

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, January 11, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Connolly, and Mayor Curtatone (7:50 p.m.)

**Members absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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. Ms. Bastardi asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Bastardi, Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Connolly, Rossetti, Sweeting, and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 - Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to suspend the regular order of business and to take item 6C out of order.

**C. Donation** (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of Hand Sanitizer, donated by the Kiwanis Club of Somerville. Estimated value is \$715.00.

Mr. Niedergang introduced members of the Kiwanis Club of Somerville and Ms. Patricia Ng, the Vice President of the Kiwanis spoke about Kiwanis' donation of hand sanitizer to the Somerville Public Schools upon hearing of the District's efforts to keep our students healthy during flu season. Kiwanis President Robert Costello thanked Ms. Ng for all of her work around this effort and stated that she had done all of the work and deserves all the credit.

Alderman Connolly thanked the Kiwanis Club for their great effort.

Ms. Rossetti expressed her gratitude at this donation and commented on how quickly a bottle of hand sanitizer is gone through.

Ms. Bastardi expressed her thanks to the Kiwanis for their generosity.

The School Committee took a two minute recess to thank the Kiwanis members for their support at 7:07 p.m.

School Committee back in session at 7:12 p.m.

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler was unable to attend this evening's meeting

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Regular Meeting of December 7, 2009

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the minutes of December 7, 2009.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- Regular Meeting of December 21, 2009

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the minutes of December 7, 2009.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

#### IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

***Personnel Subcommittee:*** Mr. Sweeting (Dec. 14)

Mr. Sweeting reported on the Personnel Subcommittee meeting of December 14, 2009. Mr. Sweeting's report included the following:

1. Update on Searches:
  - Interim HS Evening Principal Hire
  - AFA Utility Aide Hires
2. Update on Retirements to Date:
3. Recruitment Season FY 2010:
  - Advertising and recruitment efforts
  - Tentative Timeline
4. Superintendent's Evaluation

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to accept the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

***School Committee Organizational Meeting:*** Mr. Niedergang (January 4)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Organizational Meeting of the School Committee for 2010. His report included the following:

The School Committee met for its Organization Meeting on Monday, January 4, 2010 in the Aldermen's Chambers in City Hall.

Present for this meeting were: Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Cardoso, Alderman Connolly, Mayor Curtatone, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, and Mr. Sweeting.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, for members to declare their choice for the 2010 Somerville School Committee Chair. On a roll call vote of 9 votes cast for Mark Niedergang, Mr. Niedergang was elected School Committee Chair for 2010.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, for members to declare their choice for the 2010 Somerville School Committee Vice Chair. On a roll call vote of 9 votes cast for Adam Sweeting, Mr. Sweeting was elected School Committee Vice Chair for 2010.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the following order: That for the government of the School Committee of 2010, the rules and regulations of the School Committee of 2009, be adopted.

The motion approved by a unanimous voice vote.

***Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:*** Mr. Sweeting (Jan. 6)

Mr. Sweeting reported on the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting of January 6. His report included the following:

1. FY11 Budget Development – first draft of operations budget, which is level-funded, with a few exceptions. More will be discussed at the February meeting.
2. 42 Cross Street – discussion and review of schematic plans
3. Education Foundation – discussion of draft of Somerville Education Foundation document
4. Expenditure Report - reviewed
5. FY10 Billroll – reviewed – no big ticket items
6. Facilities update – Mr. Pierantozzi provided a facilities overview

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by to approve the Schematic Floor Plan #5 with changes by the Superintendent presented on January 6, 2010, and approve an additional \$3,180.00 to complete phase 1 of the design.

Much discussion ensued regarding whether the City was going to pay for the renovations to 42 Cross Street as it was at the City's request that Central Office move to that location. Mr. Niedergang reported that he had spoken with Mayor Curtatone and the Mayor had assured him that the City would pay. Mr. Connolly affirmed this and reported that the Board of Aldermen would support this renovation. At this time, it was decided that the School Committee would

delay their vote on this matter until such time that Mayor Curtatone was present. The Mayor is expected to arrive within the half hour.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to table the motion until Mayor Curtatone is present.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the FY10 bill rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Mr. Pierantozzi welcomed everyone to the New Year.
2. Announced that the second quarter ends on January 27, 2010 and report cards should be coming home about one week after that.
3. Announced that this Wednesday, January 13, is an early release day for all students—both elementary and high school.
4. Monday, January 18 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and there is no school. There will be a celebration in honor of Dr. King held at Somerville High School on Monday.

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:

- Last Thursday was the second session of paraprofessional training. This professional development was funded using ARRA money. It was a collaborative effort between the Curriculum and Special Education departments and the focus was on early literacy skills.
- The Somerville Public Schools and Tufts University's Center for Collaborative Education have entered into a new partnership. This partnership will assist with coaching and instructional support at the Healey and Winter Hill Community Schools.
- Reported on and displayed a rather large binder that the District recently received from the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations. In this binder is the My Voice Survey data from staff and students, organized by school. This binder is rich in information regarding the climate and culture of our schools. Students were asked approximately 30 questions in this survey. It is important to the District to ensure a positive learning environment for all of our students.
- 5. The District is embarking on a series of Parents as Partners workshops offered by the Somerville Public Schools in collaboration with the Somerville PTA Association, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, Somerville Community Partnerships for Children and the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth. The first workshop, Youth Alcohol and Drug Use/Social Host Liability, is this coming Wednesday, January 13 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., at the Healey School Cafetorium. The Superintendent also read a list of upcoming workshops being presented over the next several months. These workshops are as follows: Grant Writing 101; Bullying/Cyberbullying; Family and Relationship Violence; Sticks and Stones Part 1: Bullying in Schools Today; Sticks and Stones Part 2: Bullying in Schools Today; and Bystander Empowerment: Skills and strategies for stopping bullying when you see it.
- 6. Announced that the Middlesex District Attorney's Office is piloting a training program for teens around dating violence prevention and that Somerville High School students have been chosen as the first group to be trained. This training will take place on Thursday, January 14, 2010 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Approximately 80 students will be trained in four areas. At 8:00 a.m., there will be a welcome address provided by Mayor Curtatone, Chief Holloway and, if possible, Middlesex District Attorney Gerald Leone. The training is for students only. We are proud that our students have been chosen to pilot this important program.

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** Any parent or guardian who has a child who will be five years of age by August 31, 2010 may register their child for kindergarten in the Somerville Public Schools for the 2010-11 school year. Kindergarten registration begins on Saturday, January 23rd between

10am to 2:00pm at the Parent Information Center, 42 Prescott Street. Other registration sites include the Michael Capuano Early Childhood Center on January 25th and 26th between 9am-2pm, the West Somerville Neighborhood School on January 27th, between 9am-2pm and the Healey School on January 28th, between 2pm-7:00pm, Any Parents/guardians of Kindergarten aged children who did not receive a kindergarten registration packet may call the PIC at 617-625-6600 x6962 to receive one by mail or may visit any elementary school to get a packet.

- The school department is now notifying the community about upcoming kindergarten registration. A press release was sent to local newspapers and is now on the Somerville Public Schools website. A school showcase video highlighting each elementary school will be running on Channel 15 within the next few days. The next TV Show "Our Schools, Our City" will be focusing on upcoming kindergarten registration. Kindergarten information flyers written in the major languages of the district have been sent to schools for students to take home, and to other agencies such as libraries, daycare centers, community organizations, health centers, early childhood advisory board, and local stores, etc. And, as in past years, the Parent Information Center, with its bilingual staff, outreaches to the community by going to parent meetings at daycare centers and other events. K registration information is planned to be on the Haitian Radio program and appear in the Portuguese newspaper, the "Brazilian Times" and in the Spanish newspaper "EL Mundo."
- Moreover, in order for parents to be more informed when selecting a school for the next school year, the schools will be holding a series of open houses. The open house dates and times for the elementary schools are Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, and Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> between 8:30am to 1:30pm. The high school will host its open house on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with two time periods to visit classrooms, between 8:15am to 10am and 12:15pm to 2:00pm. The Healey School CHOICE Information Night is scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:00-9:00pm at the Healey School. The Brown School will be adding an evening open house as well for Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> between 6pm-8pm in the Brown School library. The school open house provides an excellent chance for any interested individual 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 our schools. For more information about K registration or the school open houses, parents/guardians may go on the Somerville Public schools website or contact the Parent Information Center at 617-625-6600 x6962. And just like last year, the PIC, located at 42 Prescott Street, will be hosting a series of open-house coffee hours in their office from 9am-10am on the elementary school open house dates of January 20<sup>th</sup> – January 22<sup>nd</sup> for parents who may have any questions about school open house and school registration. All community members interested in our schools are invited.
- **Presentation on Youth Alcohol/Drug Use/Social Liability** The Somerville Public Schools and Middlesex Partnerships for Youth are providing a presentation on the topic of Youth Alcohol and Drug Use/Social Liability to any interested community member. This presentation will be on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> between 6:30pm-8:00pm at the Healey School Cafetorium, 5 Meacham Street. Again, any interested member of our community is invited to attend.
- **Emergency Table Top Exercise** Last Thursday, Mary Ripley, Rich Melillo, and I participated in a table top school safety exercise at the Public Safety Building. The purpose of this activity was to determine how different agencies would respond if an emergency occurred at one of our schools. I would like to thank the Somerville Police Department, Fire Department, Cataldo Ambulance, and other emergency response individuals who participated in this activity and constantly provide us with their support.
- **H1N1 Flu Clinics** And finally, I wanted to announce that the Somerville Department of Public Health has scheduled H1N1 vaccine clinics for anyone interested, not just those in high-risk categories. The clinics will be taking place each Thursday, in January (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>) from 4pm-7pm at the City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave, Somerville.

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

- Ms. Durette, Dr. McKay, Ms. Connell and Ms. Gilligan recently met to discuss plans on how best to use ARRA grant money that the District will receive for FY11. This money includes \$377,000 in Title I funds and \$841,000 in IDEA funds. The District received a bit more than \$1.2M. 50% has been spent on retaining staff and implementing new initiatives.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:50 p.m.

- Funds will be used for program evaluations as well as for coaches and technology.
  - The District is looking into some technology purchases, specifically for some of our Special Education classrooms.
  - Ms. Connell has been informed that FY11 IDEA funds will be approximately \$2,000 less than this year.
  - The Finance Office applied for the Title I Carryover funds of approximately \$212,000. This application was submitted in December. These funds will be used for parent involvement, summer school for low income students and Supplemental Educational Services.
  - Mr. Tringale and Ms. Durette have been involved with the City's upcoming implementation of the new MUNIS accounting software. This software will be used across the City beginning in July 2010, and Ms. Durette and Mr. Tringale have been doing work in preparation for this new program.
7. Announced that the USDA's Under Secretary, Kevin Concannon, will be in Somerville on January 14, 2010, at 1:30 p.m., in recognition of the West Somerville Neighborhood, Healey, and Argenziano Schools receiving US Healthier Schools awards. The Healey School and West Somerville were awarded bronze certification and the Argenziano School has been awarded a gold certification. These are the only schools in the state to receive this recognition. This ceremony will include food, entertainment and an awards ceremony, including certificates for Food Service staff involved with these schools. We are extremely proud of this distinction and the hope is that all School Committee members can attend this event.

Mayor Curtatone commended everyone involved with this award. Somerville has gained national recognition for its efforts to nurture a generation of healthy students.

#### **42 Cross Street (cont'd.)**

Upon Mayor Curtatone's arrival, discussion resumed regarding the Central Office move to 42 Cross Street and whether the City would pay for the renovations to the building. Mayor Curtatone assured the School Committee that the City would take financial responsibility for the renovations. Mayor Curtatone also stated that he appreciates the School Department being agreeable to this move, which is only a temporary solution. A long term solution will be developed at a later date. At this time, the following motion was moved:

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by to approve the Schematic Floor Plan #5 with changes by the Superintendent presented on January 6, 2010, and approve an additional \$3,180.00 to complete phase 1 of the design.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)**

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Feb. 5, 2010:</b>      | Full Circle/Next Wave students to Loon Mountain Ski Area, Lincoln, NH. Transportation via school van. Cost to students is \$10.             |
| <b>Feb. 26, 2010:</b>     | Full Circle/Next Wave students to Loon Mountain Ski Area, Lincoln, NH. Transportation via school van. Cost to students is \$10.             |
| <b>March 18-19, 2010:</b> | Full Circle/Next Wave students to Loon Mountain Ski Area, Lincoln, NH - overnight. Transportation via school van. Cost to students is \$10. |

##### **B. Race to the Top Memorandum of Agreement**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that at members' seats this evening was a packet of information regarding Race to the Top. Mr. Pierantozzi went through the documents in this packet and gave a brief history of this

proposal. The initial Memorandum of Understanding, which requires three signatures (School Committee Chair, Superintendent, and Teachers Union President), was signed by Chairman Bastardi and Mr. Pierantozzi on December 15, 2009. After much complex dialog and negotiations involving the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the Massachusetts Federation of Teachers, and the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, a Memorandum of Agreement was drafted in an attempt to answer concerns expressed by teachers' unions across the state. Clarification was made as to the parameters of these documents. Any of the parties has the right to withdraw from the process at any time for any reason and the process stops completely for the District. Questions arose regarding whether the Somerville Teachers Association needed the MOA signed before the Association would consider signing the MOU. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the MOA allays some concerns that unions have expressed and that it is a part of the process for the STA to sign the MOU.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi. That the School Committee grant permission to the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Agreement at the request of the Somerville Teachers Association.

Mayor Curtatone offered as a point of information that there is not advantage or reason for the School Committee to sign at the request of a union.

Ms. Rossetti reported that many teachers' associations have been hesitant to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and this Memorandum of Agreement is, basically, a side letter.

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the president of the Somerville Teachers Association has already asked him to facilitate the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement. Having this MOA signed prior to the STA's board meeting, may help facilitate the signing of the MOU. Mr. Pierantozzi also informed members that Attorney Hollender has reviewed this document and approves it.

Ms. Cardoso asked that the motion be restated.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to withdraw the motion.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to authorize the Somerville School Committee Chair, at the request of the Somerville Teachers Association, to sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

Mayor Curtatone, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, offered a friendly amendment to the original motion, which removes the language from the original motion.

The School Committee recessed at 8:33 p.m.

The School Committee returned at 8:36 p.m.

A Roll call vote was taken on the amendment. On a vote of YES – 9 – Bastardi, Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Connolly, Rossetti, Curtatone, Sweeting and Niedergang, the amendment as passed.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion seconded by Ms. Rafal, that the School Committee authorize the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

The Motion was approved via voice vote. Ms. Bastardi announced that she approved, reluctantly.

### C. **MASC Update**

Ms. Rossetti reported on the recent MASC Retreat and announced that notes have been placed at members' seats this evening. Ms. Rossetti issued her gratitude and thanks to Representative Carl Sciortino for his diligence in getting the transiency issue included in the Education Reform Act. Massachusetts is the only state to have asked for such language. Ms. Rossetti also issued thanks to Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Mary Bourque of the Chelsea Public Schools and the MASC for their support during this process.

Ms. Rossetti announced that she will be traveling to Washington, DC and Chicago with the MASC and that all expenses for these trips will be covered by the MASC.

Ms. Rossetti also announced the dates and times of several upcoming Division Workshops as well as the date of this year's Day on the Hill—March 30, 2010. Ms. Rossetti urged all School Committee members to do their best to attend this Day on the Hill.

**D. Tiznit, Morocco Sister City Trip**

Mr. Bockelman spoke briefly about the wonderful opportunity of accompanying the Mayor and other school and City staff on the recent Sister City trip to Tiznit, Morocco. Mr. Bockelman reported that it was a mind opening experience and that the Somerville contingent was treated very well by the host city. Mr. Bockelman requested that staff members who attended this trip be invited to a future meeting to make a presentation to the School Committee regarding their experiences.

**E. Defibrillators in School Buildings**

Ms. Bastardi asked Mr. Pierantozzi if all school buildings have a defibrillator in them. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that there was not a defibrillator in all buildings. There is one at Somerville High School which are available to the athletic trainers. Ms. Bastardi asked if the trainers carry a defibrillator to away events and the Superintendent responded that they did. Ms. Bastardi requested that the Superintendent look into the cost of providing defibrillators in each building and that the matter be referred to the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee for further discussion. It was reported that there are defibrillators at Dilboy Stadium and the Kennedy Pool, as well.

**F. Somervision Steering Committee**

Mr. Niedergang reported that he had recently appointed Mr. Bockelman and Mr. Sweeting to the Somervision Steering Committee and thanked them for agreeing to attending the somewhat long and arduous meetings.

**VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ms. Bastardi**

1. Announced that the Brian Higgins Trivia Night will be held on Thursday, March 25 at Cousens Gym at Tufts University. For more information visit [www.brianhigginsfoundation.org](http://www.brianhigginsfoundation.org)

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Thank you to all for welcoming Ms. Rafal to the Committee. She has been busy reading Roberts Rules of Order and looks forward to her work on the School Committee.
2. Reported on a meeting she attended at the Healey School regarding after school programming there and was impressed with how data is being used to develop programs.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Welcomed Christine Rafal to the board.
2. Announced the upcoming School Improvement Plan presentations and encouraged parents and community members to attend these meetings to get a true sense of what takes place in our schools. These presentations are made by the principal and school councils from each of the District's schools.
3. Announced that a series of Open Houses in schools across the District will take place later this month. Activities at these Open Houses may include planned tours, classroom visits, and information sessions. Some schools and programs also offer coffee hours and evening programs. Each day of the Open House days include a coffee hour at the Parent Information Center to get the day started. Mr. Bockelman encouraged parents, even those with children who are not yet school-aged, to start looking at schools and programs to get a sense of what Somerville has to offer.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Happy New Year
2. Welcome Christine Rafal and Jack Connolly.
3. Thank you to Mr. Niedergang and Mr. Sweeting for serving as Chair and Vice Chair this year.
4. Thanked Mayor Curtatone and staff for the wonderful Inaugural events and reported that the addresses given by Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Connolly, Mayor Curtatone and Congressman Capuano were wonderful and inspiring.
5. Reported that she will be in attendance at the USDA event this Thursday at the Argenziano School.
6. Announced that Ruth Ronan, an Argenziano School parent, has spearheaded an information night for anyone interested in learning more about the Argenziano School. This will take place on this

coming Wednesday evening, January 13, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. No tours will be given this evening, but plenty of information.

7. Ms. Cardoso reported that she is, once again, the Chair of the Personnel Subcommittee and their next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20, at 6:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street.

**Mr. Connolly**

1. Happy to be working with the School Committee as they are a hard working and cooperative group.
2. Issued his thanks to the Superintendent and his staff for providing him with the information he needs to work with the Committee. Mr. Connolly and Mr. Pierantozzi met recently to discuss the issues for this coming year and assured the Committee that he will continue the practice of mutual communication between the School Committee and the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Connolly is looking forward to a great year.

**Ms. Rossetti**

Ms. Rossetti reported that she is, once again, the Chair of the Rules Subcommittee and that her mission this year it to complete the review of the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual. This has been a multi-year process and she looks forward to its completion.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Welcomed the new members to the School Committee.
2. Echoed Mr. Bockelman's announcement regarding Open Houses and encouraged all interested parties to visit.
3. Announced that Evening School registration will be taking place on . Somerville is proud that we educate all citizens—both children and adults. There are many great courses being offered at the Evening School for our adult learners.
4. Reported that he will be in attendance at Wednesday evening's information session at the Argenziano School.
5. Announced that, as Chair of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee, it will be a challenging year and he requests guidance and support, particularly throughout the FY11 Budget process.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- *William R. Sullivan, former Special Education Teacher for the Somerville Public Schools*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, January 25, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Connolly, and Mayor Curtatone (7:40 p.m.)

**Members absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Bastardi, Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Connolly, Rossetti, Sweeting, and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 - Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

Mr. Niedergang announced that the meeting would begin with an item not listed on the formal agenda – a presentation on the recent Sister City trip to Tiznit, Morocco. At this time, Mr. Bockelman and Dr. McKay stepped to the podium and spoke about their own experiences on the trip. The following school employees who were present on the trip were introduced and spoke on their experiences:

Alicia Kersten – Ms. Kersten is the Social Studies Department Head at Somerville High School. She reported that the hospitality was impressive, as was the quality of teachers in Tiznit. Also, the new King of the country has put forth a missive to develop a civil society that includes quality education, healthcare and rights for women.

Kim Murphy – Ms. Murphy is the Assistant Principal at the Healey School. She reported that she took the Healey School bear (stuffed) on the trip and was able to journal her experiences and take pictures of the bear in various places on her trip. The bear lives in Ms. Celia Taylor's class and Ms. Taylor's students are in the process of becoming pen pals with students in Tiznit.

Christy Burbidge – Ms. Burbidge is an adjustment counselor at Somerville High School. She reported that, as a social worker, it was interesting to learn that social services are virtually non-existent in schools in Tiznit. There are no school counselors in any of their schools.

Karen Comeau – Ms. Comeau is a teacher at the Healey School. She reported that it was nice to see that children in Tiznit are like children here in Somerville. Ms. Comeau also had a link to a family in the area as the family of one of her student's grew up in Tiznit and extended family still lives there. Ms. Comeau was able to meet this extended family and share pictures, etc. with the student and her family. A special bond was created with this family.

The whole idea of an exchange began last Spring when the mayors of both cities discussed the possibility of a Sister City relationship. During this visit to Tiznit, which is a city of approximately 5,000 people, our visiting contingent found an enlightened government that wants all the best for its citizens. The people of Tiznit were fluent in four languages – Moroccan Arabic, Classic Arabic, French and Berber. Not many people spoke English, but had the desire to learn English. There was a strong interest in basketball.

It is hoped that representatives from Tiznit will be visiting Somerville sometime in 2010. It is also hoped that a student exchange program with Somerville High School and the Healey School can be developed.

Mr. Niedergang thanked all participants for representing the City and for their presentations. The School Committee recessed at 7:15 p.m.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:22 p.m.

**VII. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler was unable to attend this evening's meeting

## VIII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

### ***Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Mr. Bockelman (Jan. 13)

Mr. Bockelman's report included the following:

1. Early Childhood Education – an informational presentation by Pamela Holmes, Nomi Davidson and Fernanda Villar on the history of Early Childhood and the anticipated future of Early Childhood in Somerville based on future funding.
2. Focus on Results – Dr. McKay provided an update
3. Somerville High School Reaccreditation – Dr. McKay provided an update
4. Inservice Courses

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

1. Book Study Group: Bringing Words to Life
2. Beginning Spanish Using Notes in Spanish

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### ***Rules Management Subcommittee:*** Ms. Rossetti (Jan. 19)

The Rules Subcommittee met on January 19, at Central Office. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang and Superintendent Pierantozzi. The meeting was focused on continuing the review of the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to strike the following policies from the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual:

File: ILBA-E – District Program Assessments

File: KLG – Relations with Police Authorities

File: KLJ – Relations with Planning Authorities

File: KLK – Relations with Local Governmental Authorities

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to table the following policies:

File: IKE – Promotion Policy for Grades K-8

File: IKEB – Promotion Policy for Grades 9-12

File: JICA – Student Dress Code

File: JICAA – Vocational Dress Code

File: JIHA – Locker, Desk, Etc. Searches

File: KBBA-E – Sample Notice to the Custodial Parent, Sample Affidavit for Non-Custodial Parent, Non-Custodial Parents Rights

File: KF-R – Community Use of School Facilities

File: KF-R-1 – Field House User Policy

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, that all policies under Section K not referred this evening as First Reading or Revised be noted as "reviewed January, 2010."

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, that policy IJOA be noted as "reviewed January, 2010."

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### ***Personnel Subcommittee*** Ms. Cardoso (Jan. 20)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal and Paul Bockelman along with Supt. Tony Pierantozzi and Human Resources Administrator Rebeca Martinez.

