

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, December 5, 2022 - Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. – Zoom

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

**Members Absent:** Mayor Ballantyne

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Green asked Superintendent Curley to call the roll, results of which were as follows: PRESENT – 9 – Dr. Phillips, Ms. Krepchin, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman and Ms. Dion. ABSENT – 1 - Mayor Ballantyne.

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Mercedes Escorihuela - Spanish

Gina Miranda - Haitian Creole

### **II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Student Representatives Marcia Narh-Botchway and Anna Sophia Protopapas were present and reported the following:

- The World Cup has many students excited; it has been streaming in the cafeteria.
- Quarter 2 progress reports close next week on Monday, December 12, 2022.
- Student's art is on display for a Holiday Art Sale on December 15 in the CTE Culinary.
- The Highlander Theatre Company winter musical *Into the woods* just wrapped up, it was a big success.
- Winter sports started last week, 80 students signed up for indoor track, with more girls joining track this year.

### **Questions/ Comments:**

Ms. Barish asked if the art show would be at the same time as the High School Winter Concert and would they interfere for those who want to attend both. Ms. Narh-Botchway explained that there are two showings for the art display, at 2:35-3:30 and 5:30-6:30. Anna Sophia added that the concert is usually later in the evening so the 2:30-3:30 showing should work for those who want to see both.

### **III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

#### **A. Recognition of Service for Outgoing city Council President**

Matthew McLaughlin

Chair Green announced that this would be Mr. McLaughlin last School Committee Meeting as city Council President. He then asked Mr. McLaughlin to say a few parting words before inviting members to say their farewells.

Mr. McLaughlin shared that he has been City Council President for the duration of the pandemic and it has been tough on the school side. He will be staying around and will continue to serve the community.

Dr. Ackman is proud to be his counterpart and has learned a lot from him, admires that he is the only city councilor who is an SHS Alumni.

Ms. Pitone appreciates that Matt is a straight shooter and always tells it like it is, he also always puts families first.

Members continued taking turns to share remarks and farewells.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 7, 2022

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Barish, second by Dr. Ackman, to approve the School Committee minutes of

November 7, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comments

## **VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. District Report**

Dr. Curley asked Dr. Boston Davis to introduce the presentation on the agenda.

- **Early Education Update ( Ms. Bailer)**

Dr. Boston Davis introduced Kathleen Bailer, Director of Early Childhood Education and welcomed her and her team to present.

Ms. Bailer introduced Jessica Ferris, Early Childhood Instructional Coach, Valerie Giltinan, Early Childhood Instructional Coach and Gina DiNunzio, Early childhood Grant Administrative Project Coordinator as the team in attendance to present with her. She then proceeded to share her presentation, which spoke to the mission, vision and goal of the Somerville Early Education and Care Program. The presentation may be found [here](#) and on the district website.

Question/ Comments:

Ms. Barish commented on their incredible work, and asked why the numbers are lower at Capuano. Ms. Bailer said they are working on figuring this out, location is a huge factor and parents want full day childcare. There is an enrollment study happening that may speak to this.

Dr. Ackman wondered if there was a discrepancy in the number of students who identify as Hispanic/Latino. Ms. Bailer agreed that the numbers are more consistent with other groups but seem lower for that population, she is looking at this and targeting it support all learners particularly multilingual learners.

Ms. Dion asked how we determine who gets in a particular program if it is at capacity. Ms. Bailer explained that there is a lottery and pre-k enrollment opens up January 4, 2023, it is separate from Kindergarten enrollment. They try to give parents their first choice, it is not based on siblings, and there is a waitlist depending on the school.

To the end of the capacity gap at Capuano, Ms. Pitone requested a follow up of the outcome to learn where School Committee could be helpful.

Chair Green also requested a presentation for a spring meeting on how enrollment is addressed for afterschool.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS (Item A Taken Out of order)**

### **A. Youth Risk Behavior Survey ( Health and Human Services Department)**

Karin Caroll, Director of Health and Human Services, introduced her team and announced that they would be sharing the Data Results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. She introduced Kelley Hiland, Deputy Director of Health and Human Services and Alec McKinney and Rebecca Millock from JSI, John Snow Inc.

Alec McKinney from JSI shared the presentation and delivered the results. He began with a background of what the survey is and the safety portion of the survey including bullying and sexual violence.

Mr. McKinney paused after the Bullying section for questions:

Ms. Dion wondered is Sexual Violence is going up. Mr. McKinney responded that there is a correlation to bullying.

Ms. Krepchin asked regarding the low responses rate, when are we asking teens to fill out the survey, and in addition, if there is an opportunity to increase responses.

