

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, April 27, 2020 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – GoToWebinar– Online Meeting Platform

Members present: Ms. Krepchin, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Barish, Ms. Normand, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Phillips Mayor Curtatone and President McLaughlin.

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Normand called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a moment of silence dedicated to the Holocaust Remembrance Day followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Chair Normand asked the Superintendent to call the roll, results of which were as follows: PRESENT – 9 – Ms.

Krepchin, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Barish, Mr. Green, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Normand, Dr. Phillips, Mr. McLaughlin and Mayor Curtatone
ABSENT – 0 -.

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representatives Ekaterina Hicks-Magana and Nathalya Salmeron were both present and reported on the following topics:

- Remote Learning and the student experience.
- AP Tests will now be shorter and students not feeling prepared for them.
- SAT may be optional for some schools next year in light of the circumstances.
- Seniors and End of the year plans; There is a committee that's working with some of the student council and the seniors, as well as the staff, to brainstorm some ideas.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were eight constituents who signed up for public comment, three of whom submitted written statements via email, which you will see below. The other people who spoke made similar comments and thanked the Mayor and Superintendent for the District's response to COVID-19, others were in attendance in support of the Paraprofessional in regards to the ongoing contract negotiations.

Kinga Borondy, First grade paraprofessional, Argenziano School

At this time, I want to compliment Mayor Joe Curtatone, and the city of Somerville, on the socially progressive response to the Covid-19 crisis. I am impressed by the creation of a special \$1 million fund to support Somerville's small businesses and have already forwarded a link to the application process to my favorite Union Square merchant. I am impressed that I can buy groceries from restaurants; the move helps both the restaurants and the farmers and suppliers who sell them their goods. I am impressed by the district's move to secure free internet access for all Somerville school families. I read a story in the Philadelphia Inquirer on April 3 despairing that while Comcast is headquartered in the city, more than 1 in 5 of its students had no access to internet. Children were advised to park in city lots close to schools and libraries to access internet.

The publication BillyPenn.com has said:

"Parking Lot" WiFi was originally one of the options listed on the district website for kids whose households aren't connected to WiFi. it was described as "accessible around the exterior of a building such as a school or library — and generally reachable from the facility's parking lot."

Philadelphia has since rescinded its suggestion that students do schoolwork in city parking lots and is working to purchase devices for those students who lacked them and to arrange with Comcast for free/low cost connections for city families. Somerville was way ahead of the curve on internet access. But while I am praising the Mayor, and the progressive forces in Somerville that are working together to protect the most vulnerable residents, I must point out a failure:

Your paraprofessional educators are falling through the cracks. Our second and third jobs have vanished into the gaping maw of the Covid-19 emergency; babysitting jobs, afterschool teaching jobs, waitstaff jobs, all gone.

If we survive this crisis it may be thanks to our past economies, our domestic situations, or our frugality. But it will not be because of our pay.

Please do not rest on your laurels and think that your progressive efforts to mitigate the financial impact has extended a safety net for all your residents, your business owners, your employees. We are still here, working to connect with our cherished students, working to support our teachers, our administrators, our families. And we are being adversely financially impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. Please accept the pay schedule offered by the Somerville Teachers Association that started pay at \$25,000 for the school year.

William Almy, Somerville resident, 14 Landers Street, and the parent of a successful graduate of the city school system, now attending Temple University in Philadelphia, studying public health. I am also a former Member of Service Employees International Union Local 509.

I am a licensed independent clinical social worker. I have a specialization in the treatment of children for maltreatment, neglect and trauma. I have worked for child protective services, juvenile probation - performed forensic sexual abuse evaluations and parental fitness evaluations for the courts as well as emergency psychiatric evaluations. I am here to speak on behalf of Somerville's children who will be significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Somerville's School system must make every effort to mitigate the traumatic effects of this overwhelming and terrifying event in our children's lives. While many families will emerge from this disruption intact, many other families will not. The Somerville community varies dramatically in income and resources. The stresses caused by the pandemic, forced social distancing resulting in all family members remaining at home, massive unemployment, food and housing insecurity, precarious financial conditions, all combine to increase the likelihood that families stressed before the pandemic will be that much more at risk as this situation continues to develop with no clear end in sight.

It is likely that children who were in families suffering from domestic violence, abusive or neglectful caregivers will return to our school system with elevated levels of trauma. Besides the need for an appropriate therapeutic response - another crucial factor needed to help mitigate any trauma they suffered will be to make absolutely sure that the people in their lives who represent a stable, safe and nurturing environment remain in their lives!

