

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, September 12, 2022 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Zoom Webinar

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

Members Absent: Mayor Ballantyne, and President McLaughlin

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Mercedes Escorihuela - Spanish

Elaine Meztker-Portuguese

Gina Miranda-Haitian Creole

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 27, 2022
- August 29, 2022

Tabled.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Brianna Walsh- Hudson St- Ms. Walsh is a mom at WHCIS and commented advocating for the continued evaluation of school buildings. She also took the time to request more district activities around walking and biking to schools.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

• New Administrative Staff Introductions

Every year at the start of the school year, new administrative staff in the district are introduced to School Committee members and the community. This year there were 27 new admin staff, 24 of which attended this meeting and were introduced and congratulated by one of the District Leaders in the Superintendent’s Office or the Principal in their school building. Superintendent Skipper began the introductions and they continued in the order listed below.

| Location | First Name | Last Name | New Position | Introduction |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------|
| SFLC | Regina | Bertholdo | Director of Basic Needs and Housing Support Services | Sup. Skipper |
| Capuano | Felix | Caraballo | Principal - Capuano Early Childhood Center | Sup. Skipper |
| Capuano | Lori | Gover | Assistant Principal – Capuano Early Childhood Center | Mr. Caraballo |
| KNDY | Steven | Marshall | Interim Principal - Kennedy School | Sup. Skipper |
| KNDY | Samantha | Patton | Interim Assistant Principal - Kennedy School | Mr. Marshall |
| WSNS | Kimberly | Murphy Baker | Interim Principal – West Somerville Neighborhood School | Sup. Skipper |
| WSNS | Isabel | Barros | Interim Assistant Principal - West Somerville Neighborhood School | Ms. Murphy-Baker |
| ESCS | Samaria | Hashem | Interim Principal - East Somerville Community School | Dr. Curley |
| ESCS | Julia | Allen | Interim Assistant Principal - East Somerville Community School | Ms. Hashem |

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| SHS | Alicia | Kersten | Interim Co-Principal– Somerville High School | Dr. Curley |
| SHS | Doreen | Ward | Interim Assistant Principal - Somerville High School – Beacon House | Ms. Kersten |
| SHS | Cynthia | Massillon | Interim Assistant Principal - Somerville High School – Broadway Community | Ms. Kersten |
| SHS | Yahaira-Maria | Frier | Assistant Principal - Somerville High School – Elm Community | Ms. Kersten |
| SHS | Marie | Foreman | Assistant Principal Team Leader | Ms. Kersten |
| MLE | Paulina | Mitropoulos | Director of Multilingual Learner Education | Dr. Curley |
| MLE | Cora | Jayadame | Multilingual Learner Education Assistant Director | Ms. Mitropoulos |
| SFLC | Teresa | Rodriguez | Director of Admissions and Student Placement | Dr. Curley |
| AFAS | Amy | Candelora | Assistant Principal - Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park | Dr. Boston Davis |
| Central | Samantha | Eligene | Director of Data, Assessment and Accountability | Dr. Boston Davis |
| Central | Caeli | Gallitano | Interim Director of Equity and Excellence | Dr. Boston Davis |
| SCALE | Corrinna | Horton | Interim Director of Adult Learning (SCALE) | Dr. Boston Davis |
| SHS | Tania | Connor | K12 Supervisor of Library/Media Services | Mr. Mazza |
| Central | Chris | Glynn | Interim Director for Educator Development | Mr. Mazza |
| SSD | Larry | Silverman | Assistant Director of Student Services | Mr. Mazza |

- **MBTA M7 Memo** (Mr. Mendez)

Superintendent Skipper Introduced Jose Mendez, Director of Operations and Extended Learning, to share a quick update regarding the MBTA M7 Student Passes.

TO: Somerville School Committee

FROM: Jose Mendez

CC: Superintendent Mary Skipper
Acting Superintendent Jeff Curley
Interim Chief of Staff & Strategy Susana Hernandez Morgan

DATE: 9/7/2022

RE: Update on SPS M7 MBTA Pass Program

School Committee Chairman Green and members of the Somerville School Committee, I am pleased to submit the following updates on the M7 MBTA Pass program in Somerville Public Schools.

