

# CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### Wednesday, March 16, 2015 – Regular Meeting

7:15 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers – Somerville City Hall

**Members present:** Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand and Ms. Rafal.

**Members absent:** Mayor Curtatone (7:35 p.m.)

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers at City Hall at 7:15 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 –Sweeting, Roix, Rafal, Pitone, Normand, Bockelman, White and Futrell, and ABSENT – 1 –Curtatone.

Mr. Sweeting welcomed a group of students from Boston University show are in our audience this evening to observe our meeting for their Educational Policies Class.

#### **I. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Ojo was not able to attend this evening, but he sent his report and Mr. Futrell read the report.

- Recently many students have been wondering if we will have school on Good Friday or not. So I'd just like to get a confirmation from you, the School Committee, so that the rumors end.
- An issue has arisen within Student Council with the English Department, in which the Department Head Ms. Remington is forcing students who are either in a standard class or honors class to take an AP class. Students have constantly been complaining and saying that Ms. Remington is trying to force them to take a course they don't believe they are ready for and this is stressing them out - academically and mentally. Ms. Remington even told some kids there wasn't going to be an honors course, which is why they were forced to take AP.
- The Multicultural Fair has finally been given a date, and that date is May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many students are really happy that the administration has decided to keep multicultural the same.
- The excitement has begun, Junior Prom and Senior Prom are slowly approaching and students are already going crazy over their dress prices, dates, the whole nine yards. It's really cool to see the entire school so engaged and interested in an event!

In response to the comment about the AP classes, Mr. Pierantozzi announced that he became aware of this issue about 10 days ago and brought this matter to the attention of the Headmaster. The Headmaster has met with the Department Head who will meet with teachers and students to clarify this misconception. Clearly, the goal is to have as many students who wish to take AP or Honors classes do so, should they choose to, but we also want students to be comfortable with their choices. The students and their parents/guardians have the ultimate decision.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- March 2, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the minutes of March 2, 2015.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

#### **III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

##### **A. Special Meeting of Executive Session Feb. 25 (Mr. Sweeting)**

Mr. Sweeting reported that the School Committee met in Executive Session on February 25, 2015 in the Central Office Conference Room. At this meeting, the School Committee made decisions on their representatives for collective bargaining with certain bargaining units and also discussed

increasing the Superintendent's salary by \$6,800.00. That being said, Mr. Sweeting moved the following motion:

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to offer the Superintendent a salary increase that will provide him with \$6,800 in additional gross base salary during the period between January 1, 2015 and July 5, 2015.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 6 – Roix, Rafal, Bockelman, white, Normand and Sweeting; NO – 2 – Futrell and Pitone and ABSENT – 1 – Curtatone.

**B. Educational Programs & Instruction** Feb. 26 (Ms. Pitone)

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on February 26, 2015 at 7:00 in the conference room of Central Office.

Members present: Christine Rafal, Paul Bockelman, and Laura Pitone

Others present: Dan Futrell, Carrie Normand, Steve Roix, 2 audience members

SPS Administrators present: Vince McKay, Betsey Reardon, Sarah Davila, Holly Hatch

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Unidos Program Progress Report:

Betsey Reardon, Unidos Program Coordinator, presented an update on the Unidos Program. Student performance on MCAS shows a positive upward trend, approaching the district average scores. Initiatives have included coaching available to Spanish side teachers, vocabulary support for paraprofessionals, and improved staff vertical and horizontal team building and communication. Discussed shift in student body profile based on recommendations from 2012 assessment from 50/50 students English/Spanish Dominant to the current model of 1/3 each – English only, Latino/English dominant, and Spanish dominant households. Also discussed how emersion model evolves through the grades, based on best practice, from ½ days English/Spanish in Kindergarten, a split week in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, one week per language in 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades and middle grades learning 40% in Spanish, 60% in English.

A challenge remaining is how to address the high demand for Spanish emersion with native language speakers while maintaining the student body profile model that has been successful. The waitlist has been consistently 40-60 Latino families per year.

Post ESCS there has been success with students from the Unidos program entering the Heritage Track to further their studies. Ms. Reardon has aspirations for future HS programing on Spanish Literature and Conversation.

2. Middle Grades Update –

Vince McKay shared several updates and enhancements to the SPS middle grades program in response to work done by a Middle Grades study team started in 2008. This team was initiated by the previous School Committee Long Range goal to "create a groundbreaking, exciting middle grades instructional program." Highlights include significant MCAS gap narrowing with respect to State performance in the middle grades, the narrowest gap in the district, as well enhancements to the High School transition, Social Studies PD with Facing History and Primary Source, and the success of the Middle Grades project and the Spanish program. The School Committee requested that a similar study team be brought together to assess progress to plan and reconsider the question "Have we created a groundbreaking, exciting middle grades instructional program?" and "What are the next innovations to consider?"

