

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, August 30, 2021 - Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. – GoToMeetings

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

**Members Absent:** None

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Mr. Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Micaela Yang - Spanish  
Elaine Meztker – Portuguese  
Gina Miranda – Haitian Creole

He also took this time to announce that moving forward School Committee Meetings would be held via zoom. This is the last meeting using the GoToWebinar platform.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- June 21, 2021-

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman second by Ms. Normand to approve the School Committee minutes of June 21, 2021.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair green read the public comment regulations and asked those who signed up to comment.

**Ksenia Samokhlove -**

Ms. Samokhlove asked questions regarding what happens if/when a student test positive for COVID-19. She also asked the committee about the Brown School and whether any work would be done to the building this year. Ms. Samokhlove requested a post mortem of what happened in the reopening process. She finished off by thanking the administration for all their work.

**IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. District Report**

- Summer School Reflection Memo (Mr. Mazza)
- Academic Recovery Memo (Mr. Mazza)

Superintendent Skipper asked Mr. Mazza to speak to these two memos.

Mr. Mazza gave a brief explanation of each memo and said he would answer questions at a future meeting. He also added that there would be a summer school presentation in the near future.

Superintendent Skipper added some comments, regarding the academic recovery memo. Students need to be received right where they left off and staff will make decisions about the social-emotional and academic programming. A large part of this is already being integrated. It will be the center of the district instructional team, which will be led by Assistant Superintendent Mazza along a few people from the cabinet team.

- Calendar Update

Superintended Skipper spoke in regards to the district school calendar and announced that there is a minor updated/clarification regarding the first 2 days of school for Pre-K students. September 9<sup>th</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup> will both be

half days for Pre-k and Kindergarten students. She also added that the communication department is working on the possibility of making the school calendar into a google calendar.

### **B. Personnel Report**

Superintendent Skipper announced the retirements since the last school committee meeting  
Raul Quintanilla Math Teacher at the SHS who works with Multilanguage Learners retired after 28 years of service.  
Kennedy School Paraprofessional, Anne Oshima, retired after 13 years of service.  
And SHS Library and Media Paraprofessional, Donna Alibrandi, retired after 19 years of service.

## **V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **A. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction:** June 22, 2021 (Dr. Phillips).

Report of Educational Program June 22, 2021, submitted by Sarah Phillips

The Educational Programs Subcommittee met on June 22, 2021, via GoToMeeting. Members present were Sarah Phillips, Laura Pitone, and Ellenor Barish. Also in attendance was Assistant Superintendent, Chad Mazza.

Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Laura Pitone joined at 6:04. There was one person in the audience.

There were three items on the agenda.

#### **1) Approve report from prior meeting**

There was a motion by Ellenor Barish, seconded by Sarah Phillips to approve the May 19 report of the Educational Programs Subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2) Discussion of handbooks**

Assistant Superintendent Mazza presented the table of contents from West Somerville Neighborhood School's student handbook and East Somerville Community School's faculty handbook and expressed a desire to improve consistency and identify topics that should be common across all schools. The committee was supportive of this goal and the general table of contents outlined in the sample handbooks. Committee members suggested adding sections related to who to call if you or your student has a problem and the location of crossing guards at elementary schools. Ms. Barish offered to put the district's cell phone policy on the Rules subcommittee agenda. Ms. Pitone raised issues related to the distribution of the handbooks, noting that if 60% of the content were similar across schools, handbooks could be hosted on a common platform. Ms. Barish noted this would help with translation. Assistant Superintendent Mazza will work with the principals, Ms. Hernandez-Morgan, and the SFLC to finalize common elements and identify a common platform. Given a desire to approve updated handbooks for fall distribution, the committee agreed to meet in August if necessary. Chair Phillips and Assistant Superintendent Mazza will follow up with Chair Green and Superintendent Skipper about the approval process and timeline, adjusting the subcommittee's fall agenda as necessary.

#### **3) Finalize priorities for September-December Educational Programs Subcommittee**

The subcommittee reviewed items yet to be placed on the Educational Programs calendar and identified new items to include. There was a desire for regular program updates, a need to re-integrate school improvement plans, an update on the re-imagining Somerville high school work, and an update on differentiation and de-tracking. Chair Phillips will work with Chair Green to identify proposed topics slated to be discussed at a Regular School Committee meeting, delete those items from the Educational Programs subcommittee agenda, and work with Assistant Superintendent Mazza to calendar the remaining items.

Chair Phillips adjourned the meeting at 7:00.

Documents used:

5\_19 Educational Programs Report  
3\_22\_Ed Programs Proposed Calendar  
Faculty Handbook 19-20  
wsns\_parent\_handbook\_2019\_2020

Chair Green asked when the work of revising student handbook would resume? Mr. Mazza responded that the work would resume this September.

Chair Green then asked Superintendent Skipper to speak to the work that is being done due to the conversation with students who attend Teen Empowerment. Superintendent Skipper explained that Teen Empowerment students brought forth some policy changes they had concerns about and the district is working now to incorporate some of those changes into the handbooks.

