

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 5, 2009 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

During the recess of the Board of Aldermen's Organizational Meeting, the first meeting of the 2009 School Committee was called to order at 6:35 p.m., in the Board of Aldermen Chambers at City Hall by the presiding member, Ms. M. Teresa Cardoso. A moment of silence was observed and a salute to the flag was recited prior to this meeting.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present were Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Aldermanic President Pero, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, and Ms. Rossetti.

**III. READING OF CREDENTIALS**

Presiding officer, Ms. Cardoso, read the credentials of the President of the Board of Aldermen for 2009, Mr. Walter F. Pero. The communication was received and placed on file.

**IV. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Presiding officer Cardoso announced that the next order of business would be the election of the Chairman of the 2009 School Committee.

Ms. Rossetti called for Suspension of the Rules and Ms. Rossetti nominated Ward I School Committee member Ms. Maureen Bastardi Chairman of the 2009 School Committee, seconded by Mr. Norton. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed. Ms. Bastardi was elected Chairman of the 2009 Somerville School Committee by a unanimous roll call vote of Yes--9.

City Clerk, John J. Long, administered the Oath of Office for newly elected Chairman, Ms. Maureen Bastardi.

**V. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

With Chairman Bastardi presiding, the committee proceeded with the election of the Vice Chairman of the 2009 School Committee.

Mr. Sweeting nominated Ward V School Committee member Mr. Mark Niedergang Vice Chairman of the 2009 School Committee, seconded by Mr. Norton. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed. Mr. Niedergang was elected Vice Chairman of the 2009 Somerville School Committee by a unanimous roll call vote of Yes--9.

City Clerk, John J. Long, administered the Oath of Office for newly elected Vice Chairman, Mr. Niedergang

**IV. SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S OATH OF OFFICE**

City Clerk, John J. Long, administered the Oaths of Office for the Somerville School Committee.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

Chairman Bastardi announced the 2009 School Committee subcommittee assignments. The assignments are as follows:

|                        |                        |                                  |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Finance and Facilities | Chair, Mark Niedergang | Mary Jo Rossetti, Paul Bockelman |
| Personnel              | Chair, James Norton    | Adam Sweeting, Teresa Cardoso    |
| Rules                  | Chair, Paul Bockelman  | Teresa Cardoso, Mary Jo Rossetti |
| Ed Programs            | Chair, Adam Sweeting   | Mark Niedergang, James Norton    |

**VII. SEATING LOTTERY**

The School Committee then conducted the 2009-seating lottery. Chairman Bastardi requested that Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Norton assist in the seating organization and the results are as follows: Ms. Mary Jo Rossetti was assigned seat #1, Alderman Walter Pero seat #2, Mr. Adam Sweeting seat #3, Mr. James Norton seat #4, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone #5, Ms. M. Teresa Cardoso seat #6, Mr. Paul Bockelman seat #7. Mr. Mark Niedergang was assigned seat #8 as Vice Chairman for easy accessibility to the podium.

**VIII. ORDER RE GOVERNMENT OF COMMITTEE**

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, that all unfinished business before the 2008 School Committee be referred to the School Committee of 2009.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

The following policy was brought forth for first reading, for adoption.

File: ECA Use of Security Cameras on School Property

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Rossetti and Ms. Cardoso moved for adjournment at 6:55 p.m., which carried by voice vote.

Mr. Anthony Pierantozzi  
Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, January 12, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Pero and Mr. Bockelman.

**Absent:** Mayor Curtatone, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Tyler

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. AWARDS & CITATIONS**

Ms. Bastardi read the resolution presented to the late Brenda McDonnell's family at the memorial service held for her on January 6, 2009. (copy at end of these minutes)

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

There was not report given this evening, as Ms. Tyler was absent.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *Educational Programs and Instruction:*** Mr. Sweeting (December 17)

Mr. Sweeting reported on the Ed. Programs meeting of December 17, in the absence of Mr. Niedergang. Mr. Sweeting is the new chair of the Ed. Programs Subcommittee for 2009. The topics discussed included:

1. SHS Program of Studies: presentation of changes. Mr. Burke made a presentation at the meeting and reviewed the proposed changes to courses, etc.
2. SHS Vocational Program presentation – Mr. Bassett gave an overview of the vocational program to the committee and shared examples of student work, etc.
3. Volunteer Coordinator update – Ms. Jen Capuano gave an update on our volunteer program. She informed the committee that the District has 52 new volunteers who have given approximately 500 hours. She also reported on outreach, protocol, and needs.
4. Student Retention data – Dr. McKay made a brief presentation to the committee on retention data
5. In-Service Course approvals

**MOTION:** Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso to approve revisions to the Somerville High School Program of Studies.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**MOTION:** Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to approve the following 14 inservice courses.

1. Curriculum Development: Understanding by Design
2. Using GRADE reading comprehension results in classroom instruction
3. Creating the MCAS - Alt Portfolio
4. Integrating Art into the Curriculum
5. Using Second Step Social-Emotional Curriculum
6. Using Functional Behavioral Assessments
7. The Reading Teacher book club
8. Using Reciprocal Teaching to Foster Reading Comprehension 3-6
9. Using Reciprocal Teaching to Foster Reading Comprehension K-2
10. Intervention Activities for Fluency and Vocabulary

11. Intervention Activities for Phonemic Awareness and Phonics
12. Teacher Leaders and Leadership
13. WHCS – Critical Issues in our School
14. A Survey of Writing in Grades 3-6

The motion was passed by voice vote.

**B. Long Range Planning:** Mr. Bockelman (December 22)

GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity  
 GBA-E – Americans with Disabilities Act/MGL 151B  
 on GCCC – Professional Staff Family and Medical Leave  
 GCCC-E – Family and Medical Leave  
 GDCC – Support Staff Family and Medical Leave

Mr.  
 Bockelman  
 reported  
 the Long  
 Range  
 Planning

meeting where topics included:

- A. Long Range Action Plan - setting priorities
- B. Long Range Action Plan – updates
- C. Review of Security Camera policy – The Somerville Public Schools has developed a new Security Camera Policy (File: ECA). This policy was presented for first reading to the School Committee at this meeting and then for second reading at the meeting of January 5, 2009.

**C. Executive Session:** Mr. Bockelman (December 22)

Mr. Bockelman also reported that at the December 22, 2008 meeting for Executive Session, the School Committee voted, unanimously, to extend Mr. Pierantozzi's contract by one year, which will extend through June 30, 2012. Based upon Mr. Pierantozzi's commendable performance and the extremely positive evaluations given by the various administrators across the city, the Superintendent, along with the contract extension, received a 3% pay increase. Congratulations and thanks were offered to Mr. Pierantozzi on a job well done.

**D. Finance and Facilities:** Ms. Rossetti (January 7)

Ms. Rossetti reported on the Finance and Facilities meeting of January 7, in the absence of Mr. Niedergang, who is the new Finance chair for 2009. The report included:

1. Grant Update – Ms. Kinder gave a report of the recent grant activity in the District
2. Review of Community Policing Grant – Chief Holloway attended the meeting at the request of Ms. Bastardi and discussed the Community Policing grant. The Chief informed the committee that funding from this grant has been cut by 23.8% and told the group that the original 9 community officers has been cut to 7. He also let the members know that there will always be daily coverage at Somerville High School and that he will do his absolute best to cover all school buildings in times of need.
3. Update of State Fiscal situation – discussion took place regarding the \$2.4Billion gap in the State budget. We have already taken steps in the School Department to prepare for cuts. Ms. Rossetti informed the members that Mayor Curtatone has promised to inform us as soon as the governor makes decisions regarding budget cuts.
4. FY2009 Expenditure Report
5. FY2009 Bill Roll
6. Facilities update – Mr. Pierantozzi provided a facilities update, including air quality issues, flooring at SHS and WHCS, the boiler room at SHS, the ESCS fire, and the AFA punch list.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept the FY09 bill rolls.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Ms. Cardoso made a request that a report detailing all association dues be prepared and presented at the February 4 Finance meeting.

**E. Rules Management:** Mr. Bockelman (January 8)

Mr. Bockelman reported on the Rules Management meeting of January 8, 2009. The topic of this meeting was the continuation of the review of policy manual. After reviewing section G, the following policies were brought forth for a first reading for adoption:

Motion: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to strike the following policies from the policy manual:

GBD – School Committee-Staff Communications -same as policy BHC  
GCCAA – Instructional Staff Absences (CBA)  
GCCAE – Teacher Visitations (CBA)  
GCRD – Tutoring for Pay – out of date with law  
GDCC-E – Family and Medical Leave same as GCCC-E  
GDD – Support Staff Vacations and Holidays (CBA)  
GDJ – Support Staff Assignments and Transfers (CBA)  
GDK – Support Staff Time Schedules (CBA)  
GDP – Support Staff Promotions (CBA)  
GDQC – Retirement of Support Staff Members (CBA)  
GDQD – Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff Members (CBA)

The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. *U.S. News & World Report*—in collaboration with School Evaluation Services, a K-12 education and data research and analysis business that provides parents with education data on [schoolmatters.com](http://schoolmatters.com)—analyzed academic and enrollment data from more than 21,000 public high schools to find the very best across the country. These top schools were placed into gold, silver, bronze, or honorable mention categories. As a result of this research and analysis, Somerville High School has been designated as a Bronze level school. Mr. Pierantozzi congratulated the headmaster, staff, students, families, community, and the School Committee. Mr. Pierantozzi also announced that the reason the school was designated as bronze and not silver was that the AP data for the high school was not ready when the report was done, but next year this information will be available earlier.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi gave an update on the status of the East Somerville Community School. The City, including Gerry Boyle of Capital Projects, and Dave Morrow from the Maguire Group are putting together information for the submission to the MSBA. This is the first time the MSBA has encountered a request for emergency money for the rebuilding of a school due to an emergency situation, such as the East Somerville Community School fire. An advisory group will be formed in the future to assist with the planning.
3. Mr. Pierantozzi gave an update on the fiscal situation. There is a gap of \$2.4 billion. Certainly, this is not good news. More information will become available sometime later in January. More discussion will take place at the Finance and Facilities meetings.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- An update on the dropout prevention working group. The third meeting of the group will be held on this Thursday, January 15, in Worcester. We are very proud of Somerville High School's work thus far and are seeking to continuously improve. The Somerville team will consist of representatives from SPED, ELL, Central Office, Somerville High School and Full Circle representatives. Also community members from CAAS, the Welcome Project and the Regional Employment Board. A report will be generated after this meeting.
- Professional Development planning for next year is being developed. Somerville High School is in the middle of the self-study for the NEASC. This is a significant undertaking which requires additional meeting times for high school staff. To this end, the administration at the high school have requested early release days be included for the high school in the 2009-2010 school calendar. More information will follow.

- The Saturday MCAS program at Somerville High School is up and running. This is a grant-funded program. Students are offered a free breakfast followed by the review of MCAS concepts, etc. This program is for students in grades 9-12 at Somerville High School and students are instructed to enter through the vocational door.
- 4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, in this week's packet, is a communication from the Guidance Department regarding the Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP). This letter is provided in the four target languages and describes the various levels of competency required for graduation in the various subjects. An explanation of steps that will be taken to develop an Educational Proficiency Plan for students at Somerville High School was also detailed in the letter.
- 5. The Superintendent announced on December 18, the School Department hosted an event spotlighting the donation of dictionaries to third graders at the Argenziano School as a donation from the Medford Lodge of Elks. This is the third year that the Medford Lodge of Elks has donated dictionaries to **all** third graders in the Somerville Public Schools. Although this event was held at the Argenziano School, the donation was system wide. Special thanks to Ms. Anne Leech and Exalted Leader Warren Costa for their generosity.
- 6. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the new logo and slogan will be a topic of discussion at the Long Range Planning meeting on Thursday, January 15.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- Dr. Di Chiappari reviewed information regarding Kindergarten registration and the open house schedule, as well as informational night presentations for the Unidos and Choice programs. It was also announced that video tours are available on each school's home page on the Somerville Public Schools website.
- Dr. DiChiappari also reported on the School Department's collaboration with Middlesex Partnerships for Youth in presenting workshops to community members as well as workshops geared specifically to staff members. The community presentations are: Building a Positive School Climate and Family and Relationship Violence. Staff presentations will be focused on school safety and dealing with juvenile crime.
- 7. Mr. Pierantozzi extended his thanks to Dr. Di Chiappari, Regina Bertholdo and the staff at the Parent Information Center for their continued community outreach. Thank you, also, to Charlie LaFauci for producing the school tour videos.
- 8. The Superintendent congratulated Ms. Jennifer Sears, Social Studies teacher in grades 7 and 8 at the Kennedy School for her role as the program chair for the Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies being held from March 16-19 at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston. A copy of the program cover is in this week's packet.
- 9. Mr. Pierantozzi extended his thanks and congratulations to staff and students for their hard work with the Holiday Music performances.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Reported on the presentation of the preliminary draft budget on December 8. This is a level service budget, which does not include any new staff. The budget reflects an increase of \$1.5 million due to increases in salaries, etc. in accordance with collective bargaining agreements. Staffing needs are being assessed and will be included as they become available.
- Announced that the Food Service Department is investigating a web pay system as a method for parents/guardians to be able to pay student lunch fees online. Promotional information is being developed and the hope is that the program will be up and running by the end of the school year.
- 10. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the United States Department of Agriculture has awarded the Winter Hill Community School as a Silver School Challenge Award. The USDA's Food and Nutrition Services Division recognizes schools who take leadership roles in education students on nutrition and active lifestyles, two of the main components of the City's Shape up Somerville program. Only 485 elementary schools, out of 66,000 eligible schools, in the nation have

received this designation; the Winter Hill Community School is the fifth elementary school in the Commonwealth to achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold status in the national Healthier US Schools Challenge. The 2008 award was presented by Eric Steiner, Assistant Administrator for Special Nutrition Programs of the USDA, to School Principal Steve Tuccelli and Food Services Director Mary Jo McLarney at a ceremony on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

11. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the School District was closed on December 19 and December 22 due to inclement weather. He further explained the process for determining when to close school due to snow, etc. The primary concern when making this determination is the health and safety of our students and staff. He discussed communication with the Department of Public Works, neighboring school communities, etc. and stated that he does his best to make a decision and inform the Somerville Public Schools community in as timely a fashion as possible.

Alderman Pero announced that, at last week's Board of Aldermen's meeting, discussion took place around parking during snow emergencies and whether or not to change the current odd side only policy. The Board of Aldermen are investigating an odd/even procedure which would change each year. Mr. Pero urged the public to voice their opinions to their elected representatives.

Many School Committee members discussed enforcing shoveling laws, especially since children may be forced to walk in the streets when sidewalks have not been cleared.

The Superintendent deferred to Mr. Joseph Tringale, Director of Operations for his report regarding technology. Mr. Tringale's report included the following:

- Announced that as of January 8, there were 186 new work orders for the Technology Department.
  - Three new Smart Boards have been installed recently at Somerville High School in the Cosmetology, Electrical and Drafting rooms.
  - The Capuano School has recently had the program *Phonics Express* installed on computers there.
  - At the Kennedy School, the computers in the labs have undergone new imaging.
  - In December, new cellular phones were distributed to administrators in the District.
  - Last week, EPIMS data was transmitted to the DESE relative to the staff roster.
12. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that on Monday, January 19, there will be a celebration the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Somerville High School. This is a joint collaboration involving the City of Somerville, Somerville Public Schools and the Human Rights Commission.
  13. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that for members' information, a draft school calendar for 2009-2010 has been included in their packets. Discussion around professional development days, half days and holidays took place.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve it.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **A. Field Trips**

#### **February 5-8, 2009**

Somerville High School's Junior Statesmen of America club members to Washington, DC to attend the Winter Congress event.  
Transportation via bus at a cost of \$265 per person.

### **2. SHS 2008 Evening School Graduates**

Mr. Anthony Ciccariello, SHS Headmaster, recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed evening school and earned the necessary credits, be granted a SHS diploma: Approved by voice vote.

- Gerald Robinson
- Jimmie Preval

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

### **Ms. Bastardi**

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Brian Higgins Trivia Night will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Somerville.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Welcomed everyone back and wished all a Happy New Year.
2. Announced Open House and meeting dates for the schools and various programs throughout the District.
3. Announced that presentation of the School Improvement Plans will take place on the following three evenings:
  - a. January 28, 2009 at the Healey School for Healey, Argenziano and West Somerville
  - b. January 29, 2009 at the Capuano School for Capuano, Brown, East Somerville and Kennedy
  - c. February 5, 2009 at Somerville High School for Somerville High, Next Wave/Full Circle and the Winter Hill Community School

All presentations begin at 6:30 p.m.
4. Announced that, on January 22, there will be a forum held at the Elizabeth Peabody House on Service Learning. Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Niedergang will be in attendance. The topics for this event include an explanation of what service learning is and whether or not to include service learning as a graduation requirement. Mr. Bockelman also announced that if January 22, is a snow day, the event will be canceled.
5. Reported that midterm examinations will be taking place on January 22, 23, and 26, at Somerville High School.
6. Announced that the Brown School will hold a "Books for Bingo" night on January 21, at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
7. Announced that on January 27, the Kennedy School will showcase the students' History Day presentations beginning at 10:00 a.m.

### **Ms. Cardoso**

1. Ms. Cardoso wished all a Happy New Year and wished Mr. Niedergang well as he recovers from surgery.
2. Announced that a retirement party will be held on January 23, from 3:30 – 8:30 for retiring CAAS Director, Jack Hamilton and requested that a School Committee citation be produced for presentation that day

### **Mr. Norton**

1. Mr. Norton wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Alderman Pero to the board. Mr. Norton welcomes Mr. Pero's expertise, etc.
2. Mr. Norton extended best wishes to Mr. Niedergang
3. Announced that the next Personnel subcommittee meeting will be held on January 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room at Central Office.
4. Extended thanks to the Department of Public Works for great work around snow removal
5. Congratulated Mr. Pierantozzi for an excellent job.
6. Announced that there are two more registration times for Evening School—Tuesday, January 13 and Thursday, January 15, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Somerville High School.
7. Announced Somerville High School's College Goal Sunday being held on Sunday, January 25, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Somerville High School. This is an opportunity for seniors and their families to get assistance with financial aid applications.
8. The Somerville High School Drama Club will be performing, "Bye, Bye, Birdie" on February 6, 7, and 8 in the Somerville High School auditorium.

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Invited audience to attend the next Ed. Programs meeting on January 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office conference room.
2. Followed up on Mr. Bockelman's report on the Service Learning forum. There are varied ideas on service learning. Please attend this forum and share ideas.



3. The Community Schools program is accepting applications for the February Vacation Camp beginning today and through January 20. Please obtain an application online or at the Community School office.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- Prior to adjourning this evening's meeting, Mr. Sweeting asked for a moment of silence in honor of the following people who have passed away:
  - Jordan Cohen, father of Wendy Cliggott, teacher at the Brown School
  - Pasqualina Frasso, mother of Donna Tiberi, paraprofessional at Somerville High School
  - Calogera Zingarelli, mother of Barbara Zingarelli, teacher at the Argenziano School
  - Diniz Chaves, father of Ana Medeiros, paraprofessional at the Capuano Early Childhood Center

These names will be recorded into tonight's minutes and a letter on behalf of the School Committee will be sent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
School Committee**

***Brenda McDonnell***

- WHEREAS,** *Brenda McDonnell grew up in Somerville, graduated from St. Mary's High School in Cambridge and Westfield State College, and...*
- WHEREAS,** *Brenda McDonnell began her teaching career in Somerville in 1978 as a Title One Reading Teacher at St. Catherine's School, and...*
- WHEREAS,** *Brenda McDonnell became a member of the East Somerville Community School family as a grade seven teacher in 1981, and taught in grades one, six, and five, alongside many of her dear, dear friends during her 28 years there, and...*
- WHEREAS,** *Brenda McDonnell was best known for her love of reading, her hands-on teaching style, her project-based classrooms, book projects, and her Famous Americans Biography book projects, and most of all, her love of Somerville and the East Somerville Community School, and...*
- WHEREAS,** *Brenda McDonnell will always be fondly remembered as a teacher and colleague to many in the Somerville Public Schools, as well as a much-loved daughter, sister, wife and, most importantly to her, mother of three wonderful sons, therefore be it...*
- RESOLVED:** *That the Somerville School Committee publicly and officially pay tribute to Brenda McDonnell for her sincere and dedicated service to the Somerville Public Schools and the East Somerville Community School during her brief, but inspiring life, and be it further...*
- RESOLVED:** *That these Resolutions be read and entered into the minutes of the School Committee's next meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to the McDonnell Family in tribute and appreciation.*

***Somerville School Committee***

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|---|--|
| <b><i>Maureen Bastardi, Chairman</i></b>                | <b><i>Mark Niedergang, Vice Chairman</i></b> |
| <b><i>Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor</i></b>                | <b><i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i></b>              |
| <b><i>Adam Sweeting</i></b>                             | <b><i>Mary Jo Rossetti</i></b>               |
| <b><i>Paul T. Bockelman</i></b>                         | <b><i>James Norton</i></b>                   |
| <b><i>Walter Pero, President, Board of Aldermen</i></b> |  |

***January 6, 2009***

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, January 26, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Pero and Mr. Bockelman.

**Absent:** Mayor Curtatone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler reported on the following items:

- Today was the last day of midterms examinations at the high school
- Tomorrow will be a full day of school with students attending all seven of their classes. The schedule for the day will be 1,2, 3, 5, 4, 3, 6, 7
- Next week the high school will be holding open houses for interested families.
- During the weekend of February 6-8, the Drama Club will perform "Bye, Bye, Birdie".

**III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *Personnel:*** Mr. Norton (January 14)

Mr. Norton reported on the Personnel subcommittee of January 14. Highlights of his report included:

1. Update on Searches
2. Recruitment Efforts for Spring 2009
3. Job Description for Redirect Teacher

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the Redirect Teacher job description subject to satisfaction of the School Committee's collective bargaining responsibilities.

Ms. Rossetti asked for clarification as to whether this was just rewording of an existing policy and Mr. Norton answered that it was.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**C. *Long Range Planning:*** Ms. Bastardi (January 15)

Ms. Bastardi reported on the Long Range Planning meeting of January 15. Her report included the following:

1. Prioritization of the Long Range Goal Action Strategies for FY10 budget planning
2. Reviewed and approved logo
3. Discussed progress of Goal #1 – Extension of School Day Initiative

MOTION: To approve the new logo for the Somerville Public Schools

The motion was approved at the School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning of January 15, by voice vote.

A request was made to produce a citation and invite Ms. Christy Juckett to a School Committee meeting to receive it in appreciation for all of her work on the new Somerville Public Schools logo.

Ms. Bastardi also reported on a meeting that took place following the Long Range Planning meeting regarding the appointment by Mayor Curtatone of Ms. Jessie Baker to the position of Educational Liaison to the School Department and School Committee. Mayor Curtatone has requested that Ms. Baker be allowed to attend meetings in his absence, including Executive Session. There was much discussion and a motion was made to allow only the Mayor and no other member of the School Committee nor the President of the Board of Aldermen to have a representative in the Mayor's stead at Executive Session Meetings of the School Committee. This motion was passed with a majority vote.

D. ***Educational Programs and Instruction:*** Mr. Sweeting (January 21)

Mr. Sweeting reported on the Ed. Programs meeting of January 21. Highlights of his report included:

1. Curriculum Program Presentation: English Language Arts and Reading – Ms. Gilligan and Dr. McKay gave an overview of the current curriculum resources in English Language Arts. Discussion also took place regarding the 90 minute literacy block, the 1000 word list, vocabulary, and the reading program.
2. Assessment Update – A discussion of the various assessment tools used at the elementary level for ELA and reading took place, including DIBELS and GRADE. Ms. Celia Nuccio, Reading Specialist at the Kennedy School gave a report on "a day in the life" of a Reading Specialist in the Somerville Public Schools. Her report was very well received.
3. Approval of Inservice courses

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton, to approve inservice courses.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

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

##### **A. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. January 29 will mark the 90<sup>th</sup> day of school and thus we are half way through the school year. Congratulations for a great first half of the year.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi congratulated the students and teachers who were recognized with a Boston Globe Scholastic Art award. Mr. Pierantozzi will provide a complete list of award recipients at a future meeting.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- As reported earlier in the year, 40 Smart boards were installed across the District last summer. As of this month, all teachers with Smart boards have been trained and these boards are being put into action, especially in math classes.
- An update was provided regarding the Fast Math program. At the beginning of last summer, utilizing funding from a grant, the first round of installations of this software was done. This winter, thanks to more grant funding, Fast Math installations continue throughout the District.
- Informed School Committee members of the pilot program currently underway for staff members to enroll for inservice courses, online, through the X2 Student Information System.
- Reported on College Goal Sunday, which took place yesterday at Somerville High School. This was quite a successful day. Approximately 100 people attended the event and 56 high school seniors were assisted with completing their financial aid applications. Thank you to the high school staff and community members who were involved with this event.
- Dr. McKay reported on Inauguration Day and his involvement in watching the ceremony with the students in Ms. Mullen's class at the East Somerville Community School. It was wonderful to watch the students' reactions and be a part of this momentous day in history with them. Dr. McKay also reported that, at the Winter Hill Community School, the students and staff there have started a wall of hopes and dreams and have placed paper stars with their wishes on this wall. The first floor hallway that showcases this wall has been named the "Barackstar Hallway".

Mr. Niedergang commented that when President Obama resided in Somerville, he actually lived in the Winter Hill neighborhood. Mr. Niedergang also commented on the great success of College Goal Sunday and thanked Melissa McWhinney from CAAS and Warren Goldstein from the Welcome Project for their work on this event.

3. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the event to celebrate the life of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., which was held at Somerville High School on January 19. Congratulations to all who were involved with this presentation. Mr. Pero gave a rousing speech at this event and to have the inauguration follow the very next day was quite a momentous occasion. Mr. Pierantozzi watched the inaugural festivities with students from the Winter Hill Community School.
4. The Superintendent announced that he now sits on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts MIAA's Track and Field and Cross Country committee.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- Kindergarten registration for the next school year is now in progress. Any parent or guardian who has a child who will be five years of age by August 31, 2009 may register their child for kindergarten at the Parent Information Center, 42 Prescott Street. Other registration sites include the Michael Capuano Early Childhood Center on January 27th between 9am-2pm, the West Somerville Neighborhood School on January 28th (also 9am-2pm) and the Healey School on January 29th between 2pm-7pm. Kindergarten registration started at the Parent Information Center last Saturday when 100 students were registered for kindergarten, exactly the same number as last year. Registration on Saturday was very smooth. As a result of our community out-reach and increased communication, many parents registering Saturday had already received and completed their application forms, speeding up the registration process.
- In order for parents to be more informed when selecting a school for the next school year, the schools have been holding a series of open houses. The elementary schools had their open houses last week on January 21st, 22nd, and 23<sup>rd</sup> while Somerville High School will host its open house on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> with two time periods to visit classrooms, between 8:15am to 10am and 12:15 to 2:00pm after attending a brief introductory session in the auditorium. The Healey School will be offering two events: a Parent Information night for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at 6:30pm on January 27<sup>th</sup> and a CHOICE program information night at 7:00pm on January 29<sup>th</sup> in the school library. The East Somerville Community School will have a UNIDOS program tour starting at the Capuano School and traveling to the East Somerville at Edgerly from 8:30am-10:45am on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The school open house provides an excellent chance for any interested individuals to view classes in session. I encourage people to take advantage of our open houses and share in the outstanding education that takes place each day in all our schools. All the dates I mentioned can be found on the school website.
- To make sure we give the best possible services to Somerville children, we want to learn what our students know about health and how they take care of their own health. One way that we do this is through the administration of a student survey which was jointly developed by Somerville Cares about Prevention, the Health Department, and Cambridge Health Alliance in collaboration with a survey consulting firm and the school district. The purpose is to obtain information on student health and mental health perceptions and behaviors. Questions address issues such as student alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; violence and safety; sexual issues; mental health; diet and exercise. It has been administered in Somerville since 2002 and a similar survey is administered across Massachusetts and the United States. This year, we will be giving this survey to all students in grades 6-8 during the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The survey takes between 20-30 minutes to administer. It is private, no names will be included on the survey, and no one will know what the respondents write. Students can also decide not to take the survey or skip any question they don't want to answer. A letter will be sent to parents/guardians of children attending grades 6-8 with information about the survey prior to its administration with the opportunity for their child not to participate if so desired. Parents will have the opportunity in advance to see a copy of the survey at the Parent Information Center or the district office at 181 Washington Street, between March 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Somerville Cares about Prevention is going to be hosting on a Presentation of the High School Student Health Survey Results administered last spring. This presentation will be held Thursday,

March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm at the Somerville High School auditorium. All members of the community are invited.

- Although last year's high school survey results indicated averages that were either similar to the state level or better in some areas, the school department continues working on ways of making schools safer. We have a Dept. of Justice SOS grant that would help us partner with crossing guards to help reduce bullying to and from school. Our social competency program and Safe Schools Grant proposal would also help us create safer schools. Moreover, the district is working closely with the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth in presenting a series of five school safety workshops. Two of these presentations are open to all members of the City of Somerville. The first presentation is on *Internet and Cyber-Safety*. It will be given on February 24th between 7pm-8:30pm at the Somerville High School Auditorium. All school staff and parents need to be aware of the risks inherent in internet technology. Participants will learn about online issues impacting youth, such as predators, cyber-bullying, and virtual worlds. Effective prevention and intervention strategies will be discussed. The second presentation is called *Family and Relationship Violence*. This presentation will help participants understand where domestic and dating violence comes from, how it happens, and what the crimes are. This event is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> between 7pm – 8:30m at the Kennedy School Cafetorium and will be presented by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. These two presentations are open to all members of the public. Furthermore, a series of three additional safety presentations will be offered to staff.
  - The Kennedy School Pool staff is pleased to announce the launch of a Somerville Schools Special Olympic Swim Team. For more information on how to register and to discuss the participation requirements, one may call the Kennedy Pool at 617-625-6600 X6676
  - Finally, we have identified 12 wonderful high school students, 5 males and 7 females who will be traveling to Gaeta, Italy in April as part of our sister-city student exchange program. By participating in this program, Dr. Di Chiappari is very confident that these students will broaden their experiences and will well-represent Somerville High School and the City of Somerville. Dr. Di Chiappari would like to thank Ms. Jackie Rossetti from the Mayor's Office, Ms. Jane Cummings, the Somerville High School Foreign Language Department Head, and Mr. Gino Colantuono, the Somerville High teacher of Italian for participating in the selection process. And of course, Dr. Di Chiappari would like to thank the Mayor for having made this opportunity possible.
5. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, on January 20, the Rotarians read to Kindergarten and Grade One students at the Argenziano School. This is just one example of volunteer programs in our schools. We also have volunteers at the Winter Hill from the Tufts Literacy Corps, as well as staff from the Broadway Health Center providing health education to our students. To become a volunteer in the Somerville Public Schools, please call either the superintendent's office or our volunteer coordinator, Jennifer Capuano.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Reported that, due to the current fiscal situation, steps have been underway since November to facilitate a 10% cut in services and supplies. This past Friday, a memo was sent to all staff members letting them know that only things that are absolutely necessary will be approved at this time.
- Next year's budget is being developed as a level-funded budget. Originally, this was being developed as a level-service budget, but now, at the next Finance and Facilities meeting, discussion will take place around a level-funded budget as a method of comparing level-service vs. the level-funded budgets.

School Committee members commended the School Department for stepping up in advance of cuts. Also, discussion took place explaining the differences between a level-served and a level-funded budget.

Alderman Pero assured the Committee that he is doing his best to keep the Board of Aldermen informed and that he promises communication, information and transparency, as well as fairness across the city.

Ms. Bastardi thanked Mr. Pero for keeping the lines open with the Board of Aldermen.

6. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that he had attended a forum at Harvard University on January 16, presented by Dr. McCormack regarding Early Childhood Education. Somerville was commended for being at the forefront in Early Childhood education.
7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on a memo from Commissioner Chester regarding Mass. In Motion. He has sent the information to Tim O'Keefe and the physical education staff for review. As members already know, Somerville is well ahead of the state thanks to Shape Up Somerville and the PEP grant.
8. The Superintendent extended congratulations to Herenia Hernandez, Parent Liaison at the Parent Information Center. Ms. Hernandez received a certificate of appreciation from SCAT for her television program, *Informacio Latino*, which provides information on the schools and community to Spanish speaking viewers.
9. Mr. Pierantozzi spoke about the Service Learning Forum held at the Elizabeth Peabody House and about the extensive amount of community partners in our city.
10. Mr. Pierantozzi announced the dates and times of the School Improvement Plan presentations. They are as follows:
  - January 28 at the Healey for Argenziano, West Somerville and Healey
  - January 29 at the Capuano for Capuano, Brown, East Somerville, and Kennedy
  - February 5 at the high school for Somerville High, Next Wave/Full Circle and the Winter Hill

Presentations begin at 6:30 p.m. for all evenings and Mr. Pierantozzi thanked all school council members for outstanding work on preparing the school improvement plans. Mr. Pierantozzi also announced that these presentations are a great place to learn about what is going on in the schools and encouraged the public to attend.
11. Mr. Pierantozzi displayed a mock-up of the 2009 School Committee brochure and announced that this is the breakout document for the new Somerville Public Schools logo. Thank you to Ms. Kinder, her advisory committee and the School Committee for their work on this.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. 2009-2010 Draft School Calendar**

A draft version of the 2009-2010 school calendar was reviewed and discussion revolved around half-day Wednesdays and the late start of Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten.

Discussion also ensued around starting the school year earlier. It was suggested to check with the MASC to determine how other communities develop their calendars. There was also discussion around Good Friday and whether or not it should remain on our calendar as a holiday. Discussion also took place around Professional Development days. It was decided that some changes be made and that the calendar be revisited at the next regular meeting on February 2, 2009.

### **B. MASC Advocacy Group report (Ms. Rossetti)**

Ms. Rossetti reviewed the most recent information from her MASC Advocacy Group meeting. Highlights of her report included:

- FY10 budget information
- The May 2009, Day on the Hill
- The upcoming meeting of February 17, 2009, in Marlboro
- Transiency and Mobility

Committee members expressed their thanks to Ms. Rossetti for all of the information she has provided as well as her hard work with the MASC.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve it.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **A. Field Trips**

**March 26 - 30, 2009**

Somerville High School's Cheerleading team to Orlando, FL to attend the National Cheerleading competition. Transportation via airplane at a cost of \$700 per person with the expectation that, with broad-based fundraising, the costs will be reduced to approximately \$300 per person.

## **B. Somerville Public Schools Policies – Presented to the full School Committee, *as revised*, for the First Reading:**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| File: GA    | Personnel Policies Goals   |
| File: GBA-R | School Committee of the City of Somerville Diversity Plan Statement Policy |
| File: GBBA  | Sexual Harassment - Staff  |
| File: GBEA  | Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest  |
| File: GBEBC | Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff  |
| File: GBGB  | Staff Personal Security and Safety   |
| File: GBK   | Staff Complaints and Grievances  |
| File: GCF   | Selection Process for Professional Positions                               |
| File: GCQE  | Retirement of Professional Staff Members                                   |
| File: GDA   | Support Staff Positions  |
| File: GDB   | Support Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans                             |
| File: GDBC  | Support Staff Supplementary Pay Plans                                      |
| File: GDC   | Support Staff Leaves and Absences  |

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

### **Mr. Niedergang**

1. Thanked colleagues for the well wishes during his recovery. Stated that he had watched the last meeting from his home.
2. Reported on the Community Service Learning meeting at the Elizabeth Peabody House on Thursday, January 22.
3. Announced that the Food Service department is currently seeking students to serve on their advisory board.
4. Announced that the Kennedy PTA will meet on Friday, January 30, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Discussion regarding volunteering opportunities will take place and food will be served.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Reported on the Open House at the Brown School. Approximately 20 parents were in attendance. A slide show was presented. Approximately 76 people toured the Brown last week.
2. Announced the presentation dates of the School Improvement plans. These are very important meetings to attend and are very helpful to parents who are trying to make a decision as to the best school placement for their students.
3. Reported on the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration on January 19. This was an excellent event and Alderman Pero made a wonderful presentation.
4. Reported on the Service Learning Community Forum held last week at the Elizabeth Peabody House and how inclusive the forum was of all the various groups involved. Mr. Bockelman commended the three *Teach for America* fellows--Lisa Marco, Suzanne Calvin and Ben Lavalley for their work. They did a tremendous job.

### **Ms. Cardoso**

Prior to Ms. Cardoso giving her report, Ms. Bastardi wished her a Happy Birthday. Ms. Cardoso's birthday was on Sunday, January 25.

1. Ms. Cardoso reported that she had spoken with the staff at the Argenziano School and was pleased to hear that there were a good amount of families touring during Open



House week. She looks forward to Dr. Di Chiappari's report on the numbers of visitors district-wide during Open House week.

2. Encouraged the public to please attend the subcommittee meetings to support the School Committee and listen to what is going on in the school system.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported on the Service Learning forum and the challenges around being sure that there is equity in availability of opportunities for all students. Many of our students work after school or are responsible for caring for family members. The group agreed that making service a graduation requirement was not the way to go. It was suggested that service learning be incorporated into the curriculum, instead. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that this was already in place in many instances.
2. Reported on the open houses and recognized the work of the Parent Information Center staff that have done tons of work and are right at the forefront of it all. Thanked them for a great job.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjourning this evening's meeting, Mr. Niedergang asked for a moment of silence in honor of the following people who have passed away:

Eileen McCarthy, sister of Rosemary Flanagan, Resource Room teacher at East Somerville.

Francis Coughlin, father of Katy Coughlin, Occupational Therapist at Winter Hill.

Richard Papa, a 2006 graduate of Somerville High School. Richard also attended elementary school at the Winter Hill Community School.

These names will be recorded into tonight's minutes and a letter on behalf of the School Committee will be sent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, February 2, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Pero and Mr. Bockelman.

**Absent:** Mayor Curtatone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to accept the minutes of the December 1, 2008 Regular School Committee Meeting, as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler reported on the following items:

- Tomorrow and Wednesday, open houses will be held at Somerville High School. Tours will be led by members of the National Honor Society
- Friday, February 6, is National Wear Red for Women's Heart Health day. Ribbons and pins will be on sale in the Hole in the Wall.
- This coming weekend, the Drama Club will perform Bye Bye Birdie at Somerville High School.
- On February 22, from 3:15 – 4:45 p.m., PTA conference will be held at the high school.

**IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**1. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. On February 2 and 3, open house tours will be given at Somerville High School from 8:15 – 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 – 2:00 p.m. Both tours will be followed by a meeting. Members of the National Honor Society will serve as tour guides.
2. This past weekend, the pool at the Kennedy School was used for the Regional YMCA Swim Meet. Approximately 500 people a day were in attendance at this meet. It was well organized and without incident. It is great to have regional recognition of our facility. The meet continues next weekend, as well.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Eighth grade students will be visited by members of the Somerville High School Guidance Department to assist the students with course selections for next year. The schedule of visits is as follows: February 10 – Winter Hill and East Somerville, February 11 – Kennedy and Healey, February 13 – West Somerville and Argenziano.
- Last Thursday, Dr. McKay, Dr. Di Chiappari, and Ms. Richards attended a College Readiness workshop held at Tufts University to learn how to better prepare our students for college

- Dr. McKay reported on his attendance at Tufts University's Fares Lecture featuring former Prime Minister Tony Blair. It was wonderful to hear Mr. Blair's message of global unity, which is in line with our work and thinking. Dr. McKay found Mr. Blair's speech inspiring as a professional and educator.
- 3. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Coordinated Program Review currently taking place. Dr. Di Chiappari is coordinating this project which is a very large undertaking. Currently, documents are being gathered in preparation for a visit from the Coordinated Review team in March.
- 4. The District will host the Massachusetts Arts Education Advisory Council from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, at the Argenziano School. We are proud to host this event.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- *January 1<sup>st</sup> report*  
All members should have received the January 1, 2009 enrollment of all K-12 Somerville children for the last 8 years (2002-2009) and the enrollment of all Somerville K-12 students at the Prospect Hill Academy Charter School by grade for the last 7 years (2003-2009).  
The January 1st, 2009 report suggests a slight decrease (-0.1%) in the total number of City school-aged children for grades K-12 since January 1, 2008. The Somerville Public Schools (district) shows a decrease of 1.7% while the Private/Parochial shows an increase of 4.5% and the Out-of-District (Charter) increases by 5.8%. Over the past eight years, the City has decreased its number of school-aged children by 23.7% while the district decreased its enrollment by 16%. The parochial/private schools decreased their enrollment by 58% and the charter by 6.9%.
- *Elementary School Open House*  
The school district offered parents/guardians and any interested individuals the opportunity to visit its elementary schools on January 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. During this period, the elementary schools recorded a total of 449 visitors, 123 more visitors than we had during our 2008 open house, and 213 more than 2007, a 90% increase in visits in two years. 291 visitors indicated an interest in kindergarten for 2009, 60 indicated an interest in transferring a child from one Somerville school to another, 14 visitors indicated that their child(ren) would be new to Somerville (does not include Kindergarten), while 17 others indicated they were visiting the schools for other reasons. This report does not include Somerville High School, since its open houses are scheduled for this week on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Members will be provided with the number of high school visitors once it becomes available.

Ms. Rossetti asked if charter schools other than the Prospect Hill Academy were included in the enrollment report and was told that, yes, other schools were included. Ms. Rossetti requested a report on the breakdown of the various charter schools reported.

Mr. Niedergang requested a breakdown of enrollment, by grade, for the last five years. This report will be provided.

- 5. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on his attendance at the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at the Argenziano School on January 29. This was a wonderful celebration. Thank you to staff and students.
- 6. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the January 29 School Improvement Plan presentations and thanked the schools involved. Presentations continue on Wednesday at the Healey School and Thursday at Somerville High School.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding fiscal planning. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Reported that, in November, a 10% cut to all services and supplies was put into place. Currently, open purchase orders are being reviewed and reduced or closed, if possible. As liquidation or cancelation is done, the funds are going back into our accounts. It is the hope that this will help us absorb cuts to the budget.

- Immediately following this meeting is a Finance and Facilities meeting. On the agenda are FY08 budget review, FY10 budget planning, the Athletic Expenditure report, Bill rolls and a Facilities update.
- 7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on his attendance at the Kennedy School on January 27, for the History Day presentations. The Superintendent was amazed and proud at the quality, breadth and depth of the projects. Several of these students will move on to the next level of competition.
- 8. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Somerville Public Schools website reorganization. The end is getting close. Currently the building of the site is taking place offline. Hopefully, the new site will allow for more ease of use and a more attractive layout. Thanks to Elijah Turner, a student from MIT, for his help with obtaining data to help with the development of the site.

