

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, August 28, 2023 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – City Hall Chambers

Members present: Ms. Krepchin, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Barish, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone and Dr. Phillips
Mayor Ballantyne and President Ewen-Campen.

Members Absent: Dr. Ackman, Ms. Dion

Mr. Green arrived at 7:10

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Green asked Superintendent Curley to call the roll, results of which were as follows:
PRESENT – 9 – Dr. Phillips, Ms. Krepchin, Mr. Ewen-Campen, Mayor Ballantyne, Chair Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman and Ms. Dion. ABSENT – 0 -

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Tracy Pichardo -Spanish
Benvindo Cruz -Portuguese
Cynthia Laine -Haitian Creole

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 22, 2023
- June 12, 2023

Tabled

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

Dr. Carmona started his report with an opening remark that read as follows:

Opening Remarks

Good evening. I feel honored and privileged to be part of this wonderful community.

In the short time that I have been here, one of the things that has become clear to me is that this is a community truly invested in our schools and in our students.

I want to start tonight's meeting with a little bit of information about who I am and what drives me in this work. My journey in education took root in the public school system. I served as a Principal in Lowell and Salem for a total of 11 years and as a Principal Coach in Boston before joining the Salem Public Schools as a Principal and Executive Director of Family, Community, and Employee Engagement. The insights and experiences garnered through these experiences have profoundly shaped my educational philosophy.

One of my core beliefs, shaped by these experiences, is the indispensable role of family engagement in building community and shaping our children's education. By working together and understanding the unique needs and strengths of our students, we can provide a learning environment where each student feels valued, understood, and supported.

As Superintendent, my priority will be to ensure that every student, regardless of their background or circumstances,

has equitable access to a quality education. We are privileged to serve a wonderfully diverse community of learners, and we owe it to each of them to create a learning environment that inspires curiosity, instills resilience, and fosters a lifelong love of learning.

With the start of the new school year just two days away, I have already witnessed the tenacity, commitment, and community spirit across the district. During these first two months in this role, I have been able to visit every school, witness programs and planning in action and meet with students, educators, and administrators. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with such an incredible community.

Yet while these few months have been full of hope and incredible planning on everyone's part, it has not been without challenges along the way.

I know that for the past several years, the district has undergone a lot of periods of transition. First, like most communities nationwide, you focused on a transition back to full time, in person learning following the pandemic. Over the last year you have transitioned between superintendents and a reorganization of the administrative team. Most recently, we as a district and a city have been addressing challenges in our physical infrastructure, particularly at the Winter Hill and Edgerly.

In the last two months we had to unexpectedly close the Winter Hill School, shifting classes and operations to multiple locations. This has meant moving staff, educators, and students between multiple buildings, coordinating at many levels for construction and assessment at two buildings, and coordinating schedules for classes in new schools. Under the Mayor's leadership we have expedited assessments at the Winter Hill to help us better understand the next steps for that building, while also undergoing construction at Edgerly to enable us to welcome classes on time this week. We'll have more specific updates to share later in tonight's agenda.

I know that this has been a difficult and, at times, a frustrating transition. For all of us. Closing a school and shifting operations in this way is absolutely never an option we want to create. However, for all of us, the safety and well being of our students and our staff is our top priority. For our Winter Hill students and staff who are starting this new school year in new and different spaces: we are ready to welcome you with open arms on Wednesday.

As of my most recent visit to the Edgerly Building this afternoon, I am happy to report that construction activity is wrapping up as expected and that we are on target to have classrooms ready for the first day of school. There are some final touches and cleaning that will occur over the next 24 hours, and we will prepare to welcome families and students to the building tomorrow evening for brief tours. As with any construction project, there will also be some minor "punch list" items that will likely need to be taken care of over the next several days during non-school hours.

Throughout this process, our goal has always been to put transparency at the forefront. However, along the way we know that there have been opportunities for us to do better, and I want to reaffirm my commitment to you that for me, transparency and family engagement is critical.

I am confident that our commitment, focus and systems will bring about a period of equitable change, academic improvement, and joy and engagement for all of us.

- New Administrative Staff Introductions

Superintendent Carmona introduced the new Administrators to the district, which included the following:
In attendance:

- Jocelyn Marte - SCALE
- Paula O'Sullivan – Interim Coordinator of STEM Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- Sarah Wahl – Interim Principal, Healey School
- Announced names of other new admins not present:
 - *Joel Villegas - Assistant Principal, Elm House, SHS*
 - *Wendy Roberge - Special Education Dept. Head – WSNS and Healey*
 - *Laura Walley - Special Education Dept. Head - AIM program*
 - *Jane O'Reilly - Special Education Dept. Head - Kennedy*
 - *Marianna Stewart - Special Education Dept. Head - ESCS and SHS*

- *Jene Riley - Out of School Time Manager of Programs & Partnerships*

The Committee recessed at 7:21p.m. to acknowledge and celebrate new administrators, and returned at 7:29 p.m.

- WHCIS and Edgerly Facilities Updates

Dr. Carmona started the WHCIS update with some details for families but he first wanted to reiterate gratitude for the collaborative spirit between staff and stakeholders. He thanked Tuft University for their support for our staff and students and also offered heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Winter Hill staff for once again navigating building moves.

There has been tremendous work done in the Edgerly inside and outside since mid-July. Thank you to Suffolk Construction who has been working extended hours including weekends to have the Edgerly ready for our students to start school on Wednesday August 30, 2023. Just wanted to be clear that even though work was done in an expedited timeline, we in no way sacrificed quality for expediency. The teams are qualified and skilled and have done incredible work over the last few weeks.

- Winter Hill Community School will now be physically located in two buildings -- at the Capuano and Edgerly. Principal Gosselin and her team are working hard to make sure all students feel like they part of the Wildcat Family.
- WHCIS Administration and Specialists will provide support at both buildings.
- The Edgerly exterior has been repaved and converted to a large open play space with murals.
- Working with ESCS for access to their outdoor play areas for students at Edgerly.
- Transportation –as of last week, we have secured transportation from and to 115 Sycamore St. Due to limited number of seats, students will be selected based on eligibility beginning on Friday. Our goal is to accommodate as many students as possible but addressing family needs is the most critical component as of now.

Mayor Ballantyne -- Welcomed Dr. Carmona as the new SPS Superintendent and expressed appreciation for the partnership and collaboration that has been brought to the district from day one. Acknowledged that the last couple of months have not been easy for families and students at Winter Hill. Also noted that she was excited to share that school for Winter Hill students and staff will begin on Wednesday August 30, 2023, at their new location. Noted that our teams are working on completing final tasks to ensure we are ready to welcome students. In nine weeks, we were able to mobilize city resources to move 430 students and staff to two new buildings. Noted that an incident command structure comprised of a team of 30 people was activated to oversee and support planning and implementation efforts for the Winter Hill's move to their new temporary sites, including food service, transportation, mobility, recreation and after school programing. All Building updates will be available on <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/schools/winter-hill-community-innovation-school/winter-hill-community-innovation-school-updates>.

