

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 8, 2015 – Regular Meeting

7:30 p.m. - Somerville High School Library – 81 Highland Avenue

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Roix, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand, Alderman White (7:10 p.m.), Mr. Futrell, Ms. Rafal and Mayor Curtatone (7:38 p.m.)

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Library of Somerville High School at 7:57 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 – 7 – Sweeting, Roix, Rafal, Pitone, Normand, Bockelman, and Futrell, and ABSENT – 2 – White and Curtatone.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Sweeting announced that we would be taking Item VIII. A, out of order, and that the Superintendent would introduce our two distinguished guests. Mr. Pierantozzi gave background on both new principals' work experience and other related background. Each principal spoke about being excited at the new opportunity and both look forward to their time here in Somerville.

A. Introduction of New Principals

- Mr. Shawn Maguire, Brown School
- Ms. Cheryl Piccirelli, Capuano Early Childhood Center

*The School Committee recessed at 8:08 p.m. so that members could meet and thank your guests.
The School Committee meeting resumed at 8:13 p.m.*

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Lockdown Training – students are excited and nervous. Excited to have a training, yet nervous just because of the possibility that they would ever be in a lockdown situation.
- A busy May/June with the prom, Class Day, the Peace Conference, and graduation
- Elections for class officers – over 40 students are running for office. Josh is up for re-election again this year! This Wednesday is the final Advisory Meeting for the year.
- Pep Rally – some students feel that the Pep Rally should involve all classes, not just seniors. Underclassmen want to participate in the games, etc. Others feel that it is a tradition to have just seniors and that underclassmen need to just wait their turn. In Student Council, discussions have been taking place regarding the possibility of having multiple rallies – fall, spring, etc. and involving all students at the other rallies and keeping the fall rally for seniors only.
- House Cup/Games – students and staff are working on a new idea to raise spirit, etc. The House Cup/Games would be a friendly competition between houses where students earn points for certain good acts/behavior. Housemasters are already engaging in "trash talk"! The cup would be fashioned similar to the Stanley Cup and could be engraved with the name of the winning house each year. Pep rally would be just one part of this and this is expected to be a healthy and fun event!
- Lunch off-campus – students would like to be able to eat lunch off campus. They would check out and in with their housemasters. Boundaries would be set, punishments pre-determined, etc. Students feel offering this option would show that they are trust-worthy, etc.
- Junior Appreciation Week – the week after graduation, the junior class participated in a spirit-driven Junior Appreciation Week which included pajama day, tie-dye day, white-out day, career day and school t-shirt day. A \$50 Amazon gift card was awarded for best costume.
- Under-appreciation of Music Department – students who participate in music activities feel that the Music Department is under-appreciated. To begin with, Mr. Saunders shares an office with a storage room. Josh reported that students feel that the Music Department ties Somerville together, yet they don't get the recognition/respect they deserve. Many events have low audience participation and other non-music students do not appreciate the work done by our musicians.
- Massachusetts Student Leaders Project – Joshua will be participating in the Massachusetts Student Leaders Project which brings school student leaders together on a larger level – kind of like a big Student Council. Josh looks forward to sharing ideas with other student leaders.

Discussion ensued relative to Mr. Ojo's report and, primarily, the Music Department issue. Members are proud of Mr. Ojo for bringing substantive issues to the School Committee and will work to help concerns.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 18, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management Subcommittee: May 18 (Mr. Roix)

The Rules Management Subcommittee met on Monday May 18 at the City Hall 2nd floor conference room at 6PM. In attendance were myself, Christine Rafal, Laura Pitone and Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi. Also Carrie Normand and Adam Sweeting. On the agenda was:

- File IK Academic Achievement
- File IKB Homework
- File BGD School Committee Review of Regulations
- File BEDF Voting Method
- File CHD Administration in Policy Absence
- Review of policies which reference the Health Department

As you might imagine, this agenda corresponded to a rather large packet for a 45 minute meeting, given that we had the school choice hearing scheduled that night for 6:45.