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Dr. Ackman to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of June 22, 2021.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual**

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

- GBGA – Staff COVID Vaccine Policy

#### **COVID-19 STAFF VACCINE REQUIREMENT POLICY**

Vaccination against COVID-19 is the most effective means of preventing infection with the COVID-19 virus, and subsequent transmission and outbreaks. All educators, staff, and any other individuals providing services in the Somerville Public School buildings must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination to the Human Resources department. Any staff who are not yet fully vaccinated, must get fully vaccinated prior to October 20, 2021. Any district staff who do not provide proof of vaccination must submit to routine COVID-19 testing provided by the district and always wear a KN95 (or equivalent high-grade surgical) mask inside school buildings, except when eating or drinking. Failure to comply with these health and safety protocols may be subject to progressive discipline.

You are considered fully vaccinated:

- Two weeks after you have received the second dose in a two-dose series (PfizerBioNTech or Moderna) or
- Two weeks after you have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen)

Acceptable documentation for verifying the vaccination status includes at least one of the following:

- CDC vaccination card which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided, and date(s) administered, or a clear photo of the vaccination card.
- Documentation of vaccination from a health care provider with the information listed above.
- State immunization information system record with the information listed above.
- Other school immunization record system that provides the information above.

Exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine requirement will only be granted for documented medical reasons. To receive the medical exemption, the individual must provide a written statement from a physician stating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated for the individual. Those with medical exemptions to vaccination must still participate in routine district COVID-19 testing.

Adopted:

MOTION: There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Normand to approve file GBGA. A discussion ensued following the motion.

Chair Green announced that the city put forth a vaccine policy that does not apply to School Staff. He does not think this policy should be approved tonight to allow more time for finalizing.

Ms. Normand asked a question regarding vaccination being reflected in the SEU MOA and whether other district unions were considering an MOA. Attorney McNulty responded and confirmed that MOAs were in the works with other Units.

Ms. Barish noted that the deadline for vaccination had been extended on the policy and asked why? Dr. Curley explained that it was extended to allow time to pass the policy, to communicate it out and for staff to get their vaccines.

Ms. Pitone expressed concern with this date being too soon and not enough time for unvaccinated staff to get vaccinated.

Superintendent Skipper asked Mr. Kress to announce when vaccination clinics would be available. Mr. Kress announced that there is a Pfizer Vaccine clinic available to students and parents on September 1, 2021 at Connexion, located at 149 Broadway from 12-2pm, and on September 15, 2021 for the second dose. Links for an October 6 clinic will be provided to schools for them to be available to parents. If you miss these clinics there will be more clinics that will open in the future. The City of Somerville has a clinic on September 24, with the second dose provided on October 15. On October 18 there will be a Johnson and Johnson vaccine clinic.

Mayor Curtatone commented regarding vaccination and urged staff and constituents to get vaccinated. There are more than 98% of new cases of the Delta variant, it is moving at a rapid speed. He added that the district is transparent with what needs to be done.

Dr. Phillips reminded everyone that the mandate for vaccination is a soft mandate and that the consequence to not being vaccinated are just Covid testing, which staff has to do anyway, and swapping disposable masks for KN95 masks. She asked why the need to go back to the table to negotiate. Attorney McNulty explained that there would be a need to revisit because consequences have not been concretely discussed for the vaccine mandate.

Ms. Pitone clarified her concern of students and family not having enough time to get vaccinated.

Mr. Kress Commented that we know getting the vaccine is the number one cause to stop the spread of the virus. This is why they are highly encouraging everyone to get it. In regards to policies, they want to try to reach as many people as they can. Although the rate of people vaccinated is high, it is not 100%.

With no further discussion, Chair Green called the motion to question.  
The policy passed anonymously via roll call vote.

- File JLCB-B – COVID-19 Extracurricular Vaccination

## **COVID-19 VACCINATION & TESTING FOR EXTRACURRICULARS POLICY**

Somerville Public Schools' goal is for students and staff to return to a safe school environment that will mitigate the potential exposure to and transmission of SARS-CoV-2. Widespread vaccination, routine testing, contact tracing, isolation/quarantine combine to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Vaccination is the most effective prevention strategy available for allowing schools to resume full in-person instruction. COVID-19 vaccines are available to all people age 12 and older. All educators, staff, and vaccine-eligible students (12 years and older) participating in Somerville Public School **non-academic** extracurricular activities must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. **Extracurriculars providing academic support are exempted from this policy.**

**Eligible extracurriculars are voluntary, fall outside of the regular school curriculum, and do not offer academic support. The district will publish information online differentiating between academic and non-academic extracurriculars.**

Effective from the date of adoption, any vaccine-eligible students seeking to participate in eligible SPS extracurriculars who are not yet fully vaccinated, must become fully vaccinated prior to October 20, 2021. Students who become eligible for vaccination after the policy has been adopted, have 60 days from their eligibility date to become fully vaccinated.

You are considered fully vaccinated:

- Two weeks after you have received the second dose in a two-dose series (PfizerBioNTech or Moderna) or
- Two weeks after you have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen)

Acceptable documentation for verifying the vaccination status includes at least one of the following:

- CDC vaccination card which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided, and date(s) administered, or a clear photo of the vaccination card.
- Documentation of vaccination from a health care provider with the information listed above.
- State immunization information system record with the information listed above.
- Other school immunization record system that provides the information above.

Exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine requirement will only be granted for documented medical or religious reasons. To receive the medical exemption, the individual must provide a written statement from a physician stating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated for the individual.