There were 3 Items on the Agenda.

1. Planning for Recruitment Season- upcoming Recruitment Fairs, anticipated openings, recruitment strategies and a brief discussion of the timeline for the recruitment season.
2. Update on Retirement Notices Submitted to Date-update of retirement notices to date.
3. Update on Searches-current opening for a Senior Clerk position at SHS posted with a deadline of January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Update on the search process for replacing the Director of Vocational Technical Education due to Mr. Bassett's retirement in June. Mr. Ciccariello and Tom Bent (Chair of the Advisory Board) have already begun and will continue to conduct various focus groups to develop a candidate profile with staff members, parents, guardians, students and community members in order to give all interested parties an opportunity to have input into this very important process. This profile will then be used as an assessment tool in the recruitment and interview process. A search timeline is being developed and will be presented at a future meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

The next Personnel Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.

*Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:40 p.m.*

#### ***School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning*** Mr. Niedergang (Jan. 20)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Long Range Planning meeting of January 20, which was held at 181 Washington Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, and Mr. Niedergang. Also in attendance was Superintendent Pierantozzi. Items discussed included:

1. Determine January 2010-December 2011 District Improvement Plan process and timeline
2. School Improvement Plan presentations and process
3. Inclusion Long Range Goal – Status Report – Ms. Connell, Ms. DiGuardia, and Mr. Kennedy from the Special Education Administrative Team provided a report on the Long Range Goal which addresses increasing Inclusion. Ms. Connell presented a chart which is being used to track progress over the past couple of years. The results of a March 2009 teacher survey were presented and Mr. Kennedy presented three case studies. Ms. DiGuardia reported on the professional development of teachers around inclusion and Mr. Kennedy reported on a list of what makes inclusion work. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the goal is to educate each child as best possible and that inclusion isn't always the best. Much high-level discussion ensued.

Mr. Niedergang announced that dates of the upcoming School Improvement Plan presentations:

- January 27 – Healey and Somerville High School
- January 28 – Winter Hill, Capuano and Next Wave/Full Circle
- February 2 – Kennedy and East Somerville
- February 3 – West Somerville, Brown and Argenziano

All presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room on the third floor at 181 Washington Street.

## **IX. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

8. On January 15, Mr. Pierantozzi attended an event at the Healey School sponsored by the Haitian Coalition to offer support to the Haitian Community after the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti. At this event, Mr. Pierantozzi received a list of medical supplies—compiled by the Somerville Haitian Coalition—in preparation for a relief trip to Haiti in March. This list has been distributed to all staff and collection boxes are being placed at each office. Mr. Pierantozzi also reported that the Rotarians are pledging their support by providing two Shelter boxes, which are self-contained boxes containing a tent for 6-8 people, tools, food, utensils, dishes, water purifiers, etc. Each box costs \$1,000.00 and more information about these boxes may be found at [www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org). Efforts are being taken to provide temporary protection status to Haitian Nationals in the United States. More information is available on the School Department's website. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that a city-wide fundraiser will be held on February 19 at the Somerville Theater.

Alderman Connolly announced that much work is being done to make the benefit extremely successful. All services clubs in the city are involved. We are all part of the same family.

9. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, on January 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Healey School, the first of the Parents as Partners workshops was presented by Kerry Allman of the Middlesex District Attorney's office. The subject was on Alcohol and Drug Use by Teens. There were approximately 27 audience members present.
10. Mr. Pierantozzi also announced that, with prom and graduation season approaching, a program is being planned to address concerns for our students at this time of year.

Mr. Bockelman asked if there were any handouts provided at the parent workshop. Mr. Pierantozzi answered that none were given, but he would ask for some for the next 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: An update on the progress in our elementary schools' ongoing work with Focus on Results and the development of the building-based instructional leadership teams.

The superintendent, Shannon Gilligan and Dr. McKay just completed a round of "mid-year check in" visits with each school. We met for about 90 minutes, in each school, with the principal and members of their instructional leadership teams.

These meetings were also attended by our Focus On Results partners, Joe Palumbo and Trina Abbott. At each school, we reviewed progress according to four major areas of work that are part of the Focus on Results process. These areas include:

- The current state of the school's instructional focus, and how it's being communicated to students, staff and families. For example, WHCS instructional focus is related to reading comprehension, and it's expected that this focus area is being reinforced with students in every classroom, every day.
- Translating the focus area into effective practice: Development of the school-wide instructional practice, making sure Professional Development is targeted to the instructional focus aimed at improving practices related to core instruction.
- About the "leadership" in ILT.... Progress being made with the ILT as a functional/cohesive group that's facilitating faculty meetings and leading the improvement work with staff
- Data: A major part of this work concerns the use of data, and we discussed current progress with the use of data, both internally with staff and public displays of growth. It's also expected that data will be used for goal-setting, both for students and for the school as a whole.

The principal's meeting tomorrow will include a discussion of this, including principals' self-assessment of their progress towards meeting the goals.

At 2:00 p.m. on this Wednesday, there will be a Steering Committee meeting regarding the Mystic Children's' Zone. This is the second meeting of this group and will address progress thus far.

4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Teen Dating Abuse Training Pilot Program that was held on January 11, at Somerville High School. Bystander Neutrality was a primary area of concern during this program. Guests at the kick-off of the program included Mayor Curtatone, Chief Holloway and Middlesex District Attorney Gerald Leone.
5. On January 21, Corey Mashburn of Somerville Cares About Prevention presented the results of the Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Overall, our students are improving. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that an area of concern was bullying and efforts are being made to address this area of concern. On March 8, there will be training for all staff by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office staff at 4:00 p.m. On March 10, there will be training for all parents and guardians. Mr. Pierantozzi also reported that he will authorize and ad hoc committee of parents, guardians and staff to address bullying and provide a secure safe learning environment for all students where they may live peacefully and happily and learn to the best of their ability.

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:

**High School Youth Risk Health Survey** 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, 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. Last year, the survey was administered to all students attending grades 6-8. This year, we will be giving this survey to all high school students in grades 9-12 enrolled at Somerville High School and Full Circle during the week of February 1<sup>st</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 9-12 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, the district office at 181 Washington Street, and Full Circle between January 25-January 29.

**Kindergarten registration** for the next school year is now in progress. Last Saturday, kindergarten registration started at the Parent Information Center where parents registered 92 children (100 children last year) for kindergarten for the next school year. During Saturday's kindergarten registration, flu shots were made available by the Somerville Health Department to anyone interested while the Family Network provided child care for those parents in need while registering. There was also a table to discuss the upcoming US census and a school volunteer recruitment table. Other registration sites include the Michael Capuano Early Childhood Center on January 25-26th between 9am-2pm, the West Somerville Neighborhood School on January 27<sup>th</sup> between 9am-2pm and the Healey School on January 28th, between 2pm-7pm and back to the Parent Information Center on January 29th.

Moreover, 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 on January 20, 21, and 22, while Somerville High School will host their open house on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with two time periods to visit classrooms, between 8:30am to 10am, and 12:15pm to 2:00pm after attending a brief introductory session in the auditorium. There will also be a Unidos Information night on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-6:30pm in the Capuano cafeteria for anyone interested in learning more about the program. The school open house provides an excellent chance for any interested individuals to view classes in session. I encourage people to take advantage of the upcoming high open houses and share in the outstanding education that takes place each day in all our schools.

**MAC Van** And finally, as I indicated to you in a previous report, the Somerville Public Schools, Somerville Health Department and Somerville Dental Center have partnered to continue to make Somerville a healthier place. In this effort, the Massachusetts Dental Society's Mobile Access to Care (Mac) Van is coming to the City of Somerville at the Somerville High School Concourse on Saturday, April 10th, between 9am-5pm. Free sealants and free oral evaluations and screenings will be provided to anyone who makes an appointment to visit the Mac van on that day. For an appointment for April 10th, one may call the Somerville Dental Center at 617-625-9400.

6. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the wonderful and exciting event held on January 14 at the Argenziano School to recognize the Argenziano, West Somerville Neighborhood and Healey Schools for their recent award of gold and bronze medals by the United States Food and Drug Administration in the Healthier US Schools Challenge. The Undersecretary of the USDA, Kevin Concannon, was on site to present the awards to the principals of the three schools. Out of 180,000 schools across the United States, only 600 have received such designation and Somerville has four out of the 600. Along with these three schools, the Winter Hill Community School received a Silver medal last year. These four schools are the only schools in Massachusetts to receive this designation. The event included wonderful performances by students from the Argenziano School. Mr. Pierantozzi issued thanks to the Mayor for a proclamation in recognition of these awards; Mr. Barringer and Ms. Brown for arranging the entertainment; the Food Service Department for all of their hard work through the years—for them this was the Academy Awards of Food Service workers, who are often overlooked; Mr. Niedergang for presenting certificates to these workers. Also, congratulations to the Physical Education staff for continuing to make the health of our students a prime focus.

Mayor Curtatone spoke about raising a healthy generation and reported that Somerville's efforts have not gone un-noticed, as the First Lady, Michelle Obama, has met with Mayor Curtatone to

discuss Shape Up Somerville and Mrs. Obama actually mentioned Shape Up Somerville in a speech she presented around her initiative to curb childhood obesity.

Special thanks to Mary Jo McLarney, the true star of the day, who goes to bat everyday to make sure our students have healthy, nutritious and tasty food offerings each day.

School Committee members offered their thanks and thoughts on the day's events.

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

- Work on the FY11 budget continues. This week and next the each Principal, along with their school councils will be presenting their School Improvement Plan to the School committee. Information on program and facilities needs at each school, as presented by the Principal, will be incorporated in the budget planning. In addition, at the next finance and facilities subcommittee meeting on February 11, I expect to have information regarding the projected elementary class sections for next year, and preliminary staffing needs. I do want to stress that this information is preliminary, and is subject to change.
- Governor Patrick will announce the FY11 State Budget on Wednesday evening. As part of that announcement, the preliminary FY11 Chapter 70 and net school spending numbers will be announced. Chapter 70 is aid to cities and towns for education programs. Based upon the preliminary information released over the weekend, we are expecting that both the Chapter 70 aid to schools and the unrestricted general aid to cities and towns to be level funded in the Governor budget for next fiscal year. This year our chapter 70 aid equals \$20,185,320 and the general aid totals \$22,199,513. Of course the Governor's budget is the first step in the process. The budget timeline is being followed and guidelines are being met.

Ms. Rossetti commented that she is thrilled with level funding, but much could change between now and June. Ms. Rossetti urged School Committee members to make every effort to attend this year's MASC Day on the Hill being held on March 30, 2010. It is important, during these difficult financial times, to participate and advocate for our District.

7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that level funding is great, but costs do not stay level. For example, salaries and benefit costs do not stay level.
8. Mr. Pierantozzi issued a reminder about the School Improvement Plan presentations and announced the dates and times.

The Superintendent deferred to Mr. Joseph Tringale, Director of Operations for his report on several reporting issues. Mr. Tringale provided a brief report on the following compliance and reporting items:

- State Ethics Commission requirements – notification and training for all employees
- Annual Notice of right to participate in 403b plan – provided to all employees
- Annual End of Year Report of revenues of expenditures – filed in October. Somerville is scheduled for an audit of this report sometime in March and preparations are underway for this audit
- Last month, the Education Professional Information Management System (EPIMS) staff report was sent to the DESE. This provides data regarding demographics, credentials, attrition and assignments. Most importantly, this report provides data regarding Highly Qualified status. It is important to note that the overall percentage of Highly Qualified staff in Somerville is 99%--up from 98% last year. While other districts have difficulty approaching these numbers, Somerville has done so with excellent recruiting practices, quality mentoring and support and excellent professional development
- The District has been notified by the US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights that we will participate in their Data Collection Survey this year. This is a mandatory report focusing on student enrollment, program area, gender, race/ethnicity, with a special focus on Special Education, and English Learner services.
- The School Attending Children Report was just filed with the DESE. This report includes all children residing in Somerville with enrollment by grade and school (public, private, charter, etc.).

Ms. Rossetti expressed her frustration regarding the number of reports that are being required by the State and Federal government.

- Ms. Durette, Mr. Tringale and others are involved with submitting approximately 350 reports each year. It is interesting to note that 42 districts in Massachusetts have not yet submitted their October 1 report. As new laws are passed, things get added, but nothing gets taken off the plate. The mountain just keeps getting bigger.
- 9. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that this Wednesday will be a half day of school for elementary students only. He also announced that the second quarter ends on January 27 and report cards will be distributed approximately one week later.
- 10. Announced that the Eastern Mass District Swim Championships will be held at the Kennedy School on January 30 and 31 and February 6 and 7. Thanks were issued to the YMCA, Somerville Police, Somerville Traffic and Parking and to Rich Cheney for all their work on this event, which will feature outstanding swimming and incredible traffic!

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. East Somerville Community School

Mr. Niedergang requested that Mayor Curtatone provide information regarding the process around approval for the rebuilding of the East Somerville Community School following the 2007 fire. Mayor Curtatone provided information of the process thus far and the three options available to Somerville—a new building, a partially new building or a gut rehab of the present building—which will allow us to maintain the large common spaces, such as the auditorium. The decision was to rehab the current building in order to maintain the current space. In order to move forward, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) requires a Design Enrollment Certification Form to be signed. The next board meeting of the MSBA is this Wednesday so time is of the essence. It is important for this document to be signed and sent to the MSBA so that they may have it on Wednesday at their board meeting and take the necessary steps to keep us moving forward. The City has \$9.2 million set aside for this project and the MSBA will provide 78-80% funding.

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on work being done in determining the size of the building, the number of classrooms, students, etc. to this point. Much discussion ensued regarding the number of students the school will house, the Education Specs, the Space Summary report, the East Somerville Community School Advisory Committee's involvement, legal concerns and the bureaucracy involved around the whole process.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to authorize the chair of the School Committee to sign the Design Enrollment Certification Form for the Massachusetts School Building Authority regarding the East Somerville Community School.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 9 – Bastardi, Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Curtatone, Rossetti, Connolly, Sweeting, and Niedergang.

### B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Ms. Rossetti)

The following policies are being presented for First Reading ***for adoption***:

File:KHA – Public Solicitation in the Schools

File:KI – Visitors to the Schools

The following policies are being presented for First Reading, ***as revised***:

File:IJOA-1 – Field Trips

File:IJOA-2 – Late Night and Overnight School Sponsored Student Travel

File:KB – District Parent Involvement Plan

File:KHB – Advertising in the Schools

### C. Shape Up Somerville Task Force

Mr. Niedergang informed the Committee that he has appointed Mr. Sweeting to the Shape Up Somerville Task Force and thanked Mr. Sweeting for agreeing to represent the School Committee on this very important committee.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Field Trip** (Recommended Action: Approval)

**Mar. 12-14, 2010:** Somerville High School GSA to the True Colors Convention, Storres, Ct. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$50.00 per student.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **B. Acceptance of Donations** (Recommended Action: Approval)

#### **1. Cash Donation**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of \$15,000.00 by Miriam Schwartz. This donation is to be used to purchase string instruments for students participating in orchestra.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to accept the donation of \$15,000 by Miriam Schwartz, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

*Ms. Bastardi departed at 9:18 p.m.*

#### **2. Furniture**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of furniture, donated by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, to be used at Next Wave/Full Circle. Estimated value TBD.

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to accept the donation of furniture by the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported on the Haitian Coalition's moving vigil last week. As a citizen, he is proud to be from Somerville.
2. Somerville High School seniors and their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend College Goal Sunday on January 31 for assistance with financial aid application preparation.

### **Mayor Curtatone**

1. Echoed Mr. Sweeting's comments regarding the Haitian Coalition's and announced that there will be many more events to come to support the Haitian people, both here and in Haiti.

### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. Ms. Rossetti requested that Representative Sciortino be invited to a future meeting to thank him for his work on the mobility issue.
2. Announced that she will be traveling to Washington, DC for the week with MASC, where she will be advocating with the Massachusetts Congressional and Senate representatives and will report back to the School Committee.

### **Mr. Connolly**

1. Reported that he will bring the East Somerville vote back to the Board of Aldermen

### **Ms. Cardoso**

1. Thank you to the Mayor and the Haitian Coalition. It is wonderful to live in Somerville.
2. Thank you to Ward Two resident, Ruth Ronan, for planning and facilitating the Information Night at the Argenziano School on January 13. There were 17-20 interested attendees. This was a great event, overall!
3. Thank you to Ms. Rossetti for representing Somerville in Washington and in all of her advocacy work.
4. Encouraged members to attend the Day on the Hill in March and stated that more School Committee members need to attend this very important event.



**Mr. Bockelman**

1. The Brown School is hosting an Open House Information session this evening
2. The Choice Program held an Open House Information Session last week
3. Unidos will hold an Open House Information Session soon
4. Somerville High School will hold its Open House and tours next week on
5. Issued thanks for the support of himself and all staff members regarding the trip to Morocco
6. Reported that at the Massachusetts Municipal Association's conference, the Governor announced level funding of the budget, but Ways and Means Committee Chair responded, "Not so fast!" This will, indeed, be a very important Day on the Hill.
7. Congratulated all involved with a very successful celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday. Special congratulations to Melissa McWhinney and Todd Kaplan for their awards at this event. It was, especially, moving to hear Somerville High School student Autumn Thornton during her phenomenal presentation.
8. Announced that he is proud of all of the efforts around supporting the Haitian people and is proud to be a citizen of Somerville.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Reported that she was deeply moved by the vigil held in support of our Haitian neighbors.
2. Reported that she had attended five Open Houses across the District and was impressed by all of them. It was nice to see the different buildings and programs and reported that each was done a little differently and had its own feel. Very proud of the Somerville Schools.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Maria Mitrano, mother in law of Lisa Mitrano, teacher at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park
- Eileen Strier, retired staff member from SCALE.
- Emily Sichterman, paraprofessional at the Kennedy School
- Julia Mary Phelan, mother of Louise Gilblair, secretary at Somerville High School
- Maria (Grace) Abrantes, parent of four students in the Somerville Public Schools.
- Joan DeMino Onthank, mother of Helen Onthank, teachers at the Kennedy School
- Joseph Zonghetti, father of Ray Zonghetti, longtime supporter of the City and the Somerville Public Schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, February 1, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Connolly, and Mayor Curtatone (7:40 p.m.)

**Members absent:** Ms. Rossetti

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Bastardi, Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Connolly, Sweeting, and Niedergang, and Absent – 2 – Curtatone and Rossetti.

Mr. Niedergang announced that Mary Jo Rossetti was representing us in Washington DC with the MASC, that is why she is not in attendance tonight.

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler was not in attendance

**III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

Mr. Niedergang stated that there were no subcommittee meetings because the School Committee has been having School Improvement Plans (SIP) meetings and once all the schools presented their SIP, then a report would be given.

**IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Superintendent Pierantozzi stated that several LOA's listed on the Personnel Report were due to illnesses and maternity leaves. He then listed the retirees, mentioning that the retirement of Dorothy Rudolph and Pauline Lampropoulos was special to him and they would be very difficult to replace.

Ms. Cardoso made note of Joyce Murphy's retirement, stating it was because of Joyce that she joined PTA many years ago and here today she's sitting on the School Committee. "Thank you Joyce." Ms. Cardoso also thanked Dorothy Rudolph and Pauline Lampropoulos for all they've done stating they were class acts and going to be hard to replace.

Ms. Bastardi stated that when her oldest daughter was in our Smile Program at the Edgerly School, Pauline dragged her into the school stating Edgerly had no PTA..."here I am today".

**STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Niedergang announced that Molly Tyler was now present and asked for her report.

- The students from Health Careers collected \$1500 for the Red Cross Relief Fund in Haiti
- February 4<sup>th</sup> will be the first showing of the SHS musical Beauty and the Beast and she gave the dates of the other performances, stating it was going to be a great show.

**B. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Superintendent Pierantozzi thanked all the volunteers who recently participated in College Goal Sunday at Somerville High School.
2. The Superintendent also thanked everyone in advance for their donations to the Haitian Coalition. He stated that Somerville High School is raising funds and collecting enormous amounts of medical supplies for Haiti. There is a list of needed supplies on our website or you may call the Haitian Coalition.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Today, SHS Headmaster Tony Ciccariello and Superintendent Pierantozzi and I attended a meeting in Malden, at the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, hosted by Commissioner Chester. This meeting was to give the Commissioner some feedback on a presentation by a national organization, the state board examination consortium. This group, which presented their ideas today to a small group of superintendents and high school principals, is encouraging states to consider a high school restructuring proposal. This proposal is just coming up for discussion here in Massachusetts, and is part of the national movement to improve the readiness and the international competitiveness of America's high school graduates. One of the basic ideas of the proposal is to create an exam system similar to those in other countries like England and Hong Kong. It was a very interesting discussion, and we gave them our honest opinions about challenges – and potential benefits – of implementing any such program. Any impact on our schools is at least a year away, but the Superintendent and I will keep you informed of any state developments in that area.
  - Also today, SHS had its first day of MCAS Biology testing. Since this is the first year seniors are required to pass a science MCAS exam to graduate, there are three testing opportunities for those who have yet to pass, this week, then again in April. According to the HS Guidance and testing office, 105 students tested today including 12 seniors. In addition to these students, another 12 adult diploma students from SCALE were tested. Good luck to all!
  - During the weeks of January 19th and 25th, all the students and staff of the Winter Hill Community School brought in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars to send to the **International Rescue Committee** on behalf of the citizens of Haiti who endured the earthquake. Approximately 20 students from grades 3, 5, 7 and 8 and two staff members walked to the Winter Hill Bank on January 28th to count the money. Our total collected was **\$1,087**. Additionally all students and staff were invited to write their name and any sentiments they may have concerning the people of Haiti on a very large mural sized poster hanging on the wall of the 7th and 8th grade wing. Scores of signatures can be seen amidst the words "I am Haitian or I know someone who is Haitian".
3. The Superintendent noted that the Kennedy School Pool hosted the YMCA District Champion Swim Meet on Saturday and Sunday, with about 2000 people (swimmers, parents) in attendance. He thanked the Custodians, Somerville Police Department, Somerville's Traffic and Parking and Rich Cheney.
  4. Recognizing the First Beginners String Concert which was held recently, the Superintendent held up a picture of all the students on stage and in front of stage, performing. He thanked Rick Saunders, Director of Music and all our donors who donated funds to our music department. Because of a subcommittee, members could not attend the concert this year, but the Superintendent stated that next year, if there is a meeting, they must take a break to attend.

