

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, April 28, 2025 - Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. – City Hall Chambers

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

**Members Absent:** President Pineda Neufeld, Mr. Biton, Mayor Ballantyne

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Krepchin asked Superintendent Carmona to call the roll, the results of which were as follows:

**PRESENT** – 6 –Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman, Mr. Green, Ms. Barish, Dr. Phillips, and Ms. Krepchin

**ABSENT** –President Pineda Neufeld, Mr. Biton, Mayor Ballantyne

Chair Krepchin asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Vivian O'Toole-Spanish

Vanusa Teixeira -Portuguese

Angie Surpris-Haitian Creole

**II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Student Representative Anna Sophia Protopapas was present and reported the following:

- The Friday before break was the Multicultural Fair.
- Seniors have been getting ready to wrap up.
- Class day is May 30th, Prom on the 22nd which is also the last day of school
- graduation on June 2nd at Tufts
- Spring sports are midway.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- March 24, 2025
- April 7, 2025

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to approve minutes from February 24, 2025.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public comments

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. District Report**

Superintendent Dr. Carmona shared his district report which was as follows:

Good evening, everyone! I hope you all had a restful April break and were able to recharge with loved ones. It's hard to believe, but we are now officially in the final stretch of the school year.

This week marks the start of MCAS testing across the district. Thank you to our students, families, and educators for your preparation and support during this important time. We know these assessments are just one measure of the incredible learning happening every day in our schools.

As we look ahead to the final weeks of the year, please be on the lookout for upcoming concerts, performances, and

celebrations of student learning. It's a very exciting time, and we encourage families and community members to attend and support our students.

I also want to highlight that our Conditions for Learning survey is now live. This survey gives students, staff, and families a chance to share feedback that directly informs our planning and improvement efforts. We appreciate everyone taking a few moments to complete it.

#### Student and Staff Achievements

I'm also excited to celebrate some recent student and staff achievements:

- Congratulations to the six Somerville High School students who received 2025 City Music Summer Scholarships from Berklee College of Music. They will attend the Berklee Aspire Five-Week Music Performance Intensive.
- Congratulations to Enzo Antunes, Maya Dryden, Renata Gorn, Aden Hsu, Milo Kochansky, and Serena Wong — and a big thank you to the music educators who supported them!
- Congratulations as well to Somerville High School history teacher Adda Santos, who was sworn into the K-12 Statewide Graduation Council. Ms. Santos will help reassess graduate requirements across Massachusetts, and we are thrilled to see her leadership recognized at the state level.

#### Tonight's Agenda

- Tonight, we'll begin with a presentation from our Director of Enrollment, Teresa Rodriguez, who will share enrollment trends and updates. Teresa does an incredible job ensuring Somerville families can access our district and are welcomed by caring staff.
- Then, we will round out our School Improvement Plan presentations. We'll hear from Next Wave and Full Circle Principal Margaret Green-DePasquale, followed by Somerville High School Principal Alicia Kersten.
- Thank you to our principals, and to our Director of Data and Accountability Sam Eligene and Dr. Jessica Boston Davis, for your hard work on these plans.

- **Enrollment Presentation Update**

Enrollment Director Teresa Rodriguez share her presentation ( see presentation below)

#### Comments/Questions

Mr. Green: West Somerville had a large drop. Do we know why?

Teresa Rodriguez: I don't but I can look back and see where other people applied from there. I think the other one that was significant was Brown. 80% of the people living in that proximity, just half of them are looking for that as their first choice.

Dr. Ackman: How far do they go?

Teresa Rodriguez: We can email that to you.

Dr. Phillips: Could you illuminate us a little bit? Why did you decide you needed additional quality insurance?

Teresa Rodriguez: We have folks that have worked in the office for years. On average, some people felt like one parent had one person for pre K, and then they involved another person for K and the document they

provided for pre K, the person that was fine and the document they provided, we changed something. We have 20 millions in the city, and we did that for families as well as our office. I do think it's better for us to have some kind of internal standard. I think Nancy Holmes in our office, who's the data, quality assurance, support, she also helps bring that forward and say, you know, how can we do this so parents aren't getting mixed messages. We also have our supervisors of attendance. We'll go visit people at home year newly arrived and don't have those documents. We do so much back end data work that we don't want to have the data wrong when you pull from Aspen, because we didn't put this person as multi race, but we didn't put this person as having the right proximity. I think it's important to have a chance for someone else to look at it in a very open way. I think it's just easier for us to have a little bit more open work environment where we can look at each other's work, and that's the norm.

Chair Krepchin: I have a question about middle school grades, and I know there's a dip in numbers, which I know we have typically every year. We don't have enrollment numbers for high school here. Do we know if these are students who go to private school? Are many of them coming after high school, or these are students that move?

Teresa Rodriguez: We have included that we do have a number of students from private school that joined the high school, very popular option right now the people who have applied. There's probably at least 25 students that have applied for high school and ninth grade. 22 of them are coming from private school. I think that is something that continues to and it's just for now. There'll be people that move in the summer, that move from California, or there's other folks, but the folks who have already committed to private to some of the high school are usually private school students first.

