

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, September 11, 2023 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – City Hall Chambers

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

Members Absent: Mayor Ballantyne, President Ewen-Campen

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. 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, results of which were as follows:

PRESENT – 7 – Dr. Phillips, Chair Krepchin, Chair Green, Ms. Dion, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman. **ABSENT – 2** – Mayor Ballantyne, President Ewen-Campen

Chair Krepchin asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

- Tracy Pichardo - Spanish
- Ben Cruz - Portuguese
- Cynthia Laine - Haitian Creole

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

III. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. **Enrollment Update** – Teresa Rodriguez, Enrollment Director:

(Slide deck linked below)

- Excited to start a new school year. Team takes summer to connect with families and get students ready for what they need throughout the school year. Moved twice; thanked all members of enrollment and SFLC and district leadership for helping through two very difficult moves during a busy time.
- At enrollment level that is higher than pre-pandemic levels were. Even though enrollment study said numbers would be declining over time, we are still stabilizing. Enrollment right now is strong.
- Presented newcomer data included in slide. Have a number of students coming in from other countries; most are younger, but we also do have older students and some who need programming because of interrupted formal education prior.
- Like to be “warm demanders”; have interesting role of being welcoming and also making sure they get the information they need; people in office have an interesting skill set
- Continuing to have a number of students whose families are traveling here for medical support; starting to make arrangements with embassy staff to make sure families are adequately supported; trying to establish better relationships; through word of mouth people come to us
- Area of growth is language capacity in non- high incident languages (Arabic, for example)
- Work closely with Basic Needs and Housing Security office to make sure they support families who may be facing housing insecurity.

Questions/Discussion:

Ms. Barish – PowerSchools is great – big improvement over what we did 10 or 15 years ago. Putting handbook and medical permissions and materials with the links was very helpful. Curious about how long students from United Arab Emirates are in the district?

Ms. Rodriguez – Recognized Kayla Centeio and Liz Quaratiello for streamlining all those forms and making google forms that were embedded, and Nancy Holmes for working with PowerSchool to make these updates. At the top of her head, people are here at least 9 months. See most movement over the summer. That was part of the reason also to connect with the embassy. People may not know that we want to know that you’re leaving; district

will not withdraw a child unless we know they're enrolled someplace else unless they're going out of country. Good question. Can come back with specific data.

Ms. Dion – Wondering about pie chart on slide 4 and wondering why some slices are not labeled with the language.

Ms. Rodriguez – Can ask the MLE Department as they support her with this data.

Dr. Phillips – Thanks for following up with her on family she reached out about last year. Wondering what waitlists are looking like at preK and K.

Ms. Rodriguez – Largest waitlist is PK. There may be 70 people on PK waiting list across the district and probably 60 students on waitlists throughout the district across other grades. Try to check in on that weekly. Numbers change regularly.

Chair Krepchin – Asked for clarification that people are on a PK waitlist for a different school but are already enrolled at a different school that might not be their first choice.

Ms. Rodriguez – That is correct. No families have been turned away. It might just not be at the most convenient school for them.

Mr. Green – Would love to see the breakdown of newcomers by country with the current populations. Has a sense that our immigrant population is growing rapidly, but does not know how big it is and would like to know that.

Dr. Ackman – Shared specific experience highlighting how gracious and supportive Enrollment staff was in working with a constituent that she supports, as the team was packing up to move. To the district, is it worth investing in an interpreter or someone who works for us with Arabic skills?

Ms. Rodriguez – Midway through the year because of the number of students last summer, district was able to get support from an agency and use a language line. Work through those language lines, but also has a staff member who works in community schools. Made enrollment materials in Arabic, which helped. The best way is through another family. Maura Mendoza supports making sure that we have access to language line and interpreters who helped with translating materials.

Ms. Pitone – Would it be too much to ask to get quarterly quick memos about changes in data about enrollment numbers.

Ms. Rodriguez – Would be happy to come back or provide data.

Mr. Green – Glad to see investments in language access are paying off. Especially as our MLE population diversifies, would love to know what we're doing for cultural competency trainings for our teachers around issues of religion, etc.; things that come into play more and more.