Paraprofessionals play a crucial role in the maintenance of a safe, secure environment. As has been stated at these meetings countless times before by parents; paraprofessionals play a larger than life role in many of our children's classrooms and in their lives, especially for but not limited to our children with special needs. Paraprofessionals are a stable fixture in the lives of our children; year after year; welcoming them to new grades and providing continuity throughout their early academic lives. They are an invaluable resource, both academically and emotionally. When they participate in distance learning, they still provide continuity and emotional support to children who are home during this pandemic, a completely overwhelming life event.

Thanks to technology, our school teachers and paras, distance learning is providing some semblance of normalcy. This role paras provide, that of stable nurturer and educator, will continue in importance if and when schools resume down the line and children return to School classrooms exhibiting signs of trauma and behaviors resulting from their processing of this unique circumstance in all our lives.

Hopefully the correct approach to this situation will reduce the number of children facing involvement with the state agencies and services that I have worked for over the years.

In closing - I would like to add my voice to the many residents, parents and teachers who have spoken before this body and expressed their support for the paraprofessionals, recognize their fight for the outrageously reasonable sum of \$25 thousand a year; a sum that does not begin to address the value of the services and work they provide. For the sake of our children attending Somerville public schools, their emotional well-being, and to ensure they receive every chance to heal from this trauma, I urge you to approve the contract proposal put forth by the Somerville Teacher's Association.

Hannah De Souza Rodrigues and I am a third grade teacher at the Argenziano School.

I have been teaching newcomer English Language Learners in Somerville Public Schools now for 12 years. I speak here today to show my full support for the demand that our paraprofessionals in Somerville have the right to earn a living wage. As a teacher in the ELL program, I am extremely fortunate to be supported by a paraprofessional in my classroom. My ability to excel as a classroom teacher is directly impacted by how I am supported and valued in my professional community. In turn, my students' success in school is directly impacted by the support structures that exist in our classroom.

I am here to tell you all today, that the single most valuable support that I have access to as a teacher is my

paraprofessional. I have had the pleasure to work with the same paraprofessional for over a decade. We have forged not only a working relationship but also a genuine friendship. Without the assistance and support of a paraprofessional, I would not be able to perform my daily duties in the classroom with my students to the level that is expected of me.

Being the daughter of a carpenter, I am now going to refer to the analogy of building a house. It is not a one-person job. You need many people working together, supporting each other, and helping each other. Teaching is just the same. We know that it takes a village to raise a child, and the same is true to educate one. We are stronger when we work together and support each other.

The role of paraprofessionals in schools is just as important as the role of teachers.

Paraprofessionals are teachers!

We teach alongside one another.

We take care of students with the same dedication and care.

We work together to help students get what they need each and every day.

The role of a paraprofessional, offers students an enhanced access to education. It allows teachers to educate and support students both academically and emotionally. Students, families, teachers, and administrators know how important paraprofessionals are in the school community! We see these super educators in action every day!

In closing, I have spent the last few moments trying to explain that paraprofessionals are an invaluable resource to teachers, students and families. And ironically now, I will end by urging you to pay them a living wage. Thank you.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **January 27, 2020**

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Krepchin, seconded by Mr. Green to approve the School Committee Minutes of January 13, 2020.

Motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

- **Principal Update** (Mr. Maguire and Ms. Seward)

Superintendent Skipper announced that she has asked principals to join the next few meetings, 2 per meeting, to update members on what's been going on at each of the schools. Tonight Principal Shawn Maguire from the Brown School and Principal Kathleen Seward from the West Somerville Neighborhood school were in attendance.

Principal Maguire reported that the Brown School has quickly adapted to virtual learning. Teachers have taken advantage of all the professional development that is being offered to them and through close communication with parents they have been able to get all the students to participate online. He is really proud of the staff and how well they have adjusted. Mr. Maguire also thanked Superintendent Skipper and Assistant Superintendent Mazza for their leadership.

Principal Seward spoke to the work that the WSNS team has been doing in trying to identify the needs of the different families in terms of internet access and need for a device. They have also worked through communications with families to engage all students by looking at different ways to meet, whether that be individually or in smaller groups. And also keeping in mind that parents may need support with accommodating a daily schedule and being understanding of the different family situations and dynamics.