Mayor Ballantyne also noted that work on the K-8 Master Planning has continued as we have been working on moving students to their temporary spaces, and assessing the WHCIS at the Sycamore building. In spite of our need to close 115 Sycamore to deal with the remediation, we have continued to make progress. SPS and Capital Project teams have completed a detailed review of the district-wide enrollment study, performed an in-depth evaluation of special education and enrollment trends, which will help us to forecast needs district-wide and at the WHCIS. Engineers and architects have completed their broader structural evaluation of the Winter Hill building. Are currently using data to provide conceptual designs for a range of options of renovations, additions, or total reconstruction of the Sycamore Street side. They are in the process of preparing these reports for our review. Expect to see those results in September. This is all the baseline information from which we will select a design team, establish a school building committee, and then continue into what the MSBA calls the feasibility study. We are on track to move to these next phases this fall. We are committed to engaging our school families and community in discussions to help guide our decisions. Our community will be helping to shape the future of our schools that serve them.

Mr. Rich Raiche - Shared information about 115 Sycamore St. and indicated that we do not have a final report but do have results back on the second round of testing. The initial round revealed asbestos in concrete in stairwells, that we were not expecting. On Monday, August 7, we closed the WH school out of an abundance of caution. After the building was closed, consultant reentered the school and did additional testing throughout the school. The reason we

had the concern is that we had a structural consultant as well. The act of that testing on that material raised concerns. We reentered the building on August 10th and did 3 types of sampling: air sampling all came back negative - all within normal air quality standards; swab samples of dust throughout the building all came back negative as well. If there had been a release of asbestos and if it had settled out, it would be present in the dust. All of those dust samples came back negative. There is no evidence that the testing created a release. All of those tests are by professionals in the field certified by OSHA and EPA and DEP. We filed for an emergency waiver from the state DEP to immediately go in and abate those areas there were disturbed. We received that and we have been working on that abatement in those stairwells ever since. The other good piece of news out of the secondary testing are bulk samples. We went in and did additional bulk sample testing and it's not all the concrete throughout the entire building. It is specific to the stairwells and some columns. The same company that did that testing is accompanying the abatement contractor and verifying that their abatement work is in fact taking care of any of the disturbed areas and encapsulating the material. Will have a full and final report once all this work is done.

Questions/Comments

Acting Chair Krepchin - You talked about the report and there being exciting news. How are you planning on sharing it with the community? Mr. Raiche - As of now what we have is raw data. When we get to the end of the remediation, we will have more of a narrative that is digestible.

Mr. Green - Can you give a vague timeline for when the end of the remediation will be and the building may be available? Mr. Raiche - Contractors anticipate about 2 more weeks of work.

Ms. Pitone - Abatement work is in progress and then the intention is to continue to do this evaluation in terms of whether to continue to use this space, renovate this space, but we have to renovate first, is that correct? Mr. Raiche – Yes, that is correct.

Dr. Phillips- We got this great encouraging letter from the MSBA. Where are we in the process of getting the onsite meeting, the tour? Mr. Raiche - Jackie Piques and I had a good meeting with them on Friday. Tentatively scheduling the next step – what they call the senior study – in late September.

Ms. Pitone – It was very encouraging to see the letter saying that they are moving forward at least to the next step. So, implying from this that we did not receive something like this about the Brown. Mr. Raiche – At our meeting on Friday, they have not formally advanced the Brown to what is called a senior study, however, we are tacking on a site visit to the Brown after the Winter Hill visit.

Mr. Green - Historically each municipality is allowed one building at a time. Have you had conversations with MSBA about both buildings being funded? Mr. Raiche – Generally, it's true that no community has had more than one school funded, with the exception of Boston. They are a very large district.

Ms. Pitone - At what point would a timeline for the K-8 Master Plan work be shared. Mr. Raiche - Wouldn't anticipate having a full final report with graphics until the end of September.

Ms. Pitone - Trying to understand; we have two buildings with challenges but this Master Plan work is across the district. I recognize these things will be related but from my perspective it seems that they are two different projects. Dr. Carmona - It is hard to separate Winter Hill and the Brown School as separate units. There is not a solution that fixes one or the other without responding to the needs of the entire district.

Mr. Green - You said some of this is a trigger for staff right now. As for the to-do list, from the perspective of someone studying or working in school, what will you see as incomplete? Mr. Raiche - Most are internal and are not very noticeable. The handrails on the new concrete steps at the main entrance are temporary because they need to be measured and fabricated. We will place final handrails.

Dr. Phillips – Anything else about envelope or structural issues that we haven't said yet but still need to be addressed?

Mr. Raiche – Roof – not something that we can do occupied. Will also need to do some upgrades to electrical systems. Again, not something we can do while it's occupied; perhaps summer or winter break to start chipping away

at that. What was known as the Boxing Club is still not integrated. There is work that, if Winter Hill stays there for a longer duration, we may want to activate that space for other uses. Not a publicly accessed area right now.

Mr. Green - directed his question to Dr. Carmona: To do all this work, we have had to move a lot of people. Have we publicly communicated to the school community where people can be found in the district? Where is the x and y office that used to be located in Edgerly? How do we let people know that? Dr. Carmona - Everyone was moved to the TAB. There might be some SFLC groups also creating other spaces, but everyone is in the TAB. How are we communicating that?

Mayor Ballantyne added that emails are the same and the telephones have been routed. It's just the physical location. I assume that possibly in the next newsletter would be a great start for notifications.

Jackie Piques - There are several ways. District newsletter will start next week. Direct emails and potentially phone calls, but it is planned with the start of school to let everyone know.

Mr. Mazza – Shared that as we started this transition, there were several front-facing departments that needed to continue operating without disruptions. Departments have been communicating where they were temporarily located and where they were moving to. The Enrollment Office moved to the East Somerville Community School temporarily (as did Finance and Payroll), but are now at the TAB. Same with SFLC.

Mr. Green – As a follow-up, I know we have paid high rent for space in the TAB. Is Tufts doing us a solid? Mr. Raiche – The additional rent is only for the new spaces where SPS moved in. The areas where we were already occupied, the terms of the previous agreement still stand. Will be bringing to City Council next week as the Tufts agreement is finalized.

Ms. Pitone – Acknowledged flexibility of staff in centering our students and staff, despite the disruptions to their work environment.

Acting Chair Krepchin – Recommended that someone videotape the Open House tours and post video online for families who may not be able to attend.

Mr. Green – Once Edgerly fully up to speed, there will be things that we did not foresee. Asking for report at next meeting for report of how building is going once it's in full use.

- Class Rank Update

Dr. Carmona - This is a more instructional focus. Salem High School leadership has also been working on this over past 2 years. He is coming new into this and part of the question has been to bring this to the School Committee, to share the proposal. Basically, supporting our goals around the whole child, equity, and college and career readiness. The Class Rank process creates a lot of perceptions around deficit especially around groups of population who don't have access to the class rank process, like our MLs and students receiving special education services, and students who are in the CTE track. There are different reasons why this concept about class rank also has connotations that are limiting for most of our populations. 100% of the counselors in the school support this idea of eliminating the class rank. Research the team has done around colleges and with schools in our vicinity that don't use class rank. SHS leadership felt strongly about this proposal. High School principal Alicia Kersten is here to address any questions regarding the proposal.