Ms. Rossetti thanked everyone for their work on this redesign. Ms. Rossetti asked if it might be necessary to hold trainings on how to use the new site. It is believed that the site should be simple enough to use without training, but if it becomes necessary, the idea will be revisited.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. 2009-2010 Draft School Calendar

Draft versions of the 2009-2010 school calendar were reviewed and discussed. Two versions of the calendar, a white copy with school starting after Labor Day and a salmon copy with school starting before Labor Day were reviewed. Extensive discussion took place around fitting in 185 days on the calendar if school begins after Labor Day. Discussion also revolved around collective bargaining obligations, professional development days, and length of vacations. There was also discussion around previous years with a late start and what was done to prevent this same situation back then (2004-2005).

After continued discussion, the decision was made to gather input from School Councils and PTA's and that the calendar would be put to a vote at the February 23 School Committee meeting.

- B. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Presented to the full School Committee, *as revised*, for the Second Reading:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| File: GA    | Personnel Policies Goals   |
| File: GBA-R | School Committee of the City of Somerville Diversity Plan Statement Policy |
| File: GBBA  | Sexual Harassment - Staff  |
| File: GBEA  | Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest  |
| File: GBEBC | Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff  |
| File: GBGB  | Staff Personal Security and Safety   |
| File: GBK   | Staff Complaints and Grievances  |
| File: GCF   | Selection Process for Professional Positions                               |
| File: GCQE  | Retirement of Professional Staff Members                                   |
| File: GDA   | Support Staff Positions  |
| File: GDB   | Support Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans                             |
| File: GDBC  | Support Staff Supplementary Pay Plans                                      |
| File: GDC   | Support Staff Leaves and Absences  |

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to approve the policies above as revised.

The motion passed by voice vote.

### C. **Resolution for Jack Hamilton**

Ms. Cardoso read a resolution presented to Jack Hamilton upon his retirement as the Director of CAAS at his retirement party on January 23, 2009. The resolution is included at the end of these minutes.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **SHS 2008 Summer School Graduate** – approved by voice vote

Ms. Eve Jones, SHS Assistant Headmaster, recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed MCAS and graduation requirements and earned the necessary credits, be granted a SHS diploma:

Tamara Isaac

B. **FY2009 SCALE/ADP Graduates** – approved by voice vote

Ms. Janice Philpot, SCALE Supervisor, recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas:

|                           |                               |                   |              |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Juliana L. Fonseca</b> | <b>198 School St.</b>         | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02145</b> |
| <b>Carlos M. Matos</b>    | <b>100 School St.</b>         | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02143</b> |
| Kov Basile                | 71 Light House Guard          | Medford           | 02155        |
| Sean F. Butrica           | 132 Joseph Fern Court, Apt. B | Weymouth          | 02189        |
| Dirce H. DaCruz           | 40 Light House Guard          | Medford           | 02155        |
| Andrew Silva              | 602 Woburn St.                | Wilmington        | 01887        |

**VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Reminded audience of the School Committee's annual meeting with the PTA's on Thursday, February 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the West Somerville Neighborhood School

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Reminder that the Argenziano School's PTA conferences will be held on February 12, from 2:45-4:45 p.m. There will be no board meeting on this day.
2. Wished everyone a happy and safe vacation week.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Reported that the second quarter of the school year has now closed and all schools will be holding PTA meetings. This is the most important time to meet with teachers so that any issues can be resolved while there is still a good amount of time left in the school year.

**Ms. Bastardi**

1. Ms. Bastardi suggested that the PTA Council members be notified and asked to come to the annual meeting with their recommendations regarding next year's school calendar. It was also suggested that the various PTA organizations bring the subject of the calendar forward at each school's PTA meeting for feedback.

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Reported that the Brown School PTA will meet on Tuesday at 2:45 p.m. and the Kennedy PTA meeting will be on February 5, beginning at 2:45 p.m.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
School Committee**

***Jack Hamilton***

- WHEREAS,** *Jack Hamilton is retiring from his position as the Executive Director of the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) after serving from 1983 to 2008, and...*
- WHEREAS,** *Jack Hamilton has been instrumental in providing a myriad of services to the young people of Somerville—from Head Start for toddlers - to training young leaders in the Latino Community through the Jovenes Latinos Program - to assisting high school students and their families with applying for financial aid through the College Goal Sunday event, and...*
- WHEREAS,** *Jack Hamilton, supported the rights of tenants in Somerville by supporting the Clarendon Hill Public Housing Development's tenant's association in their effort to revive, reorganize and represent residents; assisting low-income tenants in the Clarendon Hill Towers to organize a tenant association; and establishing an Eviction Prevention Program that assists 275 tenants each year who are in danger of becoming homeless and...*
- WHEREAS,** *Jack Hamilton has been a voice for our minority and low income population by creating a rapid response network to cope with racist and anti-immigrant harassment; supporting immigrants in creating their own community organizations, and working with national Student Partnerships to ensure that hundreds of low income residents receive tax credits and refunds...*
- WHEREAS,** *Jack Hamilton*
- RESOLVED:** *That the Somerville School Committee publicly and officially pay tribute to Jack Hamilton for his sincere and dedicated service to the City of Somerville and be it further...*
- RESOLVED:** *That these Resolutions be presented to Mr. Hamilton at his retirement celebration on January 23, 2009.*

***Somerville School Committee***

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b><i>Maureen Bastardi, Chairman</i></b>                | <b><i>Mark Niedergang, Vice Chairman</i></b> |
| <b><i>Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor</i></b>                | <b><i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i></b>              |
| <b><i>Adam Sweeting</i></b>                             | <b><i>Mary Jo Rossetti</i></b>               |
| <b><i>Paul T. Bockelman</i></b>                         | <b><i>James Norton</i></b>                   |
| <b><i>Walter Pero, President, Board of Aldermen</i></b> |  |

***January 6, 2009***

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, February 23, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Pero, Mayor Curtatone and Mr. Bockelman.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Certificates were awarded to the following two students:

- Christine Perriello
- Ashleigh Thomas

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents – Certificate of Academic Excellence

Having duly qualified under the standards prescribed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, it was Mr. Pierantozzi's great pleasure and honor to present to **Christine Perriello**, currently number 1 in the class of 2009, and **Ashleigh Thomas**, currently number two in the class of 2009, Somerville High School seniors, a *Certificate of Academic Excellence*. Superintendent Pierantozzi congratulated and read a brief biography of each of the students.

The School Committee recessed at 7:02 p.m. to congratulate these students.

The School Committee resumed at 7:08 p.m.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2008 Regular School Committee Meeting, as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept the minutes of the January 5, 2009 Organizational Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

**IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler reported on the following items:

- The boys' basketball team is playing this evening against Lawrence in the first round of the playoffs.
- Tomorrow, the girls' basketball team will play Beverly, at home, in the first round of the playoffs.
- Last Saturday was the State Track Meet and many of our student athletes competed there.
- Security cameras were installed at the high school over February vacation.
- The Food Service Department's Advisory Council had its first meeting during vacation week.
- The Science Fair will be held next week at Somerville High School.

## **V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. ***School Improvement Plan Presentations:*** Ms. Bastardi (January 29)
1. 6:30 p.m. Brown School
  2. 7:15 p.m. East Somerville Community School
  3. 8:15 p.m. Capuano Early Childhood Center
  4. 9:00 p.m. Kennedy School
- B. ***School Improvement Plan Presentations:*** Ms. Bastardi (February 4)
1. 6:30 p.m. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park
  2. 7:30 p.m. West Somerville Neighborhood School
  3. 8:30 p.m. Healey School
- C. ***School Improvement Plan Presentations:*** Ms. Bastardi (February 5)
1. 6:30 p.m. Somerville High School
  2. 7:30 p.m. Next Wave/Full Circle
  3. 8:30 p.m. Winter Hill Community School

Ms. Bastardi reported on the three evenings of School Improvement Plan presentations. Each school was given one hour to present their plan, which included a PowerPoint presentation from each school. Most schools had all of their council members in attendance at their presentations. Each of the plans outlined the School's Mission Statement, a three year student profile trend in various categories of population (SEIP, SPED, etc.), mobility rates and attendance. The plans also outlined how each school's plan correlates to eight of the ten School Committee goals. After each presentation, there was a brief question and answer session. After the last meeting, the following motion was brought forth.

MOTION: To approve all School Improvement Plans, as presented, pending funding.

The motion was passed unanimously.

- D. ***Long Range Planning:*** Ms. Bastardi (February 11)
- Subjects discussed:
1. Report of the Study Committee on Foreign Language
  2. Progress report on Long Range Action Plan
  3. School Committee resolution regarding Energy Savings

MOTION: To make middle grades rigor top priority in our long range goals

MOTION: To make the goal of expanded inclusion and diversity and multicultural understand second priorities

MOTION: The Somerville School Committee requires ENERGY STAR equipment and appliances for all new purchases for the Somerville Public School District and prohibits the purchase of low efficiency products, including halogen torchieres and portable resistance heaters.

The following resolution is brought forth in the form of a motion:

MOTION: Having convened in an open meeting on February 11, 2009, the School Committee of Somerville, Mass., in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated February 13, 2009, for the East Somerville Community School, located at 115 Pearl Street, Somerville, MA 02143, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which Somerville may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future relative to Priority No. 1 for the East Somerville Community School to address structural, environmental and building code deficiencies that are the result of a fire in December 2007 that jeopardize the health and safety of school children and staff, and hereby further acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Somerville to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.



All of the above-listed motions were passed by voice vote at the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning on February 11, 2009.

E. ***Annual Meeting with Somerville Parent Teacher Association:*** Ms. Bastardi (February 12)

Ms. Bastardi reported on the School Committee's annual meeting with the Somerville Council of PTA's. The meeting was held on February 12, 2009, at the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 7:00 p.m. and was presided over by Ms. Cheryl McGovern. Presentations were made by the Brown, Winter Hill, West Somerville, Kennedy and Capuano Schools. Representatives from the East Somerville Community School could not be in attendance that evening, but sent their regrets along with their concerns. The majority of the issues were related to facilities. There was also discussion regarding 311, Health and Safety, Funding, and the 2009-2010 School Calendar. Ms. Bastardi extended her thanks to all the PTA's for the hard work they do for all of our schools and students.

F. ***Rules Management:*** Mr. Bockelman (February 9)

Subjects discussed:

Review of the Policy Manual

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to strike File: GCJ – Professional Teacher Status from the policy manual.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, that all policies under Section H not referred this evening as First Reading or Revised be noted as "reviewed February, 2009."

The motion was approved by voice vote.

G. ***Finance and Facilities:*** Mr. Niedergang (February 2)

Subjects Discussed:

1. Athletic Programs
2. State and City Revenues and potential impact
  - a) FY2009 expenditure report
  - b) FY2010 level funded budget proposal
3. FY2009 Billroll
4. Facilities Update

Mr. Niedergang gave a report on the School Committee for Finance and Facilities of February 2, 2009. His report included the following: a report on all the agenda items listed above. He also reported that Mr. Pierantozzi provided a facilities report at the Finance meeting.

Mayor Curtatone was asked to provide a brief summary on the current fiscal situation. His report included the following:

- Chapter 70 funding
- Tax revenues
- The November 9C butts by Governor Patrick
- Charter School funding inequity
- The approach of "thinking outside the box" when developing a strategy to deal with the deficit.
- Not wanting to "cripple the community" with layoffs, etc.

Mr. Bockelman complimented the mayor and his staff for being a step ahead and hopes that the City and the School Department do not lose momentum with new initiatives.

President Pero reported that the School Department has done a good job of preparing and informed the Committee that it needs to be ready for some pain by July 1.

Mayor Curtatone appreciated all of the comments and stated that Somerville is much better off than most communities.

Ms. Bastardi asked when more information may be available from the legislature and encouraged all to get on the phone with legislators. President Pero added that letters and calls are always a good idea.

MOTION: To approve the FY2009 billrolls.

The motion was passed unanimously at the Finance meeting.

H. **Report of Executive Session:** Mr. Niedergang (January 15)

**Negotiations with STA, Unit A Regarding Foreign Language Independent Study Projects**

Superintendent Pierantozzi and Ms. Hollender reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement between the Somerville Teachers, Unit A and the Somerville School Committee Relative to the Assignment of Foreign Language Teachers to Independent Study Projects at Somerville High School during the 2008-2009 School Year. This agreement was developed to provide students at Somerville High School, who would not otherwise be able to fit a fourth year of a foreign language into their schedule, with the opportunity to take a fourth year of a language by way of an independent study. The three teachers involved will receive a stipend of \$1,200 for this duty. Superintendent Pierantozzi responded to questions from the members.

**MOTION:** The following motion was made by Mr. Bockelman, seconded by Mr. Sweeting—*To approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Somerville Teachers, Unit A and the Somerville School Committee Relative to the Assignment of Foreign Language Teachers to Independent Study Projects at Somerville High School during the 2008-2009 School Year.*

On a motion approved by a roll call vote of: Yes—4—Rossetti, Sweeting, Bastardi, and Bockelman; Absent—4—Pero, Norton, Niedergang and Curtatone and Present—1—Cardoso

**Negotiations with Cafeteria Employees Union, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 274**

On February 9, 2009, the School Committee voted in executive session to approve a new collective bargaining agreement with the Cafeteria Employees union, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 274. The settlement agreement, which previously was ratified by the union, is retroactive to September, 2007, and runs through August 31, 2010.

Among other things, the agreement includes a comprehensive compensation package that

- provides for wage increases in each year of the agreement – 3% in the first year and 2% in the second and third years;
- builds in a new step on the salary schedule over the second and third years;
- increases the rate for Lead Cafeteria Employees who manage the bulk kitchens, and
- increases longevity payments for long-term employees.

These economic improvements are funded from receipts from the school lunch program, so they will not have an impact on the school district's local budget.

The settlement also allows the City to increase employee contributions to health insurance benefits to 15% of the cost of the premiums, when the City implements similar increases for other unionized employees. The increased costs will be paid for on a pre-tax basis, which should help defray the impact on the Cafeteria employees' compensation package.

Additionally, the new agreement includes provisions that are intended to improve employee attendance and to make the hiring and overtime assignment processes more efficient.

The School Committee believes that the settlement is fair and financially responsible, and is pleased to have reached this agreement with the Cafeteria Employees.

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**1. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Welcome back from the February break. Hope everyone had a great vacation.

2. Announced that on February 24, the Somerville Public Schools, in conjunction with the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office and the Middlesex Partnership for Youth will present a workshop on Positive School Climate. This event will take place in the auditorium at Somerville High School beginning at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will address bullying, cyber-bullying, etc.

The Somerville Public Schools' website's update is progressing well. It is hoped that the new and improved website will be up and running in March.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Currently, a survey regarding professional development is being conducted online with our staff as a means of determining professional development needs. Survey results will guide professional development planning for next year.
  - Course selections for grade eight students are currently underway across the District. Staff members from the Guidance Department of Somerville High School are visiting eighth grade classes and assisting students with their course selections for grade nine at the high school for next year. Dr. McKay thanked everyone for their great work during this process and sent out the message to students to reach for their dreams. At Somerville High School there is something for everyone and that as long as students set goals and work hard, they can be very successful there.
3. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the Somerville Public Schools has signed a fully executed agreement with the United States Department of Justice regarding English Language Learner services in the District. The School Department is now in full compliance with Federal regulations. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked our attorney, Mary Jo Hollender, attorneys from the Department of Justice and our staff members for their work on this.
  4. The Superintendent reported that on February 16, he had the pleasure of being in the audience to watch the production of Bye Bye Birdie at Somerville High School. The show was great. Congratulations to all who were involved in such a wonderful production.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- *Kindergarten registration update* Dr. Di Chiappari gave an update on kindergarten registration. As of last Friday, February 20th, the district received a total of 271 kindergarten applications, 5 applications more than we received last year at this time, and 18 more than two years ago. Of the 271 kindergarten applications received, 233 applications were processed in person with a PIC staff member. Of this number, 150 were processed at the PIC while 83 were processed during PIC off-site visits (*61 at Capuano and 22 at Healey*). 38 applications were received by mail and 131 students (*48% of all applications*) have been scheduled for English language testing.
- In addition to kindergarten registration, the district is now accepting applications to be in the lottery to be considered as a typically developing peer for the Early Childhood Intervention Program or (ECIP). This is a Somerville Public Schools pre-school program at the Capuano Early Childhood Center that brings together "typically developing peers" and children with disabilities. Completed applications are due at the Capuano School by March 13<sup>th</sup> at the latest. For more information about kindergarten or the ECIP program, parents are encouraged to visit the Parent Information Center located at 42 Prescott Street, or call 617-625-6600 x 6962.
- *Bank Volunteers* Seven State Street Corporation Alumni Volunteers painted a large classroom and two hallway doors at the East Somerville Community School at Cummings on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. DPW provided all the supplies needed. These State Street Volunteers, mostly retirees, volunteer through community service projects throughout Greater Boston. We connected via Pat Morgan, a Somerville resident and retired Vice-President of State Street Corporation and member of the State Street Corporation Alumni Volunteers. I would like to thank Pat Morgan and the 7 volunteers who worked all day to help beautify one of our classrooms, and we hope to work with this group again in the future.
- *Coordinated Program Review* The school district has been preparing for the upcoming Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Coordinated Program Review. The Department will be reviewing compliance with Civil Rights issues, Special Education, English

Learner Education, Vocational Education, and Safe and Drug Free Schools. Also under review are Title One and Food Services. The review will have a few components: First is the collection and submission of required data for each of the programs to the DESE during the week of February 23rd. Working with Dr. Sarah Davila, Ms. Debbie Connell, and Mr. Phil Bassett, we have completed this portion and will be delivering the requested documentation to the DESE this Wednesday. The second component requires an on-site student records review for special education and English Learner Education. This portion of the review is scheduled during the week of March 23rd. The DESE team will return on-site once more during the week of April 27<sup>th</sup> when team members will conduct interviews of pre-selected individuals and observations of facilities. During its on-site visits, the DESE team will be using the conference room in the Special Education office area at the Edgerly School. Updates on progress of the Coordinated Program Review will be given.

5. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that second quarter Superintendent's awards are underway and congratulated students, teachers, and staff.
6. The Superintendent announced as a follow up to Ms. Tyler's report on athletics that the winter season for our high school's teams has been a very successful one. The Cheerleading Squad are number one, Boys' Hockey is number 2, Girls' Basketball is number 1, Boys' Basketball is in the playoffs, Girls' Track is number one, and Boys' Track is number 2. Mr. Pierantozzi congratulated all of the students, coaches and families for an outstanding season.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Announced some good news. On Friday, the Kindergarten grant received a one-time increase of \$22,490, which brings the total of this grant to \$206,465.
  - An award from the Department of Early Education and Care in the amount of \$60,389. This is a renewal grant to be used for Early Childhood in Special Education. Funds will be used for speech and language services and professional development
  - Approval of Title I Carryover funds in the amount of \$97,942 to be used for supplemental services including remediation support services and MCAS support
  - Award of \$50,000 for the Collaborative Partnership for Student Success grant to help students transition to the high school. Funding will assist with MCAS support and the funding of the Summer Program.
7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that at members' places is a copy of a memo regarding a Memorandum of Agreement between the Somerville Public Schools, Somerville Police Department and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office regarding the School Department's participation in the Community Based Justice Program. This Memorandum was developed by the District Attorney's Office and is being required, by them, of all CBJ participants. This is simply for members' information.
  9. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that on February 12, he attended a workshop for graduate students at Harvard's School of Education. The program involved the students participating in mock interviews with the various administrators present, in preparation for their actual interviews as they set out to become administrators themselves, upon graduation.

The Superintendent deferred to Mr. Joseph Tringale, Director of Operations for his report regarding various operation issues. Mr. Tringale's report included the following:

- EPIMS data recently submitted to the state which showed that 98% of our staff are designated as Highly Qualified. Mr. Tringale also provided other data as to the breakdown of Highly Qualified teachers per discipline.
  - Reported that 100% of our teachers are licensed and reported that other districts do not share this same designation, so we are in good shape in that respect.
  - Reported that with the ratification of the Cafeteria Employees' contract, six out of seven of the bargaining units now have current contracts. The Scale employees unit is in mediation right now and that is the seventh group.
10. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that in members' packets this week is a document title, "Swapping Desk," which was authored by Mary Bourque of the Chelsea Public Schools relative to mobility

and transiency. This issue is now being recognized at the state and national level and statistics continue to be reviewed in this regard.

Ms. Rossetti commented on the memorandum of agreement with the District Attorney's office. She questioned whether School Committee approval was needed and was informed that the MOA was brought to the Committee simply for their information only. Ms. Rossetti also inquired as to whether the notifications referenced in the memorandum are indeed in all handbooks. Mr. Pierantozzi assured her that all publications where the notifications are listed are reviewed and updated yearly by Dr. Di Chiappari.

The School Committee recessed at 8:32 p.m.

The School Committee resumed at 8:34 p.m.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

The following policies are being presented for Second Reading:  
File: EEAEA-1 School Bus No Idling

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Bockelman, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to accept File: EEAEA-1 – School Bus No Idling as a Somerville Public Schools Policy.

The motion was passed by a voice vote.

The following policies are being presented for Second Reading, as revised:  
File: IC/ICA School Year/School Calendar

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Bockelman, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to accept File: IC/ICA – School Year/School Calendar as a Somerville Public School Policy.

The motion was passed by a voice vote.

### **B. 2009-2010 Draft School Calendar**

Discussion took place regarding the approval of the 2009-2010 School Calendar. Two versions of the calendar have been presented over the past month or so; one with school starting before Labor Day and one with school starting after Labor Day. At the request of the Committee, the Superintendent conducted a survey of 15 districts and found that 11 of the 15 districts surveyed will be starting their school year prior to Labor Day. There was also discussion around the 2004-2005 school year, which had a late Labor Day. School began after Labor Day that year and, subsequently, due to an abundance of snow days that year, changes needed to be made in the calendar in March 2005.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to approve the 2009-2010 school calendar with a start date of September 1, 2009.

The motion was passed by a roll call vote of Yes – 9 – Rossetti, Pero, Sweeting, Norton, Cardoso, Curtatone, Bockelman, and Niedergang and No – 1 Bastardi

Prior to the motion being voted, discussion took place relative to the following issues:  
Whether a precedent was being set and if the school year would always start prior to Labor Day from now on.

- Questions regarding attendance during the first week of school, including a request for attendance records for the first week of September 2009, as well as a question as to whether students/families could have absences excused during that time.
- The feeling that a day in September was a better learning day than one in late June.
- Communicating change in start date to families and community and the various avenues that will be taken to get word out.
- Discussion about whether having the Friday of the first week was really in the best interest of the District.

### **C. MASC Advocacy Committee Report (Ms. Rossetti)**

Ms. Rossetti provided a report on the MASC Advisory Committee meeting held on February 17 at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School at 6:00 p.m. Her reported included the following highlights:

- Budgeting for Public Schools
- The Stimulus Package
- Reaching out to legislators in a unified voice relative to the fiscal situation.

The committee agreed to focus on the following topics:

- Chapter 70 and the appropriate use of stimulus funding
- Full funding of SPED
- Charter School Funding Reform
- Regulatory Relief
- Medicaid Funding

Ms. Rossetti also announced the dates and locations for upcoming meetings.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve it.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **A. Field Trips**

#### **March 12 & 13, 2009**

Next Wave/Full Circle to Loon Mountain Ski Slope, Lincoln, NH. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$15 per student.

- C. **Acceptance of Grants** The Superintendent of Schools recommended the approval of acceptance of the following grants, with gratitude:

#### **Somerville Mathematics Fund**

1. \$500 to Sheryl Lovit, Tom Gannon, Jen Christenson, Meryl Becker and Shirley Taylor from Scale for the Math on the Move program.
2. \$240 to Kaitlin Souza from Kennedy for Supplementary Mathematics materials
3. \$200 to Justine Hebert and Anne Casavant from Kennedy for "Flatland the Movie"
4. \$500 to Victoria Brumberg from Kennedy for a scanner and problem solving books
5. \$300 to Debra Hurley from Kennedy for take-home bags with mathematical materials and games.

#### **Biogen Idec Foundation**

1. \$530.20 to the Somerville High School Science Department for an iRespond Lite classroom Package
2. \$1544.50 to the Somerville High School Science Department for the WebAssign program
3. \$1339.52 to the Somerville High School Science Department for Science videos to improve student literacy, enthusiasm, and interest in Science.
4. \$2210.00 to the Somerville High School Science Department for use by the Astronomy Club.

#### **Somerville Arts Council Pass Awards**

1. \$220 to Linda Manzelli at the Argenziano School for "Tomb" at 5W!ts, Boston, MA
2. \$560 to Lauren Bonnell from East Somerville for "From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler" at Berklee Performance Center, Boston, MA.
3. \$788 to Mary McClellan from East Somerville for "Frog and Toad" at Stoneham Theater, Stoneham, MA
4. \$240 to Margaret Clapham from Healey for "Charlotte's Web" at Wheelock Family Theatre, Boston, MA.
5. \$494 to Kathleen Johanson from Kennedy for Boston Lyric Opera's "The Magic Flute" at John Hancock Hall, Boston, MA
6. \$320 to Barbara Marder from the Kennedy for De Cordova Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA

7. \$220 to May Chau from Somerville High School for the Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA
8. \$378 to Georgia Arvanitis from East Somerville for "Charlotte's Web" at Wheelock Family Theatre, Boston, MA.

**Somerville Arts Council LCC Education Awards**

1. \$1,000 - Cultural Heritage, Education, Balla Kouyate,: Four day residency in Somerville Public Schools including performances and West African history lessons focusing specifically on the role of the Djeli(griot).
2. \$750 - Music, Education, Donna Daley, Somerville High School Music Department: Rehearsal pianist--weekly rehearsals and concerts with Somerville High School Chorus.
3. \$500 - Music, Education, Rita Ranucci, Somerville Public Schools- Music Department: Two-week summer music program run by Music Department of Somerville Public Schools. Called String Camp, this intensive, award-winning program serves local school children who are enrolled in the school string program during the year.
4. \$500 - Visual Arts, Education, Kelle Shugrue, Arthur D. Healey School: Project to transform existing planters at the Healey School into multi-media ecosystems that include living plants and student-produced art and poetry. Local artist Julie Peck will lead clay workshops with students to produce totems.
5. \$1,000 - Multidiscipline, Education, Sharon Staples, Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School: Storyteller Elisa Pearmain will visit the Argenziano School to deliver multicultural storytelling programs that focus on anti-bullying messages.
6. \$500 - Music, Education, Richard Saunders, Somerville High School: Local musician Dick Lourie will introduce Grade 6-12 students to American traditions in music (Blues, Jazz, and Big Band/Swing) through lectures, hands-on improvisational opportunities, and the production of a Jump Loose concert.
7. \$500 - Visual Arts, Project, Holly Hatch, East Somerville Community School: After-school mural club facilitated by David Fichter at the E. Somerville Community School from March 2009-June 2009. Mural will depict neighborhood history.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to approve the grants, as read.

The motion was passed by voice vote.

- D. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Presented to the full School Committee for the First Reading:

|             |                           |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| File: GCE-E | Application Process       |
| File: GCMC  | Staff Meetings            |
| File: HA    | Negotiations Goals        |
| File: HB    | Negotiations Legal Status |
| File: HF    | School Committee          |

- E. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Presented to the full School Committee, *as revised*, for the First Reading:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| File: GCG | Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment |
|-----------|--|

- F. **Sterilization of Musical Instruments**

Ms. Rossetti reported on Bill H5176 currently being proposed requiring musical instrument sterilization by a specific privately owned and patented process. She also reported that she had consulted with the School Department's Supervisor of Music, Rick Saunders, who assured her of the following:

- Currently, the Somerville Public Schools and many schools sterilize all mouthpieces with Sterisol, an industry recommended concentrate.
- The insides of instruments are also regularly cleaned, at least 4 times per year.
- Students do not typically share instruments. Each student has their own.
- When instruments are returned, if a student changes instruments, graduates or leaves the program, the instrument is thoroughly sterilized and cleaned inside and the mouthpiece is sterilized.

Therefore, this bill is not necessary and would result in very high costs putting an additional burden on already stretched music budgets. In addition, this Bill, H5176, may require public schools to expend public funds on a specific profit-based patented process – MaestroMD.

Ms. Rossetti requested that communication be sent to our legislators asking them not to support this bill.

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Due to the length of the meeting already and the late hour, he will hold his items until next week's meeting.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Congratulated all involved with the production of Bye Bye Birdie at Somerville High School and reported that it was a great success.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Ms. Cardoso echoed Mr. Bockelman's words regarding Bye Bye Birdie

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Announced that the Ed. Programs Subcommittee would be meeting on Wednesday night at 181 Washington Street and encouraged the public to attend.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjourning this evening's meeting, Mr. Niedergang asked for a moment of silence in honor of the following people who have passed away:

- Virginia Winters, mother of Barbara Favaloro, secretary in the Guidance Office at Somerville High School.
- Edward Kelleher, father of Miriam Donovan, teacher in the ECIP program at the Capuano School.
- Nemesio Alberto Apolaya, father-in-law of Flor Apolaya, Family Liaison for the Somerville Community Partnerships for Children and School Nurse Assistant for the Parent Information Center.
- Harriet Cioppa, mother-in-law of Adriane Cioppa, teacher at the Argenziano School.

These names will be recorded into tonight's minutes and a letter on behalf of the School Committee will be sent.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, March 2, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Pero, and Mr. Bockelman.

**Members absent:** Mayor Curtatone, Ms. Tyler

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to suspend the regular order and to take up item 8A under New Business – the introduction of CAAS Director, Kimberly Smith Cofield.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

Ms. Bastardi introduced Ms. Smith Cofield and read her biography to the audience. Ms. Smith Cofield stepped to the podium and thanked the School Committee for their invitation and stated that it was nice to get to meet so many people. Ms. Smith Cofield spoke about her greatest claim to fame—that of being a parent and announced that she is thrilled to be here and looks forward to working with the School Department.

Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Cardoso thanked Ms. Smith Cofield for coming to the meeting and announced that they look forward to the School Department-CAAS connection. It was also announced that on March 30, 2009, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., there will be a Welcome Reception for Ms. Smith Cofield at City Hall, outside of the Mayor's office and encouraged the public to come and meet her.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting, as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to accept the minutes of the February 2, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler was absent from the meeting due to there being no school today due to a snow storm.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. ***Educational Programs and Instruction:*** Mr. Sweeting (February 25)  
Mr. Sweeting reported on the February 25<sup>th</sup> Ed. Programs meeting which included:

1. High School English Department Program Presentation  
Mr. Frank Russell, 9-12 Department Head for English, made a presentation on high school courses, class placement considerations, MCAS prep. and SAT's.
2. ELL and Unidos Program Presentations  
Dr. Sarah Davila gave a presentation on the English Language Learner program, which included an overview of scaffolding, strengths, and incredibly-detailed reports and charts

Dr. Holly Hatch reported on the Unidos Program which is currently in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. This is a 50/50 model of English/Spanish instruction. The population of the students is one of 50% English speakers/50% Spanish speakers. The program is fully aligned with the state frameworks. Students from the first class of the Unidos Program are currently freshmen in high school.

3. Approval of Inservice Courses

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton, to accept the following two inservice courses.

- Response to Intervention (RTI) and Student – Teacher Assistance Teams
- Reading and Writing in the Sheltered Content Classroom

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the proposal for the 2009 Summer String Camp.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

B. ***Finance and Facilities***: Mr. Niedergang (February 26)

Mr. Niedergang gave a report on the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities.

Highlights included:

1. FY09 Budget
  - a. Revenue adjustments and budget implications  
Steps taken to reduce expenditures were reviewed. Staff were praised for soldiering through. Monies saved by these reductions will be applied to reduced the overall budget deficit.
2. FY10 Budget
  - a. Budget Planning

V. **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

A. **DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Thanked the School Committee for putting up with him while he has been sick.
2. Announced that, in members' packets is a memo, with back-up, from Gretchen Kinder regarding Project Aspire and the Safe Schools, Healthy Students grant which is due on March 4. Approximately 50 community members worked with Ms. Kinder to complete this grant application
3. Reported on "Snow Calls". For this storm, Somerville was one of the first four districts to declare a snow day. The information is disseminated via the website, radio, television and Connect Ed. It is always a difficult choice to make and, certainly, with an early call, there is a greater chance of a mistake and the weather changing. Discussion took place relative to the City and the School Department being on the same page as to the announcement of schools being closed. Mr. Pierantozzi has already taken steps to assure this will be the case.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Announced the beginning of the Spring testing season. The MCAS retest originally scheduled for today will start tomorrow. Adult diploma seekers should report tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. MEPA will take place next week. All ELL students in grades K-12 take the MEPA. Approximately 829 students are involved in this phase of testing, which is about one out of every six students in the District. MCAS testing begins on March 31, 2009, with the long composition portion of the test. Preparations are already underway and the message being given to students is that of staying focused and to show what you know.
- Reported on the Reading First grant and a visit on March 4 by the Department of Education to the East Somerville Community School in support of the grant review process. This is the final year for this grant.

- The Middle Grades Study Group will have its final planning meeting tomorrow afternoon. A report from this committee will be given to the School Committee on March 23.
  - Dr. McKay announced that his last item is a fun one. In recognition of Dr. Seuss' birthday and National Reading week, many administrators and elected officials will be reading at the various schools across the District. Tomorrow, Dr. McKay will read to students at the Argenziano School and will wear a yellow, "One Fish, Two Fish" t-shirt lent to him by Mrs. Marques. It is great to share the magic and fun of reading with our students.
4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that on Tuesday, February 24, the Somerville Public Schools held the first of several programs with the Middlesex Partnership for Youth. The topic was Internet Safety and Cyber bullying. There were approximately 40 people in attendance. Thank you to Margie Daniels, Onyen Yong from the District Attorney's office. The Middlesex Partnership for Youth will partner with the Somerville Public Schools in making presentations to both the community and to staff members. Some presentations are group-specific and will be by invitation only.
  5. As Mr. Niedergang reported earlier, the Superintendent will meet with representatives from the various unions this Wednesday afternoon. He is looking for a universal pro-rated economic response and hoping that, by deciding collaboratively, it may help avoid the slash and burn. The Superintendent will keep the School Committee informed and is optimistic that the universal response will have a good outcome.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- On Wednesday, February 25th, Joel Restuccia, author of "Helping Traumatized Children Learn" presented a workshop to Somerville Public Schools counselor educators, adjustment counselors, redirect teachers, attendance officers, SPED and SHS adjustment counselors, SPED administrators, and staff from Somerville Community Mental health, approximately 40-45 staff participants. Joel Restuccia's presentation focused on 3 categories impacted by trauma:  
     Academic Performance, Classroom Behavior, and Relationships  
     The # 1 resiliency factor for a child in school affected by trauma is in developing a caring relationship with an adult. The presentation also discussed the educational consequences of exposure to family violence and ways that schools could become supportive environments in which traumatized children can focus, behave appropriately, and learn. Feedback the week after the meeting from many staff was very positive
  - Dr. Di Chiappari announced April School Vacation Camp enrollment period is this week between March 2-10, 2009. April Vacation Camp is for current Community School students and will run from Tuesday April 21-24, 2009 from 8:00am-5:30pm at the Kennedy School. Registration forms are available at the Community Schools Afterschool site, Community Schools main office, or on the web. In addition, the 21st Century and SCORE program Session 3 enrollment period is March 16th-20th, 2009. Session 3 will run March 30th-June 12<sup>th</sup>. 21<sup>st</sup> Century will run at Argenziano, ESCS, Kennedy and WSNS and is available for students in grades 4-8. SCORE will run at Healey and WHCS and is available for students K-8. Registrations are available through program Site Coordinators or on the web. For more information please contact Helen Ortiz @ 617-625-6600 x6970.
  - The school district, in partnership with the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth and District Attorney's Office, will be offering a second safety workshop to the community entitled *Family and Relationship Violence*. Living with violence at home or in a personal relationship interferes with a student's ability to learn, as well as causing serious behavioral and social problems. This presentation will help participants understand where domestic and dating violence comes from, how it happens, and what the crimes are. District Attorney Gerry Leone's initiatives to prevent and combat domestic violence will also be discussed. This event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> between 7pm – 8:30m at the Kennedy School Cafetorium and will be presented by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. I would like to invite all members of the Somerville Community to attend this very important presentation.
6. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the YMCA swim meet which was held at the Kennedy Pool. This was an amazing and enormous event. There were approximately 1500 spectators and 1400 competitors. Extended thanks to Rich Cheney and Jim Kotzuba who were both instrumental in

this going off without a hitch, Thanks, also, to the Somerville Police Department, Traffic and Parking officers, volunteers and the staff of the pool for an outstanding job.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Reported on the Unibank online payment system for tuition based programs such as Community Schools, Evening School, Scale, etc.
  - Announced that the MBTA's student bus pass program, which is currently used by the ELL and SPED programs, as well as for some of our homeless students and for purchase by students at Somerville High School, will be changing in September 2009 to a Charlie Card system in place of the current monthly paper tickets. Cards will be activated and deactivated according to terms of use. This will require more tracking, but more flexibility and better service, as well as money savings for the District. A flyer is currently being developed by the T.
  - Announced that Powers and Sullivan will be in the District in mid-March to audit the FY2008 End of Year Report.
7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the process is well underway in developing a new evaluation instrument for teachers and paraprofessionals. This was a feature of the last collective bargaining agreement with the corresponding units of the STA. The paraprofessionals' evaluation instrument is near completions. Much work went into the development of the document. The Unit A evaluation is at the beginning, rough-draft stage. The STA, MTA, and Tony Pierantozzi have been working on the document's development. Once ready, a joint team of STA members and a District team will meet. Once the document is agreeable to all parties, it will be brought to the School Committee. The Superintendent extended his thanks to the STA for their work on this.
8. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that in members' packets is a resolution regarding the East Somerville Community School's MSBA submission. The SOI has been submitted to the MSBA by Gerry Boyle. We are now waiting for their reply and the timeframe for their response is not known at this time.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve them.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **B. Field Trips**

#### **April 30-May 1, 2009**

Somerville High School Band to *Music in the Parks* competition in Holyoke, Chicopee, and Agawam - OVERNIGHT. Transportation via coach bus and accommodations at Holiday Inn, Holyoke at a cost of \$50 per student.

#### **June 9, 2009**

East Somerville Community School, Grade 8 to New York City. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$60 per student.

#### **April 16-April 24**

12 Somerville High School students to Gaeta, Italy for the Student Exchange Program. Transportation via airplane at a cost of \$800 per student.

#### **March 5-7**

Somerville High School DECA Organization to the Marriott Copley, Boston – OVERNIGHT to compete in the State DECA Competition. Transportation via school van. Total cost is \$125 per student.

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

### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. Encouraged community members to attend the Finance and Facilities meetings of the School Committee. There will be much discussion over the next few months. If you cannot attend, please contact a School Committee member and provide your feedback.

### **Mr. Pero**

1. Congratulated all involved with the YMCA Swim Meet.

### **Ms. Cardoso**

1. As a follow-up on Dr. Seuss Day, she will read to Ms. Manzelli's sixth grade
2. On Tuesday, March 10, the PTA Full Council will meet at the Winter Hill Community School at 7:00 p.m.
3. Please shovel sidewalks. It is imperative to make walkways safe for pedestrians.

### **Mr. Niedergang**

1. Announced that on Thursday, March 5, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., in the auditorium of Somerville High School, Corey Mashburn from Somerville Cares About Prevention will present the results of the High School's Health Survey.
2. Announced that cuts to Cambridge Health Alliance could hurt services for our young people in Somerville. There will be a reduction in services being provided at the Teen Connection at Somerville High School, which will mean the center will be closed on vacations and in the summer. Also, the Adolescent Psychiatric Unit at Somerville Hospital will be moving to Cambridge Hospital. The rehabilitative center for drug and alcohol dependency is also closing.

### **Ms. Bastardi**

1. On March 12, the Brian Higgins Trivia Night will be held beginning at 6:00 p.m. with dinner followed by trivia at 7:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn in Somerville. For more information contact Debbie Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 6829.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, March 16, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Pero, and Mr. Bockelman.

**Members absent:** Mayor Curtatone, Mr. Norton

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang came to the podium as Ms. Bastardi introduced Ms. Christy Juckett, the designer of the new logo for the Somerville Public Schools, and presented her with a citation in appreciation for all of her hard work. Ms. Juckett, whose work was done "pro bono", received the first School Committee citation that uses her logo. The wording of this citation is at the end of these minutes.

A two minute recess was called at 7:02 p.m. to allow members to congratulate and thank Ms. Juckett.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:04 p.m.

Upon returning, Ms. Bastardi announced that the Mayor was absent from tonight's meeting because he was attending a conference.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler reported on the following items:

- Spring sports have begun. These include Track, Softball, Baseball, Crew, and Ultimate Frisbee
- The Sophomore Semi-Formal will be held at the Montvale Plaza on this Friday
- The Multi-Cultural Fair was held on Friday, March 13. There were tables and performances showcasing a multitude of countries and cultures. It was, "beautiful fun for all."

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *Finance and Facilities:*** Mr. Niedergang (March 2)

Mr. Niedergang gave a report on the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities, which was held immediately following the Regular School Committee meeting on March 2. The meeting began at 8:15 p.m. in the committee room at City Hall. Present at this meeting were Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, Ms. Baker, and Ms. Lawrence. Absent were Mayor Curtatone and Alderman Pero. Highlights included:

1. FY09 Budget

a. Revenue adjustments and budget implications

Steps taken to reduce expenditures were reviewed. Staff were praised for soldiering through. Monies saved by these reductions will be applied to reduced the overall budget deficit. The Superintendent provided his analysis of the budget situation for the current year, including the reduction of the overall School Department budget of approximately \$800,000. These cuts have been made without any cuts in staff or services.

2. FY10 Budget

a. Budget Planning

The FY10 Budget is of greater concern and planning is difficult due to so many unknowns at this point, including state legislature needs to act on Governor Patrick's tax revenue proposal and the impact of the Federal Stimulus Bill.

The following motions were passed unanimously at the meeting of March 2, 2009.

MOTION: To declare the following food service items as surplus:

- 10 cases      ½ sheet aluminum pans
- 7 cases      ½ sheet aluminum pan covers
- 2 cases      full aluminum hotel pan covers
- 50 cases      5-compartment plastic trays
- 2 cases      18 X 24 Racks
- 2 cases      6' X 5' Racks
- 1 Pretzel Oven

MOTION: To approve the one year renewal of the lease of the Boys and Girls Club of Middlesex County for office space on the second and third floors of their building in Union Square on exactly the same terms as the current lease.

The terms are as follows: \$13.95 per square foot for space with an additional charge of \$6.05 per square foot for utilities. The total square footage is 9860 X \$20 for a total cost of \$197, 000

**B. *Joint Finance Meeting with Board of Alderman:*** Mr. Niedergang (March 4)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Joint Finance Meeting with the Board of Aldermen which was held beginning at on March 4, 2009. Alderman Maryann Heuston opened the meeting and provided an update on steps taken thus far to reduce the FY09 budget by the various departments city-wide.

