

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday January 25, 2016 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers – Somerville City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Palmer, Alderman White, Ms. Pitone (7:09 p.m.), Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Mr. Green, Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Normand

**Members absent:** Mayor Curtatone

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Carrie Normand called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers at City Hall at 7:03 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Normand asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Palmer, White, Roix, Futrell, Green, Bockelman and Normand and ABSENT – 2 – Curtatone and Pitone.

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Ojo was not in attendance this evening due to illness.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- January 11, 2016

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the minutes of January 11, 2016.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee** : Dec. 8 (Ms. Normand)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on December 8 at 42 Cross Street.

Members present: Carrie Normand, Dan Futrell and Steve Roix

Other School Committee members present: Adam Sweeting

Also in attendance: Superintendent Skipper and Finance Director Durette

Audience Members: Five

Ms. Normand called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

There were seven items on the agenda.

- 1) Approval of Minutes for November 10, 2015 meeting of Finance and Facilities.  
Motion: Mr. Roix made a motion to accept the minutes of December 9, 2015 meeting, seconded by Mr. Roix. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Declaration of Surplus Vocational Equipment.  
Motion: Mr. Futrell made a motion to declare several pieces of CTE equipment surplus including an off-set printing press (estimated value \$1,200, refrigerator (estimated value \$750,) and steamer (estimated value \$750) surplus, Mr. Roix seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) FY16 Staffing Plan  
The committee was supplied a copy of the Personnel Plan: 2016 Staff and Salaries report in preparation for the upcoming budget development process.
- 4) Facilities Update  
Due to water infiltration and damage to 42 Cross Street, the Capital Planning Office needs to redirect water away from the building and make repairs. Central Office staff will move to the Edgerly School while repairs are made. The first phase of staff will move before winter break with the rest of the 42 Cross Street staff moving in January. Once repairs are complete, the plan is for the Finance and Human Resources Departments to move back to 42 Cross Street. The rest of Central Office will remain at the Edgerly. This will alleviate the space needs of 42 Cross Street. The Superintendent,

Student Services, academic officers, and Communications will stay on at the Edgerly fostering a more collaborative work environment.

5) FY2016 Expenditure Report

Finance Director Durette answered clarifying questions about the Expenditure Report. Members of the committee expressed appreciation for the addition of percentage of funds available the previous year as a data point for comparison.

6) FY2016 Bill Rolls

Motion: Mr. Futrell made a motion to approve FY2016 Bill Rolls, seconded by Mr. Roix, and the motion passed unanimously.

7) Other

Mr. Roix invited School Committee members to join the Somerville High School Building Committee's site visit to Winchester High School.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to declare several pieces of CTE equipment surplus including an off-set printing press (estimated value \$1,200, refrigerator (estimated value \$750,) and steamer (estimated value \$750) surplus.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve FY2016 Bill Rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the Chair of Finance for the meeting of December 8, 2016.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**B. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:** Dec. 8 (Ms. Pitone)

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on December 8, 2015 at 42 Cross Street.

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Laura Pitone, Christine Rafal

Others present: Adam Sweeting, Dan Futrell, Carrie Norman, Steve Roix

SPS Administrators present: Mary Skipper, Vince McKay

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. MCAS - PARCC Discussion:

The Superintendent presented her recommendation regarding the decision of whether or not to adopt PARCC as the standardized test for spring of 2016. Decisions from the state have come in real time, including plans to develop and implement a statewide MCAS 2.0 versus committing to PARCC, and many questions still remain unanswered. The Superintendent's initial recommendation was to switch from MCAS (test from Spring 2015) to PARCC, due to the changes in the test (such as eliminating long composition), the reduced number of urban districts participating, the desire to get accustomed to an online platform predicted to be used in the future and the expectation that the new MCAS 2.0 will more closely resemble PARCC. However, after further consideration and consultation with administration and staff, this recommendation was withdrawn. It was determined that the disruption and distraction associated with administering a new test, would not be worth the perceived benefits.

Additionally, the Superintendent emphasized that plans will continue to be developed and executed to prepare teachers and administrators for the next generation of MCAS, including any necessary curriculum design and professional development. Most importantly, SPS will continue to focus on teaching and learning that will support student success regardless of the standardized assessment.

Some School Committee members expressed appreciation for efforts to develop and reconsider the recommendation. Some School Committee members and members of the audience also expressed interest in future discussions about the high stakes nature of standardized testing. Additionally, some members of the audience expressed interest in parents learning more about assessments and sharing their concerns publically with SPS.