All students and staff participating in SPS extracurriculars are required to participate in the district's routine COVID-19 testing protocol. As long as the district is offering routine COVID-19 testing, this requirement applies to all district extracurricular activities. This will ensure that the district can identify and swiftly isolate asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic, and symptomatic students and staff who are COVID-19 positive.

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, Second by Dr. Phillips, to approve File JLCB-B COVID-19 Extracurricular Vaccination.

Ms Normand commented on the amendments made to the policy and on the fact that they were not communicated to School Committee members prior to this meeting. She asked that in the future amendments be made and communicated through the proper channels. Dr. Curley took this time to speak to the friendly amendments. He explained the updates and the reasons behind them. He apologized for not making the changes during this meeting but wanted to address as many of the contingencies as possible.

Ms Normand then asked a question regarding what is considered extracurricular. Superintendent Skipper asked Athletic Director Stanley Viera and Athletic Trainer Michelle Kelly to speak to student athletes and vaccination.

Mr. Viera announced that vaccination is not being required by the different leagues, testing is the only thing that is being mandated in order to participate in any sport in the Greater Boston Area. Ms. Kelly reported that a good portion of student athletes have already been vaccinated or have appointments.

Ms. Barish introduced a friendly amendment that would allow new students or none students to join extracurricular after the vaccination deadline. She introduced her friendly amendments starting at paragraph 4 of the policy:

Conversation ensued regarding the policy language and the blanket deadline for vaccination and future sports.

Effective from the date of adoption any vaccine eligible student seeking to participate in any extracurricular activities who are not fully vaccinated must become fully vaccinated prior to October 20, 2021. Student who become eligible after the policy has been adopted or student that are new to the District have 60 days to get fully vaccinated. Superintendent Skipper commented that the 60 days for the athletics might not be an option because there could be rules that we have no control over depending on the length of the season.

Ms. Normand asked about how we implement this policy without creating barriers for athletes but keeping students and staff safe.

Mayor Curtatone commented regarding the unintended consequences of keeping athletes from playing and agreed that 60 days is too distant. He added that this variant is moving fast and the idea is to get as many students vaccinated as possible. Ms. Barish said the 60 days was a starting point and she is open to adjust the time period.

Mr. Kress said it would take a student about 2 – 6 weeks to become fully vaccinated after becoming eligible. Superintendent Skipper commented that 6 weeks is too long to risk those student participants while they get fully vaccinated. New Students will need to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible after joining the district.

Chair Green- then introduced his own friendly amendment that addresses the gap after the October 20<sup>th</sup> deadline.

After October 20<sup>th</sup> students should become fully vaccinated prior to joining extracurricular. Attorney McNulty agreed that this amendment covers the gap.

Chair Green asked Ms. Kelly to announce the vaccination deadlines for the different seasons and Superintendent Skipper said not to add the specific dates but just the seasons.

Ms. Barish added an amendment suggesting that the policy read that athletes submit the vaccination card by the season medical clearance date.

President McLaughlin commented to the different in stance that the district had on athletics last spring versus this fall. He reminded the committee that they advocated for sports without a vaccination and now we are saying the vaccine is necessary to play? Mr. Vieira Commented that they did all they could to keep all students safe last spring.

Dr. Phillips asked a clarifying amendment question pertaining to the testing policy versus the vaccine policy and how they conflict with one another. She asked if the testing policy needs to be put in abeyance.

Attorney McNulty then read the final amendment of what the policy should read.

“Effective from the date of adoption, any vaccine-eligible students seeking to participate in eligible SPS extracurricular who are not yet fully vaccinated, must become fully vaccinated prior to October 20, 2021 or will not be eligible for participation in such SPS extracurricular until fully vaccinated. SPS will publicize vaccination deadlines for participation in all athletics.”

Ms. Krepchin asked a question regarding religious exemptions and how that is defined, to which Attorney McNulty responded that this work is still being reviewed by her office and other offices.

Ms. Pitone asked regarding 11 year olds who become eligible who attend community schools. Do they have to leave the program and rejoin after getting vaccinated. And Ms. Normand Clarified that they could not anticipate every scenario and that the policy could be amended if necessary.

Ms. Normand called to question:

The policy was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Service Agreement with Cambridge Health Alliance relative to operation of a school based health center and the related licensing of surplus school space.**

Dr. Curley Spoke briefly to the agreement and explained that it is a renewed agreement of services offered to high school student through the Health Center called Teen Connection.

Motion: There was a motion by Ms. Normand, second by Dr. Phillip to authorize the School Department to enter into a service agreement with Cambridge Health Alliance relative to operation of a school based health center and to approve the licensing of surplus space of the school pursuant to G. L. c. 40, s. 3 and to authorize the Superintendent to execute same.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

### **B. ACCEPTANCE OF FY22 GRANT FUNDS** (Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to SPS listed below:

**Federal Grants**

Skills Capital Grant Award - \$268,000 (CTE Advancement Manufacturing Program Support with 3D Printing Equipment)

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant - \$121,240.00 (for Healey School, ESCS and WHCIS)

**State Grants**

Commonwealth Children’s Fund Grant – \$156,685.32 (Early Childhood Systems Building Work)

Superintendent Skipper took this time to publicly thank and acknowledge Susan Hernandez Morgan for all her hard work on grant applications for the district. Ms. Hernandez Morgan was present and was flattered by the acknowledgement, and commented that she is part of a group of people whom do this work, and they will continue to work hard to obtain these grants.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**C. School Committee Fall Meeting Schedule**

In the interest of time Chair Green asked members to email himself or Ms. Santiago with questions or comments regarding the School Committee meeting schedule.

