

# CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Monday, November 20, 2023 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – City Hall Chambers

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

**Members Absent:** Mayor Ballantyne and President Ewen-Campen

### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

ABSENT – 2 – Mayor Ballantyne and President Ewen-Campen

Chair Krepchin asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

-Spanish

Ben Cruz-Portuguese

-Haitian Creole

### II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representative were not present.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Both Mr. Rami Bridge's and Mr. Jamal Halawa's comments were in regard to their perceived lack of communication from the district on the Israeli and Gaza events.

### IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

#### A. District Report

- **Early Education Update -Table**
- **District Notes and Highlights**

Monday, November 20, 2023

Superintendent's Update for School Committee

#### Introduction (Ruben)

On November 3rd, we marked the end of the first quarter and the start of the second quarter. School staff are connecting with their students and families through parent/teacher conferences during this time. Families with students who will enter prekindergarten and kindergarten next fall can participate in multiple enrollment events offered through our multilingual enrollment office. I'm grateful for our teaching and administrative staff working diligently to engage our current families in their children's education and for the work of staff engaging new families that are at the start of their child's education journey.

#### Our Community Celebrates (Ruben)

- Today, November 20th, is Transgender Day of Remembrance.

- November 23rd is Thanksgiving
- November 26th is the Day of the Covenant, celebrated by the Bahai community
- November 27th is Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday, celebrated by the Sikh community.
- The month of November is National Native American heritage month.

### **Welcome to our New Chief of Staff, Amara Anosike (Ruben)**

I would like to welcome our new Chief of Staff, Amara Anosike. Amara has a storied career and comes from a policy and advocacy background, having worked last at Boston Children's Hospital. She has extensive experience with local media in several of her previous positions and worked as an Assistant Attorney General at the Massachusetts Office of Attorney General Maura Healey. She is a graduate of George Washington University Law School, UMass Amherst, and went to Cambridge Rindge and Latin. Amara's first day was November 13<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in welcoming Amara to the Somerville Public Schools!

### **Events (Chad)**

The Brown School celebrated the opening of their renovated outdoor space on November 14 with a schoolyard ribbon cutting ceremony. The new schoolyard design features a small synthetic turf field, basketball and wall ball courts, graphics for games and significant surface and subsurface drainage improvements. The space is now ready for students to enjoy!

Congratulations Somerville High School Highlanders! Our athletes received the 2023 MIAA District 5 Sportsmanship Award at the 29th Annual MIAA Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough on November 9th. Two staff members and seven SHS athletes, chosen for their strong academic profile and their leadership qualities, went to the ceremony.

### **Upcoming Events (Chad)**

Don't miss the annual **Battle for the Picket Fence** football rivalry between Somerville and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. 10:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day at Russell Field in Cambridge. Tickets may be purchased on-site before the game.

Visit any of our PK-8 schools at the first of three PK-8 **Open House** events on November 29. No appointment is necessary and all community members are welcome. Each school will offer tours and an opportunity to visit classrooms and meet staff.

Students in grades 11 and 12 are invited to take **Seal of Biliteracy** assessments. Students who want to earn the prestigious DESE Seal of Biliteracy recognition can opt to test in a language they studied at school or one they learned at home. World language staff at the high school can guide any interested students.

### **Upcoming Half Days and School Holidays (Jess)**

- November 22nd will be a half-day and the start of Thanksgiving break. There will be no school and all district offices will be closed on November 23 and 24.

### **Shout Out**

This month's shout out goes to the amazing educators working under the leadership of Jim Hachey at the Career and Technical Education Department at Somerville High School.

All our CTE educators continue to find innovative ways to present their curriculum and provide students with project work that connects them to the larger Somerville community.

A few examples, though by no means comprehensive:

- CTE Carpentry students build little libraries at the Capuano Early Education Center that have already seen a lot of use.
- CTE Personal Finance 1 learned about the connection between corporate finance and personal finance during a workshop with a high-level member of an international banking institute.
- CTE Culinary Arts students catered a Thanksgiving meal at the Somerville Council on Aging, with support from the local Rotary club.
- CTE Cosmetology gives students hands-on training by providing customers traditional cosmetology services in their recently re-opened cosmetology clinic.

Thank you to the entire Career and Technical Education staff. Learn more about their work on our website.