Discussion included:

- Long Range Goals and not wanting to hold back or delay an improvements
- Education being a top priority
- The Superintendent and administrators are capable financial managers who run a tight and lean ship

The Superintendent gave a presentation on the steps taken to reduce the FY09 budget and reported that he is committed to analyzing all areas when preparing for FY10. Right now there are too many unknowns to do anything formal. The School Committee and Board of Aldermen will continue to meet to plan together for next year.

Ms. Bastardi announced that at the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning on March 23, 2009, the School Committee will begin to address the \$2.9 million gap. This meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 181 Washington Street.

**C. *Rules Management:*** Mr. Bockelman (March 9)

Mr. Bockelman reported on the Rules Management meeting of March 9. Highlights included: Review of the first part of Section I of the Policy Manual. 28 policies have been reviewed thus far and the work continues. Next before the Rules Management subcommittee will be the Security Camera Policy as well as the remainder of section I of the Policy Manual.

Ms. Rossetti requested a recess at 7:19 p.m.

School Committee back in session at 7:20 p.m.

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi gave a brief personnel report which included an update on retirements and hiring efforts, to date. It was announced that, although hiring would be limited this year, an outstanding pool of candidates exists.

## **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Congratulated and thanked all those who took a part in National Reading week.
2. Announced that the East Somerville Community School was noted for its exemplary practices for special education services by the Rennie Center. Personnel from the Rennie Center will be visiting East Somerville to analyze and report on these practices. Congratulations to the staff of the East Somerville Community School.
3. In the packets is a communication letter and notice regarding the upcoming Coordinated Program Review.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Announced the kick-off of the recruitment season. There are some key openings and there will be aggressive recruitment being done. Dr. McKay recently attended a job fair at Bridgewater State College with Rebeca Martinez. Rebeca will also be attending additional recruitment events on March 25, 2009, for minorities and on April 2, at Lesley University.
  - Thanked the Somerville High School Book Club for inviting him to join their group on March 5. He greatly enjoyed the book and the conversation.
  - Reported on the Somerville High School Science Fair on March 5. Dr. McKay was impressed by the range of projects, etc. Thank you to Mr. LaGambina, the staff and students at Somerville High School.
4. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that Ms. Regina Bertholdo, the Director of the Parent Information Center, has been invited to present at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Girls, Communities and Justice at UMass Dartmouth on May 1. Congratulations to Regina for this honor.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- An Open House for the early childhood programs in Somerville will be held at the Capuano Early Childhood Center between March 30-April 2 from 9:00 am – 11:30 am. All parents and guardians interested in pre-kindergarten are invited to attend.
- Pre-Kindergarten registration begins at the Parent Information Center on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> between 10am – 2PM and becomes ongoing. Somerville residents with children who will be 4 years old by August 31 can register for Pre-kindergarten. All parents/guardians interested in registering their child for pre-kindergarten are encouraged to apply before May 8<sup>th</sup> to be considered part of the first batch assignments. A lottery will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> if there are more applicants than available slots.
- On Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> the 11<sup>th</sup> annual multicultural fair was held at the field house at Somerville High School. Students representing 44 countries brought in homemade food, artifacts, educational materials and displays to share with the rest of the student population. Under the banner of the Statue of Liberty, students danced traditional dances from their country of birth or ancestry. Dr. Di Chiappari thanked Alice Comack, all the students and staff who worked the fair, and all the members of the multicultural committee who worked hard in organizing the event. Thanks also to the restaurants which generously donated food to make this a very successful fair.
- The school district will be a 2010 census partner with the United States Census Bureau. Each year more the \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities based on census data. We will be involved and supporting the 2010 census by displaying and helping to distribute 2010 census promotional material.
- Announced that some wonderful art displays are currently on exhibit throughout the city. City Hall has a K-12 student art exhibit on display from March 12<sup>th</sup> through May 6<sup>th</sup> and the Somerville High School art students will be exhibiting their art at the Somerville Public Library from March 3 to March 31 with a reception at the Somerville Public Library on Highland Ave. on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> between 3:30-6:00 pm. There will also be a special performance by the high school



music department from 3:30-4:30pm. For more information, one may call Dr. Luci Prawdzik, the K-12 are supervisor at 617-625-6600 x 3637. Everyone is invited.

5. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the initiatives this year to improve efficiency, reduce duplication and improve achievement and discussed the Shore Collaborative School Improvement Assistance Center, a state pilot program.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Follow-up statements to add to Mr. Niedergang's earlier report. Originally, two budget scenarios were developed and now a third is being developed. Currently services, surplus, capitol needs are all being reviewed.
  - The next Finance Meeting will be held on April 1, 2009.
  - Reported on the Federal Stimulus, Title I, IDEA funds. The initial money may be released by the end of the month. These funds are to be used to supplement, not supplant the budget. Title I funds can be used to support a teacher's salary if the teacher's position was cut due to local budget reductions.
  - The Department of Elementary and Secondary should let us know more about the stimulus money by the end of the month.
6. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that in members' packets is a memo from Dr. McKay to him regarding appendices to the School Improvement Plans. It was decided that this matter would be forwarded to the Long Range Planning Committee for further review.
  7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that in members' packets is a memo from Gretchen Kinder regarding Expanded Learning Time planning. School Councils would like to have more time to review the information that was provided to them around this issue.
  8. Mr. Pierantozzi invited Ms. Jessie Baker, Liaison to the Mayor, to the podium. Ms. Baker announced that, after a lengthy search process, the city has hired Ms. Paulette Renault Caragianes as the new Director of Health for the City of Somerville. Ms. Baker also provided some biographical information on Ms. Caragianes and thanked Mr. Pierantozzi for serving on the interview team.

Mr. Sweeting requested that Ms. Caragianes be invited to the next Educational Programs meeting on April 2, as the topic of discussion that evening is health programs in our schools. Ms. Baker will pass along this invitation to Ms. Caragianes.

Mr. Bockelman also requested that a copy of Ms. Caragianes' resume be forwarded to School Committee members.

9. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that on Saturday, March 21, the Region IV Science Fair will take place at Somerville High School. The projects will open for public viewing beginning at 1:00 p.m. with awards following at 3:00 p.m. Historically, Somerville High School's students have done very well at this event.
10. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that on March 18 and 19, auditors from the firm of Powers and Sullivan were in the District to review the records of the Finance Department. The preliminary report will be available at the next regular meeting.
11. The Superintendent announced that the findings of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey done last year at Somerville High School, have been released by Somerville Cares About Prevention. The School Department will continue to address those areas deemed to be problems.

Ms. Bastardi announced that Mr. Norton is absent this evening due to illness.

Ms. Rossetti issued thanks to staff members who have notified the District of their intention to retire early in the year, as this makes finding replacements for their positions more manageable.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ms. Rossetti gave a report regarding her work with the MASC. Discussion included:

- Review of information previously provided via emails and School Committee packets

- The upcoming meeting on March 28.
- The development of an Op-ed piece to alert parents and guardians of the financial crisis
- Readiness Schools
- The Executive Director's report
- Special Education Circuit Breaker money

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Mr. Bockelman presented the following policies to the full School Committee, ***as revised***, for First Reading:

File: IHBD:      Compensatory Education  
File: JIE          Pregnant Students

- B. **Acceptance of Grants** (Recommended Action: Approval)  
The Superintendent of Schools recommending, with gratitude, approval of acceptance of the following grant:  
A grant from the Lenny Zakim Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to the Parent-Child Home Program of Somerville.

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to accept the grant, with gratitude.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve them.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **C. Field Trips**

#### **April 15 & 16**

Next Wave/Full Circle students to Camp Nihan, Saugus - OVERNIGHT. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$5 per student.  
NB – Rain date of April 16 & 17

#### **May 2 & 3**

Somerville High School's Ultimate Frisbee Team to Amherst, MA – OVERNIGHT. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$20 per student

#### **May 27-29**

Next Wave students to Martha's Vineyard – OVERNIGHT. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$40 per student.

## **VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Mr. Niedergang**

1. Announced that on March 23, 2009, the Special Education Advisory Council will meet at 6:15
2. On March 23, Somerville High School will hold a College Admissions Panel from 7:00 – 8:30 for current juniors and their families.
3. On Saturday, March, 28, the Duhamel group will host the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Money raised from this event will fund grants to teachers and also be used for dropout prevention.
4. On March 31, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., the Kennedy School will host a Family Violence workshop

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Announced that applications for the Mayor's Summer Jobs are now available.
2. Reported on the College Admissions Panel and let audience members know that this is a very informative event that gives students and parents/guardians a sense of what to expect in the college application process.
3. Reported on the Multicultural Fair which was held recently at Somerville High School. The food, dance and other examples of diversity presented at this fair were outstanding. Congratulations to Ms. Alice Comack and all staff and students involved.

### **Ms. Cardoso**

1. Thanked Ms. Rossetti for all of her advocacy work with the MASC

2. Commented on the combined 79 years of service provided by the retirees on this week's personnel report and thanked them for their dedication.
3. Reported on Dr. Seuss Day and thanked Ms. Manzelli and her students at the Argenziano School for a wonderful experience while reading there.
4. Announced the Memorial Day Fundraiser being held on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.
5. Informed audience members that Mr. Raymond Izzo, former Title I Director and Supervisor of Grants for the Somerville Public Schools, passed away, yesterday, March 15. Mr. Izzo was the Godfather of Vocational Education and the Highlander Café at Somerville High School is dedicated in his honor.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Commented on the Multicultural Fair and how successful and wonderful an event it was.
2. Reported on the recent Soccer Competition
3. Reported on the Swim Meet at the Kennedy School. It was great to see such a sense of school spirit and sense of city that was evident at this event.
4. Announced that the next Educational Programs and Instruction subcommittee meeting will be held on March 25, at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street. The Music and Science Departments will be making presentations that evening. At the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Educational Programs meeting, the agenda includes health programs and the homework policy. Please attend subcommittee meetings.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. The West Somerville Neighborhood School will hold its annual Talent Showcase on March 20, at 7:00 p.m. at Tufts' Cohen Auditorium. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$5.00 per person. Thank you to Ms. Ruth Daigle for all of her hard work in preparing for this.
2. The West Somerville Neighborhood School is sponsoring a trip to Foxwoods Casino for parents on March 22, 2009.
3. The Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation raffle is being held on May 8, 2009. Please consider purchasing a ticket for this worthwhile cause. Monies raised from this event are used to provide scholarships to Somerville High School seniors.

**Mr. Pero**

1. Thank you to Ms. Cardoso for remembering Mr. Izzo. His title was once Director of Federal Grants and in 1974 he obtained a six month grant to begin Project Scale.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- *Jean Albama*, father of Martine Jeudi, Administrative Assistant, Human Resources.
- *Roland Parrish*, father of Denise Puopolo, Cafeteria Helper at the Healey School.
- *Mary Mazzeo*, mother of Mary Ann Hellen, paraprofessional at Winter Hill Community School.
- *John Jones*, father-in-law of Julie Agresti-Jones, teacher at Capuano Early Childhood Center.
- *Francis Dedrick*, father of Michael Dedrick, Utility Aide at Somerville High School and father-in-law of Shirley Dedrick, Principal Clerk in the Food Service Department.
- *Paula Zingarelli*, sister of Barbara Zingarelli, retired teacher from the Argenziano School.
- *Nathan Weiss*, father-in-law of Nomi Davidson, Community Partnerships for Children and grandfather of Isaiah Davidson-Weiss, paraprofessional at the Kennedy School.
- *Raymond Izzo*, retired Title One Director for the Somerville Public Schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**Somerville School Committee  
Official Citation**

*This certifies that*

***Christy Juckett***

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted this Certificate of Award for her tireless work in the creation of a new logo to be used by the Somerville Public Schools in all of its future publications. The Somerville Public Schools and the Somerville School Committee are extremely grateful for your creativity, talent, time and patience during this process.*

*Somerville School Committee*

*Maureen Bastardi, Chairperson*

*M. Teresa Cardoso*

*Mary Jo Rossetti*

*Joseph Curtatone, Mayor*

*Walter Pero, Aldermanic President*

*Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools*

*March 16, 2009*

*Mark Niedergang, Vice Chairperson*

*Adam Sweeting*

*Paul Bockelman*

*James Norton*

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, April 6, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Pero, and Mr. Bockelman.

**Members absent:** Mayor Curtatone

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:15 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang came to the podium as Ms. Bastardi introduced Mr. David Dickerson, Special Education Liaison for the Somerville Public Schools and the Indoor and Outdoor Boys' Track Coach at Somerville High School. Mr. Dickerson has been awarded the 2008 Indoor Track Coach of the Year by the Massachusetts Track Coaches Association. Ms. Bastardi presented Mr. Dickerson with a citation from the School Committee to celebrate this well-deserved award. Mr. Dickerson came to the microphone and thanked the Committee for the recognition. He also thanked his wife and daughter, students and fellow coach Charles O'Rourke, for coming to show their support. Mr. Dickerson stated that this is very special and that he appreciates the honor and that it's nice to be recognized. He is proud of the kids and has enjoyed working with them over the years. The wording of the citation is at the end of these minutes.

Ms. Rossetti commented on how wonderful Mr. Dickerson has been to not only the boys on the track teams, but also to the members of the girls' teams as she had a daughter who was involved with the track program. She also spoke about the coaches' commitment to our students and how they take the time to accompany students on college visits, take them on whitewater rafting trips, etc.

Ms. Bastardi stated that it is an honor to have Mr. Dickerson here for this recognition.

A five minute recess was called at 7:10 p.m. to allow members to congratulate and thank Mr. Dickerson.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.

Upon returning, Ms. Bastardi announced that the Mayor was absent from tonight's meeting because he was attending a conference.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

**IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler reported on the following items:

- National Honor Induction Ceremony on next Monday, April 13, at 9:00 a.m.
- Blood Drive on Wednesday, April 8, at Somerville High School
- The Best Buddies Dinner and the GSA Fundraiser on April 9.
- The Junior Prom was on last Friday, April 3, and it was fabulous. Great food and an amazing time.

## **V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **A. *School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:* Ms. Bastardi (March 23)**

On Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> there was a Long Range Planning Committee meeting held in the conference room of Central Administration located at 181 Washington Street. In addition to Ms. Bastardi, School Committee members Mark Niedergang, Teresa Cardoso, Mary Jo Rossetti, Adam Sweeting, James Norton, Mayor Curtatone, Alderman Walter Pero, and Paul Bockelman were in attendance. Superintendent of Schools, Tony Pierantozzi, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Vince McKay, K-8 Curriculum Coordinator, Shannon Gilligan, Coordinator of Research and Development, Information and Grants, Gretchen Kinder, and Director of Finance, Pat Durette were also in attendance.

There were 4 items on the agenda that evening and they were addressed out of order.

#### The first item was the: Middle Grades Study Committee Report

The committee viewed a slideshow presentation presented collaboratively by Dr. Vince McKay, Shannon Gilligan, and Dr. Leslie Hergert, who co-facilitated the process. The presentation included:

- Common themes heard in focus groups with students, parents, guardians, and teachers
- Progress to date and topics that called for immediate action including improving the rigor and continuity of math instruction.
- Recommended Guiding Principals including developmentally appropriate learning and activities, benchmarks and local decision making.
- Considerations for Implementation
- Professional Development and
- Next Steps.

A brief discussion ensued where all questions and concerns were addressed. It was recommended that this work now be transferred to the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee. This recommendation was acceptable to those present and agreed upon by the Chair of Ed. Programs, Mr. Sweeting.

### **B. The 2<sup>nd</sup> item taken up that evening was the: FY09 Somerville Public Schools Budget Reversion**

The Committee addressed proposed cuts to the budget to help address the 2.9 million dollar budget shortfall faced by the City. Through various measures the Somerville Public Schools were able to revert back to the City \$800,000. Similar actions are being taken by the City to make up the remaining 2.1 million dollar shortfall.

After a brief discussion a motion was made and approved by voice vote. The motion reads as follows:

In light of the City's 2.9 million dollar budget deficit, the Somerville School Committee moves to revert \$800,000 dollars of the Fiscal Year 2009 Somerville Public Schools budget to the City of Somerville, thereby reducing the total Fiscal Year 2009 budget of the Somerville Public School Department to \$47,985,700 dollars.

#### The 3<sup>rd</sup> item discussed that evening was an: Extension of the School Day Initiative update

In a prior Long Range Committee meeting there was a discussion of the need to split the goal of "Developing a universal, safe, enriching, extension of the School Day initiative in order to ensure ALL students have time for a full education experience." The Superintendent proposed an action to split the Long Range Goal into two goals using the suggested language. This language was developed in consultation with the district-wide Extension of School Day Initiative Advisory Group and reads as follows: Goal 1A: Encourage and support individual schools in the exploration and pursuit of a universal and mandatory redesigned school day/year using the Expanded Learning Time (ELT) model and grant program promoted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education / Mass 2020 and

Goal 1B: Develop an organized, consistent, accessible, curriculum-linked but not curriculum-driven voluntary after-school learning program for elementary students which (a) complements the school day, (b) provides students with opportunities to expand their knowledge, skills, and attitudes through high quality, developmentally appropriate academic enrichment activities, and (c) fulfills some needs of parents/guardians by providing homework help and a safe and secure after-school environment.

Discussion ensued and all questions and concerns were addressed. After which a motion was made to: Accept this new language as proposed. This motion was approved by voice vote.

At this time the Long Range Planning Committee reviewed documents provided by the Superintendent's Office outlining potential costs associated with the academic components of the district's new after-school program model. With the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center program the district has been working to develop a new, financially sustainable, building based after-school program model to support the district goals. The document estimates the program cost for 1.5 hour academic after-school session at 8 schools for 180 days at \$580,513. If the district were to minimally provide academic-related after-school programming there is a need for \$296,315 in additional funds. The Superintendent spoke to the district's aggressive grant writing and other revenue seeking activities. Superintendent Pierantozzi also spoke to the district's commitment to after-school programming and indicated that, should new funding sources not be sought, the district will continue to provide needed after-school services for families on a sliding scale.

The last item on the agenda that evening was the: School Improvement Plan appendices & CPI or Composite Performance Index target data.

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent reviewed a report dated March 10<sup>th</sup> showing AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) goals for the current testing year and CPI (Composite Performance Index) growth needed attain the Improvement Target. The Improvement Target is established by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education under the rules of the NCLB act.

AYP goals are set annually and are part of the School Improvement Plans that the School Committee viewed in February. This report is more in depth and provides an additional level of detail.

At this time a motion was made to: Accept and include the School Improvement Plan appendices. The motion also passed with a voice vote.

With no further business that evening the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

**A. *Educational Programs and Instruction:*** Mr. Sweeting (March 25)

1. Music Department presentation comprised of an overview of the Music program and included an outstanding performance by the Low Tones a cappella Doo Wop group who performed "Blackbird" in English and Bengali. The performance was outstanding and it was one of the few times in history that there was applause at an Ed Programs meeting. Rick Saunders has really made music available for everyone.
2. Science Department presentation included the sequence of courses, partnerships, and Pigs Fly Aerodynamics.
3. Mass. DESE grant collaboration with Prospect Hill Academy for professional development (informational)
4. Approval of Inservice Courses

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by to approve the "Report Card Revision Committee" inservice course.

The motion was passed by voice vote.

**B. *School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:*** Mr. Niedergang (April 1)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Finance Meeting of April 1. Present at this meeting were:  
Discussion included:

ARRA funds

Potential FY10 budget outlines

Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette presented budget scenarios and reported on discussions with principals, etc. Discussion took place about consolidating non-teaching positions across the District. The School Department will suffer from these cuts. More meetings will be held to set priorities.

1. FY2010 budget update
2. FY2009 budget: Expenditure report and reversion - \$800,000 was cut from the School Department's FY09 budget.
3. Federal stimulus package update

4. Facilities update – an update was given regarding all schools facilities including the latest information about the East Somerville Community School and the Massachusetts School Building Authority. An East Somerville Community School Advisory Committee is being established by the Mayor’s Office and the first meeting is expected to take place in early May

The following motions were passed at this meeting:

MOTION: to declare as surplus, a wrestling mat at Somerville High School

MOTION: To approve the bill rolls

MOTION: That all School Committee meetings for Finance and Facilities be held in a location where they can be filmed.

All three motions were passed unanimously.

Discussion also took place regarding planning for future meeting dates and times.

Mr. Pierantozzi also announced that it is believed that supplemental services may now be able to be funded using Title I funds instead of through private contractors.

**C. *Educational Programs and Instruction:*** Mr. Sweeting (April 2)

- A. Homework Policy Review – discussion regarding keeping the current policy but providing more guidelines for descriptions of homework.
- B. Wellness and Health Program presentation – Mr. Tim O’Keefe provided an overview of the Health Curriculum, which included teaching about substance abuse, sex education, healthy eating, etc. Programs include Second Step, Open Circle, Social Competency, Conflict Resolution, Cambridge Health Alliance, Teen Connection, and Transition House. A recommendation was made to send a letter to the Cambridge Health Alliance regarding the possible cut in services currently provided to our students.
- C. Follow up discussion re: Middle Grades Report
- D. Approval of Inservice Courses

Prior to the Superintendent giving his report, Ms. Bastardi welcome back Ms. Rebeca Martinez and congratulated her on the birth of her baby daughter.

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi gave a brief personnel report which included an update on retirements and hiring efforts, to date. It was announced that, although hiring would be limited this year, an outstanding pool of candidates exists.

**B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Reported that on March 30, the city held preliminary discussions with the Harlem Children’s Zone which has been active for approximately 20 years in New York City. The City is looking into the possibility of there being a similar program started here in Somerville.
2. Announced that the East Somerville Community School was noted for its exemplary practices for special education services by the Rennie Center. Personnel from the Rennie Center will be visiting East Somerville to analyze and report on these practices. Congratulations to the staff of the East Somerville Community School.
3. Reported on his and Dr. McKay’s attendance at the Choice Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 25.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay’s report included the following:



- Announced the start of the MCAS testing season with the English Language Arts Long Composition last week. Thankful for everyone's focus and dedication. Encouraged all to keep up the good work. Thanked staff for the positive school spirit around the test.
  - Reported on dropout prevention efforts. Mr. Pierantozzi has been appointed to the state commission around dropout prevention and was interviewed today on WBUR radio. We are proud to have Mr. Pierantozzi representing Somerville. Reported on the steps being taken by the District team and announced that one dropout is too many. Somerville is determined to fight to keep every student. Developing and Early Warning System in order to intervene as early as possible to prevent students from dropping out.
4. Mr. Pierantozzi commented that as a follow-up to Mr. McKay's dropout report, there is some research being done at intertwining our Aspirations work with our dropout prevention efforts. If we can raise aspirations early and give students a sense of belonging, students are less likely to dropout.
  5. On April 2, Mr. Pierantozzi and Dr. Di Chiappari attended a ceremony at the State House for Trauma Sensitive Schools, where Somerville was presented with citations from the House and the Senate for being one of 30 Districts chosen to receive this prestigious the Safe and Supportive Learning Environment Grant for "playing a leadership role in the growing movement to ensure the educational success of all the Commonwealth's children." Mr. Pierantozzi thanked Senator Jehlen and Representatives Provost and Toomey for their efforts and support.
  6. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Coordinated Program Review process. The District is hyper-focused on this review, which thus far has included a self study and a document review. Preparations are underway for a visit from the team from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on April 27, 28, 29, and 30. The visiting team will be interviewing many different staff members and the Superintendent issued his thanks to the participating staff members.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- An Open House for the early childhood programs in Somerville was held at the Capuano Early Childhood Center last week. During the open house, 54 visitors were provided with school and classroom tours. The early childhood registration, starting last Saturday, (April 4<sup>th</sup>) with the registration of 57 children, is now ongoing at the Parent Information Center, located at 42 Prescott Street. Somerville residents with children who will be 4 years old by August 31st can register for Pre-kindergarten.
- The district has now received 371 completed kindergarten applications. Just as a reminder to parents and guardians, to be part of the first batch kindergarten assignments, completed kindergarten applications need to be received at the Parent Information Center, no later than Thursday, April 9th. The Parent Information Center will be having extended hours for all business tomorrow, Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be open from 8am – 8pm.
- Last Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 Somerville school staff and Dr. Di Chiappari attended a conference called ***Positive Behavior Support: Help Prevent Aggression, Bullying, and Cyber Bullying*** at the Newton-Wellesley Hospital in Newton. Dr. Elizabeth Englander, Director of Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) at Bridgewater State College, discussed antisocial and aggressive behavior in schools while focusing on bullying and cyber bullying through the use of positive behavioral supports. We will be looking into a grant- funded opportunity of bringing Dr. Englander and her staff from MARC into the school district to discuss the implementation of a positive behavioral supports program.
- On Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Di Chiappari attended a roundtable discussion at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Malden on best ways to continue supporting our homeless students and the status of homelessness and education in 2009. As the superintendent indicated, the DESE will be conducting a McKinney-Vento monitoring visit the district during the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>, the week of the on-site Coordinated Program review.

Mr. Sweeting inquired as to the registration numbers this year compared to last. Last year at this time, there were between 400-410 new registrations for Kindergarten. This year, so far, there are 371 and there is still more time to register.

Mayor Curtatone praised the registration process. He thought the process was good two years ago and now it is even better. Good to have forms available online and offered his thanks to all involved in the registration process.

Mr. Bockelman asked about dates for the Unidos and Choice Lotteries. Parents/Guardians may apply though April 19, and then a lottery will be held, if needed.

7. The Superintendent reported on a possible collaboration with the Prospect Hill Academy on a grant to be used to develop and provide professional development to our staff. Ms. Rossetti questioned whether staff from Prospect Hill Academy would be training our staff. Dr. McKay stated that there is no definite plan as to who will be presenting the professional development. This was just an initial conversation to see if their goals are compatible with ours. Nothing definitive has been done as of yet.

The School Committee recessed at 7:43 p.m.

The School Committee resumed at 7:49 p.m.

8. Mr. Pierantozzi reported the community workshop held on March 31, in conjunction with the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth around Family Violence. A great presentation was provided by Sean Masters of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. There were approximately 30 audience members. The presentation was informative, yet concerning.
9. The Superintendent reported on the current conditions of the East Somerville Community School. As of now, the building is weather tight. This week the Massachusetts School Building Authority will be researching future funding for repair, etc. This is a very slow and methodical process, but things are moving forward.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Ms. Durette and the Central Office administrators have been meeting with principals since last Wednesday to discuss staff reductions, etc. They are being asked for recommendations regarding the budget process for FY10.
- Discussed the ARRA money, including the four guiding principles for using the funds. Grant applications will be released on April 30. Special Education, Title I, and Central Office will all work together to complete these grant applications. The first payment from these grants is expected on July 1. The District is still waiting for clarification on guidelines for use of these funds.

10. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the recent audit of the Finance Department. The Department has not been cited for anything. Congratulations to the Directors of Finance and Operations and their staff.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Rebeca Martinez, Human Resource and Diversity Administrator for her report regarding recruitment and diversity. Ms. Martinez's report included the following:

- Reported on her attendance at various job fairs, including one at Bridgewater State College, the Lesley Career Expo, and the Massachusetts Partnerships for Diversity in Education. Thus far, approximately 200 paper resumes have been received and they are being followed up with emails from the Human Resources department.
- Reported on the diversity trainings, which have been held in all schools. Staff attendance at these training has been very good and the trainings have been thought-provoking, insightful and refreshing. Requests have already been made from staff to have a second round of training.

11. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that Dr. McKay, Dr. Chiappari, Shannon Gilligan and he have been reviewing data relative to suspensions and behavior issues. On April 30, Dr. McKay and Ms. Gilligan will meet with the Assistant Principals to discuss in-school and out of school suspensions, bullying and student behavior issues. The goal is to develop creative strategies and wholesome and positive activities for students to improve student behavior.

Mr. Sweeting requested that a report be made at the Educational Programs and Instruction subcommittee meeting on dropout prevention efforts and the umbrella topic of keeping students in the classroom.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Presented to the full School Committee, *as revised*, for Second Reading:

File: IHBD:      Compensatory Education  
File: JIE        Pregnant Students

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton, to approve the policies, as presented, and include in the policy manual.

- Ms. Rossetti reported that she has sat in on the Board of Aldermen's meeting which focused on the City's budget reversion plan. Mrs. Rossetti made some notes and also obtained the handouts from the meeting. Copies will be provided to members at the Superintendent's request.
- Ms. Rossetti reported on the MASC Division meeting of March 28. She thanked Mr. Pierantozzi for attending this meeting and giving up four hours of his Saturday. The meeting was well attended with over 50 people in attendance. Mrs. Rossetti has forwarded her notes to members. Currently work is being done with other communities to share cost saving idea and strategies.
- Ms. Rossetti will attend the MASC Board of Directors meeting on April 15 and report back to members.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Acceptance of Donation**

The Superintendent of Schools recommended, with gratitude, approval of acceptance of the following donation:

A donation of tennis racquets and bags to Somerville High School's Tennis program from Mr. Jack Mullane. The value of this equipment is \$3750.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Mr. Norton, to accept the donation with gratitude.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to waive the reading and approve the five field trips.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **b. Field Trips**

#### **April 18 - 19**

Somerville High School's Junior Statesmen of America to Northeast JSA Convention in Stamford, CT - OVERNIGHT. Transportation via parent cars and at a cost of \$99 per student.

#### **April 29-May 3**

Somerville High School DECA to National Competition in Anaheim, CA – OVERNIGHT. Transportation via airplane at ***no cost*** to the ONE student competing.

#### **May 1**

Next Wave/Full Circle students to Mount Monadnock, NH. Transportation via school van at ***no cost*** to students.

#### **June 15**

West Somerville Neighborhood School's grade 8 to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via charter bus at no cost to students due to fundraising.

**June 22**

Kennedy School grade 7 & 8 to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$20 per student.

**C. East Somerville Community School Update**

An update was given on the current status of the East Somerville Community School. At this time an Advisory Council is being put together by the Mayor's Office. Anyone wishing to be considered for membership on this council should contact Ms. Jessie Baker at [jbaker@somervillema.gov](mailto:jbaker@somervillema.gov) or call either the Mayor's office or the Superintendent's office at 617-625-6600.

At this time there is no information regarding funding for rebuilding/refurbishing the school. The hope is that better information and direction will be available in the upcoming weeks.

Ms. Bastardi stated that she knows that parents are frustrated but our students must be put in a building that is safe and so things must not be rushed.

The School Committee recessed at 8:55 p.m. to change the tape.

The School Committee resumed at 8:58 p.m

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Reported on last Friday's grand opening of the Somerville Center for Arts at the Armory building on Highland Avenue. The building has undergone an amazing rehabilitation. There was a very large crowd in attendance as well as performances by the high school's orchestra and drum line.
2. Somerville Cares About Prevention will hold its first general meeting on April 23, 2009, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Visiting Nurses building at 259 Lowell Street.
3. On Sunday, April 26, there will be a walk to prevent homelessness. The Save Our Homes Walk is 3.5 miles long and will begin at the Somerville High School Field House. Monies collected will go toward assisting families in danger of becoming homeless.
4. Wished everyone a Happy Passover and Easter.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Congratulations and thank you to West Somerville's music teacher, Ruth Daigle, for the outstanding job on the Talent Showcase, which was hosted by Tufts University. The auditorium was filled to capacity for this wonderful show. A great job was done by students, staff, community members and Mr. Rick Saunders, who played piano for the event.
2. Announced the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's Day on the Hill will be held on May 7, 2009. Registrations are due on April 22, 2009.
3. Congratulated the Region IV Science Fair winners and also the staff involved with the fair. Commended the students who are going on to further contests and requested that these students attend a future meeting and receive a citation from the School Committee.
4. Announced that she will be hosting an office hour on April 11, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Angelina's Sub Shop on Holland Street. Please stop by and share your ideas and/or concerns.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Commented on Mr. Dickerson's resolution and how his son has been coached by Mr. Dickerson for the past three years. Announced that on April 10, 2009, there will be a reception and scholarship fundraiser held at the Burren in Davis Square beginning at 6:00 p.m. for adults only.
2. Congratulations to the students who are going on to the National History Day competition in Washington, DC.
3. Reported on the reception on last Monday, March 30, for new CAAS Director, Kimberly Smith Cofield. Thank you to all who came to welcome Kim.
4. Reminded audience members that on Friday, April 10, there is no school. Also announced that last day of school information is currently on the School Department's website.

**Alderman Pero**

1. The Board of Aldermen will meet on Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m., instead of Thursday evening, in order to allow those with religious obligations to attend the meeting without interfering with the holiday.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Commended her colleagues who are subcommittee chairs for their wonderful work. Reminded audience members to please participate by coming to meetings and sharing thoughts and concerns.
2. Wished everyone a happy school vacation week since there is not another meeting before vacation week.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Issued a reminder to the audience that budget information is online at [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov)
2. Congratulated Dave Dickerson on his award and commented that Dave is a great teacher and coach and a very compassionate man.
3. Announced that Somerville will be competing in the All American City competition in June in Tampa, Florida. There will be a fundraiser to help curtail expenses around this trip. The fundraiser will be on Thursday, April 16, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Somerville. Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for their support. For more information, please visit the City's website.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- *Marian Rutter*, mother-in-law of Kathryn Kenney, teacher at Somerville High School
- *Pat Colman*, kitchen manager at Winter Hill Community Schools and mother of Ron Colman, custodian at Argenziano School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
School Committee

**David Dickerson**

- WHEREAS, David Dickerson began his coaching career as an assistant during the 1983 indoor season, and
- WHEREAS, David Dickerson became the head coach of the Outdoor Track team in 1990 and the head coach of the Indoor Track team in 1997, and
- WHEREAS, David Dickerson has coached teams that were Greater Boston League Champions in 2002 and 2008 for the indoor season and 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2008, for the outdoor season, and
- WHEREAS, during the 2007-2008 season, both the indoor and outdoor teams were undefeated, and
- WHEREAS, David Dickerson has been a featured speaker at the Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association clinics and is well known for his teams being well-prepared and hard to beat, and
- WHEREAS, David Dickerson has been named 2008 Indoor Track Coach of the Year by the Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association, therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to him.

Maureen Bastardi, Chairperson  
Joseph Curtatone, Mayor  
M. Teresa Cardoso  
Mary Jo Rossetti  
James Norton

Somerville School Committee  
Mark Niedergang, Vice Chairperson  
Walter Pero, Aldermanic President  
Adam Sweeting  
Paul Bockelman

April 6, 2009

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, April 27, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Norton, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, and Mr. Bockelman.

**Members absent:** Mr. Pero, Ms. Tyler and Mayor Curtatone

Ms. Tyler is attending an SAT preparation course this evening.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:12 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to accept the minutes of the March 2, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

**III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:*** Mr. Niedergang (April 13)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the School Committee meeting for Finance on April 13. In addition to Mr. Niedergang, members in attendance were Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, Ms. Durette and Mr. Niedergang's report included the following:

- Mr. Pierantozzi provided an update on the FY10 budget planning.
- Priorities were developed to aid in the process
- Discussion of preparations for meeting with the Board of Aldermen
- The rebuilding of the East Somerville Community School
- Discussion of expected ARRA funding
- Discussion of Draft 5 of the FY10 budget
- Discussion of projected enrollment in the 09-10 school year and class sizes

Mr. Niedergang announced the Board of Aldermen/School Committee Budget Forum which will be held on April 28 at 7:00 in the Aldermen's Chambers at City Hall. This is a public meeting and all are encouraged to attend. There will be a PowerPoint presentation by the Mayor, which the Superintendent contributed to. This will be a televised meeting so that those who cannot attend may still be aware of the process.

A brief update was given regarding the progress on the East Somerville Community School. The Massachusetts School Building Authority met on April 8 in Somerville and are beginning the process to determine next steps with respect to the rebuilding of the school.

Mr. Niedergang announced the dates of the upcoming School Committee meetings for Finance and Facilities, all of which will be televised. The dates are: April 30 and May 6 at 181 Washington Street; May 13 in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers and there have been two dates set aside for the Public Budget Hearing—May 20 and June 3. More information will be announced as it becomes available.

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

##### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi gave a brief personnel report which included an update the retirements of the following teachers:

- Ms. Jean Berkman after 31 years of service
- Ms. Marilyn Howard after 29 years of service

The Superintendent also announced that he neglected to honor the following people at the previous meeting and wished to do so now:

- Mr. Frank Russell after 15 years of service
- Ms. Joanna DiVasta after 32 years of service
- Ms. Susan Collins after 32 years of service

Mr. Pierantozzi stated that these employees will be greatly missed but they are wished long, happy and healthy retirements.

##### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Reported on the upcoming Coordinated Program Review by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and explained that Dr. Di Chiappari will provide more information in his report.
2. Announced that the Spring 2009 Evening School Catalog was included in this week's packets. Thanks to Mr. Michael Ciampa for his work. Also, this year, there will be Evening School in the summer, as well.
3. Reported on the celebration held on April 10, in honor of Dave Dickerson being named Coach of the Year. Many staff and community members attended this great event.
4. On April 13, Mr. Pierantozzi was honored to attend as 45 Somerville High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society. Congratulations to the students and their parents and guardians and thank you to the staff for organizing such a wonderful event.
5. The Superintendent reported on the Swine Flu and announced that information flyers had been distributed to all school nurses. Parents and guardians with questions or concerns should contact the school nurse at their student's building. Mayor Curtatone announced that there would be a briefing sometime tomorrow with the Office of Public Safety and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regarding precautionary measures, etc. Ms. Cardoso reminded administration that all such notices must be translated so that non-English speaking parents receive this information and the Superintendent assured her that these translations are already in the works.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Discussed Professional Development planning and curriculum updates – including a course being offered free of charge to teachers in grades 4-10 by Simmons College on Developing Algebraic Teaching
- Guidelines for Title I funds. Discussion has been taking place out of school tutorials for struggling students and using these funds to provide assistance to these students. Previously the School Department could not provide these services—only private agencies were allowed to provide. The new guidelines allow the District to provide support services after school using Title I funds.
- Meeting with Assistant Principals to discuss disciplinary procedures and to share strategies to promote improved school climates
- The Summer School brochures will be ready for printing some time next week. The dates for Summer School are as follows: Elementary from July 6-August 6 and High School from July 6-August 13.



Mr. Niedergang asked whether or not there is a standard policy regarding suspensions, detentions, etc. The members were informed that a handbook of guidelines is available at every school, but that some decisions are at the discretion of the school administration.

6. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the College Fair that was held on April 15, at Somerville High School. This was a very large fair with a great representation from many colleges.
7. Congratulated staff and students on a wonderful Spring Concert on April 16. Remarked on the wonderful talent across the program.
8. Reported on a swim meet that was held on April 25 for special needs students. Over 100 athletes competed, with 10 being Somerville students. It was a very proud day for all involved. The next step is a championship meet at Harvard in June.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

1) *Kindergarten registration*

On Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, the PIC began to process the 393 applications received for next year's kindergarten classes (19 more applications than last year). The PIC started with a lottery for assignments into the Choice and Unidos programs since there were more applicants than available seats for those two programs. Once all Healey Choice and Unidos seats had been assigned, 24 children were placed on a wait list for kindergarten Choice, 14 on a wait list for the Unidos kindergarten Spanish program, and 2 children on a wait list for the Unidos English program. All 40 of these children were placed on a wait list and assigned the second school of choice while all other applicants were assigned their first choice school. Assignment letters for parents of students assigned to those programs were mailed last week. While 90% of all first batch kindergarten applicants received the first choice, 100% of the applicants received either the first choice or second choice of schools.

2) *Tufts Symposium*

On Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, Regina Bertholdo, Janice Philpot, and Dr. DiChiappari attended the Tufts Presidential Symposium, an event co-hosted by the office of the Tufts president, the Office of Community Relations and the Jonathan Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service. Given the current tough economic situation, this year's symposium focused on the importance of collaborations during challenging times. The symposium provided networking opportunities and a time for participants to share ideas and resources that they may need or may be able to offer. The gathering provided an opportunity to reflect on the quality and impacts of the Tufts community-campus partnerships and to work together on how to strengthen them.

3) *Coordinated Program Review*

The DESE coordinated program review members are in the district this week to visit schools and interview pre-identified staff members in the areas of Special Education, English Learner Education, Civil Rights, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Vocational Education, and the McKinney Vento Homeless Act. While the DESE visitors were at the Winter Hill Community School, Kennedy and Somerville High School today, they are scheduled to visit the Winter Hill, Argenziano, Kennedy, and Next Wave/Full Circle Schools tomorrow; the Healey, West Somerville, East Somerville at Edgerly, and Capuano Schools on Wednesday, and the Special Education office and Central office on Thursday, with a brief oral exit summary report on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

4) *Art Department News*

In conclusion, Dr. Luci Prawdzik, our art supervisor, has informed Dr. Di Chiappari that Somerville was one of 5 districts in Massachusetts selected to submit 5 pieces of student Art to be displayed in the US Senate Rotunda in Washington DC our K-6 art teachers will be working with students to create student art work that will be hanging in the Senate rotunda for 6-8 weeks, probably in July and August. This initiative is from Senator Kerry's office and came through the Arts Council at the Department of Elementary and Secondary education. Dr. Di Chiappari will keep members informed when more specific details become available.

9. The Superintendent announced that on Wednesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m., the High School Art Fair will begin in the Atrium at Somerville High School. The fair will be held on April 29, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., April 30, from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and on May 1, from 8:30 a.m. – noon.

10. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that plans for the East Somerville Community School are moving forward. The MSBA will be touring the schools in the city on Friday and requested information, enrollment, etc. is being gathered for submission to the MSBA.
11. The Superintendent reported on the current conditions of the East Somerville Community School. As of now, the building is weather tight. This week the Massachusetts School Building Authority will be researching future funding for repair, etc. This is a very slow and methodical process, but things are moving forward.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Ms. Durette reported that she had little to add to Mr. Niedergang's report. Ms. Durette discussed the FY2009 budget adjustments, including reductions, etc.
- Ms. Durette reported that the School Department is currently looking at how the ARRA funds can be used. \$1.2 million is expected. \$810 thousand will be designated to IDEA/Special Education; \$31 thousand to Early Education and Care; \$377 thousand to Title I. Discussions are currently underway on how this money should be used.

Ms. Rossetti asked whether another budget scenario was being developed and, if so, when would the School Committee receive the document. Ms. Durette responded that, at this point, budget #5 is still being used. The Superintendent informed members that the Mayor's numbers are still evolving at this point and, therefore, a new budget document has not yet been developed.

Ms. Rossetti also reported on an article in yesterday's Boston Globe which announced that the Medford Public Schools had recently given pink slips to an extremely high number of teachers and Ms. Rossetti informed the audience that Somerville is doing its best to try to develop our budget while keeping as many programs and people in place as possible. We are trying not to be alarmists during this process.

Mr. Niedergang informed Ms. Rossetti that he appreciates her concerns and believes it best not to alarm people. At this point it is hard to predict what the future will bring. Mr. Niedergang believes that giving pink slips too early will result in the District losing good people.

Mr. Bockelman commended the mayor for being at the State House. He believes that we are on the right course. Reported that, after frank discussion regarding our values, etc., we are taking the right approach.