Questions/Comments

Acting Chair Krepchin - This has been before Ed Programs but has not been before full School Committee. Is this something we will be expected to vote on, or more informational?

Dr. Phillips - Decision last year was that this does not require a full School Committee vote, they just want to make us aware.

Principal Kersten - In doing the research – and huge shout-out to our Director of College and Career Readiness, Ms. Kessler for leading this work -- we found everybody strongly in favor of eliminating class rank, but more research to

be done around the weighted grades. Related, but we are seeing them as two separate things.

Mayor Ballantyne - I haven't read this package, but what I don't understand is how it works in the outside world. Is class rank determined when you apply to college? Principal Kersten – Part of the process that Ms. Kessler did was interviewing 19 colleges, and all of them said that it wouldn't impact. They know that some schools no longer calculate. It should not impact a student's chance to get into a college or not because they know that the school does not calculate class rank. Several schools around us do not classify, including Cambridge Rindge and Latin, for similar reasons to the reasons we want to.

Chair Krepchin - Do the schools that have stopped seen a negative impact? Principal Kersten - I don't know that.

Dr. Phillips - Can you speak to how class rank negatively impacts Special Education and ELL students? Principal Kersten – Great case study in the slides. Because ELL students must take double blocks of ELL, they will never be able to reach the top even if all their other classes are AP, because ELL classes are not weighted equally.

Ms. Pitone – Thank Principal Kersten and state that this has been a conversation for years, since before the new high school building. I'm excited and I want to clarify if people who are watching don't know, this wouldn't happen until our current 10th graders are seniors.

Principal Kersten - We were hoping it would be with this year's juniors, but it got delayed. We are still calculating class rank for juniors and seniors but we are manually setting sophomores to 0. By the time they are seniors we can just not have it reported instead of seeing a zero there.

Chair Krepchin: CTE students, the ranking is also not accurate or fair? Principal Kersten - Yes, I like how Dr. Carmona put it, it is an arbitrary measure of success and it's not fair.

Dr. Carmona: We talk about equity in these real moments. Learning a new language is not a deficit, it is a new skill and yet you are penalized. The other implication that is detrimental to Special Education is that there are also classes that develop basic skills and limit access to AP Calculus. And students respond to expectations: They take AP Calculus because it's what's expected, not because it's what they want to choose, like music, but the system tells them it's not a good option. This does not mean that we will lower academic rigor. When I talk to the HS principal, it is very personal to me. Supporting children is giving them the tools to access higher learning. Even if class rank is not part of what we use to determine academic rigor, we want to ensure that all children are career and college ready.

Ms. Barish – Grateful for slides and appreciate work gone into this. Look forward to hearing more about what would happen with weighted GPA. Also, there were a couple of slide saying, should there be a Valedictorian? Curious what other criteria could be used to choose to represent their class at graduation. Was thinking about the Highlander Habits. Having participated in the accreditation, was really impressed and wondered if that could be part of what helps decide what student would represent their class at graduation if in fact, a Valedictorian was no longer a thing. Looks forward to seeing where this goes and how this work can develop to better serve our students in the district.

Ms. Pitone – Curious – can you share a little bit about the thoughts or concerns around the weighted GPA. I know there's still some research to be done. Ms. Kersten – Part of the reason we tabled it is when Ms. Kessler was interviewing students, there was a strong feeling of this idea of when you're taking on more of a challenge, of deserving to get a little more. We haven't unpacked that and I think we need to do a lot more research, and we really wanted to value the voice of the students in our decision. It wasn't as clear among the student population that that was an easy one to get rid of right away. We're thinking through it and I think we need to do more investigation, more focus groups with students. The truth is that colleges do their own re-weighting of the classes on transcripts.

Chair Krepchin - Thank you for taking into consideration what students are saying. Looking forward to hearing more about this in the future.

- Community Schools Update

Mr. Mazza shared the community school update presentation linked below.

Questions/Comments

Ms. Barish - In the past, there have been questions about whether we have enough SPACE for students, whether we can get the staff? Mr. Mazza - If we get the staff, we will find space. We have been talking to our principals. These are our students and we need to keep our doors open.

Dr. Phillips - We have heard reports from Community School staff that a barrier to hiring is the platform. Is there any talk about using a different platform, maybe the same one that the recreation department uses? Mr. Mazza - Yes, one problem is that when we send ads on Indeed and people say yes, they also have to apply on Talent Ed. So we are asking people to apply twice. So we seek to simplify. We ask them to do twice the amount of work to apply for one thing. Looking at that collectively as a whole.

Ms. Barish – One program already in place, El Sistema, has heard that people want their children to attend but they need to find a way to get there. Could the transportation situation be improved in any way? Mr. Mazza - If there is space, we should have children enroll. I know there's this thing about how certain children get transportation and others don't. If there is a space available on the MLE bus, they can take it. However, I don't know if we can even do that other than the MLE bus.

Ms. Barish asked for a more detailed answer on transportation. Mr. Mazza - We have three Multilingual Education buses that go to Argenziano, East, or Winter Hill. If a student at WH is in El Sistema, and there is an open seat on the bus, the school checks with the MLE Dept. and then that student can ride the bus. There is no specific bus for El Sistema, it is just a run that they are doing and a student may, if there is space and it's allowed, get on that bus.

Dr. Phillips: I'm getting a lot of emails about the Community Schools waitlist at Argenziano. Given our communication challenges in the past, what type of communication will be sent to families who are still on the waitlist at this time and when should they expect to hear back? Mr. Mazza - Argenziano is short four teachers, so 52 students. They have 29 on the waitlist. I will talk with Director Paribello to make sure there is a communication sent out before school starts, which would have to be tomorrow.

Chair Krepchin: Just to clarify, if we hire the 4 teachers at Argenziano, that would be more capacity than the current waitlist? Mr. Mazza - yes

Mr. Mazza added that he can come back at the end of September with another update. Maybe we can have a rolling monthly update for Community School to share how the hiring process is going.

Ms. Pitone - I appreciate the capacity increase, but I'd like to highlight a few important points. The team is aware of critical issues. Specifically, when we compare Argenziano, with 89 students, to Brown, a smaller school with 105 students, we need to ensure equitable access to programming. While I understand that this may require additional staff, it's crucial to address this concern. Insufficient staff leads to fewer applicants and doesn't accurately represent demand on the waiting list. This issue applies to Community Schools and associated programs as well. I want to bring this up because voters have raised it, and while I don't want to take away seats from Brown, we need to strive for more balanced ratios across our schools.

- School Readiness

Mr. Mazza shared School Readiness buildings look fantastic. He raised the point that our schools are highly programmed during the summer, making it challenging to perform cleaning and maintenance tasks. However, thanks to our partnership with DPW, we have managed to ensure that all buildings are prepared for students by Wednesday August 30, 2023. If any issues arise, we have a 311 reporting system for immediate resolution, ensuring that classrooms are fully functional.