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

**October 1, 2021 – October 4, 2021**

20 Next Wave/ Full Circle Students will visit Mount Monadnock State Park in New Hampshire. Travel by Bus. Student cost \$5.

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Pitone, second by Dr. Ackman, to approve this field trip.

Ms. Normand asked if this was overnight or several groups of students over a period of a few days. Superintendent Skipper responded that this would be several groups of students over a period of a few days to stick to Covid-19 protocols.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

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

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

<b>Donation</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Programs Donated to</b>
2,400 Backpacks with Student Supplies	Cradles to Crayons	Newton, MA	TBD	Somerville Public Schools
Student Supplies Kits	Staples	Somerville, MA	TBD	Somerville Public Schools

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept these donations with gratitude. The Motion was approved via roll call Vote.

**VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ms. Pitone:** Asked Superintendent Skipper to address Public comment question regarding what happens if/when a student test positive for COVID-19, to families in an update

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned 9:00p.m.

**Related documents:**

Agenda

Summer School Reflection Memo

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE GoToWEBINAR  
REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 30, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Amended 08-30-2021**

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://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/7331321849943489803>

**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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- June 21, 2021

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. District Report**

- Summer School Reflection Memo (Mr. Mazza)
- Academic Recovery Memo (Mr. Mazza)
- Calendar Update

**B. Personnel Report**

- July

**V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**F. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction:** June 22, 2021 (Dr. Phillips)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of June 22, 2021.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual**

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- JLCB-B – COVID-19 Extracurricular Vaccination

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**B. ACCEPTANCE OF FY22 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:

***Federal Grants***

Skills Capital Grant Award - \$268,000 (CTE Advancement Manufacturing Program Support with 3D Printing Equipment)

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**VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Zoom Links for Meeting Interpretation:**

(Enlaces de Zoom para interpretación, Links de Zoom para interpretação, Zoom Lyen pou Entèpretasyon)

**Spanish (Español):** <https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/7592844650?pwd=UjU2QzFpT0FtTIZYVXRFTlJhVGN5SUT09>

Meeting ID: 759 284 4650

**Portuguese (Português):** <https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/2507425150?pwd=cU1MU1cvQksrVHNYMFM3ODItUmd0QT09>

Meeting ID: 250 742 5150

**Haitian Creole (Kreyòl ayisyen):** <https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/87188347538>

[pwd=Z1R1Mmp5ZnNyRHNIU0lHdGRPZ2dDUT09](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/j/87188347538?pwd=Z1R1Mmp5ZnNyRHNIU0lHdGRPZ2dDUT09)

Meeting ID: 871 883 47538

To: Honorable School Committee  
RE: Summer School Reflection

August 27, 2021

As a school district and as educators, we firmly believe in the importance of summer programming through the lens of *Why Summer Matters*. Our guiding principles are:

1. An opportunity for play, joy, and exploration of interests and passions
2. Building strong relationships with peers and caring adults
3. Engaging in learning in a hands on, project based way
4. Supporting academic and social emotional success in school, preventing summer slide
5. Providing support for working families, particularly economically-disadvantaged families

SPS provided 17 targeted school based summer youth programs for rising Kindergarten to rising seniors. Summer programming included both academic instruction and enrichment activities, along with innovative programs with community partners, inter-department collaborations, and opportunities for joy, learning, and community building across the district. New programs this summer included:

- Extended programming dates and hours: SPELL now running for 5 weeks, additional extended day programming from 1-5pm
- The Summer of Yes, Teen Tutoring Program, YouthRising, Becoming a Man (BAM)
- Community partners in SPS buildings: Somerville Arts for Youth, Cambridge Health Alliance, YMCA (SHS), Lesley University Robotics (SHS)
- Collaboration between Community Schools and SPS SomerSession/Summer School - push in academic recovery support
- Noncredit recovery options for high school students at SHS (digital photography, creative writing, introduction to electrical, and applying to college module)

#### Academic Support Programs

SomerSession (80% attendance rate):

Academic support program within Community Schools located at East Somerville and Healey. We have specific data points but they are unique for each student, more like progress monitoring (ex. sight words, Wilson word list reading, math facts, etc.). The teachers also created a short narrative for each student to be put into Student Insights and passed along to the students' next teachers about what they worked on, what worked, and what they will need. When we complete the Fall DIBELS and F&P testing in September, we will then have the complete pre- and post-test picture for each student showing their growth during the program.

ESY (81% attendance rate across programs):

Provided opportunities for students at four schools: Capuano, Healey, Kennedy and SHS. Some students participated in walk-in services for academics or related services (OT, Speech, PT, Vision). While other students participated in all day programming in the ECIP, Multi-graded, Life Skills, Transition, SKIP, SHIP and AIM classrooms. Each student worked on their individual goals and objectives stated within their IEPs. The goal of ESY continues to be the maintenance of skills so that students do not regress over the summer months.

In addition to all the learning, students were able to have fun by going to the Kennedy pool, playing on the playgrounds, cooking, gardening, and AIM at the High School hosted their very own Summer Olympics.