2. Home Schooling Administrative practices

There has been some interest in exploring ways for home schooled students to access some SPS programming. The current School Committee policy defers decisions regarding home school participation

to the Superintendent and the current administration and School Committee were both interested in exploring this topic. The previous administration position was to only allow currently registered SPS students to participation in SPS programming.

A memo outlining local Home Schooling practices was shared by Dr. McKay. Policies ranged from no participation to extracurricular, to one class and one extracurricular. Individual decisions were made in one district at the school level, in others at central administration. Some community members who home school shared their interest, from elementary to high school, extracurricular and curricular.

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent were willing to explore and come back to the Educational Programs subcommittee in the spring with potential ideas. A phased approach, potentially starting with extracurricular outside the traditional school day was a potential starting point.

3. Updates and New Business:

- A memo Lisa Kuh, Director of the Early Education on behalf of the Early Education Steering Committee (EESC), was shared, outlining early childhood initiatives and activities.
- Were informed by Administration that adjustments are being made to the School Improvement Process which will be shared shortly.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 12th at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross St.

Mr. Bockelman moved to approve the Educational Programs subcommittee minutes from October and November. Ms. Rafal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 9:01 p.m. Ms. Rafal moved to adjourn. Mr. Bockelman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the report for the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting of December 8, 2015.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**C. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:** Jan. 12 (Mr. Roix)

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on January 12, 2016 at 42 Cross Street.

Members present: Steve Roix, Laura Pitone and Andre Green

Other School Committee members present: Carrie Normand, Lee Palmer

Also in attendance: Superintendent Skipper and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Vince McKay, Somerville High School (SHS) Headmaster John Oteri, Director of Career and Vocational Technical Education(CVTE) at SHS Leo DeSimone, Tom Bent of the SHS Business Advisory Board, CVTE Teacher Laurie Foley and SHS CVTE students

First on our agenda was the CVTE update:

I know we all look forward to Mr. Ojo's reports here for the insight they give us into the issues that have the attention of our High School Students, but it isn't that often that we get to hear directly from students at a subcommittee meeting, which is typically a less formal setting and where we have a more narrowly focused agenda that allows for more in depth presentations and discussion. It was exciting to have students there and I extend my thanks to Mr. Oteri and Mr. DeSimone for bringing students with them for this presentation and especially thanks to Sam and Brenda for taking the time out of their busy lives to come and give some insight to our committee.

This was an update, there were a number of things that our staff wanted to highlight to the School Committee around new programs and partnerships, successes and challenges that they are having, although mostly successes in this case, and at least one budget request. We were updated on various outside internships that are either on-going or in the pipeline, which is something that I think has really taken off in recent years with Mr. DeSimone's leadership and our community partners, as well as the schedule change at the High School. It is really great, important stuff when we are able to give opportunities for our CVTE students to work in the field with professionals who do this every day. We were updated on partnerships for four of our Dental Assisting students with Tufts School of Dentistry and also in the local dental office of Dr. Malouf. Also, along the lines of health careers, there is a partnership with Strongwater Farm, in Tewksbury, which provides equestrian therapy, riding therapy for PTSD patients.

There's a partnership with Callahan Construction, the firm doing a lot of the building over on Assembly Row, which provides fantastic opportunities for experience for our building trades students in welding,

electrical, carpentry, architectural/CAD and even provides some potential employment opportunities. Much is happening with manufacturing apprenticeships with internships with Gillette, a company called Lytron in Woburn, and our own Greentown Labs here in Somerville.

And speaking of manufacturing, another very exciting development which Mr. DeSimone and Mr. Bent, working with the Mayor's Job Council, were able to help the City secure is an \$85,000 Job Training Grant which will be used to train - in a 10 week program – Somerville residents, aged 18 to 24 - in a manufacturing program. This training program will, hopefully, provide them with a leg up on good jobs, in an area where jobs are coming back. They don't necessarily look like the old manufacturing jobs, but for people who have the right skills; this is potentially a growth area. 18 to 24-year-olds were specifically targeted in this program because they were the age group that has been identified as having the highest rates of unemployment or under employment in our community. Mr. Bent identified Somerville Community Corporation, Community Action Agency of Somerville and the Chamber of Commerce as partners in this effort. This was very exciting and welcome news and a good example of how our schools, and Somerville High School in particular, continue to be such an integral part of what makes Somerville a great place to live, work and raise a family, as the mayor says. This is true even for individuals and families without high school aged students – the value of this school and our staff to this community at large is something I think shouldn't be understated.