3. Update on the *Beyond MCAS Study*

Jack Schneider, representing the Holy Cross research team, shared the proposal and work to date on the project titled *Measuring School Quality Beyond Test Scores*. Efforts to date include understand the needs and desires of the Somerville community, including school staff, students, parents/guardians and community members and creating an associated framework of unique and reliable methods to assess our schools beyond standardized test scores. The framework being tested strives to balance both inputs and outcomes and includes the following general categories; Teachers and the Teaching Environment, School Culture, Resources, Indicators of Academic Learning and Non-Cognitive outcomes.

4. Graduation Rate/Drop Out data

Per Vince McKay, overall the multi-year trend remains favorable, through the data for 2014 showed a small back-slides.

5. Updates and New Business:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.

At 9:15 p.m. Mr. Bockelman moved to adjourn. Ms. Rafal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the report of the Chair of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee of February 26, 2015. The motion was approved via voice vote.

**C. Rules Management Subcommittee** Mar. 2 (Mr. Roix)

The rules management subcommittee met in the conference room at City Hall on March 2, 2015. In attendance were myself, Christine Rafal and Laura Pitone; also superintendent Tony Pierantozzi and school committee members carry Norman Adam Sweeting and Dan Futrell.

We continued our ongoing effort to sort of cleanup the Somerville public schools policy handbook we made some minor changes to several policies and actually voted to strike one from the policy manual and that one was filed JA-E which is a policy called student policies goals and policies. The name is a bit confusing and we similarly found the content- well not incorrect, but essentially 100% unnecessary; and that it was a general list of things having to do with nondiscrimination and our compliance with the Massachusetts General laws on that issue. And of course, these are generally guidelines that we follow but from a policy perspective they are all already written into our other policies whenever necessary.

I don't know the origin of this Policy JA-E, but MASC doesn't code this one anymore so after sort of looking through it and discussing a little bit we're comfortable recommending it be removed the policy manual which is which was on the superintendent's recommendation.

Other minor changes were done to file JB added the gender identity phrase in the nondiscrimination clause on that policy. Also just a minor edit file AC: we just updated the legal references so that they match the MASC version and it was no substantive change, just the reference change.

More substantively we did forward one policy to the full school committee for your first reading this evening and that is file JLCE which is the students with comfort care/do not resuscitate orders this of course outlines the obligations and responsibilities of school personnel with regard to honoring AR comfort care do not resuscitate order unfortunate event of an unresponsive Who has such an order and how we will honor that with the right nostril and requires a written authorization of the child's parent guardians for him or herself with the student is 18 years or older.

MOTION: To strike File: JA-E from the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

MOTION: To amend File: AC to update the legal references as stated in the MASC version of the policy.

MOTION: To approve File: JLCE, as presented, and forward to the Full School Committee for approval.

MOTION: To add the term gender identity to File: JB.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the report of the Chair of Rules Management Subcommittee of March 2, 2015. The motion was approved via voice vote.

*Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:35 p.m.*

**D. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee** Mar. 4 (Ms. Normand)

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 at 42 Cross Street.

Subcommittee Members present: Dan Futrell, Steve Roix and Carrie Normand

Other School Committee Members Present: Laura Pitone and Adam Sweeting

Also in attendance: Superintendent Pierantozzi and Finance Director Durette

There were six items on the agenda.

- 1) Motions were made and passed to approve the minutes of the January 14<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup> meetings.
- 2) Ms. Durette answered questions about the Expenditure Report of February 27<sup>th</sup>
- 3) A motion was made and passed to approve the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Rolls
- 4) FY 2016 Budget Development was discussed. The Superintendent gave an update on the changes to the Governor's current budget including some state cuts to some of our grants. Ms. Durette is closely monitoring changes to the current budget and possible changes to future budgets that may affect Somerville schools.
- 5) The committee reviewed budget levels to maintain current service levels and salary adjustments and projected costs of budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year.
- 6) Mr. Futrell presented a draft proposal for a new fund, the Superintendent's Innovation Program, a resourced solely for the purpose of supporting new and innovative projects across the district. It will be added to the non-prioritized budget requests from all sources.
- 7) Facilities Update. The city did a fabulous job with snow removal at our schools and throughout Somerville. At the time of this subcommittee meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, our schools were relatively unscathed by the historic snowfall with some minor repairs needed. The Somerville High School building project is working on selecting a project owner manager.
- 8) Other business included the announcement of a \$25,000 donation by the Herman Foundation to the high school science department. The Somerville Public School's payroll will be moving to Munis Payroll in 2016, giving us time to do several test runs before going live.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the FY2015 bill rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the report of the Chair of Finance & Facilities Subcommittee of March 4, 2015. The motion was approved via voice vote.

