

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, March 21, 2022 - Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Zoom

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

Members Absent: Mayor Ballantyne and Dr. Ackman

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 Skipper to call the roll, results of which were as follows:
PRESENT –7 – Dr. Phillips, Ms. Krepchin, Mr. Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone, Ms. Dion and President McLaughlin (7:19)
ABSENT – 2 - Dr. Ackman and Mayor Ballantyne

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Micaela Yang - Spanish
Elaine Metzker - Portuguese
Angie Surpris - Haitian Creole

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Student Representative Marcia Narh-Botchway was present and reported the following:

- MCAS starts tomorrow for 10th grade students with 2 days of ELA Testing
- Winter Sports have begun

Ms. Krepchin was curious about how students are feeling regarding MCAS, Ms. Narh-Botchway said that for the most part 10th grade students are feeling pretty prepared.

Chair Green asked how the past two weeks have been with the change to masks becoming optional, Ms. Narh-Botchway reported that most students keep them on and take them off during lunch, but keep them on otherwise.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 28, 2022

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, second by Ms. Krepchin, to approve the School Committee minutes of February 28, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Green read the guidelines of public comment and invited those who signed up to comment, to do so in the order called and allocated each person 2 minutes.

Wilbert Pineda – SPS Student (Submitted his comment to be included in these minutes)
My name is Wilbert.

I am a member of the first generation of Americans to inherit less opportunity than what came before. I am a member of the Class of 2024. My classmates and I, and the others a bit older and younger, have borne the brunt of the pandemic. According to the district's Youth Risk survey, 1 in 3 reports severe anxiety and 1 in 8 reports seriously considering suicide. Among my LGBTQIA friends, close to half reported seriously considering suicide. I don't think I need to convince any of you that the pandemic health crisis has created an even larger mental health crisis that some will never fully recover from.

Connected to mental health is hunger. Madam Superintendent. Members of the School Committee, too many Somerville teens are hungry.

I am proud to say that I am working with the Somerville Education Foundation to address these needs. We are working to request City ARPA funds to start a student-led organization to create safe spaces and a range of programs with and for other students. We need your help.

Every day, after school, at 3:55 the principal comes on the loudspeaker to say with more authority than empathy that those of us in the high school library need to leave the building immediately.

Where does he think we are supposed to go?

The school website says that we can rent the library until 10PM for \$50. While it seems a bit strange for us to have to raise funds to enable students to be in the library, we are willing to do it. I have asked and received Ed Foundation support to pay this fee Mon-Thu through the rest of the school year.

I would like to ask that you consider dedicating the \$3,000 permit fees and match with at least that amount from District ARPA funds to provide food for students in the library each afternoon. Thank you

The following constituents commented in support of the People's MOU and read comments from community members also supporting the People's MOU.

Michael Leonard - 65 Lowden Ave

Katia Mathew - 216 School St

Sara Halawa - 43 Munroe

Brittany Vetter - 22 Radcliffe Rd

Rob Odilon - 84 Newton St

Grace Lotti - 6 Hillside Rd

Riley Doyle evens - 11 Corinthian Rd

Matthew Kennedy - 74 Hudson St Unit B

Erich Ludwig - 36 Berkeley St

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

Superintendent Skipper introduced Dr. Jessica Boston Davis, SPS Director of Equity and Excellence, to share an equity update with School Committee members through a presentation, which may be found here:

- [Equity and Excellence Presentation](#)

Dr. Boston Davis shared her presentation and the vision for equity in the Somerville Public Schools; an educational environment where all students are affirmed and can thrive- academically, emotionally and socially. She walked the committee through her slides, which included some of the following:

- School Support and Equity Plans

PD's, curriculum support, collaborations with various departments, recruitments & retention of diverse staff and communication with community members.

- Collaborations

Teen Empowerment, BAM, The Leadership Academy, Harvard Grad School of Ed. Change the Tune, MA Transgender Political Coalition and AICL.