1. MBTA Pass Program Expansion

During the 21-22 school year, Somerville Public Schools distributed 1,200 MBTA cards to high school students. We are happy to announce that we have launched the expansion of the M7 MBTA Cards for all SPS students in grades 7 to 12 and will be distributing approximately 2,000 M7 MBTA Cards for the 22-23 school year. The M7s are pre-loaded monthly passes for unlimited travel on the subway, local or express buses, and Commuter Rail Zones 1A, 1, and 2 from September through June. Not only will students will be able to travel in and around the City of Somerville to attend school, participate in extracurricular activities, go to appointments or jobs, and access critical resources, the M7 passes also expand students' access to programs and services outside of Somerville.

2. Distribution

Activation of passes began Wednesday, August 30, 2022. Passes were distributed to school administrators and given out to

students during the week of September 5. We anticipate that all 7th-12th grade students in the district will have received their passes by Friday, September 9. Passes will continue to be activated and distributed as needed throughout the school year.

3. SPS Online Update

Program information detailing policies and other frequently asked questions are available on [Somerville Public Schools website](#).

The M7 MBTA passes help to directly address the transportation barrier that many students face, increasing students' access to opportunities, programs, and services. We appreciate the School Committee's support of this critical resource for our students.

Questions/ Comments

Ms. Dion thanked Mr. Mendez and the district for this huge step toward equity by getting these passes to all middle schoolers and high schoolers.

Ms. Krepchin asked what happens if students do not make use of the pass. Mr. Mendez explained that the district would assess usage after thanksgiving break; if passes are not used at all, they will be deactivated with the possibility of reactivation. If it they are used even once, they will remain active.

Chair Green asked if students who are 12 but still in 6th grade would have access. Mr. Mendez said that S7 Cards are available for those students, but parents will need to preload the S7 cards. This program is specific for grades 7-12.

- **Policing Subcommittee Update**

Chair Green and Dr. Curley shared a brief update.

Dr. Curley announced that the district would be hosting student focus groups on September 20, 2022 and September 27, 2022 and the Special Policing Subcommittee meetings would reconvene at the end of October.

Chair Green added that Ms. Barish would take over the Chairing of the Policing subcommittee this year.

Superintendent Skipper then continued her district report and shared her district notes joined by Dr. Curley and Dr. Boston Davis.

Notes-Superintendent's Update: School Committee Meeting – Monday, September 12, 2022

We had an excellent first two weeks of school. Our pre-K and Kindergarten students started last week and have quickly settled into their school routines. Students and staff are energized and ready for the year ahead.

Adda Santos named 2022 MA History Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Adda Santos, Somerville High School history teacher, for being named the 2022 Massachusetts History Teacher of the Year! The award is presented annually by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and honors one K-12 teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Dept. of Defense schools, and U.S. Territories. We are proud and excited that Ms. Santos is being recognized for her exceptional work as an educator in our district. Ms. Santos has been a history teacher at SHS for 24 years, and brings an incredible passion to her work, driven by an unwavering commitment to empowering all students through knowledge and self-advocacy.

In 2020, Ms. Santos was awarded The William Spratt Award for Excellence in Teaching Secondary Social Studies from the MA Council for the Social Studies. And, in 2021, she and The Somerville Museum received The American Association of State and Local History Award for the creation of a student-designed and researched exhibit that she and the SHS Local History Club students created called "The Basement Project: Not Your Usual Junk". With this award, Ms. Santos becomes one of 53 finalists for the 2022 **National** History Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced sometime in October. Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition as the MA History Teacher of the Year, Ms. Santos. We are rooting for you for the National award as well!

Restorative Justice Training

This fall, the SPS Student Services team will be partnering with Suffolk University’s Center for Restorative Justice to bring Restorative Justice training to our district. The Center for Restorative Justice’s mission is to “foster restorative practices in building just and equitable schools and communities”, serving as a bridge through public education, training, technical assistance, research, evaluation, and scholarship. The initial training will involve two-day experiential training for school Deans, Redirect Teachers, and Assistant Principals as early adopters who can begin these practices at their schools as we continue to scale RJ practices across the district. We will be scheduling another round of trainings in the winter. We are excited to be partnering with Suffolk University on this work.

