

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday June 20, 2016 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Somerville High School Library

Members present: Ms. Palmer, Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Mr. Green, Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Normand

Members absent: Ms. Pitone, Mr. White and Mayor Curtatone

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carrie Normand called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Library of Somerville High School at 7:01 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 – 6 – Palmer, Roix, Futrell, Green, Bockelman and Normand and ABSENT – 3 – Pitone, Curtatone and White.

I. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

Ms. Normand announced that this is one of her favorite events. It's right up there with graduation and she is pleased to be able to honor the staff who showed up every day and supported our students in so many ways. Ms. Normand read the text of the citation (at the end of these minutes) and then called up each retiring staff member to receive the citation. Staff highlighted in bold were present for this meeting. Citations were mailed to those who could not attend.

A. Retiring Staff Members

<i>Linda Adams</i>	<i>Bobette Linehan</i>
<i>Susan Alport</i>	<i>Linda Manzelli</i>
<i>Stella Apostolakos</i>	<i>Susan McAnney</i>
<i>Patricia Auciello</i>	<i>Mary McGivern</i>
<i>Pamela Avellani</i>	<i>Donald Medeiros</i>
<i>Judith Baker</i>	<i>Barbara O'Brien</i>
<i>Richard Brunet</i>	<i>Anne Marie O'Connor</i>
<i>Mary Chochrek</i>	<i>Diane O'Keefe</i>
<i>Pamela Connors</i>	<i>Magalie Olivier</i>
<i>Julie Davenport</i>	<i>Nancy Parisi</i>
<i>Dianne DeVito</i>	<i>Michelle Perry</i>
<i>Mary DiGuardia</i>	<i>Kim Rice</i>
<i>Valerie Donovan</i>	<i>Carol Ross</i>
<i>Patricia Durette</i>	<i>Carmina Scuccimara</i>
<i>James Elliott</i>	<i>Anne Sutherland</i>
<i>Teresa Gaudet</i>	<i>Jaan Terry</i>
<i>Gail Halloran</i>	<i>Ann Marie Valeri</i>
	<i>Linda Wiegenfeld</i>

B. Recognition of Mr. Paul Bockelman

Ms. Normand announced that the School Committee is pleased to honor Mr. Bockelman upon his departure from the School Committee as he moves on to become the Town Manager in Amherst, MA. Ms. Normand read the resolution into the record (text at end of these minutes) and presented both the framed resolution and a plaque from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to Mr. Bockelman. Ms. Pitone made a special presentation of a vintage Somerville High School megaphone to Mr. Bockelman. Mr. Bockelman thanked everyone for their kind words and recognition.

The School Committee Meeting recessed at 7:17 p.m. so that members could congratulate the honorees. The meeting reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

V. C. Director of Special Education Contract

Ms. Normand announced that Ms. Christine Trevisone has been selected as our new Director of Special Education and invited Ms. Trevisone to join her at the table for the signing of her contract.

Ms. Skipper reported that she is thrilled to have Ms. Trevisone in this new role in the District. She brings with her a wealth of experience with systems-based approaches, experience with and insights into out of district placements and also offers stability as she has served as the Assistant Director for the past two years.

Congratulations to Ms. Trevisone!

II. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Educational Programs and Instruction: June 14, 2016 (Mr. Roix)

As Mr. Roix departed the meeting early due to illness, this report will be deferred to the August meeting.

III. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Personnel Report

The Superintendent announced that, included in the June Personnel Report, are the retirements of Gail Halloran, Kindergarten Paraprofessional at WSNS; Magalie Olivier, Teacher at the WHCIS and Donald Medeiros, Machine Tool Technology Teacher in the CVTE Program at Somerville High School and wished them long, happy and healthy retirements and thanked them for their service to our students.

