

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, February 28, 2022 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Zoom

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

Members Absent: Mayor Ballantyne and Mr. Green

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Vice Chair Krepchin Chaired the meeting in Mr. Green's absence and asked Ms. Santiago to call the roll, results of which were as follows: PRESENT – 7 – Dr. Phillips, President McLaughlin, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Krepchin and Ms. Dion ABSENT – 2 - Mayor Ballantyne AND Mr. Green

Superintendent Skipper was absent this meeting. Assistant Superintendent Mazza was in attendance in representation of the school administration.

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representatives Bryan Recinos and Marcia Narh-Botchway were both present and reported the following

- Progress reports closed on Wednesday, half way through the 3rd quarter.
- SHS will be having it's first Women of Color Panel tomorrow Tuesday March 1, 2022.
- Break was relaxing not much to report
- Sport clearances will begin soon for spring.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Krepchin read the public comments guidelines and invited those who signed up to comment, to do so in the order called and allocated each person 2 minutes to speak; there were 11 constituents signed up to speak.

Marianne McPherson

Public Comment from Feb. 28 submitted to be included in these minutes.

Marianne McPherson. I live at 10 Grand View Ave and I'm parent to a 7th and 4th grader at the Argenziano School, where I am also a member of the School Improvement Committee. I'm here in support of [the People's Policy for Police Interaction With Schools and Students MOU](#).

Earlier today, I was reviewing the SPS commitment to the whole child that's on the landing page of the website. It makes me proud to be part of this community, as a place that is "dedicated to the realization of the full ... potential of all students," and as a place that "shall maintain a safe environment that nurtures the curiosity, dignity and self-worth of each individual."

The People's Policy MOU is one very tangible and essential way to make real that commitment.

I come to this recommendation first and foremost as a parent and resident and also drawing on my professional training and practice in public health, social policy, and systems improvement. Supporting school environments such that they can be places of dignity, safety and true learning and curiosity for each of our students requires policies that center student well-being and thriving.

Having police in the schools works counter to this purpose, undermining students' well-being, as they feel policed instead of safe, exacerbating or creating potential trauma rather than being trauma-informed. Unnecessary police contact fuels the school-to-prison pipeline, criminalizing typical adolescent behavior, particularly for Black and Latinx youth. This runs counter to the [city's commitment to racial justice](#).

At present, Somerville's MOU requires significantly more police involvement than required by state law. Among the 16 "mandatory reportable incidents" are "annoying phone calls" that schools must immediately report to police, even if they happen at home and not school. Justice for Flavia's People's Policy MOU terminates the School Resource Officer program and limits police involvement to what is required by law.

I invite the School Committee to redirect the funds used on policing to provide additional supports—emotional support specialists, guidance counselors, and more—to ensure a healthy, safe, racially equitable learning environment for all students in our city.

Once again, I urge you to support the People’s Policy MOU, and I thank you for your leadership in our schools and community.

Molly Fraust- Wylie – 75 Concord Ave –

Ms. Fraust-Wylie commented in support of the People’s Policing MOU, which was sent to School Committee members two weeks ago. She mentioned that Police presence inherently meant not a safe environment for many children, it criminalizes adolescent’s behaviors and the current MOU requires more involvement than is required.

Matthew Kennedy, Ward 5, 74 Hudson St.

Public Comment from Feb. 28 submitted to be included in these minutes.

Hi, my name is Matthew Kennedy. I live in ward 5. I’m calling to oppose police presence and schools and asking the school committee to please accept the [MOU produced by Justice for Flavia](#). The organization is composed of parents and organizers in Somerville who are among the most informed and most directly affected by police in schools. I’m concerned by the fact that the selection of members for the subcommittee on policing intentionally prioritized people who have not been organizing around this issue.

On no other issue would the school committee intentionally exclude those who were most impacted and informed from the discussion.

Cops in schools are a relatively new phenomenon. [In 1975, only 1% of schools were policed. Now almost half of all schools are policed.](#)

Most of us can agree that we don’t want children to be arrested. We don’t want officers to carry guns in schools.

Disciplinary issues have been cited by a minority of residents who would like to have police in schools, but by [Massachusetts state law, it is illegal to use police officers as school disciplinarians.](#)

If we don’t want kids in jail, we don’t want them to be around guns, and cops are legally not allowed to be disciplinarians, then there’s no good reason to have cops in schools. Especially not when there’s a lack of school counselors.

The American School Counselor Association recommends a ratio of 250 students per counselor. In 2018, [Massachusetts had nearly twice that ratio, at 423 students per counselor.](#) The National Association of School Psychologists recommends one psychologist for every 700 students and in [2018 MA had one per 981 students in the state.](#)

There is a need for additional staff to support our school children, but police officers do not have the skills that our students need and are actively harmful toward their development.

Please adopt the [Justice for Flavia MOU](#) that was sent to all of you on February 17th and reduce the presence of police in schools to the minimum required by state law.

Thanks,

Mike Leonard, Ward 6 - 65 Lowden Ave.

Mr. Leonard also commented in support of the People's Policing MOU. He mentioned that a number of parents, organizers, experts who really understand state law, worked on this MOU policy and what keeps children safe in school, draws on research by Citizens for Juvenile Justice and others. Police presence does not increase safety in schools and first-time arrest doubles the risk a student will drop out. He urged School Committee to adopt the People's Policing MOU, which is in accordance with state law.

Kevin Foster, 30 Walnut St.

Mr. Foster supports the People's Policing MOU. He stated that schools should be a place of learning and growth, not

policing and asked that the SRO program be removed and suggested that emotional support specialists are needed in schools.

Brittany Vetter - 22 Radcliff Rd.

Public Comment from Feb. 28 submitted to be included in these minutes.

I am a Ward 4 resident, an educator of 15 years, and a parent. I am here this evening to speak in support of the People's Policy MOU. We all support the goal of making school a safe place for all students. Unnecessary police contact and presence undermines student's well-being and safety while also fueling the school to prison pipeline. Somerville's current MOU has 16 reportable offenses. I support eliminating the SRO program and law requires limiting police involvement in schools to what. Let us support our students with experts in the field of education and youth mental health as they navigate this challenging time rather than criminalizing them. I urge you to adopt the People's Policy MOU to advocate for the well-being and futures of all of our students.

Sarah Haberlack, Ward 2 - 4 Bolton St

Also commented in support of the People's Policing MOU. She said that Police in school fuels the school-to-prison pipeline and interactions with police hinder student achievement and harms their mental health. She urged School Committee to support the People's Policing MOU.