Mr. Sweeting stated that the School Committee approved a \$15,000 donation to purchase string instruments at the last meeting and would like to invite Mr. Saunders and Ms. Schwartz to a School Committee meeting to thank them publicly.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Frank DiChiappari, District Administrator for Student Service for his report on several issues. Dr. DiChiappari's report included the following:

- **January 1<sup>st</sup> report** You should all have the January 1, 2010 enrollment of all K-12 Somerville children for the last 9 years (2002-2010) and the enrollment of all Somerville K-12 students at the Prospect Hill Academy Charter School by grade for the last 8 years (2003-2010). The January 1st, 2010 report suggests a decrease (-1.4%) in the total number of City school-aged children for grades K-12 since January 1, 2009. The Somerville Public Schools (district) shows a smaller decrease of -0.9% while the Private/Parochial shows an decrease of -8.8% and the Out-of-District (Charter) increases by 3.6%. Over the past nine years, the City has decreased its number of school-aged children by 24.8% while the district decreased its enrollment by -16.7%. The parochial/private schools decreased their enrollment by -61.8% and the charter by -3.6%. According to the January 1 enrollment report, the Somerville Public School enrolled 4,608 students in grades K-12, 21 fewer students than last year, a decrease of 4.5%. While the high school enrollment decreased by 63 students (-

- 4.4%) the elementary enrollment in grades K-8 increased by 42 students, an increase of 1.3% from January 1, 2009.
- **US Census** The school district is collaborating with The City Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development and the US Census Bureau regarding the upcoming US Census 2010. It is important to make sure that each resident gets counted in the census since over \$300 billion dollars in federal funds are awarded annually to states and communities based on census counts. We would like to get the word out to the public that information on the census is totally confidential and safe. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone including other federal, state, and local agencies. US Census 2010 confidentiality posters in different languages have been provided to schools to place in areas visible to the public. So we encourage every resident to complete the 2010 census form when it arrives in March and be counted to ensure that the funding reaches our children.
  - **Volunteer Placements** Approximately 52 new volunteer tutors have been placed in schools since September 2009 through the Somerville Public Schools Volunteer Program. Based on a minimum requirement of 1 hour per week, new volunteers have contributed at least 1,040 hours of service thus far during this school year. The District, through the office of the volunteer coordinator, has been 5-10 new inquiries every week from potential volunteers. September, October and January are months with largest volume.
  - Most of the new volunteers this year are literacy and math tutors who work 1:1 with a student on a weekly basis. Nine (9) new volunteers were placed with the Community Schools After School Programs. New volunteers have also been placed with the Saturday ACE IT Program at the Edgerly, and the Saturday MCAS Prep at Somerville High School. Additionally, volunteers have been placed with art and music teachers.
  - Eight volunteers have been tutoring literacy this year at the East Somerville Community School @ Edgerly through the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy. These tutors meet weekly to work 1:1 with students during the school day, or in the after school program. Nine volunteers continue to work in the same capacity at the Healey School.
  - Beyond new volunteers recruited this year, there are many more volunteers already working in schools including parent volunteers, already established business partnerships, PTA volunteers, and the many ongoing volunteers who provide valuable service through both in- and out-of-school service. I would like to publically thank all the volunteers for their time and effort and for all they do to help our Somerville students.
5. The Superintendent stated that we have received the final Coordinator Review report and he thanked Central Office, Secretaries, Principals and Staff Members for working on this. On February 10, 2010 at the Ed Programs Subcommittee, he will report on it to School Committee members. There were a total of eight categories and he will break it out for School Committee members. In approximately three weeks, it will be on the DOE website. He stated that before February 26th we will be filing the corrective action plan. He thanked the DESE staffers who came to Somerville and stated that they were impressed. Many steps have been instituted that they suggested.

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

- The Somerville High School Vocational Department has been awarded a federal competitive grant by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The amount of the grant is \$40,000. The purpose of the grant is to introduce instruction in the area of photovoltaic power, and green construction, as part of its standard course of instruction in the Electrical Program. This grant will allow the department to purchase materials and equipment required to expand the instruction in this area. I want to congratulate Phil Bassett and Gretchen Kinder on this award.
- The furniture donated by the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, that was accepted by the school committee at the last meeting, was delivered to Full Circle Next Wave this past Friday. The furniture was primarily office type furniture, and included teacher desks, bookcases, and meeting room chairs. The old furniture being replaced was removed with the help of DPW.

6. The Superintendent reminded everyone about Beauty and Beast at Somerville High School on Thursday and Friday at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. He said we could preview the play on our website.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Niedergang announced that Mary Jo Rossetti is the Chair of the Rules Management Subcommittee but not present tonight, so Mr. Sweeting will report

### **C. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Mr. Sweeting )**

The following policies are being presented for Second Reading ***for Adoption:***

File:KHA – Public Solicitation in the Schools

File:KI – Visitors to the Schools

Mr. Bockelman noted some typo errors in KHA and asked for KI to go back to rules for more discussion.

The following policies are being presented for Second Reading, ***as revised:***

File:IJOA-1 – Field Trips

File:IJOA-2 – Late Night and Overnight School Sponsored Student Travel

File:KB – District Parent Involvement Plan

File:KHB – Advertising in the Schools

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal to adopt as revised.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Diplomas**

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that one SHS student be granted his diploma.

#### **Keeping Grandoit**

Motion to approve by Ms. Cardoso, seconded by Ms. Bastardi.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **B. Acceptance of Donations**

#### **Cash Donation**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of \$75.00 by Tom Clark. This donation is to be used for music education.

Motion to approve by Ms. Bastardi, seconded by Ms. Rafal

The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang stated that he received a thank you sympathy card from the family of Cosmo Lucreziano.

Mr. Niedergang also announced he received an email from PTA Council President, Carol Perris, inviting the School Committee to their meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at West Somerville Neighborhood School.

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

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reminded the community that the school year is half over. Look on our website for PTA dates and really encourages parents to attend.
2. Somerville Arts Council is presenting a Haitian video on SCAT. Be on the look out for it.
3. Finance and Facilities meeting will be on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Central Office.
4. The School Committee will be beginning the budget process soon.

5. School Committee members have some homework to do, get your comments to Pat Durette regarding the foundation report.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. On January 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, the Winter Hill Community School collected money for the International Rescue Committee. Twenty students and two staff members walked to the bank and deposited \$1087.00.
2. Will be attending Charting the Course on Friday and Saturday and is really looking forward to it.

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. The Brown School and Choice Open Houses were well attended.
2. Groundhog Day is tomorrow, celebrate and see the movie.
3. Long Range Planning meeting will be February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Central Office
4. All members have been given a postcard of the World Rhythms Dance Program, who are renting out the old Babe Ruth Building on Highland Avenue. World Rhythms is presently working with our afterschool programs.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Somerville High School will have their open house tomorrow and Wednesday, at 8:15 and 12:00. The tours are a great way to see Somerville High School. Tours are geared to your interest (language, vocational). More and more people are attending each year. It's the perfect time to see the inside of Somerville High School.

**Mr. Connolly**

1. The city side is staging a benefit for Haiti on February 18<sup>th</sup> at Somerville Theater and Tufts is working with the city also. Mayor's office is collecting more information.
2. Last Thursday, we sent off Chief Holloway and the appointed acting Chief is Michael Cabral.
3. Tom Champion, the Voice of Somerville, is leaving us.
4. Three police officers were promoted at the last Alderman's meeting.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. With Chief Holloway gone, the selection process has begun for a new Chief and the school's role is critical. He will be seeking comments from the School Committee.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Reminded everyone that the next Personnel meeting will be Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Central Office.
2. Wishes everyone a safe, happy February vacation.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Niedergang expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relative of a staff member who recently passed away:

- Rita Reppucci, mother of Jean DeAmato, SCSP After School Program and Breakfast/Lunch Mother at West Somerville Neighborhood School.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m., by voice vote.

Maryann Coulombe  
Administrative Assistant

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, February 22, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Connolly, and Mayor Curtatone (8:11 p.m.)

**Members absent:** Ms. Bastardi

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Connolly, Rossetti, Sweeting, and Niedergang, and Absent – 2 – Bastardi and Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed. Mr. Niedergang informed the audience that Ms. Bastardi is absent this evening due to a family medical emergency and that the Committee's thoughts and prayers are with her at this time.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- January 11, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Cardoso, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of January 11, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- January 25, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Cardoso, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of January 25, 2010 with the addition of Mr. Sweeting's name to the attendees at the January 20, 2010, Long Range Planning Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- February 1, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Cardoso, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of February 1, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler reported the following information regarding Somerville High School:

Although it was school vacation week, students at Somerville High have been very busy.

- The Boys and Girls Track Teams competed and did well in the Division I State Meet.
- Franklin Salvador became the fourth student and 2<sup>nd</sup> male to score over 1,000 points on a Somerville High School basketball team. Currently, Franklin's tally is 1,015 points.
- The Girls' Basketball team defeated Wachusett and will face Lincoln Sudbury in a play-off game on Wednesday.
- Advanced Placement information packet is being distributed this week.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

***School Improvement Plan Presentations:*** Mr. Niedergang

Mr. Niedergang reported on the four nights of School Improvement Plan presentations and stated that our 10 schools presented their plans over four nights. Approximately 75 people were in attendance over the course of the presentations with about eight to ten people from each school, in most cases. These presentations were wonderful and thoughtful and generated much discussion and questions. Dates and schools were as follows:

1. January 27, 2010
  - a. Healey School

b. Somerville High School

MOTION: To authorize the Somerville High School School Council, Faculty and Headmaster to amend the current portfolio process at Somerville High School as they deem appropriate.

2. January 28, 2010
  - Winter Hill Community School
  - Capuano Early Childhood Center
  - Next Wave/Full Circle
3. February 2, 2010
  - Kennedy School
  - East Somerville Community School
4. February 3, 2010
  - West Somerville Neighborhood School
  - Brown School
  - Argenziano School at Lincoln Park

Mr. Niedergang read the following motion which was approved at the School Improvement Plan meeting of February 3, 2010.

MOTION: To approve all 2010 School Improvement Plans presented to the School Committee (pending funding).

***School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:*** Mr. Niedergang (February 8)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Long Range Planning Meeting of February 8. This meeting was held at the Capuano Early Childhood Center Library. The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. Members in attendance were Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal and Mr. Niedergang. Items discussed included the following:

1. Discussion of District Goals for 2010-2011 – discussion on focusing on a smaller number of goals, overall. Decision to decrease the number of goals in the District Improvement Plan from 10 to 5 for 2010-2011.
2. Update on website progress – Ms. Kinder presented an update on the progress made on the website. The Committee moved to the computer lab at the Capuano so that members could go online and follow along with Ms. Kinder's presentation. Updates to the site include a "Google" search box to assist people in finding items among the huge volumes of information on the website. Ms. Kinder is doing a good job and continues to have a long list of future improvements. Extensive questions and discussion ensued.

MOTION: To approve the goals as presented with an amendment that goal 4.5 be made goal #5 using the language from goal 10 from 2009-2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

***Rules Management Subcommittee:*** Ms. Rossetti (February 9)

1. Review of Policy Manual

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by, to strike the following policies from the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual:

File: EEAEA-1 – School Bus No Idling Policy

File: LDA – Student Teacher and Internships

File: KBBA-E – Sample Notice to the Custodial Parent, Sample Affidavit for Non-Custodial Parent, Non-Custodial Parents Rights

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by, to note File: LA – Education Agency Relations Goals - as reviewed February 2010.

Ms. Rossetti thanked Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. DiChiappari, and the secretarial staff at Central Office for their work on these policies. Soon a very large book will be available on a nice small disk and on our website. Many policies are already on the web, but, once our work is complete, all policies will be able to be found there.



***Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:*** Mr. Sweeting (February 11)

Mr. Sweeting reported on the Finance and Facilities meeting of February 11. The meeting took place at 181 Washington Street, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, and Mr. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Pat Durette, Tony Pierantozzi and a representative of the Somerville Teachers Association. Highlights of his report included:

1. FY11 Budget Development: class sections and salary projections were reviewed in order to determine needs. Discussion also took place around Collective Bargaining Agreements and expected salary increases.
2. Consultant Use for FY10 – a report was given regarding cost for consultants and independent contractors. Costs are as follows: Title I ARRA - \$94,000; Title II, ARRA - \$72,000; IDEA - \$182,800; Other - \$286,000. Also, \$954,000 for local translations, mental health, speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc.
3. Education Foundation – Investigating the concept of developing an Education Foundation to raise money which would be used to supplement, not supplant, District funding and programs. This is a work in progress. A revised version will be discussed at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
4. FY10 Expenditure report
5. FY10 Bill Roll

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, that a letter be sent to Senator Brown and Senator Kerry expressing support for the Jobs for Main Street Bill and to invite him to Somerville.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the FY2010 Bill Roll

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to create a revolving account to accept donations for computer equipment.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

***Personnel Subcommittee:*** Ms. Cardoso (February 22)

Mrs. Cardoso reported on the Personnel Subcommittee meeting that was held immediately before the Regular School Committee meeting on February 22. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers at City Hall. Members in attendance were: Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Tony Pierantozzi and Rebeca Martinez. Items discussed included:

An update on recruitment and hiring, an update on FY2010 retirements to date, and job description amendments.

MOTION: Motion by Mrs. Cardoso, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the new job description for the Assistant Principal for Career, Vocational and Technical Education.

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Welcome back from vacation. Hope everyone stayed healthy over the break and we are looking forward to a great February and 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:

**Supplemental Education Services and ACE-IT program update**

At your places, please find a mid-year report on our Supplemental Education Services (SES) program. As you know, SES is a provision in the NCLB law that allows students to elect tutoring services from private providers using district Title 1 funds. In gaining approval last year for the District went through a rigorous

approval process to become an SES Provider, our goal was to leverage all of our resources to provide high quality out of school programming for our most needy students.

Anastasia Gentry, our after school academic coordinator, has done an outstanding job of pulling together the SES program. I'm happy to report this evening that we've been successful to date in providing a solid program of academic support – backed up by a good curriculum and a corps of dedicated teachers – for over 250 students in Somerville. This is in addition to our ACE-IT programs, which I will describe later.

**Tutor Groups for SES** - Our typical tutor group size has 6-8 students who attend tutoring with a certified teacher from their school. Most of our SES tutoring occurs twice a week, from 3:00 to 4:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons.

**Curriculum** - In January, our tutor groups ranging from grades K-8<sup>th</sup> began using an ELA curriculum aimed at increasing fluency and comprehension. Each tutor group utilizes leveled books, which are selected based on the student's reading level. Additional tutors are being trained in our new "Mathletics" math curriculum as we begin integrating math into our tutoring sessions. For the rest of this school year, our primary curriculum emphasis will continue to be focused on increasing reading fluency, comprehension and building vocabulary.

I should note that the SES program is layered over the existing ACE-IT program, meaning that many of these same students are involved in this MCAS support program as well.

ACE-IT is ongoing, organized at each school using dedicated district funds specifically for students at risk for MCAS. These tutoring sessions meet before and after school, depending on the need at the particular school.

In addition to these sessions, several of our schools offer school vacation and weekend sessions. For example, on Saturday, February 13, 2010 175 ESCS students attend our ACE IT program at our Edgerly site. We also had 5 community volunteers attend and assist our students. Thanks to Jen Capuano our district volunteer coordinator for arranging this connection. Students worked on Math, ELA, and Science. They also worked on a technology and physical education component. The students were served breakfast and lunch.

At Winter Hill, the camp met for four half days last week.

WHCS averaged between 55 and 65 students each day with 8 staff.

I'd like to commend our principals, and their assistants, for their outstanding efforts to steer needy students into ACE-IT programs. There's a certain art to convincing students that it really is in their interest to attend extra academic sessions.

2. The performance of Beauty and the Beast presented at the high school on February 4, 5, and 6 was a wonderful and artistic adaptation. The show was also financially successful with over 1,300 paying customers and the success of the program book—the thickest ever. Special thanks and congratulations to Rick Saunders, Music Supervisor, Rosemary Sears, Richard Romanoff, and Karen Woods for an extraordinary job.
3. On February 11, Gretchen Kinder presented a Grant Writing Workshop. There were 26 people in attendance and the enthusiasm, interest and dialogue regarding what to write a grant for was outstanding. Thank you to Ms. Kinder and the attendees.

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:

**Elementary School Open House** - As you know, the school district offered parents/guardians and any interested individuals the opportunity to visit its elementary schools on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. During this period, the elementary schools recorded a total of 460 visitors, 11 more visitors than we had during our 2009 open house, and 134 more than in 2008. 308 visitors indicated an interest in kindergarten for 2010, 63 indicated an interest in transferring a child from one Somerville school to another, 21 visitors indicated that their child(ren) would be new to Somerville (*this number does not include Kindergarten*), while 35 others indicated they were visiting the schools for other reasons. Somerville High School had its open house on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and recorded 41 visitors, 20 more visitors than last year, for a district wide total of 501 visits at all our schools during our elementary and high school open houses.

**Absence/Tardiness Rates** - I reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter average daily absence and tardy rates for years 2009 and 2010. The data indicates an improvement in both areas in 2010. Our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

quarter average daily absence rate was a 5.80% compared to 6.24% in 2009 while our 2010 average daily tardy was at 6.26% compared to 6.39% in 2009.

**Parent Workshop** - The Somerville Public Schools and Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, in cooperation with the Somerville Parent/Teacher Association, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, and the Somerville Community Partnership for Children, will be offering a presentation on the topic of Bullying and Cyber-bullying on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm-8:00pm at the West Somerville Neighborhood School. This free workshop will discuss the many different ways children and teens can be bullied and harassed, both online and offline; the impact of social networking sites, instant messaging, chat rooms and blogs; cell phone issues, including texting and sexting; strategies for parents to monitor and supervise their child/children or teen online and to protect them from bullies and predators; the importance of parent to child communication and expectations for appropriate use of technology; and how the Somerville Public Schools is striving to protect youth from online dangers. Any interested member of the community is welcomed to attend.

**Kindergarten registration update** - I would like to give you an update on kindergarten registration. As of last Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, the district received a total of 247 kindergarten applications, (*24 applications less than we received last year at this time - 271 last year*). Of the 247 kindergarten applications received, 225 applications were processed in person with a PIC staff member. Of this number, 157 were processed at the PIC while 68 were processed during PIC off-site visits with 41 at Capuano, 22 at the Healey, and 8 at the West Somerville Neighborhood School. 22 applications were received by mail and 131 students, or *53%* of all applicants, 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 12<sup>th</sup> at the latest. The ECIP lottery for typically developing peers will take place on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the Capuano Early Childhood Center. 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.

4. Reported on the tremendous work of students and staff in our Art Department. Events include: Display at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of artwork from students in grades K-12 from the Somerville Public School. The artwork is displayed on all five floors of this building and will be there for two months. Soon it will also be displayed on the DESE's website – [www.doe.ma.us](http://www.doe.ma.us) – under Kids' Art. We also have four students who are being honored by the Boston Globe Scholastic Art program. These will be displayed by the Globe during February and March and then will be on display at City Hall. We also have a student from the Brown School Grade 6 who has won an award from Crayola. This student's artwork will be on display in Washington, DC. All of the wonderful artwork of all of our students will be featured at the All City Arts Fair in late April.

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

I just have just a couple of short items to announce. First, all Principals and administrators have been given an April 1 deadline to submit requisitions for spending against their local school or program budget. The reason for this dead-line is that it gives us the time needed to place and receive the order before the end of the fiscal year, June 30. Each year, we try to have all purchase orders complete and closed by June 30.

Our contract for Special Education transportation will expire the end of June and we are in the process of preparing documents to go out to bid for the service. We will be placing ads as required by the state procurement law chapter 30B in the next week.

And finally, I want to invite people to the next Finance and Facilities meeting. It will be held on March 3 at 7:00 PM at 181 Washington Street. Some of the items on the agenda include the FY11 Budget, update of the School revolving and grant accounts, and development of a city wide education foundation.

5. On February 9, Mr. Pierantozzi reviewed the History Day projects at the Kennedy School. He was impressed by the incredibly detailed and thought-provoking projects and with the amount of technology-based work.

6. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that on February 19, the Coordinated Program Review (CPR) report was posted on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website. Mr. Pierantozzi explained that the CPR evaluates the following areas: McKinney-Vento Homeless Students, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Title I, Special Education, English Language Learning, Civil Rights, Career and Vocational Technical Education. Food Services were also evaluated during a different process. Areas were rated as Partially Implemented – 28%, Implemented – 83%, Commendable – 2%. It is important to note that none of our programs were labeled as Not Implemented. This is a very rare occurrence across the State. Corrective Action Plans have been or are ready to be submitted. An outstanding job was done by all involved.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICY MANUAL**

The following policy is being presented for *second* reading, for adoption:  
File: KI – Visitors to the Schools

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Cardoso, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve File KI – Visitors to the Schools for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Field Trip (Recommended Action: Approval)**

**March 4-6, 2010:** Somerville High School DECA to the Copley Marriot, Boston, overnight, to attend the DECA State Competition. Transportation via school van. Cost to students is \$50.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Cardoso, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **B. SHS 2009 Summer School Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)**

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

- St. Patrick Baugh

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to approve the summer school graduate.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **C. Donations (Recommended Action: Approval)**

- The Superintendent recommended acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of \$15,000.00, donated by Miriam Schwartz, for the purpose of purchasing computers, carts and wireless access for the Brown School.
- The Superintendent recommended acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of \$25,000.00, donated by Beverly Schwartz, for the purpose of purchasing rolling computer labs for the Brown School.

MOTION: Motion made by Mr. Bockelman, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donations by Miriam and Beverly Schwartz, with the utmost gratitude, for the purpose of purchasing computers, carts, wireless access and rolling computer labs for the Brown School.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang asked members for approval to invite Miriam and Beverly Schwartz to a future School Committee meeting to be presented with a citation for their extreme generosity. Members agreed unanimously.

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

The following policies are being presented for ***first reading***, for adoption:

File: EEAJ - Policy Regarding Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds

File: JIHA – Locker, Desk and Other School Property Searches

File: IKEB – Promotions, Grades 9-12

The following policies are being presented for ***first reading***, as revised:

File: LB – Relationships with other schools and school districts

File: LBC – Relations with Home Schools

#### **E. NSBA Leadership & Federal Relations Networking Conference (Ms. Rossetti)**

Ms. Rossetti presented a report on her recent trip to Washington, DC to attend the above-mentioned conferences. Ms. Rossetti informed members that she has handouts for anyone who wishes to review them and that she has provided members with copies of her notes. Her report included the following:

- Networking with other School Committee members and leaders
- Networking with members of Congress and the Senate
- Ed. 1, 2, 3 - a presentation on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Students by a Boston University professor. Ms. Rossetti has a thumb drive of the presentation if members wish to borrow.
- Building 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education
- National Student Clearinghouse Data
- The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us – Daniel Pink
- The volatile upcoming election year ahead
- The likelihood that the Stimulus is not likely to continue
- No Child Left Behind
- Race to the Top
- The Child Nutrition Act and her pride that Somerville and Mayor Curtatone were recognized for Shape Up Somerville and our other initiatives to aid in making our children healthier
- Ed. Technology Telecommunications Act
- Charter Schools
- Title IV Grant
- Budgetary Issues
- Jobs for Main Street
- Early Childhood funding
- College funding

Ms. Rossetti also reported that she was proud that Congressman Capuano took the time out of his schedule to sit and talk with both her and other attendees.

Mr. Niedergang thanked Ms. Rossetti for her report and for her work with the MASC.

#### **IX. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang read a thank you note from Helen Onthank for remembering her late father at a recent School Committee meeting.

#### **X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

##### **Ms. Rafal**

1. Attended the MASC training and learned a lot. She was surprised to hear that many other cities are watching Somerville and that Somerville is so highly regarded.

##### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Somerville High School will hold PTSA on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.
2. Today is Washington's Birthday. We should honor our country's first president.
3. Spoke about the wonderful musical, Beauty and the Beast, and the tremendous success of the show. The show he attended was almost sold out. He has received many positive emails stating about the performance. Thank you and congratulations to all!
4. Thank you to the School Councils for the School Improvement Plan presentations. These presentations were high quality, reflective of what is in our schools, and a lot of work. Thanks to all.

**Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Thank you to everyone involved with Beauty and the Beast. This was a wonderful production.
2. Thank you to Ms. Rossetti for representing Somerville in Washington and in all of her advocacy work. Ms. Rossetti uses her personal time to do this work.
3. Echoed Mr. Bockelman's remarks about the School Improvement Plan presentations. Suggested that perhaps next year the Committee consider hearing two presentations a night and traveling to the schools to hear them, rather than have the schools come to the School Committee. More discussion regarding this suggestion will take place at the next School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning.
4. On Thursday evening, the School Committee will hold its annual meeting with the Somerville Council of PTA's at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
5. Commented on the great letter in the Somerville Journal from Senator Jehlen, Representative Provost and Representative Sciortino.