- **Winter Hill Proximity Recommendation**

Dr. Carmona asked Teresa Rodriguez Director of Enrollment to present the Winter Hill Proximity Recommendation which were as follow

**Winter Hill Proximity Options for kindergarten enrollment for SY25**

**Background**

During the priority registration period for School Year 2023-2024 (January - mid February 2023), 310 kindergarten students were entered into the lottery. 99% of these students were assigned to their first choice school for kindergarten regardless of their proximity school .

In addition, 19 kindergarten students did not need to enter the lottery as they were assigned to SEI-1 classrooms (13 students) or substantially separate special education classrooms (6 students).

**Only three kindergarten students did not get their first choice** regardless of proximity. All three kindergarten students were then offered a seat at their first choice school by the start of the school year.

Lottery which occurred in March 2023 for SY24

Lottery for Fall 2023 Enrollment	# of student offered a seat via the lottery	# of students on the waitlist in March after the lottery
UNIDOS	42	0
AFAS	48	0
BRN	45	2 with KDY and HEA proximity
CAP	26	0
EAST	11	0
HEA	16	0
KDY	46	1 with BRN proximity

WSNS	43	0
WHCIS	33	0

### **SY22-23**

During the priority registration period for School Year 2022-2023 (January - mid February 2022), 303 kindergarten students were entered into the lottery. 100% of these students were assigned to their first choice school for kindergarten regardless of their proximity school .

Lottery which occurred in March 2022 for SY23

Lottery for Fall 2022 Enrollment	# of students offered a seat via the lottery	# of students on the waitlist in March after the lottery
UNIDOS	46	0
AFAS	41	0
BRN	44	0
CAP	34	0
EAST	5	0
HEA	22	0
KDY	46	0
WSNS	34	0
WHCIS	31	0

### **Winter Hill Community Innovation School Proximity Zones for SY24-25**

Based on SY23-24 enrollment data, and as we anticipate enrollment numbers to remain fairly stable, a change to the proximity zone for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School is not required. However, due to the temporary relocation of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School to the easternmost section of the City, the Enrollment Office is proposing a temporary proximity zone to accommodate families who live west of the Sycamore Street location. The Enrollment Office recommends that:

- Families **registering for kindergarten**, living **west of Sycamore Street**, are offered the opportunity to choose Brown School, Healey School or Kennedy School as their proximity school.

### **Intradistrict Transfers for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School Students**

In SY22-23, we received only three requests for an intradistrict transfer out of Winter Hill Community Innovation School kindergarten following the announcement of the change in location to the Capuano Early Childhood Center. As a result, we do not believe this change will adversely affect Winter Hill Community Innovation Schools' future enrollment. With the planned renovation

of the current boxing club area at the Ederly, we anticipate this will improve the likelihood families will choose Winter Hill Community Innovation School especially if they have new kindergarten siblings entering the Somerville Public Schools.

We do not know if we will be able to offer transportation in future years, therefore, this flexibility seems reasonable.



### Question/ Comments

Dr. Phillips: Do you have a sense of how many kids might be choosing to go to Kennedy, Healey, or Brown? Ms. Rodriguez: We had three families on the waitlist last year but were able to get their first choice by the beginning of the school year. So, we're hopeful that we are not causing a bottleneck. Having this proximity insurance will hopefully assuage anxiety. There's also an opportunity to apply to programs like Community Schools. We want to make sure we are not over-enrolling at Brown, Healey, Kennedy.

Ms. Barish: Are similar considerations being made for Brown School 5th graders who need to choose a school for 6th? Keep that in mind because it may impact a certain number this year.

Dr. Ackman: Can you talk to us about the communication of this change? Ms. Rodriguez: At each of our information sessions for families, and also through our social media, our lists of schools, and we can share it at open houses, with the family liaisons who work with principals to prepare those open houses.

Dr. Ackman: My understanding is you still have private partnerships with a number of preschools? Will you let them know? Ms. Rodriguez: Yes we have a group that meets monthly, also through SomerPromise. To like Head Start and other places.

## District Notes and Highlight (Continue)

- **Winter Hill Community Innovation School Updates (Ruben)** Since our last regular School Committee meeting, I have a few new updates to share.

As you know, a few weeks ago we hosted informational meetings for the Winter Hill community. Prior to those meetings, the City published all reports from the assessments and abatements conducted over the summer and early fall, at both the Sycamore Street building at the Edgerly. During our community meeting, Rich Raiche from the City's IAM Department reviewed the findings and put the results into perspective to clarify some of the technical details.