Dr. Phillips asked the principals a questions about students who may not be engaging or who they haven't heard from and how they may be approaching this. Mr. Maguire reported that the first point of contact were the teachers, if they were not able to reach a family then he would make a personal call. Also teachers were asked to continue to track attendance of student engagement. Ms. Seward responded that similarly at the West Somerville, if teachers were unable to make contact, someone from the student support team would follow up.

The Committee thanked both Principals for all their hard work.

- **Early Education** (Dr. Kuh)

Superintendent Skipper introduced Dr. Lisa Kuh, who was in attendance to present the Early Education Update. Dr. Kuh had a PowerPoint Presentation which included the following:

Remote Learning Messaging

- Focus on helping at home, being part of home life.
- Does not have to mean engaging online on a device
- Play out of doors, indoors, ongoing projects and activities that can continue over time.
- Simple visual schedule that aligns with family life. Families should not try to replicate the school day.

Remote Learning

- 337 SPS PK Students (ECIP/SMILE) 67% active participation
- Class Dojo, Kaymbu, Bloomz, Remind, Google Hangout.
- 2 LIVE experiences/week.
- Weekly Plan with guidance and instruction from teachers
- Encouraging phone calls and small groups
- Distribution of Amazon Fires but they don't provide 2-way access.
- Instructional Coaches working hard to support teachers in SPS and center-based programs
www.somervilleearlyed.com. Curated, high quality practices by and for teachers.

Transition to PK and K - Orientation and Welcome

- Lottery for K assignment and SMILE slots next week.
- Working with SPS Enrollment Center and Child Care Centers to get information to inform class placement and anticipate student need. Virtual Welcome to PK, Welcome to K presentations/videos/communication
- Challenge: Early Screening in the fall

Transition Planning: Reopening SPS & Centers

- Waiting for EEC guidelines on safety.
- Establishing Somerville Partnership for Young Children Transition Task Force to work with EEC around safety and hygiene protocols, distancing, staggered schedules, etc.
- Anticipating learning loss AND children are resilient.

Somerville Partnership for Young Children: Speech and Language Services

- Caseload of 21 with 2 more coming on. Head Start, Elizabeth Peabody, YMCA
- Direct Service: 30%, Barriers: parents working and children cared for someone else, need more participation of advocates, language barriers
- Indirect Service: 77% connection to children's teachers, family advocates
- Pairing children virtually for social interactions without adult leading. Office Hours for families.
- The pipeline from screening to service has been sped up so children getting what they need earlier.

Somerville Partnership for Young Children Partner Programs; *Elizabeth Peabody, YMCA, Dandelion Montessori, Head Start, Open Center, Bigelow, Pooh and Friends, Tree House Academy*

Continuing Support for Children & Families and Professional Development

- Learning new technology & organizing live sessions with small groups of children
- Sending out comforting messages to families and ideas for daily activities with children & materials packets to homes
- Participating in HGSE online early education course (Leading for Quality Improvement)

Trying to Stay Afloat

- 2 have reduced staff hours/furloughed staff
- 3 have been able to secure the PPP loans – hopefully starting to receive funds this week or next
- 4 still working on applying for the PPP loan and hoping to be successful in 2nd round
- Non-SPYC partners working to secure PPP, some considering not re-opening at all or with limited seats

- **Community Schools** (Ms. Paribello)

Update during COVID-19 Closure: What we have been doing...

- Created a remote learning website with access to every afterschool program with links to keep it simple for students and parents to access.
- Teachers created YouTube channels featuring afterschool staff doing read alouds, projects, and challenges

- Virtual Snack time chat with afterschool staff and friends
- Virtual one on one or small group tutoring sessions
- Created class dojo or google classrooms for each afterschool
- program where teachers and therapeutic specialists can post activities
- Therapeutic specialists creating videos and slide shows to share with parents on how to talk about COVID-19 and reducing stress
- Teachers creating their own websites posting activities and academic support apps to support tutoring
- Site Coordinators are joining school meetings lead by principals and working together to ensure communication is streamlined
- Our student services director and clinical consultant continuing to hold SST meetings and using this opportunity to not only discuss the new needs of our students at home now but also to reflect on challenges create strong behavior plans and models for working with our high needs population
- Assistant Director continuing to plan for our summer and what different models we need to consider including virtual and new health and safety policies we will need to implement for re-opening
- Our clerical staff is continuing to answer phones, set up virtual interviews, monitor budgets and complete essential payroll task
- And lastly, creating a virtual April Vacation Program where students and parents had access to an interactive schedule daily to participate in a variety of activities from live breakfast chats, how to draw activities like a child paint night to getting on the floor and doing some workouts with mom through Parkour. We were able to partner with community vendors through a grant provided by SomerPromise. We had about 75 students participate. The feedback was very positive.
- We will continue the virtual schedule into this week with similar activities and parents will receive it each Friday for the following week.