Dr. Carmona: Another aspect of readiness is focused on professional development. At Lynch Academy, principals returned a week early to kickstart this process, emphasizing the importance of centering instruction in everything we do and aligning with critical initiatives. We're also providing strong support for our 80 new teachers through a robust induction program. Last week, we held two sessions with all district leaders to discuss our instructional priorities

On the infrastructure front, the Mayor and I have discussed the importance of preventing situations like the Winter Hill or Edgerly incidents from happening in the future. We're examining our approach, aiming to be proactive, and ensuring the 311 process is clear. I've had the opportunity to visit buildings alongside Mike Bowler and Chad Mazza, and I'm highly impressed. Having worked in three districts, I've never seen this level of attention. It's clear that the leadership, including the Mayor, is fully committed to avoiding neglect and reactive measures with our beautiful buildings.

I want to express gratitude to the City and the Mayor for their proactive involvement in this matter. It's crucial that we closely monitor the 311 reports. From a systems perspective, I believe we've made great strides, considering the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Dr. Carmona shared the district report:

Notes-Superintendent's Update: *School Committee Mtg – Monday, August 28, 2023*

I am excited to start the 2023-2024 school year in Somerville Public Schools. I am grateful for the incredible school and central office staff who have welcomed me aboard. Somerville is a vibrant and engaged community that supports schools and I look forward to a year of working closely with the school committee, staff, teachers, families, and the community.

Winter Hill Community Innovation School Transitions

The effort to transition the Winter Hill students, as well as Central Administrative staff, to new facilities has been an on-going and intense collaboration between city and schools. We meet regularly with our partners from other City departments —

particularly DPW, Infrastructure and Asset Management, Capital Projects, Inspectional Services, Mobility, and Communications and Community Engagement. Central office and Winter Hill leadership have worked tirelessly this summer to provide the best outcomes for Winter Hill students and staff, and to stay in close communication with the community. Please visit somervillema.gov/whcis for updates about the building process and information for families of students attending Winter Hill.

Yearly Student Information Updates

Families are encouraged to look out for an email from the Enrollment Office through our Powerschool online registration portal. Every fall, we ask that families update vital information about each of their students, including allergy and medical information, family contact details, and a list of people authorized to pick up students in grades 4 and under. Filling out the form may also allow families to qualify for benefits, like fee waivers and other services. This process takes around 15 minutes for each student. Thank you to the Enrollment Office team and our IT department for their work on Yearly Student Information Updates. A particular shout-out to Enrollment Specialist Nancy Holmes for her hard work collaborating with our vendor, our internal technology staff, and administrative staff to prepare this process.

Summer Programming

Somerville Public Schools had another successful year of free summer programming, meeting the out-of-school time needs of almost 1200 students. Coordinators Dayshawn Simmons and Mary Ann Cloutier created a single-point-of-entry application for all SPS summer programs that was shared on the SPS website and through student- and family-facing staff with parents and guardians. Programming included traditional summer school that kept students at grade-level, but most of our programming was enrichment programming. These engaging and educational programs included The Calculus Project, student-developed robotics programming for middle grades and English language learners, music programming for 3rd - 8th graders, orientation to Somerville High School for rising 9th graders, middle grades career and technical education programming and more. Thank you to Dayshawn and Maryann for their hard work and a big shout-out to the educators, staff (including administrators and nurses) who worked so hard to make this summer a success for so many of our students.

NEASC Accreditation

Somerville High School continues to work toward renewing their formal accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. SHS staff worked through an intensive Self-Reflection period, hosted an assessment

conducted by a visiting team of professional educators. The team reviewed materials prepared by the faculty, visited classes, and spoke with students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members. The Self-Reflection document written by SHS staff will be available for viewing soon on the SPS website. The assessment team of educators from NEASC will return in 2025 to observe how their recommendations have been adapted across the school. Thank you to Principal Kersten and Lisa Brewster-Cook for managing this important process.

Upcoming Half Days and School Holidays

Students in grades 1-12 start school with a half-day on Wednesday, August 30. Thursday, August 31st is a full day for students in grades 1-12. All SPS schools will be closed on Friday, September 1; district offices will be open that day. All schools and district offices will be closed on Monday, September 4 in honor of Labor Day. Tuesday, September 5 is the first day of the school year for students starting prekindergarten and kindergarten. Prekindergarten students will end their school day early for their first 4 days of school. September 13 will be a half-day for all district students.

Shout Out

Shout out to the 2023 graduates of the dual enrollment program between Somerville High School and Cambridge College. They are Julissa C., Javory Clergeau, Marco De Toledo, Jaslene Jean Francois, Anders Haugesag, Kayala Nayak, Shital Oli, and Laura Garcia Yanes.

Since 2019, students at Somerville High School have enrolled at Cambridge College as juniors and seniors to earn up to 12 free college credits that they carry with them to college. The Early College program is designed to promote access to higher education among students from traditionally marginalized backgrounds. Twice a week, students are transported to Cambridge College, in Charlestown, for classes like Engineering, World History, and Digital Storytelling. In addition to our 8 graduates, 19 juniors took part in the program last year.

Thank you to Director of College & Career Readiness, Melanie Kessler and other members of the Somerville High School team for developing and expanding this program. Learn more about this program and our recent graduates on our website.

Questions/Comments

Chair Krepchin - In the past we have gotten a detailed presentation about the summer program. Should we expect one this year? Mr. Mazza – Yes, scheduled for next month.

B. Personnel Report

- July and August 2023

Welcome 80 new staff, processed 250 new applications, 15 administrator positions, 81 teachers, and 31 new paraprofessionals. It been a busy hiring season. Just wanted to highlight that all teachers and paraprofessionals new to SPS will be partnered with a mentor who will be there to help support them and learn the most important elements to successfully perform their jobs. This will be the first year that all of our Paraprofessionals will have a mentor. All teachers new to SPS will need to attend a 6-hour PD between September and December.

Ms. Barish - Had the pleasure of welcoming the new hires last week, and the energy was very pleasant. It was a pleasure to have been there.

Chair Krepchin - Looks like we did a lot of hiring, but wondering how many vacancies we still have. Dr. Carmona - I do not have those numbers yet, but I can bring that to our next meeting. We are still trying to figure out where our retention stands.

V. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: June 29, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

Tabled.

VI. New Business

A. Vote on School Committee officers- Chair and Vice Chair

The next item up for business was the election of the Chairperson of the School Committee for the remainder of the year 2023. The floor was opened for nominations.

Ms. Barish nominated Ilana Krepchin for Chairperson, which was seconded by Dr. Phillips.

With no further nominations made, Acting Chair Krepchin entertained a motion to close the nominations. Mayor Ballantyne made that motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone. Closing of nominations for Chair passed unanimously via voice vote.

Acting Chair Krepchin called for a roll call vote on the nomination for School Committee Chairperson for the remainder of the year 2023. EA-absent; **KB-Y; LP-Y**; AG-absent; SD-absent; **EB-Y; President EC-Y; IK-Y; SP-Y**; motion passes 6-0

The next order of business was the election of the Vice Chairperson of the School Committee for the remainder of the year 2023. The floor was opened for nominations.