#### **IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

##### **A. Personnel Report**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that members received a copy of the March 2015 Personnel Report in packet. The report includes the following:

- One (1) new resignation for the purpose of Retirement. Ms. Aida Corredor is retiring from her position at the Parent Information Center on the last day of March. Aida, who is like everyone's mother, will be missed very, very much and we wish her a happy, healthy and long retirement.
- Four (4) resignations for various reasons
- Seven (7) Leaves of Absence
- Five (5) Intra-District transactions, including the transfer of Kathleen Seward from the Brown School Principal position to the West Somerville Neighborhood School Principal position as of July 1, 2015.
- Two (2) New Hires

##### **B. District Report**

The Somerville community quickly mobilized to find temporary alternate classroom sites for the Brown Schools' 286 students, staff and the Brown School community after a partial roof collapse at the Brown School late Tuesday night. A flat section of the Brown School roof, located above the second-floor girls bathroom, collapsed, setting off the motion sensors and alerting City building personnel. The building was empty and no one was injured. Initial evaluations of the

incident available on Wednesday morning indicated that the building would need to remain closed for at least a month in order to safely allow for full inspection and repairs. A full evaluation of the incident is still under way, but preliminary findings show a likely combination of several possible contributing factors, none of which would have caused the collapse on its own including, among others: (1) melting of the less than 1 foot of snow that was on that section of the roof (best practice is to remove snow of more than 18 inches in depth), (2) wood rafters that were found during the initial investigation to be weakened by pre-existing partial rotting that would not have been evident without ripping open the walls as there were no visible leaks, (3) rain that added additional water to the roof overnight.

Alternate classroom sites were identified and preparations began by mid-day Wednesday. Starting Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, Brown School students are at the following temporary classroom sites:

- Kindergarten students are at the Capuano Early Childhood Center
- Grade 1-5 students are at the Edgerly Building
- Grade 6 students are at the East Somerville Community School.

Work on preparing the new classrooms began Wednesday and continued throughout the weekend with a tremendous City-wide effort to prepare those classrooms so they would be ready for occupancy on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Teachers, SPS Administrators and staff, and parent/guardian volunteers have been eager to assist in this transition and have been on-site setting up the Brown School students' new learning environments. The entire Somerville Public Schools community looks forward to welcoming Brown School students and families to their temporary classrooms while the repair work to the Brown School is completed.

Discussion ensued which included the following:

- Current status of repair work which included strategic remediation of a small amount of asbestos
- Bringing the bathrooms back to clean, safe and acceptable status
- Preventive maintenance protocols
- Structural assessment of the building prior to students' return
- No other major renovation work will be done to the Brown School because the Massachusetts School Building Authority will not fund such a project
- Reassurance that the Brown School is not slated to close

Thanks to a great community effort for maintaining the focus on our youth, and helping get students settled into their temporary classrooms as quickly as possible.

- The Region IV Science Fair was held last Saturday in the Somerville High School Field House. Students from 14 High Schools competed at the event. Somerville High School students earned many awards including a project submitted by Connie Chan that tied for first place with a project submitted by students from Lexington High School. Ms. Chan will now take part in the State Science Fair competition. 11 other Somerville High School students received awards, as well.
- Coordinated Program Review (DESE) – the District was chosen for a Coordinated Program Review (CPR) of certain programs. This CPR is a compliance audit which reviews the areas of Civil Rights, English Language Learning, Career and Technical Education and Special Education. Planning for this review began a year and a half ago and was done in two parts. First was a self-study during which the District submitted various documents for review. Also, during this phase, representatives were on site to review certain records in the District. Part two involved on-site visits by the review team staff. At the Exit Meeting, reviewers shared positive comments regarding translation services, staff stability, paraprofessionals and teachers, inclusiveness, the CTE Program. And English Language Learning. Tomorrow, a visiting team will be on site to conduct a review of our Title I Program. This is separate from the CPR.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report on curriculum-related items: Minister of Education from The Netherlands, Mariette (Jet) Bussemaker spent a few hours at Somerville High School last Thursday morning, as part of a learning tour of the U.S. education system by Dr. Bussemaker and other leaders of the Dutch national educational system. She is the Arnie Duncan of the Netherlands. This visit is in preparation for a teachers program that will bring up to 20 Dutch educators to the U.S. in the fall of 2015, several of whom will spend two

weeks at SHS. This program will give Dutch educators first-hand experience of the education system in the U.S., and also to foster lasting professional relationships between Dutch and U.S. teachers. This is supported by the US Fulbright program, which is all about promotion of international collaboration and mutual understanding through educational and cultural exchanges.