B. Personnel Report

VI. REPORT OF SUMCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Rules Management: February 3, 2020 (Dr. Ackman)

Rules Management Subcommittee, February 3, 2020

Meeting was chaired by Ackman, School Committee Emily members in attendance were Ellenor Barish, Sarah Phillips, and Ilana Krepchin (at 6:30), Chief of Staff Jeff Curley, Assistant Superintendent Chad Mazza (6:30), Superintendent Mary Skipper (6:45), and STA president Rami Bridge.

Meeting began at 6:02 at Somerville City Hall.

Controlled Choice & Student Assignment Policy: The goal of reviewing policy JCA is to have our policy accurately reflect School Committee practice regarding student assignment and to bring our practice into legal compliance based on Supreme Court decisions. Ms. Barish was seeking assurances from the administration that amending the policy regarding proportions of students who qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch would not do harm to schools that receive Universal Free Lunch. Dr. Phillips noted that there can be socioeconomic imbalances in schools due to sub- populations that access specific programs. The subcommittee agreed that this will be discussed when policy JCA is revisited after the enrollment study is published. Dr. Ackman & Dr. Curley will amend some language in the policy that will be brought back to the full subcommittee for review at the next meeting.

Homework Policy Update: Dr. Curley gave an update about the plans to present high school homework policies from other district to the Rules Subcommittee. Mr. Bridge then gave a brief overview of teacher focus groups so far. Some overarching themes were: how much reading can count as homework; vertical alignment of curriculum; different students and do different amounts of work in an allotted timeframe (for example, 30 minutes).

Field Trip Policy: Dr. Curley presented language from the Cambridge Public Schools field trip policy that permits the superintendent to have final say over field trip approvals. He recommended that Somerville School Committee crafts its own exigency policy that outlines specific circumstances where the superintendent will approve field trip applications in consult with the Chair of the School Committee.

Spring Agenda Planning: Dr. Ackman outlined the tentative plan for the Rules Subcommittee until June 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm

B. School Committee Meeting for Rules Management: March 9, 2020 (Dr. Ackman)
Rules Management Subcommittee, March 9, 2020

Meeting was chaired by Emily Ackman, School Committee members in attendance were Ellenor Barish and Sarah Phillips, Chief of Staff Jeff Curley, Assistant Superintendent, Chad Mazza, STA president Rami Bridge and STA vice president Megan Brady.

Meeting began at 6:04 pm at City Hall

Homework Policy Update: Multiple copies of the homework policy were shared. There was the original policy passed by school committee last year that is in abeyance, a new version edited by Mr. Mazza based on what he heard in focus groups, and then a further edited version presented by Dr. Phillips. After discussion on specifics of language, the committee agreed to revisit the edits at a future meeting.

Controlled Choice and Student Assignment: Dr. Curley provided an update that the district had recently finalized the contract for the consultant who is analyzing data and helping the district think through the best way to approach this work.

Screen Use Among Younger Students: Dr. Curley gave an update that the district is in the process of outlining parameters for screen use in PK-2 classrooms.

Student Representatives: Per a policy review from Ms. Pitone as well as updates from MASC, the Rules subcommittee is revisiting policy JIB that governs the way that student school committee representatives are chosen. The proposed change is that students at Somerville High vote on the school committee representatives, but the specifics of when that vote has to happen and how long representatives serve is information that the subcommittee needs more information on before voting out a coherent and legally compliant policy.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

MOTION: Motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Mr. Green, to accept the reports of the School Committee for Rules Management of February 3, 2020 and March 9, 2020.

C. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: February 26, 2020 (Mr. Green)
Finance and Facilities Report February 26, 2020

In attendance were A. Green, I. Krepchin, C. Normand, S. Phillips, L. Pitone, and E. Barish. Also in attendance were Finance Director Gorski and Asst. Superintendent Mazza. Superintendent Skipper connected via phone.