Ryan Williams - 47 Kingston St, President of the Brown School PTA, and parent to two daughters at the Brown.

Public Comment from Feb. 28 submitted to be included in these minutes.

Six weeks ago, the Brown PTA requested a meeting from the administration regarding the schoolyard conditions at the Brown. Three weeks ago, we were told in this body to expect a meeting -- quote "soon." As of today, we have received zero communication from the city regarding this meeting. We have no date, we have no agenda, we don't even know *who* we might meet with at this alleged public forum. Despite being the elected representatives for the Brown community, we can't even get a reply to an email to get on the calendar.

At best, it is becoming clear that the mounting injuries at the Brown School are simply not a priority. At worst, we are watching the City deliberately and cynically run out the clock to avoid taking substantial action this Summer. Some half-hearted drizzling of a little bit of tar and bending the broken fence back into place is not a sufficient solution and is not responsive to the repeated requests of the community.

While we applaud the recent announcement of a School Facilities subcommittee, it should not delay the implementation of this common sense solution. We don't need a committee to point out what is obvious and has already been studied over and over again. 32 years after the passage of the ADA, we don't need a study to understand that the schoolyard and the school remain inaccessible. 50 years after the passage of Title IX, we don't need a study to understand the blatant inequity of a 61% female school having the worst schoolyard in the City. This Spring you will undoubtedly see the City urgently filling potholes and resurfacing roads across Somerville to protect people's car alignment. Why doesn't the City have the same sense of urgency to protect the ankles, knees, elbows, and heads of six-year-olds?

We don't need to study what we already know – kids should not be getting hurt this much. Everyone knows that making the schoolyard safe is the right thing to do. We just need to do it. Thank you.

Sam Alterman, Ward 3 - 639 Somerville Ave Apt 1

Spoke in favor of People's Policing MOU. As the child of a public school teacher, students cannot do their best if they feel afraid. The current MOU includes things like prank phone calls. A 2013 study found no correlation between increased Police presence and school safety; instead, with more police there is higher suspension rates and dropout rates.

Erich Ludwig, 36 Berkeley St

A father of two students at Argenziano (K and 3rd) He spoke to wanting to limit police in our schools to the legal minimum and said the best way to support our children is to build systems. He advocated for support of the work of

Dr. Boston Davis, as heard here in this meeting, to build better communication back to families about what happens in the schools, and fund efforts to teach restorative justice in our communities. Like those before him, he echoed that we do not need cops in the schools and mentioned that we have had great luck with one individual SRO, but it was not about him being a cop it was he being a good individual. These folks should be hired directly as school support staff.

Ian Umansky -

Educator at SHS Mr. Umansky encourage School Committee to follow CDC guidelines and make masking optional. He commented that masks make it difficult for students to communicate with him and reminded the committee that there was only one positive test at SHS before the break. He added that in regards to the Police policy, he is also in favor of removing the police from the high school.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 7, 2022

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, second by Ms. Ackman, to approve the School Committee minutes of February 7, 2022. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

Interpreters, who were having technical difficulties at the start of the meeting, took this time to introduce themselves:

Ms. Krepchin asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Micaela Yang-Spanish

Elaine Metzker-Portuguese

Angie Surpris-Haitian Creole

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

Assistant superintendent Mazza asked Dr. Curley to share his COVID Mitigation Update.

- **COVID 19 Mitigation Update (Dr. Curley and Professor Langtane)**

Before beginning his presentation, Dr. Curley took the time to give a quick background in regards to the Masking Policy. On February 9, 2022, Governor Baker and Commissioner Riley announced the change to the state mask requirements for schools, which is being lifted today February 28, 2022 by DESE. Masking is now a community choice per school District City. The City of Somerville announced that the Board of Health would meet on Thursday March 3, 2022 to consider lifting the city mask mandate.

SPS has a required mask policy, which is being reintroduced for discussion today. Taking mitigation very seriously, we want to look at the policy that is now recommended by the MASC in light of the change from CDC and DESE and see when it makes sense to move from mask required to recommended. Not asking School Committee to vote on policy tonight, but want to begin discussion and vote on the next meeting of Monday March 7, 2022. The administrations intention is to follow guidance by federal state and local experts; and create the best learning environment for our students. The District believes we should move to a Mask Optional Policy at some point in the upcoming weeks. We want to make the shift intentionally and with appropriate support from our student and staff.

At this time, Dr. Curley introduce Dr. Daniel Lantagne to give a brief presentation update.

Dr. Curley shared the presentation and Dr. Lantagne reported the following on COVID- 19 Mitigation strategies.

- Omicron happened as predicted
- Incredible amount of work on staying open
- Cases are down to pre-Omicron levels and falling
- Currently no new variant on the horizon
- Masking – Yes, it does help!
- All mask types could be helpful
- County is now consider Low Risk
- Adjusting to COVID mitigation changes for some this might be a big adjustment
- Masking is visible sign of mitigation
- What about more at risk people who are at risk of respiratory diseases? For these people we maintain environmental control.
- Recommendations based on current state of COVID data

- Supported by the current state of COVID is to move to mask optional policy in SPS
- Closely watch variants and numbers have a rapid mechanism in place if needed
- CDC recommends no masking
- DESE state mandate lifted
- World Health Org- only mask 6-12; no masking under 6
- Mask makes communication harder
- Makes comprehension harder
- Vaccination rates for under 12 incredibly high

Spoke to adjusting to COVID mitigation changes.

Dr. Lantagne ended presentation and opened the floor for questions.

Dr. Ackman wondered if the mask-optional is for all students, including under 5 year olds. Dr. Lantagne responded that under 5yr. are our most complicated, they are least able to wear a mask correctly and are out of the mask for the most time and the vaccine is complicated, she does not believe there will be a vaccine available anytime soon. Masking recommendation is without considering vaccination.

Dr. Phillips asked what the district is thinking about quickly changing the policy that could speak to that Rapid Mechanism. Dr. Curley said that if there were an emergency switch, we want to come back to School Committee, wave the second reading and change the language to required masking in schools. With Omicron, we adapted quickly but with this, it effects everyone in the community. We think it is important to have it be part of a policy with deliberations.

Ms. Pitone asked how Rapid Mechanism look like for our most vulnerable population and our immigrant families. Do we have any updated information as to how they are now? Dr. Curley said we want broad community protection. We working on updating our dashboard.