Ms. Pitone nominated Dr. Sarah Phillips for Vice Chairperson, which was seconded by Ms. Barish.

With no further nominations made, Chair Krepchin entertained a motion to close the nominations. Mayor Ballantyne made that motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone. Closing of nominations for Vice Chair passed unanimously via voice vote.

Chair Krepchin called for a roll call vote on the nomination for School Committee Vice Chairperson for the remainder of the year 2023. EA-absent; **KB-Y; LP-Y**; AG-absent; SD-absent; **EB-Y; President EC-Y; IK-Y; SP-Y**; motion passes 6-0

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

MOTION: there was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Dr. Phillips to accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools, listed below:

Private

Several of our educators were awarded grants from the BU Consortium. Below is a summary of the awarded proposals:

Educator(s)	Grant Proposal Title	Amount Awarded
Jessica Howard	Color Perceptions	\$ 4,925.00
Cristian Medina	Helping multilingual learners to adapt and engage in the Science classroom by encouraging them to do their work in their native language	\$ 5,000.00
Claudia Seara-Galvez	Young Egyptologists in Action	\$ 375.00
Rosemary Sears	Mallet Instruction for Elementary Percussionists	\$ 3,000.00
Brenda Le Blanc Jaster Caeli Gallitano	Critically Examining Texts Through the Lens of Equity in the SPS Curriculum	\$ 5,000.00

The motion was approved unanimously via voice call vote.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone noted that it was brought to her attention at city council that there is a possible change of schedule for the chiller at the Kennedy School. The original plan was to put in a new cooling system for spring of 2024. Asking for a formal update.

VIII. CONDOLENCES

The Somerville School Committee extends its deepest condolences to the families of:

- **Louise P. (Phelan) Gilblair**, Retired Principal Clerk 2 at Somerville High School
- **Evelyn LeSage**, Mother of Michele Clingan, Principal Account Clerk of Community Schools Program
- **John "Fred" O'Meara** retired Principal of the East Somerville Community Schools
- **Dominic P. Calioro**, Brother of Peter Calioro, Custodian at East Somerville Community School and brother-in-law to Carlie Calioro, Counselor Educator at East Somerville Community School

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned 9:10 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

[Community Schools Update](#)

School Readiness

Personnel Report

Submitted by: E. Garcia

ATTACH DOCUMENTS STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 28, 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:
somerillema.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 the Zoom**:

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r9_7wmf-R4CXUaXmKdZb-Q

Meeting ID: 896 7685 5794

Password: 141516

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 supports 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 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 5Y22 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 22, 2023
- June 12, 2023

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – In person or via Zoom

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

https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r9_7wmf-R4CXUaXmKdZb-Q

Meeting ID: 896 7685 5794

Password: 141516

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- New Administrative Staff Introductions
- WHCIS and Edgerly Facilities Updates
- Class Rank Update
- Community Schools Update
- School Readiness

B. Personnel Report

- July and August 2023

V. Report of Subcommittees

A. Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole: June 29, 2023 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the Special Personnel Meeting of the Whole of June 29, 2023.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vote on School Committee Officers – Chair and Vice Chair

B. 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:

Private

Several of our educators were awarded grants from the BU Consortium. Below is a summary of the awarded proposals:

Educator(s)	Grant Proposal Title	Amount Awarded
Jessica Howard	Color Perceptions	\$ 4,925.00
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Claudia Seara-Galvez	Young Egyptologists in Action	\$ 375.00
Rosemary Sears	Mallet Instruction for Elementary Percussionists	\$ 3,000.00
Brenda Le Blanc Jaster Caelli Gallitano	Critically Examining Texts Through the Lens of Equity in the SPS Curriculum	\$ 5,000.00

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VIII. CONDOLENCES

IX. 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 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/webinar/register/WN_r9_7wmf-R4CXUaXmKdZb-Q

Identificación de la reunión: 896 7685 5794

Contraseña: 141516

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

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 selecione

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

Para **ouvir 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/webinar/register/WN_r9_7wmf-R4CXUaXmKdZb-Q

ID da reunião: 896 7685 5794

Senha: 141516

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/webinar/register/WN_r9_7wmf-R4CXUaXmKdZb-Q

Reyinyon ID: 896 7685 5794

Modpas: 141516

Somerville Public Schools
 Education • Inspiration • Excellence
 PERSONNEL REPORT
 2023-2024 School Year
 July 2023

RESIGNATION FOR PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT:				
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS OF SERVICE
WHCIS	Grade 2 Teacher	Maureen Cronin	07/31/22	26 years
ESCS	Grade 5 UNIDOS	Fernando Cantillo	10/11/22	9 years
Central Office/SFLC	Director of SFLC	Nomi Davidson	02/01/23	31 years
SHS/CTE	Business Teacher - CTE	Debra Allen	06/30/23	25 years
Food Services	FT Utility Aide	William Brown	01/11/23	20 years
FC/NW/SHS	School Nurse	William Bingay	06/30/23	25 years
WSNS	Senior Clerk	Dignora Diaz	03/01/23	26 years
ESCS	Interim Principal	Samaria C. Hashem	06/30/23	2 years
WSNS	Grade 1 Teacher	Kathleen Hern	06/30/23	34 Years
BR	Grade 3 Teacher	Patricia Creedon	06/30/23	25 years
SHS/CTE	Social Studies Teacher	Everett Roscoe	09/27/23	27 years
Central Office/HR	HR Administrative Assistant	Patricia Difraia	06/30/23	23 years
FC/NW	Paraprofessional	Maria DeCastro	06/16/23	11 years
RESIGNATION NOTICES:				
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	
AFAS	Grade 6 Teacher	Aisha Banda	06/30/23	
AFAS	Counselor/Educator	Jacqueline Brown	08/01/23	
AFAS		Leah Jaenicke	06/30/23	
CAP	School Building Substitute Teacher	Shayla Lemmons	06/16/23	
ESCS	Senior Clerk	Katy Matos	06/30/23	
ESCS	Library Aide	Marlena Alleva	06/30/23	
ESCS	Library Aide	Wendy Whoriskey	06/16/23	
HLY	School Principal	Mary Ellen Cobbs	06/30/23	
SCALE	Interim Director of Continuing Education	Corinna Horton	06/30/23	
SCALE	ABE Education & Career Counselor	Clara Serpa	08/04/23	
SCALE	PT ELL Level 4 Teacher - Evening	Anthony Ragucci	06/06/23	
SFLC	Playgroup facilitator	Stacy Minicucci	06/29/23	
SFLC	Playgroup facilitator	Marla Wessland	06/13/23	
SHS	Physics Teacher	Charlotte Lindblom	06/30/23	
SHS	Head Golf Coach	Brian O'Donovan	06/13/23	
SHS	Resource Room Paraprofessional	Molly Hunter	06/16/23	
SHS	Assistant Principal - MLE Community (Elm)	Yahaira-Maria Frier	06/30/23	
SHS	Biology Teacher	Maria Harris	06/30/23	
SHS	World Languages Teacher	Naima Sait	06/15/23	
SHS	Chemistry Teacher	Zachary Anderson	06/30/23	
WHCIS	Speech & Language Pathologist	AC Goldberg	06/15/23	
WHCIS	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Madeline McDonald	08/09/23	
WHCIS	SPED AIM Teacher	Brittany McEwen	08/09/23	
WHCIS	Speech Language Pathologist	Ames Shillue-Goldberg	06/15/23	
WSNS	Utility Aide	Richard Johnstin	06/15/23	
ASSIGNMENT ENDED:				