Mr. Green: We are seeing a decrease in newcomers, our Pre K and K numbers haven't recovered from COVID but our overall number has. Is that currently being driven by increased people coming into this district or transferring from private schools to the district? And is it sustainable? Are we looking at two, three years from now, a collapse in our enrollment numbers?

Teresa Rodriguez: I wouldn't agree completely that our pre K and K haven't recovered. It was 226, for Pre K now 212, but similar to what it had been, I wouldn't say that that is a collapse. I would say that several, like many districts, newcomers have kept the numbers up in the district and long term, our enrollment study would say that we may have, over time, less students. I don't think that we're going to go down by any significant numbers based on what we see, aside from that newcomer number. I can give you or send along kind of the number of new students that are enrolling by grade. You could see that I think we are having a number of students that join us from private school, that I think continues as a trend. People return somewhat to public school. We have a few students every year that will come to us from homeschool. I do think the district should be prepared long term for a smaller cohort, not by hundreds, but maybe it's 10s over years to climb. That's my impression over the past few years, but I don't see a complete collapse. I do think that I did want to highlight that number of newcomers, because I think that will be very different this summer, perhaps than it has been in the past.

Ms. Pitone: I think my question is probably more for the Superintendent, but it's related to the classrooms that have unenrollment in the kindergarten and I don't know if you're ready to talk about changes that you might want to be making, or how to address particularly the Healey and the Winter Hill.

Dr. Carmona: We had three strands of kindergarten at the Healey and we decided that there was not enough involvement there just to continue three strands. The average in our district is two. We actually decided to keep the two strands in kindergarten similar, like the other schools, and then increase the number or open up a different classroom as a result of that. At Winter Hill, the situation is a little bit different. We have made a commitment to the Winter Hill to make sure that as a result of the change in location that we were committed to keeping a two strand of kindergarten to make sure that there was not a kind of a projected closure of the grade level. It does limit the kind of the pipeline of a student into the school. The numbers are low. We could, in theory,

combine them, but again, it is a commitment that we have made the Winter Hill committee. We'll continue to assess that as we go.

- **NW/FC School Improvement Plan**

Principal Margaret Green along with Assistant Principal John Haverty shares her school improvement plan presentation (Presentation below)

### **Questions/Comments**

Ms. Pitone: This really important to understand that sort of an older perception of what this program is, and the reality of how you in partnership with students and families are really meet the needs of complicated kids in a more successful environment. The fact that they put the timeline for the redesign was also really valuable to see. I'll be looking forward to hearing more about how to review and apply. This has been ongoing for several years, and there's been significant changes.

Dr. Ackman: I'm excited to hear about Jump Rope. What are you expecting to see? Competency based learning is great but is there a chance for frustration as kids are putting in effort but aren't grasping material? Is there a possibility that a child may be finished at the age 15 so would it be until 16?

Margaret Green: Rolling out competencies takes time. We are at the point of, what competencies our students have met so far and ASPEN doesn't give us a way to capture data as a whole school. We are hoping to learn where students are and how quickly they meet them. Next year or maybe in the fall we can do another presentation on Jump Rope and where we are.

Dr. Green: Is there a need for Next Wave interventions earlier in our schooling system and what would that look like?

Margaret Green: I think that's a district question but I know the district is rolling out a new curriculum. We need to see where that goes.

Ms. Barish: The progress you're seeing with the switch to the trimester model is really interesting. My assumption is that it's related to the fact that students are taking fewer courses in each block. If there's more to it, please share.

Margaret Green: This is our second year with trimesters and it's going well. We extended our class time to 65 minutes. It has helped us stabilize our schedule for more consistency. With the move to a new building it has helped with routine and predictable for our students.

Chair Krepchin: Since you mentioned moving to the building, and I know there were some growing pains at the beginning, but some difficulties would be in the high school, and I'm wondering how you guys are feeling about the space?

Margaret Green: My staff is very veteran. They're very kind of ingrained on the third floor of Edgerly building, which was our home for most of us, for many years. Learning new spaces and quirks of the building that I wish I had more space for, for pull out and one on one and that kind of work with students, with more straight lines of vision.

Jack Haverty: It's not a coincidence that this is the first time we're at capacity. I think our collaboration with some of the high school, we're doing a better job of communicating which students really do well, CTE has been the

biggest difference. Every single student that wants to do CTE is now allowed to, and they're growing pains at that too, because they go into a bigger environment, but they're given a chance, and most of our kids really do need that chance.

Mr. Green: One of the classrooms is below the weight room. I am confident that our teams are working to eliminate the problem. I want to officially see if the city can help eliminate the problem, if not, lessen the impact.

Dr. Ackman: Since the vote about MCAS, there are different stakes for all sorts of students. Your students, who are taking MCAS, have you noticed a difference in their attitude towards it, how they feel about it?

Margaret Green: I definitely noticed the difference with my 10th graders. We have the best attendance for Empath that we've ever had.