The first item was a walkthrough of the circuit breaker procedure. Director Gorski and his team put together an excellent summation of the sometimes complicated finances of the state's circuit breaker to assist districts with high Special Education costs. That memo was in member's packets so I don't need to review it here.

Director Gorski then alerted us to some upcoming changes in Title I. Due to a combination of new federal policies and the perception of changing demographics in Somerville, SPS is in line for a possibly large cut in Title I funding in FY2024. This hit could get far worse if Somerville is undercounted in the Census, as many of us fear. Title I is the largest source of federal education dollars.

Then we reviewed the first draft of the proposed FY2021 Budget. Due to the need to make adjustments for possible new spending commitments, the district has already begun to prioritize new programmatic investments if needed. Highlights include an investment in Becoming A Man, a wraparound service provider for male students of color, changes to the Citizens School model and expansions in payments for other recent out of school programming due to increased enrollment. There's also a proposal for a consultant to help the district develop improved transportation systems, long a priority. The budget has yet to discuss staffing, that will come up in future finance committee meetings.

Finally, we discussed bill rolls and expense reports. There was a motion by Ms. Krepchin seconded by Ms. Pitone to approve the bill rolls that passed unanimously.

With a motion by Ms. Normand, seconded by Ms. Barish, the meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

D. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: March 11, 2020 (Mr. Green)

Finance and Facilities March 2020

Meeting convened at 7:16pm

In attendance were A. Green, I Krepchin, E. Ackman, S. Phillips, L. Pitone, and E Barish. C. Normand joined at 7:45. Also in attendance was Director Gorski.

As we were convening the decision to close SPS for two days effective immediately was being implemented so Superintendent Skipper and Chair Normand were in and out. We began with the February Bill Rolls and Expense report, in a hope to give Director Bertholdo, who was helping get the closure announcements translated, time to present the enrollment report as on the agenda. After brief discussion, Ms. Pitone moved to approve the Bill Rolls, seconded by Dr. Ackman. Motion passed unanimously.

We then discussed the budget timeline, with a plan for Ms. Krepchin to organize joint office hours and to get the Superintendent's budget presentation out a few days earlier than originally proposed. These discussions have since been overtaken by events. There was a discussion of using the time to begin to discuss member priorities, but with the Superintendent not available to give feedback, the decision was made to table that discussion for a future meeting.

With events quickly overtaking us that evening, Dr. Ackman moved to adjourn and Ms. Normand seconded. The motion passed unanimously and we adjourned at 8:10pm

E. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: April 15, 2020 (Mr. Green)

Finance and Facilities Report April 2020.

In attendance A. Green, I. Krepchin, C. Normand, Mayor Curtatone, E. Ackman, S. Phillips, L. Pitone, E. Barish, Supt. Skipper, Asst. Superintendent Mazza, Director Gorski, Director Bertholdo, Dir. Bean

Meeting Came to order at 6:01

First item was an update on Enrollment for 20-21 school year. Director Bertholdo informed us that Kindergarten registration was up from where we were last year at this point and pre-K registrations were flat. While we shouldn't expect to see a need for more Kindergarten sections, we also won't see a need for fewer. This continues a trend of several years of increased Kindergarten enrollments. A full enrollment update will come at the next Finance meeting

The Bulk of the meeting was devoted to an update on where we stood in terms of budgeting since the COVID economic and educational changes. We thank the Mayor and City Finance Director Bean for joining us for that conversation. Of note, thanks to a new City-side line item SPS has been able to spend over \$500,000 on getting students Chromebooks and Amazon Fires and expanding internet access for our most vulnerable students. Other than that though we haven't seen new COVID expenses. We remain committed to paying all our staff. There is an issue with transportation contracts though. DESE recommends that districts figure out some way to continue to pay transportation and out of district placements so as not to have them go under so they would be available when school buildings reopen. However, state law forbids municipalities from paying for services not rendered. So Director Gorski requested that School Committee authorize the district to negotiate for services the district could pay for so as to at least make a partial payment to vendors legally. Motion passed unanimously

Moving forward to the FY21 budget, it seems clear that both local and state revenue are expected to take a large hit due to COVID. Somerville has been investing in its rainy day fund, and wasn't in line to receive lots of new state aid from the SOA so is in better shape than many districts. Nevertheless, the budget situation is fundamentally different, and frankly worse than it was even a month ago. However, we don't yet know how bad it will be. Both the city and the district financial teams requested a few week pause on our budget process to get a better grasp of the finance picture. State COVID relief bills have given cities the options to pass quarterly budgets next year, budgeting 3 months at a time rather than for the whole year, as it's still unclear when or how the current physical distancing will end and how that will impact finances. As of this meeting the City hadn't ruled that out. We expect more information at our next finance meeting.