- HGSE Equity Fellows

Two equity fellows – Master students at Harvard Graduate School of Education who will be working on a project regarding reciprocal communication strategy.

- Examples of PD Offerings

-Anti-Racism: an Indigenous Perspective

-Schooling for Critical Consciousness PLC

-Equitable Systematic Training Strategies for Special Educators

- Student Advisory Council

- Launched but still being developed

- 18 students from Somerville High School and Full Circle

- Hoping to expand to middle grades

- Curriculum Review

- Revising Social Studies Curriculum in grades k-8 to the new updated DESE Social Studies standards.

- Equity Specialist

-One specialist at each school who is also a member of their schools ILT to provide support for school based PD.

Dr. Boston Davis then introduced three of the Equity Specialist at the schools who were also present.

Daphnee Balan from the West Somerville Neighborhood School, Amber Jackson from Somerville High Schools and Kara Dodd from the Winter Hill Community Innovation School. Each Equity Specialist spoke to some of the work they are each doing at the school level.

To end the presentation Dr. Boston Davis announced that looking ahead to the 2022-2023 School Year they are looking to add a full-time Equity Coach position to the district.

Question/ Comments

Ms. Krepchin was excited to hear about the collaboration between the Winter Hill and SHS Students.

Ms. Dion was impressed by the list of offered PD's.

Superintendent Skipper appreciates and is proud of all the work that Dr. Boston Davis is doing, especially because empowering educators lead it. All the work we do as a district needs to be through a lens of equity.

Mr. Buchanan echoed Superintendent Skipper's comment and thanked Dr. Boston Davis for being a great support and thought partner.

Ms. Pitone and Ms. Barish thanked the team for their work and for amplifying student voices and offered support from School Committee for any resources they may need in the future.

Chair Green wondered if the students of the advisory committee could receive a stipend for their work and asked if the Equity Coach position was added to the budget requests for next year.

Superintendent Skipper responded that Dr. Boston Davis is doing a lot of fieldwork and a coach would be helpful in continuing that work. They will formally make the request when that department budget is presented.

Dr. Phillips shared her excitement for the Equity Coach position.

Mr. Green echoed the committee's thanks and appreciation.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (Out of Order)

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The Following Policies were presented for a first reading:

- **File JHCA: Extended Campus for Lunch Policy**

Chair Green asked Ms. Barish to introduce this policy as the Chair of Rules.

Ms. Barish spoke to the policy coming to rules and being voted out to regular after several edits. She asked Principal Buchanan to speak to it before reading the policy.

Mr. Buchanan shared that he met with the senior class and asked them what could make this year a memorable one, after how tough the past two years have been. Students spoke to the possibility of an open campus and so Mr. Buchanan told them he would do his best to make this happen.

Ms. Barish then read the policy.

File: JHCA

EXTENDED CAMPUS for LUNCH POLICY

Somerville High School (SHS) students in good standing will be granted a privilege to leave school grounds during lunch. The goal of this policy is to support the increasing independence of high school students as they prepare to graduate.

This is an earned privilege which can be revoked at any time if the guidelines and expectations, as determined by the Superintendent or their designee, are not followed. This policy provides the opportunity for upper grade SHS students

to leave campus on foot during their scheduled lunch period. Detailed expectations and eligibility can be found in the student handbook, and parents and/or guardians must give signed permission in advance.

Eligibility

Students must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- upper grade member of SHS.
- be in good academic and behavioral standing.
- abide by the student handbook expectations.
- sign the student expectations form.
- have documented parent or guardian permission.

Detailed expectations and procedures will be found in the SHS student handbook, and may be revised as needed by the Superintendent or Principal.

Questions/ Comments

Dr. Phillips thinks this is a great idea but asked some clarifying questions: which are upper grades? What is good standing? Has the reference of the handbook been updated to reflect this?