As I previously shared with this committee, while we are happy that the reports showed no structural concerns at Sycamore Street, we have made the decision not to reoccupy the Sycamore Street building so that we can focus our energy and our finances on a new or fully renovated school.

At the community meeting we also heard from City Auditor, Ed Bean, who provided a high level overview of financing for a potential building project, in which he reiterated the importance of going through the MSBA process to help offset the high costs associated with building projects in today's economy. While we do not yet know the specific cost of a new building - and we won't know until we get through a schematic design process - what Mr. Bean shared is that with inflation rates and increasing supply costs, the estimated project cost for a new K-8 school could be very close to the final budget for the new high school.

To accomplish our end goals and build a new school as quickly as possible, it will be critical for us to seek a debt exclusion vote once we have a schematic design and specific cost estimates. Right now, we anticipate that we will know whether the MSBA will advance our project by mid-December, which will inform our immediate next steps.

So, where do we go from here?

We have already scheduled another, broader community meeting for Tuesday, December 5th. At that meeting the City will present the draft K-8 Capacity Study and we will formally kick off a community engagement process to inform both short- and long-term next steps around how we need to address the challenges we face in our facilities districtwide. In moving forward with a new school building project, there are factors we need to consider when selecting our preferred option, including how we can meet the immediate needs of the Winter Hill School while also taking into account the needs of our other facilities to maximize the return on investment.

The presentation on December 5th will include possible options for a new Winter Hill school, ranging from building a new Winter Hill school on the Sycamore Street site, to rebuilding on site and expanding to include some of the Brown School population, to building a new school facility off-site that combines multiple school communities in geographic proximity.

Rest assured, every decision we make will prioritize the well-being and success of our students and staff, keeping the heart of our community at the center.

Chair Krepchin added that December 5, 2023, meeting is being run by the city? I plan to be there but just so folks know it is not our meeting.

Dr. Phillips: Appreciate your work to keep us up to date. Recommend we move them out of the district

report to Unfinished Business. Seems like the City is driving this process, running this next meeting. Dr. Carmona: The group that is actually going to run the engagement process, those are things that are going to be managed by the district. Some of it is city but we are fully involved in that process.

Ms. Pitone: First, who is hosting the 12/5 meeting? Is it cohosted? Did you mention someone running the engagement process? Lastly, they will share some options. One of the things that is confusing to me is I know a decision has to be made, but how is that process going to go? Who makes that decision? How do community members have a say in that process? May cause a lot of anxiety in the community and you may have all these answers on December 5th.

Dr. Carmona: The meeting will be in person at the High School, based on feedback from families. As far as next steps, that's one conversation that we are going to engage with on the 5th. What Sycamore is going to look like has been projected through the K-8 planning process. I think it's going to be a matter of, when we decide the criteria collectively, that will be the driver of the decision, knowing that money is a big factor as well.

Ms. Pitone: The in-person meeting, will it be streamed or recorded in any way? Dr. Carmona: I don't remember what we said about the virtual component; I'm assuming yes.

Ms. Pitone: Would highly recommend it, though I'm thrilled we can do something in-person. And when you say "decide on the criteria collectively," how does that work? Big open process, forum with public comment? Some kind of discussion process?

Dr. Carmona: They are gathering feedback. MSBA requires a community process. But as far as the decision is concerned, it's financial, but the community will have a voice after money is out of the way. At some point, the committee that is selected will be making that decision. We have a blueprint for that based on what happened at the HS.

Chair Krepchin: Public hearing who is facilitating? Dr. Carmona: Probably Jackie Piques would facilitate.

Ms. Pitone: Who is making the decision about who to hire for the community engagement process?

Dr. Carmona: I checked with different folks. Jeff Curley and Jackie Piques had a recommendation, and the City had already started a conversation so it was a combination. Ms. Pitone: to be clear the city and district will be choosing someone together? Dr. Carmona: That came out of feedback from the community process, that we use a neutral party. Kind of a third-party, unbiased communication process.

Ms. Pitone: to my understanding with MSBA, we submitted two different applications, one for Winter Hill School and one for Brown school. We are now doing some kind of study that includes options for renovation, rebuilding, moving student populations around. MSBA calls it a "study" too. Are we in communication with MSBA that we are doing this type of study? Dr. Carmona: MSBA saw the preliminary work we've done. Out of that, they took some information and will be submitting a budget for the proposal on December 15, 2023. That was based on what we shared with them, their understanding of the density of the city, and based on their visits to Winter Hill School and Brown School.