Dr. Bussemaker very much enjoyed the tour, and also informal discussion with a group of 8 SHS students. Much of the conversation focused on one very interesting question, "what makes a great teacher?" Mayor Curtatone was able to attend joined this part of the program, and was able to lend his view – both as mayor and as a proud graduate of SHS.

Last Wednesday, students from the Master's program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education spent the morning at the East Somerville Community School (ESCS). The class was taught by Harvard Professor and Paul Reville – you recall he was the longtime Secretary of Ed under Gov. Patrick – and his students came to learn about some key aspects the Somerville community and our schools. We had a fabulous panel of Somerville education representatives from throughout the District and the community, including State Senator Pat Jehlen and School Committee Vice-Chair Carrie Normand, and a team of first grade teachers at East Somerville who described their work as a team to individualize the learning for their students.

This kind of cross-grade work is a focus on Somerville's elementary curriculum and assessment system, something we are very proud of and pleased to share as a best practice.

Finally -

Waltham public schools is studying the implementation of a two-way Spanish/English program like our Unidos program. And tomorrow, their Superintendent and a small team are coming to East Somerville tomorrow to learn, in some detail, about how Unidos is structured. As you heard from Ms. Pitone in her Ed Programs report, Unidos students have shown some terrific growth in recent years, now two years into a modified program structure that's showing great results. So needless to say, we are sharing the results of this great work by our team, with the visitors from Waltham.

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director Patricia Durette for some budget-related information:

Continuing FY16 budget development, which will be discussed at Finance and Facilities. Looking at staffing based upon enrollment projections and scrutinizing budget requests.

Ms. Durette has communicated with Principals and Department Heads regarding final spending of FY15 funds and requested that all spending be wrapped up by April break.

On March 26 and 27, a representative from Powers and Sullivan will be on-site conducting an audit of our FY14 End of Year Report.

The City is also conducting an internal audit of the Student Activity Accounts which are established for student organizations to fund various activities. It is quite normal for periodic reviews of these accounts.

The Superintendent continued his District report:

- Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am-noon at the SHS Atrium: *Career and Technical Education CTE Vocational Fair*. Stop in to learn more about Somerville High School's CTE program, enjoy a tour by student ambassadors, meet current students and CTE teachers, and participate in hands-on activities.
- Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm at the ESCS Auditorium: *CyberSafety - What Families Need to Know*
- Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm at the Kennedy School Library: *Transition Planning* for youth with disabilities ages 14-22. Presented by the SPED PAC
- PreK Open Houses this week: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 18-20, 9-11am at: Capuano Early Childhood Center, Argenziano School, ESCS, WSNS, and Winter Hill School

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. School Calendars**

#### **2014-2015 Calendar**

Mr. Pierantozzi provided background on the historic snowfall and roof issues that led up to us needing to review and update the School Calendar for 2014-2015. The Superintendent has

looked at the various collective bargaining agreements and had conversations with the leaders of those impacted by the calendar change. He stated that after receiving guidance from the Commissioner, it is time to move forward with a decision on this year's calendar.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to hold school on Friday, April 3, 2015.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> will become the 180<sup>th</sup> day of school for all students in the District, with the exception of those from the Brown School. Brown School students need to make up an additional three (3) days of school lost when the roof collapsed.

Discussion ensued relative to April vacation not being impacted by makeup days, flexibility on April 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding schedules so that those who choose to do so may attend religious services in the afternoon, and more discussion to take place regarding the Brown School makeup dates.

### **2015-2016 Calendar**

Discussion shifted to the 2015-2016 School Calendar as the School Committee expressed a wish at their last meeting to review dates so that we are not faced with makeup issues next year should we have a similar winter. Discussion ensued that included the possibility of starting school on September 1<sup>st</sup>, the implication of that start date on teachers' preparation day, and possibly changing the dates of some early release days.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to amend the 2015-2016 school calendar to make September 4<sup>th</sup> a school day.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. White, to request the Superintendent of Schools to meet with the Collective Bargaining Associations to discuss having professional development on August 31, 2015 and have the first day of school on September 1, 2015.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Field Trips** (Recommended action: approval)