Mayor Curtatone reported that we are acting with the best information possible given these special circumstances. Discussed the Financial Advisory Committee, Stimulus money, and efficiency measures being taken. Also reported that he wants to have the best information possible before taking action. Every city and town is in a different situation. Somerville is doing all we can and tough choices will have to be made.

Ms. Cardoso asked when the report of the Financial Advisory Committee would be available and was informed that it was hoped that the report would be available in sometime within the next few weeks.

12. Mr. Pierantozzi announced the development of the Strategic Advisory Group and invited members to participate. This group will review publications, etc. The first meeting of this group will be on April 29, at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at 181 Washington Street. Also, there will be an After School Advisory Group meeting on May 7, at 4:00 p.m. to discuss after school programs, including school and community-based programs. For both of these groups, all are invited. If you would like to provide input, but cannot attend meetings, a survey is available online.

The Superintendent deferred to Mr. Joseph Tringale, Director of Operations. Mr. Tringale's report included the following:

- Updates on District Reports and informed members that, in December 2008, the US Department of Education sent an email stating that there would be a delay in the Civil Rights data collection. Over this past weekend, Mr. Tringale received an email stating that the data collection has been cancelled.
- The March SIMS data collection has been completed
- The District has received notification that the District Technology Plan has been approved through June 30, 2010. This plan was reviewed by the DESE and is posted on the Somerville Public Schools website.

- Reported that security systems have been installed on the 45 new Smartboards and that three replacement Smartboard systems have been installed at Next Wave/Full Circle. Also, an additional installation was done in the Somerville High School Graphic Arts Department.
- New print management software has been installed District-wide in an effort to control printing costs and eliminate wasteful printing by up to 50%.

Mr. Sweeting commented on the idea of the School Committee trying to move towards a paperless packet and what steps can be taken to achieve this.

Ms. Bastardi expressed thanks for the replacement Smartboards at Next Wave/Full Circle.

13. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that on April 29, beginning at 8:30 a.m., parents, guardians and the public are invited to the Getting School Ready event being held at the Dante Club on Craigie Street. This event focuses on Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten issues through presentations and breakout group discussions.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Acceptance of Donation (Recommended Action: Approval)**

The Superintendent of Schools recommending, with gratitude, approval of acceptance of the following donation:

Sewing instruction sheets, scissors and fabric donated by Ms. Ruth Nunnally valued at \$700 for use at SHS for consumer education classes and/or in relevant evening school classes.

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept the donation with gratitude.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **B. Field Trips**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

#### **May 9-16**

Somerville High School Science students to International Science & Engineering Fair, Reno, NV – OVERNIGHT. Transportation via air and auto at no cost to students. Funding is being provided by the Region IV Science Fair and Massachusetts State Science Fair.

#### **June 8-9**

Somerville High School Orchestra students to Overlook Life Care Center, Sturbridge, MA – OVERNIGHT. Transportation via train and bus at a cost of \$25 per student.

#### **June 23**

Argenziano School at Lincoln Park's grade 8 to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$20 per student.

#### **Aug. 27-30**

Somerville High School Boys' Soccer/Football to Pre-Season Camp in Lenox, MA. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$100 per student.

Ms. Rossetti extended her thanks to the Mayor and his staff for arranging the student exchange to Gaeta, Italy. 12 students from Somerville High School, along with the headmaster, foreign language department head, and chaperones spent 10 days in Gaeta and were treated like royalty while there. Ms. Rossetti requested that the students, along with Mr. Ciccariello and Ms. Cummings be invited to a future meeting to share their experiences.

Mr. Bockelman expressed thanks to Ms. Rossetti and her husband for chaperoning the trip.

Mayor Curtatone is proud and gratified that this exchange has been successful and looks forward to further collaborations like this. He expressed his thanks to the Superintendent, Mr. Ciccariello and, especially to Jackie Rossetti for all of her hard work on getting the whole process organized.

## **VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Mr. Niedergang**

1. Reported on the success of the recent Walk to School Day and announced that there would be another on May 6.
2. Reported on his attendance at the Aldermen's Youth Services Committee meeting
3. Discussed the Teen Empowerment program and the initiatives that pair youth and police staff together, such as softball games, etc.
4. Announced that on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., there will be a meeting at the Brown School regarding their 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
5. Announced that on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., there will be a PTSA meeting at Somerville High School.
6. Announced that on this coming weekend the Somerville Open Studios event will take place and that students will have items on display and will be selling note cards at the new Arts Center in the former armory.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Announced that the Rules Subcommittee will meet on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street.
2. May 9, 2009 will be the City's Clean Up Day
3. Reported on the recent Spring Concert and how impressed he was with the whole program, which included the chorus, band, orchestra, Low-Tones, dance, video game music ensemble, guitar, percussion/drums, and vocal performances. Praised Mr. Saunders' leadership and his ability to get youth interested in Music. Commended the Music Department staff.

### **Ms. Cardoso**

1. Announced the PTA meeting at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park will be held tomorrow night starting at 6:00 p.m. The students' Heritage Projects will be displayed and Ms. Cardoso extended her appreciation to Ms. Pat Solano for her work on these projects. Ms. Cardoso is unable to attend this meeting.

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Commented on the walk to school event Mr. Niedergang referred to.
2. Welcomed everyone back after the April vacation. We are now in the final stretch.
3. Reported on the SomerVision event recently held at the Argenziano School. Commended the Mayor and his staff on a great event and the handouts which included a Somerville History coloring book.
4. Suggested that, perhaps, at the upcoming Art Fair musical performances could be included.
5. Announced that next week is Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked our staff for their hard work.
6. Encouraged the public's attendance at the upcoming Budget Forum.

### **Ms. Bastardi**

1. Thanked the Kiwanis for providing flags and poles to the Winter Hill Community and East Somerville Community Schools.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

1. Elvira DeAngelis, former Volunteer in the Somerville Public Schools and mother-in-law of Maryann DeAngelis, retired teacher at Winter Hill
2. Paul S. Natanson, brother of Robert Bauer, former School Committee person from Ward 3 and uncle of Rachel Chagnon, teacher at Somerville High School,
3. Helen Connolly, retired secretary for the Somerville Public Schools and retired switchboard operator at City Hall. Helen is also the mother of Marie Connolly, secretary at Somerville High School and Alderman at Large Jack Connolly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, May 4, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Norton, Mr. Pero, Ms. Tyler and Mr. Bockelman.

**Members absent:** Ms. Bastardi, Mayor Curtatone

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:06 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Mark Niedergang called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:12 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**STA, Unit D, Scale Teachers, Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to take item 6A out of order. At this time, Ms. Hilary Sallick approached the podium and signed three copies of the recently ratified STA, Unit D, Scale Teachers' Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Report on the recent student exchange visit to Gaeta, Italy**

Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to take item 6B out of order. At this time, Mr. Ciccariello and Ms. Cummings from Somerville High School stepped to the podium and gave a report on the recent student exchange trip to Gaeta, Italy. This was a wonderful experience. They gave their thanks to Mayor Curtatone, Jackie Rossetti and the Somerville and Gaeta communities and thanked the host families in both cities. Four of the twelve students who participated in this trip were introduced and came forward to give their perspectives and comments. Students in attendance were Corey Bockelman, Rose Mathieu, Kayla Landry and Anthony Bohan. Ms. Jane Cummings, Department Head for Foreign Languages thanked all the students, chaperones and host families. Ms. Rossetti reported that 12 students went on the trip and that there were many great times and lots of laughter.

The School Committee recessed at 7:25 p.m. to congratulate students and staff on their successful trip

The School Committee resumed at 7:29 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler report included the following:

- a. last Friday's Science Fair successes and the fact that a student will go on to compete in Reno, Nevada
- b. The Ultimate Frisbee team went to Amherst, MA for a competition where they played five games. Thank you to Ms. Kersten and the chaperones.
- c. The Somerville High School Chorus competed in Springfield, MA and received the High Gold award. This is the first time in four years that the chorus has achieved such an honor.
- d. SAT's were held last Saturday at the high school
- e. Last week, a very successful Art Fair took place at Somerville High School

- f. Advanced Placement examinations started today at the high school and will continue for the next two weeks

### **H1N1 Flu Update**

Mr. Niedergang invited Ms. Paulette Renault Caragianes, Health Department Director, to the podium to give an update on the H1N1 virus. Ms. report included the following:

Collaborative efforts with School Department in responding to this health issue

There are no longer delays in testing for virus and results are now available within 24 hours

Discussed absence rules

Reported that there would be no school closure for single cases

Announced that asymptomatic individuals with family members who have the flu can still be with the general public

Dr. Di Chiappari was requested to the podium by Mr. Niedergang and asked if he could add the School Department's response to this health issue. Dr. Di Chiappari's response included the following:

The School District has been working very closely with the Somerville Department of Health and other emergency response agencies regarding the H1N1 influenza also call the Swine Flu. Consistent with recommendations from the Massachusetts Department of Health, we have asked our nursing staff to review procedures with students regarding respiratory hygiene by asking students to

- Cover coughs and sneeze into a tissue or the inside of the elbow, not into the bare hands
- Avoid touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth and
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly, especially after coughing or sneezing

Dr. Di Chiappari has also asked all schools to make sure that all parent/guardian emergency contact information is up-to-date.

Last Friday, the district sent home a Public Health Sheet about the swine flu in 7 different languages provided to us by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. We will continue to monitor events very carefully. Massachusetts residents can call 2-1-1 for basic information about the swine flu.

Mr. Bockelman asked if he is correct that the protocol is not to close a school but to monitor if there is only one confirmed case.

This is correct. The Health Department is more concerned with looking for clusters, etc.

A question was raised regarding who would make the decision to close a school, etc? The decision would be a collaborative one with the health department and superintendent of schools consulting together to make this decision.

Questions were raised regarding notifications by state, etc.

Notification goes to the Health Department and the Health Department disseminates information to other pertinent departments

Mr. Niedergang asked Dr. Di Chiappari to repeat the steps to be taken regarding respiratory hygiene. These steps are:

- Cover coughs and sneeze into a tissue or the inside of the elbow, not into the bare hands
- Avoid touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth and
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly, especially after coughing or sneezing

Mr. Niedergang extended his thanks to Ms. Renault Caragianes for her report.

### **IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

C. ***Personnel:*** Mr. Norton (April 13)

Mr. Norton reported on the Personnel subcommittee meeting of April 13.

Subjects discussed included:

- Differences between Redirect and Dean of Students
- Discussion about definition of Redirect Job descriptions

- Discussion about Principal at Capuano – Take Title I Director into Principal's job, move responsibilities to Shannon Gilligan, Quantify the allegation that there is less equity in later grades.

Mr. Norton requested that the Superintendent conclude the Personnel report and at that time, Mr. Pierantozzi announced that he was pleased to introduce Ms. Pamela Holmes, a long-time District employee as the new principal of the Capuano Early Childhood Center beginning on July 1. Ms. Holmes stepped to the podium and stated that, after a long and successful and successful career, Ms. Susan Collins will retire from her position as principal at the Capuano School, that she will be greatly missed and Ms. Holmes thanked Mr. Pierantozzi for his confidence in her abilities and that she is excited to have been chosen for this position. She will follow in the footsteps of a wonderful leader.

**D. *Special Meeting for Executive Session:*** Ms. Bastardi (April 27)

1. STA, Unit D, Scale Teachers, Collective Bargaining Agreement

**E. *Joint Board of Aldermen/School Committee Budget Forum:*** Mr. Niedergang (April 28)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Joint Budget Forum held on April 28, for the purpose of a Community Forum on the FY2010 Budget. His report included an overview of the forum, including a discussion of the PowerPoint presentation and budget overview by the Mayor, as well as questions and comments from members of the Board of Aldermen, School Committee and the public. In all, approximately 40 members of the public were in attendance. Mr. Niedergang thanked Alderman Heuston, Mr. Pero and Ms. Bastardi for their leadership and for making this a harmonious and businesslike environment.

**F. *School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:*** Mr. Niedergang (April 30)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities on April 30. This meeting was called to order at

In attendance were Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, Dr. McKay, and STA representative Candace Hembrough.

Discussion revolved around FY10 budget planning with a line by line review of draft 5. School Committee members looked carefully over the budget document and there were many questions, comments and much discussion.

A motion was made at this meeting to approve the billrolls and the motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

At the May 6 meeting, the agenda will include the review of salaries as well as the Superintendent's staffing recommendations for next year.

**G. *Rules Management:*** Mr. Bockelman (April 30)

Mr. Bockelman reported on the Rules Management meeting of April 30. His report included the following agenda items:

1. Surveillance Camera Policy – discussion on the Security camera implementation and viewing rights. Dr. Di Chiappari has been designated by the Superintendent as the School Department's representative. Discussion took place regarding a list of cameras and the possibility of adding the Healey School's cameras to the list. Following the meeting, School Committee members were given a demonstration of how the viewing system works by Dr. Di Chiappari
2. Review of Policy Manual – Section I – review continued of Section I and a status grid of the progress on Section I will be provided to members at the next School Committee meeting

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Reported that at 6:00 p.m., today, Linda Vitiello called to inform him that the STA members had voted to give up June 17, 2009 as a holiday. Therefore, June 17 will be a school day and the last day of school will now be June 25. All measures will be taken to publicize this information to staff, students and families/community members.

2. Announced that the Coordinated Program Review was successfully completed. Seven members from the DESE team reviewed submitted documents, interviewed and questioned various School Department staff regarding Title I, Special Education, English Language Learning, Vocational Education, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Food Services. Thank you to all for professionalism and cooperation.
3. This week is Teacher Appreciation week. Commented that thanks are deserved every day and every week for all teachers do. Also, Wednesday is School Nurse Appreciation Day and issued thanks for our nurses and commented that they are a critical part of our staff.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Discussed Professional that Mr. Michael Ciampa has been hired as the elementary summer school director and Ms. Ana Caldeira has been hired as the high school summer school director.
  - Reported on the high school art fair, elementary school art fair, and national history day
  - MCAS Math for grade 3-8 and grade 10 starts next week. Encouraged good nutrition, rest, and arriving to school on time.
4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the reorganization of the After School Program. A Community Advisory meeting to discuss this reorganization will take place this Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room at Central Office and all are invited to attend.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concluded their onsite Coordinated Program Review last week. As previously indicated, the DESE reviewed Special Education, the English Learner Education Program, Civil Rights, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Vocational Education, Mc-Kinney-Vento Homeless Act implementation, Title 1, and Food Services. We will be receiving a draft of DESE findings within the next 30-45 business days. The district will then have 10 business days to respond with comments. 30 days after providing the draft, the DESE will send us their Final Report. The final report will provide the status of each element reviewed with a "Commendable", "Implemented", "Partially-Implemented" or "Not Implemented." In cases where the district's Coordinated Program Review Final Report includes findings of non-compliance (partially implemented or not implemented), the district will be required to submit a comprehensive Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to the DESE within 20 business days after receipt of the Final Report

The school district has been working very closely with the Somerville Department of Health and other emergency response agencies regarding the H1N1 influenza also call the Swine Flu. Consistent with recommendations from the Massachusetts Department of Health, we have asked our nursing staff to review procedures with students regarding respiratory hygiene by asking students to

- Cover coughs and sneezes into a tissue or the inside of the elbow, not into the bare hands
- Avoid touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth and
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly, especially after coughing or sneezing

Dr. Di Chiappari has also asked all schools to make sure that all parent/guardian emergency contact information is up-to-date. Last Friday, the district sent home a Public Health Sheet about the swine flu in 7 different languages provided to us by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. We will continue to monitor events very carefully. Massachusetts residents can call 2-1-1 for basic information about the swine flu.

Mr. John Oteri, Ralph Willey, and Dr. Di Chiappari will be attending the 11<sup>th</sup> annual SECURE safety conference at Bentley College on May 11<sup>th</sup>. This year, the conference, sponsored by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, will feature *(two)* cutting edge presentations relating to school and community safety, *(and school shootings & gang violence)*. Dr. Peter Sheras, a clinical psychologist from Charlottesville, Virginia, is considered an expert in the field of school safety and counsels schools nationwide on factors that can trigger violence among youth. Moreover, Dr. Sheras is the author of many books and articles on adolescent behavior and youth violence and a co-author of Early Warning: Timely Response: A guide to Safe Schools published by the U. S. Department of Education.



Finally, last Wednesday, on April 29<sup>th</sup>, close to 100 people attended the Getting School Ready – The Second Annual Somerville Community Conversation celebrating promising practices to help families and children be school ready. This event gave people the opportunity to have good conversation about our schools and community and the opportunity to meet others while sharing ideas about promising practices. The main speaker was Dr. John Lippitt. Dr. Lippitt is the Executive Director of “Thrive in 5”, a strategic initiative to ensure that every child in Boston enters school ready for sustained success. I would like to thank Pam Homes, Nomi Davidson, and the Community Partnership for Children for organizing this event.

5. The Superintendent announced that a tour of the School District by the MSBA, which was originally scheduled for last Friday, has been rescheduled for Thursday due to a conflict at the MSBA. Mr. Pierantozzi looks forward to this tour and issued his thanks to Ms. Jessie Baker from the Mayor’s Office for her coordination of these efforts.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette’s report included the following:

- Ms. Durette discussed how this year’s budget process so greatly differs from those followed in previous years, but that the tasks listed on the timeline are still being addressed and assured the audience that every effort will be made to retain core programs and services.
6. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that on Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Special Olympics competitions and games will be held at Dilboy Stadium. Extended thanks to Somerville High School students, staff and faculty for overseeing this event. This event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to come to support this event.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Acceptance of Donation (Recommended Action: Approval)**

The Superintendent of Schools recommended, with gratitude, approval of acceptance of the following donation:

16 pair of Saucony Track shoes, valued at \$985, to be used by the Somerville High School Track and Field and Cross Country Teams.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **B. Field Trips**

#### **June 14**

Kennedy School students to National History Day Competition, University of Maryland – OVERNIGHT. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$425 per student.

#### **June 15-16**

Full Circle students to Eastham, MA, for a camping trip – OVERNIGHT. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$15 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to approve the field trips.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

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

### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. Announced that students from Somerville and Gaeta connected via webcam last Saturday in an effort to continue the friendships made during the recent student exchange trip
2. Announced the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation’s raffle on this coming Friday and encouraged everyone to buy a ticket and support this very worthwhile cause.
3. Announced the Ward 7 clean up will be on Saturday and that interested parties should meet at 10:00 a.m. outside of the fire station in Teele Square.
4. The Vocational Awards Ceremony will take place on May 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school and is open to public
5. Gave a follow up regarding a meeting earlier this evening of the Board of Aldermen.

6. Announced that the MASC's Day on the Hill is this coming Thursday and encouraged members to attend.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Announced that the Ward 3 clean up will begin outside of Somerville High School with a focus on Central Hill Park.
2. Community Schools registration for next year has begun. Applications are now available from the Community Schools office.
3. Reported on the Getting School Ready event at the Dante Club and was struck by the synergy of the Early Childhood representatives. This was a great event—well organized—and he learned a tremendous amount from his attendance there.
4. Reported on the Healey School's Middle Grades Committee objectives and initiatives

**Mr. Norton**

1. The Ward 4 clean up will begin outside of the Winter Hill Community School on Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
2. Tomorrow evening there will be a Ward 4 Resistat meeting at the Healey School beginning at 7:00 p.m.
3. Reported on the Gene Brune Breakfast, which as been in existence for 25 years. This year, a scholarship was awarded to SHS senior Kyler Evitt. Announced that Kyler's speech made him very, very proud and that it was uplifting to hear.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Extended his thanks for the members' attendance at the meeting immediately preceding this one regarding the FY10 budget. Urged the public to get involved—call elected officials and show your support.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Reported that she regrets that she is unable to attend the MASC's Day on the Hill this year as she work obligations. Thanked Ms. Rossetti and wished her good luck in her efforts.
2. Happy Teacher Appreciation week and a belated Happy Administrative Assistant's Day.
3. The PTA Dinner Dance will take place this Friday at Anthony's in Malden
4. The Ward 2 clean up will begin outside of the SCAT building. This year there will be a focus on the Argenziano School, Union Square, and Perry Park. There will be a barbecue at Nunziato Field for all clean up day participants later in the day.
5. The PTA Council will meet on May 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Argenziano School. This would be a good time to organize parents/guardians to mobilize in an effort to contact our elected officials and let them know to support the public schools when developing the FY10 budget.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. The Ward 6 clean up will begin in Davis Square. Please inform the Department of Public Works if there are specific areas that are in need of attention.
2. Last week, Mr. Bockelman, along with Mr. Niedergang, attended a meeting at the Brown School led by the Superintendent to discuss the possibility of moving grade 6 out of the Brown. There were approximately 65 parents and staff members in attendance. The meeting was approximately two hours long and it is hoped that this meeting led to a better understanding of reasons for this proposal.
3. Happy Teacher Appreciation week to all of our teachers, in particular the high school teachers who are often not recognized in the ways that our elementary teachers are.
4. Tomorrow at 6:00 p.m., there will be a PTA meeting at the Kennedy School
5. This Wednesday is a half day for elementary students
6. Friday, in addition to the Scholarship Raffle and PTA Dinner Dance, the Senior Prom will be held at the Hilton Hotel at Logan Airport.
7. Vocational Awards will be held on May 13.
8. Happy Mother's Day to all.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Frank DePinto, father of Frances Carino, teacher at Winter Hill Community School
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques, Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, May 18, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Pero, Mr. Bockelman, Mayor Curtatone and Molly Tyler

**Members absent:** Ms. Cardoso

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang came to the podium as Ms. Bastardi introduced Enxhi Popa. Ms. Popa was the winner of the 2009 Digital Media Contest. Ms. Bastardi presented Ms. Popa with a citation from the School Committee. Ms. Popa came to the microphone and thanked the Committee for the recognition, stating she was honored to receive this citation from the School Committee. The wording of the citation is at the end of these minutes.

**SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman moved to suspend the regular order of business to take Item 7C – Field Trips - out of order.

**Field Trips**

**June 16**

Next Wave students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$10 per student.

**April 15-23, 2010**

24 SHS Foreign Language Students to Spain/Portugal via air and bus at a cost of \$2479 per student

Staff members Jane Cummings, Heloisa Taveira and Rebecca Bowen were present to provide information and answer any questions the School Committee may have had regarding the trip to Spain/Portugal. Mr. Pierantozzi stated this item was brought forth early because of its planning and the need for a down payment. He recommended this be approved tonight. Mr. Bockelman asked how a student could participate if they did not have the finances, would there be fundraising. Ms. Taveira stated there were no fundraisers presently, but the staff had discussed fundraisers to supplement bus driver tips, special dinners and such. Ms. Rossetti asked if the price was based on twenty four students participating and would the price change if the total number of students decreased. Ms. Taveira stated the cost was based on twenty four students and the cost could go up for under twenty four students. Ms. Rossetti recommended fundraising and if that was not successful, and the trip cancelled, would there be a penalty from the travel agency. Ms. Taveira stated they could cancel the trip without penalty up to ninety days before start of trip. Mayor Curtatone stated the total amount per student was not out of line and thought it was a great opportunity for the students. Mr. Bockelman stated he supported this trip and thanked the staff for the initiative in taking this on.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the two field trips.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

#### IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Tyler reported on the following items:

- Vocational Awards Night, was great to see so many students get awards
- Highlander Awards on May 26, 2009
- The eligible juniors for next year's Honor Society totaled 58.

#### V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. ***School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:*** Ms. Bastardi (May 11)

On Monday, May 11th there was a Long Range Planning Committee meeting held in the conference room of Central Administration located at 181 Washington Street. In addition to Ms. Bastardi, School Committee members Teresa Cardoso, Mary Jo Rossetti, Adam Sweeting and Paul Bockelman were in attendance. Superintendent of Schools, Tony Pierantozzi, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Vince McKay, Coordinator of Research and Development, Information and Grants, Gretchen Kinder were also in attendance.

After calling the meeting to order the meeting was turned over to the Superintendent, who gave an overview of the progress made in the District Improvement Plan since October 15, 2008. Significant accomplishments include:

- Completion of social studies benchmarks/benchmark documents for grades 1-7
- Continued improvements to the local assessment program, including the initiation of a new, computer-based math and ELA assessment in September 2009 which will provide nearly immediate feedback on student progress
- Achievement of algebra enrollment targets for 2009
- Planning work started to determine how to promote arts integration as an instructional methodology in core subjects
- Achievement of student enrollment targets in high school transition curriculum in 2009
- Successful pilot of the after-school program model at Healey and Winter Hill
- Excellence in budget and budget management as evidenced by the recent audit which revealed no exceptions.
- Improvements to the structure of the volunteer program, including the documentation of more than 300 volunteers supporting learning and teaching and the addition of 100 volunteers to the Somerville Public Schools
- Efforts to improve community partnerships, including development of a network to provide professional development to after-school staff using the award-winning Early Childhood Advisory Committee model
- Successful leveraging of Safe and Drug Free Schools money to bring the entire elementary staff on board with the implementation of a consistent social competency/violence prevention program grades K-8
- On-going efforts to promote Shape Up Somerville through participation in multiple community committees, award programs, and grant initiatives

At this point the meeting was turned over to School Committee members for comments and questions.

Mary Jo Rossetti asked that efforts be made to promote the achievements of school district in the media to underscore the pace of progress in spite of the poor economic climate.

Mark Niedergang and Paul Bockelman asked questions which initiated conversation about:

1. Arts Integration – the District, under the leadership of Dr. Prawdzik and Mr. Saunders with support from a Tisch Scholar at Tufts University, has been pulling together foundational materials in best practices in arts integration that will be used by an interdisciplinary team to develop a strategic plan. There is no timeline for implementation of the plan at this time.
2. Bullying Prevention – the district has a comprehensive plan for reducing violence and promoting pro-social students and schools. This was laid out in the Safe Schools/Healthy Students application to the federal government that is still pending. The Second Step social competency program, approved by the federal government for its effectiveness in reducing violence, is at the centerpiece of this plan. The curriculum roll-out plan was revisited, along with its relationship to the district-wide aspirations initiative.

3. Post-secondary preparedness – This is an area where stronger coordination is needed to integrate efforts such as universal PSAT testing, comprehensive post-secondary guidance, and drop-out prevention efforts. It was mentioned that the district's four-year graduation rate (79%) is higher than the statewide average and the urban average. An additional 11% of students are supported in taking an additional year to successfully finish high school.
4. Website reorganization – is going slower than anticipated, but other priorities have prevented staff from keeping this project on target. A strong, well-organized and simplified website will be unveiled in the fall as part of the unveiling of the new logo/slogan.

Responding to a question from Pal Bockelman, it was affirmed that, at present, the FY09 budget cuts and FY10 budget development process would NOT impact progress towards the District Improvement Plan goals.

With no further business that evening the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**B. *Personnel:*** Mr. Norton (May 18)

On Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, there was a Personnel meeting, before the regular meeting of the School Committee. In addition to Mr. Norton, School Committee members Adam Sweeting, Paul Bockelman, Mark Niedergang and Maureen Bastardi were in attendance. Superintendent of Schools, Tony Pierantozzi and Human Resources Administrator, Rebeca Martinez were also in attendance.

1. Update on Summer Postings
2. Staff Diversity
3. Personnel Impact for FY2010

No motions were taken. With no further business that evening, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

**C. *School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:*** Mr. Niedergang

Mr. Niedergang stated that each report he gives, it is out of date due to the constant changes with the budget on the state level.

On Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, there was a Finance and Facilities meeting. In addition to Mr. Niedergang, School Committee members Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, Paul Bockelman, Adam Sweeting and Jamie Norton were in attendance. Superintendent of Schools, Tony Pierantozzi Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Vince McKay, and Finance Director, Patricia Durette and approximately fifty community members were also in attendance.

- A. FY2010 budget update
- B. Rebuilding of ESCS
- C. Budget hearing to be June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 in the SHS Library

No motions were taken.

Mr. Pierantozzi stated that all School Committee members expressed deep reservations about the Kindergarten Paras., wanting at least one in every classroom. He also stated that MSBA will be doing a walk-through at some of our schools. Superintendent Pierantozzi stated that the budget hearing will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and another Finance and Facilities meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

On Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, there was another Finance and Facilities meeting held at Central Office, 181 Washington Street. In addition to Mr. Niedergang, School Committee members Mary Jo Rossetti, Maureen Bastardi, Teresa Cardoso, Paul Bockelman, Adam Sweeting and Jamie Norton were in attendance. Central Office Administrators and approximately twelve community members were also in attendance. This meeting started at 8:20 PM because members first attended the Vocational Awards Ceremony at SHS.

**MOTION:** To oppose Chapter 71, Section 37M of the Municipal Relief Bill and for the chance to communicate School Committee's opposition to Senators Jehlen and Galluccio.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** To give a 0% pay increase to all non-union employees in FY2010 and for a furlough of

one week with deferred salary to be repaid after July 2012.

This motion was approved unanimously.

MOTION: For School Committee member's stipend to be reduced for FY2010 by the equivalent of two weeks pay, with money deducted by December 31, 2009.

MOTION: Amendment to Motion #5 below to require that the Superintendent's report on the feasibility of charging fees for enrollment in the Capuano for these families that are above the poverty line, be delivered to the School Committee in September, 2009.

This motion passed 5 – 2.

MOTION: Motion that the Superintendent prepare a report on the feasibility of charging fees for enrollment in the Capuano preschool programs for those families that are above the poverty line.

This motion passed unanimously.

Discussion at this meeting also included charging a fee for SMILE program to raise revenue. There was extensive discussion.

- A. Communication with the eight unions regarding FY2010 budget
- B. Proposed FY2010 information on website – School Committee stated whereas the budget changes so often, do not put on website as of yet – Superintendent Pierantozzi stated his goal is to have FY2010 budget information on our website before the June 3, 2009 budget hearing.

7:29 PM – Two minute recess called by Maureen Bastardi

7:30 PM – Regular Meeting of the School Committee back in session

Mark Niedergang made an amendment to his motion:

AMENDMENT: Prepare report on feasibility of charging families above poverty line to pay for **pre-school** programs at Capuano School

Adam Sweeting thanked Mark Niedergang for his report and stated that all Finance and Facilities meetings are televised. He asked for help from everyone, as this is a partnership through these difficult times. Maureen Bastardi proposed to discuss at the next Finance and Facilities meeting, an increase in non-union members' health insurance to 75-25 split.

D. **Rules Management**: Mr. Bockelman (May 14)

On Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, there was Rules Management meeting. In addition to Mr. Bockelman, School Committee members Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, Adam Sweeting and Mark Niedergang were in attendance. Superintendent of Schools, Tony Pierantozzi and District Administrator for Student Services, Dr. Frank DiChiappari were also in attendance.

1. The following policies are being brought forward for a first reading for adoption:
  - File: IB – Academic Freedom
  - File: ID – School Day
  - File: IDA – Evening School
  - File: IHAM-R – Health Education (Exemption Procedure)
  - File: IHBA – Programs for Students with Disabilities
  - File: IHBFB – Homebound Instruction
  - File: IHBG – Home Schooling
  - File: IHBH – Alternative School Programs
  - File: IHBHB – Magnet Schools
  - File: IHCA – Summer Schools
2. The following policies are being brought forward for a first reading, as revised:
  - File: IGBF – Student Teacher Assistant Teams (STAT)
  - File: IHA-E – Basic Instructional Program
  - File: IHAMA – Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education

File: IHBEA – English Language Learners  
 File: IJK – Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption  
 File: IJLRA-E1 – Letter  
 File: IJOB – Community Resource Persons/Speakers  
 File: IJOC – Volunteers  
 File: IMB – Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers  
 File: KHB – Advertising in Schools

3. Mr. Bockelman also reported on policies that have been tabled for further review or struck from the manual.
4. Mr. Bockelman reported that all policies in Section I not brought forward as first readings for adoption or revision be designated as reviewed in May 2009.

## **VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **1. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi thanked all those retiring for their hard work. He stated that the Vocational Awards were remarkable with what the staff and students do to transform SHS into a convention center. Mr. Pierantozzi also thanked Tom Bent and Mike Calder from IBEW103 for giving our students such a great opportunity.

Ms. Rossetti asked that citations be given to Mr. Bent and Mr. Calder.

### **2. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. He stated that the Vocational Awards were remarkable with what the staff and students did to transform SHS into a convention center.
2. Thanked Tom Bent and Mike Calder from IBEW102 for giving our students such a great opportunity. Ms. Rossetti asked that citations be given to Mr. Bent and Mr. Calder.
3. Reported on Municipal Relief Bill stating it was filed incorrectly. He sent School Committee an update via email.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Announced that this is the last report on the Reading 1<sup>st</sup> Grant at ESCS because the grant is coming to a close. He thanked the ESCS teachers and Principal Holly Hatch for making this grant such a success.
- Announced that four students from the East Somerville Community School are currently having artwork displayed at the Harvard Graduate School for Education. Thanked their teacher, Diana Taremi for her efforts on this project.
- MCAS – we are in the homestretch – good luck to all our students

Mr. Sweeting asked Dr. McKay if Reading 1<sup>st</sup> would be used at other schools. He asked if there would be a follow up to come out of this. Dr. McKay stated we have already been using the literacy programming. We have implemented DIBELS and the Grades4-6 Reading Comprehensive teachers have responded well to these assessments. The lessons in the classrooms have proven effective.

4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the MSBA took a tour of the ESCS and a few other schools last Friday and two conference calls have taken place since then.
5. Mr. Pierantozzi stated that the District team is very involved in seeking grants.
6. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that \$600,000 of grants had been filed Friday. He thanked all staff for their time writing these grants. He reported that we are going to apply for the Foreign Language Assistance Program (\$100,000), SES grant (\$100,000) and we are reaching out for more grant money.

7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that 11 staff members now have their masters, largely paid by the DOE. This was a collaboration of Lesley and DOE and SPS, math masters degree.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- Dr. DiChiappari and 11 staff members attended the Secure I Conference recently.
  - Dr. DiChiappari thanked the Middlesex District Attorney's for their presentation of School Search and Seizure and he thanked Margie Daniels of the DA's office for 5 student safety presentations.
  - Dr. DiChiappari stated that a few SHS students entered a public service announcement contest held by the Middlesex District Attorney, on dating violence.
  - Reported by Dr. DiChiappari, 152 SMILE applications have been processed and assigned. Any more applications will be put on a waiting list.
  - Thanked all volunteers and business partners for their 1200 hours of service. Stated there will be a Volunteer Appreciation event on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the AFA. For information, call Jen Capuano.
8. The Superintendent thanked Jen Capuano for the great work she has done in the position of Volunteer Coordinator. He also thanked John Breslin and Shane Harradan for their PTA Council presentation. He thanked and congratulated the dinner dance honorees, Geraldine Cataldo, Susan Collins, Nancy Holmes, Maryanne Manfra and Founders Award honoree Louise Weiland. Mr. Pierantozzi also thanked the PTA Council for a successful dinner dance.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Ms. Durette stated that due to the budget shortfall, Chapter 70 payment will be reduced by 10.5%.
- With ARRA money, our Food Service Department has applied for grants for new kitchen equipment.
- Ms. Durette reported that we continue to work on the 2010 budget.

Ms. Rossetti asked Ms. Durette what the dollar amount was for the grant that Food Service applied for.

Ms. Durette stated there were a total of 4 Food Service grants, totaling \$115,000.

Mr. Niedergang thanks Ms. Durette for focusing on the budget and continuing to move on.

9. Mr. Pierantozzi congratulated the art and music departments for the great show that was recently held at the AFA. He stated it was still going on and that there was outstanding artwork there if anyone wanted to go see. He also congratulated the musicians and singers for their concert.
10. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the Highlander Awards were being held May 26<sup>th</sup> and Scholarship Award night was May 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. SHS 2009 Evening School Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)**

Mr. Anthony Ciccariello, SHS Headmaster, recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed evening school and earned the necessary credits, be granted a SHS diploma:

The Superintendent of Schools recommended, that two SHS students be granted their diploma: Shane Ryan and Jose Infantes.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the awarding of the two diplomas.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **B. FY2009 SCALE/ADP Graduates (Recommended Action: Approval)**

Ms. Janice Philpot, SCALE Supervisor, recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas:



The Superintendent of Schools recommended, that the SCALE students listed below be granted their diplomas.

|                                |                        |                   |              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Hector P. Andrade</b>       | <b>20 Canal Lane</b>   | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02145</b> |
| <b>Matthew Ferreira Simoes</b> | <b>61 Bow Street</b>   | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02145</b> |
| Justin Boris Chin              | 142 Vinal Street       | Revere            | 02151        |
| Denzel Xavier Ertha            | 42 Barry Street        | Dorchester        | 02125        |
| Jill M. Ladderbush             | 184 Essex Street #2    | Malden            | 02148        |
| Keith Nicholas Russell         | 33 Reading Hill Avenue | Melrose           | 02176        |
| Sean Michael Sears             | 9 Austin Street        | Malden            | 02148        |
| Alden W. Ward                  | 5 Washington Street    | Reading           | 01867        |

A motion was made by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to approve the awarding of the diplomas.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Ms. Bastardi reported that Ms. Cardoso was not in attendance tonight because she wasn't feeling well.

### **VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

#### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Mayor Curtatone will be hosting a meeting tomorrow regarding the Powder House Community School.
2. On Wednesday, there will be a Resistat meeting for Ward 6 at 7:00 p.m.
3. On June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. there will be a walk to support Duhamel Education Fund.
4. Stated he really enjoyed the Vocational Awards this year.

#### **Mayor Curtatone**

1. Reminder that there will be a meeting tomorrow night regarding the Powder House Community School.
2. There will be budget info on the city website. You will be able to make comments on there.
3. This Sunday is the Memorial Day parade.

Mr. Niedergang asked the Mayor if we could get copies of the budget comments that can be made on the website. The Mayor stated the comments are public and he will share.

#### **Ms. Bastardi**

1. Thank you for participating at the Spring Clean Up Day.
2. The Vocational Awards were very emotional for me, they were great.
3. The senior prom was wonderful, there were no incidents.

#### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. He represented Somerville at the Shape Up Somerville conference held on May 7<sup>th</sup> and it was very impressive.
2. The PTA dinner dance was great. It was a wonderful way to meet teachers, parents, administrators as a School Committee person.
3. Educational work still going on. There will be a meeting this week to discuss next year assessment and summer reading.

#### **Alderman Pero**

1. There will be a BOA rules meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m.
2. Thanked John Gannon for the 8 page report on rules which will be shared with the School Committee. We want to be open and transparent.
3. The Mayor held significant fundraisers for the parade to happen. Thanked the Mayor for this.

#### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. Thanked the BOA for what come out of the Rules meeting.
2. Reminded the community that Finance and Facilities meetings are happening and they are being taped if you cannot join them live.
3. Representative Sciortino is hosting a screening of a documentary on high stakes testing this Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the State House. Would like it shown here. Thanks the Representative for doing this for us.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Evelyn Jakimczyk, mother of Dennis Jakimczyk, retired SHS Business Teacher
- Joesph Squillante, son-in-law of Nancy Parisi, SHS Cafeteria Manager

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

***Somerville School Committee  
Official Citation***

*This certifies that*

***Enxhi Popa***

Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted  
*this Certificate of Award for being awarded the User's Choice Award in the 2009 Digital Media Contest  
 sponsored by the84.org and for all of her work on Kick Butts Day with Tobacco Free Massachusetts and  
 Mass Youth Against Tobacco.*

***Somerville School Committee***

Maureen Bastardi, Chairperson    Mark Niedergang, Vice Chairperson  
M. Teresa Cardoso    James Norton  
Mary Jo Rossetti    Paul Bockelman  
Joseph Curtatone, Mayor    Adam Sweeting  
Walter Pero, Aldermanic President  
Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

***May 18, 2009***

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, June 1, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Norton, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Pero, Ms. Tyler and Mayor Curtatone.

**Members absent:** none

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:19 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to suspend the rules and take item 7A out of order.

**C. Local 1596, United Auto Workers for the Somerville Community Schools Program Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Ms. Bastardi read a statement relative to the contract between the Somerville School Committee and the Somerville Community Schools Program. This agreement was finalized in the fall and tonight, Ms. Janice Pousland, Community Schools' representative, is present to sign the integrated agreement. Ms. Bastardi asked Ms. Pousland to come to the front of the chambers for the official signing of the integrated agreement.

Ms. Bastardi asked for a two minute recess at 7:23 p.m. to congratulate and thank Ms. Pousland.

School Committee returned to session at 7:25 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2009, Regular School Committee Meeting, as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2009, Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2009, Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler reported on the following items:

- Highland Varsity Athletic awards last week. Congratulated students and Ms. Viele on their efforts
- Scholarship Awards Night last week. Impressed with the huge amount of awards given. Commended students and staff on a job well done.
- The Tennis team competed in post-season play, but was defeated on Saturday in Beverly. Congratulations on a great season!
- The Ultimate Frisbee team competed on Sunday and had a successful and fun day.
- This coming Friday, June 5, is the last day for Seniors
- June 12 is Class Day
- June 15 is Graduation

#### **IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

##### **A. *School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities* Mr. Niedergang (May 20)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at 181 Washington Street. Members in attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Norton, Ms. Bastardi, and Mr. Niedergang. Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi, Assistant Superintendent Vince McKay, and Finance Director Patricia Durette. Audience members included: Paula Woolley, Susie Carter, Cheryl Ann Welch, John Carreiro, Carol Perris and Josh Wairi.

The agenda for this meeting was as follows:

1. Brief update on FY2010 budget situation
2. Health insurance contribution of non-union employees
3. Superintendent's proposed FY2010 draft budget #7: identify issues and concerns for further discussion and begin discussion
4. Preparations and outline for the public budget hearing on June 3<sup>rd</sup>
5. Schedule of School Committee meetings for Finance and Facilities through June

The following actions were taken in Finance:

Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso to table the motion regarding health insurance contributions.

The motion failed by a roll call vote of YES – 2, NO – 4 and ABSENT 3.

Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting that the members of the School Committee and non-union school staff, in recognition of the fiscal constraints facing the City of Somerville in FY2010, increase their health care contribution rates to 25% resulting in a city contribution of 75% and an employee contribution of 25% effective July 1, 2009.

The motion was passed by a roll call vote of YES – 4, NO – 2 and ABSENT - 3.

Agenda items 4 and 5 were not brought forward this evening.

At 8:05 p.m., the School Committee returned to public session and discussion ensued regarding FY2010 budget planning.

The Finance meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 9:59 p.m.

Mr. Niedergang announced the upcoming meeting dates and times for future Finance Meetings and stated that all may not be necessary, but are planned to be on the safe side. Meetings are as follows: Public Hearing on June 3 at SHS Library – 7:00 p.m., June 4 at SHS – 7:00 p.m., June 8 at Central Office – 7:00 p.m., June 10 at Central Office – 7:30 p.m. and June 11 at SHS – 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Rossetti requested that a motion that was made in the Finance meeting of May 20, regarding health insurance be brought up for reconsideration. At this time the following motion was made:

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to reconsider the motion.