Ms. Pitone: They understand that we are looking at the city at large, including the populations of two schools? Are they on board with that? The decision that hopefully will be made will be a decision about the district. Or could it just be a decision to renovate or rebuild Winter Hill? Will the decision include what will happen with the Brown? Dr. Carmona: The solution for multiple options will be included. WH by itself, Winter Hill +Brown School, WH in a different location. There are challenges with building on this site. Little that I know in terms of building one building at Sycamore and one at Brown, it will be very costly. So economically viable would be a combined option. That will be one of the options that will be presented. Dr. Carmona also noted that on December 5th the meeting will be recorded, and the facilitator will be Melissa Woods.

**B. Personnel Report**

Dr. Carmona announced the retirement of  
Hugh Wallace SHS/CTE automotive Teacher retiring after 16 years of service  
Robert Puopolo SHS/CTE automotive Teacher retiring after 28 years of service.  
Kenneth Black Sped Educational Evaluator retiring after 21 years of service.

Thank you for your service.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Children’s Cabinet Update -Table**

**B. Ratification of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026, MOU with the Somerville Cafeteria Employees Union, AFSCME**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Dion, seconded by Dr. Ackman Ratification of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026, MOU with the Somerville Cafeteria Employees Union, AFSCME

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**C. Building Committee Report (Ms. Pitone) Table**

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

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

<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>High School Equivalency Test Centers-</b> This grant is an allocation to SCALE to conduct high school equivalency testing.	\$5,544.00
<b>Federal</b>	<b>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Entitlement Grant</b>	1,820,740.00
<b>Private</b>	<b>Unified Basketball – Somerville High School</b>	\$2,000.00

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Mr. Ackman and seconded by Ms. Barish to Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting: November 15, 2023 and October 18, 2023

**A. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting: November 15, 2023 (Dr. Phillips)**

Report of The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee, November 15, 2023, submitted by Sarah Phillips

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on November 15, 2023, via Zoom. Members present were Sarah Phillips, Emily Ackman, and Andre Green. Also in attendance were Chief Financial Officer, Fran Gorski; Assistant Superintendent, Chad Mazza; and Director of Athletics, Stan Viera.



Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:31pm. There was one person in the audience. Ana Bautista, Assistant to the Superintendent joined at 6:18.

There were four items on the agenda:

1) Review of Athletics Department Programs and Budget

Mr. Viera gave an overview of athletic offerings, student participation recent successes, and key expenses. Participation is higher this year than last and many teams have had successful seasons. Key expenses include uniform costs, equipment and supplies, facilities, reconditioning equipment and uniforms, and transportation.

2) Overview of Grants and Gem\$ System

Mr. Gorski provided an overview of our major entitlements and the GEM\$ Grant System, which replaces DESE's old system. Major entitlements include: ESSER, which supports pandemic relief; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which supports special education programming; Title 1, which supports students from low-income families; Title 2, which supports support systems for teachers and leaders; Title 3, which supports ELL students as they become proficient in English and master state content; and Title 4, which supports building capacity to ensure students have access to high quality educational experiences.

3) YTD Expenditure Detail

Mr. Gorski provided an overview of year-to-date expenses, noting that we are about one-third of the way through the year and have expended or encumbered about one-third of our budget. He highlighted two organizations, Student Services and the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, that are over-budget due to recently encumbered contracts. He also noted that the Special Education Department has expended or encumbered 85% of its budget, which is not unusual and comes from front-loading spending on out of district tuition and transportation. Transportation continues to be an area to watch, and Mr. Gorski, highlighted strategies he and the City of Somerville's Procurement Director are considering to address the high cost of transportation, particularly for homeless students.

Mr. Gorski also updated the committee on a presentation he recently made to the City Council's Finance committee related to unbudgeted expenses related to the Winter Hill and TAB building moves, the fall network disruption, and summer meals. The city will appropriate funds for these expenses through two supplemental budgets, one for approximately \$700,000 and one for approximately \$50,000.

4) October Bill Rolls

Dr. Gorski reviewed the September local, grant, and revolving account bill rolls. There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Dr. Phillips to approve the October Local Bill Roll. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Documents Used:

SC Athletics Presentation 2023(1).ppt  
Grant Highlights for Finance SC.pptx

October Grant Bill Rolls 2023.pdf  
October Local Bill Rolls 2023.pdf  
October Revolving Bill Rolls 2023.pdf  
YTD Exp Detail 11-08-23.pdf

**B. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting: October 18, 2023 (Dr. Phillips)**

Report of The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee, October 18, 2023, submitted by Sarah Phillips

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on October 18, 2023, via Zoom. Members present were Sarah Phillips, Emily Ackman, and Andre Green. Also in attendance were Superintendent, Rubén Carmona; Chief Financial Officer, Fran Gorski; Assistant Superintendent, Chad Mazza; and Director of Special Education, Ildelfonso Arellano.

Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. There was one person in the audience. There were four items on the agenda:

1) Special Education Budget Overview

Mr. Arellano provided an overview of students enrolled in special education and the income and expenditures of the Special Education Department. Mr. Gorski noted that out of district tuition is expected to go up about five percent next year, which will impact budget negotiations. This increase will be somewhat offset by Circuit Breaker funding and additional relief from the state for the 14% increase in out of district tuition we are playing this year.

2) YTD Expenditure Detail

SPS has spent about 25% of its budget, which is in-line with this time of the year. Mr. Gorski called attention to 1) unbudgeted expenses in technology associated with moving the Winter Hill to Edgerly, 2) higher transportation costs due to cost of annual (vs. school year) MBTA passes for students, homeless transportation, and shuttles to and from the Edgerly, 3) the large portion of the special education budget that is already encumbered, which is high but typical for this department.

3) ESSER Update

Mr. Gorski reminded the subcommittee that we will need to make some staffing decisions as we move into budget season and face the end of ESSER. He gave an update about recent discussions with colleagues at the City of Somerville. We continue to expect that the majority of ESSER funded positions will move to the General Fund in the next budget. We are expecting a seven percent increase in school department's budget next year, followed by a five percent increase the next two years.

Mr. Green noted that last year the Mayor agreed to an eight percent budget increase for the upcoming year and urged her to own that position. Mr. Gorski highlighted the unbudgeted Winter Hill expenses from the current year that needed to be accounted for, likely in a supplemental budget.

4) September Bill Rolls

Dr. Gorski reviewed the September local, grant, and revolving account bill rolls. There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Dr. Phillips to approve the September Local Bill Roll. The motion passed unanimously.

## 5) Facilities Update

Mr. Mazza gave a facilities update, highlighting the ventless oven now online at the Ederly, which is enabling Winter Hill students to eat hot meals on site. The Food and Nutrition Department is planning to move the district's production kitchen to the Argenziano and working closely with the City of Somerville's Capital Projects Department to expedite construction. Hallway security cameras were recently installed in the K-8 schools and offers have wide screen monitors installed and paid for by the Department of Public Works. The tents at the Winter Hill Sycamore will be coming down on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. In the winter they are a big liability.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

### Documents Used:

Special Education Department Budget Presentation to the Finance Subcommittee  
10\_18\_2023.pdf Operational Services Division – Inflation Rate for OOD.docx  
CIFI\_FY25Memo (1).pdf  
YTD Exp Detail 10-12-23.pdf  
Grant Bill Roll September 2023.pdf  
Local Bill Roll September 2023.pdf  
Revolving Account Bill Roll September 2023.pdf

Dr. Phillips: Just flagging in the November report. City is planning to submit a supplemental appropriation for unbudgeted expenses for this year, related to Winter Hill School and TAB building, they will be reimbursing us for some accounting moves for summer meals. So some will be coming to us in a supplemental appropriation

The motion was approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Dr. Phillips to approve the bill rolls for October and November.

The motion was approved unanimously.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Somerville Public Schols Policy Manual ( Ms. Barish)  
The following policies are being presented this evening for a second reading  
File JHCA: Extended Campus Lunch Policy  
Ms. Barish gave a quick update No changes.

### **File: JHCA - EXTENDED CAMPUS LUNCH POLICY**

Somerville High School (SHS) students ~~in good standing~~ will be granted a privilege to leave school grounds during lunch. The goal of this policy is to support the increasing independence of high school students as they prepare to graduate.

This is an earned privilege which can be revoked at any time if the guidelines and expectations, as determined by the Superintendent or their designee, are not followed. This policy provides the opportunity for ~~upper grade~~ SHS students to leave campus on foot during their scheduled lunch period. Detailed expectations and eligibility can be found in the student handbook ~~, and parents and/or guardians must give signed permission in advance, and may be revised as needed by the Superintendent or Principal.~~

Extended Campus during lunch is a privilege. School rules apply off campus during the extended campus lunch period. Students who violate school rules will face consequences according to the Somerville High School student code of conduct. Students not in good standing may lose this privilege.

