

Resolution to Help Maintain a Safe and Healthy Teaching and Learning Environments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE; be it

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

Voted: Unanimously

Date: December 19, 2022

By: Somerville School Committee