Ms. Dion asked Dr. Lantagne to define high-quality masks. Dr. Lantagne responded that a high quality mask would be KF94 and KN95 or the N95, which works best if fitted.

Ms. Dion asked where people could purchase KF94's. Dr. Langtane said they are more costly and should look to available resources <https://behealthyusa.net/> . Dr. Curley added that the District currently has 15,000- KN95 masks available for any staff on hand, and could look into KF94's.

Chair Krepchin clarified that these kind of mask are just recommendation not required.

Ms. Barish could you talk about strategies in place to support student/ staff that requires wearing masks. Dr. Langtane said she does not anticipate that everyone will take masks off. Dr. Curley added that the district wants to create a mask friendly environment.

Chair Krepchin wondered if we would put together resources for teachers to explain this change to their students.

Ms. Pitone expressed some concern of alignment with the city masking policy. Dr. Curley will work with the city and union and if it makes sense will work to align the two.

Ms. Barish asked if the COVID dashboard would remain. Dr. Curley said the Dashboard will remain and will go up sometime this week.

Dr. Ackman asked where our staff is on this. Dr. Curley said there are preliminary conversations happening with union president and are hoping to build credibility and trust with Staff.

VI. New Business (Item B taken out of order)

B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The Following policies are being presented this evening for a first reading:

- File EBCFA: Face Coverings

Vice Chair Krepchin asked Dr. Curley to introduce the policy. Dr. Curley said the main thing to note is that the policy would change from required to masking strongly recommended. It also references some of the new guidelines from CDC and DESE.

File: EBCFA

FACE COVERINGS

Somerville Public Schools is committed to providing a safe environment in schools during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Maintaining a safe environment is critical to the District's ability to ensure students remain in a full-time classroom learning environment.

According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of facemasks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until further notice.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth is **strongly recommended** to be worn by individuals who remain unvaccinated or are otherwise immunocompromised in school buildings, and on school grounds, even when social distancing is observed.

Individuals who are vaccinated are not required to wear a mask, but may do so if desired.

Students and staff returning from 5 day quarantine following a positive COVID test must follow strict mask use, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms, through day 10 of exposure.

Masks will be required in all school health offices.

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members may provide their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face coverings, as necessary, for individuals at a school building, or aboard school transportation, who request but are without one.

Guidance Statements: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements - mask-requirements-in-certain-locations-https://search.mass.gov/?q=school+health+offices](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements-mask-requirements-in-certain-locations-https://search.mass.gov/?q=school+health+offices)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Covid-19 Community Risk Levels
Updated February 25, 2022.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools Updated January 13, 2022.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Fall 2021 Covid-19 Guidance Updated February 9, 2022

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2022-0209mask-requirement-update.pdf>

SOURCE: MASC – February 25, 2022 ADOPTED:

Ms. Barish was confused by where it says those "Returning from 5 days quarantine following a positive test must... etc." Dr. Curley agreed to work with Ms. Barish to update the language to make it align with district procedures. Chair Krepchin suggested on rewording before next meeting.

Ms. Pitone wondered if there should be language added about why this change is happening and Dr. Curley agreed to also work to update the requested language.

With no further questions Vice Chair Krepchin announced that this policy would return next meeting for a second reading and vote.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (Continued)

Assistant superintendent Mazza then read the district report

Superintendent's Notes: *School Committee Meeting – Monday, February 28, 2022*

Welcome back. We hope that students, families, and staff had a restful and fun February break, and that you were able to take advantage of the few warm days that snuck in during the break. Our hope is that we are in the winter home stretch. As a reminder, we have had two weather-related school cancelations this year. The **last day of school is now Friday, June 17, 2022** and will be a half day for all students.

Thanks to the fantastic work of our out-of-school-time and afterschool program staff, as well as a number of community partners, we were able to provide 183 students with fun, creative, and immersive learning experiences over the February break. We offered the following three district **February break programs**.

- The Community Schools Vacation Program at the Kennedy served 135 students from across the district. Activities led by afterschool program staff included: STEM Zone, Healthy Eating, Active Time (HEAT Curriculum), Playworks, Art, and Passport Adventures. Students also visited an indoor trampoline park and a laser tag center. Thanks to the Food & Nutrition Services Department for providing breakfast and a mid-day snack throughout the week.
- Our Language Builders program served 12 Multilingual Learner students in grades 2-4. Thanks to Lesley student teachers, the Beautiful Stuff Project, Jean Appolon Expressions, and Farrington Nature Linc for their partnership on this program.
- 36 students in grades 5-8 participated in our Somerville Innovation and Creation Studios program. Program partners were Tufts Center for Engineering Education Outreach, providing robotics programming; DEILAB offered music production, and Somerville Media Center, who offered filmmaking.
- **A very special thanks to Somernova for donating free lunch** to every participant in our Language Builders and Somerville Innovation and Creation Studios programs throughout the week!

Every quarter, Somerville High School recognizes students who exemplify the Highlander **Habits**. Those "habits" include Critical & Creative Thinking, Communication, Professionalism, Culturally Competent Citizenship, Collaboration, Physical & Emotional Wellness, Growth Mindset, and Post-Secondary Readiness. Students are nominated by their teachers. Congratulations to the following 20 SHS students for earning Highlander of the Quarter awards:

Beacon Community Broadway Community Elm Community Highland Community

*Esther Akinbuwa Andrea Aviles Jacob Castillo Michael Foster Niyana Freeman
Yonari Ruiz Hernandez Yasmin Sa Almeida William Saunders Ryan Willard
Serena Wong
NevCarline Addition Oscar Ayala Mangandi Michelle Pacheco
Ryan Parente Miranda Juliana Salazar Martinez
Sophia Goode Katherine Johnson Sharndip Kaur Carla Larios Flores Fatima Morales*

This Wednesday, March 2nd, is a **half-day Wednesday** for students in pre-K to 8. Pre-K students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. and K-8 students will be dismissed at noon.

Finally, another reminder that **registration for the 2022-23 school year** is under way. March 18 is the registration deadline for participating in the first batch of school assignments. The enrollment office will send out the first batch of school assignment letters for Pre-K and Kindergarten the week of April 19. Please visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/enrollment for more information, or call the enrollment office

if you have questions.