**Mr. Connolly**

1. Thanked all involved with the recent Haitian Fundraiser in Davis Square. This was a collaborative effort of the Somerville Haitian Coalition, Mayor Curtatone, Tufts President Bacow and the Somerville Kiwanis Club. \$6,000 has been raised thus far and donations are still being accepted. Money will be dispersed through the Red Cross. The event is being televised on City Cable. Wonderful evening of entertainment.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Reminded the audience that, despite diminishing news coverage, people are suffering. There is much courage and sadness and loss in Haiti and we cannot forget that these people need our help. Thanked everyone for their support.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Commented on the wonderful event for the Haitian people. The entertainment was unbelievable. People there are living with no medications, food, bandages or shelter—in the pouring rain. Don't forget that they need our help. Also announced her tremendous pride in Gosder Cherilus, a Somerville High School graduate who has been providing support through a foundation he has established. Along with Gosder, fellow Somerville High School alumnus Wainright Wint is working with Gosder and their foundation is using some of the funds raised to send doctors and nurses to Haiti. Donations are still being accepted

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Announced a community-building event at the Somerville Library. One City, One Book is a program through which everyone reads the same book. The current selection is, *The Things They Carried*, which is a book of short writings about the author's experiences in Vietnam. The first event around this initiative will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- William Marques, father-in-law of Patricia Marques, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools
- Jean Curran, sister of Helen Maloney, teacher at the Brown School
- Cecilia Cortese, mother of Luci Prawdzik, Supervisor of Art for the Somerville Public Schools
- Robert Russell, father of Frank Russell, retired English Department Head at Somerville High School
- Ms. Cardoso also asked that we also include the people of the Madeira Islands in our prayers. That region has experienced horrific destruction and loss through mud slides there.

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

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, March 1, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, Alderman Connolly (7:01 p.m.) and Mayor Curtatone (8:03 p.m.)

**Members absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Sweeting, Bastardi and Niedergang, and Absent – 2 – Connolly and Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler was unable to attend this evening's meeting

**III. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Last Friday, Mr. Pierantozzi attended the Tufts Presidential Symposium which focused on the value of community-engaged research for communities as well as for researchers. Tufts University has been recognized as one of the most successful colleges/universities for involvement in community relations in the United States, which is an outstanding honor. Thank you to President Bacow for all he has done in this regard.
2. On Friday night, Mr. Pierantozzi attended a fundraiser hosted by the Haitian Coalition at the Holiday Inn. It was a great event. The Somerville Haitian Coalition will be travelling to Haiti in April and are seeking donations of tents for use during their trip that they may leave in Haiti for use by residents there, upon their departure from Haiti.

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

- The celebration of Dr. Seuss' 105<sup>th</sup> birthday and the importance of reading
  - Dr. McKay will be reading at the Kennedy, Argenziano and East Somerville Community Schools as part of Dr. Seuss' birthday celebration.
  - Dr. McKay will be visiting the Healey School Science Fair to see the great work students are producing there.
3. Mr. Pierantozzi will be reading to students at the East Somerville Community School and the Argenziano School in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.
  4. Mr. Pierantozzi has just recently completed Student of the Quarter awards for second quarter. This is one of the most pleasurable and fun jobs that he has. Students are commended for academic excellence, improvement, citizenship or all three. The successful student is successful because of hard work, diligence, helpfulness, and kindness. The superintendent looks forward to third quarter awards.

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:

**TWO SAFETY CONFERENCES** I would like to report that a team of Somerville Public Schools staff will be attending the 12<sup>th</sup> annual SECURE safety conference on May 3rd at the Nashoba Valley Technical High School. This conference, entitled **"BEST/Friends/Worst Enemies: Friendship Development, Popularity and Social Cruelty"** will be providing participants with a glimpse into the complex social

world of childhood and adolescence and the need for friendship to help students survive and thrive. (*Dr. Michael Thompson will be the featured speaker*).

Moreover, Somerville will also be represented at the School Attendance Summit this coming Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Newton Wellesley Hospital. This summit will bring together representatives from schools, the law enforcement community, Department for Children and Families and the Court system to explore root causes of attendance problems and make positive recommendations to combat truancy and tardiness. Our own supervisor of attendance, Mr. Rich Melillo, has been asked to serve as an expert panelist at this conference.

**US CENSUS** As a partner with the United States Census Bureau, I was asked to announce that a US Census Job Fair will be held at the Holiday Inn in Somerville on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 6pm. Census staff will be available to provide information on the Census and current census job opportunities. And once again, I would like to encourage everyone to complete the census once received and be counted. The results are totally confidential and the stakes are high; an accurate count of the local population helps to ensure that our community receives its fair share of federal funding.

**April School Vacation Camp** enrollment period is **March 8-16, 2010**. April Vacation Camp is for current Community School students and will run from Tuesday April 20-23, 2010 from 8:00am-5:30pm Tuesday-Thursday and 8:00-4:00pm on Friday at the Kennedy School. Registration forms will be available at the Community Schools Afterschool site, Community Schools main office or on the web.

**The Afterschool** program Session 3 club enrollment period is March 15-19, 2010. Session 3 will run March 29-June 11, 2010. **The programs** will run at Argenziano, Brown, ESCS, Healey, Kennedy, WSNS 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.

5. Reported on the current vacancies for two principal positions in the District. The application deadline was last Friday at 4:00 p.m. There were 42 applicants for one and 43 applicants for the other opening. This is an outstanding pool of candidates. Teams are being developed to conduct interviews for both openings.
6. The final report of the Coordinated Program Review has been submitted and is available in all school offices, the library and online at the Department of Early and Secondary Education's website – [www.doe.ma.us](http://www.doe.ma.us). The report is also on the Somerville Public Schools website – [www.somerville.k12.ma.us](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us). Mr. Bockelman asked for an explanation of what the Coordinated Program Review was and Mr. Pierantozzi explained that it is a lengthy process which occurs every five years and takes approximately 16 – 20 months to complete. During this process, data is collected relative to certain areas including English Language Learning, Special Education, Vocational Education, Homeless Students, Civil Rights, Title I, Safe and Drug Free Schools, and . A full report on the Coordinated Program Review will be presented at the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting on Thursday, March 4.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette, Director of Finance for her report regarding summer programs. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

- The administration has had two meetings to plan for summer programs. The Somerville High School summer school will run a 6 week summer program starting on Tuesday July 6 and running through Thursday August 12. Because of the work anticipated to be done at the high school, we will be holding the SHS summer school program at the Winter Hill Community School. The Elementary summer school will also be running a six week program, starting on July 6 at the Healey School. As last year, students who are at risk of being held back and are referred by their Principal will be able to attend the summer school program free of charge. This program is made possible through district grant funds. Community Schools Program, a fee based program, will also be located at the Healey School, and will run a full day summer program through on Friday August 20. The Argenziano School will house SPELL Jr, a program elementary age ELL students, and the SPELL Theater, which is a program for high school age ELL students. The program will start on July 6 and run for 5 weeks, ending on August 5. The string and music program will be run again at the Kennedy School from July 12 to July 23 with Rita Ranucci returning to run the program. Our special education department will be providing summer services consistent with student IEP's at the Capuano School, and the Kennedy School. Other activities happening in the district include the Summer Swim program at the Kennedy Pool, the Somerville Recreation Summer Program at the West Somerville Neighborhood School and the Somerville Child Care Center at Somerville High School. A complete schedule is being sent to DPW this week.



7. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on a new system started by the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Education, after listening to Superintendents across the state. Regional Support Centers have been established across the state. Somerville is part of the District and School Assistance Centers (DSAC) pilot program for these regional centers. We are part of the Greater Boston area and our School Improvement Assistance Center (SIAC) is at Shore Collaborative in Chelsea. Mr. Pierantozzi and Dr. McKay met recently with Maryann Jackson and other SIAC members. It was a very positive meeting. Assistance has been offered with Professional Development. Overall, this is a very supportive group who will assist us in continuing progress towards outstanding education.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Update on Education Reform and Budget with State Legislators**

Mr. Niedergang asked for a motion to suspend the rules and take Item VI. A. out of order in order to allow Senator Jehlen, Representative Sciortino and Representative Provost speak.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to take Item VI. A. out of order.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The School Committee invited Somerville's Legislative Delegation to tonight's meeting. Representative Toomey is not in attendance as he is at a Cambridge City Council meeting. During this time, our legislative representatives took turns speaking and answering members' questions regarding Education Reform, Charter School Issues and Budgetary Concerns. Overall, members were anxious to have the delegation appear at a meeting to thank them for their continuous support and hard work for our District. Topics discussed included the following:

- The FY11 Budget
- Local Aid Resolution
- Ballot question in November regarding rolling back the sales tax from 6.25 % to 3%
- Chapter 70 Funding
- Circuit Breaker Funding
- Charter School Funding
- Transiency/Mobility
- Healthcare Management and the Group Insurance Commission

(N.B. Representative Toomey arrived at approximately 8:10 p.m. and was invited to add to his thoughts on this evening's discussion.)

School Committee members were reminded about the importance of attending MASC's Day on the Hill on March 30, 2010.

The School Committee recessed at 8:23 p.m. to thank the Legislative Delegation.

The School Committee resumed at 8:27 p.m.

#### **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

The following policies are being presented for ***first reading***, for adoption:

File: EEAJ - Policy Regarding Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds

File: JIHA - Locker, Desk and Other School Property Searches

File: IKEB - Promotions, Grades 9-12

The following policies are being presented for ***first reading***, as revised:

File: LB - Relationships with other schools and school districts

File: LBC - Relations with Home Schools

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to add the policies presented this evening for second reading to the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Field Trips** (Recommended Action: Approval)

**April 30-May2, 2010:**

Somerville High School Ultimate Frisbee to Amherst, MA, overnight, to participate in the Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. Transportation via school van/private car. Cost to students is \$20.

**June 7, 2010 (rain date – 6/14):**

West Somerville Neighborhood School Grade 8 to Canobie Lake Park, Windham, NH. Transportation via chartered bus. Cost to students is \$20.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Bastardi, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Announced the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting on March 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Alderman Connolly**

1. Congratulations to the high school's basketball teams and especially to Franklin Salvador who achieved over 1,000 points while playing at Somerville High School. Overall, the winter sports teams were great.

### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. The Personnel Subcommittee will meet on Monday, March 8, at 6:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street.
2. Mrs. Cardoso will be reading to grade six students at the Argenziano School tomorrow.
3. Thanked the PTA's for meeting with the School Committee last week at the West Somerville Neighborhood School. There was a good turnout and it was a very positive meeting. Thanked Dottie Rudolph and Betsy Holland for being in attendance.
4. Announced that the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Fair at Somerville High School will be held on Friday, March 12, from 8:00 – 2:30. Thanked Alice Comack for the invitation.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Announced that the Education and Instruction Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street. Included on the agenda is the Coordinated Program Review; the Draft Report Card; ELL Program Assessment and the Mystic Children's Zone.
2. Echoed Mr. Bockelman's remarks about the School Improvement Plan presentations. Suggested that perhaps next year the Committee consider hearing two presentations a night and traveling to the schools to hear them, rather than have the schools come to the School Committee. More

### **Ms. Rafal**

1. Wished Good Luck to the students from the Kennedy School at this Saturday's Regional History Day competition.
2. Also wished the best to all competing in the City-Wide Swim Meet

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Muk L. Chau, father of May Chau, Art Teacher at Somerville High School.
- Mr. Brian Spingel, an employee of the City's IT Department and parent of students at Somerville High School and the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

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

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, March 15, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, Alderman Connolly and Mayor Curtatone (8:03 p.m.)

**Members absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 –Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Sweeting, Bastardi, Connolly and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 –Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

- A. **Expression of Appreciation** - Mr. Sweeting assumed the chair and Mr. Niedergang stepped to the podium to introduce and recognize Miriam and Beverly Schwartz for their extremely generous support of the Somerville Public Schools, in particular, the Brown School. Mr. Niedergang read citations for both women, the text of which is at the end of these minutes.
  - Ms. Miriam Schwartz
  - Ms. Beverly Schwartz
- B. **Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Awards** - Mr. Niedergang turned the meeting over to Superintendent Pierantozzi who stepped to the podium to introduce the top two students in the class of 2010 at Somerville High School. Mr. Pierantozzi read a brief biography of each young woman and congratulated them on their outstanding academic record as well as school and community-based involvement. Mr. Pierantozzi presented each woman a citation from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.
  - Ms. Deepika Bhargo
  - Ms. Iva Popa

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- February 22, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2010 School Committee meeting, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- March 1, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to approve the minutes of the March, 2010 School Committee meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler reported on the following topics:

- The Multicultural Fair last Friday was fantastic with lots of beautiful dancing and delicious food.
- The Sophomore Semi-formal is this Friday, March 19. All students must have their paperwork in by tomorrow.
- Spring sports – softball, baseball, track, and tennis - started today.

- Money has been collected recently for two causes at the high school – Shelter Boxes for Haiti and Pennies for Patients.
- Fees for Advanced Placement tests are due tomorrow.
- Scholarship applications are due by Friday.

## V. **REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### ***Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:*** Mr. Sweeting (March 3)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on March 3, 2010 in the conference room at 181 Washington Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were: Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso and Mr. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette. Items discussed included the following:

1. FY11 Budget: Additional budget requests from Administrators and SIP – a discussion took place regarding the request of an additional \$1.6 million in funding
2. Update on revolving accounts – A report was provided on the revolving accounts, which have a steady stream of funds in and out of them for various departments, including Culinary Arts, Food Service, the School Store, etc.
3. Update on Grant accounts – Update on Federal, State and Private grants, including ARRA
4. Education Foundation – continued discussion on how best to develop this foundation, which would supplement, not supplant, School Department funds. It is time to move forward to the next stage. A timeline will be established.
5. FY10 Expenditure report – update provided by Ms. Durette
6. FY10 Bill Roll
7. Other: Central Office lease – discussion regarding the potential move of Central Office to space at 42 Cross Street. The School Department's current lease with the Boys and Girls Club ends in May 2010 and the space at Cross Street will not be ready for occupancy at that time. Therefore, the School Department may need a short-term lease to stay at Washington Street. Currently, a bid on short-term office space is being developed.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the FY2010 bill rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next Finance Meeting will be held on April 7.

### ***Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Mr. Bockelman (March 4)

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Maureen Bastardi, Christine Rafal

Others present: Mark Niedergang, Adam Sweeting

Staff present: Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Shannon Gilligan, Frank Di Chiappari, Phil Bassett, Jane Cummings, Lauren Mancini, Debbie Connell

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Subcommittee reviewed the Coordinate Program Review Final Report. The CPR is a 94 page document that seeks to document the School District's compliance with various state laws and regulations especially with regard to Special Education, Civil Rights, English Learners, and Career/Vocational Technical Education.

A six member team descended on the district for a week almost a year ago. They interviewed: 20 administrative staff, 86 teaching and support staff, two parent advisory council representatives, review records, survey parents, and observe classrooms.

The review identified items that needed attention and the District devised a compliance plan that has addressed each and every issue leaving the District with zero items listed as "not implemented."

I want to note that the Report explicitly stated that the District "implemented a special education policy and procedure that exceeds the standards set forth in the criterion..." I want

to congratulate Debbie Connell and her team in the Special Education Department for this super compliment.

Jane Cummings and Vince McKay then presented a proposal that would develop an Italian language program in the middle grades with funding from a grant from a non-profit which has its offices in Union Square. We will hear more about this program in the near future.

Shannon Gilligan then presented the latest version of new report card for the elementary grades. This is a project that has been in process for the past months with active participation by numerous teachers and administrators. The new format might sound radical to those of us who are used to "old school" approaches to education. It replaces the traditional grading by subject system with a more descriptive set of skills that the child should be learning at that age and whether they are acquiring those skills or not.

The Subcommittee thought the movement to a new grading system was valuable, but several had concerns about the level of detail and the education jargon used on the sample presented.

The task force will continue to refine and revise the new report card and it will be back to the Education Programs Subcommittee in the near future.

The Subcommittee received a detailed analysis of the MCAS data for the District's English Language Learners. The results, by and large, are very positive showing good overall performance. Our congratulations to Sarah Davila and her team for their work in this area.

The Superintendent updated the Subcommittee on the Mystic Zone, sometimes called the Mystic Children's Zone which is modeled on the Harlem Children's Zone which assembles all of the various housing, social service, and educational efforts under one umbrella with the goal of making sure that any child born in the "zone" is guided along a "conveyor belt" through childhood all the way into college. It is an exciting and challenging concept and we are pleased that the District is allocating resources to explore this opportunity more fully.

Lastly, we approved and I move to approve an in-service course.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Bockelman, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the following inservice courses: Creating Teacher and Classroom Resources for Math and Literature and Submitting the MCAS Alt. Portfolio.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

***Personnel Subcommittee:*** Ms. Cardoso (March 8)

In attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal, Paul Bockelman, Mary Jo Rossetti, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang and Maureen Bastardi, and from Central Office - Supt. Tony Pierantozzi and Human Resources Administrator Rebeca Martinez.

There were 3 Items on the Agenda.

**1. Update on Searches and Hiring:**

The Summer ELL Program Director position has been posted - this position was held by the incumbent for 3 consecutive years.

The Asst. Principal for Career Vocational Technical Education – the deadline for applications is this Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The High School Headmaster and Chair of the Advisory Committee will oversee this search process. The Superintendent and the Human Resources Administrator will update us on this search, including the Interview Team Members selected and scheduled interview dates, early next week.

Elementary School Principal Positions – there was a lengthy discussion as well as questions and concerns regarding the application deadlines, timelines, letters to interested parties, dates of focus groups, etc. for the Argenziano, West Somerville, Brown and Healey Schools.

At this time Mrs. Cardoso asked if, in the interest of time, the Chair would agree to have Mrs. Cardoso ask the Superintendent to add to her report – she believes he has some announcements to make and has some information to share with the public regarding these issues – when he finished, Mrs. Cardoso completed her report.

## II. Update on Recruitment Activities:

Ms. Martinez gave us a total number of applications received to date for teaching positions and they totaled 400 – which she said was a very impressive number at this time of the year. She also updated us on recruitment fairs we would be attending through April such as the Mass. Partnership for Diversity in Education at Wheelock College, Salem State College Fair and the Lesley University Job Expo.

## III. Update on FY 2010 Retirement Notices to Date:

This remained unchanged from last month's report.

There were no motions made at this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7PM.

The next Personnel Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Monday, April 5 at 6PM.

***School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:*** Mr. Niedergang (March 8)  
The School Committee met to discuss Long Range Planning on March 8, at 181 Washington Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were: Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rafal. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Kinder and about 25 members of the public. Items discussed included the following:

1. School Committee/District Goals for 2010-2011
2. Opportunities for initiatives at schools – Mr. Pierantozzi made a presentation on the following initiatives. This is a dynamic time for public education in Massachusetts.
  - Innovation Schools
  - Horace Mann Charter Schools
  - RTTT Competitive Grants
  - Magnet Theme Schools
  - Partnership Schools
  - Other
3. Choice Program -- Future considerations – discussion of Choice program considerations. Further in-depth discussion will take place at the April 5, meeting.
4. School Improvement Plan Presentations -- 2011 Sites – discussion on a recommendation to move the locations for the School Improvement plan presentations for next year. Mr. Niedergang recommended that this item wait until next year to give the 2011 School Committee Chair the opportunity for his/her recommendation on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

## **VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

1. The Superintendent reported on the retirement – Priscilla Ivimey, Adjustment Counselor at the Kennedy School and the resignation of Michael Sabin as principal of the Healey School. Mr. Pierantozzi also reported the transfer of Thelma Davis from principal of the Brown School to principal at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. On March 8, Governor Patrick visited the District for an All-America City Celebration at Somerville High School. Mr. Pierantozzi served as master of ceremonies for the event, which included music from the Somerville High School band. The students in attendance were outstanding and Mr. Pierantozzi expressed his thanks to all who were involved in the event.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Class of 2009 Guidance Report. This report provides a summary of the Class of 2009, including post-secondary plans, Advanced Placement test scores and college

acceptances. This is a very positive report that will be prepared on an annual basis. Thank you to Barbara Favaloro and Carolyn Richards for their work on this document.

3. As a follow-up to the personnel report, the Superintendent reported on a recent recruiting session held at Simmons College where Ms. Martinez conducted a series of 15 minute interviews. 40 interviews were conducted and Ms. Martinez was greatly impressed with seven of these candidates who have backgrounds in special education, social studies, high school English, and middle school math.
4. The Superintendent reported on the tremendous success of some of the high school's track athletes at the recent Nike Track National High School Competition held at the Reggie Lewis Center. Results are as follows:
  - Andre Rolim placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Nike National Championships – freshmen 400 meter race
  - Ricky Arisme won 6<sup>th</sup> place in the National Pentathlon. Both athletes reached All-American status with their performances
  - Jessica Masse placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the shot put
  - Nicole Genard place 18<sup>th</sup> in the hurdles
  - Sasha Garcynski placed 39<sup>th</sup> in the 800 meters.

Congratulations were issued around the horseshoe for these outstanding awards.

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

It's March, which means the start of the spring testing season. The testing began with the MCAS Re-Test – and continued with the MEPA – the Mass. English Proficiency Assessment. All our English Language Learners, K – 12, took the MEPA last week. Currently, about 1 in 5 of Somerville students is classified as ELLs.

MCAS testing in English Language Arts begins on March 23 and continues into mid-April.... not everyday! Today, Mr. Tuccelli's office had boxes of MEPA materials packed and ready for return in one corner and another pile of MCAS materials that had just come in! Math and science testing round begins mid May. Preparation for MCAS Testing is on the mind of all principals. Our operating words are confidence and focus, as our staff work to create a well-organized, positive and encouraging school climate for students to do their best work.

**Science News:** The former science teacher in me has really enjoyed some special events in recent weeks. The MA Region IV science fair took place this past Saturday at the high school. I brought my 8 year old daughter, and we had a great time walking through the exhibits. It made me very proud, especially being able to have my third grader visit the exhibits, and to hear the students describe the great research that went into the competition. What great role models!

I want to congratulate all the participants, particularly the seven students from SHS who qualified to move onto the state fair at MIT in late April and of course to the overall winner, our own Lola Yu, pride of Winter Hill Community School and SHS. Lola will be heading to San Jose CA in May for the international science and engineering fair. Wow!

Also: I had the pleasure of visiting the Healey School science fair on March 5<sup>th</sup>. There was great turnout by parents, and everyone participated in this exciting event.

One more science related event to report on, sponsored by our good friends and partners at Groundwork Somerville. The annual maple sap boil down took place last Friday at the Growing Center on Vinal Ave. You may have seen the clouds of steam as you drove down Summer Street! Second graders from across the city came to see how sap is collected and boiled to make maple syrup. It was a great, interactive event with hands on science, games and songs for the children. This is exciting, applied science related to tree biology, evaporation and sugar solutions. Thanks to Jen Lawrence and her team at Groundwork for organizing this terrific program!

Summer academic program planning is taking place at this time as we step up plans for summer school, set to begin on July 6. SHS summer school director, returning for her second summer is SHS's own Ana Caldeira. And the elementary team for this year is headed up by a new hire, Healey 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Ellen Isbitz. Welcome Ellen as the new director. Ellen will be joined by assistant director John Welch. The final logistical preparations are taking place now, and at the next meeting, I will announce exact dates and locations of the programs.

Finally, I am looking forward to attending the state Dept of Elem and Secondary Education's Race to the Top planning summit Thursday morning in Worcester. Special Education director Debbie Connell and I

will be joined by two important members of the Somerville Public Schools team including School Committee member Christine Rafal and teachers' association president Jackie Lawrence. The purpose of this meeting is to assist state policy makers in planning the rollout of, potentially, millions of dollars in federal aid aimed at improving schools across the country. Since Somerville signed onto the agreement, in collaboration with our teachers back in January, we were invited to work with ESE to develop the plans.