Finally, we reviewed the March Bill rolls, which had fewer expenditures because School Buildings closed in March. Motion to approve passed unanimously

We Adjourned at 7:12pm.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to accept the reports of the School Committee for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of February 26, 2020, March 11, 2020 and April 15, 2020.

F. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction: February 24, 2020
(Ms. Pitone)

Educational Programs and Instruction
February 24th, 2020 Minutes

Attendees: Laura Pitone, Chair, Sarah Philips Vice-Chair, Ilana Krepchin, Chad Mazza Interim Assistant Superintendent
Audience: Megan Brady, STA

Agenda:

1. Approve minutes from 1/27 Educational Programs and Instruction Meeting
2. School Improvement Plan Memos - Albert F. Argenziano School and Winter Hill Innovation School
3. Finalize year agenda for Educational programs and Instruction subcommittee for 202 and draft for 2021

Meeting was called to order by Laura Pitone at 6:04 pm on 02 24 2020

Item 1: Approve minutes from 1/27 Educational Programs and Instruction Meeting

Motion to approve 01/27/202 minutes made by Ilana Krepchin, seconded by Sarah Phillips.
Motion passed.

Item 2: School Improvement Plan Memos - Albert F. Argenziano School and Winter Hill Innovation School

The review of school improvement plans tabled until March meeting to allow more time for members to review the reports and formulate questions. Assistant Superintendent Mazza confirmed that all schools are on the same schedule, in year two of a two-year cycle. Members were encouraged to review prior year SIP plans for reference. Feedback was provided on at least one received SIP plan did not appear to be a continuation of the prior year's plan. This year's plan included different goals than the first year plan. It was agreed that this may have been a necessary adjustment, however it was encouraged when goals change that the reports clarify why the change has been made and, if reasonably possible, share the status of the original goals.

Item 3: Finalize year agenda for Educational programs and Instruction subcommittee for 202 and draft for 2021

Discussed purpose of Educational Programs and Instructional Subcommittee:

File BDE:

- The Educational Programs Sub-Committee is responsible for assessing annual goals and objectives relative to student achievement.
- On a regular basis, the Superintendent of Schools will arrange for program and department reports to the Educational Programs Sub-Committee.

Received input from STA representative Megan Brady on proposed topics list shared in last meeting, based on feedback from some members. Megan Brady to forward the list via email for consideration in calendar.

The Ed Program chair is in conversation with the SC Chair to determine where assessing annual goals will happen, in Regular meetings, Ed Programs and/or Personnel subcommittees (in the context of the Superintendent Evaluation.) The Agenda for Ed Programs will be adjusted accordingly,

With respect to department and program reports, clarified that they are an opportunity to share with the community the current state and future plans, as well as increase visibility to department alignment from Pre-K through 12th grade. The report is not an assessment but exists to share the vision, plans, current state, future requests, what is working well and what needs to improve. Additionally, connections can be made to the district mission, goals and equity policy. The draft Ed Programs calendar has most departments scheduled to share information every two years although annual review may be recommended for some

departments/programs.

A question came up about school start times, where would that be considered. Suggestion was made to request consideration by the SC Chair (possibly Long Range Planning).

To do:

- Determine which departments/programs will be reviewed at Regular versus Ed Programs. Add identified items to the calendar.
- Review input from STA on Ed Programs future agenda items - complete
- Update calendar based on 02/24 meeting - complete
- Schedule outstanding items on the list
- Document purpose and scope of department / program reviews
- Determine frequency of departments / programs reports (most biennial, possibly some annual and others less frequently)
- Add to the end of all meeting agendas a review of the agenda for next month's meeting.
- Determined that some meeting will expand to 1.5 hours to give time to cover material.