VIII. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Special Policing Subcommittee: January 19, 2022 (Chair Green)

Present: Mary Skipper, Ellenor Barish, Sarah Phillips, Andre Green, Glenda Soto, Aisha Banda, Dayshawn Simmons, Jessica Boston Davis, Elizabeth Doncaster, Johanne Thomas, Leslie Lartey, Anuj Bardwaj, Matthew Buchanan

There were seven people in the audience. The meeting was recorded and will be available for later viewing.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm and began with introductions. Chair Green explained that two more people will join the Subcommittee: one teacher and one student. Additionally, two students and one parent were not able to attend this meeting.

Members of the administrative team were present to serve as resources and to lay out topics for the subcommittee to consider when making their ultimate recommendation to the School Committee.

The Superintendent outlined the types of programming that have existed between Somerville Public Schools and Somerville Police Department, explaining that the budgets for the School Resource Officer (SRO) role and other programming lay on the City side and are not currently funded. In addition to the SRO, this includes four Community Officers, the STEPS Program, and the Police Academy. She went on to explain the various roles and programs.

The administration has provided various Memoranda Of Understanding to the subcommittee.

The Chair then invited members to ask questions.

The role of the subcommittee was clarified: the subcommittee will make recommendations based on what they believe is the right thing to do, the attorney will provide legal guidance, and the administration will see if they can make it happen. Chair Green specified that the subcommittee would draft policy with input from the attorney, and bring it to the full School Committee - potentially via the Rules Management Subcommittee. He also stated that there would be at least two weeks of public deliberation before any full School Committee vote, going on to say that this subcommittee might also hold a public hearing.

Chair Green also provided some background on why this work is happening now and in this way, recalling that the School Committee first raised the issue of wanting to look at practice and policies around January of 2020. Then the COVID-19 pandemic happened, followed by a refocusing of attention on race and policing. Given the contentious nature of this work, a special subcommittee with public input and involvement made sense.

Chair Green laid out his idea of how the subcommittee would proceed with the work – grouping questions under categories to consider at each meeting. As the subcommittee comes up with recommendations, they will be put together in a system to propose to the full School Committee.

This subcommittee will also create systems to collect information and input from the public. He asserted that there is no preordained outcome.

Superintendent Skipper elaborated, saying that the people on the subcommittee are well poised to know what might be best for students and for our schools.

Chair Green invited subcommittee members to express themselves freely but reminded everyone about their obligations under Open Meeting Law.

After some discussion about establishing a set meeting time, once per month for two hours, Chair Green stated that the subcommittee would take up SROs and CPOs at the next meeting. Superintendent Skipper said that for the next meeting she would have Ms. Tobin provide some information about the SRO and CPO roles and that the district would share their experiences working with people in those roles. Chair Green requested a dedicated space on the district website where all of the information shared with the subcommittee will be made available to the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

B. Special Policing Subcommittee: February 15, 2022 (Chair Green)

Present: Andre Green (Chair), Sarah Phillips, Ellenor Barish, Elizabeth Doncaster, Matt Buchanan (Vice Chair), Glenda Soto, Jessica Boston Davis, Aisha Banda, Johanne Thomas, Mary Skipper, Anuj Bhardwaj

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

Dayshawn Simmons and Paige Tobin joined the meeting later. There were 20 people in the audience.

Chair Green opened the meeting with some logistical updates, announcing that meeting dates would change to Mondays and Wednesdays in order to keep the subcommittee as inclusive as possible. He also announced that the district website has a page dedicated to the Policing Subcommittee which includes a form where constituents can give feedback and ask questions.

Director of Student Support, Elizabeth Doncaster, gave a presentation on the district's experience with the School Resource Officer and with Community Officers. (The presentation is available in the meeting packet.)

Chair Green noted that SROs were required by state law in all school districts. With the elimination of that requirement, in combination with a national racial justice awakening, School Committee is revisiting the district's policy.

Superintendent Skipper noted that with the exception of a very brief period, Somerville High School has had just one SRO during her tenure with the district. She clarified that the Somerville SRO and Community Officers received very specific training around interacting with kids and sometimes participated in district professional development which might not be the case everywhere.

Principal Buchanan spoke of his experience with the SRO role in Providence, where the SRO was a regular staff member. He found that the SRO knew of conflicts before the administration, allowing for more time to intervene and that the SRO's mediation and de-escalation training was helpful.

Ms. Doncaster reviewed some of the training specifics that prepare officers for these roles and reviewed the differences between the roles. While they have similar training, the SRO works in the school whereas the Community Officers were assigned to the schools and the school day but primarily addressed safety issues around the school. In both cases, officers were able to build relationships with students and staff.

Superintendent Skipper said that the SRO was a resource for parents as well and that Community Officers can be familiar faces for young people when conflicts arise off school property.

Ms. Doncaster noted that in the past, if there was a serious crime committed in a school, the SRO would respond at the high school and the Community Officer would respond at the other schools. Now, without those programs in place, she gets whoever happens to be on duty. Superintendent Skipper elaborated that the SRO provided an educational component in addition to law enforcement in the case of hate crimes, for example.

The conversation shifted to the ways in which SPS supports students' mental health and interpersonal struggles and how those positions might overlap with or differ from the SRO role. Ms. Doncaster outlined how services are offered at the high school via 3 district social workers and a crisis manager. Additionally, the district has started groups at the high school and middle school grade levels after reflecting on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey data.

Superintendent Skipper listed some of the additional supports available throughout the district, noting that right now the High School does not have a waiting list for counseling services. Ms. Doncaster said she would provide a comprehensive report on all of the roles, staffing levels, and structure of the mental health supports available through SPS.

Superintendent Skipper clarified that School Adjustment Counselors provide services for students with IEPs and they are the ones who respond - not the SRO - in cases when those students might be having a hard time.

Chair Green brought up the issue of fighting at the high school and asked how the district is addressing the recent uptick.

Superintendent Skipper spoke to the challenges of social media, breaking up fights so that nobody gets hurt, and preventing fights in school as well as off school property, noting that despite these challenges, the district has stopped more fights than have happened. Principal Buchanan talked about building school culture in a new building with a new administration.

Ms. Banda made the distinction between the absence of the SRO and the impact of the pandemic on students' interpersonal relationships, with Superintendent Skipper agreeing that the uptick in fighting cannot be directly

attributed to the absence of the SRO. The superintendent also noted that the new building calls for new models of supervision. She went on to describe how the loss of the SRO reduces the district's ability to advocate for students in some cases and may result in more families going directly to the SPD. When asked how families are made aware of other options and what those options are, Superintendent Skipper and Principal Buchanan talked about outreach strategies - primarily electronic or virtual given the pandemic - and highlighted the mediation program which Ms. Doncaster described in more detail.