Dr. Carmona – Great question. Cultural Competency is part of our equity work. Don't have an answer right now, but can do something for next time.

Ms. Rodriguez – Thanked the School Committee and the District; knows other districts who don't have the resources and support to meet the needs of families. Even though they're busy, our Enrollment team feels like they're able to meet the needs of families coming in because people have "moved mountains" to make sure they have what they need to get people enrolled and supported, and to provide that support in-person. Feels like they have a lot of support. They hear from other districts how hard it can be if you're "on an island".

Dr. Carmona – Teresa mentioned that reason for the way we have functioned as an enrollment department is because of the administration. Another hypothesis is that the system that is in place for the enrollment team and also with Ruth Santos, the Director of the SFLC, is like no other team in the district. Our family engagement

system is the envy of the North Shore and probably the Commonwealth. Invite SC to come with him for a “field trip” to their offices so they can get a sense of why the resounding success of the SFLC.

B. Summer School Program Update – Dayshawn Simmons and MaryAnn Cloutier, co-Directors:

- Slide deck linked below
- 18 programs, including 4 external partners
- Would love to see CTE programming extended; gets students excited for high school

Questions/Discussion:

Ms. Dion – Which programs are ones that teachers refer students to, and which ones are open? Summer of YES is referral-based; elementary summer school is referral-based; SPELL is teacher-referred specifically for MLE; Summer Explore also teacher-referred because of limited schools; programs with open enrollment were the Summer Music Program, MS Robotics, MS CTE, TCP

Dr. Ackman – Thanks for policy recommendations and for sharing data. SPELL middle and high school, one of the pieces that stood out is that “I think I can be successful in school” is the only number that dropped from pre- to post.

Mr. Simmons – We get the data from the directors after the program has already ended, so idea of going back to educators is really hard because once they are done, they are done. The data doesn’t really make sense because it doesn’t align with responses to the other data responses. Not sure how question was worded, or perhaps confusion about the question.

Ms. Cloutier – When they’re in the high school and have social interaction and other things, perhaps there are outside forces at play that allows the self-doubt to come in.

Dr. Ackman – The pre- numbers are much higher on that than any of the others, so could see how there might be user error somehow.

Mr. Mazza – Great point in terms of what data says. One of the things that we can look to do is follow up with those students as school year begins and create a plan around that.

Ms. Barish – Also wondered if it might be that with a 69% attendance rate, it might have been different students taking the pre- and post-tests. Whether it’s statistically significant is also a question. Also wondering about the Full Circle 35% - what can we do to better support those students so they have better success?

Mr. Simmons – Have spoken with Principal Green and have conversations during the summer about ways we can ensure students from FC get access to credit recovery and also have the supports in place to ensure they complete getting that access and completing. Working to figure out a better plan to support those students.

Ms. Pitone – Curious about where we have hit our limits in terms of what we can offer and how early families can sign up for this type of programming. Thoughts on whether it would be valuable to survey the target population or general community in terms of how we can improve our offerings. This is planning work that could be of interest to figure out as a community how to meet as many needs as possible.

Mr. Simmons – There have been staffing additions to OST Department, particularly with Ms. Jene Riley. Spent the whole summer looking at entire summer operation. In terms of registration, MaryAnn runs the registration process and worked very closely with SFLC to make sure families can just walk in and get in-house support.

Ms. Cloutier – Last summer created universal registration that we kept this summer. Added having that support for families to register.

Mr. Green – One more piece of data he would like to get in a memo – (1) breakdown of last year’s population by grade; (2) how many are first-time, second-, third-, etc. Speaks to equitable access.

Mr. Simmons – One way we’ve made a big dent is through the Summer of Yes; targets low-income students. If we could have versions of this in multiple sites in the summer, that would be ideal.

Dr. Phillips – Academic piece data. Are we giving you and your team the time to differentiate between the bright spots and the not-so-bright spots.

Mr. Simmons – Really need just time. One of the pressure points was in the planning. Times available after 3 o’clock, most people are getting ready to go home. Jene will be more successful in that area this year. Everything works in hyper-speed in summer. That’s an age-old problem – how do we get more time in the summer to look at data?