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE		
SHS	Teacher-Resources Room-Math	Dawn Dunleavy	06/16/23		
LEAVES OF ABSENCES:					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATES		
SHS	Social Studies Teacher	Amina Sheikh	10/19/23-04/04/24		
SHS	Science Teacher - Secondary Classroom	Sogoli Sadraeinouri	05/26/23-06/26/23		
WSNS	Spanish Teacher	Katie Whitton	08/28/23-06/28/24		
INTRA-DISTRICT PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	REASON	VICE	EFFECTIVE DATE
AFAS	Provisional Resource Room Teacher	Jamie Ballerini	Location Change Only	New/K.Dickson	08/28/23
AFAS	MLE Paraprofessional	Paula Chavez	Reassignment	N/A	08/28/23
AFAS	Grade 2 & 5 SEIP Paraprofessional	Yvette Morales	Reassignment	Jessika Ludugero	08/28/23
AFAS	Resource Room Teacher	Katarina Keown	Reassignment	Lisa Spagnuolo	08/28/23
AFAS	Grade 1 SEI Teacher	Diana Young	New Assignment	New	08/28/23
AFAS	Grade 2 SEI Integrated Teacher	Molly Harrington	Temp to Perm	Leah Jaenicke	08/28/23
AFAS	Provisional Grade 3 Teacher	Tahlia Brazdaluz	New Assignment	Angela Rodriguez	08/28/23
AFAS	Grade 1 SEIP Paraprofessional	Maria Rosa	Reassignment	N/A	08/28/23
AFAS	Kindergarten SEI Paraprofessional	Jessika Ludugero	Reassignment	Yvette Morales	08/28/23
BR	Grade 3 Teacher	Alexandra Chase	Reassignment	Patricia Creedon	08/28/23
BR	General Music Teacher	Cayla Puglisi	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
BR	School Nurse	Nancy Smith	Location Change Only	Wendy Dixon	08/28/23
CAP	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Luisa Pleitez	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
CAP	Board Certified Behavioral Analyst	Jennifer Hayward	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
CAP	SPED Pre-K AIM Teacher	Jessica DaSilva	Reassignment	N/A	08/28/23
CAP	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Lauren Ellis	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
CAP	Sub-Separate Teacher	Caterina MacDonald	Reassignment/Coverison	N/A	08/28/23
CAP	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Julia Ashe	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
CAP	Sub-Separate Teacher	Ashley Eisnor	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
CAP	SPED Paraprofessional	Louise Casparriello	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
Central Office	Director of Educator Development	Christopher Glynn	Temp to Perm	Karen Woods	08/28/23
Central Office	Director for Equity and Excellence	Caeli Gallitano	Interim to Perm	Jessica Boston Davis	07/01/23
Central Office	Chief of Staff	Susanna Morgan	Interim to Perm	Jeff Curley	07/01/23
Central Office	Assistant Superintendent of Operations	Chad Mazza	Interim to Perm	New	07/01/23
Central Office	Assistant Superintendent of Academics	Jessica Boston Davis	Interim to Perm	Chad Mazza	07/01/23
Comm Schools	FT SPED Lead Teacher	Daniel Louis	Reassignment	New	08/30/23
District Wide	Grades K-8 Health Teacher	Robert Allen	Reassignment	Michelle Arria	08/28/23
District Wide	K-8 Curriculum Coordinator of Humanities	Kathleen Seward	New Assignment	New	07/01/23
District Wide	K-12, Supervisor of Art	May Chau	Interim to Perm	N/A	07/01/23
District Wide	K-12, Supervisor of Health and Physical Education	Nicole Viele	Interim to Perm	Sheila Freitas-Haley	07/01/23
District Wide	IEP Team Leader	Allen Barillaro	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
District Wide	Reading Specialist	Meghan Clohosey	Location Change Only	New	08/28/23
ESCS/NW	Provisional Spanish Teacher	Haydee Delgado	Same Position	Diana Santiago Acevedo	08/28/23
ESCS	School Nurse	Jennifer DeOliveira-Souza	Location Change Only	Nydia Woods	08/28/23
ESCS	School Nurse	Nora Marie Murphy	Location Change	Patrick Reinold	08/28/23
ESCS	Grade 6 UNIDOS Teacher - ELA/SLA	Samantha Jensen	New Assignment	Elizabeth Roberts	08/28/23
ESCS	Temporary Gade 8 Math Teacher	Parama Chattopadhyay	New Assignment	Scott Weaver - LOA	11/17/22
FC	School Based Social Worker	Lucia De Rosa	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
FC	Paraprofessional	Derrick Washington	New Assignment	Maria DeCastro	08/28/23
NW/FC	School Nurse	Lynne Chamallas	Location Change Only	William Bingay	08/28/23

HLY/WSNS	School Nurse	Nydia Woods	Location Change Only	Lynne Chamallas	08/28/23
HLY/WSNS	SPED Department Chair	Wendy Roberge	Temp to Perm	New	07/01/23
KEN	Principal	Steven Marshall	Interim to Perm	Mark Hurrie	07/01/23
SHS	Building Substitute Teacher	Talylor Byrne	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
SHS	Social Studies Teacher	Amina Sheikh	Interim to Perm	David Dipietro	08/28/23
SHS	Math Teacher, STEAM Course Instructor and Lead Mentor	Lauren Peters	K. Dickson/Conversion	N/A	08/28/23
SHS	Life Skill Paraprofessional	Khavala Macken-Frazier	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
SHS	Assistant Principal - Beacon Community	Doreen Ward	Interim to Perm	N/A	07/01/23
SHS	School Nurse: SHIP/LIFE/Transition Programs	Carli Eldridge	Reassignment	Nancy Smith	08/28/23
SHS	Social Studies	Anais Rivero	Temp to Perm - Reassignment	Everett Roscoe	08/28/23
SHS	Provisional Dean of Students	Ricardo Bonhomme	Interim to Provisional	N/A	08/28/23
WHCIS	Provisional Speech & Language Pathologist	Brynnan Rothschild-Shea	Continue in same position	N/A	08/23/23
WHCIS	Bilingual Adjustment Counselor - Portuguese	Karina Ribeiro	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
WHCIS	Occupational Therapist	John McDonough	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
WSNS	Provisional Grade 3 Teacher	Susan Gardner	Reassignment	Stephen Hughes	08/28/23
WSNS	School Nurse	Wendy Dixon	Location Change Only	Jennifer Souza	08/28/23
WSNS	1st Grade Teacher	Jane Gardner	Location Change	Kathleen Herr	