Mr. Buchanan responded that this year is a pilot for seniors but they are hoping to extend it to juniors next year, the "upper grades" language is to allow flexibility.

Ms. Krepchin asked Attorney Paige Tobin, who was present to speak to the policy and any concerns. Ms. Tobin said she has worked closely with Principal Buchanan and the administration for this policy and it is in a line with other districts that have open campus policies.

Ms. Pitone clarified that it is not an open campus policy but rather an extended campus for lunch policy.

President McLaughlin appreciates that this policy allows flexibility to students and offered his support for this policy.

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Dion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to waived the second reading and proceed to approval.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

MOTION: There was a motion by President McLaughlin, seconded by Ms. Dion, to approved File JHCA: Extended Campus for Lunch Policy.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

C. Personnel Report

- March 2022

Superintendent announced the retirement of the following staff and thanked them for their service:

Daniel Sartell, Building Monitor at Somerville High School for 13 years of Service

Antonio DiCecca, Utility Aide at Somerville High School for 20 Years & 6 Month of service

Harry Regis, Geometry/Algebra Teacher at Somerville High School for 30 years of service

Superintendent Skipper then read her District report

Superintendent's Notes: *School Committee Meeting – Monday, March 21, 2022*

It's official – spring has finally arrived and with it, new beginnings and a time for celebration as, believe it or not, we enter the final months of the 2021-22 school year.

We will start with a few congratulatory notes:

Earlier this month, the **East Somerville Community School debate team** took the top prize in the Boston Debate League Middle School Championship. Congratulations to the ESCS debate team and their teachers, Ms. Gouvea and Mr. Weaver, for the team's outstanding performance this year.

Somerville High School 10th grader, **Ruthanna Kern**, took first place in the "Senior Individual Performance" category of the **Greater Boston History Day competition**. Ruthanna advanced to state competition scheduled for April 9th, where she will perform her piece, titled "Much Debate Being Thereupon: Quakers, Consensus Decision-Making, and the American Antislavery Movement." Congratulations, Ruthanna, and best of luck at the state competition!

Thaddeus Piper MacDonald, an 8th grader at the Argenziano School, placed first in the Grades 6-8 category of the **Youth Art Month (YAM) Flag Contest**, administered by the Council for Art Education. This year's contest theme was "Art Connects Us." Winning flag entries will on display on the Massachusetts Art Education Association's YAM website. Congratulations to Thaddeus and his art teacher, Diana Taremi.

Summer planning is well under way as are preparations for afterschool programming for next school year. This week, we are hosting several **Afterschool Enrollment Support and Scholarship Application Sessions**, for families whose students will be entering grades 1 to 6 in the 2022-23 school year. The sessions provide families an opportunity to learn about afterschool programs provided by SPS and external partners, and to receive support enrolling their student in a program and applying for scholarships as needed. Appointments for in-person or telephone sessions are available for March 21- 25, 3-6pm. Visit our OST Program Enrollment Support webpage for more information and to access the sign-up forms in our four primary languages. You can access that page by following the Afterschool Registration Sessions banner link on our district home page.

This Thursday, March 24th, we are hosting an **Informational Meeting about Somerville High School Math Curriculum Changes** that will start with the SHS Class of 2027, current 7th graders in our district. All are invited to attend this Zoom session at 5:00p.m. On March 24th. SHS Math Department Head Ms. Murphy-Sheehy and other staff members will present on the new curriculum and answer questions. Informational materials will be made available on the SHS Math website after the meeting for parents and guardians who are unable to attend the virtual informational meeting.

Families and community members are invited to join us next week, Wednesday, March 30th for a **Virtual Roundtable "Working TOGETHER to Support Our Students."** City and District representatives will discuss challenges and solutions related to the mental health and social-emotional wellness of Somerville children and teens. Event details will be posted on our #SomervilleTogether website (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/together) and on social media this week.