Ms. Barish – Mentioned that 29% of students in SPELL participated in Summer of YES, and more wanted to. Was there room for more students?

Ms. Cloutier – No. Limited by money, space, and staff. Community partners also have a cap on the number of students they can work with.

Mr. Simmons - We are very careful with how large our groups are in summer knowing that we don’t have the full support over the summer. We are trying to create a program that everything we need is there, but understanding that everything is going really fast. Adding another building means having to hire a whole other staff, and then we run into summer cleaning of buildings to get ready for school year.

Mr. Mazza – Specific expertise with students, but want to make sure that the program is successful and has an impact on students, before we expand. We are strategic in terms of how we implement it.

Dr. Ackman – Summer Success program. Is it new?

Ms. Cloutier – Had a transition on who was running it this summer and how kids were getting registered.

Dr. Ackman – Would like to learn about long-term outcomes of students who participate in this program. Surmise that these students would be better equipped to navigate that building, but would like to look at long-term outcomes of participants in this program.

Mr. Simmons - Have anecdotal data. When they’re there, they just say “wow, it’s really big” and then after the first week, they feel comfortable navigating the building. There’s a level of confidence that likely plays into that first day of school.

Ms. Barish – Reflecting on growth, which Dr. Phillips mentioned is huge in some areas and less huge in others; but also reflecting on summer slide, so any growth is better than no growth. General appreciation that we invest so many resources in making it happen for our families and students.

Chair Krepchin – Is there a way to track all of these students going into the academic year, and see if these advances in Math – what those might look like? It might be helpful to figure out where to prioritize our funds if we know students from specific programs are doing better in academic subjects throughout the school year.

Dr. Boston Davis – It’s a great idea. To some extent, we have that in a small portion. We have Sarah Jo Torgrimson, who with the STAR Initiative works to see how impactful some programs are; that is part of her role. That said, would also be curious to see impact of SPELL and other programs. Something we can look at further beyond the work that Sarah Jo does.

Mr. Mazza – Thanked both co-Directors. Planning starts in January. There are so many layers that go into planning. Without MaryAnn and Dayshawn, this is impossible and includes organizing buildings, working with DPW, making sure we have nursing, etc.

Mr. Simmons – Noted that this is his last summer doing co-directing summer programming.

C. **Transition to TAB Update** – Assistant Superintendent Chad Mazza:

- A lot of transition this summer, including transitioning all the central office staff from the Edgerly to the TAB (Tufts Administration Building).
- The move happened as a tiered process over time because it was dependent on what spaces were available at what time at Tufts, and on the lease that the City was working on with Tufts.
- Several of our departments did not have the luxury of not being operational because of the immediate nature of their work; groups and departments at the Edgerly were very flexible. Principal Berenice Mace-Diaz at the East allowed some of our departments who had critical ongoing work over the summer to temporarily move into the East Somerville Community School for the summer.
- When we moved to the TAB, it was also a tiered process. Movers took everything we needed in 1 to 2 days.
- Settling in to the TAB happened over two weeks. Finance and Payroll was one of the last groups to settle in because they had to process payroll and payments that could not be interrupted.
- It is a beautiful space. Thanks to the City, the Mayor, Capital Projects, Melissa Woods, Liz Galloway. Established a partnership to create a floor plan. SPS located on 3rd floor of the building; we have almost the entire third floor. We were strategic in where we placed departments, creating adjacencies that supported collaboration based on the work each department does.
- People are getting settled. There are still 8 trailers at Dilboy. A lot of the things in the trailers are storage, but there are still some items we need to get and will be doing that over the next several weeks. We need to work with DPW to confirm movers. Hopefully, within next few weeks, we will be all settled in.
- It's a new space, so it comes with its own nuances. People have been very gracious, very understanding and very patient. It was a long process – people were in limbo for a long time. Not anyone's fault, it's just the way the process went.

Ms. Dion – Was space previously empty or did people have to move out to accommodate?

Mr. Mazza – Combination of both. Most of the Tufts staff were remote, but there were a few on site in the building who were relocated.