B. District Report

- Schools across the District have been celebrating as students prepare to transition to new schools in the coming year. Congratulations to all the 8th grade students who are moving on to high school, and to all the Brown School students who are moving on to their new schools in 2016-2017. One final 8th Grade Moving On celebration is scheduled for tomorrow morning, 9:00am at the Kennedy School.
- For several years, Somerville High School students have participated in the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth PSA contest. The theme of this year's contest was "Write the Story you want to Tell," and was intended to "empower students to reflect on who they are and who they want to become." The goal of the MPY PSA project is to provide students with an opportunity and a platform to communicate direct, positive messages to other teens. Five PSA finalists are selected by a panel of reviewers, then more than 1,200 students from across the Commonwealth are asked to vote for the winning video.

Congratulations to Sophomore High School sophomore Desi Feldman, for creating the winning video titled "Defeat Stress." Desi's was one of 52 video entries this year representing the work of more than 200 students from across the Commonwealth. Also among the top five finalists was another SHS video entry "Be a Friend." A link to the winning video and to all of the finalists' entries is available on our District home page.

- Just a quick reminder that tomorrow, Tuesday, June 21st, is the last day of school and will be a half day for all students. We look forward to seeing many of our students at various programs throughout the summer, and to welcoming you all back in late August/early September. Visit our District home page for a list of important dates for the start of the 2016-2017 school year.
- As we wind down another outstanding year in the Somerville Public Schools, I'd like to take a moment to thank each of you for your tremendous support and enthusiasm in my first year as Superintendent of Schools. For me, it's been a tremendous year of learning and discovery. It's also given me an opportunity to get a stronger sense of what makes Somerville so special. The last few weeks in particular have provided me with a chance to experience Somerville in the way that those of you who grew up here or who have been here for a few years know this city. Somerville is such a beautiful blend of tradition and innovation, and of people from all over the world and with different backgrounds working hard – and working together – to make this the amazing city it is. I am so thankful to be part of this community and look forward to continuing to work with all of you to provide our youth with the best educational journey that we can offer.

Mr. Bockelman reported that he had attended the recent MSBA subcommittee meeting. This was a really good meeting that focused on the educational plan for the school. Mrs. Skipper and Mr. Oteri did a great job presenting the information. People seemed very impressed with the information, particularly for what is a very complicated building and were also excited at the idea of Next Wave/Full Circle being a part of the new building. Congratulations to Mrs. Skipper, Dr. McKay and Mr. Roix and all members of the Building Committee. The next step is the vote of the board on July 20th!

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MA Consortium for Innovative Education Assessments Resolution

Ms. Skipper provided a brief explanation of the reason for requesting approval of the following resolution and encourages School Committee approval.

MOTION: Mr. Green made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to waive the reading of the resolution and approve.

Ms. Pitone asked for the motion to be amended and read the resolution into the record as follows:

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment (MCIEA) is a voluntary consortium of public school districts that has convened to develop a comprehensive, multiple measures system for assessing students and schools that can be used to improve instruction, support student learning, and inform the public on student and school progress;

WHEREAS, MCIEA seeks to create an assessment system with the following two components:

- Performance assessment system in which standards-based, curriculum-embedded, and authentic performance tasks measure the essential academic and socio-emotional knowledge and skills students will need as they enter college, career, and civic life
- Multiple measures system for assessing school quality that can give educators, students, parents, and other community members an objective view of the strengths of our schools and where they need to improve;

WHEREAS, with an increased education focus on developing students' critical thinking skills to prepare them for college, career, and civic life, there is growing national support, including from the Council of Chief State School Officers, for new 21st Century assessment systems;

WHEREAS, the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to adopt multiple measures in their accountability systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Somerville School Committee expresses its full support of MCIEA's goal to create a comprehensive, holistic assessment model that can add value to student and educator learning as well as contribute to the larger statewide conversation about assessment systems in the 21st Century.

Ms. Palmer amended the resolution to include the standard sentence regarding disbursement of the resolution. Mr. Green seconded the amendment and the School Committee approved via voice vote. Mr. Green stated that he is thrilled to see this go into action, particularly since is it keeping with our goals.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2016 SCALE/ADP Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted his diploma:

Peter Frederick Kruse 71 Marble Street Stoneham, MA 02180

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the SCALE ADP graduate. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

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

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Program donated to
Gift Certificate	Karma Yoga Studio	Cambridge, MA	\$148.00	El Sistema Raffle
Gift Certificate	Area Four	Cambridge, MA	\$100.00	El Sistema Raffle

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

C. MASC/MASS Joint Conference – November 2016

Members were reminded of the Early Bird Conference registration discount information for the November Conference as asked to confirm their intention to attend with the Superintendent's Office.