Ms. Doncaster responded that a few years ago, it was moved to X-Block, but it may be time to rethink the distribution. Prior to that, it was shared during instructional time.

Dr. Phillips asked if using the word "significantly" is anecdotal or data wise. Ms. McKinney have not done a "significance" study.

Chair Green asked if there is any data for "fear of crime."

Ms. Barish asked if there is any way to dig into the safety on the way to school data to see if it is actually fear of crime versus fear of auto accidents or other sources, so we can partner with the city to make improvements.

Ms. Pitone asked about the striking number of 25% of females who responded to having experienced sexual violence and if those numbers are accurate.

Dr. Ackman responded to Ms. Pitone that there has been a strong shift in the definition of sexual assault; what may have been considered a normal behavior is rightly being addressed as assault. The definition is significantly broader than even just a few years ago.

Dr. Phillips then requested a copy of the actual survey packet. Chair Green announced that School Committee sees this report very early on in the process and the results have not been released to the public.

Mr. McKinney the continued with the Mental Health Results portion of the presentation. He paused for question thereafter.

Ms. Barish was alarmed with the mental health challenges. She wondered about the 6% of gender non-conforming students who are not reporting mental health challenges, wanting capitalize on that and find out what is working for them. In addition, she asked if we talk to districts who have better results? Ms. Doncaster said we have not done that in the past, and thanked her for the suggestion.

Dr. Curley added that one of the things we are trying to look at with the City is how to better utilized this data to build programmatic investestments to support students. Also trying to find a way to show students how this data is being utilized.

Ms. Pitone was impressed with advocacy of students in Cambridge and asked if this is a space where we want students to get involved.

Dr. Curley added that many of these questions address things that are happening to students outside of the school day.

Dr. Phillips agreed with Ms. Barish that there is an opportunity to learn from the positive responses/ responders of the survey.

Ms. Carroll commented that there is a lot we can learn from positive protective factors, in other districts this data is sometimes presented by Youth. And Chair Green said that in the past a youth led event has been connected to the data results.

Mr. McKinney continued his presentation with the substance abuse portion and asked for any more comments or questions at the culmination of the presentation.

Chair Green said there were two things for us to think about in the future; he does not see talked about in the survey, that is massive determiner of these things, is class. He cannot imagine making meaningful policy without knowing to what degree poverty is shaping these experiences. Second, we need to think differently about how we are investigating our students' relationships with technology, what if you are using technology to access resources that cannot be found in person.

Ms. Barish was surprised at the "Feel close to people at their school" results and wondered if social networking could be the reason for the results.

Dr. Phillips responded that it might just be a pandemic effect. These kids were out of school and their social network was obliterated.

Mr. McKinney added that they do not ask questions of income, but do ask questions of food insecurity and so forth and could potentially stratify with those questions.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**Notes-Superintendent's Update:** *School Committee Mtg – Monday, Dec. 5, 2022*

### **Winter Concerts**

This is a busy and exciting time of year. Not only are we preparing to usher in a new calendar year, we are also kicking off the enrollment process for the upcoming school year - you'll hear more about that later. It's also a really fun time of year as students and staff celebrate the hard work that students have been doing this fall and early winter. We are excited to join the celebration and enjoy the sounds of the season through the many winter concerts scheduled for this month and January. Visit our website calendar of events ([www.somerville.k12.ma.us/events/calendar](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/events/calendar)) for a list of upcoming concerts.

### **Superintendent Search Public Listening Sessions**

The search for the next permanent Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools is in full swing. As part of that search, the School Committee is continuing to host public listening sessions over the next two weeks. We encourage community members to help in the development of a Candidate Profile by attending one of the three OPEN listening sessions. A list of all remaining listening sessions is available at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/listeningsessions](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/listeningsessions). Please consider being part of this important process.

### **Reminder about Teen Snow Shoveling Program**

The City of Somerville is continuing to accept applications for their Teen Snow Shoveling Crew. Through this program, teens 13 years and older can earn money by helping out a senior in the community requesting assistance with snow shoveling. Each teen will be matched with a senior in the community. Teens can apply at [somervillema.gov/ApplytoShovel](http://somervillema.gov/ApplytoShovel). Parent/guardian permission and signature is required for teens under 18.

### **Registration for 2023-24 SY; Pre-K to 8 School Open Houses Continue**

The registration portal for new student enrollment for the 2023-24 school year opens on January 4, 2023. Outreach is under way to pre-K and K families. An important initial step in the registration process for incoming new students is visiting our schools during Open House days. We encourage incoming families to visit as many of our schools as they can to learn a little bit about each school. Open House guests have a chance to visit classrooms, meet staff, and take a tour. No registration is required - these are drop-in events. Two more Pre-K - 8 Open House dates are coming up:

- This Thursday, December 8, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Next week, on Tuesday, December 13, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Snow date, if necessary, will be Wednesday, December 14th.
- Somerville High School Open Houses are scheduled for February 8th and 9th.