Summer Explore (72% attendance rate for both grade levels):

Provided learning opportunities for both Kindergarten and grade 1 students. Educators used the Kindergarten Entry Skills Inventory (KESI) to assess students on the following standards: Counting, Recognizing Numbers, Writing Numbers, 1:1 Correspondence, Writes Name, Book Handling, Asks Complete Questions, Expressing Needs, Follows,

Limits/Expectations, Interact with Peers and Attends and Engages. Our data analysis revealed that most students consistently met the standards addressed in both Kindergarten and 1st grade. It is important to note that most of these students did not have prior schooling before attending the Summer Explore program.

Elementary SPELL (75% attendance rate):

Our SPELL Elementary program accomplished 5 wonderful weeks of language learning and fun at the Argenziano School! We had 100 multilingual learner students in grades 1-7 from across the city join us for SPELL programming. We had a really dedicated team of educators, incredible community partners, as well as high school student interns that had a positive impact on students' language, learning, and well-being.

Summer Success (87% attendance rate):

Two-week introduction to succeeding at Somerville High School, with the potential to earn SHS credit! Music, Theatre, and Career and Technical Education programming opportunities for rising 9th graders at SHS. 83% of students earned credit by attending at least 8 of the 10 classes and completing the majority of the in-class assignments. Summer Success experienced a significant increase in attendance and retention when compared to earlier years - format shift included shorter days and fewer weeks of programming to increase student engagement.

Next Wave/ Full Circle (90% attendance rate)

NWFC received A Summer Only Grant from DESE to extend the program to three weeks instead of two. The program started August 2nd and ended August 20th. The students attended 5 days a week – full day 8:30 – 2:00. Students worked on creating a Literacy Magazine together. They engaged in a variety of activities – building birdhouses, exploring the mystic river by kayak, rock climbing at Brooklyn Boulders, Science experiments – making their own bubble gum, and inviting the Suffolk construction crew members in as guest speakers. Students wrote a reflection or news story of each experience that was put into the Literary Magazine. Students showed their commitment by attending every day and it was a great opportunity for students who remained remote all year to meet us in person and see the new school.

The Calculus Project (80% attendance rate):

TCP aims to increase the number of Black, Latinx (students with families from South or Central America), and income-qualifying students taking higher-level math courses in high school. The Calculus Project supports students as they move through the grades on their paths towards success. The school-year component of The Calculus Project offers cohorts of students the opportunity to receive coaching in personalized mathematics pre-teaching and engaging math activities. The Calculus Project seeks to remove barriers to student success, provide students with a space where they can fully be themselves, and an environment where they experience academic belonging. An important piece of TCP this year was to elevate student voice through the following: learning with interdisciplinary connections, opportunities to give knowledge to peers, student-mentor relationships and new friendships. Student data indicates an increase in confidence and performance in Mathematics.

This summer's district programming is wrapping up this week with three week-long Acceleration Academies for small groups of targeted students entering grades 2nd and 3rd (Literacy Acceleration Academy at the Argenziano), grade 8 (Math Academy at the ESCS), and grade 10 (Math Academy at Somerville High School). Each Acceleration Academy includes 4 hours of core instruction daily, 1 hour of engaging enrichment programming provided by community partners, and free breakfast and lunch to make sure students are physically and mentally ready to learn.

SPS also provided enrichment programs for our students, such as: Community Schools Adventure Camp, Summer of Yes, Summer Robotics, Summer Band Camp @ SHS, SHS Teen Tutors Program, Breakthrough Greater Boston (remote). Data for enrichment programs was collected using the following tools:

- Student surveys
- Parent surveys
- On site observations
- Photos, videos and showcases
- Attendance and enrollment
- Exit interviews with program staff

In addition, external programs offered by the City of Somerville and external community partners served approximately 1500 students. SPS students participated in: Somerville Parks and Recreation, SomerTime Day Camp,

Summer Canoe Program at the Mystic, Tennis and Literacy Program at Dilboy , Creative Art Program , Youth Lawn Games Summer Session , Youth Sports Leagues, Somerville Mayor's Summer Jobs Program, Somerville Public Library, Brooklyn Boulders Summer Adventure Program, CHA Youth Led Participatory Action Program, Boston Debate League, Elizabeth Peabody House City Explorers Program, Everwood Day Camp - Elizabeth Peabody House, Groundwork Somerville Green Team, Keshet After School Gap Camp, Keshet Nevatim Summer Session, Mystic Learning Center Summer Camp and YouthStream, MLC Summer Basketball, Parts and Crafts Summer Youth Programs, Open Air Circus, Science Club for Girls Rocketry Program, Somerville YMCA, Teen Empowerment Youth Organizing.

Our collaborative efforts revealed the following strengths:

1. Formalizing school, city and community partnerships through innovative new programming collaborations
2. Providing a wide range of programming - theater, media, athletics, academics, leadership development
3. Working with school liaisons to identify families in need in order to connect them to summer opportunities
4. Providing targeted programs for high priority populations -SPELL, BAM, YES
5. Communicating regularly with stakeholders across city, school, and private entities (OST Task Force, Children's Cabinet)
6. Boots on the ground in person recruitment.

We are proud of this community's commitment to our students, and look forward to continuing to build on the work that our students, educators, and partners did over the summer to re-engage and prepare for the upcoming school year.

To: Honorable School Committee  
RE: An Integrated Approach to Recovery

August 27, 2021

As we prepare for the beginning of the new school year, we know that our number one job is to ensure that all students have access to effective, engaging and sustained instruction and support. As a result, our planning is aligned and cohesive through an Integrated Approach to Recovery.