### **Eligibility**

~~Students must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:~~

- ~~• upper grade member of SHS.~~
- ~~• be in good academic and behavioral standing.~~
- ~~• abide by the student handbook expectations.~~
- ~~• sign the student expectations form.~~
- ~~• have documented parent or guardian permission.~~

~~Detailed expectations and procedures will be found in the SHS student handbook, and may be revised as needed by the Superintendent or Principal.~~

Adopted by Somerville School Committee March 21, 2022

MOTION: There was Motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Dion to approve File: JHCA - EXTENDED CAMPUS LUNCH POLICY

Dr. Ackman: will this is a drop in how many meals we are serving? What does it mean for our food budget, I know we have to account for those things. I guess I'm asking for a report, like, two years from now. Just curious what it will mean. Mr. Mazza: We can get that data for you from the time this becomes official, to see if there's any drop in food distribution.

The motion was approved unanimously.

### **IX. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ms. Barish: When I was at MASC, there was a session about standardized rubrics for evaluating a district's athletics program, and the first thing is safety, but it goes through all these things that make an athletic program excellent. Based on years of research. There's a feedback period now and there are going to be coming out with standards in June. So keep an eye out for that. I'll try to track down the contact. It sounded really promising to me, and we have a great athletics program now, but there's always room for improvements, but it can be hard to keep up with, positive coaching, mental health. Any support could be positive.

Ms. Krepchin: In response to our public comment earlier, would love to hear at a future meeting how our district is supporting educators in tackling difficult topics.

Dr. Carmona: I do welcome that question, and I know the High School principal has been working with the history department chair to curate some information on how to address the conflicts, having a meeting on Tuesday. On Tuesday, they will be meeting with the students about what they have created. I understand the complexities and challenges of creating empathy and making sure kids are courageous in their conversations. Next time we will be able to share something more tangible.

Ms. Barish: Want to make sure our K-8 educators can benefit from that as well, whether it's through email or PD time or something. Maybe students are most engaged at the High School, but they are aware of these issues at the elementary and middle level, and educators are having to handle feelings at their level as well.

### **X. CONDOLENCES**

**ATTACH DOCUMENTS STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 P.M.

**Related documents:**

Agenda

Personnel Report

Submitted by: Christine Barraford

**ATTACH DOCUMENTS STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE**

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL**  
**REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 20, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.**

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

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

To **watch** this Regular School Committee meeting live from home please visit the following link:  
[somervillema.gov/GovTVLive](https://www.somervillema.gov/GovTVLive)

To **listen** live to the simultaneous interpretation of this meeting in **Spanish, Portuguese, or Haitian Creole**, or to participate in Public Comment, please join this Zoom Webinar and choose your desired language by clicking the interpretation globe on Zoom:

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

Meeting ID: 852 5144 6618

Password: 752252

**Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2023 - 2025**

In order to address the root causes of systemic inequity in our schools, the Somerville School Committee and SPS commit to the following goals, knowing that these can only be achieved through ensuring meaningful partnerships with Somerville families, district staff, city government, and community partners. Our goals attempt to address deep-rooted systemic barriers that have prevented us from achieving our district vision of equity and excellence and ensure that all students, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the support and resources they need to achieve educational success in our district now and in the future.

1. Whole Child Teaching and Learning... We will:

- Prepare students to demonstrate strong literacy and mathematics foundation by grade 3, grade 6, and grade 10
- Provide all students with integrated classroom lessons from a high-quality social-emotional learning curriculum that helps students value and develop their ability to build relationships with other students, to be self-aware and socially aware, to self-regulate, and to make responsible decisions
- Expand access to real-world learning experiences through students' participation in Early College, Advanced Placement courses, CTE, and/or other learning experiences that help students build critical 21st-century skills, meeting with their college and career counselor in their junior and senior year, and students graduating with a defined post-secondary plan.

2. Equitable Access to Programming... We will conduct a district enrollment study to understand the prospective future population of the district and create and begin implementing a strategy for school building development, school assignment, and programming that aligns with the district's equity policy, and which is based on the results of the enrollment study and the projected 10+ year plan for school facilities.

3. Workforce Diversity... We will increase the percentage of support staff of color, teachers and counselors of color, and administrators of color by 6% per group compared to SY22 rates through evaluating and strengthening all elements of our personnel system – recruitment, processes, training, retention, development, advancement, and staff data collection systems on which we base and measure our improvement efforts.