A reminder that we have two **Half-day Wednesdays** for students in Pre-K to 8 coming up before April Vacation - this Wednesday, March 23rd and Wednesday, April 6th. Pre-K students are dismissed at 11:30 a.m. and K-8 students are dismissed at noon on Half-day Wednesdays.

Speaking of **April Vacation**, all schools will be closed Friday, April 15th through Friday, April 21st. Friday, April 15th is a holiday (Good Friday) as is Monday, April 18th (Patriots Day). District offices will be closed on those two days, but open the remainder of the April Vacation week.

VIII. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

- A. Rules Management Subcommittee:** March 7, 2022 (Ms. Barish)
- B. Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:** March 9, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)
- C. Rules Management Subcommittee:** March 16, 2022 (Ms. Barish)
- D. Long Range Planning Subcommittee:** March 16, 2022 (Mr. Green)

All subcommittee reports were tabled until next meeting.

IX. CONDOLENCES

Superintendent Skipper and the Somerville School committee extend their deepest condolences to the families of:

March 11, 2022 - Lillian DiFraia, Mother-in-Law to **Patti DiFraia**, Human Resources Administrative Assistant

March 15, 2022 - James "Jimmy" Cooper, Father-in-Law to **Rosanna Paribello**, Director of Community Schools

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Related documents:

Agenda

[SPS Equity Update](#)

Personnel Report

Submitted by: E. Garcia

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 21, 2022
ZOOM WEBINAR – 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the School Committee will be conducted via remote participation.

We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to preregister or on the date and time of this meeting to view it live: https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UrehXHpaTfut-o3dQKwcpw

Webinar ID: 840 0751 5994

Password: SPSSC22

Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2019 - 2022

Through the following long-range goals, we commit to addressing deep-rooted systemic barriers that have prevented us from achieving our district vision of equity and excellence and ensuring that all students, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the supports and resources they need to achieve educational success in our district now and in the future. By 2022, we will ...:

...increase the percentage of support staff of color by 6 percentage points, teachers and counselors of color by 5 percentage points, and administrators of color by 4 percentage points through evaluating and strengthening all elements of our human capital system.

... 1) conduct a district enrollment study to understand the prospective future population of the district and 2) craft a vision for school assignment and programming aligned with the district's equity policy.

... design, evaluate, and partially or fully implement student-based budgeting to ensure that every student has equitable access to rich learning opportunities that help them thrive.

... design a robust system of aligned developmental academic and social-emotional benchmarks which will be used to inform practices, policies, and resource allocation.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Call to order with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 28, 2022

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- Equity and Excellence Presentation (Dr. Boston Davis)

B. Personnel Report

- March 2022

VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

- A. Rules Management Subcommittee:** March 7, 2022 (Ms. Barish)

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

B. Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: March 9, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of March 9, 2022.

C. Rules Management Subcommittee: March 16, 2022 (Ms. Barish)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Rules Management of March 16, 2022.

D. Long Range Planning Subcommittee: March 16, 2022 (Mr. Green)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of March 16, 2022.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

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

- File JHCA: Open Campus for Lunch Policy

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

IX. CONDOLENCES

X. ADJOURNMENT

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.