Vision: Our vision for increased shared responsibility is all staff working together to support students' emotional wellbeing and academic growth. It extends to include partnerships with families, working together to create an ever-increasingly inclusive community, and empowering students to have agency over their own learning.

#### Integrated Approach to Recovery

Shared Responsibility - All staff consistently reinforce school wide and classroom learning expectations for all students and contribute to their learning by sharing responsibility for meeting their needs. All staff use core instruction (effective lesson delivery, high expectations for learning, frequent actionable feedback, etc.), implementing tiered interventions to ensure access and successful reentry and engagement in school.

Academic Teaching & Learning - In every class, every day, every student can explain what the mastery objective is, access the activities and articulate the criteria for successfully meeting the mastery objective.

#### Integrated Recovery Initiatives

##### Perks

- Curriculum and assessment alignment across centers, SPS programs and classrooms
- Support student self-regulation
- Focus on the BIG IDEAS and student thinking
- Instructional leadership support to center-based directors
- WIDA Big Ideas for Early Education
- Success Plans for ALL Multilingual Learners
- Sunrisa Dual Language Preschool
- Alignment to WIDA Early Years - "the language of early childhood"
- SFLC Early Childhood Programming: Parent Child Home Program Plus (home based early literacy), Somerbaby, Multilingual Playgroups, Parent Support Groups
- Focus on oral language as foundation for literacy
- Increase Speech and Language and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) support for the Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECIP)
- Partnership with School Based Multi-Tiered system of Support (MTSS) teams
- Development of cohesive MTSS practices across the district
- Writing across all content areas

##### K-8

- Time on Learning
- Core +
- Student Talk vs. Teacher Talk
- Overhauled and re-paced K-8 math and K-5 ELA curriculum to focus on priority standards and standards not addressed as well during remote learning, building on slide decks created during the pandemic
- Built in opportunities for more student talk, writing, and language supports into lessons

- Hired 3 district-wide math interventionists to provide 8-10 week targeted intervention cycles during x-block to help students master key standards from previous grades
- Restructuring and rebooting after-school tutoring program
- Revamped K-3 reading assessment system to align with dyslexia screening legislation/Melissa Orkin work and better inform intervention/MTSS processes
- Daily time requirements for each subject
- Success Plans for ALL Multilingual Learners
- Year One Unidos Dual Language curriculum roll out
- Clear articulation of SEI Program: SEI 1 (self-contained with specialized theme-based curriculum) and SEI (gen ed curriculum with language supports)
- Monitor student output
- Cross Departmental Collaboration
- Extended day and OST opportunities (Saturday and vacation school)
- Language opportunities across domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing)
- Daily WIN (What I Need) blocks
- Frequent Academic Case Conferences for students to set academic goals and create action steps
- Writing across all content areas

### 9-12

- Develop a new process to ensure that SHS policies are transparent, consistently implemented, reflective of student and staff voices, and in service of SPS' equity policy and position as an anti-racist school district
- Implement protocols for all community members to use when reporting bias incidents, form a team that will meet weekly to review bias incidents and if applicable make recommendations for next steps/actions and monitor for school-wide trends
- Redesign XBlock and Student Orientation: intentionally planning on building community, making connections, and increasing student voice
- Strengthen our co-teaching model
- Restructure Exploratory and embedded Health; expand enrollment in internships and CTE co-ops
- Streamlined Tier 1 Guide to Supporting Students; increased student supports, CCR opportunities, academic labs, math concepts, credit recovery, and quarter credit recovery options
- Reimagined MTSS/Community Teams
- Increased access to the Fine Arts, Media Arts, and Performing Arts by making scheduling changes
- Daily WIN (What I Need) blocks
- Frequent Academic Case Conferences for students to set academic goals and create action steps
- Writing across all content areas

Our collective message is clear: All Students All The Time!!



**2021-2022  
School Calendar**

**Important Dates**

**August**

30 – 1<sup>st</sup> day for Staff Prof. Devel.  
31 – Staff Prof. Devel.

**September – 20 days**

1 – 1<sup>st</sup> day for students 1-12 (1/2 day)  
3 – No School  
6 – No School - Labor Day  
7-8 – Rosh Hashanah\*  
9 – 1<sup>st</sup> day for Kindergarten and Pre-K students  
9 and 10 – Half Day for Pre-K Students (8:45 – 11:00)  
16 – Yom Kippur\*

**October – 20 days**

11 – No School – Indigenous Peoples' Day  
**November – 18 days**

2 – No School – Election Day, Prof. Devel.  
4 – Diwali  
11 – No School – Veterans Day  
24 – Begin Thanksgiving Recess at noon  
11/28-12/6 – Hanukkah\*

**December – 17 days**

23 – Begin winter recess at close of school  
(Includes Christmas – 12/25 and Kwanzaa – 12/26)

**January – 20 days**

1 – No School – New Year's day  
3 – Classes resume  
6 – Three Kings Day/ Dia De Los Reyes  
17 – No School – Martin Luther King Day

**February – 15 days**

1 – Lunar New Year  
21-25 – February Vacation (Includes Washington's Birthday)

**March – 23 days**

17 – Holi

**April – 15 days**

4/2-5/1 – Ramadan\*  
15 – Good Friday  
17 – Easter  
4/15-4/22 – Passover\*  
18-22 – April Vacation (Includes Patriots Day)