5. Mr. Pierantozzi followed up on the report on the Science Fair. The Region IV Science Fair has been held at Somerville High School for 34 consecutive years. Somerville is the only high school that still hosts a science fair of this magnitude. Thanks were issued to Sebastian LaGambina, Mike Maloney, Joe Tarello (who has been involved the entire 34 years), Chris Angelli and all the other high school staff who were involved with this outstanding event.
6. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked the Choice Council from the Healey School for inviting him to speak at their meeting last week.
7. Mr. Pierantozzi also thanked the parents and guardians of the Healey School for inviting him to speak at their coffee hour to provide information regarding possible future options for the Healey School. The Superintendent and Dr. McKay are planning a date to meet with representatives from the DESE for a tutorial on the available options.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. All parents/guardians interested in pre-kindergarten are invited to attend.
- Pre-Kindergarten registration begins at the Parent Information Center on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> between 10:00am – 1:00PM 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 7<sup>th</sup> to be considered part of the first batch assignments. A lottery will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> if there are more applicants than available seats.
- On a different topic, I want to report that 718 students are presently enrolled in the elementary after-school programs: 462 are enrolled in one of the Somerville Community Schools after-school activities while 256 students are receiving SES after-school services.
- On Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, a team of (7) Somerville staff will be attending the Spring Mental Health presentation entitled "*No Such Thing as a Bad Kid: Understanding & Responding to At-Risk Students Using a Strength-Based Approach.*" This presentation, sponsored by the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc., will take place at the Newton Wellesley Hospital.
- The Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council, the Somerville Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Program, and the Somerville Public Schools will be sponsoring a two-part workshop on bullying for families and educators called "*Sticks and Stones...Bullying in Schools Today.*" The first part will take place at the Capuano Early Childhood Center on April 26<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30- 8:30pm while the second workshop will be presented on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Kennedy School from 6:30pm-8:30pm as well. Amy Bamforth will be the presenter. For more information, one may contact Nomi Davidson at 617-625-6600 x6966.

And finally, on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> the 12<sup>th</sup> annual multicultural fair was held at the field house at Somerville High School. Students representing 48 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 representing 15 countries danced traditional dances from their country of birth or ancestry. I would like to thank Alice Comack, all the students and staff who worked the fair, and all the members of the multicultural committee - Gyslaine Nelson, Tony Vecchiarillo, Donnie Medeiros, Joanne Dunn, Raul Quintanilla, and Sabrina Trinca who worked hard in organizing the event. Thanks also to the restaurants which generously donated food to make this a very successful fair. A new Multicultural Cookbook containing the recipes from families, and staff is now available. There are 135 recipes from 45 countries contained in the book. The dedication says "The Multicultural Committee would like to dedicate this cookbook to all of the Somerville High School students who, on a daily basis, promote respect and tolerance and celebrate the many cultures that make up the SHS family. We also want to thank all of the students and their families who shared their recipes and stories for the first edition of the SHS Multicultural Cookbook." Dr. Di Chiappari presented a sample of the cookbook to School Committee members for them to review.



8. Reported on the Antibullying legislation currently being discussed by both houses. Somerville is not waiting for this legislation, but, instead is moving forward with a series of programs via the Parents as Partners Program. On March 8, approximately 75 staff members attended a presentation by the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth (MPY) on Bullying and Cyber Bullying. On March 10, approximately 50 staff, parents, guardians and community members attended a similar presentation by the MPY. Somerville is getting out ahead of the curve. We are also considering a poster series for each school, either purchased, or developed by our students regarding Anti-bullying in each building. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the importance of sharing of information and bystander behavior. Some incidences of bullying are never reported. The Superintendent is forming an Ad Hoc Anti-Bullying Committee which will meet on April 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Central Office at 181 Washington Street. Anyone interested in joining this group is welcomed to attend the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.
9. Reported on the 2009 Dropout Rate and announced that Somerville High School's rate was 3.5% for 2009. The District Dropout Rate is 4.3% as it takes into consideration those students from the Full Circle High School. Somerville is the 4<sup>th</sup> best in the State and the best of any schools with our same demographic across the state. The Superintendent is proud of our rate and issued thanks to staff, parents, guardians and students and reminded the audience of the importance of staying in school.
10. Mr. Pierantozzi announced a program being held on Tuesday, March 23, at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Somerville High School, regarding student behavior, particularly around prom and graduation time, regarding Impaired Driving, Drugs and Drinking. Middlesex District Attorney Gerald Leone will be presenting with some of our community partners. This presentation is for students and parents from Somerville High School, as well as those from other cities and towns in the Greater Boston League.
11. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that there is no school on Wednesday, March 17, due to the Evacuation Day holiday.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Pierantozzi presented proposed changes to the 2009-2010 school calendar as a result of there being no school on February 10, 2010 due to predicted snow. There are three changes being requested:

Make 4/7/10 a half-day for high school students to make up for the lost half-day on 2/10 in order for Somerville High School staff to continue work on the NEASC Reaccreditation Process.

Make June 16, 2010, a half-day for elementary school students to make up the half-day lost on 2/10/10 in keeping with the Somerville Teachers Association contract.

Make June 22, 2010, the last day of school for students, which makes June 23, 2010, a Professional Development Day for staff.

Discussion ensued around these proposed changes.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the three changes to the 2009-2010 School Calendar.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **B. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)**

#### **April 10-11, 2010:**

Somerville High School Junior Statesmen Club to JSA Spring State Convention in Stamford, CT. Transportation via bus. Cost to students is \$75.

#### **April 30, 2010 (rain date – 5/7):**

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

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Bastardi, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**C. MASC Update**

Ms. Rossetti provided a report on the recent MASC Board of Directors Meeting that was held on March 10, 2010. A written report was also provided to members. Included in this report is an upcoming MASC meeting with Deputy Commissioner of Education Karla Brooks Baehr. At this time, no date has been confirmed, but April 10 or May 1 are possibilities. Ms. Rossetti will inform members once the date is confirmed. Ms. Rossetti announced that she will be travelling to Chicago in April to attend a conference. She also reminded members about the upcoming Day on the Hill on March 30.

**VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported on how great the Multicultural Fair at Somerville High School was.
2. Reported on the Maple Sugar Boil Down Project.
3. Request that fellow School Committee members, in keeping with Shape Up Somerville, promote Walk/Ride days in their wards.
4. Announced that, while listening to National Public Radio this morning, he heard students from the Argenziano School being interviewed about healthy eating.
5. Announced that he received the US Census packet and urged all listeners to complete the form and mail it back in order for Somerville to be eligible for essential Federal funding.

*Ms. Bastardi departed from the meeting at 8:56 p.m.*

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Reported on Shape Up Somerville's worldwide recognition and announced the Mayor's Fitness Challenge. The Kick-off is Saturday, March 20 at Somerville High School. The hope is to promote better health through lifestyle changes.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Reported that Fitness Challenge is a great idea and would like the School Committee to have a team.
2. Announced that the next Rules Management Subcommittee meeting will be held on March 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at 181 Washington Street.
3. Announced that members had a memo from the Somerville High School Student Council at their seats regarding the dress code policy.
4. Commended Community Police woman Maryann Manfra of the Somerville Police for her efforts in securing 50 bicycles and helmets.
5. Announced the Memorial Day Parade Fundraiser being held on Friday, March 19, at the Somerville High School auditorium.
6. Announced the Duhamel Foundation's breakfast fundraiser on March 27 at the First Congregational Church.

**Alderman Connolly**

1. Congratulations to our All American Athletes and to the Track PAC, who is a very dedicated group for all of their efforts to support our student athletes. On this past Sunday, approximately 3500 runners participated in the St. Patrick's Day Road Race in Somerville. Over \$5000.00 was raised for the track program from this race.
2. Announced that the Board of Aldermen will have a team for the Mayor's Fitness Challenge.
3. Thank Dr. Di Chiappari for showing members the cookbook, but thinks more Irish recipes are needed. Thinks it is commendable to raise money in such a smart manner. Books are \$10.00 and can be ordered through Somerville High School.
4. Wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day

**Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Mrs. Cardoso thinks the School Committee should join the challenge and encouraged members to show up on Saturday
2. At Ms. Bastardi's request, announced that the Brian Higgins Trivia Night will be on March 25, at Cousens Gym at Tufts University beginning at 6:00 p.m.
3. Remembered the late Deanna Cremin, a Somerville High School student, who was murdered 15 years ago on March 30. Her murder case has never been solved. Expressed sympathy for Deanna's family at this sad time.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Congratulated the City for the Governor's visit

2. Praised all involved with the Multicultural Fair at Somerville High School. Would like to see this event opened to the community and have photos from the event posted to our website.
3. Reported on the Somerville High School Student vs. Faculty basketball game. This year the students were the victors. This was a wonderful event which was held as a fundraiser for the sophomore class.
4. On March 22, there will be a College Admissions Panel held at Somerville High School.
5. Congratulated all involved for the success of the Region IV Science Fair.
6. Reminded everyone to complete their census forms and mail them back.
7. Reported that the track athletes blossom due to the involvement and encouragement of their coaches.
8. Reminded the audience that many of our high school seniors are at a stressful time of life awaiting admissions decisions from colleges.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Reported on how wonderful the Multicultural Fair was
2. Reported that she has made many school visits recently and commented on the multi-lingual parent coffee hours at the Healey School.
3. Announced that she looks forward to attending the Race to the Top Summit
4. Will be attending meetings at the Winter Hill Community School

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Palmina "Pam" Giarrizzo, mother of Paula Monahan, Guidance Counselor, Somerville High School, Highland House
- Frederick Allen, husband of Debbie Allen, teacher at Somerville High School
- Joseph E. Favaloro Sr., father of Joseph E. Favaloro, Jr., former School Committee and Board of Aldermen member and father-in-law of Barbara Favaloro, secretary, Somerville High School Guidance Office.

Ms. Cardoso also requested that Deanna Cremin, a former Somerville Public Schools student who was murdered 15 years ago on March 30, be remembered during the moment of silence.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

*Somerville School Committee  
Official Citation*

*This certifies that*

*Miriam/Beverly Schwartz*

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted this Certificate of Appreciation for her extraordinary support and generosity to the Somerville Public Schools and the Benjamin G. Brown Elementary School. The Somerville Public Schools, the Somerville School Committee, and the Brown School Community are extremely grateful for your gifts to the school.*

*Somerville School Committee*

*Mark Niedergang, Chairperson*

*M. Teresa Cardoso*

*Mary Jo Rossetti*

*Joseph Curtatone, Mayor*

*John Connolly, Aldermanic President*

*Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools*

*Adam Sweeting, Vice Chairperson*

*Maureen Bastardi*

*Paul Bockelman*

*Christine Rafal*

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, April 12, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, Alderman Connolly and Mayor Curtatone (8:03 p.m.)

**Members absent:** Ms. Rossetti

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Sweeting, Bastardi, Connolly and Niedergang, and Absent – 2 – Rossetti and Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed. Mr. Niedergang informed the audience that Ms. Rossetti is attending a National School Board Conference in Chicago. Mr. Niedergang also commented on the very nice quilt that is hanging behind him and reported that this is in honor of Somerville's All America City Award.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- March 15, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Cardoso, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2010 School Committee meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Tyler reported on the following topics:

- The Junior Prom was held last Friday at the Cambridge Marriott.
- Today was the National Honor Induction Ceremony at Somerville High School. Thanked the School Committee members who were in attendance.
- Thursday is the Best Buddies Fundraiser with dinner and raffles.

At the conclusion of Ms. Tyler's report, Mr. Niedergang commended Ms. Tyler for the original poem she read at today's National Honor Induction and congratulated her on her induction.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. ***Rules Management Subcommittee:*** Mr. Sweeting (Mar. 16)  
Mr. Sweeting reported on the Rules Management Subcommittee meeting of March 16. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Ms Rossetti, Mr. Niedergang and Mr. Sweeting as well as Mr. Pierantozzi and Dr. Di Chiappari. The subcommittee continued its work on reviewing the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual. One motion is being brought forward from this meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to table File: JICA – Student Dress Code.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Sweeting will be presenting several policies for first reading under New Business. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

- B. ***Personnel Subcommittee:*** Mrs. Cardoso (Mar. 31)

In attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting and Mark Niedergang along with Supt. Tony Pierantozzi and Human Resources Administrator Rebeca

Martinez. There were many audience members in attendance including members of the Interview Team as well as parents, staff and community members.

The only Item on the Agenda was the Finalists' Interview for the Principal at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.

The schedule was as follows:

6:00 P.M. Barbara O'Brien

6:45 P.M. Jason DeFalco

7:30 P.M. Lucia Karaptian

8:15 P.M. Deliberations

We had to change the order of the interviews because Mr. DeFalco was stuck in traffic so we did the phone interview with Ms. Karaptian while waiting for Mr. DeFalco.

All three candidates were highly qualified and had great interviews and we were very impressed with all three finalists.

The School Committee decided not to deliberate out of respect for the process ahead. The Brown and Healey Interviews had not occurred and we did not know if any of these Finalists would end up before another Interview Team and did not feel it would be appropriate to give our input at that time.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

C. ***Personnel Subcommittee:*** Mrs. Cardoso (April 8)

In attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal, Paul Bockelman, Adam Sweeting and Mark Niedergang along with Supt. Tony Pierantozzi, Asst. Supt. Vince McKay and Human Resources Administrator Rebeca Martinez. There were many audience members in attendance including members of the Interview Team as well as parents, staff and community members.

The only Item on the Agenda was the Finalists' Interview for the Principal at the Brown School.

The schedule was as follows:

6:00 P.M. Kevin Andrews

6:45 P.M. Kathleen Seward

7:30 P.M. Deliberations

The School Committee did deliberate after the Superintendent assured us that neither of these Finalists had applied for the Healey. The Healey Interviews were the next day.

Both of these candidates were highly qualified and had great interviews and we were very impressed with them.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

D. ***Long Range Planning:*** Mr. Niedergang (April 5)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Long Range Planning Meeting held in the Library of the Healey School on April 5. The only agenda item for this meeting was the future of the Healey School. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Members in attendance were: Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Niedergang, Alderman Connolly and Mayor Curtatone. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and Mr. Sabin, along with approximately 125 audience members. There were four presentations at this meeting. They are as follows:

- A timeline of the process, presented by Mr. Niedergang, with a possible decision being made by the end of June.

- A presentation by Healey School principal, Mike Sabin. Mr. Sabin gave compelling reasons for exploring other options for the school via his "Need for Change" presentation.
- Next was a presentation by two Tufts University professors – Mon Cochran and Christy McWayne. Both of these professors are part of the Early Childhood Department at Tufts. At this time, Tufts is looking to commit to a five year partnership with the Healey School, or another Somerville School. This partnership would include student teachers, professional development opportunities for staff, and summer transition programs.
- The final presentation was by Superintendent Pierantozzi who offered his thoughts as a framework for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next Long Range Planning meeting will be held on Monday, May 24, 2010. This is a change from the original May 13 date.

**E. *Finance and Facilities:*** Mr. Sweeting (April 7)

Mr. Sweeting reported on the Finance and Facilities meeting of April 7. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 181 Washington Street. Members in attendance were: Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, and Mrs. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette. Topics included:

1. East Somerville Community School; Capital Projects Manager Gerry Boyle
  - Currently in the Schematic Design Phase re: the East Somerville reconstruction. There is a 3 month timeframe for this particular phase, which is only the first step in the process. There is no final schedule at this time.
2. FY11 Budget Projections: Four Scenarios
  - Continuation of the budget development process. Various scenarios were presented to the Committee, including level serviced, \$1million increase and \$1million decrease in funding. This enabled members to get a sense of the various changes that would occur with the various funding options. At the next meeting on April 27, discussions will include class sections, projected enrollment, staffing, etc.
3. Education Foundation Timeline
  - A brief update on the Ed. Foundation was given. The decision was made to delay further action until the Fall of 2010.
4. FY10 Expense report
  - Update provided on expenditures, particularly for Special Education and Athletics
5. FY10 Billroll
  - Brief review
6. Other
  - A request from Mr. Ciccariello regarding surplus textbooks

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the FY10 Billrolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the list of surplus books.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Announced the acceptance of the Title I Corrective Action Plan for the Coordinated Program Review (CPR). The District is only waiting for the acceptance of the Vocational and Technical Education's portion. The CPR will be discussed during this week's Ed. Programs Subcommittee meeting. There will also be a discussion regarding the Physical Education requirements for Somerville High School as a result of the CPR finding. The CPR is posted on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website and will be on the Somerville Public Schools site when completed.

2. Announced his attendance at the Getting School Ready event at the Dante Club on April 7. This year's focus was on Cultural Competency.
3. Announced that the All City Elementary Concert was held on April 8.
4. Announced that the Junior Prom was held on Friday night and that it was a safe and fun event for all.

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

- In November 2009, the District commissioned a comprehensive program evaluation for Next Wave and Full Circle Schools. The final report from that evaluation is in this week's packet and will be discussed in great detail at this Wednesday's Ed Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting. The evaluator, Mr. John Verre, will be present to summarize his findings and take questions from the committee. On Saturday, March 27, the entire Next Wave/Full Circle staff came together for the morning to review the report. Along with the staff, Special Education Director Debbie Connell and Dr. McKay were in attendance. More details on Wednesday.
- Today was National Honor Society induction at Somerville High School, which is always a proud event for our tradition-rich school. There were 38 inductees. The universities these students were accepted to included Tufts, NYU, Princeton, Wellesley College, and Boston University. These students represented the full diversity of our high school, confident and full prepared in a whole range of anticipated majors ranging from philosophy to biology, creative writing to nursing. Dr. McKay stated that this tells him that the high school is doing its job. Alderman White (class of '73 and classmate of Mr. Ciccariello) was the featured speaker and did a super job!
- 5. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that he attended the Hockey Banquet at the Dante Club last week honoring our hockey players and cheerleaders. Expressed his gratitude for excellent sportsmanship by all.
- 6. Reported that the administrative hiring process should be coming to a closure soon so that our focus may be placed on hiring teaching staff. Thus far interviews for the principal positions at the Argenziano, Brown and Healey School have been completed. Mr. Pierantozzi is conducting reference checks and discussions with candidates. Mr. Pierantozzi issued his thanks to all of the members of the various interview teams. Mr. Pierantozzi also announced that interviews have begun for the Assistant Principal for Career, Vocational and Technology Education and it is hoped that this process will be completed by the week's end.

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 from March 23-25. During the open house, 57 visitors were provided with school and classroom tours. The early childhood registration started on March 27th with the registration of 66 children on the first day and with 122 applications as of today, April 12<sup>th</sup>. To be included in the first batch pre-k assignments, parents must submit a completed application to the Parent Information Center, located at 42 Prescott by May 7<sup>th</sup>. Somerville residents with children who will be 4 years old by August 31st can register for Pre-kindergarten. The PIC will be holding registration from 8:00am – 8:00pm on April 13<sup>th</sup> to accommodate parents who find late afternoon and evening registration to be more convenient.
- As a follow-up to pre-kindergarten registration, the district has received 360 (*365 last year*) kindergarten applications for the next school year during the first batch registration period which ended on April 8th. The first school choices for kindergarten by school are as follows:
  - Argenziano = 36 applicants
  - Brown = 31
  - Capuano = 42
  - Capuano SEIP = 45
  - Healey = 14
  - Healey Choice = 48
  - Kennedy = 28
  - Unidos English = 31
  - Unidos Spanish = 36
  - Winter Hill = 10
  - West Somerville = 20
  - Special Education = 19



Of the 360 kindergarten applicants, 172 were administered an English language proficiency test: 63 children were determined to be fluent English speakers while 109 were identified as limited English proficient.

- On Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Unidos and Choice program lotteries will take place at the Parent Information center at 10am. All other first batch kindergarten assignments will also be processed with kindergarten assignment letters tentatively scheduled to be mailed to parent/guardians during the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bockelman requested a copy of Dr. Di Chiappari's report and asked if this information would impact the budget. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that it was too early to know. This is very preliminary data. Mr. Bockelman also asked about the base class size for Kindergarten. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that the District tries to maintain a class size of between 20-23 students, depending on the size of the classroom.

7. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the City has entered the Schematic Design Phase relative to the construction of the East Somerville Community School (ESCS). Prior to this evening's meeting, the ESCS Advisory Committee met with the Maguire Group. Meetings are also being held tomorrow with various City Departments as well as on Wednesday at the Cummings School for all ESCS staff. The focus of these meetings is the structure only. More meetings will be held as to the school design at a later date. Mayor Curtatone reported that we have a long way to go in the process and there will be many more meetings along the way.
8. The Superintendent reported that, with so much in the news about Bullying, the District has been actively working on methods to deal with this troublesome issue. On April 6, the Superintendent met with the Ad Hoc Committee of approximately 35 parents, guardians, volunteers, and staff members. He thanked the Family Center for the use of their facility for this meeting. On April 14, the Parents as Partners series continues with a presentation at the Argenziano School regarding Relationship and Family Violence. This workshop is co-hosted by the PTA, Special Education PAC, the SCPC and the District Attorney's office. On April 26, the presentation, "Sticks and Stones" will be held at the Capuano Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Also that evening, there will be a screening of the documentary, "Let's Get Real", which deals with bullying in the middle grades.

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

- The School Department is seeking bids for Special Ed transportation. There will be a pre-bidders' meeting on Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at Central Office. The bid opening is April 26, at 10:00 a.m. and this is for a 3-year contract. Currently, there are potentially 10 interested parties.
  - Reported that she, Mr. Tringale and Joan White have been working with the City regarding the implementation of the new MUNIS Accounting software scheduled for use beginning on July 1.
  - The FY11 budget development process continues on April 27 at the Finance and Facilities meeting. At this meeting, scenarios reflecting staff and class sections will be reviewed.
9. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, following the 19 inches of rain during the month of March, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has begun inspecting all schools in the state and is in the process of data collection for all buildings. The MSBA representatives will be interviewing principals and the Superintendent.

Mr. Pierantozzi congratulated the following five students from the Kennedy School who have been selected to compete in the National History Day National competition at the University of Maryland in June: Ella Tyler, Celine Lessard-Brandt, Val Prince, Miles Bain, and Chloe Marsanne.

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

- The FY09 End of Year Compliance Report of revenues and expenditures underwent a successful audit on March 29 and 30. The School Department was found to be 100% accurate. This has been the case for several years now and he is proud of the excellent work being done.
- The United States Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection is underway as of March 29. This collection focuses on Special Education, English Language Education and Limited English Proficient students. The deadline for this report is June 4, 2010.
- Reported on the filing of the second required SIMS report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

10. The Superintendent reported on a new partnership with the author of the magazine, "Chop Chop". This magazine features articles on family cooking with nutritious and healthy recipes. Families can look forward to a complimentary copy coming home to them very soon. The author of this magazine will be working with our Food Service Director to enhance and improve their offerings. Thank you to the Mayor for bringing this collaboration to the School Department.
11. This week is National Library Week. Various activities will be taking place across the District.
12. On April 13, the All City Art Fair will begin at the Argenziano School beginning at 5:30 p.m.
13. The High School Art Fair will begin on April 27.
14. On April 24, there will be a qualifying swim meet for the Regional Special Ed Swim Team.
15. Next week is April Vacation Week. Also, the City will be celebrating Patriots Day and all offices and buildings will be closed. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that there will be a celebration held at Foss Park beginning at 10:00 a.m., which will include games and songs.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### A. School Committee Policies:

Mr. Sweeting presented the following policies for *first* reading as revised:

File: IKE – Promotion Policy for Grades K-8

File: JJE – Student Fundraising Activities

File: KF-R – Community Use of School Facilities

File: KF-R-1 – Field House User Policy

### B. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

<b>May 8-15, 2010:</b>	Somerville High School Science Department (one staff member and one student) to San Jose, CA for the International Science and Engineering Fair. Transportation via air and auto at no cost to student.
<b>May 14, 2010:</b>	Somerville High School Painting and Decorating to Newport, RI. Transportation via bus. Cost to students is \$10.
<b>May 16, 2010:</b>	Somerville High School Outdoor Activity Group to Mount Washington, NH. Transportation via school van/private car at no cost to students. Rain date or May 15, 2010.
<b>June 2-4, 2010:</b>	Next Wave/Full Circle to Martha's Vineyard, <i>overnight</i> , for team-building skills. Transportation via school van/private car. Cost to students is \$10.
<b>June 9-10, 2010:</b>	Full Circle students to Eastham, MA <i>overnight</i> , for team-building skills. Transportation via school van. Cost to students is \$10.
<b>June 15, 2010:</b>	Next Wave/Full Circle to Canobie Lake Park. Transportation via school van/private car. Cost to students is \$10.
<b>June 21, 2010:</b>	Kennedy School students to Canobie Lake Park. Transportation via school van/private car. Cost to students is \$20.