Chair Green introduced Paige Tobin, one of the School Committee's attorneys and a resource to the subcommittee as far as the roles of the officers and our rights and responsibilities as a school district.

Mr. Simmons pointed out that for some students having a uniformed officer in the school might make going to school and focusing on their work more difficult. Mr. Buchanan described how his experience with SROs is different from a typical officer coming into a school, boiling it down to the relationships SROs build with students.

Chair Green turned the discussion to the need for the SRO to be in uniform and if so, whether they needed to carry a gun. Administrators confirmed that no officer has ever drawn a weapon in an SPS building. Ms. Tobin confirmed that an officer in uniform must be armed. She went on to describe changes in how the law says SROs will be assigned and the more robust training requirements outlined in one of the new draft MOUs.

Dr. Phillips requested more specific information about when SPS requests assistance from SPD and what the outcomes are. Ms. Doncaster described some of the situations that might result in police involvement and how those decisions are made and she provided some data regarding outcomes. Chair Green reminded the subcommittee of the importance of protecting student privacy in discussing data around these incidents.

Dr. Phillips followed up with a request that SPD be asked under what circumstances they file a Form 100.

Finally, there was a short discussion around how the district is impacted by students' social media use and how it is helping students and parents develop social media skills and safety. Superintendent Skipper said that this is part of the new library skills curriculum, there are assemblies and parent information sessions. This is also an area where SPD is sometimes involved and SPS supports impacted students and their families.

Chair Green reviewed follow up questions for SPD:

- What happens when a contact is referred to SPD
- What reports might be generated from these referrals
- What results in a permanent record
- What is later discoverable

Mr. Buchanan noted the importance of clarity on these points particularly for undocumented children so that they feel safe and secure

Chair Green listed points where the subcommittee would like more information from the district: • What is our full suite of mental health supports?

- Exactly what are we calling police for?

Ms. Soto amplified Ms. Banda's request that the district capture student voice around the impact of the SRO.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Dion, to accept the reports of the Special Policing Subcommittee of January 19, 2022 and of February 15, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

C. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction: January 19, 2022 (Dr. Phillips)

The Educational Programs Subcommittee met on January 24, 2022, via Zoom. Members present were Sarah Phillips, Emily Ackman, and Sara Dion. Also in attendance was Superintendent, Mary Skipper; Assistant Superintendent, Chad Mazza; Somerville High School Mathematics Chair, Patricia Murphy-Sheehy; and former Superintendent Fellow, Kentaro Iwasaki.

Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. There were two people in the audience.

There were three items on the agenda.

1) Approval of the October-December Reports

Emily Ackman moved to approve the October-December Educational Programs Subcommittee reports. The motion was seconded by Sarah Phillips and approved unanimously.

2) SHS Proposed Math Changes Presentation

Pursuant to policy IGD, the subcommittee received a report from the High School Mathematics Department regarding proposed changes they hoped to make to the high school curriculum. Changes would affect the high school mathematics sequence for students in the class of 2027 (current 7th grade students). Currently, students take either Geometry, Algebra 1, or Algebra 2 in 9th grade; Precalculus, Algebra 2, or Geometry in 10th grade; Calculus, Precalculus, or Algebra 2 in 11th grade; and Statistics, Precalculus, Calculus, or Quantitative Reasoning in 12th grade. Under the proposed changes, students would take Integrated Math 1 and 2 in 9th and 10th grade, Precalculus or Algebra 2 in 11th grade, and Precalculus, Calculus, Statistics, or Quantitative Reasoning in 12th grade. The rationale for the proposed change is that the department has identified extensive disparities in 9th grade course-taking with Latinx and Black students over-represented in Algebra 1 and Asian and White students over-represented in Geometry. These early disparities lead to very different courses taken by the time students reach 12th grade.

The Integrated Math class uses the Illustrative Mathematics curriculum, which is what is currently used in SPS middle schools. Integrated Math 1 includes units from Algebra 1 and Geometry. It offers rich tasks and ample opportunities for extension and in-depth exploration and will be offered as Open Honors. Open Honors means that all students attend the same course and choose whether to take it as College Prep or Honors. Teachers will have fewer preps, allowing more time to plan for scaffolding, differentiation, and enrichment. PD will be provided. A Math Concepts 1 class will be offered to support students as needed.

2

The Mathematics Department plans to seek parent and student feedback in February and will present to the full School Committee in April with the expectation that the committee will vote on this proposal in May. Over the summer, the department will engage in redesign planning and professional development, leading to a soft roll-out in September 2022. In January 2023, the Mathematics Department will meet with grade 8 Counselors and Math Teachers, in February 2023, they will redesign student course selection, in September 2023 will begin full implementation of the new course sequence.

After a short discussion, Dr. Ackman moved to move the proposal along to the full School Committee for review. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dion and passed unanimously.

3) Real Life Learning Center

Pursuant to policy LBC, the subcommittee began deliberation about the Real Life Learning Center, a proposed private school in Somerville, and draft questions for the founder to address at our February meeting. Deliberations began with Dr. Phillips reviewing the criteria outlined in the policy, "The School Committee will

approve a private school when it is satisfied that the instructional program equals that of the town's public schools in thoroughness, efficiency, and progress made." Members commented on the evidence they found that the proposed program meets these criteria across the eight categories outlined in the policy. Overwhelmingly, the committee concluded the proposed school does not meet these criteria noting:

- The curriculum falls short in every subject, particularly science, social studies, and SEL.
- There are no accommodations for students enrolled in SPED or students not making academic progress.
- There are no details about assessments and how the school will use assessments to improve student outcomes.
- There is no detail about the ways staff will be supported.
- It is not clear how the application process will result in a diverse set of applicants.
- It is not clear that the facilities are appropriate for younger students, and it is not clear what the facilities look like when students are there.
- The school's position on homosexuality and creationism makes it difficult to see how a thorough science and health curriculum is possible.
- The school's approach to student services and counseling appears to de-value evidence-based psychology, and its emphasis on approaches rooted in the believe that mental illness is caused by sin and demons is unscientific and harmful.
- The school failed to provide evidence related the safety of the physical plant and financial solvency.
- Overall, the school is entirely contrary to the values of SPS and the idea of educating the whole child and being inclusive.