The motion to reconsider was passed by voice vote

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton that the members of the School Committee and non-union school staff, in recognition of the fiscal constraints facing the City of Somerville in FY2010, increase their health care contribution rates to 25% resulting in a city contribution of 75% and an employee contribution of 25% effective July 1, 2009.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of YES – 9 – Rossetti, Pero, Sweeting, Norton, Curtatone, Cardoso, Bockelman, Niedergang and Bastardi

##### **B. *Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee* (May 28)**

Mr. Sweeting reported on the Ed. Programs meeting of May 28. His report included the following agenda items:

1. K-12 Math Curriculum program presentation – presentations were made by Ms. Shannon Gilligan, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator and Julie DiPasquale, teacher from the Brown School. Their presentation focused on the new and improved Investigations Math series. Professional

development has been held for elementary teachers for this series. The new series addresses gaps that the old series presented and teachers seem to be quite happy with the new series. The meeting then turned to middle grade math and Justine Hebert from the Kennedy School gave a report on Algebra One in Grade 8 and the Kennedy model. Next was high school math with a presentation by Marie Foreman, Math Department Head. Her presentation included a discussion on realigning the course sequence at the high school to one of Algebra 1, Geometry, and then Algebra 2. Discussion also took place regarding the offering of semester courses and AP courses, including AP Java. The high school math department is lucky to have partnerships with the Duhamel Foundation and the Somerville Mathematics Fund, both of which offer much great support. Mr. Sweeting also reported on the closer collaboration between elementary and high school teachers in placing students, as well as MCAS and SAT trends.

2. Summer Reading Program update – there are no significant changes to the summer reading program.
3. Professional Development and assessment planning update – a full day Professional Development will take place on June 26. The District will be using a new assessment program beginning next year. The program is MAPS – Measure of Academic Progress and this program will offer immediate reports to teachers so that they may have data at their fingertips, which will allow them to adjust curriculum presentation accordingly to students.
4. Approval of Inservice Courses

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to approve the four inservice courses.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi gave a brief personnel report which included an update the retirements of the following staff members:

- Ms. Judith Battaglieri after 26 years of service
- Ms. Barbara Synan after 21 years of service

Mr. Pierantozzi stated that these employees will be greatly missed but they are wished long, happy and healthy retirements.

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Announced that this is a very busy season in the School Department and reported that on May 27, the Somerville High School Scholarship Awards ceremony was held. Impressed with the number of students presented with awards through the generosity of so many. Issued congratulations to students, staff, and community and thanked everyone involved in making this a wonderful event.
2. Announced that on May 26, the Highland Athletic Awards ceremony was held at Somerville High School. Along with congratulating the many award winners, the Superintendent also commented on the successful seasons of the Girls' Soccer and Basketball teams, as well as the success of the Boys' and Girls' Cross Country and Track Teams. Congratulations to all!
3. Reported on a letter in members' packets from Mayor Curtatone regarding the East Somerville Community School and the MSBA. Announced that the ESCS is on the agenda for the June meeting of the MSBA Board and that this should move the project on to the next stage. Thanked everyone involved.
4. Informed the audience that advertisements for some teaching jobs would be publicized soon for vacancies from resignations and retirements. There will be only a small number of very specific positions advertised. These positions will be posted internally first and then, if necessary, advertised to the public.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Professional Development on June 26, which is the last day for teachers. Elementary PD will be school-based and the high school's will be focused around the NEASC self-study.
- Reported on the School Improvement Assistance Center (SIAC) at Shore Collaborative, which offers multiple areas of support for area districts.
- Reported that several students from the Somerville Public Schools will have their art work displayed in the Rotunda of the Russell Building in Washington, DC. These students are: Jesse Najarro, Emely Andrade, Jeimy Lopez, Kaecianna Cooper, and Mithsuca Berry from the East Somerville Community School and Karina Correia and Niko Meijerink from the Healey School. Congratulations to these students and their teachers – Ms. Taremi from East Somerville and Ms. Huffman from the Healey. Congratulations also to Dr. Luci Prawdzik, Supervisor of Art for the Somerville Public Schools. Dr. McKay displayed a few of the pieces of artwork for the public to view.

Mr. Sweeting asked if efforts could be made to make this artwork available for public viewing somehow – either via the website, news media, etc.

5. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that in members' packets was a letter from Mr. Dennis Keefe of the Cambridge Health Alliance with a response to concerns over the closing of the Teen Connection during the summer months. Mr. Keefe informed the School Committee that students would be accommodated at the Broadway Health Center during the summer.
6. The Superintendent reminded audience members that there is school on June 17, previously the Bunker Hill Day holiday and that the last day of school will be June 25, which will be a half day for all students.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- Kindergarten transition day will be this Wednesday, June 3rd, from 9:00-11:00am. On this day, children enrolled into our kindergarten program for next September and their parents/guardians will have the opportunity to meet the school principal, the kindergarten teachers and get a general orientation and tour of the school assigned with some fun activities for the children as well.
- HINI influenza update-- As you may be aware; there have been several cases of flu-like illness in Somerville students. However, we have had no confirmed cases of the HINI virus in our schools. At this time, the state is not doing any further testing for HINI on people who do not meet certain high-risk criteria, such as a serious underlying disease. The School Department and the Health Department are monitoring the rate of absenteeism at each school so we can be aware of anything out of the ordinary. It is important to know that influenza, whether seasonal or H1N1, usually resolves on its own. According to our public health commissioner, the best way to prevent the spread of the disease is to keep children at home if they are ill. Last week, the school department, in cooperation with The Somerville Health department sent home some information for parents about the flu and when to keep children home and a letter to parents from Massachusetts Department of Public Health Commissioner John Aurebach. The schools and the health department continue to work very closely in monitoring this situation.
- Teen Dating Violence Prevention Videos-- We have been informed by the Middlesex District Attorney's office that Somerville High School has two out of the 6 teen dating violence prevention videos which have been selected as finalists. These videos were created to spark a positive dialogue among young people to help prevent instances of teen dating violence. (There were 34 total entries). The two videos are "*A Cry for Help*," produced by SHS students Mitchell Freitas, Anthony Bohan, Askash Sharma, and Jason Corey and "*She Changed*," produced by high school students Haley Lynch, Tom Kennedy, Jeff Wairi, Iritza Menjivar, and Joshua Spera. Congratulations to these students and to their TV media Production teacher Mr. Craig Leach for this wonderful achievement.
- There is another wonderful achievement by one of our first grade students. We were informed last Thursday that 1<sup>st</sup> grade student Hanna Hillers was selected as one of 14 winners for the Massachusetts School Building Authority's statewide contest, "*My Ideal School*." This contest had over 2,500 entries. There will be a special awards ceremony for Hanna and the other contest winners at the Massachusetts State House, Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Hanna and to Mr. Roberto Chao for entering the student art work in the contest.

7. The Superintendent announced that on June 11, the PTA will hold its Scholarship Awards ceremony beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Raymond Izzo Highlander Café at Somerville High School.
8. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that at the Somerville Public Schools Budget Hearing, budget version #7 will be utilized. At this time, there has been no definitive word on funding from the State and that things are no better, no worse on the financial front this week.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Ms. Durette's only update was to remind the public of the Budget Hearing on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the library of Somerville High School. Ms. Durette also announced that all budget documents can be found on the District's website at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us) and then by clicking on the link, "FY10 Budget Development".
9. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on his attendance at the SKIP/SEEK barbecue on May 28, at the newly renovated tot lot at the Kennedy School. Thank you to all staff, parents.
  10. Announced that the Spring String Fling will be held on June 4, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Somerville High School.
  11. Reported that many schools will be having moving up ceremonies for their 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. For more information on events at any of the schools, please either call the school directly or look on the website.
  12. Announced the following events:
    - Full Circle graduation is June 12
    - Somerville High School Class Day is June 12
    - Somerville High School graduation is June 15
    - Scale graduation is June 16

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

1. The following policies are being brought forward for a second reading for adoption:

File: IB – Academic Freedom  
 File: ID – School Day  
 File: IDA – Evening School  
 File: IHAM-R – Health Education (Exemption Procedure)  
 File: IHBA – Programs for Students with Disabilities  
 File: IHBF – Homebound Instruction  
 File: IHBG – Home Schooling  
 File: IHBG-R – Home Schooling  
 File: IHBH – Alternative School Programs  
 File: IHBHB – Magnet Schools  
 File: IHCA – Summer Schools

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to accept these policies for adoption.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. The following policies are being brought forward for a second reading, as revised:

File: IGBF – Student Teacher Assistant Teams (STAT)  
 File: IHA-E – Basic Instructional Program  
 File: IHAMA – Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education  
 File: IHBEA – English Language Learners  
 File: IJK – Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption  
 File: IJLRA-E1 – Letter  
 File: IJOB – Community Resource Persons/Speakers  
 File: IJOC – Volunteers  
 File: IMB – Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers  
 File: KHB – Advertising in Schools

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso to accept these policies for adoption, as revised.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. SHS 2009 Evening School Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that he supports Mr. Anthony Ciccariello's recommendation that the following students, who have successfully completed evening school and earned the necessary credits, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Jamie Canadas
- Kenneth Belew

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to approve the granting of diplomas for the students listed.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **B. Field Trips**

#### **June 12**

Winter Hill Community School grade 8 students to the Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI. Transportation via bus at no cost to students.

#### **June 24**

Healey School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$25 per student.

#### **June 12-13**

Somerville High School track athletes to Burlington, VT for New England Track and Field Finals. Transportation via school van at no cost to students.

Mr. Pierantozzi gave a brief informational report regarding the field trip to Vermont and the lateness of the submission for approval. Athletes qualified for further competition only last weekend, thus the form was submitted last minute.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to waive the reading of the remaining field trips and approve all three field trips.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rossetti reported on a handout in members' packets regarding a documentary produced by a professor from Northeastern University on MCAS testing. This documentary was very well done. Ms. Rossetti and Representative Sciortino would like to have a viewing made possible in Somerville. The current thought is to arrange for a viewing event sometime in September.

## **VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Scholarship night at Somerville High School was a wonderful night. It was very moving to know that so many people do so much to raise money to provide scholarship money to our students, especially in these economic times. Thanks to all who donated and congratulations to the recipients.

### **Ms. Cardoso**

1. As Ms. Cardoso was absent from the last meeting, she took the opportunity this evening to thank the 40+ students who volunteered for the Ward 3 Clean Up Day. Thanks also to Ms. Nancy Bakey Kun, teacher at the Argenziano School and Officer McNally for their help. Ms. Cardoso announced the name of every student who assisted that day.



**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Sunday, June 7, is Firefighters' Memorial Sunday. The event will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a wreath being placed at the Arrow Paper Memorial on South Street. The procession will then continue to the Lowell Street Fire Station.
2. Thank you to the Board of Aldermen for their support on the health insurance issue for the retirees.
3. Thank you to the School Committee for their work and support on this important step
4. The East Somerville Community School work is moving forward. The members of the Advisory Committee have been contacted today. It is now a matter of finances and seeing after payments from the insurance and the MSBA, what the local costs will be.
5. Commented on the budget and that there has been nothing new, recently. Thanked everyone for their patience during this process.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. On Saturday, June 6, Groundworks Somerville will hold a Silent Auction fundraiser at the new Somerville Arts Center on Highland Avenue in the old armory.
2. This weekend is the Somerville Public Library's book sale. The sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday. In hard economic times, libraries have more patrons and become more central to the community. Please consider supporting this event.
3. The Ed Programs subcommittee meeting originally scheduled for June 11, has been rescheduled to June 17. At this meeting the Middle Grades Report will be presented with detailed descriptions of initiatives. The meeting begins at 7:30 at 181 Washington Street. Mr. Sweeting suggested that this meeting be televised.
4. The Volunteer Appreciation event will take place on June 17, at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Commented on the MASC's Legislative Bulletin of May 28, 2009 and suggested that this would be a good handout for the Budget Hearing.
2. West Somerville's PTA is June 4, at 6:00 p.m.
3. West Somerville's PTA will hold a Country Store on June 11, from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
4. The PTA will also hold a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on June 18, for 70+ dedicated volunteers. Ms. Rossetti commended the PTA for all their good work.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, June 22, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:30 p.m. - Library - Somerville High School

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Norton, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, and Ms. Tyler.

**Members absent:** Mr. Pero, Mayor Curtatone, Mr. Pierantozzi

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the library of Somerville High School at 7:37 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Ms. Bastardi announced that we have a very busy evening tonight.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Presentations made this evening:

Mr. Michael Calder and Mr. Thomas Bent

In appreciation of their efforts regarding placement of Somerville High School Electrical Program graduates Brian Camara and Matt Miller into the IBEW, Local 103, Apprentice Program and securing employment for these students during this time with Bent Electrical.

2009 Retirees

The following retirees were presented with citations this evening:

Rita Soini, Frank Russell, Rita Ranucci, Antonio Lopes, Patricia Pabian, Patricia Egan St. Clair, Agnes Hanna, Marilyn Howard, Susan Collins and Marilyn Bang.

The Duhamel Education Initiative Awards

Ms. Bastardi gave a brief introduction of the Duhamel Education Initiative and its history with the Somerville Public Schools and introduced June Pietrantoni to award the grants.

Mini Grant Awards were presented by June Pietrantoni, Sal Albano and Alba Chitouras, to the following teachers:

- Linda Wiegenfeld at the East Somerville Community School was awarded a grant from the Duhamel Education Initiative grant to continue to develop strategies for helping students and families take greater ownership for their instructional success.
- Lis Stark and Hillary Sallick from SCALE were awarded a Duhamel Education Initiative grant to develop a hands-on Biology class for GED and ESOL students.
- Steven Marshall from the Kennedy School was awarded a Duhamel Education Initiative to start and run a parent meeting for parents of SEEK students. Providing information and support to parents helps to create relationships with families and therefore supports the student to greater chances of success.
- Kelli Neville from the Kennedy School was awarded a Duhamel Education Initiative grant promote successful inclusion in the middle school grades at the Kennedy School. Students who are mainstreamed into general ed. will receive additional support after school, and will be supplied with the materials that they need in order to be successful in their general education class.
- Judith Nierenberg at Somerville High School a Duhamel Education Initiative grant to purchase books for the quarterly Student/Staff Book Club. Students help to select the books and lead the discussions. At the end of each school year the books are donated to the Full Circle program.

- Agnes Gallant and Maureen Robichaux received a Duhamel Education Initiative grant which will be used to purchase a Wii and some games to create an incentive program to encourage more students at Next Wave to do their homework. Students turning in homework on time would be rewarded with 30 minutes on Friday to play on the Wii with other students while supervised by staff.
- Diana Taremi from the East Somerville Community School received a grant to work with students in grades 6-8 on an abstract painting project to be displayed at the East Somerville upon completion.
- Celia Nuccio of the Kennedy School received a grant to provide guest readers to grades 1-3. Funds will be used to purchase books to have in each classroom and to also provide each student with a book to read over the summer.
- Deborah Hurley and Celia Nuccio from the Kennedy School received a grant to establish a Primary Book Room for grades K-2 for guided reading.
- Bonnie Tumelty of Somerville High School received a grant to create a curriculum and purchase supplies to help students develop better study and organizational skills.

The School Committee recessed at 8:01 p.m. to congratulate tonight's honorees

The School Committee resumed at 8:16 p.m.

### **III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler reported on the following items:

- Graduation last week. This was an amazing, well organized event. Gave credit to all organizers.
- Elections for next year's class officers have been taking place during this past week and next year is going to be a great one!
- Finals began this week

Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to suspend the regular order of business and take up item 7F – Welcoming Massachusetts. Ms. Cardoso reported about the Welcoming Mass initiative, which supports the rights of immigrants in Massachusetts and read the beginning of the pledge which has been signed across the state. Mr. Bockelman stated that the School Committee had discussed this matter in October 2008, but had not taken a formal stand. Ms. Cardoso reported that Somerville has always been a welcoming city and that, with the City's recent recognition as an "All America City", it is the perfect time to sign onto this petition, officially.

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to support the Welcoming Massachusetts Pledge.

The motion was passed by a roll call vote of YES – 7 – Rossetti, Sweeting, Norton, Cardoso, Niedergang, Bockelman and Bastardi and ABSENT – 2 – Curtatone and Pero.

C. Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to suspend the order of business and take up item 7C Participation in National School Lunch & Breakfast Program.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **C. Participation in National School Lunch & Breakfast Program**

##### **1. Participation in National School Lunch & Breakfast Program**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso to have the Somerville Public Schools participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast program.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

##### **2. Statement of Intent to Participate in Direct Certification - (Received and placed on file)**

Dr. McKay notified the School Committee that the Somerville School Department will be participating in Direct Certification for the 2009-10 school year, as in previous years.

#### **D. Somerville Public Schools Breakfast Program – consideration of fees**

Ms. Mary Jo McLarney, Food Service Director, made a presentation to the members regarding a potential increase in fees for school breakfast. Ms. McLarney was asked to attend as a follow up to a meeting last week around this issue. Ms. McLarney gave an overview that included the following:

- Importance of breakfast
- How free/reduced numbers are determined
- True cost of breakfast
- Reimbursement rates
- Percentages of paid vs. free
- Potential loss of revenue if program continues as is

Much discussion ensued over the possibility of offering free breakfast only at the neediest of schools and the lack of equity aspect of not offering District-wide. Discussion also took place relative to there being deeper budget issues next year. After much deliberation, the decision was made to start a pilot program at Somerville High School where those students who are not receiving free or reduced lunch would pay for breakfast.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso to approve a fee for breakfast, at Somerville High School only, as a pilot for the 2009-2010 school year.

The motion was passed on a roll call vote of YES – 5 – Rossetti, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang and Bastardi; NO – 2 – Bockelman and Norton; ABSENT – 2 – Curtatone and Pero

Discussion ensued regarding notifying parents over the summer of this change. The request was made for the matter to be referred back to Finance to visit the whole program before next June and also the School Committee would like to be provided with numbers relative to this pilot program on a quarterly basis to track its impact.

#### **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept the minutes of the June 1, 2009, Regular School Committee Meeting, as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote

#### **VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

##### **A. *School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities* Mr. Niedergang (June 10, 11 & 16)**

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Public Budget Hearing of June 10, and School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities of June 16.

On June 10, the Budget Hearing was held in the Somerville High School Library. All School Committee members were in attendance. There was much public comment, which was greatly appreciated by members. No actions were taken this evening.

At the meeting of June 16, all members were in attendance, with the exception of Mayor Curtatone. At this meeting the School Committee voted, unanimously, to approve a budget of \$47,704,034.00 for FY2010. This is 2.2% or \$1million less than FY2009. 27.3 FTE's out of 850 were cut. Mr. Niedergang thanked Aldermen Heuston and Pero for their support during the process, which began back in the fall. Thanks were expressed to the AFSCME Clerical and Somerville Administrators Associations for their concessions, as well as to all non-union employees.

Other business at the meeting of June 16 included the approval of bill rolls and a discussion of food service fees for the upcoming school year.

Actions taken this evening are as follows:

A motion was made to reinstate the secretary at the Special Education Evaluation Center.

This motion was passed 7-1.

A motion to retain grade 6 at the Brown School

This motion was passed unanimously

A motion to reinstate the Assistant Principal at the West Somerville Neighborhood School to a full-time position.

This motion was passed 5-3.

A motion was made to approve a number of recommendations from the Superintendent and Pat Durette to close the remaining gap. A list was provided at the meeting of June 16 and the items on this list were approved unanimously.

A motion was made to restore \$5,000 in operations funding to the Brown School and to reduce legal services to the District.

This motion failed 4-4.

The final budget of \$47,704,034.00 was presented tonight as part of the Mayor's budget presentation to the Board of Aldermen.

The Superintendent will appear before the Board of Aldermen on Thursday, June 25, to present Somerville Public Schools' budget and to answer any questions or concerns that they may have. The final budget must be approved by the Board of Aldermen.

#### **B. *Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee*** (June 17)

Mr. Sweeting reported on the Ed. Programs meeting of June 17, which was held at 7:30 in the conference room at 181 Washington Street. In attendance at this meeting were Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Norton, Ms. Rossetti, Dr. McKay, Ms. Gilligan and Mr. Pierantozzi. Also in attendance were Special Education Facilitator, Dorothy Scally and five members of the public. Highlights of Mr. Sweeting's report included:

The announcement that 99.7% of Somerville High School graduates had passed the MCAS

A discussion of the Middle Grades Program initiative, which included the following:

- The realignment of the middle grade schedules
- Challenging and active learning
- Real world collections
- Supports for learning
- Student choice and leadership electives, reading buddies, etc.
- A year-long interdisciplinary project for grades 7 and 8
- Quarterly project for students in grade 6
- Pacing guides and rubrics will be developed over the summer

Information was provided regarding updates on ARRA and Professional Development, drop-out prevention, summer reading and the retention policy.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to approve the following three inservice courses:

- The Grade 1-6 Report Card Committee
- Second Step Training
- Instructional Leadership

The motion was passed by a voice vote.

The Educational Programs meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

### **VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

#### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

#### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Dr. McKay reported on the following items:

1. This is the final week of the 2009-2010 school year. Thursday is the last day of school and it is a half-day for all students.

Dr. McKay deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari for his report, which follows:

**Volunteer Appreciation Event on June 17<sup>th</sup>** Last Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, the district recognized the efforts of our school volunteers who gave so much of their time in energy to helping our students. We had about 50 people in attendance including some school administrators and members of the school

committee. Thank you to all our volunteers and business partners, especially those who could not make it to the appreciation event last Wednesday. Thanks to Jen Capuano, our volunteer coordinator, for organizing the event.

**Monitoring School Absences** As a result of the HINI influenza, we continue to work closely with the Somerville Department of Public Health, and school nurses in monitoring our school absences very closely. School nurses continue to call families when children are absent to determine cause. For more information about the HINI influenza, one can visit the Somerville Public Schools or City of Somerville websites or call 311.

**Special Olympics Swim Meet** For the first time, the Somerville Public Schools has fielded a swim team at the Special Olympics Summer Games held at Harvard University on Saturday, June 20 and Sunday June 21. Under the direction of Ms. Stephanie Hudson of the Kennedy Pool staff, 15 elementary through high school aged Somerville students with special education needs have had swim practice 2x/week during the past school year. At the Special Olympics regional qualifying meet, held during April vacation at the Kennedy Pool, 8 SPS students qualified to move on to compete in the Summer Games. The Brian Higgins Foundation generously provided team swimsuits and Ms. Hudson provided T-shirts for each student. Congratulations to each member of the Somerville Highlander Special Olympics team. Thanks to Mr. Rich Cheney - Pool Director, to the many student volunteers who assisted, and in particular a special thanks to Ms. Hudson who coached her athletes to reach their goals.

**Public Service Announcement Winner** As you know, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, and REACH Beyond Violence launched a project in which high school students from throughout Middlesex County were asked to create and produce their own public service announcements in an effort to speak out against teen dating violence. After receiving 35 outstanding entries from more than 200 students, the District Attorney's office announced that the winning announcement was submitted by our own students from Somerville High. The video, entitled "A Cry for Help" was created and filmed by the following students: Mitch Freitas, Jason Corey, Aakash Sharma, Jerry Alphonse, Anthony Bohan, and Stefanie Vivian under the direction of teacher Craig Leach. It was exciting to see the caption "Somerville Wins" on the Fox TV morning News. This announcement was selected as the winner by a vote of more than 1000 high school students across Middlesex County. The winning students will be working with staff from *Conover Tuttle Pace*, Boston advertising and public relations firm to professionally edit the video and will be submitted to local television stations for airing across the state. Once more, we continue to be proud of the great work and leadership shown by our high school students and teachers on this and other important issues. Thanks to Charlie LaFauci, Margie Daniels, Executive Director of the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, and District Attorney Gerard T. Leone Jr. for all their efforts. Congratulations to the team once more for a job truly well done!

Dr. McKay deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Director of Finance for her report, which follows:

The FY2010 budget will be presented to the Board of Aldermen on Thursday evening. All budget information can be found on the School Department's website at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us) under Finance. Handouts will be provided at Thursday night's meeting.

An overview of summer programs in the District was provided.

Dr. McKay referred members to the Personnel Report, which was included in their packets.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. FY2009 SCALE/ADP Graduates** (Approved by voice vote)

Dr. McKay recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas:

|                                     |                              |                   |              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Derrick DePina</b>               | <b>17 Knowlton Street</b>    | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02145</b> |
| <b>Seth O. Ewing-Chow</b>           | <b>228 Broadway</b>          | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02145</b> |
| <b>Diana Carolina Zamora Flores</b> | <b>10B Memorial Rd., #14</b> | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02145</b> |
| <b>Jessica N. Gutierrez</b>         | <b>22 Brook Street</b>       | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02145</b> |
| Stephen James Acevedo               | 109 Franklin Avenue          | Revere            | 02151        |
| Michel A. Barias                    | 2 E. Brookline Street        | Boston            | 02118        |
| Martha I. Bonilla                   | 102 Northdale Road           | W. Roxbury        | 02132        |

|                         |                         |            |       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------|
| Andre H. DeMoura        | 142 School Street, #702 | Everett    | 02149 |
| Dianna Ivonne Escamilla | 205 Ferry St., Apt. 103 | Everett    | 02149 |
| Alexandre G. Filho      | 88 Hubbard Street       | Malden     | 02148 |
| Ashley Renee Haynes     | 113 Malden Street       | Everett    | 02149 |
| Julienne Francis Mattie | 58 Hancock Street       | Stoneham   | 02180 |
| Daniel Robert Schena    | 166 Union Street        | Everett    | 02149 |
| Porsche Lace Torrence   | 54 Greendale Road       | Mattapan   | 02126 |
| Henry Tran              | 12A Sudan Street        | Dorchester | 02125 |
| Breanna Lee Walsh       | 500 Broadway, #4140     | Malden     | 02148 |

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

Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to waive the reading and approve the Authorization for Summer Months.

The motion was passed by a voice vote.

1. 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.
2. Expend from FY2009 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel under all federal grants beginning in September.
3. Use Salaries Account and School Operations Account funds to pay encumbrances and salaries for summer programs
4. To 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 for which each fund may be spent in accordance with the statutes. The receipts to be held in each separate account may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes of the program or programs from which receipts in each account were derived.
5. To 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.

**C. Student Accident Insurance** - (Recommended Action: Received and placed on file)

The Assistant Superintendent advised that the contract for Student Accident Insurance for the 2009-10 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 | \$5,549.00 |
| Catastrophic Cash Benefit |           | \$ 860.00  |

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ms. Bastardi**

1. Announced that this is the last televised meeting of the year. Requested that members inform Central Office of their vacations in case a meeting is needed over the summer.
2. Reported on the All America City competition and announced that it was the best experience she has had in a long time. The camaraderie with other cities and towns was wonderful. Congratulations to Somerville!!

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Graduations were wonderful
2. Reported on the Healey School Middle Grade Program Committee meeting. 40-50 people were in attendance and more grade 7 students are staying at the Healey School this year.

3. The Volunteer appreciation event was wonderful. Thanks to Jen Capuano. The City is now looking into hiring a Volunteer Coordinator to assist them.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. This is a great time of year with the graduations and Class Day, etc.
2. Looking forward to a great summer
3. Thanks to leadership for a great year

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Thank you to Ms. Bastardi and Mr. Niedergang for all of their work during the budget process. Also thanks to Central Office and Mr. Pierantozzi, the Mayor and Mr. Pero.
2. Graduations were great!
3. Tomorrow there will be an awards ceremony at the Argenziano School
4. Wished everyone a happy and safe summer
5. Thanks to all staff for a great year
6. See you in September!

**Mr. Norton**

1. Echoed sentiments of other members regarding graduations, etc. Graduations are a wonderful, rewarding part of his job. Sent his accolades to all.
2. Thank you to the administration, Board of Aldermen, and School Committee leadership during this stressful, yet rewarding, budget process.
3. Looking forward to summer
4. Announced that the Healey School Moving On ceremony.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported on the wonderful celebrations that have been taking place across the system.
2. Thanked the community for their emails, calls, etc. expressing concerns during the budget process. Impressed with all input. Somerville did itself proud during this process.
3. Looking forward to summer, as are his two young children.
4. Happy Father's Day to his male colleagues.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Announce Moving On ceremonies at the Healey and West Somerville schools
2. Announced that the MASC Advisory Committee will meet tomorrow evening to discuss stimulus funding  
Ms. Bastardi congratulated Ms. Rossetti for her nomination as the secretary/treasurer of this MASC committee
3. Announced that she will be working with Mr. Ciccariello this summer to hold a community meeting at the Clarendon Hill Apartments.
4. Announced the Summer Youth day camp at the West Somerville Neighborhood School for children ages 5-13. Please call Danielle Palazzo at the Recreation Commission – 617-625-6600, ext. 2980, for more information.
5. Fireworks will be held on July 2, at Trum Field
6. Thank you to the chair and vice chair for all of their hard work.
7. Wished a great summer to all!

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Lawrence Blute, Jr., son of Ellie Blute, retired Title I Parent Coordinator
- Maurice Pomphret, retired teacher and assistant principal from the Healey School

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary



### **Citation Wording**

#### **Tom Bent**

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted this Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts in providing employment to two Somerville High School Electrical Training Program students who were recently awarded admission to IBEW Local 103's pre-apprentice partnership program. The Somerville Public Schools and the Somerville School Committee are extremely grateful for your help in providing such a wonderful and innovative opportunity for our students.*

#### **Michael Calder**

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted this Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts in securing admission to IBEW Local 103's pre-apprentice partnership program for two Somerville High School Electrical Training Program students. The Somerville Public Schools and the Somerville School Committee are extremely grateful for your help in providing such a wonderful and innovative opportunity for our students.*

#### **Retiree's Name**

Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted  
this Certificate of Award for    years of Dedicated Service  
to the Students of the Somerville Public Schools.

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, August 31, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Norton, Mr. Pero, and Mr. Bockelman.

**Members absent:** Mayor Curtatone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:02 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2009 Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler was not at this evening's meeting due to soccer practice and preparing for the beginning of the school year.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *Personnel:*** Mr. Norton (June 24)

Mr. Norton reported on the Personnel subcommittee meeting of June 24.

Subjects discussed included:

1. Survey results on Diversity Training
2. Job Descriptions
3. Update on vacancies

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to approve the job descriptions for the following positions: Lead Teacher, Somerville Community Schools; Assistant Teacher, Somerville Community Schools; Instructional Leadership Team Member; Mathematics Coach, Grades K-5; Mathematics Coach, Grades 6-8; Literacy Coach, Grades K-8; Academic Coordinator for Afterschool Programs, Grade K-8.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang asked if Ms. Martinez could briefly report on the results of the Diversity Training Survey. Ms. Martinez stepped to the podium and reviewed the results.

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the lengthy personnel report and thanked all who were involved with the various hiring processes across the District over the summer. Mr. Pierantozzi also announced that with the new AppliTrack application system, it is easier for hiring agents to attain information relative to specific characteristics of applicants which match hiring needs. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that currently 1334 new applicants in the system and that 1078 of those are licensed. There were 53 openings at the beginning of the hiring season and all of the full-time positions are filled. The current openings that exist are part-time and include: library aides, coaches, instructional team leaders and a water aerobics instructor. Mr. Pierantozzi also made one correction to the personnel report. The retirement date for Ms. Cheryl Welch is June 30, 2010 – not June 30, 2009. Mr. Pierantozzi also reported on the great success of the new staff

orientation with took place on August 24 and 25 and thanked all involved in the planning and facilitating of this event.

## **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Reported that the website has been renovated. Phase one of three is done. The cost of this project was \$15,000. There were roughly 10,000 pages of information that needed to be transferred over to the new site. Special thanks to Gretchen Kinder, the Blue Ribbon Panel, Rachel Traub, Jamie Gentry, Suzanne Bremer, Howard Lurie, Nat Dempkowski, Central Office Administrators and the parents and guardians who participated in the web survey.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Discussed new assessment programs in the District.
- Discussed other new programs including the Middle Grades program, After-School program, and Alternative School program.
- Reviewed Professional Development plans for the upcoming year. At Somerville High School, the focus will continue to be on the reaccreditation process. At the elementary level, the focus will be on the "Making Good Schools Better" program. The Focus on Results program will be used to develop data-driven decisions.

Mr. Sweeting asked how the data will be used. Mr. McKay responded that this program allows the school, as a team, to determine common threads of need, which, in turn, focuses areas of instruction. This data will be fine-tuned to the classroom level and instruction will be guided by those results.

2. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the facilities are in great shape for the start of the school year. Of course, some of the older schools require more preparation, but, overall, the District is in great shape. Issued his thanks to the Department of Public Works, including Stan Koty, Frank Santangelo, Mike Bowler, Jim Roderick and their staff.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

Enrollment Update - Although enrollment numbers change moment by moment, I would like to provide an update on the school enrollment. You should all have a copy of today's school membership report. As of this morning, August 31, 2009, the school district enrolled a total of 4,864 students in its PreK-12 programs. This is a very slight increase of 19 additional students compared to the 4,845 student enrollment of August 28, 2008. But comparisons are still premature, and to get a more accurate comparison, we need to look at our October 1<sup>st</sup> report.

|              | <u>08-09</u> | <u>09-10</u>      |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| PreK-8       | 3395         | 3463 (+68)        |
| 9-12 SHS     | 1382         | 1334 (-48)        |
| Nw/FC        | 68           | 67 (-1)           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>4845</b>  | <b>4864 (+19)</b> |

Crossing Guards - After meeting with Police Safety Officer Elpidorforos, 51 School Crossing Guard posts were identified for the 2009-2010 school year (same as last year). The list of crossing guard posts has been provided to all the school principals and is also posted on the school website for anyone interested.

HINI Update - As you may know, public health officials continue to talk about a return of the HINI flu this fall. The school department continues to work very closely with the Somerville Public Health department to monitor advisories and the latest recommendations made by state and federal public health officials, and we will continue to monitor school attendance. I would like to thank Somerville Public Health director Paulette Renault Caragianes for

providing the latest HINI information to all school administrators at our Administrative team workshop last Thursday (August 28<sup>th</sup>).

3. The Superintendent reported that the Health, Police, Fire and School departments are all working together to insure the health and safety of all of our students. Reviewed guidelines and latest information on the H1N1 virus and the steps being taken to keep our students healthy. Announced that all correspondence regarding this virus will be done on green paper so that when parents, staff, etc. see green paper, they should know that it pertains to H1N1.

Mr. Bockelman asked if there are now nurses at all of our schools and Mrs. Rossetti asked if there was Full-Time coverage at all buildings. Ms. Bastardi announced that she corresponded with the Health Director who assured Ms. Bastardi that she expects to have all buildings fully staffed. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that he has been told that two new nurses have been hired to date.

The Superintendent extended his thanks to the Central Office staff – Joe Tringale, Rebeca Martinez, Vince McKay, Frank Di Chiappari and Pat Durette for their work on the Administrative Team Workshop. There were scrapping disagreements, but much information was shared and distributed. Thank you to all of the Administrative Team.

The Superintendent deferred to Mr. Joseph Tringale, Director of Operations for his report regarding reporting and technology. Mr. Tringale's report included the following:

- There have been many changes in personnel including retirements, resignations, new hires, transfers, etc.
- Negotiations with various Collective Bargaining Units and renegotiations with some which have impacted the budget, wages, benefits and the staffing plan.
- Updates have been made to the various databases to reflect these staffing changes, including payroll, attendance, evaluations, etc.
- The FY09 accounts are mostly closed with the exception of a few purchase orders that are still to be paid. A complete end of year financial report will be presented at a future Finance and Facilities meeting.
- The Technology Department has been very busy this summer with the installation of 16 new SmartBoards across the District as well as the reimaging and upgrading of software across the system.
- Information was also shared regarding the use of End Computing where four work stations are generated via the use of one PC. This is being piloted at the East Somerville Community School and appears to be very successful. There is a possibility of extending this to other schools in the future.

Mr. Sweeting asked about the total number of SmartBoards now installed in the District. We had 40 installed last year and, now, 16 new ones for a total of 56. Ms. Bastardi expressed her appreciation for the reinstallation of SmartBoards at Next Wave/Full Circle.

Mr. Pero announced that, over the summer, the Board of Aldermen has been involved with the budget. The City will raise hotel and meals taxes in the hope that the revenues from these taxes will help to replenish the rainy day fund. The City does not anticipate that these additional taxes will burden our local businesses in any way.

4. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that he is excited about the new school year. Thank you to the School Committee for letting him work here another year. He looks forward to working with the families, staff and students in Somerville.

Mr. Niedergang reported that Ms. Martinez had informed him that the teacher applicants this year were high quality and that this was excellent news and that he is impressed with everyone's enthusiasm.

A question regarding the Readiness Schools Retreats was raised. Will there be any report from these retreats? Both retreats were professionally facilitated and the School Committee was assured that reports will be provided to them as soon as they become available.

Mrs. Rossetti urged members to look with extreme caution at these Readiness Schools and the concepts being developed regarding their management and who will have authority over these

schools. She will keep members informed via her involvement with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Mr. Bockelman presented the following policies to the full School Committee for **second** Reading:
- File: CB School Superintendent
  - File: CBC Superintendent's Powers and Responsibilities
  - File: ECA Buildings and Grounds Security
  - File: EEAG Student Transportation in Private Vehicles
- B. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Mr. Bockelman presented the following policies to the full School Committee for **second** Reading as revised:
- File: CBI Evaluation of the Superintendent
  - File: CHCA-E Approval of Handbooks and Directives
  - File: CM School District Annual Report
  - File: DB Annual Budget
  - File: DBC Budget Deadlines and Schedules
  - File: DD Funding Proposals and Applications
  - File: DGA Authorized Signatures
  - File: DJ Purchasing
  - File: DJA Purchasing Authority
  - File: DJB-E Purchasing Procedures
  - File: DJE Bidding Requirements
  - File: DKA Payrolls
  - File: DKC Expense Reimbursements
  - File: DKD Payment of Bills
  - File: EB Safety Program
  - File: EBB First Aid
  - File: EBCE "No School" Announcements
  - File: EBC-R Evacuation Policy
  - File: EBC-R-1 Bomb Threat Policy
  - File: EEAEC-R Student Conduct on School Buses
  - File: EFD Wellness Policy for PK-12

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve all policies presented for second reading this evening under Unfinished Business.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Field Trips** (informational only)

Mr. Pierantozzi informed School Committee members that he approved the following field trip, over the summer, as the agent for the Committee and that this was presented tonight for informational purposes only.

**July 31-August 3, 2009:** Somerville High School Varsity Cheerleaders to Boston University NCAA Cheer Camp, overnight, at a cost of \$325 per student.

### **B. FY2009 SCALE/ADP Graduates** – (Recommended Action: Approval)

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

|                            |                        |                   |              |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Ingrid L. Nishiyama</b> | <b>44 Dana St.</b>     | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02145</b> |
| <b>Amanda M. Silva</b>     | <b>60 Vinal Ave.</b>   | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02143</b> |
| Joshua Evan Bouvier        | 20 Reynolds Ave.       | Everett           | 02149        |
| Christopher R. Evers       | 18 South Ferry St., #2 | Everett           | 02149        |

|                         |                   |           |       |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------|
| Glenn Robert Ghizzoni   | 12 Lancaster Rd.  | Dedham    | 02026 |
| Brian William Jacobson  | 12 Sharon Rd.     | Melrose   | 02176 |
| Ryan Kelley             | 472 Highland Ave. | Malden    | 02148 |
| Jonathan Neftaly Mejia  | 5 Avon St.        | Everett   | 02149 |
| Phillip M. Namey        | 46 Bucknam St.    | Everett   | 02149 |
| Lakeisha Marie Spearman | 18 Reddy Ave.     | Hyde Park | 02136 |
| Patrick Charles Spinney | 57 Albion St.     | Everett   | 02149 |

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to approve all of the Scale graduates.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **C. Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)**

School Committee Vote: Members of the School Committee elect an official voting delegate for the November 18, 2009 Annual Business Meeting of the MASC.

Ms. Rossetti informed members that a voting delegate must be elected to represent Somerville at the upcoming MASC/MASS join conference in November.

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to elect Mary Jo Rossetti as the Somerville School Committee's Delegate at the MASC/MASS conference in November.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Ms. Rossetti also informed members that she has been nominated as Secretary/Treasurer to the 2010 MASC Executive Board. She explained that the nominated President-Elect of this committee withdrew her nomination and that steps must be taken to nominate new people for President and Vice President, as a result. In order to officially nominate new people for these positions, the MASC must have correspondence from 5 School Committees testifying that they have approved these nominations via official motions and votes.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to support the nomination of Penny Blackwell for the position of Vice President-Elect of the MASC Executive Board.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to support the nomination of Dorothy Presser for the position of President-Elect of the MASC Executive Board.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

The results of these two votes will be communicated tomorrow to both Glenn Koocher of the MASC and Ms. Presser. Ms. Rossetti thanked the members for their support and reported that she is proud to represent Somerville on this committee.

## **VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Bastardi reported that the School Committee received a thank you note from the family of Helen Connolly in appreciation of condolences upon the passing of their mother.

## **IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Congratulations to all involved with the new staff orientation. Mr. Bockelman and Mr. Sweeting attended and found the event to be extremely well done.
2. Commended the student athletes for their hard work as the new school year and athletic season begin.
3. Announced that the various PTA's across the city will be holding Open Houses and meetings and encouraged parents to get involved, especially at the high school level. Get involved, run for

office, and consider joining the School Council. Meetings will be taking place across the District from the middle of September on.

4. Announced that Tufts Community Day will be on September 29, 2009.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Welcome back to all. Hopes everyone had a restful, enjoyable and safe summer.
2. The Argenziano School looks wonderful and she knows that whole system is the same way. Expressed her thanks to all who worked over the summer District-wide.
3. Issued a reminder to the audience to drive slower and more cautiously as the school year begins. Also, pay close attention at crosswalks and corners, where students will be crossing. Expressed concerns about overgrowth of brush, etc. and urged clean up to prevent our students from having to walk out on the street to get around this overgrowth.
4. Encouraged parents and guardians to volunteer and get involved.

**Mr. Norton**

1. Welcome back to all.
2. Thank you to the Superintendent and the Department of Public Works staff for getting our buildings in such great shape.
3. Looking forward to the school year.
4. Issued thanks to Regina Bertholdo and the staff at the Parent Information Center for their assistance in helping with the registration of his daughter. Mr. Norton was very pleased with the whole process and the staff.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Welcome back. Mr. Sweeting has two children who are excited to get back to school and he is looking forward to a great year.
2. Commended Mr. Pierantozzi and staff on the Teacher Orientation program.
3. Urged people to get involved with the PTA and other parent organizations.
4. Reported on the new process of the School Committee going paperless with their packets. Explained that the members are now able to access the necessary documents via computer and that this is why School Committee members are looking at the computer screens at their places. Mr. Sweeting sees this as a good, practical step and expressed thanks to all involved with getting this process rolling.