We plowed through it though, and in reality we only voted one policy modification to forward to the full school committee this evening. That was to strike the last two sentences in file BEDF, which, as was noted by an astute member of this body at an earlier regular meeting, refers to a "Section 22" which is a dated reference to a procedural tool no longer used in Somerville governance. So you have that revised policy in your packet this evening for file BEDF, being presented this evening for a first reading.

We discussed, as time allowed, members' questions on the other policies and in many cases these discussions amounted to asking the Superintendent for explanation or clarification on how our administrative procedures relate to the policies in question. For example one member has received constituent questions regarding the District's homework policy and grading policy vs. the practice at a particular school, but it may be more a case of consistent application across all of our schools - meaning not necessarily anything that needed to change with the school committee policy - and the Superintendent said he would look into this with staff. We also discussed policies relating to the board of health and how those work administratively.

Although I believe we covered the agenda it was my intention, because of the brevity of the meeting, the size of the packet it was my intention to leave the agenda items, other than file BEDF, on the agenda for another Rules committee meeting, to give the Superintendent a chance to respond with any additional information on the questions from members. Given that we have cancelled the June rules meeting due to scheduling conflicts, it would be my intention to leave these items on the agenda for a September meeting, if only to make sure Mary Skipper knows that we have 3 standing subcommittee right off the bat. And perhaps Superintendent Pierantozzi wants to call in from the boat in September and we can speaker phone - I know the Rules Management meeting is what he will miss most of all about this job.

I would anticipate keeping some of those items for a future September agenda, not that I am necessarily anticipating policy changes being proposed on those items, but just because we adjourned in a rush and I want to make sure that we have answers to questions and explanations to satisfy the subcommittee members, from one Superintendent or the other. In any case, we adjourned at 6:45.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the report of the Chair for the Rules Management Meeting of May 18, 2015.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee: May 19 (Ms. Pitone)

MOTION: To accept the report of the Chair for the Educational Programs & Instruction Meeting of May 19, 2015.

Mr. Sweeting announced that this report is tabled until our next meeting.

C. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities: May 20 (Ms. Normand)

The School Committee met as a Committee of the Whole for Finance and Facilities on Thursday, May 20, 2015 at 42 Cross Street. Members present were Carrie Normand, Dan Futrell, Steve Roix, Adam Sweeting, Christine Rafal, Paul Bockelman, and Laura Pitone.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi and Finance Director Durette. There was one member of the audience.

Ms. Normand called the meeting to order at 7:00.

There were four items on the agenda.

1) FY2016 Budget

After the previous week's public hearing, the FY2016 budget was handed off to the School Committee. There were no motions made to alter the budget from the Superintendent's recommendations. The School Committee did not vote on budget despite the lack of changes, because on several occasions May 26th was publically announced as the date of the final vote.

2) Request for a budget transfer of \$12,000 from the SPS salary account (S1109905-51101) to the City of Somerville's DPW Electrical Lights and Lines Account (0140251-513002) for electrical work at the Cummings School.

After receiving high quotes from vendors for electrical work to the air conditioning and heating unit at the Cummings School, it was learned that the DPW could do the work at a significantly better rate and keep the work within the city. For accounting purposes, the School Committee needed to make a motion to transfer funds and the City will have to make motion to accept the funds. Mr. Sweeting made the motion to transfer \$12,000 from the SPS salary account (S1109905-51101) to the City of Somerville's DPW Electrical Lights and Lines Account (0140251-513002) for electrical work at the Cummings School. Ms. Rafal seconded, and the motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

3) SCALE Adult Diploma Program Fee Schedule

SCALE'S Adult Diploma Program has new curriculum, a more comprehensive program. The Director of SCALE and the Superintendent recommended a new fee structure. A recommended increase of \$50 for Somerville residents and \$250 increase for non-Somerville residents for this new offering over the current rates of \$450 for Somerville residents and \$750 for non-Somerville residents. The School Committee asked for more information before making a decision.