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Bastardi, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### C. MASC Day on the Hill

Mrs. Cardoso provided a report on behalf of Ms. Rossetti on the recent MASC Day on the Hill that was held on March 30, 2010. A written report was also provided to members. Highlights of the report included the following:

- A meeting with the Ways & Means Committee
- The State's Current Rainy Day Fund Accounting

- Cuts to Local Aid
- Charter Schools
- The FY12 Budget forecast
- Special Education Cost reform
- Unfunded Mandates
- Mobility

Mrs. Cardoso thanked Ms. Rossetti for all of her work on behalf of the students of Somerville.

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang read thank you notes from the Maloney, Favaloro and Marques families for the recent acknowledgement of their family members during the School Committee's moment of silence.

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

### **Ms. Bastardi**

1. Announced the Special Ed. Family Swim Time at the Kennedy School - May 1, 8, 15, and 22, from 3:45 – 4:45. For more information, call 617-625-6600, ext. 6677.
2. The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Brian Higgins Trivia Night was held for the first time at Cousens Gym of Tufts University and was a great success.
3. Next Wave/Full Circle will hold an open house and PTA meeting on April 15, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
4. The Next Wave/Full Circle Parent Group will meet on May 5.

### **Ms. Rafal**

1. Thanked Mr. Tringale, Ms. Durette and their staff for the recent success on the audit and for doing their work with integrity and excellence.
2. Wished Lola Yu success on her upcoming field trip to compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair in California.
3. Reported on her attendance at the recent Race to the Top meeting in Worcester which she attended with Dr. McKay. Provided an overview of the day, the process used in applying, etc. The next round of funds becomes available in June.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Thanked the Superintendent for his various initiatives around bullying prevention and congratulated him for being at the forefront.
2. Reported on the National Honor Induction Ceremony this morning. This televised event will be available for viewing on the cable access channel. The ceremony was wonderfully led by National Honor President Rae Axner. Mr. Bockelman was impressed with not just the academic achievements of our students, but also the citizenship, work and leadership of the students. These students are funding their educations by their own achievements. Special thanks to Mr. Ciccariello for his great work with our high school students and to Alderman Bill White for his phenomenal speech which was a deep and meaningful reflection.
3. Spoke about the Junior Statesmen of America club and what an outstanding opportunity this is for our students. The general theme of the club is, "Democracy demands participation." Mr. Bockelman accompanied the group on a weekend field trip to Stamford, Ct. to participate in the JSA Spring State Convention. Students in attendance were: Nikki Lynch, Regina Lucreziano, Mattie Barber-Bockelman, Rae Axner, Dea Dodi, Deepika Bhargo, Iva Popa, Shauna Paquet, April McMillan, Enxhi Popa, Jesse Stern, Vikas Verman, David Huang, Matt Bedell, Chris Halloran and Adit Thapa. Their advisor is Somerville High School teacher Chris Glynn. Mr. Bockelman thanked Mr. Glynn for bringing this wonderful program to Somerville High School.
4. Announced that the next Educational Programs Subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. The agenda includes presentations on the Scale program, Next Wave/Full Circle and a discussion regarding physical education at Somerville High School.

### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Mrs. Cardoso spoke about the letters and drawings she received from students of the Argenziano School in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to whom she read on Dr. Seuss' birthday. The pictures were great and the letters were very articulate. As a follow-up to her reading, the class has prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the Great Depression.
2. The Higgins Trivia Night was wonderful. Thanks to Debby and Steve Higgins.
3. The Personnel Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.
4. Wished everyone a happy and safe April vacation.

**Alderman Connolly**

1. Reported on the hugely successful and wonderful Peace Conference event that was held this past week. He is very proud of the students who were instrumental to the running of the event. Thanks to Amanda Holm and Steve Pollock, as well as our community partners.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Echoed Alderman Connolly's remarks. Thank you to our youth leaders. This was the best event so far and these students are young ambassadors for our city.

Ms. Bastardi announced that Ward 2, Precinct 1 and Ward 1, Precinct 1 will take part in a Special Election to elect someone to former Senator Galluccio's seat.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Announced the Annual College Fair on April 14, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Somerville High School Field House. Learn about colleges and the application process. Event is open to all—not just high school students and families.
2. Commented on the touching words of Mr. Bockelman regarding the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and announced that along with these students, the parents and guardians are also to be commended. He congratulated Mr. Niedergang and Mr. Bockelman and all of the parents of the National Honor students for raising such wonderful children.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Morris Landman, father of Joyce Danis, reading teacher at Brown and West Somerville
- Margaret Driscoll, mother-in-law of Donna Driscoll, teacher at West Somerville
- Peter Albano, son of Sal Albano, former State Senator and member of the Duhamel Education Initiative

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, April 26, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, and Mayor Curtatone (7:50 p.m.)

**Members absent:** Alderman Connolly

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Sweeting, Bastardi, Rossetti, and Niedergang, and Absent – 2 – Connolly and Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed. Mr. Niedergang informed the audience that Alderman Connolly informed him that he was out of town and unable to attend tonight and that Superintendent Pierantozzi is in El Salvador teaching a course to educators there.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- April 12, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Ms. Bastardi, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2010 School Committee meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Niedergang informed the members that Ms. Tyler was absent this evening as she was attending an accepted students' reception at Wellesley College.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *Personnel Subcommittee:*** Mrs. Cardoso (Apr. 14)

Personnel Subcommittee Met on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 @6PM at the Central Office at 181 Washington Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal, Paul Bockelman, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang and Maureen Bastardi along with Supt. Tony Pierantozzi, Asst. Supt. Vince McKay and Human Resources Administrator Rebeca Martinez. There were many audience members in attendance including members of the Interview Team as well as parents, staff and community members.

Update on Administrative Searches and Hiring: The Superintendent gave us a brief update on the Principal Searches for the Argenziano, Brown and Healey – all of these positions would be announced by the end of business tomorrow. He also gave us an update on the Asst. Principal for Career Vocational Technical Education and told us the interviews were going on this week by the Interview Team and that Finalists' would be forwarded to the Headmaster by April 26 or 27 and then on to the Supt. by April 28 or 29 for interview and confirmation.

UPDATE ON FY 2010 RETIREMENT NOTICES SUBMITTED TO DATE: New names added since our last meeting were two retirements - Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services after 19 years of service and Ms. Betty Stone Program Administrator at SCALE after 32 years of service.

NEW ITEMS: The new item came as a result of Dr. Di Chiappari's retirement notice – the Supt. gave the Committee a Draft Reorganization of the District Administrator for Student Services position for their review and there was a brief discussion and it was recommended that it be tabled and that we receive further information prior to our next meeting in order to discuss the Draft at that meeting.

The next Personnel Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. at the Central Office Conference Room at 181 Washington Street.

Finalist's Interview for the Principal at the Healey School - There was only one (1) Finalist Mr. Jason DeFalco forwarded to us from the Interview Team – Mr. DeFalco was also a Finalist for the Argenziano School back on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. DeFalco was a highly qualified Finalist and had a great second interview and we were very impressed with him. The School Committee did not to deliberate The Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

**B. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:** Mr. Bockelman (April 14)  
The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on April 14, 2010 at 181 Washington Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. Subcommittee members present: Paul Bockelman, Maureen Bastardi, and Christine Rafal. Others present: Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang, Teresa Cardoso Superintendent Pierantozzi, Vince McKay and about 15 members of the public

1. SCALE Program presentation:

SCALE Director Janice Philpot presented an overview of the SCALE program noting its history of providing education to about 1,000 students per year for the past 36 years. SCALE provides Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, General Education Development (GED), and an Adult Diploma Program (the highest volume in Massachusetts).

Students Etemy Varella and Sergio Nunez spoke of their participation in the various programs in a very moving and significant language. New initiatives include a TOEFL lab (Teaching of English as a Foreign Language)

SCALE is vital and growing. It plays a significant and important role in our community and in the lives of the people who participate in the program.

2. Next Wave/Full Circle program evaluation presentation:

Next, consultant John Verre presented his evaluation of Next Wave/Full Circle schools which was commissioned by the District and paid for by ARRA funds.

The three-month study found the program to be exceptionally strong and stable and a model for other school districts. In particular, Mr. Verre said that the program represents a critical component of the continuum of placements and array of services for high risk, multiple problem students in Somerville.

The fact that the program was open to both students with disabilities and to non-disabled students was seen as a real strength of the program and asset to the District.

He complimented the leadership of David Willey and the small scale of supportive relationships between students and staff. The academic outcomes for students are "relatively strong."

He identified several challenges for the program, including the fact that the facilities are less than adequate; that the program offers limited art, music, physical education, foreign language and higher-level education classes.

Areas for the District to monitor include the use of suspensions, the level of reintegration from Next Wave/Full Circle to general education settings, and the need to develop better measurements for the academic and social-emotional-behavioral progress of students.

3. SHS Physical Education requirement:

Tim O'Keefe presented a proposal for Physical Education Requirements for the high school. As you may remember, the recent Coordinated Program Review identified our process for requiring four semesters of health and physical education was not in keeping with the states rules (we do four semesters anytime during your high school career; the state requires at least one semester a year).

The new proposal would have students take health education in 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades and physical education in 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Since this change could adversely impact current 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders, there will be four options for meeting this requirement. The proposal and transition plan seemed to address all key issues and the Subcommittee approved the Health and Physical Education options as presented for inclusion in the Somerville High School 2010-2011 Program of Studies and I move that for a vote from the full committee.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to amend the Somerville High School Program of Studies to include Health and Physical Education requirements, as presented.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

4. Focus on Results update

Next, Dr. McKay presented an update on the District's "Focus on Results" initiative. He showed the weekly "Teaching and Learning Tuesday" newsletter, which attempts to aggregate all announcements with the goals of protecting principals' time and to support the Focus on Results work. Members were pleased with the new newsletters.

5. In-service course approvals

The Subcommittee approved three in-service courses which I move, including Sign Language, Focus on Results, and X2 Aspen Gradebook for School Teachers.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the following three inservice courses: Sign Language, Focus of Results, and X2 Aspen Gradebook for School Teachers.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

## **V. REPORT OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT – Dr. McKay**

### **DISTRICT REPORT**

1. First, we're in the middle of the first annual "One city – One book" campaign. The featured book is Tim O'Brien's The Things They Carried. On Thursday afternoon at 2:45pm, in the school library, the SHS Book Club will meet to discuss the book. I read the book recently and am looking forward to a lively discussion.
2. There's a screening tonight of a documentary film about bullying, "Let's Get Real." That event started at 6:30 PM at the Capuano Center. Another parent/guardian discussion on the topic of bullying in schools takes place on Monday, May 24th from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Kennedy School.
3. Next week, students at Somerville High School will be taking Advanced Placement tests that week, in hopes of earning college credit for their advanced placement high school coursework.
4. On Thursday, April 29th from 5-7 at the Capuano Center the families of PK Family Fun Night. Students and families are invited to visit the school to learn more about PK activities in math and English instruction and enjoy some pizza!
5. On Monday, May 3rd at 5:30 PM there is a workshop for parents/guardians of students who will start Kindergarten in September. The purpose is to help them begin for the transition to the Kindergarten classroom. This event is hosted at the ESCS Cummings School located at 42 Prescott Street.
6. On the subject of Kindergarten, Dr. DiChiappari has some updates related to K and other topics related to school safety.

The Assistant 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:

- Seven Somerville staff members and I will be attending the 12<sup>th</sup> annual SECURE XII conference which will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Nashoba Valley Technical High School. This conference will feature cutting edge information relating to school and community safety. The conference topic this year is "Best Friends/Worst Enemies: Friendship Development, Popularity and Social Cruelty" with Dr. Michael G. Thompson as the keynote speaker. Dr. Michael Thompson will draw on research to highlight the difference between friendship and popularity and will make suggestions about the management of social problems in schools and communities and makes the case that while all children yearn for popularity, it is friendship that helps students to survive and thrive.
- On a different note, Kindergarten first batch assignment letters for 2010-2011 were mailed on Thursday of last week. On Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, the PIC processed the 363 first batch applications received for next year's kindergarten classes. The process started with a lottery at the PIC 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, 7 children were placed on a wait list for kindergarten Choice, 14 on a wait list for the Unidos kindergarten Spanish program, and 8 children on a wait list for the Unidos English program. 334 or (92%) of the 363 applicants were assigned their first choice school. 28 applicants (8%) were assigned the second school of choice with 1 receiving a third choice of school. Applicants not receiving the first choice of schools can get on a waiting list for

future openings at that school. Pre-kindergarten registration continues to be in progress. AS of last Friday, 158 pre-K applications were received. Any parent/guardian with a child who will be 4 years of age by August 31st and is interested in pre-Kindergarten for next year is strongly encouraged to submit a completed application by May 7<sup>th</sup> to be included in the May 10th lottery for Pre-Kindergarten. Any parents/guardians with questions about pre-kindergarten registration may contact the Parent Information Center at 617-625-6600 X6961.

Mr. Bockelman requested a copy of Dr. Di Chiappari's report and asked if this information would impact the budget. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that it was too early to know. This is very preliminary data. Mr. Bockelman also asked about the base class size for Kindergarten. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that the District tries to maintain a class size of between 20-23 students, depending on the size of the classroom.

7. I have some updates to share with you regarding the very active education picture in Washington. Race to the Top, awards for the first two states to qualify, Delaware and Tennessee. And with the \$400 million taken off the top of the RTTT pool, another \$3.6 billion remains to be awarded.

8. As you know, MA is committed to reapplying for the June 1 submission date for Round 2 of the application. As the deadline draws near, the climate is getting a bit testy. The Mass Federation of teachers and the Boston Teachers Union are rethinking their support for the state's RTTT application. Other states, too, including Florida and Maine have been in the news lately as teachers have begun to balk at aspects of the state application. In my reading of the situation, most of the concerns have focused on the use of student achievement data in the evaluation of teacher performance.

As Education Secretary Reville said recently, this is due to the two conflicting demands of the RTTT application process. On the one hand, the federal government is encouraging states to be bold and innovative, to push the envelope so to speak. But on the other hand, they are encouraging states collaborate with teachers.

As I said, June 1 is the resubmission deadline. State officials say they feel Massachusetts is in a good position to receive funding, with our high test scores and generally strong system of support that should score well on the evaluation process. We'll know in September!

One more aspect of the RTTT program less well publicized but very important none the less, is the potential impact on state testing programs and MCAS. Since the testing came into use in the late 90s, we've all been disappointed in how narrow the tests are. That is, despite the promise that we have a SYSTEM of assessments, MCAS tests rely very heavily on multiple choice questions. Massachusetts has teamed up with some other states to apply for another grant program to develop more performance tasks in MCAS. This change has the potential to move us beyond testing students at the basic knowledge level, to include what they can actually DO with their knowledge –which is much more meaningful!

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

- Staff in the Finance Office have been extremely busy. Grants are currently being reviewed to assure that all spending is as it should be.
- The School Department is seeking bids for Special Ed transportation. There will be a pre-bidders' meeting on Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at Central Office. The bid opening is April 26, at 10:00 a.m. and this is for a 3-year contract. Currently, there are potentially 10 interested parties.
- Reported that she, Mr. Tringale and Joan White have been working with the City regarding the implementation of the new MUNIS Accounting software scheduled for use beginning on July 1.
- The FY11 budget development process continues on April 27 at the Finance and Facilities meeting. At this meeting, scenarios reflecting staff and class sections will be reviewed.

9. Two announcements of ARTISTIC interest:

We celebrate the artistic expression and achievement of Somerville High School students on Wednesday, April 28th beginning at 6:00 PM in the SHS Atrium with the formal opening of the SHS Art Show. Elementary student work remains on display throughout the Argenziano School through May 17th.

Please also plan to attend the annual Somerville High School Spring Concert, a free event for the entire community which starts at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 6th.

10. Finally, looking ahead to the week of May 3rd we'll be celebrating National Teacher Appreciation Week.



## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. School Committee Policies:**

Mrs. Rossetti presented the following policies for *second* reading as revised:

File: IKE – Promotion Policy for Grades K-8

File: JJE – Student Fundraising Activities

File: KF-R – Community Use of School Facilities

File: KF-R-1 – Field House User Policy

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to add the policies presented this evening for second reading to the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **B. Long Range Planning Meeting on May 24, 2010: (Mr. Niedergang)**

Mr. Niedergang reviewed the process he proposes for the Long Range Planning Meeting regarding the future of the Healey School, which is scheduled for May 24, 2010, at the Healey. The current tentative agenda is as follows:

- Welcome/Introductions
- Reports on various information sharing meetings from the Healey constituencies (School Council, Choice Council, PTA, SPED, Neighborhood, etc.)
- Presentation of strongest scenarios by Dr. McKay and Ms. Gilligan
- Recommendation of the Superintendent
- Breakout groups

Discussion took place regarding the following issues:

- Starting time of the meeting - the decision was made to begin at 6:30 p.m.
- Provision of snacks and drinks
- Outreach to all groups—not enough balance in audience representation at previous meeting
- Child care being made available
- Communication being made available in all target languages
- Translation services being made available
- Connect Ed multi-lingual message being sent

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. NSBA Conference Report** (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti reported on the recent NSBA Conference she attended in Chicago. Ms. Rossetti has provided printed notes to all members. Her report this evening included:

- 47 states were represented at the conference
- Discussion regarding the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization
- Reference to RTTT as Race to Total Takeover by some in attendance
- A special MASC Board member to discuss round 2 of the Race to the Top application process
- The Division IX MASC meeting on May 8, where Deputy Commission Baehr will be in attendance
- The NSBA's opposition to the competitive grant process
- A History through Jazz presentation that was awesome
- The Magna Award presented to Mason County Kentucky
- Information on Educational Foundations
- Next year's conference in San Francisco and 2012 in Boston
- An outstanding presentation by the president of the National PTA

A request was made for a letter to be forward on the School Committee's behalf to Senator Brown urging his support of the Keep our Educators Working Act.

Appreciation was shown to Ms. Rossetti for her stimulating and interesting report as well as the dedication and time devoted to her advocacy.

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

### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Mrs. Cardoso expressed appreciation to Ms. Rossetti for her tireless efforts on our behalf.

2. On April 13, attended the opening of the Elementary Art Fair, which featured musical renditions. Thank you to all involved. Work from Pre K to Grade 8 students was wonderful.
3. The Argenziano School will hold its PTA on April 27 at 6:00 p.m.
4. The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting is this coming Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m.
5. The Arbor Day Celebration will take place at the Argenziano School on April 30 beginning at 10:30 a.m.
6. Congratulations and thanks were extended to the approximately 15 Somerville High School students who volunteered over the April School Vacation to help at the Elder Health Fair, sponsored by Elder Services. This fair was held at the Healey School and about 350 elders were in attendance.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. We are reaching the final stretch of the school year. It is important to keep our students focused and to encourage them to push through to the end.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Thanked Mr. Tringale, Ms. Durette and their staff for the recent success on the audit and for doing their work with integrity and excellence.
2. Wished Lola Yu success on her upcoming field trip to compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair in California.
3. Reported on her attendance at the recent Race to the Top meeting in Worcester which she attended with Dr. McKay. Provided an overview of the day, the process used in applying, etc. The next round of funds becomes available in June.

**Ms. Bastardi**

1. Announced the Public Meeting regarding the East Somerville Community School on Tuesday, May 11, at 5:30 at the Capuano School.
2. The East Somerville Community School at Cummings will hold an open house and PTA meeting on April 29, from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Welcomed back everyone from the vacation week.
2. Informed the audience of the wonderful art exhibition here at City Hall. The stairway and hallways have displays of student artwork that is extremely creative and well done. It is not necessary to visit the Art Fair to see our students' wonderful work.
3. Announced the fundraiser for the Welcome Project, which is being held on Friday, April 30 at the Armory on Highland Ave.
4. Announced the fundraiser for Groundworks Somerville, which is also being held at the Armory on next Saturday, May 8.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Mayor Curtatone announced that two of the District's schools did not have funding for participation in the Cycle Kids program, where students learn bicycle safety and safe riding. The Mayor announced that the City will provide the funding for those two schools so that all of our students may have access to this very worthwhile program.
2. Announced the renovation of the skating rink on Somerville Ave. In the fall, the rink will be taken over by the City and will then become a year-round facility.
3. Informed of the current gloomy fiscal forecast and stated that all departments will work together to try to fill in the over \$7million gap. Nothing set until the end of June. Also announced that healthcare costs for the City are projected to increase by approximately 21%.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Announced that she is hosting office hours at the West Somerville Neighborhood School this coming Saturday from 9:00 – noon. At the same time, there will be a small yard sale being held by the West Somerville Neighborhood School PTA from 9:00 – 2:00.
2. Responded to the Mayor's comments regarding the budget-- "We are held hostage to the State's decision."

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Joanne Armstrong, long-time employee at Next Wave/Full Circle
- John "Jack" Daly, retired Somerville High School English teacher
- Katherine Naun, mother of Michelle Perry, teacher at Winter Hill Community School

- Ralph Umansky, father of Eve Shelton Jones, Housemaster/Assistant Principal at Somerville High School
- Mary O'Keefe, mother of Jack O'Keefe, teacher at ESCS and Tim O'Keefe, Supervisor of Physical Education. Grandmother of Kerri O'Keefe, teacher at the Capuano Early Childhood Center

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, May 3, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, and Alderman Connolly

**Members absent:** Mayor Curtatone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 8– Bastardi, Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Connolly, Rossetti, Sweeting, and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 –Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed. Mr. Niedergang informed the audience that Ms. Tyler, our student representative, is on her way.

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Molly Tyler, our student representative from Somerville High School, reported on the following:

- The Advanced Placement (AP) testing has begun and continues through next week.
- The Senior Prom is this coming Friday night.
- The names of members of the Junior class who are eligible for induction into the National Honor Society for next year have been posted.
- Outstanding performances of our track athletes at both the MSTCA and Western Invitational meets.
- Class elections for all four classes, as well as elections to Molly's seat, a representative to the School Improvement Council and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are taking place very soon.