Ms. Pitone – Thank everyone, all educators and administrators for their flexibility; can make challenging work even more challenging. Ran into a WH parent who stated that their child is "psyched" to go into the WH @ Edgerly building, and noted that this was in some ways an improvement over the old WH building.

Mr. Mazza – Also thanked Tufts for their partnership from the end of school last year and through the summer. Very gracious and a great partner knowing that we needed to do things to make student opportunities better.

Ms. Pitone – Heard from the community and would love to have more information about status of planning work beyond this, even if just a date for when there will be some kind of schedule for the longer-term planning.

Dr. Carmona – Will provide some of that information during update to WH Transition.

D. **Update on Winter Hill Transition** – Superintendent Carmona:

- Thanked all the partners involved in this and noted that the City has been a great partner throughout this process.
- At the August 28 School Committee meeting, IAM Director Rich Raiche provided a summary of the work to prepare the Edgerly to serve as a school for the Winter Hill Grades 1-8 students, as well as for all of our Winter Hill AIM students. The following is an update since our last meeting:
 - On the evening of August 29th, we offered short guided tours of the "Winter Hill @ Edgerly" to our Winter Hill families. Approximately 200 visitors stopped by for a tour of the facility. The feedback we received from visitors was very positive.
 - Winter Hill had a very successful first day of school for students in grades 1-8 on August 30th. A special thanks to our Winter Hill educators and staff for their incredible work getting their classrooms ready, and to our families for their patience over the summer as the building was readied for the start of the year.
 - Winter Hill also had a very successful first day of school for students in pre-K and Kindergarten on September 5th. A special thanks to Principal Caraballo and the team at the Capuano Early Childhood

- Center for opening up their school to welcome our Wildcat pre-K and K students. Students have settled into their new routines nicely.
- Suffolk Construction has continued to work on a punch list of items over the past two weeks, outside of school hours.
- Today, we successfully kicked off a bus shuttle service from Sycamore to Edgerly and Capuano, and back in the afternoons. A little more than 100 students in grades PK-6 signed up and were eligible for shuttle bus service. The first day of service went smoothly. We will continue to work on hiring additional bus monitors to ensure that we have backup support and provide consistent service throughout the school year. We are utilizing our MLE buses to run these shuttles after they complete their MLE rounds. Our partners at Parks & Recreation are providing programming for students at the Capuano and at Edgerly between school dismissal and the time that the shuttle buses pick up students in the afternoons.
- Again, we want to thank everyone involved in this effort. We will continue to work with Principal Gosselin and her team to ensure that Winter Hill students, families, and staff have the support they need for a successful school year.
- In terms of the larger question about the longer-term plan:
 - Have looked at enrollment numbers
 - Have done some gap analysis
 - Continue to look at different versions of what the longer-term could look like
 - Just last week, met with the mayor and one recommendation was to bring in an external team to help with the community process.
 - Reassure community that no decisions will be made until we have a well-vetted process with the community.

Questions/Discussion:

Dr. Ackman – Would like to reinforce how hard and diligently the construction company worked to get the Edgerly building ready. Curious if there have been updates on McGrath crosswalks; is there anything more that can be done to get police detail there?

Dr. Carmona – Last week met with Chief of Police and Mayor and made a plea to have police detail, especially back at the Edgerly and also brought that concern around the fact that it is a state highway. Police have limited capacity to provide that support, but continuing to work collectively on it.

Dr. Phillips – Gets a lot of positive feedback from Ward 3 WH families. Two questions about 115 Sycamore: (1) Is any renovation at Sycamore going to happen before the feasibility study and the gap analysis and the community meetings start happening? (2) When do we think decisions about where the WH will be located next year will be made.

Dr. Carmona – Question around what is happening at the Sycamore Building, had to assess and remediate asbestos finding; that work continues to happen. As to where WH students will be located next year, as it stands right now, the Edgerly will continue to be the location. Has not heard anything to contradict that. Took a significant amount of human power to make sure that happened. Part of the conversation that is taking place regarding the next phase – there are many variables. MSBA part of the process as well. The future of the Sycamore building is questionable in terms of what is going to happen with that building; that is a conversation that has to take place with input from the community and the MSBA. There is no decision as to what is going to happen with that building yet.