Learn more at our Open House webpage ([www.somerville.k12.ma.us/OpenHouses](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/OpenHouses)).

### **Half Day Wednesday and Winter Break**

A reminder that ***this Wednesday is a half day for all students in PreK to 8***. PreK students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.; K-8 students are dismissed at noon. We look forward to another great afternoon of professional learning for educators

**Winter Recess** is quickly approaching. The Winter Recess schedule is a little different this year from years past.

- Winter Recess begins at noon on Thursday, December 22nd. It will be a half day for all students and school year staff. It is a regular full work day for 12-month staff; district offices will remain open through the end of the work day.
- All SPS schools are closed Friday, December 23rd through Monday, January 2nd.
  - District offices will close at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 23rd and will also be closed on Monday, December 26th for the Christmas holiday.
  - District offices will reopen on Tuesday, December 27th and will remain open through Friday, December 30th.
  - District offices will be closed again on Monday, January 2nd in observance of the New Year's holiday.
- All staff, including school year staff, return to work on Tuesday, January 3rd. It is a professional development day for school year staff. District offices will be open. There is **no school for students on January 3rd**.
- Students return to school and classes resume on Wednesday, January 4th.

### **Department Shout-Out**

Tonight's shout-out is to our small but mighty SFLC Basic Needs and Housing Support Services Team, and our amazing Family and Community Liaisons. Their hands-on work engaging and supporting families is important year-round, but particularly critical throughout the winter. The winter months can be especially challenging for many of our students and families. Thanks to Regina Bertholdo, Jen Ochoa, Nomi Davidson, all of our school-based Family and Community Liaisons, Jen Capuano, and several very dedicated volunteers and partners, for always being ready to assist with basic needs and other resources.

### **VII. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

Chair Green announced that the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee report was in the packet; he waived the reading and asked members for a motion to approve the report.

**A. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: November 21, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Krepchin, second by Dr. Ackman, to accept the November Bill Rolls and the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of November 21, 2022.

### **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. Somerville Educators Union Resolutions:**

Chair Green wave the reading to all four resolutions.

- Resolutions to work in partnership with the city to maintain a safe and healthy teaching and learning environment in school buildings and on school grounds. (Ms. Krepchin)
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to work towards a carbon neutral SPS. (Mr. Green)
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to increase parking availability for staff around school buildings - particularly those without a dedicated lots and a large staff - and to reduce parking demand by incentivizing alternate modes of transportation. (Ms. Dion)
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to support our families with school-age children facing possible eviction and pursue policies to prevent such evictions. (Ms. Barish)

Dr. Ackman asked if there was a reason for these resolutions. Chair Green said they were per the SEU Unit A Union contract negotiations and require a vote by the committee.

Ms. Barish questioned the language for one of the *Wheras's* in the first resolution, "we are committed to providing school buildings and grounds that are well-maintained and designed to support rich and creative teaching and learning experiences;" she commented that School Committee members do not provide these things and she therefore would not be comfortable with that particular language. In relation, she requested a report from the Joint Committee of the City Council and School Committee on School Buildings.

Chair Green announced there would be a vote on these resolutions at the next meeting.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. Project Bread Feed kids Coalition** (Mr. Green)

Chair Green said there is an opportunity to join this Coalition but he did not want to do so without a vote from the committee.

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, for SC to join the Project Bread Feed kids Coalition.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**C. Field Trips** (Recommended action: approval)

**January 19, 2023**

10 Students from NW/FC will attend Pat’s Peak in NH. Travel via NW/FC Van, student cost \$25.

**February 16, 2023**

10 Students from NW/FC will attend Pat’s Peak in NH. Travel via NW/FC Van, student cost \$25.

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to approve the field trips for January 19, 2023 and February 16, 2023 to Pat’s Peak in NH.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**D. Donations** (Recommended action: approval)

<b>Donation</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Programs Donated to</b>
Assorted hair dyes and hair products	Yvonne Bonaccorso	Somerville, MA	\$500	CTE Cosmetology Program
Office Furniture	Furniture Trust Inc.	Arlington, MA	TBD	Edgerly Office Space
Markforged “Mark Two” Refurbished 3D Printer	David Lawrence	Watertown, MA	\$10,000	SHS Robotics Team

The Superintendent Recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of the

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Dion, to accept all donations listed above.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

Mr. Mazza took the time to thank the Furniture Trust Inc., for their significant donation that will be utilized by staff at Edgerly.