Ms. Barish: Is there a trajectory for a student through your program? If a student comes in in sixth grade, what are the chances that they graduate in 12th grade?

Margaret Green: When students start with us in sixth grade, we get a lot of seventh graders, Right now we have two sixth graders, they do have an opportunity to transfer to Somerville High, and that's something we start working on with student and family early on, if that is their goal. I think currently, as the eleven eighth graders we have, we're going to be transitioning just one to Somerville High in the fall. The rest will be transitioning to full circle, we could get that data for you.

Mr. Green: I have a request from you or maybe the district to learn more about how you're doing at your school and learn how we can take those lessons and lead the way for other school districts would be a really powerful way, especially to engage all of our students.

Margaret Green: I could certainly do another presentation in the fall with the student government.

Mr. Green: Next Wave Full Circle graduation is on the calendar for Wednesday, June 4th at 5pm at the Somerville Theater. If you can be there, you should be.

- **SHS School Improvement Plan**

Principal Alicia Kersten along with her team shared her school improvement plan presentation (see presentation below)

### **Questions/Comments**

Dr. Ackman: It is my understanding that all of your students have access to free T passes provided by the city. Are there other material ways the district could be supporting the school?

Cynthia M: In the Broadways community meeting, depending on where you live in the city, there is no transportation to get you to the school so most walk and that contributes to tardiness.

Alicia Kersten: Student Council this spring is focusing on the bus routes specifically from the Mystic Projects to the High School, they're working on collecting data and making recommendations.

Dr. Ackman: You have our full support in getting a presentation to the MBTA Staff when there is a presentation

ready.

Ms. Pitone: Systems to monitor demographics data, what kind of resources might you need to make that happen. I'm also looking forward to seeing more accommodating for students and improves access for kids in the future.

Alicia Kersten: We have a dashboard after two years that shows demographics.. Right now it just shows athletics and CTE. One thing that will be ready in the fall is the class cuts, kids coming to school but not going to class. I don't think our schedule is terrible but we have done surveys and identified what the top problems are. We have a couple of different models but before we move forward with it, we have to get the high school admin team to agree on it.

Ms. Pitone: Is the trimester concept off the table?

Alicia Kersten: Nothing is off the table.

## **B. Personnel Report**

Superintendent Dr Carmona announced the following retirements:

Paulina Uccello, Assistant Director for food and nutrition services, 28 years of service, retiring 5/7/25

Jane Gardner, Grade 1 teacher, 27 years of service, retiring 6/30/26

Thank you to all of the retirees for all your years of service and dedication to our SPS students.

### **he also announce the following resignations**

Emily Voigt Brown School Grade 1 Teacher

Kelsey Schroeder Healey School Grade 2 SEI Integrated Teacher

Kirsten Whalen-Pederson Somerville High School Speech & Language Pathologist

Michelle Roberts Winter Hill Community Innovation School .50 Spanish Teacher

Evan Perry El Sistema Director

### **continue to provide promotional opportunities to staff:**

Danielle Barry to Facilities, Transportation, and Safety Coordinator

Lilian Kelley from per diem substitute to SPED AIM Paraprofessional (covering a leave)

Nicolas Triant from paraprofessional to Dean of Students (covering a leave)

We continue to hire per diem substitutes -- 9 this month - shout out to Marie Baxter

We hired new Athletic Coaches

Ashley Fuery Girls Freshmen Softball Coach

Bryn Garrity Boys Crew Head Coach

Julia Sinton Cross Country/Indoor Track & Field

The HR department has posted all new positions and the hiring administrators are already busy hiring for the 2025-2026 school year – we are striving to have no vacancies by June 30th

## **VI. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **A. School Committee Meeting for School Building Facilities and Maintenance: April 14, 2025**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Barish to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for the School Building Facilities and Maintenance: April 14, 2025

Report to School Committee on the School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee Meeting for April 14, 2025

To: Somerville School Committee

From: Leiran Biton, Chair of Subcommittee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance

The School Committee (SC) School Building Facilities and Maintenance Subcommittee met jointly with the City Council's (CC) School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee on April 14, 2025, via Zoom. Members present were: Leiran Biton, chair; Sarah Phillips, vice chair; and Laura Pitone. City Councilors present were: Lance Davis, chair; Jake Wilson; and Naima Sait.

Attending the meeting from Somerville Public Schools (SPS) was: Danielle Berry, Facilities Transportation and Safety Coordinator.

Attending the meeting from the City of Somerville were: Yasmine Raddassi, Legislative Liaison; Peter Forcellese, Legislative Clerk; Sue Yerkes, Parks and Recreation Director; Jill Lathan, DPW Commissioner; and Nick Antanavica, ISD Superintendent.

Mr. Biton called the SC meeting to order at 6:06pm and established quorum with all members present.

There were five (5) items on the SC agenda. A staff memorandum was previously provided for the March 31, 2025 meeting related to agenda topic 1 (311 tracking system). A staff memorandum was provided for agenda topics 2 and 3 (closures at the Ginny Smithers Pool and related communications issues).