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>May 1, 2015</b>     | Next Wave/Full Circle students to Mount Monadnock, NH.<br>Transportation via school van with a cost of \$10.00 per student.   |
| <b>May 2-3, 2015</b>   | Somerville High School Boys Ultimate Frisbee team to Amherst, MA <i>overnight</i> . Transportation via school van with the only costs being for snacks and one meal.  |
| <b>May 16-17, 2015</b> | Somerville High School Girls Ultimate Frisbee Team to Northampton, MA <i>overnight</i> to compete in the Pioneer Valley Tournament.<br>Transportation via school mini-bus with the only costs being for snacks and two meals. |

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

The following policy was presented this evening for first reading:

- File: JLCE Students with Comfort Care/Do Not Resuscitate Orders

Alderman White would like the policy revised to reflect the addition of information regarding Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) as this is becoming a more commonly used order. The policy will be returned to Rules Management at their next meeting for further review.

### **C. Acceptance of Donations**

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of a \$4,500 Student Achievement Grant from the NEA Foundation to Susan Schmidt, Chemistry Teacher at Somerville

High School. These funds will be used to purchase Vernier Interfaces and probe equipment that connect to computers or iPads allowing students to record and graph data digitally.

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation with extreme gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of a \$35,000 grant from Parent-Child Home Program, Inc. of Garden City, NY to the Somerville Parent-Child Home Program. Funds will be used to support Parent-Child Home Program services for 10 family child care providers serving approximately 50 families at the Somerville, MA PCHP site.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to accept the donation with extreme gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of \$25,000 from the Hermann Foundation, Inc. to the Somerville High School Science Department.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the donation with extreme gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude of the following grants from the Boston University Consortium to the Somerville Public Schools:

- \$387.15 to Janice Fahey-Flynn of the Argenziano School
- \$315.00 to Anna Bouchard of Somerville High School
- \$657.50 to Sally Brith of Next Wave School
- \$315.00 to Tim Te of Somerville High School
- \$799.00 to Susan Schmidt of Somerville High School
- \$900.00 to Sean Bianchi of Somerville High School
- \$394.96 to Zach Shufran of Somerville High School
- \$347.42 to Alyssa Miller of Somerville High School
- \$400.00 to Sarah Eustis of Somerville High School
- \$1,103.45 to Trish Murphy-Sheehy of Somerville High School
- \$1,800.00 to Jeff Stuart of Somerville High School
- \$580.52 to Mike Maloney of Somerville High School

Total of all grants equals \$8,000.00

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept all of the Boston University Consortium Grants, as presented.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Mr. Futrell**

1. As an FYI to members, Mr. Futrell reported that he and Ms. Pitone attended a recent meeting regarding the Teaching Strategies Gold program. There were approximately 40 people in attendance and Mr. Futrell reported that there is growing discontent with the program.

### **Ms. Normand**

1. West Somerville School will hold two fundraisers to benefit their Field Day activities. The first will be on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and the second on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
2. Congratulated and thanked the Somerville Mathematics Fund for a successful Pi Night at the Healey School last Friday night.

### **Ms. Pitone**

1. Thanked the PTA Council for a fun and successful Flashback Friday Dance last Friday night.
2. Announced that the PTA Dinner Dance will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Mr. Roix**

1. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a basketball tournament held at the East Somerville for middle grade students. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for this great event.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. The Duhamel Education Initiative will hold its Pancake Breakfast on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Cooking and serving to be done by members of the School Committee.
2. The Higgins Trivia Night will take place on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Tufts' Cousens Gym.



3. The Vocational Fair will be held this coming Saturday and is a wonderful event for all!

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Announced that a Long Range Planning meeting will be held in late March. Suggestions are welcome for agenda items.
2. Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Normand met recently with Ms. Skipper over coffee as part of introducing her to the District.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Normand expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Thomas Dedrick, brother of Michael Dedrick, Utility Aide at Somerville High School, brother-in-law of Shirley Dedrick, Principal Clerk in the Community Schools Office and uncle of Lauren Dedrick, Paraprofessional at the East Somerville Community School.
- Josephine T. Hosman, mother-in-law of Joanne Hosman, Accounts Supervisor for the Somerville Public Schools.
- Former Alderman Thomas Taylor, husband of Celia Taylor and father of Rachel.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

Agenda

Minutes of February 23, 2015

March 2015 Personnel Report

2014-2015 School Calendar

2015-2016 School Calendar

Three (3) Out of State Field Trip Request

Policy JLC for first reading

Five (5) Donation acceptance requests

A copy of a letter to Mr. Robert Collins, City of Somerville, regarding benefits offered to staff

Four (4) condolence letters