As I said, it was great to have Sam and Brenda there to be able to tell us a little about what the CVTE program has meant to them and how they see themselves as better prepared to move on from High School. In Brenda's case, she's in health careers and I think it already means she has been accepted into a program (STAND program) that involves free tuition to the nursing program at Bunker Hill. Sam is in the Electrical Program and, as a junior, already has real construction site type experience under his belt, and is already a finalist for an apprenticeship program with the IBEW, which is very competitive and it's just amazing to even have that as a possibility before you have even finished high school. Again, I appreciate getting to hear from both of these students, and both Mr. DeSimone and Mr. Oteri were quick to point out that while these were great, mature, well-spoken students – they were by no means unique in those qualities and we would've had the same impression for many, many other students in the CVTE program at Somerville high – so that was very encouraging to hear also.

It was exciting to hear about some of the new programs and some of the future plans. They did come to us with one staffing request., Obviously, that's not something we address in Ed Programs, but I'm repeating it here for the full committee – and I'm guessing it's something we will discuss with the Superintendent during our budget meeting for spring, but they feel like the electrical program could do with another staff member due to the popularity of the program, and in order to keep it efficient while still keeping it safe, another staff member is needed.

We discussed briefly the educational plan being put together for the Somerville High School feasibility project. School Committee members had the opportunity to ask the Superintendent and Dr. McKay questions about the process and the results, and we had a brief discussion about that.

The only other item was a memorandum from Steve Simolaris and Laura outlining the current reproductive health curriculum. Dr. McKay informed us that administration is in the process of undertaking a comprehensive review of the district's entire health and physical education programming and would be presenting an update to the school committee this spring.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to accept the report for the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting of January 12, 2016.  
The motion was approved via voice vote.

**D. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:** January 19 (Mr. Bockelman)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on January 19, 2016 at 42 Cross Street.

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Dan Futrell and Laura Pitone

Other School Committee members present: Carrie Normand, Lee Palmer, Steve Roix

Also in attendance: Superintendent Skipper and Finance Director Durette

Audience Members: Three

Mr. Bockelman called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

There were five items on the agenda.

1) MSBA Statements of Interest

Rob King from the City of Somerville Capital Planning Department was present to discuss the Statements of Interest to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. He said the top priority should be the Winter Hill Community School. There is a February 12<sup>th</sup> deadline to submit the Statements for consideration for the accelerated repair program. He said the Winter Hill needed roof replacement and window repairs. He anticipated at least a 70% reimbursement rate. He estimated that, if funded, the work would be done during the summer of 2017.

In response to questions, he said the Brown School roof and boiler were in good shape. He said the Edgerly would only qualify for partial reimbursement as the program can only apply to buildings being used for educational programs.

He also noted that, in December, the City funded a complete assessment of all city-owned buildings and he estimated that this analysis would be completed in May.

The School Committee will receive a Statement of Interest to vote on at its next meeting.

Mr. Bockelman asked how the School Committee, if it desired, would go about getting a complete renovation of the Brown School into the capital planning discussion. Mr. King said the School Committee should submit its request to his office for consideration with other capital improvements.

Members of the Committee also asked about the status of 42 Cross Street. Due to water infiltration and damage to 42 Cross Street, Central Office staff has moved to the Edgerly School while repairs are made. The first phase of staff moved before winter break with the rest of the 42 Cross Street staff moving in January. Once repairs are complete, the plan is for the Finance and Human Resources Departments to move back to 42 Cross Street. The rest of Central Office will remain at the Edgerly. This will alleviate the space needs of 42 Cross Street. The Superintendent, Student Services, academic officers, and Communications will stay on at the Edgerly fostering a more collaborative work environment.

2) Special Appropriations for SHS Robotics

Ms. Durette reported that the vote to accept the appropriation for the Somerville High School Robotics team had two problems: it was in the wrong form and had the wrong sum of money. She requested that the Subcommittee vote a new motion as follows:

Motion: that the School Committee request an additional appropriation of \$27,362 from the Board of Aldermen to establish a first robotics team, thus increasing the total FY2016 Somerville Public Schools budget to \$62,540,020.00.

Mr. Bockelman asked for an explanation for the genesis of this particular project and request, noting that this type of mid-year request for additional funds was unusual in his experience. Superintendent Skipper explained that she learned that the high school was not participating in the robotic competition, that they – and she – wanted to, and the Mayor agreed to seek the additional funds to make it happen.

After further discussion, Mr. Futrell made the motion as presented above. It was seconded by Ms. Pitone and passed unanimously.