#### **1. 311 tracking system for school building maintenance items**

Ms. Raddassi informed the committee that this matter is being worked on by Chief Administrative Officer and that a response was submitted to the committee at its March 31, 2025 meeting. Mr. Biton asked when the tracking system would be fully ready for use and Ms. Raddassi replied that the tool is functional and is being used by SPS staff. She also stated that SPS meets on a regular basis with staff from the DPW and IAM to review and discuss concerns.

#### **2. Notification process for schedule changes and cancellations at the Ginny Smithers Pool**

This topic was discussed with the next topic (#3). See notes below.

#### **3. Updates on the Ginny Smithers Pool closure and communication issues with pool users**

Ms. Yerkes began by taking responsibility for the situation and apologized to the residents of the city for the pool's closure. She told the committee that she and her staff are committed to providing a safe pool experience for everyone and to that end, protocols have been reviewed, staff have been retrained, in-service training has been scheduled, and efforts are underway to improve communications and outreach.

Ms. Lathan noted that the actual date that the pool draining and cleaning began was April 3rd. DPW will be replacing

the drains in the next few days and will then refill the pool. DPW will be responsible for checking the pumps and filtration system on a regular basis and Ms. Lathan commented that moss bags will be added to the filtration system as another level of protection.

Mr. Davis asked why this happened and if the cause has been determined and Ms. Yerkes said that staff are still investigating and that no definite reason has been determined. Ms. Sait asked for an explanation of the maintenance process, i.e., who is responsible for what. Ms. Lathan stated that the DPW maintains the pumps and filtration system and she commented that, historically, this pool has been "quirky", however this situation was more extreme. She explained that it's important to have an annual closure of the pool to clean it and check for any problems and said that by doing that now means that the pool won't have to be closed in August to do it. Parks and Recreation (P&R) is responsible for the daily monitoring and cleaning of the pool. Ms. Sait asked why it took so long to make the decision to drain the pool and Commissioner Lathan replied that the pumps were ok and that it's not DPW's job to deal with chemical levels so the responsibility fell with P&R. After some time, DPW stepped in and decided to start over.

Director Yerkes explained that P&R staff shocked the pool twice without getting the proper results and then decided to bring in outside help to assist. A consultant was hired and an expert was brought in to advise on other methods of keeping the water clean. Ms. Sait stated that P&R wasn't transparent about what was happening and that led to the frustration experienced by residents. She also noted that the timing of the communications was not ideal as some notices were received the day before events. She said that the memo provided contradicts what she has been hearing from constituents and she asked if P&R has a person responsible for communications. Ms. Yerkes explained that the department utilizes the software system, myRAK, and that the pool manager sends out the notices for aquatic programs. Ms. Sait asked that communications be improved.

Mr. Wilson asked how often the pool is tested by ISD and Mr. Antanavica said testing is required annually and throughout the year if complaints are received. He told the committee that this particular inspection was part of the annual licensing check. Mr. Wilson asked why the water quality deteriorated in just 5 months and Ms. Yerkes said that she doesn't know why it went bad so fast, however she doesn't think that the expired testing kit was the cause. Mr. Antanavica noted that the total chlorine level was high and could have reached that level from a variety of sources. Mr. Wilson noted that tap water has higher chlorine levels than pool water and Ms. Lathan commented that this is not unusual. Mr. Wilson asked if ultra-violet light from outside keeps problems away from the Dilboy pool and the commissioner said that it does, since outdoor pools are different than indoor pools. Mr. Wilson asked if the city might look at a UV treatment and Ms. Lathan replied that it's always a possibility, but that it wasn't needed in the past. Mr. Wilson noted 4 methods of communication used by P&R and he referenced the communication failure associated with the past fall festival cancellation. He said that he wants to make sure that people are informed about situations and he asked P&R to revise its communication process to include the use of all 4 methods.

Ms. Pitone asked that P&R coordinate with the School District to accommodate students who missed out on programming and Ms. Berry stated that she would inform SPS of the request. Mr. Biton asked if the pool is open, noting that the P&R website said that it was open as of March 7th and Director Yerkes replied that the website banner should say that the pool is closed indefinitely. She will have staff make the correction to the website. Asked about the next steps, Ms. Lathan said that the drains will be changed before refilling the pool for 3-4 days, followed by getting the chemical balance to where it should be.

Mr. Davis commented that the inspection report attached seems to paint a picture of confusion about who is supposed to do what and he has significant concerns about the city's ability to manage assets when it can't figure out who is supposed to do things. He told Ms. Raddassi that he wants the Mayor's

Office to submit a clear plan, in writing, for managing the pool. Ms. Raddassi will bring the request to the Mayor's Office and will return with a more detailed response.

#### 4. Update and timeline for repairs to the Capuano schoolyard play structures

Mr. Biton commented that some structures have not been repaired yet and Commissioner Lathan stated that the needed parts should be received in the next day or two and that repairs should be made by Wednesday.