Mr. Green – Publicly urge that we put a crossing guard there (McGrath and Broadway) and address any complaint accordingly.

Dr. Ackman – Offered an anecdote - At around 8:10 in the morning when she is taking her child to the Healey, she has never seen a police detail or crossing guard there. Has yet to see a police detail or crossing guard at McGrath and Broadway.

Additional discussion ensued regarding placement of a crossing guard on McGrath and Broadway.

Dr. Carmona – Inquired whether there was a request from the body to think about how the district provides a crossing guard at that location?

Chair Krepchin – A resounding yes.

Dr. Phillips – Noted that it is also incumbent on SC members to speak to counterparts at city council to push them as well.

Ms. Pitone – State representatives would likely be supportive. Encourage members to start vocalizing concerns to them.

Mr. Green – They have been championing this issue in the past, without much success.

Superintendent Carmona, Assistant Superintendent Mazza, and Assistant Superintendent Boston Davis then shared the district report:

Notes-Superintendent's Update: *School Committee Mtg – Monday, September 11, 2023*

Thanks to our accomplished educators and administrators, we had an amazing start to the school year. It was really exciting to welcome our pre-kindergarteners and kindergarteners to the start of their learning journey last week.

For the first time in several years, we returned to our annual Convocation tradition. If you have never been, each school comes as a team and is invited to participate in a competition by creating a school-specific song or cheer. The SHS cheerleading team acted as our expert judges this year, and they awarded first place to the Winter Hill Community Innovation School's enthusiastic performance. They also awarded an Honorable Mention to the team at Next Wave/Full Circle.

I want to extend a big thank you to the Winter Hill staff and educators for their hard work and resilience over the summer and entering this new school year. They really went above and beyond to make the transition to the Edgerly and the Capuano a welcoming and natural experience for their students.

Our Community Celebrates

Happy New Year to our Jewish students, staff, and community members! Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year and the start of the Jewish High Holidays, starts on the evening of Friday, September 15.

September 15th is also the first day of National Hispanic Heritage Month, an opportunity to celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens of Hispanic ancestry.

Congratulations also to our Brazilian community. Last Thursday is Sete de Setembro, Brazil's Independence Day.

New Locations for Central Administrative Offices

Central Administrative staff have settled into their temporary offices in the T.A.B. building at 167 Holland Street. All SPS departments and offices have moved to the TAB including Human Resources, Payroll, Enrollment, Special Education, Food and Nutrition Services, SFLC, and Basic Needs. We are working to make sure that the entire SPS community is updated and aware of our new location and how to access each office easily and efficiently. Thanks also to our SFLC team who, as needed, meet with families in satellite locations on the east side of the city to be sure we are meeting the needs of all of our families, especially if and when transportation to our new location provides a challenge.

Free Dental Care for Somerville High School Students

Students at Somerville High School can now receive free dental care through the CHA Teen Connection. All oral health services are provided on-site at Teen Connection. The service also gives out free oral health products. Students are

encouraged to make an appointment through Teen Connection or talk to their school nurse.

Upcoming Half Days and School Holidays

Wednesday, September 13 will be a half-day for all students in grades PK – 8. The rest of September is the regular school day schedule.

Shout Out

Congratulations to Christine Brito and Nancy Uribe from the East Somerville Community School for winning the Carmen M. Torres Scholarship for Emerging Latine Leaders from Hale Education. This award supports their participation in the 2023–2024 Perrone-Sizer Institute for Creativity Leadership at Hale Education certificate program. Christine is the UNIDOS curriculum and instruction specialist at East Somerville. Nancy is a third grade teacher at the East.

SPS also recognizes Somerville High School math teacher Michael Morgan and Healey School Spanish teacher Alzimara Oliveira. They both received the internal scholarship to participate in the Perrone-Sizer Institute certificate program.

Also want to shout out Beth O’Connor and Carlos Contreras from SHS who will receive that scholarship for next year.

Questions/Discussion:

Chair Krepchin – Inquired for quick description of what the Perrone-Sizer Institute is.