4. Equitable Resource Allocation... we will design, evaluate, and partially or fully implement student-based budgeting by 2025, or identify alternative mechanisms to more equitably allocate district resources.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – In person or via Zoom**

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

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

Meeting ID: 852 5144 6618

Password: 752252

**IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. District Report**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

November 16, 2023

- Early Education Update
- Winter Hill Proximity Recommendation
- Winter Hill Building Update
- District Notes and Highlights

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Personnel Report**

- October

**B. Children’s Cabinet Update**

**C. Ratification of September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026, MOU with the Somerville Cafeteria Employees Union, AFSCME**

**D. Building Committee Report (Ms. Pitone)**

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

MOTION: To accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below:

Grant Type	Grant Title	Award Amount
State	High School Equivalency Test Centers- This grant is an allocation to SCALE to conduct high school equivalency testing.	\$5,544.00
Federal	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Entitlement Grant	1,820,740.00
Private	Unified Basketball – Somerville High School	\$2,000.00

**VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting: November 15, 2023 (Ms. Phillips)**

MOTION: To accept the report of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee meeting on November 15, 2023

**B. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting: October 18, 2023 (Ms. Phillips)**

MOTION: To accept the report of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee meeting on October 18, 2023

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Ms. Barish)**

The following policies are being presented this evening for a second reading.

- File JHCA: Extended Campus Lunch Policy

**VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**IX. CONDOLENCES**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Español - Para Interpretación**

Para **ver** la Reunión Regular del Comité Escolar el 27 de Febrero a las 7:00, en vivo desde casa, visite el siguiente enlace

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

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**November 16, 2023**

y elija **GovTV**: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

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

<https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/85251446618?pwd=ZkQwWjd0ZlJnbmNsSS9jeC9TSnptQT09>

Identificación de la reunión: 852 5144 6618

Contraseña: 752252

**Português - Para Interpretação**

Para **assistir** à Reunião Regular do Comitê Escolar 27 de fevereiro às 7:00, ao vivo de casa, visite o seguinte link e seleccione

**GovTV**: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Para **quvir ao vivo a tradução simultânea da Assembleia Ordinária em espanhol, português ou crioulo haitiano**, entre neste Zoom e escolha o idioma desejado clicando no balão de interpretação:

<https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/85251446618?pwd=ZkQwWjd0ZlJnbmNsSS9jeC9TSnptQT09>

ID da reunião: 852 5144 6618

Senha: 752252

**Kreyòl ayisyen - Pou entèpretasyon**

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

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Pou **w tande entèpretasyon similtane Reyinyon Regilye a an panyòl, pòtigè oswa kreyòl ayisyen an**, rantre nan Zoom sa a epi chwazi lang ou vle a lè w klike sou balon entèpretasyon an:

<https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/85251446618?pwd=ZkQwWjd0ZlJnbmNsSS9jeC9TSnptQT09>