#### 5. Planting of natural turf at the Capuano for the 20th-anniversary celebration



Mr. Biton noted that this was a time sensitive issue and Ms. Lathan explained that if the area was re-seeded, it wouldn't be ready in time for the celebration. DPW will reach out to the school principal to verify the space that needs repair before making any decisions on mitigation options. Mr. Wilson inquired about using sod and Ms. Lathan explained that whether seed or sod is used, it needs time to take root to withstand foot traffic, adding that if sod is used now, it would only be for optics (for the celebration) since it won't last without taking root.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

## **B. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: April 16, 2025 (Dr. Phillips)**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Barish, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole for April 16, 2025

Report of The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee, April 16, 2025, submitted by Sarah Phillips

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on April 16, 2025. Members present were Emily Ackman, Ilana Krepchin, Sarah Phillips, Ellenor Barish, and Leiran Biton. Also in attendance was Interim Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Pat Durette, Superintendent Rubén Carmona, Assistant Superintendent Jessica Boston-Davis, Chief Personnel Officer, Karen Woods, and Director of Special Education, Ildefonso Arellano.

Sarah Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. There were 5 attendees in the audience and one item on the agenda:

- 1) FY26 Budget There are two documents for tonight. The staffing model and the FY26 budget overview documents. There are some efficiencies reflected in this document.

Pat provided an overview of the pending approved positions as well as the positions to be cut or converted. In total there are 7.1 FTEs being added, including 4 FTEs added for enrollment, 4 added for SPED compliance, and 1 added for ESL compliance.

During the discussion, the committee had questions about where the resource room is at the West. There is not a resource room but a resource teacher. There was a suggestion to change the way positions are presented to clarify that positions are being shifted around and not eliminated entirely. There was a question about the position being moved from Healey to East about whether there was consent from Healey. The district shared that they previously discussed caseloads at each of the schools to understand special education staffing needs. For example, this year, there is almost a full classroom of 8th graders with IEPs moving to the high school, which is why that position was converted into a resource room teacher for the East, which is gaining special education students. All changes have been discussed with principals. There was a question about the BCBA, which was originally a .5 but got increased to a 1.0 FTE due to student needs at the Capuano. The coaches line includes the pay for the four former unified coaches. The CTE plumbing program will be getting an additional CTE teacher. The El Sistema program has a revolving account that has accumulated a substantial amount of money, approximately \$500,000. So, the district will be moving the Strings department and some instrument leasing needs to this revolving account for the short term before moving it back to the local budget. There also needs to be an evaluation of the fees for El Sistema because the fees are higher than expenses. There was a question about kindergarten enrollment at the Healey. There was a separate SEI 1 classroom in kindergarten that is now integrated, meaning that we do not need an extra kindergarten section. Overall, we have the highest enrollment we've had in a decade but the distribution of students changes year to year. There was a question about the \$17K saved by the elimination of one nursing position. Pat will follow up with Liz. The utility aid at AFA is not a full FTE. That is the accurate figure but not the accurate FTE number, which needs to be changed. There was a question about the reduction of a .4 math position at SHS. Based on the class tallies, a piece of that has to do with no longer needing an MCAS prep course. There was a question about whether any of the cuts are driven primarily by the need to save money? The Superintendent reminded us that we asked

everyone to approach their budget collaboratives with a level-service budget in mind. There was a question about the drug and alcohol counselor at the high school. It is a clinical position. It would be helpful to have a column with the row number for future discussions to ensure we are all discussing the same positions. 1

Pat provided an overview of the latest version of the FY26 budget. The latest tweaks include the elimination of funds in the Administration line item that are complete but are still being rolled over from year to year. Initially we had allocated more computer hardware funds to IT than were approved but that includes funds that are pre-paid. The out of school time budget moved funds from the community schools account to a salary account for OST staff and to decrease the service and supply line. Athletics added an increase in custodial rates. Salary changes include the move in OST, the adjustment in projected salaries for new positions. The overall increase is now at 5.67%.

The committee asked the district to note deferred expenses as deferrals not eliminations. They also reminded the committee that this is the bare bones budget. Anything less than this will require cutting services to students.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Documents Used:

Staffing Changes FY26 Budget April 16, 2025.pdf

Spring 2025 Enrollment Presentation for School Committee (1).pdf

FY26 Budget for 4.16.pdf

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. SHORE Educational Collaborative Report (tabled)**

### **B. Interim Chief Financial Officer**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded Dr. Ackman, to approve the contract between the Committee and Robert Berretta for the position of Interim Chief Financial Officer and authorize the Chair and Superintendent to sign.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

### **C. SEU UNIT A-Appendix B: Extracurricular Activities Side Letter**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded Mr. Green, to authorize the chair to sign SEU UNIT A-Appendix B: Extracurricular Activities Side Letter