Meeting was adjourned. No motions.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to accept the report of the School Committee for Educational Programs and Instruction of February 24, 2020.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville High School Building Committee Report (Ms. Pitone)

SHS Building Update 04 26 2020

Laura Pitone

Since mid-March there has been a substantial reduction in the level of work based on safety requirements established due to COVID-19, and it is assumed the building will not be ready for occupation in September 2020. Early in March, the construction was in full swing with over 360 tradespersons working daily. Since the stay at home request and limitations on construction, the scope of effort has been dramatically limited to essential infrastructure as well as preparation for increased health and safety restrictions. Essential infrastructure is considered work to insure the safety and security of the building, as well as tradespeople now and in the future. For the last several weeks approximately 80 tradespeople have been working on the building daily.

Specifically, tradespeople are working to permanently secure the building from the elements by closing the envelope, as well as completing critical infrastructure to keep the building safe. The goal is to remove all tarps and temporary structures and complete all roofing to protect interiors from the elements. Additionally, fire systems that were originally scheduled for later in the project, were installed.

Prior to the work reductions, the phase one building had most of the mechanical systems installed, as well as much of the interiors including walls enclosed, painted and some of the tiles installed along the corridors. Ceilings and floor work have been halted. The phase two building, on the east and south side of the campus had been focused on exteriors and some mechanical systems were installed, interior work has been stopped. There was hesitation in estimating the level of building completion, but it was estimated that phase 1 is about 65% complete, phase 2 30% complete and the auditorium 25-30% complete. A reminder that the scope of the auditorium work was increased when it was discovered that the original supporting beams had to be replaced.

To support the health and safety of the workers on site, hot water was plumbed into a new bank for sinks installed in alignment with social distancing requirements. Two additional staff were hired for daily sanitation work, which includes multiple daily cleaning of often used surfaces such as handles and stair rails. All staff check in with the nurse before entering the work site to check their temperature. When the project is ready for an increase in tradespeople it is expected that both nursing and sanitation staff will increase to meet the needs. Time and resources are being spent on signage and training regarding social distancing, sanitation and wearing masks.

At the time of our last meeting, April 13th, the plans for completion were unknown. At our last finance committee meeting, the Mayor mentioned a target occupation between September 2020 and January 2021.

B. Acceptance of Donations (Recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Program Donated to
Monetary	Jeffrey Swanson	Somerville, MA	\$100	SFLC Playgroups
Gift Cards	Barry Freeman of Horace Mann Insurance Agency	Winchester, MA	\$350	Healey School

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to accept these donations with gratitude.
 Motion approved via voice vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

IX. CONDOLENCES

The Somerville School Committee extends its deepest condolences to the families of **Michael McDonough**, Brother of Eithna Sweeney, Teacher at Somerville High School, **Evelyn Theresa (Flanagan) Nelson**, mother-in-law of Katjana Ballantyne, City Councilor and former School Committee member and **Samuel Frydman**, Father of Deborah Frydman, Adjustment Counselor at the Albert F. Argenziano School.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned via voice vote at 9:11 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

Submitted by: K. Santiago

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE GoToWEBINAR
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 27, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone’s Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this meeting of the Somerville School Committee will be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels (SCAT).

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser on the date and time of this meeting to view it live: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3058527294455385615>

Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2019 - 2022

Through the following long-range goals, we commit to addressing deep-rooted systemic barriers that have prevented us from achieving our district vision of equity and excellence and ensuring that all students, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the supports and resources they need to achieve educational success in our district now and in the future. By 2022, we will ...:

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

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

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Call to order with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 27, 2020

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- Principal Update (Mr. Maguire and Ms. Seward)
- Early Education (Dr. Kuh)
- Community Schools (Ms. Paribello)

B. Personnel Report

VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Rules Management: February 3, 2020 (Dr. Ackman)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Rules Management of February 3, 2020.

B. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction: February 24, 2020 (Ms. Pitone)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of February 24, 2020.

C. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: February 26, 2020 (Mr. Green)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of February 26, 2020.

D. School Committee Meeting for Rules Management: March 9, 2020 (Dr. Ackman)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Rules Management of March 9, 2020.

E. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: March 11, 2020 (Mr. Green)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of March 11, 2020.

F. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: April 15, 2020 (Mr. Green)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of April 15, 2020.

VII. NEW BUSSINESS

A. SHS Building Report (Ms. Pitone)

B. Donations (Recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Program Donated to
Monetary	Jeffrey Swanson	Somerville, MA	\$100	SFLC Playgroups
Gift Cards	Barry Freeman of Horace Mann Insurance Agency	Winchester, MA	\$350	Healey School

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD

MEMBERS IX.

CONDOLENCES

X. ADJOURNMENT