Reyinyon ID: 852 5144 6618

Modpas: 752252

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WSNS	Grade 5 Teacher	Lorin Federico (Desrochers)	11/29/24-12/22-23		
WSNS	Resource Room Teacher	Brittany Stein	08/28/23-11/28/23		
<b>INTRA-DISTRICT PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS</b>					
AFAS	Kindergarten Teacher	Ava Strezynski	Reassignment	Sarah Soares	11/27/23
AFAS	PK Paraprofessional	Cristina Jurado	New Assignment	Tiffany Ramkissoon	11/03/23
Capuano	PK Paraprofessional	Kathleen Medeiros	Reassignment	Filomena Arruda	11/22/23
CAP/Comm Schools	PT Assistant Teacher	Mamata Chalise	Additional Assignment	Daniel Louis	11/08/23
DW	K-8 Afterschool Tutor (ATP)	Lindsay MacDoanld	Additional Assignment	Yearly Appointment	09/23/24
DW	K-8 Afterschool Tutor (ATP)	Rebecca Conner	Additional Assignment	Yearly Appointment	09/23/24
DW	ESL Specialist	Claire Fortier	Reassignment	NA	10/18/23
DW	EEC Specialist	Tamica Connor	New Assignment	Emmaline Lipka	09/23/23
SCALE	PT ADP Assessor	Christina Dennis	Additional Assignment	Joseph Villaine	09/08/23
SHS	Lont Term Substitute Teacher	Daniel Davis	New Assignment	Maria Konstantopoulos	10/11/23-12/18/23
WHCIS	SPED AIM Teacher	Julia Ashe	New Assignment	New Position	11/02/23
WHCIS	Kindergarten Teacher	Lauren Ellis	New Assignment	Caitlin Donaldson	11/02/23
<b>NEW HIRES</b>					
Brown/Healey	School Based Social Worker	Brooke Lyons-Justus	New Posiiton	No/No	11/06/23
DW	Afterschool Program-High School Helper	Luzmila Magana	Deni Martin	No/No	10/27/23
DW	Afterschool Program-High School Helper	Taylin Smith	Ashley Castro	No/No	10/11/23
DW	Afterschool Program-High School Helper	Devin Andrade	Nehemie Simon	No/No	09/18/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Rachel Vallery	NA	No/No	11/13/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Robert Turner	NA	No/No	11/08/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Martha Pantanella	NA	No/No	10/26/23
DW	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Alexander Snow	NA	No/No	12/05/23
DW	Youth Robotics Mentor	Silas Wickenden	Yearly Appointment	No/No	10/16/23
DW	Youth Robotics Mentor	Jacob Soltysiak	Yearly Appointment	No/No	10/16/23
DW	Youth Robotics Mentor	Bhavroop Kaur	Yearly Appointment	No/No	10/16/23
DW	Youth Robotics Mentor	Rafael Ronen	Yearly Appointment	No/No	10/16/23
DW	Youth Robotics Mentor	Emilia Graham	Yearly Appointment	No/No	10/16/23
ESCS	Building Substitute	Carmen Perez	Edna Gamba	No/No	11/16/23
Food Services	Intermittent Lunch Attendant	Lizbeth Galarza Cepeda	NA	No/No	11/20/23
SHS	Interim Community Engagement Specialist	Jose Mario Garcia	David Thelamaque	No/No	10/30/23
WHCIS	SPED BCBA	Margaret Smith	Laura Walley	No/No	12/04/23

Somerville Public Schools  
Education • Inspiration • Excellence

2023-2024 School Year  
November 2023

RESIGNATION FOR PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT:				
SHS/CTE	Social Studies Teacher	Everett Roscoe	09/27/23	27 years
SHS/CTE	Teacher-CTE	Hugh Wallace	12/22/23-Revised	16 years
SHS	Head Clerk 1	Barbara Favaloro	07/31/23	21 years
ESCS	Teacher-Science	Rosa Delgado Castilla	12/31/23	7 years
SHS/CTE	Teacher-CTE	Robert Puopolo	02/14/24	28 years
District Wide	SPED Educational Evaluator	Kenneth Black	01/31/24	21 years
RESIGNATION NOTICES:				
AFAS	K SEI Teacher	Sarah Soares	11/09/23	
Capuano	ECIP Paraprofessional	Louise Casparriello	11/01/23	
DW	Data Analyst	Sarah Jo Torgimson	12/15/23	
ESCS	EI Sistema Teaching Artist	Emiel De Jaegher	12/22/23	
Healey	Paraprofessional	William Losch	11/22/23	
SHS/Athletics	Girls JV Soccer Coach	Richard Oliveira	11/06/23	
WSNS	Building Substitute	Elisabeth Kistner	11/17/23	
ASSIGNMENT ENDED:				
LEAVES OF ABSENCES:				
AFAS	Utility Aide	Sandra Diaz	10/02/23-02/01/24	
AFAS	Building Substitute	Nadia Ismail	12/06/23-01/03/24	
DW	SFLC/Liaison	Karla Cabrera	11/06/23-11/17/23	
DW	Substance Abuse Specialist	Kristen Strelis	01/17/24-04/24/24	
DW	Music Teacher	Andrew Blickenderfer	11/27/23-06/13/24	
Healey	Dean of Students	Marc Celestin	01/02/24-04/03/24	
SHS	Mathematics Teacher	Maria Konstantopoulos	11/29/23-12/18/23	
SHS	Music Teacher	Vanessa Fitzgerald	08/28/23-12/08/23	
SHS	Music Teacher	Phillip Grannan	01/11/24-04/12/24	
SHS	SKIP Paraprofessional	Patricia DiPasquale	12/07/23-01/19/24	
WHCIS	Kindergarten Teacher	Caitlin Donaldson	10/17/23-06/13/24	
WHCIS	SPED AIM Teacher	Nicole Herbst	01/02/24-04/03/24	
WHCIS	ASD Teacher	Keveny Landry	03/04/24-06/04/24	