### **D. Field Trip: (Recommended action: Approval )**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Barish, to approve for **May 17, 2025- May 18, 2025** 23 Students from SHS will attend the GX Ultimate Frisbee in North Hampton, MA, to compete in the PVF Tournament. Travel via SHS Van, Student Cost 0 **May 2, 2025 \*Date change original date (May 9th)** 14 Students from Next Wave Full Circle will attend Mount Monadnock in NH. Travel via NW/FC School van, students cost \$0. **May 17, 2025-May 18, 2025** 22 students from SHS will attend the GX Ultimate Frisbee in North Hampton, MA to compete in the PVF Tournament. Travel via SHS Van, Student Cost 0, **June 10, 2025** 45 eighth-grade students from West Somerville Neighborhood School will visit Canobie Lake Park as an end-of-year celebration. Travel via school bus, student cost \$0, **June 13, 2025** 70 eighth-grade students from East Somerville Community School will visit Canobie Lake Park as an end-of-year celebration. Travel via school bus. Student Cost \$20

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**E. Acceptance of FY25 Grants Funds (Recommended action: approval)**

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

**State**

**CS Engage-\$4,000.00-** Science Dept. District Wide Grant Increase

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**F. Donation (Recommended action: Approval)**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to recommend the Superintendent to acceptance, with gratitude, of the following donations:

<b>Donation</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Program</b>
Monetary	F.W. Webb	Bedford, MA	\$3,000.00	CTE-Plumbing Program
Monetary	The Somerville Asian Family Network	Somerville, MA	\$400.00-additional donation	Schools Libraries- to use funds to purchase books written by Asian authors
Instrument	Jack Donahue-Audio Tech Service	Somerville, MA	\$1,200.00	SHS Music Department-Yamaha mix console for the recording studio

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. MSBA Update**

A brief update on the MSBA process for the Winter Hill and Brown School building project:

- We are on track in the "Forming the Project Team" phase, which will continue through July 2025. Right now, the city is in the process of selecting an Owner's Project Manager. The Feasibility Study phase is expected to run from August 2025 through July 2026.
- The City also continues to hold public meetings with the Construction Advisory Group, which will make recommendations to the Mayor about whether to combine schools and where the new school should be located. Our Chief of Staff, Amara Anosike, and School Committee Member Andre Green both serve on this Advisory Group.
- Additionally, the City is targeting May or June for the first meeting of the School Building Committee, which will partner with the OPM on design decisions.

We are grateful for the continued collaboration between the district, the city, and our broader community as we move this critical work forward.

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

## **X. CONDOLENCES**

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

Barbara J. Synan – retired secretary of the Somerville Public Schools (Capuano)

Myles Striar – beloved father of Siri Striar ELE academic support coordinator at Somerville High School

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

### **Related documents:**

Agenda

[Enrollment Update](#)

[Next Wave Full Circle School Improvement](#)

[SHS School Improvement](#)

Personnel Report

Submitted by: C. Legaski

**Attach Documents Starting on the next page**

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL  
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 28, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2025, 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](https://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\\_EB-AFq7pR0SMl0vsJ0WNEg](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EB-AFq7pR0SMl0vsJ0WNEg)

Meeting ID: 869 0362 0322

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

- March 24, 2025
- April 7, 2025

### 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\\_EB-AFq7pR0SMIOvsJ0WNEg](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EB-AFq7pR0SMIOvsJ0WNEg)

Meeting ID: 869 0362 0322

Password: SPSSC24

### V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

#### A. District Report

- Enrollment Update
- Next Wave Full Circle School Improvement Plan
- SHS School Improvement Plan

#### B. Personnel Report

- April 2025

### VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### A. School Committee Meeting for the School Building Facilities and Maintenance: April 14, 2025 (Mr. Biton)

**MOTION:** To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for the School Building Facilities and Maintenance for April 14, 2025

#### B. School Committee Meeting for the Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: April 16, 2025 (Dr. Phillips)

**MOTION:** To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for the Finance and Facilities Meeting of April 16, 2025.

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. SHORE Educational Collaborative Report

#### B. Interim Chief Financial Officer Contract (Vote)

#### C. SEU UNIT A-Appendix B: Extracurricular Activities Side Letter

MOTION: to authorize the chair to sign SEU UNIT A-Appendix B: Extracurricular Activities Side Letter

#### D. Field Trips: (Recommended action: Approval)

##### May 17, 2025- May 18, 2025

23 Students from SHS will attend the GX Ultimate Frisbee in North Hampton, MA to compete in the PVF Tournament. Travel via SHS Van, Student Cost \$0

##### May 2, 2025 *\*Date change original date (May 9th)*

14 Students from Next Wave Full Circle will attend Mount Monadnock in NH. Travel via NW/FC School van, students cost \$0.