**Mr. Pero**

1. Reported that, in regard to the overgrowth issue that Ms. Cardoso discussed, the issue will be discussed among the Board of Aldermen in an effort to get this taken care of.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. The West Somerville Neighborhood School PTA will host a coffee hour on Wednesday morning, September 2. Great opportunity for a meet and greet.
2. Senator Kerry will host a Town Hall style meeting this Wednesday, September 2, in the auditorium at Somerville High School. Seating will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the actual event will begin at 7:30 p.m. Discussion will center on Health Care and other issues.
3. Expressed her gratitude to the late Senator Kennedy for all of his support to the people of Somerville and for his dedication to educational issues. Issued her thanks to him and his family. Good luck to the next person who holds the seat in the Senate. Ms. Rossetti will miss Senator Kennedy.
4. Congratulations to Ms. Cardoso on the birth of her granddaughter, Sophia Rose Quinlan. Congratulations to Jennifer, Kevin and Will Quinlan on their new addition. Jennifer is a teacher at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- *James C. O'Rourke*, Father of Charlie O'Rourke, teacher and coach at Somerville High School
- *Marion Wakeham*, Mother of Marilyn "Stacey" Dinarello, teacher at WSNS
- *Stephen Ardizzoni*, Teacher at Kennedy School
- *John LaValle*, Brother of Shirley Dedrick, Food Service and brother-in-law of Michael Dedrick, Somerville High School
- *Marie Monagle*, Daughter of Patricia Whalen, retired account clerk in the Finance Office of the Somerville Public Schools and niece of Barbara Syman, Capuano and Jim Syman, Somerville

- High School. Sister-in-law of Maureen Monagle, former school nurse, now working at the Board of Health
- *Joseph McNamara*, Father of Joelita Cleveland, teacher at West Somerville Neighborhood School
  - *Senator Edward M. Kennedy*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, September 14, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, Mayor Curtatone, Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Rossetti.

**Members absent:** Mr. Pero

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:03 p.m., Mr. Bockelman arrived at 7:04 p.m., and Mr. Norton arrived at 7:08 p.m.

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Molly Tyler reported on the following events at Somerville High School:

- Things are off to a good start. The Housemasters asked Ms. Tyler to let everyone know that they are pleased with the opening and there have been no issues. Also, schedule issues are being resolved very quickly.
- The Football team won its season opener on last Saturday
- Volleyball is doing well in spite of some challenges.
- Girls' and Boys' Soccer has gotten off to a rough start. Their games may be viewed on Cable Channel 15.
- There will be a Club Fair in the Atrium at Somerville High School after school next Tuesday, September 22.

**III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

A. **Personnel:** Mr. Norton (September 9)

Mr. Norton reported on the Personnel subcommittee meeting of September 9.

Subjects discussed included:

4. New Teacher Orientation Feedback Results
5. District Support Systems to better monitor and address employee attendance in 2009-2010
6. Diversity Initiatives for the 2009-2010 school year
7. Vacancies
8. ESCS Redirect Teacher Proposal

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to add a redirect teacher to the East Somerville Community School staff, subject to funding.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

This issue will now be forwarded to the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Mr. Norton reported that the Committee felt that not all retirees were properly recognized at the School Committee meeting at the end of June. Therefore, he would like recognize them publicly tonight:

The Somerville School Committee wishes to congratulate and thank the following employees for their years of dedicated service to the Somerville Public Schools:

| <b>Employee</b> | <b>Years of Service</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Gerard Tremblay | 11                      |
| Frank Russell   | 15                      |

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Rita Rannucci           | 19 |
| Barbara Synan           | 21 |
| Elaine O'Meara          | 22 |
| Christopher Canavan     | 26 |
| Judith Battaglieri      | 26 |
| Maureen Leonard         | 27 |
| Marilyn Howard          | 29 |
| Patricia Pabian         | 30 |
| Diane Depczenski        | 31 |
| Jeanne Berkman          | 31 |
| Joanna DiVasta          | 32 |
| Sue Collins             | 32 |
| Charles O'Rourke        | 33 |
| Patricia Egan St. Clair | 34 |
| Mary Ellen Nott         | 35 |
| Steven Luboff           | 35 |
| Mary Sceppa             | 35 |
| Marilyn Bang            | 35 |
| Antonio Lopes           | 35 |
| Geraldine Cataldo       | 39 |
| Philomena Mullen        | 39 |
| Rita Soini              | 39 |
| Agnes Hanna             | 39 |

Ms. Bastardi announced that, if she did her math correctly, these employees have given a total of 750 years of service to the Somerville Public Schools. She is sorry that the ceremony in June was so rushed and is happy to provide the recognition they so deserve.

**B. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning (Sept. 9)**

Ms. Bastardi reported on the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of September 9. The meeting was held at the Central Office Conference Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at 181 Washington Street. Members present: Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Norton, and Mr. Bockelman. Also present were Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, Ms. Kinder, Ms. Connell, Ms. DiGuardia, and Ms. Cummings. Highlights of this meeting include reports on the status of various long range goals to date. These reports included:

- Increasing Diversity
- Increasing rigor and relevance of middle grades instruction
- Improving the rigor of afterschool activities
- Introducing foreign language study before high school
- Increasing inclusion opportunities for students

**C. Report of Executive Session (June 10, June 16, July 1)**

Ms. Bastardi reported on actions taken during three Executive Session meetings.

**June 10, 2009**

- A motion was made to approve the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Somerville School Committee and the Somerville Clerical Employees. This motion was approved by a roll call vote and this action saved \$63,168.

**June 16, 2009**

- A motion was made to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Somerville Administrators' Association. This motion was approved by a roll call vote and this action save \$97,156.

#### **July 1, 2009 – five motions were made at the July 1 meeting**

- Motion to approve Recreation Specialist Job Description.
- Motion to approve Recreation Specialist Job for Posting and Hiring.
- Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Somerville School Committee and the Cafeteria Employees Union, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 274 for new collective bargaining agreement commencing September 1, 2009.
- Motion to approve Memorandum of Agreement among the Somerville School Committee, the Somerville Clerical Employees Union, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 2070, and Hope August regarding the reorganization of clerical positions, effective July 1, 2009.
- Motion to approve Memorandum of Agreement between the Somerville School Committee and Local 1596, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, Scale Administrators Association and Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign.

All of the five motions above were approved by roll call votes.

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

##### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that a Personnel Report is included in members' packets. He went on to report that some of the postings on this report need to be corrected. For seven of the positions listed, the information in the "Vice" column is incorrect. These are not new positions. Mr. Pierantozzi will provide members with a corrected copy in the next packet.

##### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Reported that the opening of school was outstanding. Students had good attendance in spite of the Pre-Labor Day opening. Dr. Di Chiappari will report further on attendance data later this evening.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked everyone who worked over the summer, including administrators, secretaries, staff members involved with hiring teams, Food Service, and the Department of Public Works. He added that thanks to the DPW, the buildings have never looked better.
3. Announced that the Readiness Schools Draft Prospectus is being finalized for submission on September 15. Explained that if a prospectus was not submitted by the deadline that Somerville would become ineligible for future consideration. At this point, this is a placeholder. Somerville is, in essence, helping the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education craft the project. The next step would be acceptance or return of the prospectus. In the future, a representative committee of School Committee, administration, principals, staff and parents would be developed. This committee would have some decision making power as preparations are made for the second round of submissions. Following that, the issue will be discussed in Executive Session with relation to labor issues and then forwarded to the full School Committee for approval. At this time, the Kennedy and Healey Schools are interested. At Ms. Rossetti's request, a copy of the prospectus will be forwarded to School Committee members once it has been finalized.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Strategic planning around ARRA funds. One-half of the Federal Stimulus funds have been used to make up for the deficit in the FY10 budget. The second half of the funds – the investment piece – is for long-term growth projects. Discussion is taking place now of how best to use these funds to achieve long term improvements. Some of these long term initiatives include:
  - The Focus on Results program
  - The Middle Grades Project
  - Instructional Coaching
- Reported on the newly hired staff, which included teachers in regular education, special education and vocational education. Also included Speech Pathologists and Library Media personnel. The two day new staff orientation was successful and Dr. McKay and Ms. Martinez will review feedback forms and make changes in next year's program, as appropriate.

- Reported that mentors have been assigned to new staff members. Thank you to the principals for their support and guidance throughout the process. Next Thursday, Dr. McKay and Ms. Martinez will be meeting with these mentors.
  - Next week, parents will receive letters regarding the new Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment program.
  - Somerville, along with four other districts – Burlington, Woburn, Lexington and Bedford – has received the prestigious Teaching American History grant. This is a three-year grant of \$979,000. This grant will provide professional development opportunities to assist teachers to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to teach American History in an exciting and engaging way.
4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that there will be an Employee Benefits Fair tomorrow in the Aldermen's Chambers at City Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for all city employees. Representatives from the various health, dental and life insurance companies will be available to answer any questions employees may have relative to current or potential plans.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- *Enrollment and Attendance Update* - At the last meeting before you, I reported an enrollment of 4,864 students. Once school started, we did not see a significant decrease in enrollment numbers district-wide due to "no shows". In fact, as of today we have an enrollment of 4,856 students, a decrease of 8 students from the number I last reported to you. Moreover, the attendance during the first days of school was very good. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the first full day of school, the district had an attendance rate of 96.1% compared with last year's attendance rate of 93%.
- *Youth Risk Health Survey* - On Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Timothy O'Keefe and I met at the Somerville health department with SCAP director Cory Mashburn and Michele Cummins, senior research associate at social science research and evaluation, inc. to plan next spring's administration of the High School Youth Risk Health Survey given to all students in grades 9-12. The survey is tentatively scheduled to be given on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 with a back-up date of February 11<sup>th</sup>. I will be providing you and the public with more specific details as we get closer to the actual survey administration date. As a reminder, SCAP Director Cory Mashburn will be presenting the results of the middle school youth risk health survey administered last spring to the Education Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- *HINI conference Call* - The school department continues to work closely with other city departments in preparing for the HINI influenza.

On Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, I participated in a Fall 2009 HINI and Seasonal Flu planning conference call with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. I was joined by our school nurse leader, Somerville Health Department, and Somerville Police. The key themes in the Fall 2009 guidance is the following:

1. focus on keeping schools open
2. enforcement of the exclusion policy, that is, the identification and exclusion of children and staff having flu-like symptoms; a fever of 100.4 F and either cough or sore throat. Individuals with flu like symptoms must stay home for 24 hours after no fever and no fever reducing medications.
3. Emphasize proper hand washing & respiratory etiquette.
4. Maintain routine cleaning and reassure parents and staff that there is no need for special "disinfection" or "decontamination". When respiratory secretions dry out, the virus is no longer infectious.
5. Promote vaccination of students and staff. H1N1 flu vaccine will be available sometime in October and the schools will be used as vaccination dispensing sites.
6. Monitor absenteeism in students and staff
7. Maintain Collaboration between school officials, school health staff, local and state public health officials.
8. Communicate with parents.

Also, this morning, along with Gretchen Kinder and Mary Ripley, I attended a meeting at the Public Safety Building with representatives of other city agencies to discuss coordination of the city's response for HINI to make sure the information provided to the public is updated, relevant, and clear. As a reminder, all information to parents from the Somerville Public Health department and schools will be going home on green paper.

*Coordinated Program Review update* - I would like to give you a brief overview of the status of last April's Coordinated Program Review. As you may remember, the DESE came to Somerville last April to review Special Education, English Learner Education, Civil Rights, McKinney Vento, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Title One, Food services, and Vocational Education. As of today, the DESE has submitted their findings on 4 programs: McKinney Vento, (the homeless education act), Safe and Drug Free Schools, Title One and Food Services. Corrective action plans to address areas not found to be implemented for McKinney-Vento, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Food Services were submitted to the DESE and those areas are now considered to be implemented. I will provide you with a more thorough report with more specificity once all findings are provided to us by the DESE.

5. The Superintendent followed up on the report on the Coordinated Program Review. Only minor issues to be responded to. Overall, the Review Team has been extremely pleased with Somerville's performance. Corrective Action responses have been accepted quickly. Thank you to all involved with this process, including all those who were interviewed by the visiting team.
6. The Superintendent announced that registration for Evening School is currently underway. This is the largest Evening School program in years. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Interested parties may register in the main office of Somerville High School are online at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us).

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding finance and facilities. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Members have been provided with the FY10 Budget book. Books will also be distributed across the city. Reviewed contents and reported that the staff summary pages will be replaced in October with newly developed staffing pages.
  - Community Schools has begun to accept online payment for their services. Master Card, Discover and Electronic checks are acceptable online payment options. There is a small fee for credit card use, but no charge is assessed for electronic checks. It is hoped that Evening School and Scale will have the online payment option very soon.
  - Final reports for FY09 State grants have been filed. Filings for Federal grants will be done in a couple of months.
  - The first detailed quarterly report on ARRA funds is due on September 25.
  - End of the year reporting to the DESE is due on October 1.
7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that he, Dr. McKay, Dr. Di Chiappari and Ms. Philpot are currently analyzing programs at Scale in an attempt to offer services to the appropriate target clients. For instance, by pinpointing single mothers in programs, an attempt to offer childcare can be discussed. Many groups are being reviewed. A full report will be brought to Ed. Programs when completed.
  8. Posting for Instructional Leadership Team members (ILT) of the STA, Unit A, closed on September 4. Applications are currently being reviewed by administration. Once ILT's are hired, a meeting will take place for planning, preparation and training to address academic needs.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Deborah Connell, Director of Special Education for a report on her department. Ms. Connell's report included the following:

- A new Supervisor of Special Programs was recently hired. Martin Kennedy has come to Somerville from the Boston Public Schools. He has a very varied background, including 15 years in business and also the role of Director of Special Education in Vermont.
- Reported that the Special Education department is reviewing out of district placements to determine if it is possible to bring some of these students back into the District. This process is done on a routine basis as required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The process includes reviewing services being provided to our students to determine that their needs are being met.

Mr. Sweeting was interested in the process regarding offsite evaluations. Ms. Connell informed the Committee that the DESE has a format to follow. The focus of these visits is to ascertain that our students are getting all of the services they should. Somerville will examine whether or not the District can offer the same, or better, to these students within the District. Ms. Rossetti reminded members of how this was the process followed when the SKIP program was developed. Mr. Niedergang issued thanks to Ms. Connell and Mr. Pierantozzi for the report. He is pleased to be getting more information relative to Special Education services.

9. Mr. Pierantozzi gave an update on grant activity. Somerville is “holding its own” in grant awards. The Superintendent mentioned the Teaching American History grant award and informed members that the District is awaiting word on the Foreign Language Assistance grant.
10. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that Ms. Kinder will now have an intern from Tufts University to assist her with communications. The plan is to analyze what information is being communicated and how it is being communicated. This intern will start in about three weeks. This is just the latest partnership that the Somerville Public Schools has with Tufts.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Mr. Bockelman presented the following policy to the full School Committee for **second** Reading:
  - File: DBD Budget Planning

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Field Trips** (Recommended Action: Approval)

**October 2, 2009:** Next Wave/Full Circle students to Mount Monadnock, NH. Transportation via school van at no cost to students.

**October 26, 2009** Somerville High School Cosmetology students to the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island to attend the 2009 Next Level Convention. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$20.00 per student.

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to waive the reading and approve the Field Trips.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- B. **Acceptance of Donations** (Recommended Action: Approval)

### **1. Cleaning of Somerville High School Football Uniforms**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of the weekly cleaning of football uniforms, donated by Mayor Joseph Curtatone. Projected value of this donation is approximately \$2,868.00. Committee members extended their thanks to Mayor Curtatone for providing this donation.

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept, with gratitude, the donation of the cleaning of the football uniforms.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **2. Use of light towers for the Fall 2009 Soccer and Football Season**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of the use of light towers to the City of Somerville of Somerville and the Somerville Public Schools to be used at Foss Park during Football and Soccer season. This donation has also been provided in previous years by J & R Contracting and we are extremely grateful to them for their generosity. The projected value has yet to be determined.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to accept, with gratitude, the donation of the use of light towers for the Fall 2009 Soccer and Football season.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- D. **MASC Updates**

Ms. Rossetti reviewed the minutes of the MASC Board of Directors meeting. She also informed the members that the MASC is currently reviewing and revising its Policy Manual and will be providing updated copies to the District on disk.

Ms. Rossetti discussed the documentary, "Children Left Behind", and reminded members that this is the documentary that Representative Sciortino had brought to her attention last May. At that time, it was agreed that Somerville would sponsor a showing of this documentary to parents/guardians/community members early in the school year. Ms. Rossetti has made arrangements for the film to be shown on Tuesday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Somerville High School Library. The film is 45 minutes long and will be followed by open discussion time.

## **XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. On Wednesday and Thursday, from 2:45 – 7:00 p.m., students interested in learning to play a musical instrument may go with their parents/guardians to Somerville High School to an information session where they may find out more about renting equipment and instrument lessons.
2. Reported on his attendance at the dedication of the Kennedy School Tot Lot to Brian Higgins. Wonderful event. Thanks to the Higgins Family for all they have done.
3. On September 2, the Healey School held their second annual grade 7/8 picnic/barbecue. This was a great event where staff, students and families from Choice, Neighborhood and Special Education classes all came together.
4. On September 23, there will be an Educational Programs Subcommittee meeting at 181 Washington Street. Topics for the meeting include: the Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey results, a Middle Grades Curriculum update, Retention Data and the approval of Inservice Courses.

### **Ms. Bastardi**

1. Ms. Bastardi spoke about the Higgins Tot Lot dedication and apologized for being so emotional while representing the School Committee. Ms. Bastardi is a friend of the Higgins Family and was very moved by this event.
2. Announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Half-way to St. Patrick's Day Road Race to benefit the Higgins Fund will be held on Sunday, September 20, beginning in Ball Square at 10:00 a.m.
3. Also reminded the audience that the Higgins Trivia night will be held in March 2010 and that more details will be forthcoming.
4. Announced that she had the pleasure of representing Somerville at an All America City Jazz Festival in Albany, NY, where she presented a proclamation from the City. Informed members that she and other members are invited to visit the Albany School District at a future date.

### **Mayor Curtatone**

1. Issued his gratitude to the Department of Public Works for their wonderful work in getting the schools ready.
2. Requested that the School Department and 311 work together to collaborate on any outstanding work orders.
3. Announced that there will be an All America City celebration on October 17.

### **Ms. Cardoso**

1. Issued thanks to the DPW, staff and students for a wonderful opening and welcomed everyone back.
2. Expressed thanks to Ms. Bastardi and all of the speakers at the Kennedy School Tot Lot Dedication. Thanked the Higgins Family for all they have done. They are brave and eloquent people who have suffered a tremendous loss and have established a wonderful foundation to assist others.
3. The Argenziano School held a wonderful Open House last week with a great speaker. Thank you to Mrs. Rudolph and Ms. Sharon Staples for their work on obtaining this speaker.
4. Announced that the Argenziano School will hold their Family Fun Day on Saturday, October 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **Mr. Niedergang**

1. The Winter Hill Community School will hold its first PTA meeting/Open House on Thursday, September 17, at 6:00 p.m.
2. There will be a meeting of the School Committee for Finance and Facilities on Wednesday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street. All Finance and Facilities meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. Agenda items include: Facilities, the Budget Timeline, and fees for Pre Kindergarten. Materials have been provided to members in last week's packet.

3. Announced that on Saturday evening, September 19, Groundworks Somerville will host a fundraiser at the Community Growing Center from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.
4. Reported on his discussions with residents he had over the summer as he went door to door. Commented on perceptions of the District, enrollment, etc.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. The Rules Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street. Agenda items include: the Title I Parent Involvement Policy, the Trauma Sensitive Schools Vision Statement, and the review of Section J of the policy manual.
2. There will be a Post High School Planning Night on Monday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. at Somerville High School to assist high school students and their families as they plan for college, etc.
3. On September 22, there will be a Club Fair at Somerville High School from 2:45 – 3:45 p.m. in the atrium.
4. The Healey School Choice Council will meet on September 24.
5. Wednesday, September 23, is a half-day of school.
6. The last Friday of the month has been designated as the Walk/Ride to school day. Walking Busses are being established for some schools.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- *Ana Vieira, mother of Ana Caldeira, teacher at Somerville High School*
- *G. Edward Marcantonio, father of Joan Duffy, teacher at the Capuano Early Childhood Center*
- *John Clancy, custodian at the Brown School*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, September 21, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman. Mr. Pero and Ms. Rossetti,

**Members absent:** Mr. Norton, Mayor Curtatone and Ms. Tyler

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:30 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

No report this evening as Ms. Tyler was playing in the Somerville High School Girls' Varsity Soccer Game.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to accept the minutes of the August 31, 2009 School Choice Public Hearing.

The motion was approved by voice vote

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept the minutes of the August 31, 2009, Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

A. **Rules Management:** Mr. Bockelman (September 15)

Mr. Bockelman reported that the Rules Management Subcommittee met at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street on September 15. Items discussed were:

1. Title 1 Parent Involvement Policy
2. Trauma Sensitive Schools Vision Statement
3. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual – Section J
4. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Policy

Mr. Bockelman will report further on this meeting during New Business.

B. **School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:** Mr. Niedergang (September 16)

**Mr.** Niedergang reported on the School Committee Finance Meeting of September 16, 2009.

Members in attendance were: Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, and Mr. Niedergang. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette. The meeting was held at 181 Washington Street in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room and began at 7:00 p.m. The agenda was as follows:

1. FY11 Budget Timeline – reviewed and discussed this very detailed document
2. Discussion of Preschool fees and the Brown School Grade 6 – lengthy discussion – no decisions made. More discussion and research needed
3. Facilities Update – extensive report given. Superintendent reported that the buildings have never looked better.
4. FY09 Bill roll
5. Other Updates
  - a. Educational Foundation – discussion of establishing a foundation here in Somerville. Looked at the Weston Model. More research and discussion needed.

- b. 42 Cross Street – Discussion of possible move of Central Office space to this city-owned facility. Tour of facility for School Committee members on Wednesday, September 30, at 5:30 p.m.
- c. Employee wage and benefit freeze and reduction – report given on cost savings from givebacks, etc. Total money saved equals \$403,578

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Niedergang, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the FY2011 Timeline as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

The following two motions were passed unanimously at the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:

MOTION: To spend \$6195.00 to explore the design of 42 Cross Street to consider putting school offices in that facility.

MOTION: To approve the bill rolls

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that a revised Personnel Report is included in members' packets. The data listed under the "Vice" column has been corrected and this report should replace the one received last week.

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. The Superintendent reported on the attendance of he and Dr. Chiappari, along with Deputy Chief St. Clair and Chief Holloway at the Superintendents and Chiefs Breakfast this morning. The event is sponsored yearly by the District Attorney's Office and the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth. Special thanks to Gerald Leone, District Attorney, and Margie Daniels, Executive Director of Middlesex Partnerships for Youth. Along with discussion regarding collaboration between the Police, Fire and School Departments, today's agenda included a presentation of the award-winning Public Service Announcement from Somerville High School. Two of the students involved – Mitch Freitas, the writer/director and Stefanie Vivian, the actress – were on hand at today's event. Congratulations and thanks to Dr. Di Chiappari, Mr. Ciccariello, Mr. LaFauci, Teacher Craig Leach, Deputy Chief St. Clair of the Somerville Fire Department, and Police Chief Tony Holloway.
2. In members' packets and on paper are documents for the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting of September 23. The agenda includes reports on Retentions, Middle Grades Program, and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Members will be happy to hear that there have been improvements in all categories of this survey. Cory Mashburn of Somerville Cares About Prevention will give a full report at Wednesday's meeting.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Today was kickoff day for the MAP testing program in grades 2-8 across the District. Thank you to the Instructional Technology Team. Reports from this assessment program are available the next day. This quick turnaround allows teachers to determine levels of instruction for each student.
- Focus on Results, the school-based elementary initiative is in full swing. Today, the Instructional Leadership Teams (ILT) at each elementary school were appointed. These are teams of 6-8

teachers who work with their principals directly. On September 30, the first ILT District Meeting to train these teams will take place

Mr. Sweeting asked for more information on the MAP testing. He would like parents/guardians to have a better sense of how this test works. Dr. McKay explained that this is a National Testing program that is computer-based. Students sit at a computer and questions are on the screen one at a time. As students answer questions, the level of difficulty adjusts to the student's level—based on correct or incorrect answers. This allows students to work at their own level without boredom or frustration. There are several reports teachers can acquire to use for grouping and other instructional planning.

3. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that letters were sent on Friday regarding the Joint Committee on Sick Time involving the Somerville Teachers Association (STA) Unit A and Paraprofessionals. Thank you to the leadership of the STA. There will be monthly analysis of attendance data.
4. Reported that his coming Sunday, September 27, is the Seventh Annual Tufts Community Day. Many free events, including lunch, are being provided to the Somerville Community. Thank you to Ms. Barbara Rubel and Tufts Administration.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- On Wednesday, September 30th, Dr. Di Chiappari will be joining Department of Public Health Commissioner John Auerbach and other public health, health care, and community leaders at the *Massachusetts Statewide Conference on H1N1 Influenza Response*. The meeting, held in Worcester, will provide an opportunity to reflect on the first month of what is expected to be a resurgence of H1N1 flu, and to discuss planning for the remainder of the flu season. In addition to presentations, the conference will provide a chance to learn about best practices from colleagues from throughout the state.
  - The department of public health and the schools continue to monitor student attendance daily and the reasons students are absent. Today, we had a 94% attendance rate. Dr. Di Chiappari would like to remind parents/guardians that they need to call the school safety line when they are keeping their children home and to indicate if their children are staying home because they have the flu or for other reasons.
  - Dr. Di Chiappari also wanted to remind the public that any adults dropping off or picking up children at school need to use the designated drop off area. They need to pull to the curb and move as far forward as possible to leave room for other vehicles and avoid lingering in the drop zone so the next vehicle can move in. Drop off is only at the curb. Stopping in the middle of the road impedes traffic and can cause safety issues by preventing passage by emergency vehicles. Cross walk areas need to be kept clear and drivers must not double-park. Parking in or too close to a crosswalk prevents drivers from seeing children in the cross-walk and double-parking blocks traffic and may result in children dashing out from between cars. Also, we would like to remind drivers not to park in front of driveways or they may get ticketed. Let's remember that School is now in session, so let's be extra alert and slow down whenever we drive near a school zone
5. The Superintendent recommended that, in the spirit of Shape Up Somerville, and in an effort to alleviate congestion and frustration around parking at the schools, parents consider parking a block or two away from the building and walk to the drop-off area. This will do three things: reduce congestion, allow for exercise and communication, and reduce frustration levels.
  6. The Superintendent announced that he has been working with Jim Kotzuba and Larry Murphy from the Traffic and Parking Department to develop a plan to assist our staff during the implementation of the new parking regulations across the city. Currently a guideline memo is being developed collaboratively between the School Department and Traffic and Parking, that addresses the parking needs of staff, students, and volunteers.
  7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the Annual Corn Shucking event will take place this Thursday morning, September 24, beginning at 7:30 in all of the District's Elementary Schools.

8. The Superintendent reported that the first of the quarterly ARRA reports will be filed by the end of this week. This is a daunting task. Thank you to Mr. Tringale, Ms. Durette and their staff for all of their work on this.
9. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the First Annual Youth Film Night will be held on September 24 at the Somerville Theater in Davis Square, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Films from Teen TV, SCAT, SCAP and Latinos Living Better for the Future will be featured.
10. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that members have been provided with the requested information regarding the Readiness School proposals and retreats.
11. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the review of health and safety measures after a situation at one of the District's elementary schools. Safety and security are our primary concern. Procedures around drop-off and dismissal procedures are currently being reviewed. We are vigilant about safety. All school doors, with the exception of the front door at Somerville High School, are locked. The main door at Somerville High School is manned with a utility aide. Buildings are equipped with electronic systems which include a camera and buzzer entry system. In addition, all adults at all schools, as well as student at Somerville High School, wear identification badges at all times.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Redirect Teacher at East Somerville Community Schools**

As a follow up to action at the Personnel Subcommittee, it has been recommended that a Redirect Teacher position be added at the East Somerville Community School due to the enrollment and the fact that the school is split into two separate buildings.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the addition of a Redirect Teacher at the East Somerville Community School.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

Ms. Rossetti asked for information as to what budget line would this funding of this position come from. The Superintendent reported that it would come from the salary line at an approximate cost of between \$34,000 and \$36,000. This is the cost of a full time substitute teacher. Funding is available due to efficiencies within the budget.

### **B. Somerville Public Schools Policies – Mr. Bockelman presented the following policy to the full School Committee for **second** Reading, as revised:**

- File: DBD                      Budget Planning

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Bockelman, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to approve policy DBD: Budget Planning, as revised, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang inquired about MCAS Scores and when formal discussion among School Committee members would take place. Mr. Sweeting reported that, originally, the November 18 Ed. Programs meeting had been set aside for such discussion, however, steps are currently underway to move the meeting up to sometime in October. Currently, Dr. McKay and Mr. Sweeting are looking for a date for an additional Ed. Programs meeting for this topic. Mr. Sweeting is confident that a date will be chosen within the next 24-48 hours.

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. SHS 2009 Summer School Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that Mr. Anthony Ciccariello, SHS Headmaster, has recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed summer school and earned the necessary credits, be granted a SHS diploma:

Carlos DeLeon, Jason Messina

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to approve the Summer School graduates.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- B. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Presented to the full School Committee for **first** Reading for adoption:

File: JLIA – Trauma Sensitive Schools Vision Statement

- C. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Presented to the full School Committee for **first** Reading as revised:

File: JFABD – Policy for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

- D. **Field Trips** (Recommended Action: Approval)

**Oct. 19- Oct. 21, 2009:**

Healey School Choice grade 3 and 4 students to Nature's Classroom in Rhode Island. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$195 per student.

**Oct. 26-Oct. 30, 2009**

Healey School Choice grade 5 and 6 students to Nature's Classroom in Ocean Park, Maine. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$295 per student.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the two field trips.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- E. **Donation from Cradles to Crayons** – (Recommended Action: Approval)

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that, on last Friday, he received a communication that Somerville could be eligible to receive up to 900 free backpacks from the Cradles to Crayons – the Giving Factory, a non-profit agency located in Quincy, MA. Somerville may have the backpacks provided we can take immediate ownership of them and that we follow the guidelines, which specify that these packs go to needy children.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Niedergang, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept, with gratitude, the donation of backpacks from Cradles to Crayons – the Giving Factory

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **XIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

#### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Duhamel Education Initiative Fall Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, September 26, at 6:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on College Avenue. This will be a ham and bean supper, prepared and served by the Somerville Board of Aldermen. Proceeds benefit the Somerville Public Schools.

Mr. Niedergang suggested that the School Committee consider offering their cooking services to the Duhamel Group for a future event.

#### **Mr. Pero**

1. Glad to hear that the District is addressing the new parking regulations. He knows that solutions are being addressed and that all changes are being implemented methodically and with careful thought.

#### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Last Wednesday, Mr. Sweeting attended the Shape Up Somerville Task Force meeting with Mary Jo McLarney. These meetings focus on health issues of young people and others.
2. Announced that he will shuck corn on Thursday morning at the Argenziano School and encouraged others to do so, as well.
3. Announced that the Choice Council meeting will be held this Thursday evening, September 24.
4. Announced that this Wednesday, September 23, is a half-day of school for elementary students.

5. Reminded audience that the Ed. Programs Subcommittee will be held on Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street.

6. Announced that he will be in touch soon with the date for the MCAS discussion meeting.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Announced that she, the Mayor and Mr. Sweeting will shuck corn at the Argenziano School on Thursday morning
2. Announced that Family Day at the Argenziano will be on Saturday, October 3, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
3. Announced the “What the Fluff” event in Union Square on Saturday, September 26, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Ms. Bastardi**

1. Wished Ms. Natalie Vieira a Happy Birthday tomorrow.  
Ms. Cardoso wished Ms. Rossetti belated birthday wishes and Mr. Bockelman announced that it is his son’s birthday.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. There will be a walking tour of Somerville on Sunday, September 27, led by the Historical Commission. The tour will begin at Powder House Circle.
2. On Wednesday, September 23, beginning at 6:00 p.m., Somerville High School will hold its PTSA Open House.
3. Tonight, Somerville High School is hosting a College Night
4. On Thursday, September 24, the Brown School PTA Open House will begin at 6:00 p.m.

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. The Brown School grade 5 Science scores were third in the state for MCAS. Congratulations.
2. The Kennedy School Open House will be on Tuesday, September 29, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. The All America City Celebration will take place on October 17, at the Art Center at the Armory on Highland Avenue. More details will be forthcoming.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, October 5, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman. Mr. Pero and Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Norton, and Mayor Curtatone (arrived at 7:18 p.m.)

**Members absent:** Ms. Bastardi and Ms. Tyler

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairman Mark Niedergang called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Niedergang announced that Chairman Bastardi is away on vacation this week.

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

No report this evening as Ms. Tyler was playing in the Somerville High School Girls' Varsity Soccer Game.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2009 meeting, as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2009, Regular School Committee Meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. ***Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Mr. Sweeting (September 23)  
Mr. Sweeting reported that the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met at 7:00 p.m. on September 23, at 181 Washington Street. Items discussed included:
- A. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data for middle grades students
    - This was the lengthiest item on the agenda. Corey Mashburn of Somerville Cares about Prevention gave a detailed, but encouraging report on the Middle School survey. The results show improvement in the amounts of violence/safety incidents reported, tobacco and marijuana use, and sexual activity. The Superintendent reported that he believes that we are beginning to see the positive results of our social competency programs.
  - B. Middle Grades curriculum update
    - An update was given on the Middle Grades project. The company Home Inc. will work with library/media staff on this project. Also, teachers have been given opportunities for professional development at a 3-day workshop over the summer.
  - C. Retention data report
    - Dr. McKay reported on a series of timely interventions for young children at risk. Discussion also took place regarding efforts to help students catch up, rather than holding them back.
  - D. Approval of In-Service courses
    - Studying Skillful Teaching
    - Implementing Diversity in the Classroom: A Commitment to Students, Teachers, Parents and the Community
    - Teaching With A Smartboard: Curriculum Workshop

- "I Read It, But I Don't Get It": Comprehension Strategies for Intermediate and Middle Grades
- "My 13<sup>th</sup> Summer": A Memoir That Brings Light to Dyscalculia-Math Disability
- Second Step Coaching Group
- Using the Web for Teachers and Administrators

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the seven inservice courses.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Personnel Report. Announced that Mary Downing, a long-time teacher in the District, will be retiring in October 2010. Ms. Rossetti extended her thanks to Ms. Downing for informing the School Department a year in advance. This allows an easier and earlier approach to rehiring for this position.

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Wednesday, October 7, is a half day of school for elementary students
2. On Friday, October 9, there is no school in the District for students. This is a Professional Development day for all staff.
3. Monday, October 12, is Columbus Day. The District is closed for all staff and students in recognition of this holiday.
4. Reported on information received from the Deputy Commissioner of Education regarding mobility and data collection. Mr. Pierantozzi, as co-chair of the Urban Superintendents' Network, has been working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on these issues. Mr. Pierantozzi gave an overview of recent new developments including the following:
  - Steps being taken to address the issue of mobility
  - Rubric Development
  - Impact of various factors on AYP
  - The Development of a Growth Model for MCAS Comparison
  - A New Accountability Model

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Instructional Team Leadership Team had its first meeting last Wednesday, September 30, 2009. This was a productive session led by Focus on Results, whose motto is, "Making good schools better."
  - On October 9, Professional Development will be taking place across the District. At the elementary level, staff and principals will be meeting to develop instructional focus for the school year. At the high school level, work will continue on the reaccreditation process, led by Eve Shelton-Jones and Lisa Brewster. Also, paraprofessionals will attend a Paraprofessional Academy, which will include three workshops for elementary paraprofessionals.
  - Dr. McKay reported on the MAP testing and provided members with a sample report of data that can be obtained through this assessment system.
5. Mr. Pierantozzi gave an overview of changes to the Afterschool Program. He also reported that there are volunteer programs available, as well, within the afterschool program. For more information, contact the school principal, site coordinator, or the Community Schools office. Announced that information has been sent home with elementary students and that a ConnectEd message was sent across the District. Ms. Rossetti expressed concern that information went home rather late, but the Superintendent assured members that, prior to the information being distributed, there were already over 450 students attending. Mr. Pierantozzi assured members that parents and guardians will be provided with as much notice as possible, as early as possible, next semester. The audience was reminded that the Community Schools program would be open on October 9, which is the



Professional Development Day, but not on October 12, Columbus Day. Community Schools will also provide services on November 3, as well as during holiday breaks and vacations. Please visit the website or look in your school newsletter for more information.

6. The Superintendent announced that, on Wednesday, October 14, all Somerville High School sophomores and juniors will take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). Freshmen and seniors will be dismissed early on Wednesday.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- October 1, 2009 Enrollment Report - Dr. Di Chiappari announced that he would forward the following report to School Committee members within the next day or so. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the District recorded a student membership of 4,845 students enrolled in Grades Pre-K – 12, a decrease of 40 students when compared to last October's enrollment of 4,885 students. Since last October 1<sup>st</sup>, the enrollment for grades 9-12 decreased by 99 students, -91 students at Somerville High (1,317 students) and -8 at Next Wave/Full Circle (60 students) while the Pre-K to grade 8 enrollment of 3,468 was an increase of 59 students. Of the 4,845 students, 50.5% have a first language other than English (an increase of 2%); 16.1% are of limited English proficiency, (a decrease of 1.7%); 68.07% are considered low-income (an increase of 2.3%), and 20.6% are on an IEP, (a decrease of 2%). The district class size averages by grade, including SEIP classes, for grades K-8 continue to be very good. They range from 17.4 (grades 4 and 6) to 20.4 (grade 2), with an overall grade average of 18.6. The membership also shows that 50 different languages are spoken in the homes of our students: 49.5% speak English (no significant change), 21.5% speak Spanish (a .5% increase); 12% speak Portuguese (a slight decrease of .7%), 5.1% speak Haitian Creole (a small decrease of .5%), while all the other low-incidence languages account for 12.5% of our enrollment.
  - ELL Parent ESL Classes Dr. Davila, the District ELL Director, has informed me that we have completed fall registration for ELL Parent Program Classes and that we had more than 175 people register. Starting this week Beginning-intermediate-high intermediate level English As a second language classes will be available in the morning at the Capuano; while beginning and intermediate classes will run at the Capuano in the evening. A Beginning/intermediate level class will also be available on Saturday mornings at SHS. These classes will be running for the entire year. Dr. Di Chiappari thanked Dr. Sarah Davila for all her work in organizing this wonderful program.
  - Volunteers A free literacy tutor training will be offered to any volunteer wanting to read with and tutor a student in grades K-3. This training will be offered in collaboration with the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy. Graduates of the training will then be placed with a K-3 student in one of our elementary schools. The training will take place on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00pm-9:00pm at the Kennedy School. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, one may contact Volunteer Coordinator Jen Capuano at 617-625-6600 x6023.
7. The Superintendent announced that the beginning of the evaluation season for administrative staff is here. Goal setting meetings are now being scheduled.
  8. The Superintendent announced that tomorrow is the first day of the Rotary Readers program at the Argenziano School. Thank you to the Rotarians who are involved with this wonderful program.
  9. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that Somerville High School will host the 7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Guardian Curriculum Night on Wednesday, October 7, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Information and tours will be included. Although this event was advertised to parents of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, all are welcome.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- The Special Education Circuit Breaker funding has been cut dramatically from approximately 72-75% to 40% this year, which means that the funding went from \$683,746 to \$388,854. FY2011 will be affected by this loss in revenue.
- FY09 Federal Grant accounts are being closed and reports are being prepared for delivery to the Department of Education by October 31.
- The DESE end of year report of all revenues received and all expenditures made is also in the process of being completed.
- Discussion took place relative to private Special Education Schools requesting increases from local districts for tuition. In light of the current fiscal climate across the state and in

recognition of the loss of the Circuit Breaker funding, the Superintendent has emailed the Deputy Commissioner of Education and requested that steps be taken to freeze these rates for the 2010-2011 school year. It was suggested by Mr. Bockelman that Ms. Rossetti, through her work with the MASC, ask for pressure to be put on the DESE regarding this issue. Things don't look good budget-wise. Information tends to be getting darker and darker.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Presented to the full School Committee for **second** Reading for adoption:

File: JLIA – Trauma Sensitive Schools Vision Statement

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to approve File: JLIA for inclusion in the Policy Manual.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- B. **Somerville Public Schools Policies** – Presented to the full School Committee for **second** Reading as revised:

File: JFABD – Policy for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve File: JFABD as revised, for inclusion in the Policy Manual.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Cardoso took the podium and called upon Ms. Rossetti to present the Resolutions for discussion and action. It was decided that each resolution would be taken individually.

### **A. Massachusetts Association of School Committees Resolutions**

Ms. Rossetti, as the elected delegate of the Somerville School Committee at the upcoming MASC/MASS Joint Conference in November, presented 11 resolutions to the members in order to determine the pleasure of the Committee when it came time to vote for these resolutions as their representative.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Norton to approve Resolution 1, School Funding, provided the last bullet, regarding expanding casino-style gambling, is removed from this resolution.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve Resolution 2 – METCO.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mayor Curtatone, to approve Resolution 3 – MEDICAID.

The motion approved by voice vote, however, Mayor Curtatone and Mr. Niedergang are in opposition to this resolution.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to approve Resolution 4 – READINESS SCHOOLS.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mayor Curtatone made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to approve Resolution 5 – CHARTER SCHOOLS.

The motion was approved by voice vote; however, Mr. Niedergang is an opposition to this resolution.

MOTION: Mayor Curtatone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve Resolution 6 – DISTRICT RESTRUCTURING.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve Resolution 7 – SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mayor Curtatone, to approve Resolution 8 – REAUTHORIZATION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve Resolution 9 – CHARTER SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENT.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mayor Curtatone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve Resolution 10 – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATOR EXCELLENCE.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mayor Curtatone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve Resolution 11 – INCLUSION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON STATE TASK FORCES, SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

B. **Field Trips** (Recommended Action – Approval)

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Nov. 6 &amp; 7, 2009:</b> | Somerville High School Painting and Decorating class to PDCA Trade Show in Mount Snow, VT for the Annual Faux Panel Contest. Transportation via school van. Cost per student - \$60                              |
| <b>Nov. 8, 2009</b>          | Somerville High School Outdoor Activity Group to Mount Monadnock, NH as a pilot outing of the new Outdoors Activity Group, where they will be hiking. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$2 per student |
| <b>Nov. 20, 2009</b>         | Somerville High School Electrical Students to Warwick, RI for an informational workshop highlighting careers. Transportation via bus at no cost to students.   |
| <b>Nov. 20, 2009</b>         | Somerville High School Carpentry students to Warwick, RI for an information workshop highlighting careers. Transportation via bus at no cost to students.  |

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

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. There is no school on Friday, October 9. This is a Professional Development day for staff only.
2. Wednesday, October 14, is a half-day of school, including Somerville High School. Grades 9 and 12 will be dismissed early and grades 10 and 11 will stay to take the PSAT.