Dr. Boston Davis – Have some alum in the audience. It is essentially a graduate school of education – graduate level courses to train aspiring leaders in education. We have a partnership with them and over the last couple of years, the district has opened up an application pool for educators who hope to lead in our district who can apply and receive a scholarship to attend. Dayshawn Simmons was one of the recipients last year along with a few other educators in our district. They have both courses during the weekend and also have 5 days throughout the school year where they have a conference day in school and then participate in a day-long kind of course. Also had coursework over the summer, and have a defense-like presentation at the end of the year where they are working on a problem of practice within the schools and using some of the coaching and strategies they’ve learned through this program. We hope they get admin certification and come join us on the admin side as well.

Dr. Carmona – Introduced new Executive Assistant, Ana Bautista. Acknowledged Dr. Hernandez Morgan for her support during the transition.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Barish inquired about the technology issue. Chair Krepchin noted that it was on the agenda for the upcoming Executive Session because there are some things about security. Superintendent Carmona briefly shared that we had a network disruption and shared that we have restored most of our services and have kept families informed about the pains and challenges. All the services are returning back to working condition. Disrupted our operations, but teachers and staff were able to manage day-to-day operations with Plan B when it came to instruction and SEU was instrumental in sharing the information through emails.

Dr. Phillips – Got some requests for district to send out a notice to families saying “email is back on” and there’s a rumor that if an email was sent during the disruption it didn’t go through and so people should resend it. If there’s a way to clarify, would be helpful.

Dr. Carmona – Will double-check with IT about the rumor. Trying to communicate with families and share as much as we can.

A. School Committee Fall Schedule

Questions/Discussion:

Dr. Ackman – What’s happening with the Building Subcommittee?

Ms. Pitone – There were some questions about what the structure could be for SC. Has not had a chance to discuss with Councilor Gomez-Mouakad. Because it’s officially a City Council meeting that SC is invited to, they don’t need a SC quorum to even run the meeting. Need to decide process moving forward. Ms. Pitone’s thought initially was to plan what it would look like starting in January. Councilor Gomez-Mouakad is not running for re-election. Helpful to have more perspectives, but having 3 people there is 3 people.

Dr. Ackman – From a planning perspective because we are not required to be there and the SC quorum is not required, one person attending (especially since Asst. Superintendent has also been going) and reporting out is sufficient for notifying the body.

Ms. Dion – Makes sense what Dr. Ackman is saying and also keep as is until January since there will be changes.

Ms. Pitone – Because they have substantive issues, helpful to have more than one person there. Technically have a Finance & Facilities Subcommittee, but has migrated more into Finance. How do we make that connection with our City Councilors who have more authority to push, advocate, and in theory, fund work?

Dr. Phillips – Question for Member Pitone, Dr. Ackman, and Ms. Dion. Original impetus for this committee was to be better able to hold the Mayor and IAM accountable and to have City Council and the SC on the same page at the same time. Do you think it’s effective for that aim because that might determine what we want to do with it?

Ms. Pitone – One of the things that has been effective about it is that around the table, you have DPW, IAM and in some cases the IT team. No other space where all these groups are together. Also believes that we learned a lot of things in that meeting that doesn’t come up in SC meetings; there is value.

Mr. Green – Part of other thinking behind it was that it’s harder to be coercive from our seat at the table. The flip side of that is, and this is my concern about the way that it is structured, is that we don’t ever want city council to tell our people what to do. Would like to think of ways to increase our presence and our say.

Ms. Pitone – Member Green hit the nail on the head. Original intention was a joint committee. Would be beneficial for it to be an actual joint committee. The idea of rethinking it and seeing if we can get a more effective committee where we have a little more voice would be valuable.

Dr. Ackman – part of where the collaborative success has been in the willingness of Councilor Gomez-Mouakad is to be inclusive of us. Should it not be feasible to do the actual join committee, it would behoove each of us to be pushing our counterparts and City Council colleagues at large to have the next person in the role include us— would love to see it be at minimum as a inclusive as it has been.

B. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the October 6, 2023 field trip for 16 Next Wave/Full Circle students to visit Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire. Students will travel by school vans and the cost to students will be \$0.