**May – 21 days**

2 – Eid al-Fitr\*  
30 – No School – Memorial Day

**June – 11 days**

3 – Class Day (Tentative)  
6 – Graduation Day (Tentative)  
15 – Last day of school (180 days)  
19 – Juneteenth Independence Day  
22 – 185<sup>th</sup> day

AUGUST '21				
M	T	W	TH	F
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16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

SEPTEMBER '21				
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27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER '21				
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NOVEMBER '21				
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29	30			

DECEMBER '21				
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JANUARY '22				
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17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

For more information or for any questions, please contact Katherine Santiago – [ksantiago@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:ksantiago@k12.somerville.ma.us)

FEBRUARY '22				
M	T	W	TH	F
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28				

MARCH '22				
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APRIL '22				
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MAY '22				
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30	31			

JUNE '22				
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27	28	29	30	

**Quarters**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 9/1-11/8 (45 days)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 11/9 -1/24 (45 days)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1/25-4/4 (45 days)  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 4/5-6/15 (45 days)

Half-Day Wednesdays

Dismissal @ 11:30 (PK) Noon (K-8)

Sept. 15	Feb. 9
Oct. 6, 27	Mar. 2, 23
Nov. 17	Apr. 6
Dec. 8	May 11
Jan. 12, 26	Jun. 8

Approved March 8, 2021

○ Half-Day ALL students PK-12

☆ Special Dates for Seniors

**Major Religious & Cultural Holidays**

Dates underlined above represent the district's major religious and cultural holidays. All Jewish and Islamic holidays starred above begin at sundown the previous day. Somerville Public Schools staff members will do their best to refrain from scheduling one-time events, field trips, athletic competitions, auditions, tests, quizzes for these days. Long-term assignments will not be due on the day of or the day after one of these holidays.



**Somerville Public Schools**  
Education • Inspiration • Excellence

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

2021-2022 School Year

July 2021

**RESIGNATION FOR PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT:**

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS OF SERVICE
SHS	SEIP Mathematics Teacher	Raul Quintanilla	12/31/21	28
KEN	SEEK Paraprofessional	Anne Oshima	06/30/21	13
SHS	Library/Media Paraprofessional	Donna Alibrandi	06/30/21	19

**RESIGNATION NOTICES:**

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
AFAS	Assistant Principal	John Braga	07/05/21
BR	Kindergarten Teacher	Gretchen Saunders	06/30/21
District Wide	Director of Early Education and Care	Lisa Kuh	08/01/21
District Wide	Assistant Director of Athletics	Heather Paonessa	07/16/21
District Wide	SPED Interpreter/Translator - Creole	Sylviana Lener	08/27/21
Food Services	PT Lunch Attendant	Ana Calari-Amaral	06/21/21
Food Services	PT Lunch Attendant	Denis O'Regan	03/21/21
Food Services	PT Lunch Attendant	Doris Bourque	03/22/21
HLY	Library Aide	Debra Murray	06/17/21
SFLC	SFLC Liaison	Vanety Cruz	08/27/21
SHS	Social Studies Teacher	Andrew St. Pierre	06/30/21
WSNS	PK SMILE Teacher	Kristen Chiusano	06/30/21
WSNS	SPED Kindergarten Paraprofessional	Caitlin Hanley	06/30/21

**ASSIGNMENT ENDED**

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
CAP	SPED AIM Paraprofessional - 209 days	Khadija Faiki	07/26/21
HLY	Kindergarten Paraprofessional	Kathleen Sullivan	06/30/21
SHS	Beyond the Classroom Learning Coordinator	Emily Singer	06/30/21

**LEAVES OF ABSENCES**

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATES
CAP/BR	Music/Strings Teacher	Anastasia Mousouli	08/30/21 - 01/24/22
HLY	Grades 3/4 Teacher	Alison Swigut	09/09/21 - 01/02/22
HR/Central Offices	Director of Human Resources	Mariana MacDonald	06/25/21 - 07/12/21
WHCIS	SPED ASD Teacher - 209 days	Jennifer Kuszmar	06/07/21 - 06/17/21 - Extension