4) Other

Ms. Rafal made a motion to declare SHS American history textbooks surplus. Mr. Futrell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Rafal moved to adjourn at 8:30, seconded by Mr. Futrell, the motion carried.

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the report and minutes for the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: of May 20, 2015.

D. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities: May 26 (Ms. Normand)

The School Committee met as a Committee of the Whole for Finance and Facilities on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 42 Cross Street. Members present were Carrie Normand, Dan Futrell, Steve Roix, Adam Sweeting, Christine Rafal, Paul Bockelman, and Laura Pitone.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi and Finance Director Durette.

Ms. Normand called the meeting to order at 7:30.

There were three items on the agenda.

1) FY2016 Budget

Mr. Sweeting moved to approve the FY2016 budget of \$62,512,658, seconded by Mr. Futrell. The motion passed with seven votes in the affirmative, votes opposed, and two absent. The SPS budget will be sent to the Mayor and becomes part his budget presentation to the Board of Alderman.

2) SCALE Adult Diploma Program Fee Schedule

The School Committee debated the Proposal for Increase in Rates for SCALE Adult Diploma Program. The program has been redesigned according to state guidelines and requirements. Somerville's is one of only three programs in the state. The Director of SCALE and the Superintendent recommended a fee increase of \$50 for Somerville residents and \$250 increase for non-Somerville residents for the revamped program, bringing the tuition to \$500 for Somerville residents and \$1,000

for non-Somerville residents. In many cases the tuition is paid for by an entity other than the student. Dan Futrell moved to set the rates for the revamped Adult Diploma Program at same rates for the previous program, \$450 for Somerville residents and \$750 for non-residents and to revisit the tuition structure in a year. Mr. Bockelman seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 yes votes, 3 no votes and 2 absent.

3) Executive Session

At 8:26 the School Committee moved to Executive Session. Mr. Sweeting, as Chair of the School Committee will report on this session.

At 8:53, Ms. Pitone made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Normand, the motion passed unanimously. Then Mr. Futrell moved to adjourn from Finance, seconded by Ms. Pitone, the motion passed unanimously.

Related Documents:

Proposal for Increase in Rates for SCALE Adult Diploma Program

MOTION: Ms. Normand made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the report and minutes for the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: of May 26, 2015.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- The Superintendent reported that prior to this meeting he presented the School Committee's FY2016 budget to the Board of Aldermen. It seemed well received. The Board of Aldermen will vote on the full City budget in about two weeks. They can pass, reject or reduce the budget, but, if they reduce, it is up to the School Committee to make the determination of what line items will be adjusted.
- Congratulations to the Somerville High School Class of 2015! Watch the evening's festivities on video. You can access the video from the SHS home page (www.somerville.k12.ma.us/shs). It was a festive and inspiring celebration! A special THANK YOU to our great partner Tufts for graciously hosting this event!
- As our graduating seniors get ready for their next adventure, our youngest learners are preparing for Kindergarten. About 140 families attended the "Welcome to Kindergarten" parent information night on May 27th, and we had a great time at the Boston Children's Museum on Friday evening with close to 400 incoming Kindergarteners and their parents/guardians. Kindergarten Transition Day takes place at schools throughout the District this Wednesday, June 10th, from 9:00-11:00am.

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent Vincent McKay for his report on curriculum-related matters:

1. MCAS Administration: This week wraps up the MCAS testing window which began back in late March. The FINAL high school STE session is tomorrow! Today, as I always do, I visited the testing site at the high school and was very impressed. Routines, organization, orderly. That's our job, so the students can do THEIR job. Congratulate all the school principals and their teams for very smooth MCAS testing season. Special thanks to first year Guidance Director Traci Small who organized things so well at the high school.
2. Preview of next Tuesday's Ed Programs meeting
As you know, our community has always been a gateway for newcomers to the US. But in the past year, Somerville and many neighboring communities have unprecedented numbers unaccompanied youth arriving in our schools. Social challenges – often staying with friends or extended family members. Academic challenges – in some cases, the social disruption in their home country has meant that these students have missed chunks of schooling. District Programs and ELL Director Sarah Davila will detail the SPS response, how we meet our obligation to properly educate these students. We'll also have update on the K readiness / early child hood initiative as well as an update in a couple of other program areas. CVTE Advisory presentation. Leo DeSimone and his team will present