Yearly Student Update Process

Just a reminder to families that the yearly student update process continues through the end of this week. We ask parents and guardians who have not yet updated their students’ information to please do so by this Friday to ensure that we have the most current contact and emergency information on file. Information about the process and links in our four target languages to update the students’ information online are available on our website. Look for the banner on our district home page. School Family and Community Liaisons are available to assist families who need support in getting online and completing the information.

Questions/ Comments

Dr. Phillips wondering about updating a student’s gender and the process.

Dr. Ackman also wondered how information is shared with teachers in terms of preferred names.

Superintendent Skipper responded that parents must contact the Enrollment office for gender changes and the school administration for preferred names.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policy is being presented this evening for a second reading:

- File EBC-R: Evacuation Policy

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, second by Ms. Dion to approve File EBC-R Evacuation Policy.

File: EBC-R - EVACUATION POLICY

The Somerville School Department will enforce the following Evacuation Plan when it is determined by the Administrator of the building, the Police Department, Fire Department or any other agency in authority that an emergency condition exists in the building or the surrounding neighborhood. During the first week of school, the plan will be sent to parents with a cover letter from the Superintendent. All new registrants through the year should also be given a copy upon admission to the Somerville school system.

This Evacuation Plan shall be included in the Somerville Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. If the plan needs to be enforced for any reason, the Superintendent’s office must be notified immediately. The staff in turn will notify the Police Department, Fire Department and city switchboard operator, to enable them to inform parents if they call, where their children are. It is understood that parental permission is not required before evacuation when it has been deemed appropriate to evacuate. Individual emergency evacuation plans for the disabled will be designed on site as needed.

Evacuation Sites:

| <i><u>School</u></i> | <i><u>Primary Site</u></i> | <i><u>Secondary Site</u></i> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>Argenziano</u> | | |
| <u>Grades PK-3</u> | <u>SHS Field House</u> | <u>Winter Hill</u> |
| <u>Grades 4-8</u> | <u>SHS Cafeteria</u> | <u>Kennedy</u> |
| | | |
| <u>Brown</u> | <u>Kennedy Gym</u> | <u>Winter Hill Cafeteria</u> |
| | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Capuano</u> | <u>East Somerville</u> | <u>Winter Hill Gym & Café</u> |
| <u>ESCS</u> | | |
| <u>Grades K-4</u> | <u>Capuano</u> | <u>SHS Gym and Field House</u> |
| <u>Grades 5-8</u> | <u>Winter Hill Cafeteria and Gym</u> | <u>SHS Gym and Field House</u> |
| <u>Healey</u> | | |
| <u>Grades PK-3</u> | <u>Winter Hill Library</u> | <u>SHS Field House</u> |
| <u>Grades 4-8</u> | <u>Winter Hill Gym</u> | <u>Argenziano</u> |
| <u>Kennedy</u> | | |
| <u>Grades PK-4</u> | <u>WSNS Gym & Café</u> | <u>Capuano Gym & Café</u> |
| <u>Grades 5-8</u> | <u>Winter Hill Gym and Café</u> | <u>SHS Field House</u> |
| <u>NW/FC</u> | <u>Winter Hill Gym</u> | <u>Argenziano</u> |
| <u>West Somerville</u> | <u>Tufts/Jackson Gym</u> | <u>Kennedy Gym & Café</u> |
| <u>Winter Hill</u> | | |
| <u>Grades PK-3/Life Skills</u> | <u>Healey Café</u> | <u>SHS Auditorium</u> |
| <u>Grades 4-8</u> | <u>Healey Gym</u> | <u>SHS Auditorium</u> |
| <u>SHS</u> | | |
| <u>Grades 9-10</u> | <u>Winter Hill</u> | <u>Kennedy</u> |
| <u>Grades 11-12</u> | <u>Argenziano Cafeteria & Gym</u> | <u>Healey</u> |

Adoption date: June 7, 1999

Revised: June 2006, August 2009, December 2014

Questions:

Ms. Barish asked about evacuation plans for disable students as well as the usage of the Tufts building and how that

might be arranged.

Superintendent Skipper said that Tufts is a close partner and in the event of an emergency, we would contact them to notify them that we are coming.