**III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:*** Mr. Sweeting (April 27)

Mr. Sweeting reported on the School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities which was held on April 27 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 181 Washington Street. This meeting was the first of many which are Finance and Facilities meetings of the whole. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were: Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, and Mrs. Cardoso. Also in attendance were Dr. McKay, Ms. Durette, and STA representative Dorothy Scally. Subjects discussed included the following:

1. FY11 Budget Summary – several budget scenarios were presented this evening. One scenario was a 3.11% increase in the budget or \$1.48M. This budget would include all salary increases required under the various collective bargaining agreements and the restoration of 1.92% of salaries to all non-union employees from last year's furlough. It also takes into consideration the savings from six retirements with a potential saving of approximately \$20,000.00 per retirement. There was also discussion of a potential cut of two elementary sections and a possible reduction in the substitute teaching account. Nothing is formal yet and layoffs are not being discussed at this time.
2. ARRA-an update was provided on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act A breakdown of funding was provided for FY10 including Title I and IDEA funds. Discussion also ensued regarding funding for FY11, including carryover money which has been and will continue to be used for MCAS remediation, paraprofessionals, literacy materials and co-curricular funds for Next Wave/Full Circle. Funds will also be used for 2 FTE coaches in literacy and math.
3. Elementary Class Sections – a color coded chart was provided of projected enrollment by school and grade, as well as the number of sections of each grade for the 2010-2011

school year. Discussion ensued regarding creative ways to configure classrooms such as looping, mixed grades, etc. More discussion will take place at the next meeting and Dr. Di Chiappari has been asked to attend this meeting to offer input.

4. DOR Local Aid Estimates – a 4% reduction in Local Aid is expected for FY11.
5. Special Education Transportation – a brief presentation was given regarding the contract for transportation of our special education students. The contract for these services has recently gone out to bid.
6. Approval of a lease with the Boys and Girls Club for space for our Central Administration Offices—short term until the new space at 42 Cross Street is renovated.

The following motion was made and passed unanimously at the Finance Meeting--  
MOTION: To approve the lease with the Boys & Girls Club.

**B. *Personnel Subcommittee:*** Mrs. Cardoso (April 28)

The Personnel Subcommittee met on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 @6:40PM at the Central Office at 181 Washington Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal, Paul Bockelman, Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang, Mary Jo Rossetti and Maureen Bastardi & BOA Pres. Jack Connolly along with Supt. Tony Pierantozzi and Human Resources Administrator Rebeca Martinez. There were no audience members in attendance.

There was one item on the agenda that was tabled from the previous Personnel Subcommittee Meeting – the reorganization plans for the position of the District Administrator for Student Services.

At the last meeting committee members had asked for some information which was given to us prior to the meeting – the materials were a FY2011 Supervisory List and a School Department Organization these materials along with the Draft Reorganization of the Position were discussed and questions were presented and answered.

MOTION: Motion by Mrs. Cardoso, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the Superintendent's reorganization of the District Administrator for Student Services position subject to collective bargaining and pending funding.

The motion was passed via voice vote.

It is important to note that this reorganization will save the school department approximately \$40,000.00.

While discussing this reorganization and the school department organization the superintendent noted that the position of Supervisor of Guidance and Testing was not listed on this chart because he anticipates a restructuring of the Guidance Department. He explained that the District has submitted a proposal for an Elementary School Counseling Grant that would enable K-8 Counselor Educators to become a school-based function and the current Supervisor of Guidance and Testing become a Department Head of Guidance for Grades 9-12.

The next Personnel Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. at the Central Office Conference Room at 181 Washington Street.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

***Report of Executive Session:***

Mr. Niedergang reported on the School Committee for Executive Session, which met on April 28, 2010, at 7:27 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 181 Washington Street. Members in attendance were: Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Sweeting, Alderman Connolly and Mr. Niedergang. At this meeting, a motion was made to approve sick leave buybacks of 133 days at \$30 a day, for a total of \$3,990 each for two retiring principals. This motion was approved in Executive Session and is now being reported in open session.

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

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

Mr. Pierantozzi commented on a very exciting personnel report. Included in his report were the following:

Three new principals have been hired – Jason DeFalco – Healey School, Barbara O'Brien – Argenziano School, and Kathleen Seward – Brown School. This was an extensive process and the Superintendent issued his thanks to all involved.

The Assistant Principal position at the East Somerville Community School was posted last week.

The upcoming retirements of Cathy McGranahan, a teacher at the Kennedy School, after 33 years; Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services, after two separate stints for a combined total of 19 years; and Betty Stone, a Program Administrator at Scale, after 32 years of service. The Superintendent wished these retirees healthy, happy and long retirement.

Mr. Sweeting inquired as to whether or not plans are in place for the new principals to meet with the community. Mr. Pierantozzi informed the members that the new principals are planning visits to the schools and that Entry Plans are also being devised.

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

1. Reported on the 10 foot water main break at the MWRA facility that occurred on this past Saturday. Today was the first day of school during this emergency. Thanks to the Mayor and his staff for their careful planning around this emergency. Special thanks to Paulette Renault Carigianes for coordinating the disbursement of 312 bottles of Purell Hand Sanitizer to all of our school buildings. Thanks also to our Food Service Department, for arranging a special menu during this time. The District has sealed drinks on hand for our students and our staff is utilizing increased sanitizer in all dishwashers. In the middle of the day, today, bottle water was delivered to all of our buildings. This evening, water dispensing sites have been opened at the East Somerville Community School playground and at the Department of Public Works.
2. Congratulations to the students and art teachers for their work on the Somerville High School Art Fair, which kicked off on April 28 in the Atrium at Somerville High School. Wonderful art work and also entertainment from our music students were a part of the fair.
3. On Thursday, May 6, the world famous Somerville High School Spring Concert will be held. As always there will be great music performed by enthusiastic students. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- MCAS Math testing at SHS is May 17 and 18... parents should be aware of this important date.
- For the elementary schools, testing for grades 3 – 8 will vary school by school, but the testing window begins on May 10 for Math and May 11 for Science. Please look for announcement from your school principal about testing dates. As always, parents/guardians are reminded to emphasize good rest and proper nutrition on testing days. Attendance is crucial on these days, and students should make extra effort to report to school on time.
- Also, SHS is making a special effort to motivate with the 240 Initiative.
- Instructional Leadership Teams update
  - These school-based teams are working with principals at each of our elementary schools this year as part of our work with Focus on Results. I have several school based ILT updates to report this evening.
  - First, the Capuano Early Childhood Center kicked off their school's instructional focus last week with Star Day. The assembly I visited last Friday was a terrific, developmentally appropriate way to celebrate and reinforce early literacy skills such as listening and speaking. These skills will continue to be emphasized as part of the school's ongoing work with Focus on Results.
  - Second, the members of both the Argenziano School Kennedy School ILTs along with Principals Anne Foley and Dottie Rudolph have gone on site visits -- field trips, really – The Kennedy's trip was last Wednesday. They traveled to an elementary school in Worcester, meeting with that school's principal and ILT members to learn about their work and student achievement gains.
  - It was a great opportunity for our ILT members to collaborate with and learn from another school that's 3 years ahead of them in this kind of leadership structure.

- I am really pleased that the principals, working with our elementary curriculum coordinator Shannon Gilligan, are reaching out in this way. It's very important
- I sat in on one of Winter Hill Community School's ILT meetings recently. What I found most impressed by the group.
- I am convinced that other schools will be coming to Somerville to visit OUR model programs in the coming year, especially after we begin to produce the results I am confident will follow.

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

- The Finance office has been in training mode recently. Today and tomorrow approximately 40 staff members will be trained on how to enter requisitions utilizing the new Munis software. This is the first hands-on training and Ms. Durette awaits feedback from the attendees.
- 4. The Capuano Early Childhood Center will host a Preschool Fun Night entitled, Passport to Fun on April 29. Launch Day for the Capuano's Instructional Focus Team took place on April 30. Congratulations to Pam Holmes, her staff and the volunteers for all of their work on these events.
- 5. On Friday, April 30, the Superintendent and others took part in a city-wide Arbor Day Celebration with a ceremony at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park. This was a magnificent setting with a gentle breeze blowing across the park, students signing and reciting poems. Congratulations to the Mayor and his staff for organizing such a wonderful event.
- 6. Thanked teaching staff for their "artistry in the classroom" during Teacher Appreciation Week
- 7. Announced that, during school vacation week, Administrative Professionals Day took place. Issued thanks and gratitude to the entire District's Administrative Professionals and announced that their work is greatly appreciated.

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

- The software purchased earlier in the school year which enabled one PC to serve four desktops has been wildly successful. As of this time, the District is using this software at the East Somerville Community School and Next Wave/Full Circle. The hope is to integrate this software across the District which will certainly translate into significant savings as we replace out of date hardware. Aside from equipment costs, the District will also see a savings in power costs as a result of this software being used.
- The Print Management Software that has been utilized this year has generated a savings of approximately 2000 pages a day less pages being printed. Overall, we are seeing a savings of approximately 25% in printing costs, as a result of this software.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Race To the Top – Ms. Rossetti**

Ms. Rossetti initiated discussion regarding the second round of Race to the Top grant applications. There is confusion as to whether or not applications will need editing prior to Round Two submission. Discussion ensued regarding deadlines to apply, informational webinars, how Massachusetts can improve their application, and next steps. Also, Ms. Rossetti questioned whether or not the Somerville Teachers Association is still willing to partner with the School District on this initiative. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that, if necessary, a special School Committee meeting could be called to discuss any necessary changes prior to the May 14 deadline. At this time it is the understanding of the Superintendent and some members that this submission will have the same ground rules as the last. Neither the School Department nor the Somerville Teachers Association is under any obligation until a grant is awarded. Once that happens, either or both parties may withdraw without any penalty or explanation. At this time, no further meetings will be scheduled and the School District will stay in the race.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Field Trip**

**June 13-17, 2010:**

Kennedy School students to University of Maryland to compete in National History Day. Transportation via coach bus at a cost of \$355 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to waive the reading of the field trip and accept.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the District is paying for this field trip and that there will be no cost to these students.

## **B. Acceptance of Donation**

### **Track Equipment**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of two discs and 1 javelin by Mr. Paul Hochman, to be used by the high school track and field teams. Approximate value: \$160.00.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang read thank you notes from Donna Driscoll, Paula Monahan and the family of Emily Sichterman expressing appreciation at the School Committee's remembrance of their loved ones who have recently passed.

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

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. A reminder to parents and guardians that the final PTA meetings of the year are now being held. Please attend to get a final sense of your student's academic progress as well as to plan for next year.
2. The PTA Dinner Dance will be held next Friday, May 7, 2010.
3. On Saturday morning, May 8, the Annual Spring Clean Up will take place across the city. Ward Three volunteers should meet on the City Hall Concourse at 10:00 a.m.
4. The next School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities will be held on Wednesday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street. Agenda items include: Food Service Breakfast update and FY11 Budget Planning.
5. On Wednesday, May 12, the School Committee will meet with the Board of Aldermen regarding FY11 Budget Planning strategies at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

### **Alderman Connolly**

1. Assured members that the Board of Aldermen will work collaboratively with the School Committee on the FY11 Budget and that the May 12 meeting is just the first of many.

### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. The Arbor Day Celebration was fabulous. Wonderful to see the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park as the focal point.
2. Mrs. Cardoso is the co-captain of the Ward Two Clean Up team. Students, staff and all other volunteers will gather at 9:45 a.m. at the SCAT building in Union Square. Following the clean up, there will be a barbecue at Nunziato Field for all volunteers.
3. The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held on May 13, at 6:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street.
4. The PTA Dinner Dance will be held on May 7, at Anthony's in Malden. This year's honorees are: Dorothy Rudolph, Carol Jean Cassidy, Jean Ferreira, Sean Sylvester and in memory of John Clancy. Jimmy Delponte is the emcee.
5. Issued her gratitude to teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. The Brown School PTA will be held at 6:00 p.m. on May 4. Ms. Kathleen Seward, incoming Brown School Principal, will be in attendance to meet staff, parents and guardians.
2. The Healey School PTA will hold its next meeting on May 11, at 7:00 p.m.
3. The Kennedy School PTA is scheduled for May 13, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
4. A fundraiser for the Healey School entitled, "Young Artists in Action" will take place on May 16, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Armory.
5. This is Preservation Month in Somerville. As part of the Historic Preservation Awards, recipients receive a beautifully drawn rendition of their residence, drawn by Drafting students from Somerville High School.



6. Congratulations to Kennedy School students on their success on History Day.
7. Ward Six's Clean Up Team is being co-captained by Mr. Bockelman and Alderman Gewirtz. Interested volunteers should meet in Davis Square.
8. The Somerville High School Scholarship Awards Ceremony will be held on May 19, beginning at 6:30 p.m., with the Juniors' Book Awards, followed by Senior Awards at 7:00 p.m. The ceremony will take place in the auditorium at Somerville High School.
9. The Somerville Community Chorus, which was started by a group of school teachers, will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the First Church at 89 College Ave.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Healey PTA Elections will take place on May 11.
2. Ms. Rafal has attended eight stakeholder group meetings thus far and is attempting to reach out to everyone regarding the future of the Healey School.
3. Ms. Rafal will post the next meetings on her blog and on her Facebook page.
4. On next Wednesday, it will be garden work day at the Healey School from 12:30-2:30 p.m.
5. On June 12, any leftover plants from the Healey School will be sold at the Union Square Farmer's Market.
6. Wednesday is Walk to School Day.
7. Information on the Ward 4 Clean up will be on Ms. Rafal's blog.

**Ms. Bastardi**

1. On May 11, there will be a community meeting regarding the East Somerville Community School in the Cafetorium at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.
2. The Ward 1 Clean Up will be coordinated by Aldermen Roche and Sullivan. The team will assemble at corner of Cross Street and Broadway.
3. Sunsetters' auditions will be held on May 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the West Somerville Neighborhood School. Auditions are open to all students in grades 6-12. There will be 25 members once the group is formed with their first performance being at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Celebration.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- David Michael "Mike" Roberts, former Special Education teacher at Somerville High School

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, May 17, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, , and Alderman Connolly

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 7– Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Connolly, Rossetti, Sweeting, and Niedergang, and Absent – 2 – Bastardi and Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed. Mr. Niedergang informed the audience that Ms. Tyler, our student representative, is at a meeting and will be here shortly.

Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to suspend the rules and take up item VI A - the Field Trip to France - out of order. At this time, Jane Cummings, Karen Lawrence, Nathalie Lecesne-Zoukhri and Dorothy Contos came to the podium to discuss the particulars of the trip—including itinerary, cost, and fundraising efforts.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- April 26, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of April 26, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Molly Tyler, our student representative from Somerville High School, provided her final report as our student representative. Ms. Tyler is graduating from Somerville High School this year. Her report included the following:

- The Girls' Track team broke two records last weekend at the meet.
- A special schedule will be followed at Somerville High School tomorrow. The schedule will be D, E, B, C, F.
- There will be a fundraiser to benefit the senior class at Rudy's Restaurant in Teele Square on Tuesday evening.
- Scholarship awards will be presented on Wednesday night.
- The Highlander Athletic awards will be presented on May 25.

At the conclusion of Ms. Tyler's report, Mr. Bockelman approached the podium and read a citation prepared for Ms. Tyler in appreciation for her service as the student representative to the School Committee (citation at end of these minutes). Mr. Bockelman commended Ms. Tyler's fierce energy and supreme confidence and wished her well as she begins her next educational journey at Wellesley College in the fall.

Ms. Tyler thanked everyone and announced that she will bring the new student representative to our next meeting to introduce him/her to the Committee.

The School Committee recessed to congratulate and thank Ms. Tyler at 7:32 p.m.

#### IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

**A. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:** Mr. Sweeting (May 5)

The School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities took place on May 5 at 181 Washington Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Members in attendance were: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman and Alderman Connolly. Also in attendance were Dr. Di Chiappari, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, Ms. McLarney, Ms. Mancini, and Ms. Scally. Items discussed included the following:

1. Foodservice Program Update – Ms. McLarney and Ms. Mancini reported on budgetary items related to the Food Service Department. A follow-up report was provided on the pilot program of charging all Somerville High School students, not receiving free or reduced lunch, \$1.00 for breakfast. Food Service has seen as savings of over \$52,000.00 this year. Given the fact that there have been decreased donations of commodities from the Federal Government and that Somerville no longer services the Charter School, there are many uncertainties, financially, going forward. A recommendation was made to continue the practice of charging \$1.00 for breakfast at Somerville High School.

MOTION: Motion made by Mr. Bockelman, seconded by Ms. Bastardi to continue the pilot to charge \$1.00 for breakfast for students who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. Enrollment Projections and FY2011 Budget – discussion ensued relative to allocations, assignment to grade one, adding and deleting of sections, etc.
3. 42 Cross Street – information update provided
4. East Somerville Community School – informational update provided
5. FY10 Bill roll

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Ms. Bastardi to approve the FY2010 Bill Rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

6. Declaration of surplus materials from Somerville High School

MOTION: Motion made by Mr. Niedergang, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to declare the items presented as surplus.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

**B. Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:** Mr. Bockelman (May 11)

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on May 11, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street. Members present were Paul Bockelman, Christine Rafal, and Maureen Bastardi. Others present were Mark Niedergang, Teresa Cardoso, Adam Sweeting, Vince McKay, Shannon Gilligan, Tony Pierantozzi, Regina Bertholdo a special appearance by Senator Patricia Jehlen and one other member of the public.

Items discussed were as follows:

1. **K-12 Social studies Curriculum Program Presentation:** Shannon Gilligan presented the program overview for Social Studies in grades K-8. Shannon spoke of the philosophy and beliefs of the Social Studies program. She listed the grade topics that are covered in each grade along with benchmarks used by our staff to ensure students are learning at grade level. She talked about the special emphasis on the eighth grade curriculum with consistent expectations and aligning those expectations with English Language Arts and with the High School curriculum. She noted that there was a serious commitment to introduce Facing History and Ourselves throughout the District.

Social Studies Department Head Alicia Kersten provided an overview of the course offerings and goals for Social Studies in the high school. She was joined by teachers Chris Glynn and Ryan Guilmartin.

U.S. History I is offered freshman year. U.S. History II is for 10<sup>th</sup> graders, and World History is offered to 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Each of these courses is offered at honors, standard, and skills level in addition to four AP courses (Psychology, Government, World History, and U.S. History).

Much of the teaching of Social Studies is done by Projects based learning. Be it a Cuban Missile Crisis simulation, a senate campaign with candidates developed by the students and weekly polls, and making movies about the American Revolution.

The staff models involvement by helping students in the Green Club, Ultimate Frisbee, Junior Statesmen, Outdoor Club, Student Government, Haitian Club, Portuguese and Brazilian Club, Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial, and serving as a soccer coach.

The staff wants to bring in more speakers so if anyone out there is a great speaker on some sort of Social Studies topic or if you know someone who would be willing to do this, please give a call.

2. **How Public School Parents Choose Schools** was our next presentation. Somerville resident Sandra Resnick. Sandy is an educational researcher and former secondary teacher and administrator. As founding coordinator of the Brandeis Teacher Induction Program, she works with others to provide induction and mentoring to beginning teachers and emerging teacher leaders in both urban and suburban settings. Sandy holds a doctorate from the Heller School at Brandeis University. Her research focuses on parental school choice, the role of cultural belief systems on policy, and teacher induction.

Several years ago, Sandy worked with Steve Jenkins in the Central Office who gave her tremendous access to the Parent Information Center and records of the District to aid in her research of studying parents choosing kindergarten. She conducted her research over a 29-month period. 94% of the parents participated and she conducted in depth interviews with 85 parents in their native languages. She attended every school's PTA meeting.

A quick summary of her findings: All parents want their children educated in their community. Parents define their community either socially – people I socialize with – or spatially – people I live near.

Parents see school as an extension of their child rearing goals, which can be categorized as safety, schooling, and socialization. And each parent identifies the values within these broad goals in a different way.

Parents chose their schools and the parents who chose the same school tended to share a set of values. And the central quality of the school is a powerful orienting force.

Lastly, the subcommittee examined the latest iteration of the K-8 report card. This version of the report card shifts our reporting from a grade based system to a standards based report that is designed to give a much more detailed assessment of the student's progress.

At first, this new report card will look strange because there are no A, B, C, D, F grades, but there are letters that indicate whether the student is meeting the specific standard, sometimes meeting the criteria, or not meeting the standard. There will be space for teachers to comment and parents will be able to keep the report card.

Implementation of the new report card will commence immediately if the School Committee approves tonight. There will be multiple versions including on-line and translations. Teachers will be trained this academic year and reinforcement in the fall. A full roll out will be done in the fall with presentations at PTA meetings and explanatory materials.

The subcommittee approved this version of the report card – allowing for editorial corrections that we noted – unanimously and I move to approve the report card for the elementary schools. THANKS.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

### ***C. Personnel Subcommittee:*** Mrs. Cardoso (May 13)

The Personnel Subcommittee met on Thursday, May 13, 2010 @5:30PM at the Central Office at 181 Washington Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal, Paul Bockelman, and Mark Niedergang along with Supt. Tony Pierantozzi and Human Resources Administrator Rebeca Martinez. Dorothy Scally and her son were also in attendance in the audience.

There were three (3) Agenda items to be discussed.

#### **A. Update on Administrative Searches and Hiring:**

Asst. Principal for Career Vocational Technical Education – the Supt. informed us that a finalist has been chosen and hired - after a long and deliberate search process by the Search Committee – they interviewed 6 candidates and two were then forwarded to the Headmaster of Somerville High and then onto the Supt. - one of them took another position and Mr. Leo DiSimone was offered the position and was formally hired on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

The next three positions have been posted and will go through the normal process of search committees being set up, etc. at the building levels:

Asst. Principal at the East Somerville Community School – the deadline for applications was May 14<sup>th</sup>, the principal will convene an interview team as early as the week of May 17<sup>th</sup> and Interviews are anticipated to begin as early as the week of May 24<sup>th</sup>.

West Somerville Neighborhood School Asst. Principal – the deadline for applications will be May 28<sup>th</sup>, the principal will convene an interview team as early as the week of June 1<sup>st</sup> and interviews are anticipated to begin as early as the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Program Administrator for ELL at SCALE – the deadline for applications is May 21<sup>st</sup> and the SCALE Supervisor will convene an interview team as early as the week of May 17<sup>th</sup> and interviews are anticipated to begin as early as the week of May 24<sup>th</sup> – again I must emphasize that these three administrative searches will be coordinated at the building level!

#### B. Revised Job Descriptions

This next item was to review, discuss, revise and amend, if necessary, several job descriptions – the Committee performed this task and I offer the following motions that came out of this discussion.

It is important to note that five (5) of these job descriptions stem from the restructuring of the job duties performed by the current District Administrator for Student Services – we tabled the Title I Coordinator job description until our next meeting - the job description for the Elementary Guidance Counselor was tabled from a previous meeting. Also, the Human Resources position is a restructuring of that department.

#### **MOTIONS:**

Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the Director of Student Services job description; subject to collective bargaining obligations.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the District Administrator of Programs for ELE and Family and Community Partnerships job description.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the Attendance Officer, Grades K-12 District Wide job description.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the Curriculum Coach for English Language Learners job description.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Elementary Guidance Counselor, Grades Pre-K-8 job description; subject to collective bargaining obligations.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Human Resources Information Specialist job description.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

#### C. Update on FY 2010 Retirement Notices Submitted to Date.

There were no changes since our last meeting.

The next Personnel Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Monday, June 21st at 6:00 P.M. at the Central Office Conference Room at 181 Washington Street.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

***D. Joint Meeting with Board of Aldermen:*** Mr. Sweeting (May 12)

Mr. Sweeting reported that at the Joint Meeting of the School Committee with the Board of Aldermen, a brief budget overview was presented. At this time, there is an \$8.1 million shortfall. Information was presented relative to a decrease in State Aid, as well as the tremendous increase in Health Insurance costs.

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that we are approaching the end of the school year, but assured the audience that learning will continue right through the last day of school. Students' attendance is vital. MCAS examinations are underway in Science and Math. The last day of school is June 22, which is a half day for students in grades PK-11. Seniors have an abridged schedule. The last day for teachers is June 23, which is a professional development day.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for her report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

As Mr. Bockelman reported, the school administration is excited about the implementation of the new report card next year. The new report card will take effect next fall, for grades 1 – 5. It's called a 'standards-based' report card because it links student performance to the grade level standards determined by the district and by the state learning frameworks.