D. Participation in National School Lunch and Breakfast Program

The Superintendent of Schools recommending that the School Committee vote to participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services for the 2016-2017 school year, as in previous years.

MOTION: Ms. Palmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to participate in the program. The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. Student Accident Insurance - (Recommended Action: Receive and place on file)

The Superintendent advising that the contract for Student Accident Insurance for the 2016-17 school year has been renewed with Moran Insurance Agency, 23 Spruce St., Suite B, Malden, MA 02148 at the following rates:

Plan A – STUDENT INSURANCE

Premium:	School Time	\$ 7.50
Premium:	24-Hour Coverage	\$49.00
Dental:	Extended	\$10.00

Plan B - ALL-SPORTS, SHOP AND LAB COVERAGE

Premium:	Gold Plan	\$5,835.00
Catastrophic Cash Benefit		\$ 990.00

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to accept and place on file. The motion was approved via voice vote.

F. Authorization for Summer Months – (Recommended Action: Approval)

MOTION: to: Authorize the Superintendent to act on the School Committee's behalf to:

- a. Pay bills on school department accounts for which commitments have been made by bid or purchase order before the close of schools, said bills to be ratified by the committee at the first meeting in September.
- b. Expend from FY2017 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel under all federal grants beginning in September.
- c. Expend from the FY17 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel as detailed in the FY17 budget.
- d. Use Salaries Account and School Operations Account funds to pay encumbrances and salaries for summer programs.
- e. Authorize and/or reauthorize school department revolving accounts. To accept all monies received by the School Committee in connection with the conduct of said revolving accounts according to the purposes of the program or programs from which receipts in each account were derived.
- f. Accept all state and federal grant monies awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Early Education and Care and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to authorize the Superintendent as listed above.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

G. Acceptance of FY2017 Grant Funds

MOTION: To accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools during FY2017 and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept all FY2017 Grants. The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bockelman

1. Reminded members of the Finance and Facilities meeting on Monday, June 27 at Central Office.

Mr. Futrell

1. Requested that his proposed change to the wording of the Vision Statement be addressed this evening, rather than at Long Range.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Palmer, to amend the Vision Statement, as follows: Begin the statement with, "We believe in a whole child approach to education and"

Ms. Pitone prefers not to vote on this language until Wednesday night's Long Range meeting as she would like time to mull it over and may prefer to alter the language a bit.

Mr. Green thinks the proposed new language will be very helpful in making the statement clearer.

After some brief discussion, the motion was withdrawn and it was agreed to take the matter up at the Long Range Planning meeting.

Ms. Palmer

1. Would like to refer the process for dealing with lice, which are now an issue at the East Somerville. Ms. Palmer would like the matter referred to the Rules Management Subcommittee. The management of lice, like other health related issues, comes under the guidance of the Board of Health and its director, Doug Kress. We will find a time when Mr. Kress is able to attend a meeting to discuss and schedule accordingly.
2. Thank you for addressing the spinning structure on the East Somerville playground which has been a source of injury since its installation. Mrs. Skipper reported that the piece of equipment will be soldered so it no longer spins and, ultimately, the "death wheel", as some refer to it, will be totally removed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m. via voice vote.

Somerville School Committee

Official Citation

This certifies that

Retiree

Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted this Certificate of Appreciation for years of Dedicated Service

to the Students of the Somerville Public Schools.

Presented with special thanks and many warm wishes for a very happy and healthy retirement!

Somerville School Committee

Carrie Normand, Chairperson
Chairperson

Steven Roix

Dan Futrell

Lee Erika Palmer

Paul Bockelman, Vice

Andre Green

Laura Pitone

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President

Mary E. Skipper, Superintendent of Schools

June 20, 2016