

SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION TO REQUEST AND CONSIDER A
FUTURE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS APPROPRIATION TO THE FY2021 BUDGET TO MEET
STUDENT NEEDS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, in the interest of the health and safety of our community the Somerville Public School buildings have been closed since March 19th and the remainder of the school year delivered as remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has yet to distribute guidelines for school reopening for the 2020-2021 school year and final guidelines are not expected to be released until mid-June; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent's office has begun and will continue to develop an educational plan for school beginning in September, with more strict safety protocols, that may include remote learning or hybrid delivery (a combination of in person and remote learning) in the interest of the health and safety of students, staff and their families; and

WHEREAS, a solid staffing and resource plan cannot be created without an educational plan and said educational plan cannot be created without state guidance; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has created and submitted their best budget based on known available information; and

WHEREAS, the School Committee budget process has been revisited and disrupted due to uncertainties associated with operating school during a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that student social emotional needs, learning loss and opportunity gap will be greater when school resumes, in whatever form it takes, this fall;

WHEREAS, Mayor Curtatone has committed to supporting a supplemental appropriation from the School Department and allocating funds towards this purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE be it:

RESOLVED, that the School Committee requests the Superintendent to consider carefully and submit to the School Committee a proposal, ideally in the first three months and/or as pertinent needs arise, of the FY21 budget beginning July 1st 2020, for additional resources to meet the needs of students, if deemed necessary; AND FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the School Committee will review said proposal, hold a public hearing; deliberate and vote on submission of a supplemental funds allocation to the Mayor of the City of Somerville; AND FURTHER

RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution be delivered to the City of Somerville Mayor, City Counselors and local legislative delegations, and otherwise widely distributed.

VOTED: Unanimously

DATE: June 18, 2020

BY: The Somerville School Committee