3) FY2017 Level Service Budget Projections

Ms. Durette presented budget projection for FY2017 assuming all services are to be maintained with no additions or deletions. This is the first step in our budget building process.

4) FY2016 Expenditure Report

Finance Director Durette answered clarifying questions about the Expenditure Report. Members of the committee expressed appreciation for the addition of percentage of funds available the previous year as a data point for comparison.

5) FY2016 Bill Rolls

Motion: Ms. Pitone made a motion to approve FY2016 Bill Rolls. The motion as seconded by Mr. Futrell and passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, that the School Committee request an additional appropriation of \$27,362 from the Board of Aldermen to establish a first robotics team, thus increasing the total FY2016 Somerville Public Schools budget to \$62,540,020.00.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the bill rolls as presented. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to accept the report for the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting of January 19, 2016.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. Personnel Report**

Mrs. Skipper announced that the January 2016 Personnel Report was in members' packets this week. Included in this report were the retirements of:

- Carol Ross, Guidance Counselor at Somerville High School
- Patricia Durette, Finance Director for the Somerville Public Schools

Mrs. Skipper wished these employees a happy and healthy retirement.

### **B. District Report**

- Argenziano students Marisa Lopez (G6), Tatiana Pineda (G6) and Theresa Romano (G5); and Brown School students Susie Buckley (G6), Elli Davis (G5), and Katja Szturma (G5) will be representing Somerville on the 2016 All-State Treble Chorus. The All-State Treble Chorus is an auditioned group of Grade 4-6 singers from across the Commonwealth. The Chorus will perform in Boston as part of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) All-State Conference on March 12, 2016 at the Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center, under conductor Dr. Rollo Dilworth. Congratulations to all 6 students, and thank you for your great work!
- Two Somerville High School students were recently recognized for their outstanding work in an art contest hosted by Teen Empowerment. The contest called for artwork that related to mental health and well-being. Congratulations to senior Alexander Costa, who took first place, and junior Nina Zou, who took second place in the contest. Both students worked under the guidance of art teacher Sean Bianchi.
- Five students represented the Somerville Public Schools with distinction at the 2016 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration last Monday. Every year, students from around the District are invited to participate in an MLK essay contest for an opportunity to read their essays at the annual community-wide celebration. Thanks to ALL the students who participated in the essay contest, and congratulations to the following 5 Somerville Public Schools essayists who presented their essays at this year's event: Nikki Grover (Argenziano), Imogen O'Rourke Blackburn (Argenziano), Susanne Garcia (ESCS), Dayne Pierre (ESCS), and Nathalya Salmeron (ESCS).
- We are very excited that Somerville was recently awarded a \$40,000 Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative grant from the Department of Early Education and Care. A total of 13 cities and towns were awarded grants ranging in amounts from \$22,000 to \$40,000. The Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative grant will allow recipients to conduct needs assessments to assist in developing strategic plans for increasing access to high-quality EEC-licensed preschool programs for children 3-5 years of age. We look forward to continuing this important collaborative work with the EEC and the Somerville community.
- Mrs. Skipper was invited to participate last Friday in a Superintendents' Panel along with the Superintendents from Natick and Framingham, at the Launch Learn Conference on Equity Integration of Technology and Blended Learning. Somerville is out in front with our Hour of Code, Assistive Technology and other technology initiatives.
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2016-2017 school year has officially kicked off! We had a great turnout at our K-8 Open Houses and Tours next week, and had a busy initial day of registration at the Parent Information Center on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thankfully, the weather cooperated. To date, we received approximately 109 complete registration packets on Saturday, an increase of 10% over last year's first-day numbers. Kindergarten registration continues throughout the school year. Visit our website Kindergarten registration page ([www.somerville.k12.ma.us/kindergarten](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/kindergarten)) for a complete schedule.
- Somerville High School hosts the Massachusetts College Goal Sunday on January 31<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00pm at the SHS Cafeteria. All graduating seniors and SHS alumni are invited to participate in this

event to receive free information and assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- Tickets for the Somerville High School production of *Into the Woods* are now on sale. The SHS production of the full-length musical will show at the SHS Auditorium on Thursday and Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm each evening, and on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm. Tickets can be purchased online at [ticketstage.com](http://ticketstage.com). Please contact the SHS musical producer, Rosemary Sears ([rsears@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:rsears@k12.somerville.ma.us)) if you have any questions regarding the musical. The annual high school musical is a highlight of the school year, and is often a sell-out, so don't delay getting your tickets.
- Exciting news regarding our Graduation rates – The 4-year graduation rate for Somerville High School is up from 82.7 in 2014 to 86.2 in 2015. The 4-year graduation rate for the district is up from 77.0 in 2014 to 81.4 in 2015.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, for a brief report.