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director Patricia Durette for her report on budget-related matters:

1. The budget, as you know, has been thoroughly gone through and the presentation this evening by the Superintendent was great. It was good to see such a good response to the presentation.
2. As part of the City's annual audit by Powers and Sullivan, on Wednesday the Food Services accounts will be audited and on Thursday the audit will be of the Special Education grants (IDEA, etc.)

The Superintendent reported that it seems to be the year of the audit. There have been an unprecedented number of audits this year. It is good for the new Superintendent to have them done this year.

The Coordinated Program Review (CPR) was the largest audit and Mr. Pierantozzi can emphatically say that our CPR report that we anticipate receiving from the DESE rivals the best he has heard of or seen. There will be minimal follow-up required on our end. The School Committee should be proud of our staff. We will be getting commendations on this audit and will likely serve as a role model in the future.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- On Wednesday, June 10, 5:00pm at The Armory, we celebrate our Full Circle graduates. Congratulations, Full Circle Class of 2015, and best of luck in your future endeavors!
- The "SFLC End-of-Year Family Picnic" takes place this Thursday, June 11th, at the Argenziano School Playground and Cafeteria from 5:30 to 7:00pm. Open to Somerville families with young children. Bring dinner for your family and a lounge chair or blanket to picnic outside, and enjoy free ice cream, music and fun activities for young children.
- Join us for the All-City District Track Meet (grades 3-8) this Friday, June 12th, at Dilboy Stadium. The meet starts at 6:00pm. Come watch and cheer!
- Upcoming Calendar Reminders & Calendar Changes:
 - June 18, 19 and 22-25 will be a FULL DAY for all students.
 - Friday, June 26 will be an Early Release day for preK-8 students, except at the Brown School; it will be a FULL DAY for Brown School students
 - Monday, June 29 will be an Early Release Day for all preK-8 students.
 - Tuesday, June 30 is a half day for ALL students, and the LAST DAY of SCHOOL.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. An Act Relative to Language Opportunity for Our Kids (LOOK)

Ms. Rafal gave an overview of the two bills up for consideration in the House and Senate. Ms. Rafal believes that, among other things, educators should be the ones to determine how best to teach their students. Since our students are doing well and we also have a successful dual-language program, she feels that Somerville is in a good position to support these bills.

Discussion ensued relative to members wishing to lend support, but also having reservations about some of the language included in the bills. After discussion, which included most members voicing their opinions on whether or not they support the bills, it was decided that the School Committee would send a letter specifying support, in concept. The Superintendent also weighed in on his concerns as well as the opinion of our ELL Director.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to support An Act Relative to Language Opportunity for our Kids (LOOK) in concept and engage our legislative delegation in a conversation of our concerns in an effort to seek clarification.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

June 24, 2015

Winter Hill Community Innovation School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park in Windham, NH. Transportation via bus. Cost to students is \$30.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policy was presented this evening for first reading, as amended by Mr. Roix:

- File BEDF: Voting Method

D. Acceptance of Donations

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Program donated to
Monetary	Maritza Pachano & David Poirier	Lexington, MA	\$20.00	El Sistema
Monetary	Graciela Ducasse & Domingo Pilarte	Somerville, MA	\$20.00	El Sistema
Monetary	Jennifer Dorsen	Somerville, MA	\$167.00	Music Department
Monetary	Cador & Margaret Pricejones	Somerville, MA	\$200.00	El Sistema
Viola de Gamba	Harold Westover	Concord, MA	\$500.00	Music Department
400 bicycle helmets	Breakstone, White and Gluck	Boston, MA	\$3300.00	Cycle Kids
Monetary <i>Grant</i>	C.A.S.I.T, Inc.	Wakefield, MA	\$7000.00	Somerville High School Italian Classes to purchase text books for Italian 2H and 3H

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept all donations, with gratitude. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Pierantozzi also announced, for the School Committee's information, the El Sistema Program has received \$20,691 in donations this year and \$76,532 in donations since their beginning.