NEW HIRES					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	VICE	DUAL/SEI	EFFECTIVE DATE
AFAS	School Adjustment Counselor - Bilingual	Mercia Pianas	New	No/No	08/28/23
AFAS	Reading Specialist	Kate Briggs	Clohosey/S. Zavaloff	No/Yes	08/28/23
AFAS	Provisional Grade 2 ELL SEI Teacher	Sarah Wendel (rehire)	Halley Snelling	No/No	08/28/23
AFAS	Provisional MLE Grade 1 Paraprofessional	Ana Cortez	Paula Chavez	No/Yes	06/12/23
AFAS	LTS: Grade 3 SEI Teacher	Emma Dejesus	Angela Rodriguez	No/No	05/23/23
AFAS	School Counselor	Ryan Healy	Jacqueline Brown	No/No	08/28/23
AFAS	ESL Specialist	Margaret Simeone	E. Amero/E. Engle	No/Yes	08/28/23
BR	Grade 4 Teacher	Mark Servello	Alexandra Chase	No/Yes	08/28/23
CAP	Speech & Language Pathologist	Alyssa Mignone	T. Jeng/H. Jones	No/No	08/28/23
Central Office	Assistant Director of MLE Programs	Gladys Valle	Cora Jeyadame	No/Yes	07/01/23
Comm Schools	PT Lead Teacher	Anastasia Brennan (Rehire)	Michelle Ambilia	No/No	08/30/23
Comm Schools	PT Assistant Teacher	Devin Baxter (rehire)	Phillip Murray	No/No	06/06/21
Comm Schools	High School Helper	Jacquelin Medrano	N/A	No/No	03/20/23
Comm Schools	High School Helper	Leonardo Fuentes	N/A	No/No	03/27/23
District Wide	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Hannah Kusnitz	N/A	No/No	08/30/23
District Wide	Technology Specialist/Trainer	Arbens Lesy	Kayla O'Brien	No/Yes	06/06/23
District Wide	ESL Specialist	Isabela Perea	New/D. Young	No/No	08/28/23
District Wide	IEP Team Leader	Marissa Ninni	Kyra Knox	Yes/Yes	08/28/23
District Wide	Intermittent Substitute Teacher	Emily Varice	N/A	No/No	05/23/23
District Wide	Resource Room Teacher	John Haverty	Auriana Musselman	No/No	08/28/23
District Wide	Provisional Itinerant Speech and Language Pathologist	Elizabeth Dean	New	No/No	08/28/23
ESCS	Principal	Berenice Mace-Diaz	Samaria Hashem	No/No	07/01/23
ESCS	School Building Substitute	Edna Gamba	Parama Chattopadhyay	No/No	08/28/23
FC	IEP Team Leader	Madeline Doherty	New	Yes/Yes	08/28/23
HLY	Provisional PreK Teacher	Teresa Gomes	Emily O'Brien	No/No	08/28/23
HLY	Interim Principal	Sarah Wahl	Mary Ellen Cobbs	No/Yes	07/01/23
HLY	Long Term Substitute Teacher - Kindergarten	Natalie Howe	Paige Mahoney	No/No	08/28/23
KEN	Life Skills Paraprofessional	Patrick Cadigan	New Assignment	No/No	08/28/23
KEN	Provisional Grade 6 Math/Science Teacher	Jacob Stephano-Shachter	Robert Turner	No/No	08/28/23

Full Circle	Community Engagement Specialist	Carls Alphonse	New	No/No	08/28/23
NW/FC	Provisional ESL Specialist	Stacia Beiniks	New	No/No	08/28/23
SHS	Biology Teacher	Arianna Benson	Maria Harris	No/Yes	08/28/23
SHS	Special Education Paraprofessional	Isaac Wilde	Elizabeth Nakhtigal	No/No	08/28/23
SHS	Library/Makerspace Utility Aide	Maxwell Greenleaf	Zachary Mino	No/No	08/30/23
SHS	LTS: Path Clinical Coordinator	Kelsey Clark	Christine Campbell	No/Yes	08/28/23
SHS	.50 Provisional English Teacher	Christian Melgar	Theresa Dietrich	No/No	08/28/23
SHS	SPED Paraprofessional	Eoin Dooley	Molly Hunter	No/No	08/28/23
SHS	Chemistry Teacher	Emily Dykstra	Zachary Anderson	No/Yes	08/28/23
SHS	English Teacher	Hannah Kaplan-Hartlaub	Madeline Wheelock	No/No	08/28/23
SHS	Multilingual Learner Education Department Chair	Stephanie Bielagus	Emily Blitz	Yes/Yes	07/01/23
SHS	English Teacher	Jovita Solorio-Fielder	J. Kim/ M. Wheelock	No/Yes	08/28/23
SHS	World History Teacher	Sarah Eustis	M. Quinones/M. Wasser	No/Yes	08/28/23
WSNS	Principal	Andre Pelletier	Kimberly Murphy Baker	No/Yes	07/01/23
WSNS	Interim Dean of Students - Elementary	Jeffrey Lane	C. Imperato/Isabella Barros	No/No	08/28/23

Somerville Public Schools
 Education • Inspiration • Excellence
 PERSONNEL REPORT
 2023-2024 School Year
 August 2023

RESIGNATION FOR PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT:				
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS OF SERVICE
WHCIS	Grade 2 Teacher	Maureen Cronin	07/31/22	26 years
ESCS	Grade 5 UNIDOS	Fernando Cantillo	10/11/22	9 years
Central Office/SFLC	Director of SFLC	Nomi Davidson	02/01/23	31 years
SHS/CTE	Business Teacher - CTE	Debra Allen	06/30/23	25 years
Food Services	FT Utility Aide	William Brown	01/11/23	20 years
FC/NW/SHS	School Nurse	William Bingay	06/30/23	25 years
WSNS	Senior Clerk	Dignora Diaz	03/01/23	26 years
ESCS	Interim Principal	Samaria C. Hashem	06/30/23	2 years
WSNS	Grade 1 Teacher	Kathleen Hern	06/30/23	34 Years
BR	Grade 3 Teacher	Patricia Creedon	06/30/23	25 years
SHS/CTE	Social Studies Teacher	Everett Roscoe	09/27/23	27 years
Central Office/HR	HR Administrative Assistant	Patricia Difraia	06/30/23	23 years
FC/NW	Paraprofessional	Maria DeCastro	06/16/23	11 years
SHS/CTE	Teacher	Hugh Wallace	01/01/24	16 years
SHS	Head Clerk 1	Barbara Favaloro	07/31/23	21 years
RESIGNATION NOTICES:				
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	
AFAS	Library Utility Aide	Erin Patricia Carr	07/24/23	
AFAS	SPED Paraprofessional	Matthew Bancroft	06/30/23	
AFAS	Teacher	Adrienne Lievense	08/16/23	
Brown	Library Utility Aide	Daniel Evans	04/24/23	
Comm Schools	PT Lead Teacher	Vanessa Nason	06/13/23	
DW	Administrative Assistant	Katherine Santiago	08/10/23	
DW	Literacy Coach	Meaghan Saddawi	07/28/23	
DW	PT Lunch Attendant	Carmela Moscaritolo	07/10/23	
DW	PT Lunch Attendant	Dina Ramos	08/16/23	
HLY	PK SMILE Paraprofessional	Lerin Cross	07/24/23	
KEN	Department Chair	Victoria Vendola	07/28/23	
SHS/Athletics	Assistant Football Coach	Joseph Solomon	07/31/23	
SHS/CTE	Culinary Arts Paraprofessional	Vanessa Cosco	07/28/23	
SHS/Science	Teacher	Susan Schmidt	08/03/23	
SHS	Bilingual Adjustment Counselor	Nancy Macias-Smith	08/11/23	
WHCIS	PT Lunch Attendant	Janice Arruda	07/05/23	
ASSIGNMENT ENDED:				
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	
LEAVES OF ABSENCES:				
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATES	
HLY	Paraprofessional	Dinora Amador	08/28/23-09/13/23	