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

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

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

Grant Type	Grant Title	Award Amount
Federal	USDA Farm to School Implementation Grant – will support Somerville Food & Nutrition Services’ Taste of Home project	\$100,000
State	Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant (CFCE)	\$358,320
State	Food Security Infrastructure Grant – for food service equipment at the WHCIS @ Edgerly	\$34,000

State	Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) – continuation of existing multi-year grant supporting early childhood work across in SPS and center partners	\$897,000
State	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant – increases exposure to fresh fruits and vegetables; Argenziano, Healey, ESCS, Winter Hill	\$122,155
State	Genocide Education (Year 2) – supports professional development for SHS Social Studies Department	\$6,480

The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.

V. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Ms. Pitone – Received a question from constituent about subway passes for students--are they available to home-schooled students or students who don't attend SPS?
- Mr. Green – Thank Somerville delegation for their support on a number of important issues including making school Breakfast & Lunch permanent; Rep. Barber was lead sponsor on driver's license; and in-state tuition for all residents for college was something that Rep. Provost championed and sponsored her entire career. Give our delegation credit for the immense work they have done, in particular in support of our immigrant students and families.
- Dr. Phillips – Request IAM or DPW provide a report on how air filtrations are working in our buildings? Dr. Carmona indicated he would get that information for next meeting.

VI. CONDOLENCES

There were no condolences.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned 9:07 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

[Enrollment Update Presentation](#)

[Summer Program Update Presentation](#)

Submitted by: S. Hernandez Morgan

ATTACH DOCUMENTS STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

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

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

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<https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/85251446618?pwd=ZkQwWjd0Z1JnbmNsSS9jeC9TSnptQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 5144 6618

Password: 752252

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. PUBLIC COMMENT – In person or via Zoom

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

<https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/85251446618?pwd=ZkQwWjd0Z1JnbmNsSS9jeC9TSnptQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 5144 6618

Password: 752252

III. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- Enrollment Update (Ms. Rodriguez)
- Summer School/Program Update (Mr. Simmons)

- Transition to TAB Building (Mr. Mazza)
- Update on Winter Hill transition

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. **School Committee Fall Schedule** (Recommended action: approval)

B. **Field Trip** (Recommended action: approval)

October 6, 2023 16 NW/FC Students will visit Mount Monadnock in NH. Travel by School Vans, student cost \$0.

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:

Grant Type	Grant Title	Award Amount
Federal	USDA Farm to School Implementation Grant – will support Somerville Food & Nutrition Services' Taste of Home project	\$100,000
Federal	Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant (CFCE)	\$358,320
State	Food Security Infrastructure Grant – for food service equipment at the WHCIS @ Edgerly	\$34,000
State	Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) – continuation of existing multi-year grant supporting early childhood work across in SPS and center partners	\$897,000
State	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant – increases exposure to fresh fruits and vegetables; Argenziano, Healey, ESCS, Winter Hill	\$122,155
State	Genocide Education (Year 2) – supports professional development for SHS Social Studies Department	\$6,480

V. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VI. CONDOLENCES

VII. ADJOURNMENT

For Simultaneous Interpretation in Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole See below:

Español - Para Interpretación

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

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

<https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/85251446618?pwd=ZkQwWjd0Z1JnbmNsSS9jeC9TSnptQT09>

Identificación de la reunión: 852 5144 6618

Contraseña: 752252

Português - Para Interpretação

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

Para **ouvir ao vivo a tradução simultânea da Assembleia Ordinária em espanhol, português ou crioulo**

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

haitiano, entre neste Zoom e escolha o idioma desejado clicando no balão de interpretação:

<https://k12somerille.zoom.us/j/85251446618?pwd=ZkQwWjd0Z1JnbnNsSS9jeC9TSnptQT09>

ID da reunião: 852 5144 6618

Senha: 752252

Kreyòl ayisyen - Pou entèpretasyon

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

<https://www.somerillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerille-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://k12somerille.zoom.us/j/85251446618?pwd=ZkQwWjd0Z1JnbnNsSS9jeC9TSnptQT09>

Reyinyon ID: 852 5144 6618

Modpas: 752252