 1 1st Day of School: Grades 1 - 12: August 28, Pre-K and K: September 3
- L Last Day of School: June 17
- Major Religious and Cultural Holidays** are undefined. Starred holidays (*) begin at sundown the previous day. Staff will strive to avoid scheduling one-time events, athletics, long-term assignments, and testing on these days.

Somerville Public Schools is proud to be a rich and diverse community. Although schools are not closed in observance of all religious and cultural holidays, the Somerville Public Schools respects and acknowledges the holidays that our families, students, and staff observe. The list below includes many of the holidays observed. Students who miss school because of an excused absence for a religious or cultural observance should not be expected to complete homework, assignments, study for test, or do any other schoolwork on the holiday. Prior to an excused absence, schools and teachers should be informed.

NAME OF HOLIDAY	RELIGION / CULTURE	DATES
Mawlid Al-Nabi (Sunni)	Islamic	September 15 - 16
Mawlid Al-Nabi (Shi'a)	Islamic	September 16
Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	September 7
Rosh Hashanah*	Jewish	October 3 - 4
Navaratri	Hindu	October 3 - 12
Yom Kippur*	Jewish	October 12
Diwali	Hindu	November 1
All Saints Day	Western Christian	November 1
Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í	November 2
All Souls Day	Christian	November 2
Birth of the Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	November 3
St. Nicholas Day	Christian	December 6
Bodhi Day	Buddhist	December 8
Christmas	Christian	December 25
Hanukkah*	Jewish	December 26 - January 2
Kwanzaa	African American	December 26 - January 1
Epiphany	Christian	January 6
Three Kings Day/Día De Los Reyes	Latin America, Spain and Hispanic	January 6
Feast of the Nativity	Orthodox Christian	January 7
Guru Gobindh Singh Birthday	Sikh	January 17
Lunar New Year	East and South East Asian	January 29
Ash Wednesday	Christian	February 14
Nirvana Day	Buddhist	February 15
Ayyám-i-Há	Bahá'í	February 25 - 28
Ramadan*	Islamic	March 1 - 30
Purim	Jewish	March 13
Holi	Hindu	March 14
Naw-Rúz	Bahá'í	March 19 - 20
Palm Sunday	Christian	March 24
Eid al-Fitr	Muslim	March 31
Hanuman Jayanti	Hindu	April 12
Passover*	Jewish	April 13 - 20
Vaisakhi	Sikh	April 14
Easter	Christian	April 20
National Day of Prayer	USA — Interfaith	May 1
Buddha Day	Buddhism	May 5
Haitian Flag Day	Haitian Heritage	May 18
Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	May 28
Ascension Day	Christian	May 29
Shavuot*	Jewish	June 2 - 3
Pentecost	Christian	June 8
Pentecost	Eastern Orthodox Christian	June 24

Somerville Public Schools
Education • Inspiration • Excellence

2023-2024 School Year
December 2023

RESIGNATION FOR PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT:					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS OF SERVICE	
SHS	Social Studies Teacher	Everett Roscoe	09/27/23	27 years	
SHS/CTE	Teacher-CTE	Hugh Wallace	12/31/23	16 years	
SHS	Head Clerk 1	Barbara Favalaro	07/31/23	21 years	
ESCS	Teacher-Science	Teresa Delgado Castilla	12/31/23	07 years	
SHS/CTE	Teacher-CTE	Robert Puopolo	02/14/24	28 years	
District Wide	SPED Educational Evaluator	Kenneth Black	01/31/24	21 years	
SHS/CTE	Teacher-CTE	Hugh Wallace	12/22/23 - Revised	16 years	
ESCS	Teacher-Science	Teresa Delgado Castilla	12/22/23 - Revised	07 years	
RESIGNATION NOTICES:					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE		
WHCIS	LTS: Speech and Language Pathologist	Hannah Jones	12/18/23		
ASSIGNMENT ENDED:					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE		
LEAVES OF ABSENCES:					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATES		
Brown	Library/Media Specialist	Laura Peura	12/07/23-12/15/23		
District Wide	K-12 Supervisor	Tania Connor	10/16/23-02/26/24		
ESCS	MLE Paraprofessional	Jackeline Castellanos	11/17/23-12/11/23		
ESCS	Grade 2 UNIDOS Teacher	Katrol Castellanos	04/22/24-06/13/24		
ESCS	Grade 4 UNIDOS Teacher	Emma Mrozicki	02/26/24-06/13/24		
SHS	Geometry/Algebra Teacher	Yasmina Belatreche	10/19/23-01/15/24		
SHS	Transition Specialist	Brittaney Courier	03/15/24-06/13/24		
SHS/Daycare	Daycare Teacher	Juliet O'Leary	02/04/24-04/29/24		
INTRA-DISTRICT PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	REASON	VICE	EFFECTIVE DATE
AFAS	School Nurse	Karen Johnson	Reassignment	Ruja Sharma	11/20/23-05/15/24
AFAS	Gr. 2 Teacher	Natalie Howe	Reassignment	Gianna Melone-Sardella	01/02/24-02/09/24
AFAS	ESL Teacher	Paula Chavez	Temp Reassignment	Claire Fortier	11/03/23-06/30/24
AFAS	SEI Grade 1 Paraprofessional	Adjaratou Koita	Temp Reassignment	Paula Chavez	12/12/23
CAP	SPED PK AIM Teacher	Gina Natale	Temp New Assignment	Ava Strezynski	12/04/23
Food Services	PT Cafeteria Helper	Wendy Vasquez Avila	Intermittent to Perm	N/A	12/11/23