Somerville Public Schools
Education • Inspiration • Excellence

PERSONNEL REPORT
2021-2022 School Year
March 2022

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
SCALE	FT ELL Teacher	Elizabeth Stark	12/31/21	14 + 3 months
HLY	Kindergarten Paraprofessional	Kathleen Donahue	10/15/21	38 years
HLY	Occupational Therapist	Marybeth Bernstein	11/22/21	25 years
EEC	BCBA	Diane Pucci	01/31/22	6 years
Food Services	Principal Account Clerk	Patricia Leahy	02/04/22	34 years
ESCS	Grade 2 Teacher	Paula Lynch	12/31/21	28 + 164 days
ESCS	Grade 1 Paraprofessional	Margarita Lopez	01/13/22	25
SHS	Health Career Teacher	Laurie Foley	06/30/22	22 & 157 days
Central Office	District Administrator of MLE Programs	Sarah Davila	06/30/22	25 & 143 days
SHS	Chemistry Teacher	Joseph Tarello	01/31/22	58 years
NW/FC	Clinical Coordinator	MaryAnn Beaton	06/30/22	22 years
SHS	Portuguese Teacher	Heloisa Taveira	06/30/22	27 years & 82 days
District Wide	K-12, Supervisor of Library & Media Services	Charles LaFauci	06/30/22	28 years & 182 days
SHS	Assistant Principal	Harry Marchetti	03/25/22	9 years
KEN	Senior Clerk	Kellee Kucharski	06/30/22	6 years
CAP	Principal	Cheryl Piccirelli	06/30/22	7 years
BR	Adjustment Counselor	Peter Holladay	08/10/22	23 years
SHS	Building Monitor	Daniel Sartell	06/30/22	13 years
SHS	Utility Aide	Antonio DiCecca	03/14/22	20 & 6 months
SHS	Geometry/Algebra teacher	Harry Regis	06/30/22	30 years

RESIGNATION NOTICES:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Central	Performance Data Analyst	Kenya Avant-Ransome	05/13/22
ESCS	Grade 2 UNIDOS Teacher	Ghali Armira	03/11/22
HLY	Grade 1 ESL Paraprofessional	Erika Sanches	03/04/22
SHS	Library Aide - Makerspace	Megan Meredith	03/11/22

ASSIGNMENT ENDED:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATE

LEAVES OF ABSENCES:

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	EFFECTIVE DATES
AFAS/ESCS	.90 Music Teacher	Kathy Kim	02/22/22-03/07/22 - Revised
District Wide	Music Teacher	Anatasia Mousouli	08/09/22-06/30/23 - Extended
EEC	Interpreter & Translator	Raynoli Tejada	03/08/22-03/21/22
HLY	Resource Room Teacher	Emily O'Brien	12/24/21-06/30/22 - Extended
KEN	School Principal	Mark Hurrie	01/28/22-04/08/22
SCALE	PT Reading Teacher	Nancy Egan-Tricomi	03/16/22-04/06/22 - Revised
SHS	Resource Room Teacher	Julianne Stafford	03/15/22-03/28/22
WHCIS	Occupational Therapist	Allison Sun	04/20/22-10/24/22
WHCIS	ESL Teacher	Eduardo Cruz	03/01/22-03/10/22

INTRA-DISTRICT PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	REASON	VICE	EFFECTIVE DATE
SHS	Provisional ESL Teacher	Arnaz Mehta	New		
SHS	Provisional SHS Counselor	Melanie Banks	Reassignment	Meghan Sousa	03/08/22
SHS	Interim Dean of Students - MLE	Carla Feehan	Temp New Assignment	Catarina Saenz	02/28/22

NEW HIRES

SCHOOL	POSITION	INCUMBENT	VICE	DUAL/SEI	EFFECTIVE DATE
CAP	Provisional PK SMILE Paraprofessional	Tiffany Ramkissoon	Mallory Shackford	No/No	02/28/22
District Wide	Enrollment Health Specialist	Kayla Centeio	New	No/No	03/14/22
SHS	Provisional ESL Teacher	Arnaz Mehta	New	No/No	01/26/22
SHS/Athletics	Middle School Track & Field Coach	Brian Axelrod	Beverly Antunes	No/No	03/01/22
SHS/Athletics	Head Football Coach	David Pereira	Makonnen Fenton	No/No	08/15/22
WHCIS	Provisional .50 MLE/.50 SPED Paraprofessional	Luciana Bettencourt	New	No/No	03/02/22

SUMMER SCHOOP

POSITION	INCUMBENT
All Programs District Director of Summer Programs	Dayshawn Simmons Additional Assignment