E. FY2015 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas:

David Brian Delaney	10 Cross Street Place, #3	Somerville	02145
Jose Armando Pineda Tejada	160 Pearl Street	Somerville	02145
Alexandra P. Doucette	455 Totten Pond Road	Waltham	02451
Magalie Aladin	5 Jackson Place	Cambridge	02140
Maria E. Fuentes	84 Havre Street, #1	East Boston	02128
Teodara Lara	127 Cross Street	Brockton	02301
Morgan Anne Griffiths	3 Aquavia Road	Medford	02155

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the SCALE/ADP Graduates. The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

1. Congratulated the Class of 2015 and wished them well with college, career and other opportunities they may have.
2. Expressed her thankfulness for the Naviance Software, the College and Career Readiness program and for all of the wonderful scholarships awarded to our students. She is particularly thankful to the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation for including Full Circle students when awarding the scholarships.
3. Announced a teacher appreciation event on Wednesday morning at Somerville High School

Ms. Normand

1. There will be a Multicultural Fair at the West Somerville Neighborhood School on June 9th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
2. There will be a PTA coffee hour on Thursday beginning at 8:30 a.m., also at West Somerville.
3. Class Day and Graduation were wonderful and it was great to see how the students support each other.
4. Also, the Somerville High School Multicultural Fair was a wonderful community event.

Mr. Futrell

1. Next Friday, there will be a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at the Argenziano School.

Ms. Pitone

1. Congratulated the members of the Kennedy School Drama Club for their production of *The Grunge*.

2. Congratulated all of the teachers and volunteers who work with our kids outside of the school building. This past week, students from the Healey have gone on a few overnight trips – Grades 7 & 8 to Washington, DC and grade 4 to Red Gate Farms. There was also an overnight trip to the Museum of Science last Friday night. Kudos to all who participated and helped!

Mr. Bockelman

1. Talent Show on Friday at 6:00 p.m. for Brown 6th graders being held at the ESCS Auditorium
2. The CAAS Spring Party will take place on Thursday at the Somerville Armory.
3. On Friday at noon at Foss Park, there will be a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Head Start Program which is a major portion of CAAS.
4. Graduation and speeches are always great. The ceremonies for SCALE and Full Circle are super moving and the fact that these are smaller events, in general, makes them more personal, particularly when graduates share their stories.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Regarding graduation, Mr. Sweeting is deeply thankful as a parent and proud as a School Committee member.
2. Announced that the School Committee will meet for Long Range Planning on Wednesday, June 10 in the Somerville High School Library. There are three items on the agenda – The Brown School, the Unidos Program and an update on Innovation Schools.
3. Mr. Sweeting also announced that the School Committee will be hosting a celebration in honor of Mr. Pierantozzi on June 18th at the East Somerville Community School. This is a family-friendly event for the entire community of Somerville.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Jodi Dickie, sister of Julie Sahlas, teacher at the Winter Hill Community School.
- Mitchell J. Eskie, father of Deborah Eskie, paraprofessional at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School
- Salvatore Ciccariello, father of Tony Ciccariello, Administrator for Leadership, Programs and Planning for the Somerville Public Schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of May 18, 2015 Regular Meeting
3. One policy for first reading
4. One (1) out of state field trip request
5. Seven (7) Donation Acceptance Forms
6. Seven (7) SCALE ADP graduate approvals
7. A copy of a letter to the DESE regarding Somerville's Inter-District School Choice participation for 2015-16
8. Five (5) condolence letters
9. Letters to two new principals
10. Conference information for the November MASC/MASS Conference
11. A packet of information relative to the LOOK Legislation