Dr. McKay made a couple of MCAS announcements:

Session 2 of the MCAS English Language Arts test for grades 3–8 now consists of two sections, 2A and 2B.

- **Session 2A**, which contains MCAS test items, is designed to be completed within 35 minutes (recommended amount of time).
- **Session 2B**, the PARCC Narrative Writing section, must be completed within 60 minutes (strictly timed)

Discussion ensued among members regarding the following:

- One member expressed that his level of trust of the DESE is pretty low right now.
- When is the date when no more changes can be made to the test format by the DESE?  
*Right now, we do not know the answer to that question.*
- What is the current opinion of Somerville's peer districts regarding PARCC/MCAS?  
*About 50/50 with most urban districts favoring PARCC*
- The general feeling regarding changes to the testing.  
*There is a strong amount of frustration fueled by missives from the Department rather than concise, direct communication.*

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. 2016-2017 School Calendar

Members reviewed the latest draft of the 2016-2017 School Calendar. Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether to continue not having school on Election Day. Reasons for why this became a no school day were discussed and Mrs. Skipper was asked to poll the principals to get their opinions on whether they wished school to remain closed on Election Day. There was also a request to attempt to get a schedule of election dates for the next three years from the City's Election Department.
- Clarification was also made regarding the Friday before Labor Day being a no school day in accordance with the recently negotiated Somerville Teachers Association, Unit A, Teachers.

No action was taken this evening. The calendar will be on the February 1 agenda for approval.

### B. Somerville High School Building Committee Update

This presentation was deferred to a later date.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

Mr. Roix announced that the following policy was being presented this evening for first reading, as amended:

- File: EBC Emergency Plans

Alderman White suggested that the language in the policy that references MGL Chapter 71, section 1 is not necessary since we do not opt-out of offering CPR instruction to our students and asked that this particular language be revisited.

**B. Field Trips** (recommended action: approval)

- Apr. 6-8, 2016** Winter Hill Community Innovation School Grade 5 students to Nature's Classroom in Groton, MA. Transportation via bus. Cost per student is \$212 each and there are ongoing fundraising initiatives to help lower student costs.
- Apr. 30, 2016** Somerville High School Boys and Girls Ultimate Frisbee Teams to Middletown, CT to tournament. Transportation via min-bus with no cost to students for this trip.
- May 6, 2016** Next Wave/Full Circle students to Mount Monadnock, NH. Transportation via school van with a cost to students of \$5.00 each.
- May 21-22, 2016** Somerville High School Girls' Ultimate Frisbee Team to Northampton, MA, overnight, to compete in competitive tourney. Transportation via mini-bus with no cost to students for this trip.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**Further Items of New Business:**

Ms. Palmer requested an update at a future meeting of the status of the Steam Academy progress, along with follow up from the Somerville Teachers Association. Mrs. Skipper gave a brief overview of the status to date and reported that this matter would be on a future agenda.

**VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS****Ms. Palmer**

1. Asked for an update on the STEAM Academy and would like Ms. Lawrence from the STA to attend a meeting to provide her input as well as Mr. Resnick for her perspective. Mrs. Skipper provided what information she could provide based on her involvement in the process and said that she remains hopeful that a clear articulation and vision for STEAM is attainable. The thought now is to start as a middle grades program and expand it over time. This topic will be added to a future meeting agenda.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Open house and tours of Somerville High School will be held on February 4 and 6. Tours will be held at 8:15 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. each day. This is a great opportunity to walk around our terrific high school and see the wonderful energy there.

**Ms. Normand**

1. Encourages everyone to visit the High School during the open houses to see what a warm community is offered there.
2. Reminded members that Jim Hardy from the MASC will be in the District Wednesday night to provide training to members. This will be held at 8 Bonair Street in the conference room.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Bockelman expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following staff members and family of staff members who recently passed away:

- Muriel Brodette, retired School Nurse from the Somerville Public Schools
- Richard Saunders, father of Rick Saunders, Supervisor of Music for the Somerville Public Schools and father-in-law of Gretchen Saunders, teacher at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m. via voice vote.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of January 11, 2016 for approval
3. January 2016 Personnel Report
4. 2016-2017 Somerville Public Schools Calendar
5. STA Unit A contract language relative to the school calendar
6. 1 policy for first reading
7. Four (4) Out of State Field Trips forms