3. The Honk Festival will take place this weekend, beginning on Friday night in front of the East Branch Public Library. The Somerville High School band and world percussion ensemble will perform during this festival.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Thank you to all involved in the Family Fun Day at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park last Saturday. It was great, in spite of the rain.
2. On Saturday, October 10, the Suitcases for Kids drive will be held from 10:30-2:30 at the Capuano Center. This program collects new and gently worn backpacks, duffle bags and suitcases for children in foster care so that they do not need to use trash bags to transport their belongings.
3. Spoke about the SHS on the Road event coming up at the Argenziano School.
4. Informed audience members of English classes being offered at the Welcome Project, 16 Butler Drive, Somerville, on Thursdays from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Classes are free of charge.
5. Happy and safe long weekend!

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Announced the second annual Fireworks on the Mystic event taking place this Saturday at Assembly Square. For more information, visit the City's website or contact 311.
2. The first home game of the Somerville High School Football team is this coming Friday night at Dilboy Stadium
3. Issued congratulations to Somerville High School graduate, Gosder Cherilus, for his first NFL win with the Detroit Lions. Informed members and the audience that Gosder calls weekly to encourage current high school students and team members. He hasn't forgotten where he came from.
4. Announced the City's new Prescription Drug Discount Card. Somerville is the first city to offer this discount card in the state.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Invited parents and guardians of seventh and eighth graders, as well as others, to attend a Somerville High School Information Session on October 15, at the Argenziano School. The headmaster, students, and a housemaster will be on hand to give an overview of the high school and answer questions.
2. The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee will meet on October 14, at the Somerville High School Library at 7:00 p.m. The agenda includes College Readiness and the Brown School sixth grade.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Announced that there will be a screening of the documentary, "Children Left Behind" on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Somerville High School library. Representative Sciortino and Ms. Rossetti will co-host this event. After the screening, there will be a question and answer session.
2. Announced that the All America City celebration will take place on October 17 at the Arts in the Armory building on Highland Avenue. More information to come.
3. On Sunday, October 18, there will be an Oktoberfest Celebration in Teele Square from noon to 4:00 p.m., with entertainment and free samples of area restaurant food.

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street. On the agenda is the discussion of charging a fee for preschool.
2. There will be a Public Hearing on November 30, at 7:00 p.m. in the Somerville High School library.
3. Healey School parents, guardians and teachers will be meeting regarding Readiness Schools. There will be information and discussion sessions.

Discussion ensued relative to participation of the public at the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Cardoso reminded members that a decision was made at the last School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities, to not allow public comment at this meeting. The public may comment at the Public Hearing on November 30. Mr. Sweeting explained that there are various types of School Committee meetings. Subcommittee meetings are working meetings, in public. Public Hearings, similar to the Budget Hearing in the spring, are when important issues are discussed and the public is invited and encouraged to speak.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- *Edward Holmes, brother-in-law of Nancy Holmes, Early Childhood parent liaison*
- *Cosmo Lucreziano, father of Tony Lucreziano, custodian at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park and husband of Josephine Lucreziano, former kitchen worker at the Lincoln Park Community School*
- *Dorothy Burroso, sister of Gay Koty, School Nurse Supervisor*
- *Joan Elizabeth Stevens, sister of Sharon Staples, Counselor Educator at the Argenziano School*
- *Paul Colozzo, father of Robert Colozzo, retired teacher from Somerville High School*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, October 19, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman. Ms. Bastardi and Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Norton (7:27 p.m.), and Mayor Curtatone (8:07p.m.)

**Members absent:** Mr. Pero

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Bastardi asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 6 – Rossetti, Sweeting, Cardoso, Bockelman, Niedergang, Bastardi; Absent – 3 – Pero, Norton, Curtatone. Ms. Bastardi stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2009 Regular School Committee meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Molly Tyler reported on the following events at Somerville High School:

1. The PSAT test was given to all sophomores and juniors on Wednesday, October 14. Students reported feeling well-prepared for the test, thanks to an informational review session prior to the actual test.
2. Progress Reports have been sent home for all high school students
3. The Boys' Soccer Team was recently crowned Greater Boston League Champion.
4. This week is Homecoming week. A dance will be held on Saturday, October 24. Spirit week is all next week and the Homecoming Football game will be held on October 30.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

A. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee: Mr. Niedergang (Oct. 7)

Ms. Niedergang reported that the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met at 7:00 p.m. on October 7, at 181 Washington Street. Items discussed included:

1. Preschool Fees – discussion included a review of day care, child care and PK fees charged in other cities and in the private sector. Potential income from these fees was also discussed.
2. FY10 Expenditure Report – report on expenditures, thus far. Concern expressed over the expenditures for Special Education
3. Facilities Update – thorough, detailed report given by Mr. Pierantozzi
4. Staffing Plan – updated staffing plans were provided for insertion into the FY10 Budget Book
5. Surplus Textbooks – Somerville High School provided a detailed list of surplus books and sought permission to dispose of these books
6. Capital Projects – review of Capital Investment Plan – building-related and other projects highlighted by Mr. Pierantozzi

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, that the School Committee continue to consider potential PreK fees and that the Superintendent report back to the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee with information requested by the School Committee.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to dispose of surplus English textbooks.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the FY2009 Bill Rolls.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the FY Bill Rolls.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang announced that the next Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting will be held on November 4 and PreK fees and the Brown Sixth grade will be included on the agenda at this meeting.

Mr. Niedergang also announced that the State has already announced anticipated 9c budget cuts. Mayor Curtatone spoke about these anticipated cuts and added, "When the State sneezes, Somerville catches cold." Ms. Bastardi replied, "As long as we don't catch the swine flu!"

**B. *Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee*:** Mr. Sweeting (Oct. 14)

Mr. Sweeting reported that the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met at 7:00 p.m. on October 14, in the library at Somerville High School. Items discussed included:

1. College Readiness – Post Secondary Awareness and Planning
  - Ms. Carolyn Richard from the Guidance Department gave an in depth report on the various services offered around College Readiness.
2. Brown School Sixth Grade
  - Discussion took place regarding whether to make the Brown School a K-5 school or to keep it a K-6 school. No decisions were made. Further discussion is needed.
3. Approval of In-Service courses
  - Using Web 2.0 tools
  - Math – the Home School Connection

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the two inservice courses.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Personnel Report. Announced the retirements of Phil Trapani, Jack O'Keefe, Eileen Morsett, Mark Ferrera, and Phil Bassett. These employees served a total of 154 years, for an average of 31 years. These staff members will be sorely missed but are wished health and happiness.

Mr. Norton arrived at 7:27 p.m.

**B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Provided an update on the Afterschool program. Currently over 400 students are enrolled. Also reported on the Open House for the Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provided by Title I funds, which was held on Thursday, October 15. Approximately 30 parents/guardians attended the Open House. Tutoring and remediation is provided to students, free of charge, through this program. A brochure is being mailed to all elementary school families with program details. ACE-It programs are also beginning and will provide MCAS remediation before and after school, on Saturdays and during vacation weeks. All of these programs are monitored by the Community Schools programs.
2. Middlesex County District Attorney Gerald Leone and the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth's Executive Director Margie Daniels, whose office sponsored the Public Service Announcement addressing dating violence is now working with the Somerville Public Schools and the Somerville Police Department to provide trainings for high school students regarding dating violence. These trained students would then become resources to other students. The first training will be done on November 3, and the trainees will be mediators from Somerville High School and UN

Ambassadors chosen by the Chief of Police in Somerville, Anthony Holloway. This program will be a model for all of Middlesex County.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Reported that work on the Mystic Children's Zone is moving forward. Partnerships are being formed with the Mayor, Municipal Government, School Department, Mystic Housing Development, Tufts University, and Harvard University. This program will be modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone in New York. The goal of this program is to be able to coordinate multiple services in a targeted area in the hope of increasing student success. Stephanie Hirsch of SomerStat is overseeing this project. A meeting is being held on October 21, to develop initial steps, collect data and develop a work plan. Mr. Niedergang asked if this work has any impact on the Readiness School initiative and was told that one does not impact the other. Mr. Sweeting commented that this is a very exciting project. Requested that this topic be brought to the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee.
  - Provided an update on the Instructional Leadership Teams. Their second meeting is being held tomorrow, October 20, from 3:00-5:30 p.m. at the Somerville High School library. Reported on the Professional Development Day held on October 9. This was the first test of the ILT's and they passed with flying colors. Dr. McKay and other administrators visited the various Professional Development sites and were very impressed with what they observed.
  - The next Professional Development Day will be on Tuesday, November 3, which is Election Day.
  - Teachers have been receiving training on the SmartBoards. The latest training was held on Thursday, October 15 and staff report that these SmartBoards are a wonderful addition to their classrooms.
3. Mr. Pierantozzi, following up on Ms. Tyler's report on the administration of the PSAT to the sophomores and juniors at Somerville High School. Approximately 500 students took the test. Prior to the test being given, a universal preparation period was held. By all accounts, this event was wildly successful.
4. The Superintendent announced that the athletic season is well underway. He spoke about the three key aspects involved with athletics:
- Outstanding play
  - An emphasis on academics is of utmost importance. Truly these are student athletes
  - A strong emphasis on sportspersonship. Somerville won an award two years ago for outstanding sportspersonship.

The Superintendent issued his appreciation to the coaches, administrators, and athletes.

5. The Superintendent reported on the start of a new program. Dr. Hanif Butt, via the Board of Health and the school nurses, will be providing oral screenings to children in grade one. These visits will be followed by a visit by a mobile van that will have ten dental care stations and dental services will be provided to students whose parents cannot afford it, otherwise.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- First, Dr. Di Chiappari informed members that Dr. M. Hanif Butt, of the Somerville Dental Center, has graciously offered to visit all our first grade students within the next few weeks to provide instruction on proper dental care and hygiene, followed by a free screening. School Nurses are working with the school principals in determining the dates and times. Dr. Butt's office has also prepared goody bags which he will be giving to our first graders during the visit.
- Dr. Butt has agreed to be a resource for any dental questions and concerns and indicated he will work with students who have a financial need. Moreover, Dr. Butt will be bringing the MacVan to Somerville with up to 10 other dentists in the spring to provide direct dental services to identified students who otherwise were unable to get to the office. Of course, I will provide you with more information on this event once it becomes available.
- On October 8<sup>th</sup>, five Somerville staff members and Dr. Di Chiappari attended the Fall 2009 Cyber Prevention Conference sponsored by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office at the Nashoba Valley Technical High School in Westford. This conference discussed online activities which may lead to both social and legal difficulties for youth, including current trends in cell phone activities such as texting and sexting, and how these trends may have serious community and legal implications. Moreover, on



Monday, October 26th, Dr. Di Chiappari will be attending the 14th Annual School Safety Summit in Westford with 13 other school staff members. This summit, also sponsored by Middlesex District Attorney Gerard Leone in partnership with Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, will feature presentations and informative workshops which will explore the legal, criminal, and ethical implications of bullying, harassment, sexting and aggression and how these behaviors impact the schools and communities.

- The Somerville Public Health Department is making plans to use the schools as flu clinics. The Health Department is planning to visit each school for a two hour period in November to immunize children ages 9 and up with seasonal flu vaccine. Although this clinic is focused on children, the vaccine will also be made available to teachers and staff if supplies allow. The health department has a letter they will be sending home telling parents about the clinic and asking them to watch for permission forms. Nurses will not immunize any child without all the completed paperwork signed by the parent/guardian. On the day of the clinic, Somerville Health Department staff will go to the school and set up and carry out the clinic. School nurses will assist as time permits. The dates for the school based clinics have been scheduled as follows:
    - November 5- Winter Hill, 9-11am
    - Nov. 6, Healey School, 9-11am
    - Nov. 9, Argenziano, 10am-12noon
    - Nov. 10, Brown, 9-11am
    - Nov.12, West Somerville,11am-1pm
    - Nov. 13, Kennedy, 9-11am
    - Nov. 17, St. Catherine's, 9-11am
    - Nov. 19, Next Wave/FC, time TBD
    - ESCS and the high school dates and time is still to be Determined.
  - One of the items reviewed during the DESE coordinated program review was the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act. Dr. Di Chiappari is happy to report that, after review of our corrective action response on two items, the DESE notified us of our full compliance with the McKinney Vento Act. Dr. Di Chiappari believes the Superintendent has sent you a copy of the letter which the district received from the DESE. As part of the response, the district created a McKinney-Vento Resource Tri-fold Directory for homeless families providing information of some community resources, information of what homeless families need to know, with some Somerville Public Schools contact numbers. These tri-fold brochures, which you have received, are now available at the Parent Information Center and at all our schools for any homeless families.
6. The Superintendent announced that Open Houses in schools across the District have all been completed. If a parent or guardian was unable to attend the open house at their student's school, they should contact either their teacher or principal and make an appointment for an update.
7. The Superintendent gave a report on the District's response to the H1N1 Flu. The School Department is keeping up-to-date on the latest guidelines and recommendations. Dr. Di Chiappari is keeping up on all this, in conjunction with the Health Department. At this time, our attendance, system-wide is good, averaging 95% attendance. The latest guidelines are that anyone with a fever higher than 100.4 degrees, with flu-like symptoms should see their doctor and stay home from school. In general, it is taking four days for the flu to run its course. It is also recommended that students should wait 24 hours, after their fever has subsided, before returning to school. A flyer will be coming home in the next week or so detailing these guidelines.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- State revenues are far lower than anticipated. As a result, projects have been downgraded. There are no specifics on the cuts and information is expected within the next couple of weeks. The budget is being monitored closely. 15% of the budget is still available, taking into consideration funds have not yet been encumbered or expended.
- The Somerville Public Schools are looking into joining cooperatives for futures purchasing endeavors. Shore Collaborative and Education Cooperative (TEC) are both being investigated as possible cooperative collaborations. The Food Service Department also participates in a cooperative for purchasing.

The Superintendent deferred to Mr. Joseph Tringale, Director of Operations for his report regarding operational issues. Mr. Tringale's report included the following:

- The Pupil Financial Report of revenues and expenditures at the school level is almost completed. Once the School Department is finished, the report is sent to the Auditing Department for verification prior to submission to the State.
- The Education Personnel Information Management Systems (EPIMS) report of more than 31 data elements regarding staff assignment, school, course, highly qualified status, etc. is due on December 31, 2009. This report is completed in order to be in compliance with No Child Left Behind. Last year, Somerville had 98% of its teachers rated as highly qualified.
- Chapter 70 Funding

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:07 p.m.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. C. Deborah Connell, Director of Special Education for her report regarding special education issues. Ms. Connell's report included the following:

- Provided an update on steps being taken to ascertain whether or not more of our special needs students may be able to be educated in Somerville, rather than continuing to attend private placements outside of the City. When students go to school outside of their hometown, they lose the sense of community that comes with going to school within the District. Mary Di Guardia and Martin Kennedy are working with Ms. Connell on this project. Ms. Connell will report back in a few weeks with their findings. It is worth noting that this, too, is considered inclusion. Having students attend school where they live, instead of having them attend out of District, is inclusion. Mr. Niedergang thanked Ms. Connell for the update. A question was raised as to whether space was available in District. There is space; however, it is important to note that these programs would not necessarily be placed at the Kennedy School. A system-wide space determination would be done prior to determining placement.
8. Mr. Pierantozzi informed members of an outstanding partnership between the American Cancer Society and the Cosmetology and Health Careers students at Somerville High School. "Look Good, Feel Better" is a program where students help individuals with cancer look good, improve their self-esteem, and manage their treatment and recovery with greater confidence. We are extremely proud to be involved with such a wonderful program.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. MSBA Statements of Interest**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, through Mr. Gerry Boyle, the City of Somerville will be submitting Statements of Interest (SOI's) regarding the Brown, Winter Hill and Somerville High School. The School Committee and Board of Aldermen must vote on resolutions for submission for each school. One of these schools should be made first priority. This item will be put on the agenda for the Long Range Planning meeting on October 26.

### **B. MASC**

Ms. Rossetti reported on the October 14 MASC Advocacy Meeting. Her notes from this meeting were sent to members. She asked that members please review. Ms. Rossetti also announced that at the Annual MASC/MASS Conference in November, there will be a day-long workshop for PTA and School Council members on empowering parents.

### **C. Field Trip (Recommended Action – Approval)**

**Nov. 21-22, 2009:**

Somerville High School Junior Statesmen Club to Sheraton Ferncroft, Danvers to participate in the JSA Convention/Debate weekend. Transportation via parent auto/carpool with a total cost, including lodging, of \$100 per student.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved by a voice vote.

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Bastardi shared a thank you note from Ms. Stacie Dinarello expressing gratitude at the remembrance of her late mother at a recent School Committee meeting.

## **VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Mr. Niedergang**

1. The Kennedy School PTA will be holding their dinner/auction fundraiser on Friday, October 23, from 7-11:00 p.m. There will be a buffet dinner and a silent auction. Contact the Kennedy School for more information.
2. On Thursday, there will be literacy training for volunteers – particularly for volunteers who will assist with tutoring in reading. Please RSVP to Jennifer Capuano, the Volunteer Coordinator, at 617-625-6600, extension 6023.
3. Mr. Niedergang extended his gratitude to members of his synagogue who have taken an active part in tutoring students at the Healey School once a week.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Announced that there will be a Rules Management Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m. On the agenda is the revision of policies that have been previously tabled.

### **Ms. Cardoso**

1. Reported on the Somerville High School on the Road event at the Argenziano School. Mr. Sweeting will elaborate more in his report, but it was a wonderful event.
2. Congratulated Mayor Curtatone on the All America City event held on Saturday, October 17.
3. Announced that the CAAS Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, October 29, at 6:00 p.m. at the Somerville City Club.
4. Halloween is Saturday, October 31. Requested that steps be taken to insure safety across the City. A memo to the Department of Public Works and the Auxiliary Police will be sent requesting their assistance with this matter.

### **Mayor Curtatone**

1. Reported on the All America City event. Great to show our Somerville Pride. Issued his thanks to the sponsors and volunteers, and, especially to Ms. Jackie Rossetti for organizing the whole event.
2. Announced that he will be interviewed on *CBS this Morning* on Sunday, October 25 regarding Shape Up Somerville and the City's overall wellness  
Ms. Bastardi commented that the All America City Event was a wonderful time and the Armory looks beautiful.

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported on the Somerville High School on the Road event that was recently held at the Argenziano School. It was a wonderful event. Mr. Ciccariello did a great job of presenting information about Somerville High School. There were also current students and parents/guardians on hand to answer questions from the audience. The students are, by far, the best ambassadors we have.
2. Reported that he had the opportunity to join Ms. Mary Jo McLarney, the Director of Food Services, for a tour of her department. He met Ms. McLarney at 6:00 a.m. at the Winter Hill Community School and was shown what is involved in getting food to all of our students across the District. This is a tremendous amount of work, but it is done with much spirit. Thank you to Ms. McLarney. Mr. Sweeting enjoyed the tour and learned much from this tour.

### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. Thanked Representative Sciortino for his sponsorship of the screening of the documentary, "Children Left Behind" on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Somerville High School library. Also in attendance were Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Pierantozzi and 30-35 audience members. After the viewing, there was healthy dialogue among the audience members and officials. Reminded members that Mr. Sciortino has sponsored House Bill 561 – the MCAS Reform Bill at the State level.
2. Announced that there will be a Spelling Bee held on Friday, November 6, at the Dante Club. This year's event will benefit the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- *Pearl Weinstein, mother of Mary Jane Weinstein, former Assistant Director of Special Education*
- *Louis Bassett, son of Helen Bassett, retired teacher from the Somerville Public Schools*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, November 2, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Norton, Mr. Pero, and Mayor Curtatone (7:15 p.m.)

**Members absent:** none

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Bastardi asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 6 – Rossetti, Sweeting, Cardoso, Bockelman, Niedergang, Bastardi; Absent – 3 – Pero, Norton, Curtatone. Ms. Bastardi stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Norton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2009 Regular School Committee meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Molly Tyler was not at this evening's meeting due to a prior school commitment.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**C. Rules Management:** Mr. Bockelman (Oct. 20)

Mr. Bockelman reported that the Rules Management Subcommittee met at 7:00 p.m. on October 20, at 181 Washington Street. In attendance were Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Cardoso and Dr. Di Chiappari. The committee reviewed many previously tabled items and have brought forth 16 policies for action this evening.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to strike File: JICI – Weapons in Schools – from the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman explained that the issue of weapons in schools is governed by Massachusetts General Law; therefore, this policy is not necessary. Mr. Bockelman also informed members that the other policies discussed at subcommittee will be brought up under New Business a bit later in the meeting.

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi announced the retirement of Susan Orsini, effective January 19, 2010, after 15 years. Ms. Orsini is wished health and happiness upon her retirement.

**B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Announced that, tomorrow, November 3, 2009, is Election Day. Elections will also be held on December 8, and January 19, for the State Senatorial race. Tomorrow is also a Professional Development Day in the District. There is no school for students. A Connect Ed message was sent earlier today reminding parents/guardians.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Reported on the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Meeting today which was held at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.
  - Reported that tomorrow is a big day for the Curriculum Department. It is the second of the full-day Professional Development days. Planning for tomorrow has been ongoing for several months. Professional Development is organized differently this year. Workshops are not necessarily the best format. This year, PD is school based and centered on research based data and collaboration. The focus is more on teamwork. Dr. McKay will email the schedule of events to School Committee members for their information.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that on October 27, 2009, the District was notified by the United States Department of Agriculture that three of our schools received awards for excellence in food service and physical activity programming. The Argenziano School received a gold medal and the Healey and West Somerville Neighborhood Schools each received a bronze medal. Mr. Pierantozzi explained the District's Health initiatives, which include celebrating without food. Suggestions for rewards and incentives include pencils, a craft project or non-candy snacks such as pretzels.
  3. The Superintendent announced that Emergency Closure procedures have all been updated and the District is ready for the upcoming winter. The same procedures will be followed as last year. A Connect Ed phone call will be sent to all staff, students, parents and guardians as soon as a decision relative to school closing is made.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual School Safety Summit** - On Monday, October 26, 12 Somerville staff members, the Superintendent, and I attended the 14<sup>th</sup> annual school safety summit at Nashoba Valley Technical High School. Following introductory remarks by Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone, Rosalind Wiseman, an internationally recognized expert on teens, bullying, social justice and ethical leadership, delivered a keynote address about anti-bullying and violence prevention. Although Ms. Wiseman has written several books highlighting the dynamic of teenage female behavior, including bullying, gossip and exclusion, her message relates to both genders. She promotes a safe and supportive school climate where every individual accepts responsibility for their own behavior.

The afternoon presentation then explored the legal, criminal and ethical implications of bullying, harassment, sexting and aggression. Well know and highly respected Attorney Catherine Lyons gave guidance about how these behaviors impact schools and communities, including how to protect against liability issues.

**PIC Enrollment Report** - I've provided you with a student enrollment activity report produced by the Parent Information Center. This report contains information regarding all the student enrollment activity since last January with kindergarten enrollment. To summarize a few key points, the PIC processed a total of 961 new student registrations since January 2009, with 832 of those students actually attending Somerville Schools. 869 students were registered for Pre-Kindergarten – grade 8, with 751 actually attending in September. 92 students were registered for the high school with 81 actually attending. From June to September, 2009, the PIC recorded 151 out of district transfers, 97 from K-8 and 54 for SHS. The kindergarten enrollment data shows that 93% of kindergarten children were assigned to their first choice school, while 7% were assigned to the second choice. 46% of kindergarten children are enrolled in their proximity school while 54% were not. Looking at the languages spoken, we see that, other than English, Spanish and Portuguese continue to be the primary languages spoken at home. Approx. half of the newly enrolled students speak a language other than English at home.

The PIC enrollment data since 2007 suggests the following:

- Although the number of new student registering for pre-k remains constant, we see an increase in the number of students registering for kindergarten and grades 1-8 while seeing a registration decrease at SHS.
- There is no significant change since 2007 in the number of out of district transfer requests.
- We see a bit more children registering for Pre-K to grade 8 being enrolled in general education.
- More parents appear to be choosing schools outside their proximity school area. Fewer children are enrolling in their proximity school while more than 93% of parents receive their first school choice.
- The number of students placed on waitlists remains about the same by the end of each September, about 50 students.
- The number of intra-district transfer requests was down from the last school year, from 292 requests in 2008 to 264 in 2009.

**Volunteer Training** - A free training for volunteers interested in literacy tutoring was held Thursday, October 22 at the Kennedy School. Seventeen (17) volunteers attended the 3-hour interactive training. Attendees learned ways to motivate early readers, strategies for getting to know their student, ways to improve literacy acquisition, and resources and tools for supporting English Language Learners. The training tape will be made available to future volunteer literacy tutors. Training manuals are available for purchase through Somerville Public Schools.

We wish to thank Sheera Sadjia and the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy for providing the training. We'd also like to extend appreciation to George Wood's film crew Lenny Scolletta and Hans Elmidor for taping, and Neil Grasso at the Kennedy for his help. Anyone wishing to learn about volunteer opportunities with Somerville Public Schools should contact Volunteer Coordinator Jen Capuano at 617-625-6600 x6023. Now in addition to receiving volunteers to assist in the school department, many times school department students and staff also volunteer their services to help other organizations. For example, every Friday evening, a group of Full Circle and Next Wave students head over to a homeless shelter in Cambridge to prepare, cook, serve a meal, and clean up for the residents of the shelter. So far we have had a total of 17 students volunteer for this community service. This is a great thing for our students to be doing in that it helps them feel good about doing something positive in the community and increases their own self esteem. Our students also benefit from the culinary arts experience of food prep and running a kitchen with hands on experience. I would like to thank CASPAR worker, Tommy Ward, and David Aronofsky, FC/NW Teacher Counselor, who have been taking the students over to the shelter every Friday. It has been a great experience for all involved and I would like to thank all the students and staff involved with this community service.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:15 p.m.

4. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the website upgrade continues and that School Committee policies through Section I will be posted to the website by tomorrow. The Superintendent extended his thanks to Steven Normandin, Gretchen Kinder and Patti Marques for their work on getting these policies online.

Chairman Bastardi announced that item 6B would be taken out of order. Mr. Pierantozzi presented this item to the Committee:

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. MSBA Statement of Interest**

Massachusetts School Building Authority Statements of Interest for non-emergency renovations to Somerville Public School Buildings.

- Winter Hill Community School
- Somerville High School
- Brown School
- MSBA Statements of Interest Priority

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, every year, the Massachusetts School Building Authority entertains requests from School Districts of Statements of Interest (SOI's) for potential building projects in their Districts. This year, SOI's for three of Somerville's schools are being submitted. Mr. Pierantozzi went on to explain that, originally, it was believed that one of these three schools would need to be chosen as a priority, prior to SOI submission. After consultation with staff at the MSBA, it was determined that since the East Somerville Community School is currently on the MSBA's list of schools in need of renovation, due to the emergency situation caused by the fire in December 2007, it is Somerville's priority school, at this time. The following three schools will have SOI's submitted to place them on a very long list of schools across the state. It should be noted that submission of these SOI's does not guarantee that these schools will be selected for renovation – it merely places them on a list for consideration in the future. In order to submit these SOI's, it is necessary for the School Committee to vote on each one individually. The Superintendent read the full resolution for the Winter Hill Community School, followed by Somerville High School and the Benjamin G. Brown School and votes were taken, individually, as follows:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on November 2, 2009, the School Committee of Somerville, Mass., in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest

dated November 13, 2009, for the **Winter Hill Community School**, located at 115 Sycamore Street, Somerville, MA 02145, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which Somerville may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future relative to structural, roofing, building envelope issues that potentially jeopardize the health and safety of the school children and staff , and hereby further acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Somerville to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

MOTION: Motion made by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the Statement of Interest for the Winter Hill Community School:

This motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on November 2, 2009, the School Committee of Somerville, Mass., in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated November 13, 2009, for **Somerville High School**, located at 81 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which Somerville may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future relative to electrical, roofing, finishes, building envelope, and accessibility issues that potentially jeopardize the health and safety of the school children and staff , and hereby further acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Somerville to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

MOTION: Motion made by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the Statement of Interest for Somerville High School:

This motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Rossetti announced that discussion had taken place at the Long Range Planning Meeting regarding the possible inclusion of the Next Wave/Full Circle School with Somerville High School regarding possible updates and renovations.

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on November 2, 2009, the School Committee of Somerville, Mass., in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated November 13, 2009, for the **Benjamin G. Brown School**, located at 201 Willow Avenue, Somerville, MA 02144, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which Somerville may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future relative to structural, electrical, ventilation, roofing, building envelope, and accessibility issues that potentially jeopardize the health and safety of the school children and staff , and hereby further acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Somerville to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

MOTION: Motion made by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the Statement of Interest for the Benjamin G. Brown School:

This motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Governor Patrick announced last Friday that there would be additional 9C cuts across the State. At this time, Chapter 70 Funds are safe. These cuts will have a minimal impact on



Somerville, at this time. Ms. Durette reported the Circuit Breaker funds, Charter School reimbursement, and Early Education and Care funding.

Ms. Durette announced that the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Somerville High School Library.

5. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that out of 1,350 applicants, Somerville High School currently has two students who are finalists for a scholarship from the Posse Foundation. This is a noteworthy achievement and he wished the two students good luck. Thanks were extended to the staff and students for their work on this endeavor. Mr. Pierantozzi will report the final determination back to the School Committee at a later date.
6. The Superintendent reported that, in conjunction with District Attorney, Gerald Leone's office, letters are being sent home regarding truancy, attendance, and punctuality. Mr. Pierantozzi extended his thanks to the District Attorney and his staff for partnering with the Somerville Public Schools on this endeavor.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

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

The following policies were presented by Mr. Bockelman for First Reading *for Adoption*:

File: IHBA (KIA) – Observation of Special Education Classrooms

File: JBA – Harassment of Students

File: JBAA – Levels of Intervention for Sexual Harassment, Dating Violence and Sexual Assault

File: JIAB – Rights of Eighteen Year Old Students

File: JIC-R – Student Conduct – Special Needs Students

File: JICG – Tobacco Use by Students

File: JIHA – Locker, Desk, Etc. Searches

File: JJ-E – Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities

The following policies were presented by Mr. Bockelman for First Reading, *as revised*:

File: IKF – Graduation Requirements

File: JCA-E1 – Assignment of Students to Schools – Non Residents

File: JH – Student Absences and Excuses

File: JIAA – Student Mutual Respect

File: JIB – Student Involvement in Decision-Making

File: JJA – Student Organizations

File: JJF-R – Student Account Agency Accounts

### **2. Dola Award**

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that Mr. Charles LaFauci and the Library and Media department have received the DOLA award from Home, Inc., in recognition of an outstanding and innovative approach to teaching with media literacy. Congratulations to Mr. LaFauci and his staff on this award.

### **3. Acceptance of Donation**

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Home, Inc., for the Dola award presented on October 24, 2009.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to accept, with gratitude, the donation of \$1,000 for the Dola award.

The motion was passed by voice vote.

## **VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Bastardi shared a thank you note from the Collozzo Family expressing gratitude at the remembrance of her late father at a recent School Committee meeting.

## **IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. Please support the PTA's of the city. There will be a Spelling Bee held on Friday, November 6, at the Dante Club. This year's event will benefit the West Somerville Neighborhood School. Ms.

Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, and Mr. Sweeting will do their best to bring the trophy back to the School Committee.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported on his attendance at the Kennedy School Dinner on October 23. This was a great event. The organizers of the event should be very proud of the great job they did.
2. Announced that the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee will meet on Monday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street. Included on the agenda will be a review of MCAS data and the Sister City visit to Tiznit, Morocco.
3. Announced that at the Long Range Planning Meeting on November 23, discussion will take place regarding the Foreign Language Initiative. Since the District was not awarded a grant to fund this initiative, the topic will go back to the Long Range Committee for further discussion.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Reported that Officer Jim McNally, who served as a Community Police Officer to the Lincoln Park and Argenziano Schools since 1993, is no longer working as a Community Officer. He has transferred to the Gang Unit of the Somerville Police Department. Officer McNally has been there for three principals and hundreds of students through the years. Ms. Cardoso requested a resolution be produced for Officer McNally and that he be invited to a future meeting to receive the resolution. Ms. Cardoso will invite Officer McNally and inform the secretary of the date that he will attend.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Announced that the Vocational Fair is this Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
2. Scholastic Aptitude Tests will be given on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Somerville High School.
3. Wednesday, November 11 is Veteran's Day.
4. The Somerville Community Corporation will hold its Annual Dinner on November 13.
5. The next Rules Management Subcommittee will be on Tuesday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street.
6. Reported on the tremendous turnout at the Annual CAAS Dinner held at the Somerville City Club. Over 140 people attended the meeting (80 were expected). It was a great event with wonderful food, music, prizes and a sense of renewed energy. Ms. Cardoso described the event as feeling like "a warm hug".
7. Homecoming was last week and encompassed a variety of events at Somerville High School, including a dance, Spirit Day and the Homecoming Football game.
8. Seniors at Somerville High School dressed in costume last Friday, which was the day before Halloween. This was a fun event for the students with lots of great costumes.
9. Reported on the Homecoming Football game and announced the Homecoming King and Queen and their court which included Daniela Soto as queen and Jonathan Tsigotis. Congratulations to Tony Ciccariello and Karen Woods for a great event.

**Ms. Bastardi**

1. Reminded the audience that tomorrow is Election Day. Also, if people used to vote at the East Somerville Community School, the new polling place is at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, November 4, at the Somerville High School Library. Members have been given a purple packet of information for this meeting. The agenda includes the four options regarding the Brown School Grade 6, the timeline for the Board of Aldermen, the Maguire Group Report as well as the FY10 Expenditure report and bill rolls.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, November 16, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti, and Mr. Pero

**Members absent:** Mr. Norton, Mayor Curtatone  
Mayor Curtatone is at a Community Meeting this evening.  
Mr. Norton is absent due to a broken ankle.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Bastardi asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Rossetti, Sweeting, Cardoso, Bockelman, Niedergang, Pero, Bastardi; Absent – 2–Norton, Curtatone. Ms. Bastardi stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Ms. Cardoso took the podium and spoke about Officer James McNally, who was honored at this evening's meeting for his work in Ward Two, as a Community Police Officer. Officer McNally has given much of himself to the people of Ward Two and, particularly, to the students of the Lincoln Park area. The text of the resolution that was presented to him can be found at the end of these minutes. Office McNally was honored and touched by this award and thanked all present. A brief recess was taken from 7:15 – 7:28 p.m., for congratulations and photos.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2009, Regular School Committee meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Molly Tyler was not at this evening's meeting due to a prior school commitment.

**V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. ***School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:*** Ms. Bastardi (Oct. 26)  
Ms. Bastardi reported on the School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning, which was held in the conference room at 181 Washington Street. Members in attendance were: Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Rossetti. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Topics discussed included:

1. MSBA Statement of Interest for non-emergency renovations to school buildings
2. Afterschool goal – measuring progress in FY10
3. District Improvement Plan –two year update
4. Readiness Schools update
5. Early Childhood Program – Potential Cuts

There were no motions made at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

- B. ***Special Meeting for Executive Session:*** Ms. Bastardi (Nov. 2)

Ms. Bastardi gave a brief report on an Executive Session meeting that took place on November 2, 2009. One motion came out of this meeting:

MOTION: To approve the amendment to the contract of employment between the Somerville School Committee and C. Deborah Connell.

This motion was approved unanimously in Executive Session.

C. ***Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:*** Mr. Niedergang (Nov. 4)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Finance and Facilities subcommittee that was held in the conference room at 181 Washington Street. Topics discussed included:

1. Preschool fees
2. Brown School Grade Six
  - A. Four potential options were discussed regarding the Brown School
    1. Two strands of Grade 6 with no computer lab
    2. One sixth grade to the Kennedy School
    3. Relocate the sixth grades to Kennedy or West Somerville
    4. Eliminate the sixth grade altogether and relocate the students across the District

The moving of Grade 6 at the Brown School

3. Brown School Facilities Update
4. BOA request: Timeline for Analysis of Brown School Closing
5. FY2010 Expenditure report
6. FY2010 Bill roll

The following motions came out of this subcommittee meeting:

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to maintain the Brown School as a K-6 school for the immediate future.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 5 – Rossetti, Sweeting, Cardoso, Bockelman, and Niedergang, NO – 2 – Bastardi and Pero, and ABSENT – 2 – Norton and Curtatone.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to change the timeline for decision on Preschool fees to December 31, 2009

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the Three Year Contract with Errico Studios

The motion was approved by voice vote on a roll call vote of YES – 6 – Rossetti, Pero, Sweeting, Cardoso, Bockelman, and Bastardi, NO -1- Niedergang, and ABSENT - 2 – Norton and Curtatone.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the FY2009 bill rolls

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the FY2010 bill rolls

The motion was approved by voice vote.

D. ***Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Mr. Sweeting (Nov. 9)

1. Somerville High School Program of Studies
2. Sister City Tour, Tiznit, Morocco Presentation
3. Review of MCAS Data
4. Dropout Prevention Recovery Update
5. Inservice Course Approval

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve changes to the High School Program of Studies.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve one in-service course: Using Functional Behavioral Assessments to Design

The motion was approved by voice vote.

E. **Personnel Subcommittee:** Mr. Sweeting (Nov. 12)

1. Update on Current Searches
2. Update on FY 10 Retirement Notices submitted to date
3. SHS Department Heads for Math and Social Studies
4. Addition of part-time Utility Aides at the Argenziano School
5. Update on Diversity Initiatives
6. Superintendent's Evaluation – Review of Process
7. Job Description – Nutrition Outreach Coordinator – Grant Funded

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to approve the addition of two part-time Utility Aides at the Argenziano School.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the job description for the Nutrition Outreach Coordinator.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi announced the transactions listed on this week's Personnel report were none that had a budgetary impact on the District. The report was received and placed on file.

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Announced that 9C cuts to Early Childhood will be 2%, not the 15% that was expected, which is great news and should cause only minimal impact across the District.
2. Reported on a meeting that he and other City representatives attended at the Massachusetts School Building Authority regarding the East Somerville Community School. It's getting closer to being finalized. It is a long, drawn-out process, but the East Somerville is the MSBA's first school to be classified as an emergency and they are being very careful with how the process develops. Discussion took place regarding Advisory Board meetings and the feelings of some of the East Somerville Community and the sense that they may feel they are being forgotten. This is not the case. Steps are being taken to ensure that we get the best school we can in East Somerville. Unfortunately, it's a long process.
3. Announced that on November 30, there will be a Public Hearing regarding the possibility of charging fees for preschool in the Somerville Public Schools. Advertising will take place in the various media outlets.
4. Announced that Gerry Boyle submitted the three Statements of Interest that the School Committee approved on November 2, and they have been accepted and added to the rather long list of schools to be considered for renovations.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Reported the second of the full-day Professional Development days held on November 4. Planning for tomorrow has been ongoing for several months. PD was school based and centered on research based data and collaboration. Consultants from Focus on Results – Trina Abbott and Joe Palumbo – have helped schools create a school-wide instruction focus. ILT's provide guidance to staff. The goal is to make it work day to day. A formal report will be made to the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee sometime in December or January.
- Provided an update on the Mystic Children's Zone. Collaborating with the Mayor's office to provide a pipeline of services to students from the Mystic area. In the last two weeks, the project has really taken off. Stephanie Hirsh is leading the group. Mr. Sweeting asked if the program encompasses all of the Mystic area residents or only those attending the Healey School. Dr. McKay replied that the services are for all Mystic residents—not only those at Healey. It is District-wide. Not timeframe is in place as of yet.

5. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Vocational Fair that was held at Somerville High School on Saturday, November 7. The fair showcased work-related skills and projects of our vocational students. These students not only have great success in their vocational area, but 75% of them attend a post-secondary program and 100% pass the MCAS. Thank you to students, staff and parents/guardians.
6. The Superintendent gave an update on the possible move of the Central Office to 42 Cross Street. On November 12, Mr. Pierantozzi, Mr. Tringale, and Mr. Boyle met with the architects to discuss the move. We have been assured that we will fit without an addition being needed. It will take some time and work. In the end, the hope is that we will have a more professional setting for our Central Office. It will take a short-term expenditure to provide long-term savings.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

**Table-Top Safety Exercise** - Last Thursday, Mary Ripley, Gretchen Kinder, and I participated in the first of a series of table top school safety exercises at the Public Safety Building. The purpose of this activity focused on communication between police, fire, schools, other first emergency responders, parents, the community, and others if an emergency occurred at one of our schools. I would like to thank Somerville Police Chief Holloway for leading this activity.

**H1N1 Updates** - As the HINI flu virus circulates throughout our communities, we continue to work closely with the Department of Public Health, which includes school nurses regarding the HINI influenza/ We are actively taking steps to stop the spread of the virus by screening all students for flu-like symptoms to make sure students are well enough to be in school. Some of these steps include:

- Students who develop or present with flu like symptoms while in school are sent to the school nurse office for assessment, including the assessment for presence of a fever above 100.4 degrees
- If a child comes to school sick, or becomes ill while in school he/she will be sent home, after being screened by the school nurse as noted above. Since the spring time, parents have been reminded on a number of occasions that they should not send their child to school if their child is not feeling well.
- Ongoing enforcement of existing policy that states that sick students must stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever without the use of any fever-reducing medicines.
- Schools continue to emphasize the importance of hand washing and coughing etiquette in preventing the spread of diseases with students and staff. Over the course of the summer, additional wall mounted hand sanitizer dispensers were installed in key central locations throughout the schools to further encourage hand cleaning activities. Students from the Somerville High School Health Careers Program have conducted in class instructions on proper hand washing techniques and created educational materials to reinforce these lessons.
- We are carefully monitoring absenteeism daily in both students and staff by school and grade. During the past two weeks, we have seen a slight drop in the student attendance rate in school. During this time, our average district attendance rate has been at about 93% with attendance fluctuating daily at each school and grade. Today's attendance was at 92.28%. While many parents are disclosing the symptoms that have lead them to keep their children home from school, the school nurses will follow up with the parents if the child is absent to better understand his/her symptoms.
- Though the delivery of both types of vaccine has been complicated by being unpredictable and slow, the Health Department has recently been able to offer School-based flu clinics at our schools for students aged 9 and above, providing an opportunity for vaccinations for both H1N1 and Seasonal Influenza. The flu-clinics have already taken place at the Winter Hill, Healey, Argenziano, Brown, West Somerville, and Kennedy Schools. Flu clinics operated today at the high school with a second day scheduled for tomorrow. The Next Wave/Full Circle and East Somerville School at Edgerly is planned for November 19 while the East Somerville School at Cummings has their flu clinic on scheduled for November 24.

The most up to date information on influenza is provided at the Somerville Public School website via the City of Somerville home page "Influenza Update" alert link in an effort to provide parents and other Somerville residents with consistent sources of the most up to date information linking directly to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control. Finally, any parent/guardian needing more information on HINI may go to the school or city website which has links to the Mass Department of Public Health and Centers of Disease Control and prevention for the latest information.