KEN	Teacher - Elementary Classroom	Caroline Hanly	10/12/23-01/18/23		
SEU	SEU President	Dayshawn Simmons	8/28/23 - TBD		
INTRA-DISTRICT PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	REASON	VICE	EFFECTIVE DATE
AFAS	Long Term Substitute Teacher	Reyna Theordore	Temporary Reassignment	Michael Coughlin	08/28/23
Capuano	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Kristen Wagner	Temp to Perm	Kristen Wagner	08/28/23
Capuano	School Building Substitute	Syeda Akhter	New Assignment	Shayla Lemmons	08/28/23
Capuano	PreK ECIP Teacher	Ashley Elnor	N/A	New Postion	08/28/23
DW	Curriculum Coordinator of STEM	Paula O'Sullivan	New Assignment	Uri Harel	07/01/23
ESCS	Strings Teacher (.07)	Vanessa Fitzgerald	New Assignment	Immei Wong	08/28/23
ESCS	Senior Clerk	Sandy Figueiredo	New Assignment	Katy Matos	07/11/23
ESCS	Teacher- Grade 2	Maisy Bolgatz	Temp to Perm	Maisy Bolgatz	08/28/23
ESCS	Teacher-Grade 6 UNIDOS	Samantha Jensen	New Assignment	Elizabeth Roberts	08/28/23
ESCS	Teacher-Grade 5 UNIDOS	Vickie Thao	New Assignment	Jessica Anaya/Margarita Lopez	08/28/23
Evaluation Ctr	Interim Academic Evaluator	Kelley Dickson	Reassignment	Jen Zacharias	05/28/23
Healey	MIE Paraprofessional	Laura Semple	Temp to Perm	Laura Semple	08/28/23
Healey	SPED 1:1 Paraprofessional	Kerri Candelino	Temp to Perm	N/A	08/28/23
Kennedy	Gr. 1 Paraprofessional	Silvana Dinka	New Assignment	Katherine Downs	08/28/23
SHS	Head Clerk II	Irma Calderon	New Assignment	Barbara Favaloro	08/14/23
SHS	Academic Tutor-Rise Program	Patrick Raftery	Temp to Perm	Patrick Raftery	08/28/23
SHS	Principal	Alicia Kersten	Interim to Perm	Matthew Buchanan	07/01/23
SHS	Dean of Students	Elizabeth O'Connor	New Assignment	Joel Villegas	08/28/23
SHS	Music Teacher	Immei Wong	Temp to Perm	Vanessa Fitzgerald	08/28/23
WHCIS	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Fernanda Camacho	Reassignment	Madeline McDonald	08/25/23
WHCIS	Long Term Substitute SLP	Hannah Jones	Reassignment	Katie Dougherty	08/28/23
WHCIS	Adjustment Counselor	Hayley Greland	Temp to Perm	Greland/Paley	08/28/23
WHCIS	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Elisa Patrick	New Assignment	Matt Driscoll	08/28/23
WHCIS	ESL Specialist (5)	Noelle Pino	Location change/reduction	Noelle Pino	08/28/23
WSNS	Grade 7/8 Social Studies Teacher	Rami Bridge	New Assignment	Marissa Roque	08/28/23
WSNS	Grade 1 Teacher	Jane Gardner	Location change	Kathleen Hern	08/28/23
WSNS	School Building Substitute	Stephnie Lin	New Assignment	N/A	08/28/23
NEW HIRES					
SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	VICE	DUAL/SEI	EFFECTIVE DATE
AFAS	Grade 6 Teacher	Lauren Eckler	Aisha Banda	No/No	08/28/23
Brown	Library Utility Aide	Dan Evans		No/No	08/28/23
Capuano	Special Ed AIM Paraprofessional	Miranda King-Giannino	Gita Khanal	No/No	08/28/23
Capuano	Special Ed AIM Paraprofessional	Chelsea Haslam	Ashley Elnor	No/No	08/28/23
Capuano	Special Ed AIM Paraprofessional	Steven Cobleigh	Stephanie Santos	No/No	08/28/23
Capuano	PreK Paraprofessional	Ian Margeson	Silvana Dinka (rescinded)	No/No	08/28/23
Capuano	Teacher-SPED Pre-K AIM-Provisional	Sophia Sokmensuer	Mallory Crane	No/No	08/28/23
DW	ESL Specialist	Valeria Nikolaki	N/A	No/Yes	08/28/23
DW	Teacher (.40 FTE)	Patrick Charles	Michael Hastings	No/No	08/28/23
DW	Elementary Math Interventionist(Interim)	Charlotte Ross	Paula O'Sullivan	No/No	08/28/23
DW	BCBA - Itinerant	Myralee Chhotu	New Position	No/No	08/28/23
DW	School Nurse	Katherine Skarzynski	Brady	No/No	08/28/23
ESCS	Prov. Gr. 6 Math Teacher	Brynn Greisch	Caroline Burkard	No/No	08/28/23
Healey	Teacher-Grade 4	Marie Clevering	Alison Swigut	No/No	08/28/23
Healey	Teacher-Grade 3 (Provisional-1 yr appt)	Anna Perham	Sara Morris	No/No	08/28/23
SCALE	Director of Continuing Education	Joselyn Marte	Corinna Horton	No/No	08/24/23
SHS	Physics Teacher	Katherine Quinn	Charlotte Lindblom	No/No	08/28/23
SHS	French Teacher	Matthew Landry	Naima Sait	No/No	08/28/23

SHS & SCALE	Teacher - ESL/GOAL	Mary Gamvas	N/A	No/Yes	08/28/23
SHS	Library/Makerspace Utility Aide	Maxwell Greenleaf	Zachary Mino	No/No	08/30/23
SHS	High School Path Clinical Coordinator	Anndrew Reinfeld	Christine Campbell	No/No	08/28/23
SHS	Graphic Communications Teacher	Gary Bunker	Jennifer Demariano	No/No	08/28/23
WHCIS	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Cody Turgeon	Rain DeVeau	No/No	08/28/23
WHCIS	Special Ed AIM Teacher	Sandra Oross	New Position	No/No	08/28/23
WHCIS	SPED AIM Paraprofessional	Sthefanie Bringel do Santos	K. Buccelli/K. Jones	No/No	08/28/23