##### May 17, 2025-May 18, 2025

22 students from SHS will attend the GX Ultimate Frisbee in North Hampton, MA to compete in the PVF Tournament. Travel via SHS Van, Student Cost 0

##### June 10, 2025

45 eighth-grade students from West Somerville Neighborhood School will visit Canobie Lake Park as an end of year celebration. Travel via school bus, student cost \$0

**June 13, 2025**

70 eighth-grade students from East Somerville Community School will visit Canobie Lake Park as an end of year celebration. Travel via school bus. Student Cost \$20

**E. Acceptance of FY25 Grants 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:

**Private**

**Somerville Foundation-\$500.00-** Brown School Musical Instruments

**F. Donation:**(Recommended action: approval)

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

<b>Donation</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Program</b>
Monetary	F.W. Webb	Bedford, MA	\$3,000.00	CTE-Plumbing Program
Monetary	The Somerville Asian Family Network	Somerville, MA	\$400.00- additional donation	Schools Libraries- to use funds to purchase books written by Asian authors
Instrument	Jack Donahue-Audio Tech Service	Somerville, MA	\$1,200.00	SHS Music Department-Yamaha mix console for the recording studio

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. MSBA Update**

**IX. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**X. CONDOLENCE**

**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 28 de abril 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\\_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg)

Identificación de la reunión: 869 0362 0322

Contraseña: SPSSC24

**Português - Para Interpretação**

Para **assistir** à Reunião Regular do Comitê Escolar 28 de Abril às 7:00, ao vivo de casa, visite o seguinte link e selecione **GovTV**: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community->

[engagement/somerville-city-tv](https://www.somerville-city-tv.com/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\\_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg)

ID da reunião: 869 0362 0322

Senha: SPSC24

### **Kreyòl ayisyen - Pou entèpretasyon**

Pou **gade** reyinyon regilye Komite Lekòl la 28 Avril 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\\_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg)

Reyinyon ID: 869 0362 0322

Modpas: SPSC24



Somerville Public Schools					
Education • Inspiration • Excellence					
April 2025					
RESIGNATION FOR PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT:					
SCHOOL		POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	SERVICE YEARS
ESCS		Grade 4 Teacher	Susan Fothergill	07/14/24	30 years
Central		Principal Account Clerk - Special Education	Maureen Foley	07/06/24	24 years
BR		Principal	Shawn Maguire	10/02/24 - Revised	9 years
KEN/HLY		Reading Specialist	Celia McDonald-Nuccio	08/26/24	52 years
BR		Grade 5 Teacher	Sandra Dumas	06/30/25	31 years
CS		FT Lead Teacher	Janice Pousland	06/15/24	24 years
HLY		Music Teacher	Yi Liu	06/30/25	15 years
SHS		English Teacher	Lisa Brewster-Cook	07/23/25	26 years
HLY		MLE Paraprofessional	Laura Semple	11/14/24	1 year/9 months
SHS/Food Svc		FT Cafeteria Helper	Margaret Young	11/12/24	29 years
SHS		Science Teacher	Peg Huben	01/29/25	25 years
DW		IEP Team Leader / Team Chair	Deborah Farenga	08/17/24	3 years
KDY		Resource Room Teacher	Shelley Jareo	06/30/25	21 years
SHS		SPED ELA Teacher	Elizabeth Melcher Haddada	06/17/25	4 years
KEN		SKIP Teacher	Michele Bennett	06/30/25	18 years
KEN		Speech Language Pathologist	Carolyn Taylor	06/30/25	28 years
SHS		English Teacher	Kenneth Olson	06/30/25	32 years
HLY		Resource Room Teacher	Wanda McLaren	06/30/25	37 years
SHS/CTE	25-26	Cosmetology Instructor	Gregory Wright	09/13/25	21 years
KEN		ESL Teacher	Kathleen Raywood	06/30/25	12 years
SHS	25-26	ESL Teacher	Claudia Seara-Galvez	10/12/25	26 years
WSNS	25-26	Grade 1 Teacher	Jane Gardner	06/30/26	27 years
DISTRICT WIDE		Assistant Director of Food and Nutrition Services	Pauline Uccello	05/07/25	28 years
RESCINDED/DECLINED OFFER					
SCHOOL		POSITION	INCUMBENT	VICE	COMMENTS
RESIGNATION NOTICES:					
SCHOOL	YEAR	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	COMMENTS
AFAS		School Building Substitute Teacher	Miguel Contreras	04/04/25	
BR		Grade 1 Teacher	Emily Voigt	06/01/25	
DW		Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Xenja Lindberg	04/01/25	
ESCS/CS		FT Lead Teacher	Kate Simmons	04/17/25	
ESCS		El Sistema Director	Evan Perry	04/04/25	
HLY		ELL Paraprofessional	Nicholas Triant	03/15/25	Hired as a Prov. Dean of Students
HLY		Grades 1/2 SEI Integrated Teacher	Kelsey Schroder	06/17/25	
HLY		MLE Paraprofessional	Eloisa Davide	04/10/25	
KEN		School Building Substitute Teacher	Isaiah Saint-Vil	04/11/25	
KEN/CS		FT Lead Teacher	Emma Oppman	05/02/25	
SCALE		PT Adult Diploma Processor	Carmen Schumann	03/28/25	Held 2 positions
SCALE		PT Spanish HS Equivalency Reading/Writing Teacher	Carmen Schumann	03/28/25	Held 2 positions