Prior to the meeting, committee members submitted written evidence and questions for the RLLC founder to address at our February meeting. These are compiled and included at the end of this report. The committee agreed to ask our legal counsel to review the questions and identify those that are illegal to ask. We will then send the remainder to the founder in order to prepare for his February presentation. We do not plan to ask the founder to submit the missing documentation, as our policy clearly states that failing to provide evidence of a criteria is an indication of not meeting the criteria of thoroughness, efficiency, and progress. The subcommittee does not plan to conduct a site visit at this time but will review this decision with our legal counsel.

Chair Phillips adjourned the meeting at 6:45.

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of January 19, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

D. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: January 26, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)
Finance and Facilities Subcommittee on January 26th, 2022
Via Remote Participation

Members Present: Ilana Krepchin, Andre Green, Sarah Phillips, Sara Dion, Laura Pitone, Emily Ackman and Ellenor Barish

Also in Attendance: Director of Finance Fran Gorski and Superintendent Mary Skipper Audience Members:

There was 1 audience members

Ilana Krepchin called the meeting to order at 6 pm

December Bill Rolls

item number 38 - BC tent and awning - these are left over payments from when they were installed back in the summer. They are stored for now and will be reinstalled in the spring. Item 39- home depot - heaters that we purchased when there was an issue with the boilers in November.

Item 40 - WB Mason - a lot of movement in the admin building, we had some dated furniture and there were some requests for standing desks.

Items 45-47 - homeless transportation and foster care transport - we have a number of smaller vendors. We are planning to take this out to bid to potentially save money and consolidate and make it easier to track. Our contracts

for regular ed transport with Eastern and NRT both expire in the summer of 2022. Trying to get both under one contract.

Item 81 - We just hired an assistant principal for CTE. Roger Bourgeois is staying on to consult and mentor the new CTE director. The total moving forward will be a lot less. Item 191 - NRT bus - for the month of October for sped transport. Parent reimbursement - may be more than normal - related to COVID - parents can transport their students and get reimbursed.

Item 62 - new dual language program at East - this is the bill for the K-2 curriculum. This is just the first installment (the full program is about \$100,000).

Revolving bill roll - food service from school lunch account - it's been a challenging year for food service - one of our major providers closed and we are seeing the effects of supply chain issues. We've been working with the purchasing dept to make sure we have all the necessary supplies.

Question about which programs have things on the local bill rolls versus the revolving bill rolls. Under the HS budget, the principal has some autonomy with money to decide how some money is spent - there is some set aside for CTE, but some of the programs bring in their own revenue - for example the carpentry shop sells furniture, so that money goes into a revolving account to pay for supplies.

Motion by Dr. Ackman to approve local bill rolls, seconded by Dr. Phillips. Passes unanimously.

YTD Expenditure Report

There are some transfers from last year - higher than usual - because of supply chain issues. These are being paid off as they show up.

Bottom line we have spent 55.5% of our budget - this is where we should be at this time of year. Largest line item is salaries. Facilities is in the red. There have been a lot of PPE purchases (masks, test, etc.) which we will look at transferring to ESSER dollars.

Student services- we moved a lot of this to ESSER, so this budget is a lot smaller. Also, the nurses came over to our budget in FY22 - and they are in student services. We'll be looking to create a new dept for nursing in FY23.

Budget Calendar Review, Discussion and Vote

This includes finance, human resources and superintendent - all the major components that go into the budget - all the way through to May, when School Committee will vote and then it will go to the city council in June.

Question about student based budgeting? We had discussed that in the before times. When will we have the bandwidth to take it back up? It's really important to get the weights right. We may have a full comparison ready for next year's budget. We would be the smallest district doing this. We would have to determine what portion of the budget we would actually be able to do this with.

Motion by Mrs. Pitone to approve timeline, seconded by Dr. Ackman - passes unanimously.

Budget Process Overview and Initial Budget Discussion

The governor's initial budget has been released - not final yet. Circuit breaker - will it be fully funded? - we don't know yet, but there is a \$41 million increase. Hopefully we'll have more information at our next meeting.

Extracurricular Activity Funding

Funding in the general fund, fee based or programs that are expected to raise their own funds. There is club funding in our contract with the SEU - which lists stipend payments. There is also \$230,000 in club funds. For K-8s this is based on enrollment. There is some discretionary funds at each building - Principals can set aside some funding for a particular program. There are also revolving accounts - for some sports, and other programs that raise their own funds.

Acceptance of FY2022 Grant Funds

MCC (Mass. Cultural Council) Grant to Support El Sistema Somerville \$22,000 - State Grant

Motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Dr. Phillips, motion passes unanimously. LCC (Local Cultural Council) Award to Support World Languages Program \$3,200 - State Grant

Motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Dr. Ackman, motion passes unanimously. With no further

business, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Chair, Finance and Facilities Subcommittee

Documents Used:

YTD Exp Detail 1-19-22

December 2021 Revolving Bill Roll

December 2021 Local Bill Roll

December 2021 Grant Bill Roll

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish second by Dr. Ackman, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting Finance and Facilities for of January 26, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

E. Rules Management Subcommittee: February 7, 2022 (Ms. Barish)

Rules Management Subcommittee

February 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Laura Pitone at 5:30 pm. In attendance: Sara Dion, Matt Buchanan, Laura Pitone, Mary Skipper, Paige Tobin, Chad Mazza

Ellenor Barish entered the meeting at 5:40 pm.

1. Approve December and January Minutes

Laura Pitone - Move to approve

Sara Dion - Second

Passed unanimously

2. MASC Policy Update

a. EBCFA - Face Coverings - update reference section

Laura Pitone - Move to approve

Sara Dion - Second

Passed unanimously

b. JLCB - Inoculation of Students - The change would remove language around specific inoculations.

Laura Pitone - Move to approve

Ellenor Barish - Second

Passed unanimously

c. Section D - Fiscal Policy

MASC made various changes to the fiscal policy section of their policy manual. Ellenor Barish asked the administration how best to review these changes for any potential revisions. Superintendent Skipper will schedule a time to discuss these revisions with Finance Director Gorski and will try to bring his recommendations to the next Rules Subcommittee meeting.

2. Homework Policy Development Q&A

Subcommittee members had an opportunity to ask Assistant Superintendent Mazza questions about the development of the Homework policy and subsequent revisions. Family input, emphasis on daily reading, the role of homework in younger grades, alignment of policy to curriculum requirements, educator autonomy, and access to technology were discussed.