**X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Pitone is trying to plan a listening session for the Superintendent search for School Committee and City Council members. Chair Green responded that this would need to be discussed as a body and asked for it to be added to the next meeting agenda.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

**Related documents:**

Agenda

[Early Education Update](#)

[Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#)

Somerville Educators Union Resolutions

Submitted by: E. Garcia

**ATTACH DOCUMENTS STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE**

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 5, 2022**

**ZOOM WEBINAR– 7:00 P.M.**

**Amended 12-05-2022**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2022, 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/webinar/register/WN\\_ZMsQspO1SSClSjXOKcunug](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSClSjXOKcunug)

**Webinar ID:** 847 5813 4927

**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. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

- A.** Recognition of Service for Outgoing City Council President  
*Matthew McLaughlin*

**III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 7, 2022

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. District Report**

- Early Education Update (Ms. Bailer)

**B. Personnel Report**

- November 2022

**VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:** November 21, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)  
 MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of November 21, 2022.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Somerville Educators Union Resolutions:**

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- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to increase parking availability for staff around school buildings - particularly those without a dedicated lot and a large staff - and to reduce parking demand by incentivizing alternate modes of transportation. (Ms. Dion)
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to support our families with school-age children facing possible eviction and pursue policies to prevent such evictions. (Ms. Barish)

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Youth Risk Behavior Survey** (Health and Human Services Department)

- B. Project Bread Feed Kids Coalition** (Mr. Green)

- C. Field Trips** (Recommended action: approval)

**January 19, 2023**

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**February 16, 2023**

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- D. Donations** (Recommended action: approval)

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

<b>Donation</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Programs Donated to</b>
Assorted hair dyes and hair products	Yvonne Bonaccorso	Somerville, MA	\$500	CTE Cosmetology Program
Office Furniture	Furniture Trust Inc.	Arlington, MA	TBD	Elderly Office Space
Markforged "Mark Two" Refurbished 3D Printer	David Lawrence	Watertown, MA	\$10,000	SHS Robotics Team

**X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**XI. CONDOLENCES**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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.



## **Resolution Towards Becoming a Carbon Neutral District**

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to providing safe and healthy teaching and learning environments; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and supporting and promoting sustainable practices within their school buildings and school grounds that will lead to healthier school environments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville's Climate Forward Plan, first introduced in 2018, established a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville has made great progress in advancing its Climate Forward Plan, including but not limited to establishing net-zero and resilient new building standards, supporting a rapid transition to electric vehicles by purchasing and installing new EV charging stations and permitting additional new EV charging stations across the city, expanding bicycle infrastructure, installing Blue Bike stations, and piloting staff incentives for Blue Bikes as an alternative mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville set a SomerVision2040 goal of 80% decrease in carbon emissions from 2014 levels with related indicators including the percent of buildings' energy use coming from sustainable sources and the share of buildings with solar panels; and

WHEREAS, the new Somerville High School building is a LEED-4 certified building and includes several energy-efficient features such as windows that harvest daylight, a solar panel array that operates year-round, a wind turbine, a green roof that filters rainwater, efficient mechanical systems, LED lighting with smart sensor controls that are integrated within the building systems, bike storage access to encourage alternative modes of transportation, and preferred parking/easy access to a charging station for electric and battery-powered vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville also recently installed a solar array panel at the East Somerville Community School that operates year-round; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools works with a number of other city departments to ensure that all efforts are made to reduce carbon emissions in and around our schools through sustainable efforts, "no idling" signage, energy-efficient equipment purchases and building improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville School Committee has also resolved to work in partnership with the city to facilitate parking access for staff around school buildings and to reduce parking demand by incentivizing alternate modes of transportation;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Somerville School Committee commits to work in partnership with the city towards becoming a carbon neutral district.