**INTRA-DISTRICT PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS**

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	REASON	VICE	EFFECTIVE DATE
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AFAS	Grade 4 SEI Integrated Teacher	Caroline Hammond	Reassignment - Temp to Perm	Deborah Pacino	08/30/21
AFAS	Interim Assistant Principal	Eddie Rodriguez	Temporary Reassignment	John Braga	07/01/21
AFAS	Grade 2 SEI Integrated	Leah Jaenicke	Reassignment	Patricia O'Brien	08/30/21
BR	Art Teacher	Julia Austein	Amanda Ledin	Amanda Ledin	08/30/21
CAP	Dean of Students	Angelique Santomauro	New Assignment	New	08/30/21
Central / Payroll	Payroll Manager	Lisa Glus	30 hours to FT/Salary	NA	07/01/21
Community Schools	Senior Clerk	Mercedes Tinoco	Reassignment - Temp to Perm	Robyn Bates	06/28/21
District Wide	Data & Evaluation Specialist	Samantha Eligne	Increase in hours	NA	07/05/21
HLY	SPED Resource Room Teacher	Katarina Keown	Temp to Perm - Reassignment	New	08/30/21
ESCS	Kindergarten UNIDOS Teacher	Jessica Lopez	Reassignment - Temp to Perm	Nicole Navarro	08/30/21
ESCS	Kindergarten UNIDOS Paraprofessional	Karol Catellanos	Temp to Perm - Same position	Jessica Lopez	08/31/21
EEC	Assistant Director of SPED Instruction and Program	Marisa MacDonald	New Assignment	Marilyn Vrontas	07/01/21
EEC	Director of SPED, Nurse & Health Services	Christine Trevisone	Reassignment	N/A	07/01/21
HLY/Comm Schools	PT Assistant Teacher	Suri Gonzalez	New Assignment	Faiki Khadija	05/17/21
HLY	Grades 1/2 Teacher	Anita Caceda	Temporary Assignment	Kesley Schroder	08/30/21
HLY	PK Teacher - Sonrisa Program	Andrea Carcamo	New Assignment	New	08/30/21
HLY	SPED Resource Room Teacher	Kayla Landis	Temporary Assignment	Jennifer Zacharias	08/30/21
HLY	Kindergarten SEI Integrated Teacher	Paige Mahoney	Reassignment	Anne Marie Cameron	08/30/21
KEN	Music Teacher	DaonQuez Drisdorn	Temporary Assignment	Catherine Ward	08/30/21
KEN	SPED Life Skill Paraprofessional	Matthew Estey	Temp to Perm - Same position	Joan Grimes	08/31/21
SHS	Physics Teacher	John Kraemer	Temporary Assignment	Rita Brown	08/30/21
SHS	Dean of Students - Multilingual House	Catarina Saenz	Reassignment	New	08/30/21
SHS/CTE	Program Director for Community & Work Based Learning	Meaghan McDevitt	New Assignment	New	07/01/21
WHCIS	SPED Paraprofessional - 209 days	Megan Castle	Increase - 184 to 209 days	NA	08/31/21
WHCIS	Kindergarten Teacher	Gyneth Davies	Temporary Assignment	Caitlin Donaldson	08/30/21
WHCIS	Art Teacher	Shannon Rogers	Reassignment	Rachel Hawkins	08/30/21
WHCIS	Grades 7/8 Social Studies Teacher	Megan Brady	Reassignment	Denise Harney/K. Weidgle	08/30/21
WSNS	School Adjustment Counselor	Nicole Padaloff	Temp to Perm - Same position	Isabel Barros	08/30/21
WSNS	PK SMILE Teacher	Stephen Debenedictis	Reassignment	Christen Chiusano	08/30/21
WSNS	Art Teacher	Amanda Ledin	Reassignment	Alejandra Diaz-Coronel	08/30/21

#### NEW HIRES

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	VICE	Dual/SEI	Effective Date
AFAS	Grade 6 Science Teacher	Jacob Ramsey	New	No/Yes	08/30/21
CAP	SPED Kindergarten AIM Paraprofessional	Kelly Carlson	Grace Ann Pare	No/No	08/31/21
CAP	Director of Early Education & Care	Kathleen Bailer	Lisa Kuh	No/Yes	07/29/21
Central/MLE Dept	Principal Clerk/Administrative Assistant	Erica Martinez	Maria Costa	No/No	07/15/21
District Wide	Therapeutic Counselor	Laura Valenstein	New	No/No	08/30/21
EEC	Assistant Director of Special Education-Services & Support	Will Verbits	Laura Zanowski - Conversion	Yes/Yes	07/01/21
ESCS	SPED Paraprofessional	Jessica Brennan	Yu-Ping Mao	No/No	08/31/21
HLY	SPED Resource Room Teacher	Jo Ann Dwyer	Barbara Strell	No/Yes	08/30/21

HLY	Speech & Language Pathologist	Natalie Gardino	New	No/No	08/30/21
KEN	SEEK Paraprofessional	Hannah Fitzsimons (sub Teacher)	Anne Oshima	No/No	08/31/21
KEN	SEEK Teacher	Kerri O'Brien	Helen Onthank	No/Yes	08/30/21
KEN	SEEK Teacher	Melissa Roach	Lauren Harris	No/Yes	08/30/21
SHS	HVAC/R Teacher	Kevin Burns	New	No/No	08/30/21
SHS	.80 Social Studies Teacher	Katherine Hennessey	Christine Rheem	No/Yes	08/30/21
SHS	ESL Teacher	Joseph Kramer	Jessie Williams	No/Yes	08/30/21
SHS	Physical Education & Health Teacher	Derick DiVencenzo	Elizabeth Kramer	No/No	08/30/21
SHS	Math Teacher	Evelyn Gibson (rehire)	Margaret O'Connell	Yes/Yes	08/30/21
SHS	Math Teacher	Kruschef Sanchez	Raul Quintanilla	No/No	08/30/21
WHCIS	AIM Speech & Language Pathologist	AC Goldberg (rehire)	Megan Becker	No/No	08/30/21
WHCIS	SPED BC/BA - 209 days	Jenna McNicholas	New	No/No	08/30/21
WSNS	Math Teacher	Victor Stewart	Justine Hebert	No/Yes	08/30/21
WSNS	Grade 2 Teacher	Erin McDonald	Shepleigh Voit	No/Yes	08/30/21
WSNS	Grade 4 Teacher	Rachel Russ	Danielle Erlich	No/No	08/30/21