3. Open Campus Policy Discussion

Some reasons for offering Somerville Seniors the option to leave campus at lunchtime were presented as well as some strategies for keeping students safe and accountable - such as checking out and checking back in. Attorney Paige Tobin shared aspects of the Hanover policy, including how it addresses liability and the definition of school grounds. Open Campus privileges could be based on such things as academic standing, discipline, and attendance, though we must be mindful not to craft a policy that might be discriminatory. Communication with nearby residents

and businesses and with students must be clear and intentional so as to ensure a positive experience. Students might be included in creating the policy. The idea of bringing food trucks to the High School concourse was also brought up. The administration hopes to be able to bring this policy to the full School Committee in time to offer Open Campus to Seniors this spring which means any community input should be collected in the coming weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm.

Documents used: December Rules Report, January Rules Report, Suggested Changes to SPS File JLCB - Inoculation of Students, Suggested Changes to SPS File EBCFA - Face Coverings, MASC JLCB, MASC EBCFA, MASC Section D Track Changes, Homework Presentation, Hanover's Policy for Open Campus

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Rules Management of February 7, 2022.

F. Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting of the Whole: February 16, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)
Finance and Facilities Subcommittee on February 16th, 2022
Via Remote Participation

Members Present: Ilana Krepchin, Andre Green, Sarah Phillips, Sara Dion, Laura Pitone, Emily Ackman and Ellenor Barish

Also in Attendance: Director of Finance Fran Gorski, Superintendent Mary Skipper, Director of Special Education Chirstine Trevisone, Director of Enrollment Regina Bertholdo and Director of Multilingual Services, Sarah Davila.

Audience Members: There were six audience members

Ilana Krepchin called the meeting to order at 6 pm

There were five items on the agenda

Items were taken out of order.

January Bills

Trans Med - These are Covid supplies purchased during the height of the Omicron surge. The state has since stepped up so we no longer need to purchase, we have a healthy stock for now, but we got another quote just in case.

Looking to get one provider for both transportation contracts, but will have the option of splitting. We are currently pretty happy with our providers: issues have been dealt with when raised, quality drivers, reliable vehicles, etc.

Possible that NRT will bid on both.

Will also put out a bid for homeless transportation

There were a few independent contractors who were a big support for PR and communications during the pandemic - these were charged to ESSER

Specifically they helped with communications to families and staff - developing materials for visual representation, highlighting positive work during COVID, Out of School Time. Currently we have one Full time person who does communication AND development with just part time help from two other people.

MBTA passes were added to the budget providing Charlie Cards for SHS students. Intent is to continue the program into 22-23. About 60% of the students are using the passes. We purchase passes for every student whether they use them or not. This may change after reviewing this year's data. Intend to roll out to middle school students as well, in the spring. There was a question about the Judge Rotenberg School in the news for using shock collars. We have a student attending there.

Director of Special Education Christine Trevisone commented that is not something that is happening at this time. There was an investigation. Admin will follow up on this. Motion by Dr. Ackman to approve January Bill Rolls, seconded by Mrs. Barish, passed unanimously.

Enrollment

Newcomers, special ed, MLE -there has been a larger than normal influx

The sheltered English immersion (SEI) 1 strand is growing at Healey - most likely new newcomers bringing numbers up compared to past couple of years after a drop in the past Kennedy numbers consistent, with addition of preK. Argenziano has a strand of SEI-1 but has remained constant; levels 3+ are in gen ed classrooms. Winter Hill has SEI 1 for grades 5-8 bringing enrollment to a healthier number. West somewhat consistent though a little on the lower side. SHS - Over 120 student increase over this time last year - enrollment overall is coming back up. Newcomer numbers are helping to drive that. We lost about 300 students during the pandemic. Really healthy numbers at the high school - on the MLE side and on the general ed side. At the Healey - there was space and we had an opportunity to start a SEI strand for students who live nearby. Numbers lower at Brown. Looking to start some more opportunities for special ed and MLE students at the Brown School.

Capuano numbers are lower - we moved a classroom from there.

PreK and K numbers are a bit low. May be pandemic related. Will be interesting to see if students return for first grade.

There was a question about this shift in student population: how is staffing and hiring going? It will be very important that we know our funding on the earlier side. We don't want to be late in posting positions and have to compete with Cambridge and Boston. We always post positions as "pending funding" but this year we really need to get out in front. Concern is more the space than the staffing. Some programs require more space to properly serve the students. MLE class is 20. Autism strand class is 5 or 6. When we make recommendations on conversions of classrooms it will be about using space most effectively for students.

19-20 school year was one of our highest enrollment years prior to the pandemic. Many homeschool students are returning PreK and K - This year is similar to 2018 but higher than last year; we are actively encouraging immigrant families to enroll; expecting all time low for incoming head start families to kindergarten - this is a result of gentrification.

Capacity for PreK is 225. We are at 143 right now, which is okay. We usually start in September at about 210. SpEd trends quick overview.

Percentage of students with IEPs has been stable. Huge increase in evaluations this year. Numbers do often change after October.

SpEd will have a big impact on SHS in the fall - resource room, counseling, AIM, Life Skills, Transition also increasing -

AIM (Adapt, Include, Motivate, a program for students with Autism) continues to grow at Cap - 1 class in 2017->9 classrooms projected next year - very few go out of district because of the level of support we have been able to provide.

At Winter Hill now 49 students (8 classes) - There is no room for expansion at Winter Hill. I hear some parents move to the city for this programming.

Students requiring self-contained programming has decreased thanks to the efforts of staff to keep students in the least restrictive environment.

To the earlier question about hiring - We have been lucky overall. There is some struggle to fill all the paraprofessional positions. We do need to get the postings out sooner. People have heard that the level of support here is excellent and they come here even if we can't pay as much as some other districts.

Trying to stabilize staffing with the creation of 209-day positions. Teachers and paras working in the summer mean that students have some consistency. This is a huge benefit. We have a growing multilingual population - 20% of student population currently. 289 students have arrived July-Jan and we still have students in the pipeline in the process of enrolling.

When we meet a new student, in order to determine the proper placement we do a very careful education history review for interrupted schooling in the educational experience. 1/3 of newcomers are SLIFE (85) (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education). 9th grade number is high because high school age students may start in 9th grade if they are newcomers.