**Resolution Regarding Staff Parking Availability Around Schools and Incentivizing Alternate Modes of Transportation to Reduce Staff Parking Demand**

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to ensuring a welcoming and supportive educational environment for our staff, which includes facilitating access to respective workplaces; and

WHEREAS, many Somerville Public Schools faculty and staff live in suburban communities and have to drive to work; and

WHEREAS, in the urgency to get to school on time, school staff sometimes have to park in an area not designated for school parking and face significant parking ticket expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools also recognizes the challenges of parking availability in a densely populated urban city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville has set a goal of 75% of Work Commutes via Non-Car Mode in perpetuity by 2040 as part of its [Somerville Vision 2040 Mobility Plan](#); and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools works in partnership with the Somerville Mobility and other divisions of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) to creatively address parking and mobility challenges and work toward the Somerville Vision 2040 Mobility plan goal; and

WHEREAS, the long-awaited and much-anticipated MBTA Green Line Extension, which includes an extended branch from Lechmere Station in Cambridge to Medford Station, along with a new Green Line branch from Lechmere to Union Square in Somerville, expands public transportation access throughout Somerville with six new additional T stations (Union Square, East Somerville, Gilman Square, Magoun Square, Ball Square, and College Avenue); and

WHEREAS, the new MBTA Green Line Extension is scheduled to officially open on December 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville is continuing to invest in transportation infrastructure improvements and enhancements that include expansion of bike lanes throughout the city and designated bus lanes to support alternative modes of transportation;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Somerville School Committee commits to work in partnership with the city to facilitate parking access for staff around school buildings, particularly at schools without a dedicated parking lot and a large staff, and to reduce parking demand by incentivizing alternate modes of transportation.

### **Resolution to Partner with City to Pursue Policies Preventing Evictions**

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to ensuring that the conditions for learning are such that all students are able to fully access the curriculum and thrive academically and social-emotionally; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is also dedicated to removing or mitigating barriers that may impact a students' ability to feel safe, supported, and ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, research has found that stable housing is foundational to children's wellbeing and is also critical to a child's development; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that an estimated 1 in 7 children living in cities within the United States are evicted by the time they turn 15; and

WHEREAS, housing displacement is known to have a significant negative impact on students' educational outcomes, their health, and their future earnings; and

WHEREAS, studies have also found an association between housing instability and increased criminal justice involvement of adults of families facing eviction; and

WHEREAS, housing is the single largest expenditure for most families, and the greatest determinant of a family's financial stability; and

WHEREAS, rising housing costs in Somerville and the region have led to displacement of families unable to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the subsequent economic downturn has led to an increase in the number of families unable to make their rent or mortgage payments, leading to further displacement of families; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville has set a goal of achieving 20% of "affordable forever" housing stock as part of its SomerVision 2040 plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville demonstrated exceptional leadership in establishing and extending an eviction moratorium during the COVID-19 pandemic, and introducing new municipal housing assistance programs to help keep families in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Office of Housing Stability's mission is "to prevent the involuntary displacement of Somerville residents who are in the process of eviction or at other risk of losing their housing; to rehouse the homeless and those needing to relocate; and to enact policies to combat displacement and enhance tenants' rights"; and

DRAFT - Not for Distribution

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools, as part of its mission, is dedicated to maintaining a safe environment that nurtures the curiosity, dignity and self-worth of each individual;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Somerville School Committee commits to work in partnership with the City of Somerville and appropriate city departments and community agencies to support Somerville Public Schools families with school-age children facing possible eviction, and pursue policies to prevent such evictions.

## **Resolution to Help Maintain Safe and Healthy Teaching and Learning Environments**

WHEREAS, the conditions for teaching and learning, including the physical conditions of our school buildings and school grounds, are critical in creating a safe and healthy climate conducive to creativity and innovation; and

WHEREAS, significant financial investments were made by the City of Somerville to improve air quality and air flow in school buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, additional investments have been made and further investments are planned by the City of Somerville to improve schoolyards to enhance the outdoor environment at several of our schools; and

WHEREAS, safe and healthy physical school environments help students and staff feel safer, more valued, and result in improved student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, safe and healthy physical school environments can create a greater sense of pride and ownership, leading to a stronger and more connected school community; and

WHEREAS, Somerville Public Schools works in partnership with the Somerville Department of Public Works (DPW) in the daily maintenance of our school buildings and grounds; and

WHEREAS, Somerville Public Schools works in partnership with the various divisions of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) on school-related projects designed to support safe and healthy teaching and learning environments in our school buildings, school grounds, and access to schools; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to providing school buildings and grounds that are well-maintained and designed to support rich and creative teaching and learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, we believe that maintaining safe and healthy teaching and learning environments is essential to achieving our vision of “developing the whole child – the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential of all students – by providing them with the skills, opportunities, and resources that will nurture innovative ideas, foster pride in diversity, inspire students to become lifelong learners and empower them to enrich their communities”;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Somerville School Committee commits to work in partnership with the City of Somerville to ensure that adequate investments are made to provide safe and healthy teaching and learning environments that support innovative and creative pedagogical practices, foster a sense of pride in our school buildings and grounds, provide opportunities for rich learning within and beyond the classroom walls, and help to build a sense of community.