Food Services	PT Cafeteria Helper	Jennifer Fernandes	Intermittent to Perm	N/A	12/11/23
Food Services	PT Cafeteria Helper	Maura Heuzo	Intermittent to Perm	N/A	12/04/23
Comm. Schools/WHCIS	FT Lead Teacher	Nathalya Castillo Salmeron	New Assignment	Veronica Garza	11/06/23
Comm Schools/Healey	PT Lead Teacher	Ivelise Cruz	Additional Assignment	Kaycee Corea	12/04/23
Comm Schools/ESCS	PT Assistant Teacher	Michael Chiaravalloti	New Assignment	Vandna Verma	12/04/23
SCALE	ELL Teacher	Marsha Turin	Additional Assignment	N/A	09/19/23
SCALE	Reading/Writing Teacher	Maria Bakopoulous	Additional Assignment	N/A	11/15/23
SCALE	PT ABE Patient Experience Teacher	Clara Serpa	New Assignment	New Position	09/18/23
SHS/Athletics	Equipment Manager	Johnathan Tsrigotis	Additional Assignment	Maura Goodwin	11/16/23
SHS	.40 Spanish Teacher	Tianna Whitmarsh	New Assignment	Monica Tsinagini	12/14/23
SHS	Electrical Instructor	John Foreman	Temp Reassignment	Ian Umansky	08/30/23
WSNS	LT Substitute Teacher	Stephnie Lin	Reassignment	Alyssa Mackie	10/18/23-11/30/23
NEW HIRES					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	VICE	DUAL/SEI	EFFECTIVE DATE
AFAS	PK Teacher	Lucia Fellows	Catrice Tucker	No/No	12/04/23
Capuano	ECIP Paraprofessional	Sofia Morgante	Louise Casparriello	No/No	12/13/23
Capuano	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Brenda Morales	Julia Ashe	No/No	11/27/23
Comm Schools/Cap	Assistant Program Coordinator	Sarthak Khanal	Stephanie Guevara	No/No	11/15/23
Comm Schools/WSNS	FT Lead Teacher	Teodor Todorov	New Position	No/No	11/29/23
Comm Schools/WSNS	PT Lead Teacher	Frank Leone	Lindsay Davis-Braun	No/No	12/11/23
Comm Schools/AFAS	PT Lead Teacher	Lia Sokol	New Position	No/No	12/13/23
Comm Schools/AFAS	FT Lead Teacher	Lauren Quinn	Dejah Euvrard-Brewington	No/No	12/18/23
DW	IEP Team Chair	Sabrina Marie Wadhams	New Position	Yes/Yes	11/20/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Isabella Pasquallino	NA	No/No	12/11/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Vanessa Templeman	N/A	No/No	11/17/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Sasha Huckins	N/A	No/No	12/07/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Nicholas Cicerone	N/A	No/No	12/06/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Diana Karamourtopoulos	N/A	No/No	11/30/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Nicholas Cicerone	N/A	No/No	12/04/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Cristina Gutierrez	N/A	No/No	12/01/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Anna Slager	N/A	No/No	12/04/23
ESCS	Buildng Substitute Teacher	Carmen Perez	Edna Gamba	No/No	11/16/23
ESCS/SHS	.40 Spanish Teacher	Juana Arias	New	No/No	12/14/23
ESCS	Grade 7/8 Science/UNIDOS Teacher	Alina valle	Teresa Delgado	No/Yes	12/18/23
Food Services	Intermittent Cafeteria Helper	Pawan Tamang	N/A	No/No	11/16/23
Food Services	Intermittent Utility Worker	Anthony Sheehan	N/A	No/No	12/04/23
KEN	Building Substitute Teacher	Christopher Evers	John Shea	No/No	11/27/23
KEN	IEP Team Chair	Rachel Vielra	New Position	No/Yes	12/21/23
SCALE	PT Spanish HSE Reading & Writing Teacher	Belkys Sosa	N/A	Yes/No	11/08/23
SCALE	PT Mathematics Teacher (PM)	Monica Sepulveda Cardona	Pam Zelaya	No/No	11/16/23
SFLC	Parent English Class Coordinator	Melissa Ayala	New Position	Yes/No	11/27/23
SHS	Automotive Technology Instructor	Joshua Richardson	Hugh Wallace	No/No	12/04/23
WHCIS	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Emily Martins	New/Conversion	No/No	12/18/23