In terms of disabled students, plans would be adjusted as needed because of temporary situations or new students.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution to Add COVID-19 Vaccine to MA Immunization Requirements for School Entry

(Dr. Phillips)

Dr. Phillips read the Resolution to Add COVID-19 to Massachusetts' Immunization Requirements for School Entry

Resolution to Add COVID-19 to Massachusetts' Immunization Requirements for School Entry

Whereas 20,063 Massachusetts residents died of COVID-19 between the start of the Coronavirus pandemic and August 24, 2022.

Whereas the US Centers for Disease Control maintains that "the most important prevention strategies to prioritize in schools include vaccinations for teachers, staff, and eligible students, the use of masks and physical distancing, and screening testing" and recommends that all eligible teachers, staff, and students get vaccinated for COVID-19 before school opens.

Whereas 51%, 79%, and 73% of Massachusetts children and youth aged 5-11, 12-15, and 16-19 respectively were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of August 24, 2022, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Whereas the state of Massachusetts has established Immunization Requirements for School Entry to "protect students and members of their community from serious vaccine-preventable diseases by ensuring high vaccination rates."

Whereas the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regularly updates these requirements, most recently in advance of the 2020-21 school year.

Whereas it is difficult for municipalities to add additional vaccines to school immunization requirements because there is no legal mechanism for enforcement, and

Whereas 62%, 78%, and 91.5% of Somerville Public Schools students in grades K-6, 7-10, and 11-12 respectively were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of September 9, 2022, according to the Somerville Public Schools.

Now, therefore, be it therefore resolved that the Somerville School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to add the COVID-19 vaccine to the 2022-23

Chair Green proposed a friendly amendment to add be it further resolved to be shared with the Secretary of Education and Secretary of Public Health.

Ms. Barish shared a concern with the mention of the 2022-2023 school year and Superintendent Skipper Suggested a friendly amendment to add beginning with before 2022-223.

Dr. Phillips accepted both friendly amendments.

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Chair Green to approve the resolution. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

B. Somerville High School 2022 Summer School Graduates -(Recommended Action: Approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Dr. Phillips to approve diplomas for students listed below.

Gregorio Garcia Perez

Jasmin Ardon

Louise Casparriello

Gurneet Kaur

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

C. Donations (Recommended action: approval)

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

| Donation | Donor | City, State | Value | Programs Donated to |
|--|--------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 109 PUMA Brand Backpacks Filled with School Supplies | Kiwanis Club | Somerville, MA | TBD | Somerville Public Schools |
| Monetary | Engel, Julie | Somerville, MA | \$2,500 | SFLC Playgroups |
| | | | | |

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Barish, to accept all donations with gratitude.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Barish update for the Brown school playground work have been postpone for SY22-23

Chair Green Requested of a memo to see what PUMA has been doing to help the community

VIII. CONDOLENCES

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

Candice M. Cobbs, stepdaughter of Mary Ellen Cobbs, Principal at Arthur Healey School

Adelaide Lucy Marie Brown, Mother of Lori Brown, Teacher at Arthur D. Healey School

Frank Paul LaGambina, Father of Sibby LaGambina, Interim Co-Principal and Former High School Principal at Somerville High School

Joanna M. (Kennedy) DiVasta, Former Principal Account Clerk in the Finance Department and mother of Denise Sacco, Head Clerk in the Special Education Office

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

Submitted by: E. Garcia

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
ZOOM WEBINAR– 7:00 P.M.**

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

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

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to preregister or on the date and time of this meeting to view it live: <https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/87970629394?pwd=dndNa2twVnJGTIR6SStXOStQQWtUdz09>

Webinar ID: 879 7062 9394

Password: SPSSC22

Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2019 - 2022

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

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

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

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 27, 2022
- August 29, 2022

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

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- New Administrative Staff Introductions
- MBTA M7 Memo (Mr. Mendez)
- Policing Subcommittee Update

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Gregorio Garcia Perez

Jasmin Ardon

Louise Casparriello

Gurneet Kaur

C. Donations (Recommended action: approval)

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

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VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

VIII. CONDOLENCES

IX. ADJOURNMENT