Ms. Rossetti asked if any of the Central Office Administrators were aware of a financial cut regarding the School Nurse grant. Ms. Rossetti read about this in the Boston Sunday Globe and was upset that she had heard nothing about this cut. Naturally, she is concerned about what effect this may have on our school nurses. Nobody from Central Office was aware of this grant being cut. Mr. Pierantozzi will follow up first thing in the morning with the director of the Board of Health.

Mr. Bockelman inquired about student attendance and whether or not schools would close if poor attendance were an issue, due to the flu. The Superintendent replied that, according to the latest Department of Public Health guidelines, schools would not close as long as there was adequate staff for health, safety and adequate instruction. Only catastrophic numbers would cause schools to be closed.

Ms. Cardoso asked if sick children, when sent to the nurse, would remain in the health room, or designated sick area, and not be returned to class. She was assured that, provided the student was found to be legitimately ill, the student would remain isolated until he/she could be taken home.

7. Mr. Pierantozzi commented on the outcomes of a couple of high school sports teams. Congratulations to the football team for beating Cambridge and, although our boys' soccer team lost in the playoffs, congratulations for a great season! Mr. Pierantozzi also commended all of our sports teams for showing great team sportsmanship during the season.
8. The Superintendent announced that for the Somerville High School Class of 2010, 24% of the graduating class was awarded John and Abigail Adams Scholarships for outstanding performance on the MCAS examinations.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

Briefly reviewed the Budget Timeline for the FY11 Budget process. Ms. Durette is shifting the timeline this year by meeting with principals and administrators earlier in the year to help to develop the Capital Improvement plan. In January, when more may be known about the FY11 Fiscal situation, more work will be done in following with the timeline.

The Superintendent deferred to Mr. Joseph Tringale, Director of Operations for his report regarding technology. Mr. Tringale's report included the following:

This has been a busy time for the technology department. Mr. Tringale reported that in November, 405 work orders were submitted and, as of now, 390 have been completed. In October, 532 work orders were submitted and completed. Mr. Tringale also reported on the NComputing software which was deployed at Next Wave/Full Circle and the East Somerville Community Schools that allows sharing of work stations by four students at a time. It has been extremely successful and there may be expansion of this program to other schools, as well, in the future.

Mr. Tringale also reported on the MAP testing for grades 2-8, the conversion of all MEC mail accounts to K-12 accounts, and the tremendous success of the Print Management system. A reduction of approximately 2000 pages of print per day has been reported, system-wide. The SIMS report and the End of Year – FY09 report have been submitted to the DESE. Dr. Di Chiappari will provide a full report when the review of all programs is complete.

9. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Coordinated Program Review. Eight federally funded programs were reviewed—Special Education, English Language Education, Civil Rights, Vocational Education, Homeless, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Food Services and Title One. Evaluation of four of these areas is completed—Homeless, Food Service, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Title One. The Superintendent and staff is meeting with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to present a factual challenge on the other four programs.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ms. Cardoso assumed the role of chair

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

The following policies are being presented for Second Reading ***for Adoption***:

File: IHBA (KIA) – Observation of Special Education Classrooms

File: JBA – Harassment of Students

File: JBAA – Levels of Intervention for Sexual Harassment, Dating Violence and Sexual Assault

File: JIAB – Rights of Eighteen Year Old Students  
File: JIC-R – Student Conduct – Special Needs Students  
File: JICG – Tobacco Use by Students  
File: JIHA – Locker, Desk, Etc. Searches  
File: JJ-E – Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities

Discussion took place regarding File: JIHA – Locker, Desk, etc. Searches. Mr. Niedergang would like this policy referred back to Rules Management for further discussion. Mr. Niedergang has concerns regarding some of the language in this policy.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to adopt all policies presented, with the exception of File: JIHA – Locker, Desk, Etc. Searches, which is referred back to the Rules Subcommittee for further discussion.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

The following policies are being presented for Second Reading, ***as revised***:

File: IKF – Graduation Requirements  
File: JCA-E1 – Assignment of Students to Schools – Non Residents  
File: JH – Student Absences and Excuses  
File: JIAA – Student Mutual Respect  
File: JIB – Student Involvement in Decision-Making  
File: JJA – Student Organizations  
File: JJF-R – Student Account Agency Accounts

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to approve all policies presented, as revised.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. 2010-2010 DRAFT School Calendar**

Mr. Pierantozzi presented a DRAFT 2010-2011 School Calendar for the School Committee's consideration. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not school should begin before or after Labor Day. Concerns were expressed that the School Committee had started school before Labor Day in the 2009-2010 school year and whether or not that practice should be continued. A second DRAFT 2010-2011 School Calendar, with school starting prior to Labor Day will be presented at the next meeting for consideration.

### **B. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)**

**Dec. 14, 2009:** Somerville High School Culinary Arts and Cosmetology students to Johnson & Wales University for Senior Professional Pursuit tour. Transportation via bus at no cost to students.

Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **C. Acceptance of Donations (Recommended Action: Approval)**

#### **1. Pearl Drum Set**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of a Pearl Drum Set, donated by Ms. Sharon Rotondo. Estimated value is \$200.00

#### **2. Violin**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of a violin, donated by Ms. Liane Curtis. Estimated value to be determined.

#### **3. Violin**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of a violin, donated by Ms. Sarah Wentworth. Estimated value is \$100.00.



Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to gratefully accept the donations of musical instruments.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

4. **Donation from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of \$64.99, from Ohiopyle Prints.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to gratefully accept the donation from Ohiopyle Prints.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Happy Thanksgiving to all.
2. This year's football game on Thanksgiving morning will be at home vs. Matignon High School
3. On Saturday, November 28, the Track PAC will host its annual craft fair in the field house at Somerville High School

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported that the Ward 3 ResiStat meeting tomorrow, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall
2. A SomerVision meeting will be held at the Argenziano School on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Bockelman will hold a Parent Informational meeting at Bread and Circus from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 21.
4. Announced the development of a Middle Grades Newsletter

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Thanked School Committee representatives at the Spelling Bee (Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rossetti) for a great job.
2. Thanked all involved with the Vocational Fair and Breakfast
3. Congratulated all on the wonderful Veterans' Day Ceremony. Wished more people were in attendance to remember our veterans.
4. Announced that Ms. Rossetti would be representing the School Committee at the annual MASC/MASS conference. Mr. Pierantozzi will also be in attendance.
5. Congratulated Office McNally again and announced that on December 1, there will be a McNally Rally at the Argenziano School
6. Wished everyone a Happy, Peaceful, and Joyful Thanksgiving

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Brown School PTA is tomorrow, November 17, at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Rules Management Subcommittee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on November 17 at 181 Washington Street.
3. There will be a Green Line meeting on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at Somerville High School
4. There will be a PTA Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday
5. Congratulated all involved with the Vocational Fair
6. Congratulated the Girls' Soccer team for an outstanding season with the most wins recorded for the team.
7. Congratulated the Boys' Soccer team on an outstanding season and for making it to the Division I North semifinals
8. The Guidance Department will host a Freshman College Experience Panel on Wednesday, November 25, at the high school
9. The Track PAC will host its Craft Fair on Saturday, November 28.

**Mr. Pero**

1. Thanked all of our veterans for their service.

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Reported on his attendance at the Veterans' Day ceremony and spoke about Congressman Capuano's great speech. Reported that it is important to honor those who serve in the military, even if we oppose the war. It is important to be patriotic and support our soldiers.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- *John MacInnes, son of Gloria MacInnes, Food Services*
- *Barbara Coveney, mother of Brian Coveney, Community Schools program*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
School Committee

***James McNally***

- WHEREAS, Officer James McNally began his career with the Somerville Police Department on August 24, 1978, and*
- WHEREAS, Officer McNally pioneered the concept of Community Policing in 1993, as the Ward Two Officer where he initially engaged the young people of the area by playing basketball with them at Lincoln Park, and*
- WHEREAS, Officer McNally has served on the School Council at the Lincoln Park and Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park since 1995, and*
- WHEREAS, Officer McNally has spent countless and numerous days interacting with the students, staff and families of the Lincoln Park and Argenziano Schools in the classroom, on field trips, through the Cops and Kids program, on Family Days, and in his day-to-day interactions, where he has demonstrated commitment and dedication to the Ward Two community, and*
- WHEREAS, Officer McNally has been awarded numerous awards and citations throughout his career including awards for heroism, dedication, community service, work ethic and devotion, as well being chosen as an honoree by the Somerville Council of PTA's in 1998, and*
- WHEREAS, Officer McNally has begun a new chapter of his career as a Detective in the Anti-Crime/Gang Unit, leaving Community Policing after 16 years, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED: That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to him.*

*Somerville School Committee*

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Maureen Bastardi, Chairperson</i> | <i>Mark Niedergang, Vice Chairperson</i> |
| <i>Joseph Curtatone, Mayor</i>       | <i>Walter Pero, Aldermanic President</i> |
| <i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i>             | <i>Adam Sweeting</i>                     |
| <i>Mary Jo Rossetti</i>              | <i>Paul Bockelman</i>                    |
| <i>James Norton</i>                  |  |

*November 16, 2009*

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, December 7, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Norton (7:02 p.m.), Mayor Curtatone (7:42 p.m.) and Mr. Pero

**Members absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Bastardi asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Rossetti, Sweeting, Cardoso, Bockelman, Niedergang, Pero, Bastardi; Absent – 2–Norton, Curtatone. Ms. Bastardi stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Molly Tyler reported on the following Somerville High School events:

- The winter sports season is underway with Boys' and Girls' basketball, track and hockey
- The National Honor Society has begun collecting money for the Toys for Local Children charity. Just this week they have collected over \$500.00
- Tonight, at the high school, there is a Financial Aid Planning Night
- There is a half day of school on this Wednesday, so that the high school staff may work on reaccreditation issues.

**III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

Mr. Norton arrived at 7:02 p.m.

**A. Rules Management Subcommittee:** Mr. Bockelman (Nov. 17)

Mr. Bockelman reported on the Rules Subcommittee meeting that was held on November 17, in the conference room at 181 Washington Street. Work continued on the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual. Items discussed were as follows:

1. Review of Policy Manual – work continued on the policy manual. The following motions were brought forward for approval. More Rules Management issues will be addressed later in this meeting under New Business.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to strike File:JLCCA-E-1 – AIDS School Attendance Policy.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to strike File:JLDBB-E – Identification, Interventions and Post-Interventions Procedures for Students Child Study Teams

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to strike File:JLIF – Child Safety Letter

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to table File:JIHA – Locker, Desk, etc. Searches

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to table File:GDO - Evaluation of Support Staff and Non-instructional Staff

The motion was approved by voice vote.

B. ***School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:*** Ms. Bastardi (Nov. 23)

Ms. Bastardi reported on the Long Range Planning Meeting of November 23. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m., in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 181 Washington Street. Present at this meeting were Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Cardoso and Mr. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, Ms. Jane Cummings and Dorothy Scally.

1. Advancing the Foreign language goal by 2012

Discussion took place regarding the concept of a scaled back foreign language program prior to grade 9 in response to fiscal projections for FY11. Two options were presented:

Option 1 – (2FTE's) Seventh grade implementation (Spanish only) in four schools. Students would meet as often as a major subject.

Option 2 – (1 FTE) Seventh grade implementation (Spanish only) in two schools. Students would meet as often as a major subject.

Issues/problems/advantages were discussed. A timeline was requested by the School Committee. No votes were taken at this meeting regarding foreign language. The School Committee appears to be leaning towards Option 2 – focus on low cost options.

Also discussed was the District Improvement Plan/School Committee Goals – 2010-2011

The Superintendent reviewed a preliminary concept of focusing on fewer goals for the next District Improvement Plan/School Committee Goals in response to

- a) Comments on the Superintendent's evaluation
- b) Discussion with Joe Palumbo (Focus on Results)
- c) Discussions with Administrative Team members

Discussion took place, but no votes were taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

C. ***Public Hearing on Preschool Fees:*** Ms. Bastardi (Nov. 30)

Ms. Bastardi reported on the Public Hearing regarding the possibility of fees being charged for Preschool in the District. The hearing was held in the library at Somerville High School on Monday, November 30. In attendance were: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Bastardi and Mayor Curtatone. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and approximately 15 audience members.

Audience members took the opportunity to offer their input and, also, one letter was read for a constituent who was not able to attend the hearing.

The hearing was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

As a result of this Public Hearing the following motion was brought forward:

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, not to charge fees for preschool for the 2010-2011 school year.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

D. ***Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:*** Mr. Niedergang (Dec. 2)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting of December 2. The following items were discussed:

- 1. Foodservice and Universal Breakfast – discussion took place over whether or not to continue charging students for breakfast at Somerville High School. At this time, the process will continue as is and reassessment will be done later in the school year.
- 2. Preschool fees; discussion of Public Hearing – already reported on earlier this evening
- 3. 42 Cross Street – progress is coming along on the potential move of the District's Central Offices to the building at 42 Cross Street. Work with an architectural firm continues.
- 4. Capital Improvement Plan and Equipment List – Ms. Durette gave a detailed report. This is a work in progress and should continue into the spring.
- 5. Education Foundation – the Weston Education Foundation Model was reviewed and discussed. More discussion around developing a similar model for Somerville continues.

6. Expenditure Report -
7. FY2010 Bill Roll

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, that the Committee forward its concerns regarding reduction of USDA commodities and its financial implications to Congressman Capuano, Senator Kerry and Senator Kirk.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to approve the 2010 Bill Roll.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

##### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi announced the transactions listed on this week's Personnel report were none that had a budgetary impact on the District. The report was received and placed on file.

##### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Announced that the USDA's Under Secretary, Kevin Concannon, will be in Somerville on January 14, 2010, in recognition of the West Somerville Neighborhood, Healey, and Argenziano Schools receiving US Healthier Schools awards. These are the only schools in the state to receive this recognition.
2. On Tuesday, December 8, a Special Senate Election will be held and, at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, a special Vote and Vax program, where people can receive a flu vaccination while waiting to vote, is happening between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report in the area of curriculum. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Reported that Somerville has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$172,000 for a Credit Recovery program that helps students at the Full Circle High School with academic recovery and acceleration using technology-based programming. This program will assist some students at Somerville High School and Scale, as well. Of 81 proposals, 34 were funded and Somerville was one of the 34. This two-year grant will focus primarily on math.
  - Announced that he will be reading to Mrs. Galvin's class at the Kennedy School on Thursday
  - Discussed the Literacy Plan Development Committee, being led by Shannon Gilligan, which will develop a District Literacy Action Plan that will serve as a roadmap for improving reading across the District.
3. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that 24% of our seniors have received Adams Scholarships for outstanding performance on the MCAS tests and that this is a busy time for many of our seniors as they apply to colleges, for scholarships, etc. Along these lines, Mr. Pierantozzi is pleased to announce that Kathleen Portillo of Somerville High School has been awarded a four-year scholarship to Union College by the Posse Foundation. We are extremely proud of Kathleen and all of our students. Currently, 23 members of the senior class at Somerville High School have grade point averages of 4.0 or higher.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

**Attendance rate** As indicated in the past, we continue to work very closely with the Somerville Health Department in monitoring our daily school attendance in response to HINI. The district attendance rate continues to average between 94% to 95%. In comparing this year's first quarter daily attendance rate with the first quarter rate from last year, it is interesting to note that the district attendance rate this year of 95.04% was actually slightly higher than last year's attendance rate of 94.92%. We also saw a slight improvement in the tardy rate which dropped from 5.79% last year to 5.2% this year. I will continue to monitor this data at the completion of each quarter and report the findings to you if there are any changes.

**School Registration Calendar** At a meeting with the Parent Information Center Director Regina Bertholdo, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education and Principal Pam Holmes, Nancy Holmes and the PIC staff, a school registration calendar for the next school year was developed. We will soon be posting a complete list of important registration dates on our website. Although I will be speaking in greater detail as registration events approach, I would just like to focus on a few key dates tonight:

- January 4, 2010 – The PIC begins to accept registration for grades 1-12 for students enrolling in school for September, 2010.
- During the week of January 4<sup>th</sup>, the school department mails kindergarten registration packets to families with children who will be 5 years of age by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.
- Elementary School open houses/tours will take place on January 20, 21, 22 between 8:30am-1:30pm
- SHS open house/tours on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> between 8:15am-10am and 12:15pm-2:00pm
- Kindergarten registration begins at the PIC on Saturday, January 23, 2010 and then becomes on going at the PIC. The snow-date for this event would be the following Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>).
- Pre-school open house will occur at the Capuano between March 23<sup>th</sup> to March 25<sup>th</sup> between 9am-11am with Pre-kindergarten registration beginning on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the PIC.
- April 8<sup>th</sup> is the first batch kindergarten registration deadline while May 7<sup>th</sup> is the first batch deadline for pre-kindergarten.
- The Choice and Unidos lottery will take place at the PIC on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am with other kindergarten assignments processed that week as well.
- And finally, kindergarten transition day will occur on June 2<sup>nd</sup> between 9am-11am.

Complete information will be on our school website soon as we begin the process of registration outreach. For more information about upcoming school registration, one may also call the PIC at 617-625-6600 x6960 or X6961 or visit the PIC located at 42 Prescott Street.

4. Mr. Pierantozzi commented on the impressive attendance rate across the District, in spite of the flu. Both attendance and tardiness rates have improved. Issued thanks to students, parent/guardians and staff.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:42 p.m.

5. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that on Wednesday, TERC will visit the Capuano Early Childhood Center regarding the Renewable Energy Trust and the Capuano's designation as a green school.
6. The Superintendent announced that a meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9, in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers at City Hall regarding the Education Reform Bill. This event is hosted by Representative Denise Provost. The newest version of this bill is currently under review and feedback is being sought.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- Informed members that, starting last week, principals and directors were provided with budget worksheets so that they could determine how to allocate funds. As of now, only operations budget information has been distributed on a level-funded basis. Funding was based on \$93.50 per pupil at the elementary level and \$297.50 per pupil at the secondary level. High School per pupil funding is higher due to the vocational program and the increased amount of textbooks, courses, materials, etc. Additional funding is also set aside for Special Education for out of district tuition and for Somerville High School's accreditation process. Ms. Rossetti questioned whether the funding for the reaccreditation process is under the Curriculum budget or the in the high school's budget. Ms. Durette explained that these funds were included in the high school's budget. Ms. Durette also informed members that a compilation of budget information for planning the FY11 budget will be developed for the January Finance and Facilities meeting.
7. On Friday, December 11, the Medford Lodge of Elks will hold its Annual Dictionary Donation event. Each year the Elks donate dictionaries to all third graders in the District. This year, the event will take place at the Kennedy School from 1:45 – 2:20 p.m. Each year, the event moves to a different school across the District and this year the third graders from Kennedy will represent those across the school system.

The Superintendent deferred to Mr. Joseph Tringale, Director of Operations for his report regarding the new State Ethics law. Mr. Tringale's report included the following:

- Massachusetts General Law 268A, Section 27 deals with the State Ethics Law.
  - All municipal employees must be provided with a **Summary of the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest Law** by no later than December 28, 2009, and on an annual basis thereafter.
  - This law applies to all employees of the City of Somerville regardless of department, job description, and job status –volunteer, seasonal, part-time, etc.
  - On December 4, an email was sent District-wide with a link to the new law
  - If an employee does not have access to email, a hard copy was mailed to them
  - All individuals are required to return acknowledgement of receipt
  - As of today, approximately 1/3 (300) employees have responded
  - There is online ethics training on the State Ethics Commission's website for more information
  - There are specific guidelines as to who needs to complete the training
  - The training deadline is April 2, 2010
8. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Coordinated Program Review. Eight federally funded programs were reviewed—Special Education, English Language Education, Civil Rights, Vocational Education, Homeless, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Food Services and Title One. Evaluation of four of these areas is completed—Homeless, Food Service, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Title One. The Superintendent and staff met with staff from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on December 3, to discuss factual inaccuracies with the original report. A second draft is being developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to correct these inaccuracies and should be received by the District within the next couple of weeks.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. 2010-2011 DRAFT School Calendar**

Mr. Pierantozzi presented two versions of the 2010-2011 School Calendar. One begins before Labor Day and the other after Labor Day, as has been the traditional starting date.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to begin school after Labor Day. Along with discussion regarding the first day of school, much discussion ensued regarding the two Professional Development Days and, in particular, whether one of them should continue to be on Election Day. Some members expressed that they have heard from constituents who would prefer to have Professional Development on November 12, as that would provide a long weekend around the Veterans' Day holiday.

Mr. Niedergang, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, made a friendly amendment to the original motion to have school on November 2 and have Professional Development on November 12.

Discussion continued and school safety on Election Day was a primary concern of many members and members were reminded that the health and safety of our students is of utmost concern. Discussion also ensued regarding the fact that there is no policy regarding the school calendar and that the calendar is voted on by the School Committee every year. Finally, after lengthy discussion, a roll call vote was called for the friendly amendment. On a roll call vote of YES-3-Sweeting, Bockelman, and Niedergang and NO-6-Rossetti, Pero, Norton, Curtatone, Cardoso, and Bastardi, the friendly amendment was defeated.

On the original motion to start school after Labor Day in 2010, the motion was passed via voice vote. School will start on September 8, 2010. Calendar information will be translated and dispersed across the District.

### **B. Somerville High School Graduation Date**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on a requested by the Somerville High School Headmaster to move the graduation date from June 14 to June 7, 2009. This would return graduation to the traditional "first Monday in June" that had been followed for many, many years.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Niedergang, seconded by Mr. Norton, to move Somerville High School's graduation date from June 14 to June 7, 2009.

The motion was approved via voice vote.



### **C. MASC Conference Resolution Update**

Ms. Rossetti, as the elected delegate at the recent MASC/MASS conference, gave a brief report on the conference, including a report on the votes on the 11 resolutions presented at the conference. Ms. Rossetti also provided members with a written report so that they may review at their convenience.

Ms. Rossetti also reported on the Division II meeting that was held on the Friday morning of the conference. This session was well attended. Ms. Rossetti also commented on former Cambridge School Committee member Nancy Walser, who helped Ms. Rossetti "learn the ropes" as a new school committee woman. Ms. Walser has written a book, The Essential School Board Book, and Ms. Rossetti recommends this book to all members. Ms. Rossetti has a copy of this book that she is happy to share.

Ms. Bastardi thanked Ms. Rossetti for representing Somerville at the conference.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Field Trip** (Recommended Action: Approval)

**Jan. 8-10, 2010:**

Somerville High School Boys and Girls Track to Dartmouth College for regional relay races. Transportation via school van at no cost to students.

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **B. Declaration of Surplus Goods**

Request to dispose of an upright piano housed at the Brown School.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to approve the request to dispose of the upright piano at the Brown School

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **C. Acceptance of Donations** (Recommended Action: Approval)

#### **1. Bergina Sewing Machine**

The Superintendent recommending acceptance of a donation of a Bernina Sewing Machine, donated by Ms. Jane Cohen. Estimated value is \$2991.50.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to approve, with gratitude, the donation of the Bernina Sewing machine.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

#### **2. Acoustic Guitar**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of an acoustic guitar, donated by Ms. Adrienne Dybes. Estimated value is \$300.00.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to approve, with gratitude, the donation of the acoustic guitar.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

The following policies were presented by Mr. Bockelman for First Reading ***for Adoption:***

File:GCO-R-1 – Evaluation of Professional Staff

File:GCO-R-2 - Evaluation Process and Procedures of Professional Staff Teachers

File:GCO-R-3 – Evaluation of Professional Staff Teachers and Administrators

File:JLCB-E – Massachusetts Department of Health New School Immunization Regulations

The following policies were presented by Mr. Bockelman for First Reading, ***as revised:***

File:JL – Student Welfare

File:JLC – Student Health Services and Requirements

File:JLCA – Physical Examination of Students

File:JLCB – Inoculations of Students  
File:JLCD – Administering Prescription Medicines to Students  
File:JLCDD- Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in the Educational Environment  
File:JLD-E – Guidance Program  
File:JLDBA – Protocol for Traumatic Incidents  
File:JQ – Student Fees, Fines, and Charges  
File:JRA – Student Records  
File:JRA-R – Student Records  
File:JRD – Student Photographs

**E. Race to the Top Funding Meeting of December 4, 2009**

Mr. Sweeting reported on his attendance at a meeting hosted by the Urban Superintendents' Network regarding Race to the Top funding. Information and copies of handouts from this meeting were provided to members in their packet. This is the first time that superintendents, labor representatives and school committees are working together at the same time. Right now, \$4.3Billion in Federal ARRA competitive grant funds are available, with an estimated \$250 Million to Massachusetts over four years. Discussion regarding this topic will continue at the next School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities on December 15, 2009.

**VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Announced the schedule of upcoming concerts. The Elementary Concert will be Thursday, December 10 and the High School's will be Thursday, December 17, both at 7:00 p.m. in the Somerville High School auditorium.
2. The Kennedy School will hold a PTA meeting on December 16, at 5:30 p.m.
3. Wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah and gave a brief history of Hanukkah.

**Mr. Pero**

1. The Ward 4 Resistat Meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening is being rescheduled due to the special election.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Please be sure to vote tomorrow.
2. Commented on the winter concerts and the wonderful work of the music department
3. Encouraged everyone to consider purchasing their trees and wreaths from the Next Wave/Full Circle's Tree Lot at Foss Park.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Announced that the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at Central Office. The agenda includes a presentation by the Choice Program, an update on the Focus on Results program, and discussion of the grading policy at Somerville High School.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. The Argenziano School will hold a PTA meeting on Tuesday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m.
2. Thanked Ms. Bastardi for her service as Chair of the School Committee for 2009.
3. Thanked Ms. Rossetti for representing Somerville at the MASC conference.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Issued his thanks to the Somerville High School Band and Music Department for their great work at the Annual Tree Lighting. Also issued thanks to the Brown School Chorus and, especially, his niece, Isabella, for singing at this event.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- *Frank Riviuccio, son of JoAnn Riviuccio, Cafeteria Helper at Kennedy School*
- *David Fitzpatrick, husband of Grace Fitzpatrick, retired Early Childhood Special Education Liaison*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques, Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, December 21, 2009 – Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti, and Mr. Pero

**Members absent:** Mayor Curtatone, Mr. Bockelman, and Mr. Norton

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maureen Bastardi called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Bastardi asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 6 – Rossetti, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Pero, and Bastardi; Absent – 3–Bockelman, Norton, Curtatone. Ms. Bastardi stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

Ms. Bastardi informed the audience that Mayor Curtatone and Mr. Bockelman are in Morocco for a Sister City Exchange Trip. Mr. Norton is home nursing his broken ankle. Dr. McKay is also absent. He is accompanying the Mayor, Mr. Bockelman and other city representatives on the Morocco trip.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

- Presentation of a resolution and plaque to retiring member Aldermanic President, Walter Pero
  - ❖ Ms. Bastardi presented a plaque and resolution to outgoing Aldermanic President Walter Pero in appreciation of his service to the School Committee in 2009.
- Presentation of a resolution and plaque to outgoing member, James Norton, Ward IV
  - ❖ Ms. Bastardi also read a plaque and resolution regarding Mr. James Norton, who is at home ill this evening, and shared the appreciation of the School Committee for Mr. Norton's service to the School Committee over the past two years. Her hope is that Mr. Norton is watching the meeting tonight from home and will feel much better soon.
- Presentation of a gavel and plaque set to 2009 Chairperson, Maureen Bastardi, Ward I
  - ❖ Mr. Niedergang presented Ms. Bastardi with a plaque and gavel set and thanked her for her tremendous leadership over the past year. Ms. Bastardi worked hard, had a collaborative spirit and Mr. Niedergang was delighted to have served as her vice-chair. School Committee members around the horseshoe shared their words of gratitude and appreciation, as well.

The text of the two resolutions may be found at the end of these minutes.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 16, 2009 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2009 regular meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Molly Tyler reported on the following Somerville High School events:

- Students got their PSAT scores last week.
- Progress reports will go home over vacation
- Seniors will be finishing up their college applications over the vacation week
- The National Honor Society raised over \$1,000 for the Toys for Local Children charity
- The Health Careers students participated in the Healthy Hands fundraiser
- Show support for our high school sports teams. Attend some games and follow schedules and scores at [highschoolsports.net](http://highschoolsports.net)
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

## **V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **A. *Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Mr. Sweeting (Dec. 9)

1. SHS Program of Studies grading policy addendum, presentation by Mr. Tony Ciccariello, Headmaster, Somerville High School – reported on the request from the Somerville High School Curriculum Committee to revisit the criteria around a failing grade at Somerville High School. Discussion took place regarding the number associated with an F grade. The preference is that the number grade associated with an F grade be 50. A petition was presented from students who are opposed to this grading change. For the time being, the request is to make this change and revisit.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to change page 10 of the Student Handbook, the numerical grade range, for an “F” grade, to be restored to the numerical value of 50-59.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. Choice Program presentation – a presentation was made by the Choice Program co-chairs Irene Abrams and AnnMarie Healey, along with Principal Mike Sabin and teacher Steve Stephano. The Choice Program is a project based learning program that is 27 years old. There are 14 teachers and 2 paraprofessionals employed in this program. An update was given on historical and current program highlights. There was also discussion regarding the future of the Choice Program. A PowerPoint presentation was shared with the School Committee.
3. Update on Focus on Results at the Elementary Schools
4. In-Service Course approval (if needed)

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the inservice course, “Integrating the Middle School Interdisciplinary Project into the Curriculum.”

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Sweeting thanked Dr. McKay and said that it has been a pleasure working with him on the Educational Programs Subcommittee.

Ms. Bastardi thanked Mr. Sweeting for doing a great job reporting on the Ed Programs meetings this year.

### **B. *Executive Session:***

Ms. Bastardi reported on the following five (5) motions that were taken at the Executive Session meeting of December 15, 2009:

- To approve sick leave buyback in the amount of 65 days at \$30 per day for a total of \$1,950, for a retiring employee.
- To amend paragraph 12 of the Superintendent’s contract regarding sick leave, so that the Superintendent shall be credited with eighty-nine (89) sick days, and thereafter will receive additional sick days at the rate of fifteen (15) days per year, credited at the commencement of each benefit year (July 1), which days may be accumulated from year to year without limitation
- To amend the first sentence of paragraph 13 of the Prior Amended Contract to read as follows: “Upon retirement, Mr. Pierantozzi will be paid one hundred dollars (\$100) for each day of “unused sick leave.”
- To amend paragraph 11 to provide that the number of unused vacation days that the Superintendent may carry over from year to year shall be increased from fifteen (15) to (20) and total number of unused vacation days that he may accumulate shall be increased from thirty-five (35) to forty (40).
- To amend paragraphs 2 and 4c to provide for the term of the Superintendent’s contract to extend through June 30, 2013 - this is a one year addition to the Superintendent’s current contract.

**C. 2010 School Committee Caucus:** Ms. Bastardi (Dec. 14)

Ms. Bastardi reported on the 2010 Caucus for Chair and Vice Chair of the School Committee for 2010. Mr. Niedergang has been elected as Chair and Mr. Sweeting has been elected as Vice Chair. This will be formalized at the Organizational Meeting on January 4.

**School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:** Ms. Bastardi (Dec. 15)

Ms. Bastardi reported on the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of December 15. This meeting took place in the conference room at 181 Washington Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, and Ms. Rossetti. Also present were Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Kinder.

1. Race to the Top – discussion regarding the latest Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Race to the Top fund application. There is \$250M available to School Districts through this initiative. Lively discussion took place around this topic.
2. The Education Reform Act of 2009 – Ms. Rossetti and Ms. Bastardi, after discussion with other School Committee members, called our legislative representatives regarding the School Committee's concerns and motions. The Superintendent will follow up in the morning with emails to all legislators.

Ms. Bastardi read the following three motions that were taken at the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities. As this meeting was a meeting of the whole, no further votes are necessary.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, that "the Somerville Public Schools Committee supports the 12 amendments offered by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees toward the Education Reform Act of 2009 (S2216) and authorizes Ms. Bastardi and Ms. Rossetti to communicate said actions to our elected officials and authorizes Superintendent Pierantozzi to send e-communication to our elected officials."

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, that "As the House debates the Education Reform Act of 2009, the Somerville School Committee respectfully requests that members of the House – a) protect the interests of the local public school district regarding articles pursuant to charter schools as found in S2216 or b) amend them to provide more protection to local public schools (for example, better reporting by charters, fair and representative funding formulas, representative student recruitment and retention, fair and just waiting lists)."

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to move that the Somerville School Committee sign on to the memorandum of understanding for the Race to the Top Proposal with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

The Personnel Report for December 21, 2009 was received and placed on file.

**B. DISTRICT REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the following items:

1. Reported that there are no expected additional Chapter 70 reductions expected this year, according to information Mr. Pierantozzi has learned through the Commissioner of Education and Superintendents' groups. However, if cuts are made, ARRA funds will be used to close the gap. This may affect the FY2011 budget.
2. Informed the audience that tax dollars are not being used for all those who are attending the Morocco trip with the Mayor. Fundraising was done to assist with travel expenses of those accompanying the mayor on this trip.
3. The Superintendent reported that three of our graduating seniors have received full scholarships so far. Two students receive scholarships from the Posse Foundation and the other received a scholarship from the Questbridge Foundation. Congratulations to Kathleen Portillo who will attend Union College and Mahima Karki who will attend Hamilton College on Posse scholarships and to Eva Popa who will attend Princeton University with a full scholarship from the Questbridge Foundation. Congratulations to the staff, especially the

guidance staff for assisting with the preparation of paperwork, etc. and their support throughout the process. Congratulations, also, to the students and their families. More good news will be coming in the future as other seniors hear about their college acceptances.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services for his report regarding student-related issues. Dr. Di Chiappari's report included the following:

- In preparing for the district's upcoming school open houses and school registration, Mr. Charlie LaFauci and his team have been preparing School Videos showcasing our elementary schools and high school. Each school video features an introduction from the school principal with highlights of some of the programs the school offers. The videos will be broadcast on cable TV in January before the elementary school open houses scheduled for January 20th, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>, between 8:30am-1:30pm and the Somerville High School open house scheduled for February 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> between 8:15am to 10am and 12:15pm 2:00pm.
- The Middlesex Partnerships for Youth will be providing a series of three health and safety related in-service evening workshops to all interested members of the community. The topics of these presentations were chosen in collaboration with the Somerville PTA. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Kerry Aleman, Assistant District Attorney at the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, will be discussing Youth Alcohol and Drug Use/Social Liability at the Healey School from 6:30-8pm. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Margie Daniels, Executive Director of the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth will be presenting an in-service workshop on Bullying and Cyber-Bullying at the West Somerville Neighborhood School from 6:30-8pm. A third presentation regarding the issue of Family and Relationship Violence will be given at the Argenziano School on April 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8pm as well. The presenter will be Shawn MacMaster, Deputy Chief, Community Outreach and Training. These events are open to all interested community members.
- And finally, I am very happy to report that at a meeting which I attended on December 10th, Middlesex County District Attorney Gerry Leone presented the Somerville Public Schools with the Martin T. Meehan Educational Leadership Award for exemplary leadership on school safety issues. Congratulations to Superintendent Pierantozzi, who accepted the award on behalf of the district and to all other individuals who helped Somerville achieve this prestigious award.
- 4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the collaboration between the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth and the Somerville Council of PTA's to present workshops to parents and community members which will coordinate with PTA Council meetings. More information will be made available after the first of the year.
- 5. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the Evening School Booklet for second semester is online. Currently, there are 32 courses being offered. More information will be forthcoming after the first of the year, however, registration dates are January 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28, 2010, at the Somerville High School main office from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Enrollment may also be done over the phone or online. Classes will begin on February 2. All classes will run as long as they are adequately enrolled.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding financial issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

Reminded members that principals and directors have been provided with budget worksheets so that they may determine how to allocate funds for FY11. Ms. Durette is working with each principal and administrator to assist them through this process.

- 6. The Superintendent issued his thanks to the Medford Lodge of Elks for their donation of dictionaries to our third grade students. This year's event was held at the Kennedy School on December 11.
- 7. The Superintendent informed the School Committee of the upcoming donation of hand sanitizer from the Kiwanis Club to the Somerville Public Schools. Kiwanis representatives will come to a meeting in January to formally make this donation to the District.
- 8. The Superintendent wished everyone a wonderful holiday and the happiest and healthiest 2010.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **E. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual** (Ms. Cardoso)

The following policies are being presented for Second Reading ***for Adoption***:

File:GCO-R-1 – Evaluation of Professional Staff

File:GCO-R-2 - Evaluation Process and Procedures of Professional Staff Teachers

File:GCO-R-3 – Evaluation of Professional Staff Teachers and Administrators

File:JLCB-E – Massachusetts Department of Health New School Immunization Regulations

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to include the policies above in the Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The following policies are being presented for Second Reading, ***as revised***:

File:JL – Student Welfare

File:JLC – Student Health Services and Requirements

File:JLCA – Physical Examination of Students

File:JLCB – Inoculations of Students

File:JLCD – Administering Prescription Medicines to Students

File:JLCDD- Managing Life-Threatening Food Allergies in the Educational Environment

File:JLD-E – Guidance Program

File:JLDBA – Protocol for Traumatic Incidents

File:JQ – Student Fees, Fines, and Charges

File:JRA – Student Records

File:JRA-R – Student Records

File:JRD – Student Photographs

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to include the policies above, as revised, in the Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Field Trip** (Recommended Action: Approval)

**Feb. 5-7, 2010:**

Somerville High School Junior Statesman of American Debate Club to JSA Convention, Washington, DC. Transportation via coach bus at a cost of \$180.00 per student.

**MOTION:** Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Ms. Bastardi**

1. Stated that she misses being around the horseshoe and looks forward to being back among the other members. Thanked her colleagues for their support and said that they made her year as Chair easy.
2. Wished everyone happy holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hopes everyone will be safe, happy and healthy.
3. Don't drink and drive.

### **Mr. Niedergang**

1. Mr. Niedergang spoke about Mr. Pero's service to the School Committee this year and told the audience how Mr. Pero was his boss when Mr. Niedergang was a Civics teacher at Scale many years ago. It has been a pleasure to serve on the School Committee with Mr. Pero.
2. Announced his pleasure that Mr. Pierantozzi has extended his contract of employment for an additional year—bringing his contract through June 30, 2013. Reported that the Superintendent will not be receiving a pay raise this year due to the tough economic times.

3. Reminded everyone of the Flag Raising ceremonies on Prospect Hill on January 1, and encouraged audience members to attend.
4. Wished all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Congratulations to Mr. Niedergang and Mr. Sweeting. They will make wonderful leaders.
2. Thank you to Alderman Pero for a great job.
3. Hopes Mr. Norton is watching the meeting at home. Extended her thanks and hopes that he feels better soon.
4. Thanked Ms. Bastardi for her service as Chair of the School Committee for 2009.
5. Congratulated the students, staff and families at the Argenziano for a wonderful winter concert last Friday.
6. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2010.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported that the concerts have been terrific. Sorry he missed the concert at the Argenziano School, but the Winter Hill's concert was at the same time and he attended that concert. Stated that there is a great feel in the Music Program.
2. Announced that it was great to get to know and work with Mr. Norton and Mr. Pero. Wished them both the best.
3. Wished audience members, "Happy Everything!" His two children are looking forward and counting the hours to winter break.

**Mr. Pero**

1. Thanked his colleagues for their kind words and expressions of appreciation.
2. Shared that he has learned that a big part of life is just showing up, but showing up and participating is even better.
3. Health is also a great big part of life and encouraged everyone to accept wishes for health and happiness gratefully.
4. Thanked the community for their continued support.
5. Wished Health and Happiness in the New Year.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Thank Mr. Pero for a terrific year of collaboration between the School Committee and the Aldermen. The challenge is on for Mr. Connolly to attend as many meetings as Mr. Pero did over the past year. It will be a challenge to meet or beat Mr. Pero's attendance record.
2. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to all throughout the community.
3. Please attend the Inauguration on January 4, which starts in the Aldermen's Chambers and then continues in the Somerville High School auditorium.

**X. COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Bastardi announced that the School Committee had received a very nice, enthusiastic thank you note, with special thanks to Ms. Cardoso, a copy of which was in members' packets.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- *Rose Marie Capalino*, mother of Mike Williams, Somerville High School's Swim Team Coach
- *Janice Connors*, Cafeteria Lunch Attendant at the Argenziano School
- *Maggie Hodges*, mother of Keyon Hodges, Library Aide at the East Somerville Community School

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary



**City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
School Committee**

***Walter F. Pero***

***WHEREAS, Walter F. Pero, by authority of his office as President of the Board of Aldermen, served as an Ex-Officio member of the Somerville School Committee from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, and...***

***WHEREAS, Mr. Pero, a member of the Board of Aldermen from 1996-2001 and from 2004 to present, professionally and politically kept the lines of communication open between the Board of Aldermen and the School Committee, and...***

***WHEREAS, Mr. Pero has always exhibited a sincere dedication to not only the Somerville Community, but has also served as a Patient Advocate for "Cancer and Leukemia, Group B", and ...***

***WHEREAS, Mr. Pero served on many and various Aldermanic Committees including Finance, Legislative Matters, Traffic and Parking, as well as having served as the Supervisor of Continuing Education (SCALE) and as the Deputy Commissioner of Veteran Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, therefore be it...***

***RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee publicly and officially pay tribute to Walter F. Pero for his sincere and dedicated service during the past twelve months, and be it further...***

***RESOLVED: That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to him in tribute and appreciation***

***Somerville School Committee***

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| <b><i>Maureen Bastardi, Chairman</i></b> | <b><i>Mark Niedergang, Vice Chairman</i></b> |
| <b><i>Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor</i></b> | <b><i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i></b>              |
| <b><i>Adam Sweeting</i></b>              | <b><i>Mary Jo Rossetti</i></b>               |
| <b><i>Paul Bockelman</i></b>             | <b><i>James Norton</i></b>                   |

***December 21, 2009***

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
School Committee**

***James Norton***

***WHEREAS,***                ***James Norton served as a member of the School Committee from June 1994 to December 1995 and January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009, and...***

***WHEREAS,***                ***Mr. Norton served as chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee in 2009, and was also a valuable member of the Rules Management subcommittee and...***

***WHEREAS,***                ***Mr. Norton has led several local fraternal and civic-based organizations over the years, is also a member of the Assembly Square Public Advisory Committee and is very active in various historical organizations in the area , and...***

***WHEREAS,***                ***During his tenure on the School Committee, Mr. Norton has demonstrated a genuine interest in all schools in the city, as well as all students, parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators, therefore be it...***

***RESOLVED:***            ***That the Somerville School Committee proudly and publicly recognize the dedication and service provided by James Norton, and wish him continued success, and be it further...***

***RESOLVED:***            ***That these well-earned Resolutions be recorded in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to him.***

***Somerville School Committee***

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b><i>Maureen Bastardi, Chairman</i></b> | <b><i>Mark Niedergang, Vice Chairman</i></b> |
| <b><i>Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor</i></b> | <b><i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i></b>              |
| <b><i>Adam Sweeting</i></b>              | <b><i>Mary Jo Rossetti</i></b>               |
| <b><i>Paul Bockelman</i></b>             | <b><i>James Norton</i></b>                   |

***December 21, 2009***