Big differences this year: Most newcomers are coming from Brazil with families that speak Portuguese. We are preparing by increasing our capacity in Portuguese. What also stands out - background - Unaccompanied Minors - 18%, Intact families arriving from border - 81%

Why so many immigrants from Brazil? There are push and pull factors for immigration. Things are not going well in Brazil between COVID and the economy, so that is a push. At the border there are some policies that are allowing families to pass through quickly while unaccompanied minors are not. The Biden administration put in dedicated dockets of immigration courts - one is in Boston - with the intention to speed up the process for families. That is a pull to MA. And there is already a Portuguese speaking community here.

Budget Update/Discussion

State budget update - Student Opportunity Act (SOA) slowed by COVID. Governor says there will be full implementation of year two. We are not receiving as much as some districts. When we look at Chapter 70 it means we will receive \$30 additional per student - roughly \$150K on Chapter 70 aid for a total of \$21M. Part of SOA - as long as circuit breaker is fully funded there is additional reimbursement for transportation. The difference between the cost to educate a sped student is reimbursed at 75%. If the minimum is 15K and cost is 70K, that results in \$7500 reimbursement. Talked to a senator sponsoring a school operational efficiency bill - it has a budget and procurement impact. Currently, any contract over 50K (unless exempt like special ed) we need to go out in a formal bid process, with advertising. This bill increases that amount to 100K. It also allows districts to prepay some softer costs and allows transportation reimbursement.

Donation Process - tabled till next meeting

Acceptance of FY2022 Grant Funds

Somerville Education Foundation Grant to Support SHS World Language Department, \$3,618.85 – Private Grant

Wellington Grant to Support ParentChild+ Family Child Care Services for 15-20 Family Child Care Providers, \$42,500 – Private Grant

Popplestone Grant to Support ParentChild+ Services for 6 Families, \$24,000 – Private Grant
Motion from Dr. Ackman, seconded by Dr. Phillips, passed unanimously. With no further

business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm. Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Chair, Finance

and Facilities Subcommittee

Documents Used:

December 2021 Revolving Bill Roll

December 2021 Local Bill Roll

December 2021 Grant Bill Roll

MASBO 2-8-22Cheerysheet

Enrollment slides for SC

Special Education Trends in Enrollment

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Krepchin, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of February 16, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. in Celebration of Tibetan New Year (Dr. Phillips)

Vice Chair Krepchin asked Dr. Phillips to introduce the Resolution

Dr. Phillips offered a background of the policy and then read it:

Resolution in Celebration of Tibetan New Year

WHEREAS: Losar is the most important holiday for Tibetans all around the world, including the many Tibetans who have embraced and called Somerville their home for the last three decades; and

WHEREAS: It is a little known fact that some of the first Tibetan refugees to come to the United States as part of a historic resettlement program in the 1990s settled in Somerville, many in and around the Teele Square area; and

WHEREAS: Over one hundred Tibetan Somervilians, including students, alumni and parents, as well as small business owners, local activists, and municipal employees, have signed a letter calling on the City of Somerville to

celebrate Losar at this critical moment when the very survival of Tibetan language and culture is under threat in Tibet itself; and

WHEREAS: For close to thirty years, as political exiles who fled persecution in Tibet, Tibetans have been trying their best to sustain their distinct national and cultural identity in the growing Somerville community; and

WHEREAS: This is especially important because in Tibet today, Tibetans are not allowed to practice their religion and culture freely, and are facing immense cultural suppression; NOW BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee stands in solidarity with Somerville's Tibetan residents, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee wishes for a joyful celebration of

Dr. Ackman requested that the word " Most" be removed from most important holiday

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to wave second reading of the resolution. The motion was approved with a Y – 6 and 1 member, Ms. Pitone, voting present for this motion.

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to approve the resolution in Celebration of Tibetan New Year. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The Following policies are being presented this evening for a first reading:

- File JLCB: Inoculation of Students

File: JLCB - [INOCULATION-IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS](#)

Students entering school for the first time, whether at kindergarten or through transfer from another school system, will be required to present a physician's certificate attesting to immunization against ~~diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, HIB, and TB evaluation, and such other~~ communicable diseases as may be specified from time to time by the Department of Public Health. The only exception to these requirements will be made on receipt of a written statement from a doctor that immunization would not be in the best interests of the child, or by the student's parent or guardian stating that vaccination or immunization is contrary to the religious beliefs of the student or parent/[guardian](#).

[SOURCE: MASC August 2020](#)

[Established by law:](#)

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [76:15](#)

[CROSS REF.: JF, School Admissions](#)

Revised: January 18, 1996

Amended: December 2009

Ms. Barish introduced and read the policy and announced that it would be brought back the next meeting for a second reading and vote.

C. Donations (Recommended action: Approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Programs Donated to
Hair Products	Yvonne Bonaccorso	Somerville, MA	\$300	SHS Cosmetology Program

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to accept the donations listed above.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone, who serves on the Charter Committee, announced that charter review created a survey with the goal to get as much input from the community and encouraged folks to fill it out virtually through the Charter Review website.

XI. CONDOLENCES

Superintendent Skipper and the Somerville School committee extends its deepest condolences to the families of Craig A. Phylis, Husband of **Julie Phylis Counseling Administrative Assistant at Somerville High School**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

COVID 19 Mitigation Update <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/SPS%20School%20Committee%20-%20COVID%20Update%20-%20Masking%20Policy%20022822.pdf>

Submitted by: E. Garcia

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 28, 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/webinar/register/WN_UrehXHpaTfut-o3dQKwcpw

Webinar ID: 840 0751 5994

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. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 7, 2022

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- COVID 19 Mitigation Update (Dr. Curley)

VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Special Policing Subcommittee: January 19, 2022 (Chair Green)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Special Policing Subcommittee of January 19, 2022.

B. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: January 24, 2022 (Dr. Phillips)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of January 24, 2022.

C. Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole: January 26, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of January 26, 2022.

D. Rules Management Subcommittee: February 7, 2022 (Ms. Barish)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Rules Management of February 7, 2022.

E. Special Policing Subcommittee: February 15, 2022 (Chair Green)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Special Policing Subcommittee of February 15, 2022.

F. Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting of the Whole: February 16, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of February 16, 2022.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution in Celebration of Tibetan New Year (Dr. Phillips)

B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The Following policies are being presented this evening for a first reading:

- File EBCFA: Face Coverings
- File JLCB: Inoculation of Students

C. Donations (Recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Programs Donated to
Hair Products	Yvonne Bonaccorso	Somerville, MA	\$300	SHS Cosmetology Program

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

IX. CONDOLENCES

X. ADJOURNMENT