SHS		School Building Substitute Teacher	Charlotte Reynolds	04/11/25		
SHS		Speech & Language Pathologist	Kirsten Whalen-Pedersen	06/30/25		
WHCIS		.50 Spanish Teacher	Michelle Roberts	06/30/25		
WHCIS		ESL Math Newcomer Academy Teacher	Rebecca Conner	06/30/25		
ASSIGNMENT ENDED:						
SCHOOL		POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE		
LEAVES OF ABSENCES:						
SCHOOL		POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATES		
AFAS		Physical Education & Health Teacher	Kristi Savage	01/23/25-05/09/25 - Revised		
CAP		School Building Substitute	Syeda Akhter	03/10/25-03/28/25		
CAP		Speech and Language Pathologist	Laura Nicastro	04/28/25-05/08/25		
CAP		IEP Team Leader	Marissa Ninni	06/11/25-01/12/26		
Central Office/SPED		Principal Clerk 1	Nicole Branley	04/04/25-05/02/25		
ESCS/FS		FT Cafeteria Helper	David Moulton	03/14/25-04/25/25		
ESCS		School Based Social Worker	Nora Sheehan	04/14/25-06/17/25		
FC/NW		Clinical Coordinator	Elizabeth Gillott	01/28/25-03/19/25 - Revised		
KEN	25-26	Art teacher	Chelsea Costa	08/25/25-11/21/25		
SHS	25-26	Science Teacher	Sogoli Sadraeinouri	08/25/25- 6/12/26 - Extended		
SHS		Biology Teacher	Toni Grossenbacher	01/09/25-05/13/25 - Revised		
SHS/CTE	25-26	Drafting Instructor	Daniel Bendel	11/24/25-03/26/26		
WHCIS/CAP		ESL Specialist	Adriane Cruz-Cioppa	03/17/25-06/17/25		
WSNS		Resource Room Teacher	Brittany Stein	05/27/25-10/28/25		
INTRA-DISTRICT:						
SCHOOL		POSITION	INCUMBENT	REASON	VICE	EFFECTIVE
CAP		Provisional SPED AIM Paraprofessionals	Lillian Kelley	New Assignment	Gricelda Arbaiza	03/10/25
DW/Central Office		Facilities, Transportation, and Safety Coordinator	Danielle Barry	New Assignment	New Position	04/28/25
HLY		Provisional Dean of Students	Nicholas trant	New Assignment	Patrick Melo	03/27/25
HLY/KEN		Provisional Reading Specialist	Elizabeth Larson	Location Change	Michael Arlington	03/05/25
KEN		Long Term Substitute Teacher - SPED SEEK	Elizabeth Dingman	Para as a Lead Teacher	Hannah Stalberg	01/03/25
SHS		School Building Substitute	Lucas Turner Lally	New Assignment	Lee Heredia	04/14/25
SHS		Long Term Substitute Teacher - ESL	Martha Parinussa Flynn	Reassignment	Claudia Searra-Galvez	04/05/25
WHCIS/CAP		Long Term Substitute - ESL Specialist	Steffline Rosemond	Temporary Reassignment	Adriane Cioppa-Cruz	03/13/25
NEW HIRES:						
SCHOOL		POSITION	INCUMBENT	VICE	DUAL/SEI	EFFECTIVE
DW		Long Term Substitute Teacher - .70 Instrumental/Strings/Music	Peter Lam	Vanessa Fitzgerald	No/No	04/01/25
DW		All City Musical - Stage Director	Jillian Tokac	NA/Seasonal	No/No	03/10/25
DW		Intermittent Cafeteria Helper	Eliza Bowditch	NA	No/No	03/24/25
DW		Intermittent Cafeteria Helper	Majeet Kaur	NA	No/No	04/07/25
DW		Intermittent Cafeteria Helper	Izaene Pereira	NA	No/No	04/28/25
DW		Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Ariel Robinson	NA	No/No	03/24/25
DW		Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Jeanne Whynot	NA	No/No	04/17/25
DW		Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Stephen Kane	NA	No/No	04/14/25

DW		Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Amira Ortiz	NA	No/No	04/28/25
DW		Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Alfred DaMore	NA	No/No	04/28/25
DW		Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Kevin Zheng	NA	No/No	03/24/25
DW		Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Stephen Tsou	NA	No/No	04/02/25
DW		Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Johna Applestein	NA	No/No	04/14/25
DW		Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Asheem Hayer	NA	No/No	04/01/25
FC/NW		PT Substance Abuse Counselor	Thomas Ward	Kristen Strellis	No/No	04/14/25
SHS/Athletics		Athletics Coach - Girls Freshmen Softball Coach	Ashley Fuery	Jaqueline Homs	No/No	03/24/25
SHS/Athletics		Athletics Coach - Boys Crew Head Coach	Bryn Garrity	Stuart Whitney	No/No	03/17/25
SHS/Athletics		Athletics Coach - MS Cross Country/Indoor Track & Field	Julia Sinton	Brian Axelrod	NO/No	03/24/25