Our goal, in making this change, is to improve the communication between parent/guardian and teacher by providing more detailed information about student performance. This is what it's all about, providing better information about how kids are doing in school. For example, the current report card has only two categories for math – computation and problem solving, and students are assigned a letter grade in those two areas. The new report card has 15 areas under math, providing much more information. For example.... The math facts...

Traditional letter grades, A - F, will no longer be given to students in grades 1-5.

There will be plenty of meeting time for teachers to adjust to the new procedures and a parent outreach program will begin this spring and continue into the fall.

Kindergarten has had a standards-based report card for several years, which has been very successful. So for this reason, we anticipate a smooth transition to the new report card

Also, the administrative team is engaged in end of year and summer planning including professional development and school program planning for next year.

With regard to summer programs, I have provided you with a current listing of all district programs taking place in Somerville this summer.

Professional development: there are two important events in June I'd like to bring to your attention. The first is a full day workshop I am planning with SPED Director Debbie Connell and several outside consultants. This June 25, full day meeting with our entire administrative team to improve our systems of support for students in Somerville.

The second major event is a multi-day workshop for teachers on balanced literacy. This is the kickoff event for our overall district focus for next year on reading and literacy skills. This three day institute will run from June 28 - 30. As a reminder, our comprehensive literacy and professional development plan will be presented at June's Educational Programs meeting.

The school program planning has involved deliberations between district staff and principals some of which Mr. Sweeting referenced in his report. This planning involves finalizing staff assignments, class sectioning and setting up specialist schedules in each school.

2. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that awards season is upon us beginning with the Vocational Banquet last Wednesday evening. Chris Podymaitis is the year's Most Outstanding Vocational Student. Chris, Deepika Bhargo and Iva Popa, along with their families, were honored by the Merrimack Valley Superintendents' Association at a luncheon at Lenzi's Restaurant in Dracut on last Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ciccariello and Mr. Pierantozzi attended this event with the students and their families.

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

**Volunteer Update** Approximately **83** new volunteer tutors have been placed in schools since September 2009 through the Somerville Public Schools Volunteer Program. Based on a minimum requirement of 1 hour per week, new volunteers have contributed at least 2,800 hours of service thus far during this school year. This year, a total of 167 online Volunteer Applications were received. The Office of the Volunteer coordinator continues to receive between 5-10 new inquiries weekly from potential volunteers. September, October and January were the months with the largest volume of volunteer applications.

Most of the new volunteers this year are literacy, math, or ELL tutors who work 1:1 with a student one hour each week or more. This continues to be the focus of the Volunteer Program as principals have expressed continued need for volunteer tutors in these areas.

This year, 26 new volunteers were placed with the Community Schools After School Programs. New volunteer tutors were also placed with the Saturday ACE IT Program at Edgerly, Saturday and After-School MCAS and EPP Prep at Somerville High School, and Morning Math Tutors were placed at the Healey. Additionally, volunteers have been placed with art and music teachers, school libraries, with Somerville High School Welcome Center and with SHS Guidance Dept.

Eight volunteers have been tutoring literacy this year at the East Somerville Community School @ Edgerly through the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy. These tutors meet weekly to work 1:1 with students during the school day, or in the after school program. Nine volunteers continue to work with a classroom at the Healey School to support early reading skills.

Beyond new volunteers recruited this year, there are many more volunteers already working in schools including parent volunteers, already established business partnerships, PTA volunteers, teachers who volunteer extra time, volunteers who provide valuable service through both in- and out-of-school work to support Somerville schools, and one-time volunteers such as chaperones, guest speakers, artists, musicians and more. A new category of volunteer has been established—"Pinch Hitters"—to recruit and organize volunteers for certain events with Somerville Public Schools such as Taste Tests, Jump-A-Thon, Walk/Ride Days, Cleanup Days, Concerts, Art Exhibits and the like. I would like to thank Jen Capuano, our volunteer coordinator for all her hard work in coordinating all the school volunteer efforts, but most of all, I would like to thank all the volunteers who give their time and effort to helping our students anyway they can.

**Kindergarten Transition Day** On a different topic, Kindergarten transition day will be this Wednesday, June 2nd, 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.

3. The Superintendent announced that a packet of information was placed at each member's seat this evening. In this packet is information included frameworks, District Standards, and Mobility information. Some of these items will be discussed further in Ed. Programs.
4. The Special Olympics will be held at Dilboy Stadium from 9:00-1:00 on May 27. This is a wonderful track and field event and volunteers are welcomed and encouraged.

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

- On April 26, the District went out to bid for a 3 year contract for Special Education transportation. Three vendors responded and the bid has been awarded to SP&R Transportation of Dracut. The award winning bid was in the amount of \$4,757,688.00. At this time, the contract has been forwarded to the vendor for signatures.
- The next School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities will take place on May 18 at 7:00 p.m. The agenda includes School Facilities, Capital Improvement Plan, Maintenance and other, FY2011 Budget, and Reorganization plans for the District Administrator for Student Services position.

5. Mr. Pierantozzi announced the following events:

May 7	Senior Prom—huge success
May 19	Somerville High School Scholarship awards
May 20	Spring String Fling
May 21	Somerville High School Scholarship Committee Raffle – tickets still available

May 30	Memorial Day parade – our band will participate
May 31	Memorial Day – No School
June 4	Class Day at Somerville High School
June 7	Somerville High School Graduation at 6:00 p.m. (rain date of June 8)

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Race To the Top – part two – Ms. Rossetti**

Discussion relative to round two of the Race to the Top applications took place. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the parameters of the application and it was agreed that, if the School Department does nothing, the application goes forward for consideration. Ms. Rossetti stated that the MASC recommends that districts continue as they did during Round One. Discussion ensued relative to how the money would be expended should Massachusetts be granted funding. Discussion also took place regarding a series of Webinars that the Department of Education would be holding and what members or staff may be able to take part in at least one of these webinars. Mr. Niedergang thanked Ms. Rossetti for representing Somerville so well with the MASC.

### **B. Future of the Healey School – Mr. Niedergang**

Mr. Sweeting assumed the chair and Mr. Niedergang reviewed the timeline and process for the Long Range Planning Meeting on the Future of the Healey School on May 24, 2010. An agenda was emailed to all members earlier today. Discussion ensued and the following items were discussed:

- Materials needed for small group breakout sessions
- The order of the agenda – Superintendent's recommendation at beginning or end of program? Mr. Pierantozzi will be among the first on the agenda.
- Timeline is Public Hearing on June 1, Long Range Planning Meeting on June 21, Last Regular School Committee Meeting on June 28, and Deadline on June 30, 2010.
- A request to keep all discussion regarding the future of the Healey School limited to times when the full School Committee is meeting in open session.
- A request to leave the public comment period open after the June 1 Public Hearing
- The legal references as to the School Committee's authority regarding this process. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the School Committee does not make programmatic decisions to be implemented by faculty. The School Committee does not develop, it accepts a recommendation from a group, for instance, the High School Curriculum Committee presents the Program of Studies for the School Committee to review and accept.
- Plans to develop the program over the 2010/2011 school year. No significant organizational changes will be in place at the Healey next year.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Field Trips**

#### **Apr. 14-22, 2011:**

Somerville High School students to France. Transportation via plane, train and bus. Cost to students, at this time, is \$2719.00. Price may change if more than 15 students attend.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

#### **June 13-17, 2010:**

Healey School grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park in Windham, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$30 per student.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **B. Acceptance of Donations**

#### **AC Moore Gift Card**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of an AC Moore gift card to be used specifically by the PALS program (Life Skills and Health Careers) at Somerville



High School given by Gretchen Kinder as thanks for assisting her with a project. Value is \$75.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

#### **Photography Equipment**

The Superintendent recommended acceptance of a donation of a Beseler 23II enlarger and a Nikon EL-Nikkor 50mm f2.8 lens for use by the Somerville High School Photography program given by Mr. Wayne Sherwood. Value is \$130.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang reported that a letter has been received from Ms. Barbara O'Brien expressing her gratitude at being selected as Principal of the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park and an expression of thanks from Joyce Danis and family on the School Committee's remembrance of her father during the moment of silence at a recent School Committee meeting.

### **IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

#### **Ms. Rafal**

1. Attended several meetings with parents regarding Healey School future.
2. Has been conducting research on the role of the School Committee regarding the future of the Healey School. Ms. Rafal has been working at the libraries at Tufts and Harvard Universities and has discovered that this is a unique situation. Important to note that the School Committee did not come up with the three options, the community did.
3. Reported that a colleague from the Watertown School Committee enjoyed a recent presentation by the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth.
4. Reported that she had attended PTA meetings at the Healey and Winter Hill Schools.
5. Announced that on Wednesday, there will be a Recyclathon at the Healey School – which is essentially a huge yard sale. Thanks to Alan Ball for organizing this event.

#### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Mr. Bockelman announced that although there are no Regular School Committee meetings for several weeks, there are and have been many events on the calendar –
  - a. The PTA Dinner Dance on May 14 was spectacular
  - b. Young Artists in Action at the Somerville Armory on May 16 was a great event
  - c. Spring String Fling – May 20
  - d. Somerville High School Scholarship Raffle – May 21
  - e. Memorial Day Parade – May 30
  - f. Class Day – June 4
  - g. Somerville High School Graduation – June 7
2. The Senior Prom went without a hitch. Mr. Bockelman gives tremendous credit to Somerville High School staff for all of their work on such a great event. Only incident was a sprained ankle.
3. Today was Pajama Day at Somerville High School.

#### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Reported on the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual PTA Dinner Dance last Friday evening. It was a full name with wonderful honorees: Jean Ferreira, Carol Jean Cassidy, Sean Sylvester, Dorothy Rudolph and John Clancy. Sent thanks to PTA Council for their great work, as always.
2. Thanked the students from the Argenziano School who showed up for the Ward Two Clean Up. There were 18 students, 2 former students, police officers, three teachers and school administration on site. Unfortunately, the event was cut short due to the inclement weather.

#### **Alderman Connolly**

1. Issued congratulations to Carl Stauffer on his recent award as Assistant Track Coach of the Year.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Announced that Mr. Stauffer is a class act and congratulated him on this award. Requested a citation be presented to him at a future meeting.
2. The West Somerville PTA will be held on May 27. They will hold their gift basket raffle that evening. Ms. Rossetti will be there to claim any prizes.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported that he, too, attended the PTA Dinner Dance and announced that it was a great event. Great to see such a wide array of people recognized – from teachers to parents to principals to principals to custodians. Thanked the PTA for being so active.
2. Reported on the Young Artists in Action program on Sunday afternoon at the Armory. The art and music showcased was wonderful. A wonderful tribute to our students and to all of the volunteers involved. Thanks to all!

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Mercedes Torres, mother of Rosie Federico, secretary at Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
School Committee**

***Molly Tyler***

- WHEREAS,** *Molly Tyler has demonstrated outstanding leadership and achievement as a member of the Somerville High School student body, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Tyler, by election of the Somerville High School Student Council, served as the Student Representative to the Somerville School Committee from September 2008 through May 2010, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Tyler, a member of the Somerville High School Class of 2010, has been a member of the Student Council for three years and President her Junior and Senior years, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Tyler has been involved in the Science League, Ultimate Frisbee Team, and has served as Editor of the Yearbook, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Tyler has also been a four year member of the Somerville High School Girls' Varsity Soccer Team where she was named a Greater Boston League All Star, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Tyler's many awards and recognitions include: Treasurer of the National Honor Society, member of the Spanish National Honor Society and recipient of the Wellesley College Book Award, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to her.*

***Somerville School Committee***

<i>Mark Niedergang, Chairperson</i>	<i>Adam Sweeting, Vice Chairperson</i>
<i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i>	<i>Maureen Bastardi</i>
<i>Mary Jo Rossetti</i>	<i>Paul Bockelman</i>
<i>Joseph Curtatone, Mayor</i>	<i>Christine Rafal</i>
<i>John Connolly, Aldermanic President</i>	
<i>Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools</i>	

***May 17, 2010***

## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE

#### Monday, June 14, 2010 – Regular Meeting

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, Alderman Connolly and Mayor Curtatone (7:49)

**Members absent:**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 8– Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Connolly, Rossetti, Sweeting, Bastardi and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 – Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

#### II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Parent-Child Home Program – Ms. Pamela Holmes, Principal at the Capuano Early Childhood Center and Ms. Fernanda Villar, Director of the Somerville Family Network, presented the School Committee with a citation from the State Senate to the Parent Child Home Program upon their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ms. Villar provided a history and highlights of this program. Ms. Holmes read the citation and presented the official citation to the School Committee.
- Mr. Charles O'Rourke, Boston Globe Division I Track Coach of the Year – Mr. Bockelman stepped to the podium and invited Mr. O'Rourke to join him there. Mr. Bockelman spoke of Mr. O'Rourke's service, both on and off the track, on behalf of our students. Mr. O'Rourke received a citation from the School Committee in recognition of being named the Boston Globe's Division One Coach of the Year. Many students attended this meeting to honor Mr. O'Rourke and these students stood and bowed to Mr. O'Rourke upon his receipt of this citation. (citation at end of these minutes)
- Mr. Carl Stauffer, Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association 2010 Assistant Coach of the Year – Ms. Rossetti presented Mr. Stauffer a citation in recognition of Mr. Stauffer being named the Massachusetts State Track Coaches' Assistant Coach of the Year. Mrs. Rossetti spoke of Mr. Stauffer's wonderful work with the students of Somerville High School. Just recently, one of the students Mr. Stauffer coached became a state champion. (citation at end of these minutes)
- Retiring staff members with 10+ years of service – Mr. Niedergang read the list of this year's retirees and their years of service. Four retiring staff members were present at the meeting and School Committee members presented citations to these retirees at this meeting—
  - ✓ Ms. Bastardi to Dr. Frank Di Chiappari, District Administrator for Student Services
  - ✓ Ms. Sweeting to Ms. Cheryl Welch, English Teacher at Somerville High School
  - ✓ Mr. Niedergang to Ms. Betty Stone, Administrator at Scale
  - ✓ Ms. Cardoso to Mr. Phil Bassett, Director of Vocational and Technical Education

All other retirees will have their citations mailed to them.

Mr. Niedergang congratulated all retirees and thanked them for all of their service to our students. The combined total years of service equals over 500 years.

The School Committee recessed at 7:23 p.m. to thank all of our honorees and to enjoy the delicious cake provided by our Food Service Department.

The School Committee resumed at 7:30 p.m.

#### Complete List of Retirees to Date

Phil Bassett	Voc Ed Director	SHS	26	6/30/10
Frank Di Chiappari	District Administrator	Central	23	8/31/10
Greg Latino	Math/ Business Teacher	SHS	28	6/30/10
Dorothy Rudolph	Principal	AFA	22	8/10/10

Betty Stone	Program Administrator	SCALE	31	8/31/10
Cheryl Welch	English Teacher	SHS	34	6/30/10
Susan Orsini	Foreign Language	SHS	13	1/19/10
Joan Robinson	Paraprofessional SPED	SHS	19	12/31/09
Donna Tiberi	Paraprofessional SPED	SHS	23	1/18/10
John O'Keefe	Math Teacher MS Level	ESCS	28	6/30/10
Joyce Murphy	Sr. Clerk	SHS	28	2/1/10
Mark Ferrera	Science Teacher Gr. 7/8	ESCS	29	9/10/10
Cathy McGranachan	Elementary Teacher	KENN	33	6/30/10
Hope August	Principal Clerk 1	SCALE	35	6/30/10
Eileen Morsett	Asst. Principal	WSNS	35	6/30/10
Philip Trapani	Social Studies Teacher	SHS	35	6/30/10
Mary Downing	Grade 5 teacher	WHCS	36	10/21/10
Pauline Lampropoulos	Principal	WSNS	43	6/30/10

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 3, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the minutes of May 3, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- May 17, 2010 – Massachusetts Choice Public Hearing

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2010 School Choice Public Hearing.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- May 17, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the minutes of May 17, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- May 18, 2010 – Finance Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of May 18, 2010 Finance Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- June 2, 2010 – Finance Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of June 2, 2010 Finance Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Niedergang and the School Committee welcomed our new student representative, Dea Dodi. Ms. Dodi is a freshman at Somerville High School who was recently elected to be our representative through Student Council elections. Ms. Dodi's report included:

- Class officers for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 classes have all recently been elected.
- The freshmen class will be holding a Wii Bowling Tournament
- There will also be a Badminton Tournament
- Wished everyone a strong, productive and safe summer

### V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### **A. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:** Mr. Sweeting (May 18)

1. School Facilities, Capital Improvement Plan, Maintenance and other
2. FY2011 Budget
3. Reorganization plans for District Administrator for Student Services position

#### **B. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:** Mr. Sweeting (June 2)

1. Scale Graduates
2. FY11 Superintendent's Budget
3. FY11 Bill Roll
4. Other business: FY09 invoices for payment with FY10 appropriations – motion to approve

Mr. Sweeting reported on the School Committee Meetings for Finance and Facilities of May 18 and June 2. These two meetings have separate approved minutes which provide details on the meetings.

Mr. Sweeting provided a brief report on the School Committee's Public Budget Hearing that was held on June 10, in the Somerville High School Library: The Superintendent presented his budget to the School Committee. There were approximately 25 audience members, 10 of whom spoke. This meeting was televised and will air on June 15, at 9:00 on City Cable.

Mr. Sweeting felt it was important to read the names of the SCALE ADP program graduates from Somerville whose diplomas were approved at the Finance Meeting of June 2. The Somerville graduates are as follows:

Julian A. Ayotte	48 Hudson Street	Somerville, MA 02143
Carol Cortez	217 School Street	Somerville, MA 02145
Alie Abdou Joof	112 Glenwood Street	Somerville, MA 02145

Mr. Sweeting also reported on a School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities that was held immediately prior to this meeting. At this meeting, School Committee members reviewed the proposed budget, which does a lot with not much and assures no cuts to core values/services.

**MOTION:** To approve the FY2011 Budget Plan for the Somerville Public Schools of \$49,157,917.00, and to forward a request to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen for a FY2011 Local Appropriation for the Somerville Public Schools of \$48,759,034.00.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Niedergang thanked the Mayor for his support of the Somerville Public Schools and noted that this is quite a good budget in these times.

**C. School Committee for Long Range Planning:** Mr. Niedergang (May 24)

The Long Range Planning Meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Healey School Cafetorium. Discussion continued regarding the future of the Healey School. Approximately 85 audience members were in attendance. No motions were taken. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**D. Public Hearing re: Future of the Healey School:** Mr. Niedergang (June 1)

1. Future of the Healey School

Mr. Niedergang provided a report on the Long Range Meetings of May 24, and the Public Hearing on June 1. The agenda for both meetings was the Future of the Healey School. The Public Hearing took place in the Healey School Cafetorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. There were approximately 60 speakers who spoke about two minutes each. These people spoke with clarity, passion and brilliance. The hearing adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

**E. Rules Management Subcommittee:** Ms. Rossetti (May 26)

Ms. Rossetti reported on the Rules Management Subcommittee meeting of May 26, held in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 181 Washington Street. The meeting was called to order at . Members in attendance were Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rafal and Mr. Bockelman. Also present were Mr. Pierantozzi and Dr. Di Chiappari and one community member. Two policies were reviewed. A new bullying policy is being brought forward later tonight for adoption. The Dress Code Policy has had revisions and is now being sent back to the School Councils for their review and input. This will be discussed further sometime in the fall.

1. Bullying Policy
2. Dress Code Policy

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. Next meeting will be in the fall.

**MOTION:** Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to strike file JIC-A – Bullying in Schools.

The Motion was approved via voice vote.

**F. Special Meeting for Executive Session:** Mr. Niedergang (May 26)

The School Committee met in Executive Session on May 26, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 7:29 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 181 Washington Street. Members

present were: Bastardi, Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Sweeting, and Niedergang. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Attorney Hollender, Mr. Tringale and Mrs. Marques.

MOTION: To approve a sick-leave buyback for a retiring administrator at the rate of \$30 for accrued sick days at the date of retirement. (up to 100 days)

***G. Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Mr. Bockelman (May 11)

The Education Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on May 26 at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street. Members in attendance were: Paul Bockelman, Maureen Bastardi, Christine Rafal, Mark Niedergang and Adam Sweeting

**Literacy Plan** - Shannon Gilligan and Vince McKay presented a reviewed copy of the District's new K-12 Literacy Plan. The literacy Plan includes ten goals emanating from the vision stated: Every student an effective reader, writer, thinker. After reviewing the current practice, Ms Gilligan articulated the ten goals. This multi-year strategic PreK-12 Literacy Plan is a map for focusing on the specific areas which impact literacy instruction in SPS: standards-based curriculum, data-driven decision making, instructional tools for teachers, professional development, family and student engagement, external partnerships, and centrally coordinated literacy supports. The Plan defines what is necessary to create and sustain a comprehensive PreK-12 literacy curriculum, and then begins to identify the resources that will support its effective implementation.

Included in this plan are seven conceptual areas that impact and influence literacy success. Within each area are specific literacy goals. To guarantee such results, the Department of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment will collaborate with all stakeholders to gain a better understanding of site-specific issues and how to best support the work of parents, teachers, principals and district leaders. This effort will foster growth in student achievement as measured by a variety of literacy outcomes including: literacy assessments, DIBELS, MAP, and the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) proficiency levels. Each of these will assess our ultimate goal: **SPS students will be effective readers, writers and thinkers.**

The subcommittee also reviewed the action plan, which shows the time frame and responsibilities for implementing the plan.

**SHS English Department Progress Report** - Next the Subcommittee heard a presentation from members of the SHS English Language Arts Department including Ken Olsen, Michelle Li, Beverly Sorrentino and Judy Nierenberg who works in the library.

The ELA Department is making great strides in improving the department. The team members reviewed SAT and MCAS trends and explained how they are able to analyze individual items by test and by student to help inform instructional techniques for each child.

They listed their short term and long term goals.

While we really didn't talk about the summer reading program because we had so much to talk about in the ELA department in the high school, I do want to note that we will be reviewing the summer reading goals and guidelines in the future.

**Vocational Advisory Board** - We then had the sad honor of meeting with Phil Bassett, probably for the last time in his role as Director of the Career and Technical School and the Vocational Advisory Committee, headed by Mr. Tom Bent.

Some interesting things--we found out that we appoint members to the Advisory Committee; the advisory committee is seeking to ramp up its membership and is preparing better orientation material for advisory committee members, and that we are supposed to meet with the advisory committee on a regular basis.

**Youth Risk Behavior Survey** - With the night growing long, we decided to accept as presented the important information in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

**Updates** - Dr. McKay updated us on the Physical Education requirement, the implementation of the new report card, and the implementation of Italian as a second language at either the Kennedy or the Healey School.

We then approved the attached in-service courses, which we approved unanimously, and I move approval now.

We adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the 52 inservice courses. The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on three new hires to replace retirees and asked that the Personnel Report be marked as received and placed on file.

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that he will be providing an abbreviated report this evening due to the lengthy agenda. Reports from Central Office administrators will be given at the meeting on June 28.
2. The last day of school for all students is on Tuesday, June 22, and is a half-day for all.
3. The last day of school for staff is Wednesday, June 23.
4. Congratulations to the Class of 2010 and to the administration, faculty and staff for a successful graduation program.
5. This week, graduation ceremonies will take place for the Full Circle at 5:00 on Wednesday at the Dante Club - and Scale on Wednesday at 7:30 in the High School Auditorium.
6. There are many, many move-ups ceremonies across the District for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Please check the website for details.
7. Thanked students, faculty, parents, guardians and community for a great year.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Future of the Healey School – Mr. Niedergang**

Mr. Niedergang asked board members for input relative to the future of the Healey School. Discussion among members included the following:

- Guidelines and options
- The Choice Ad hoc document
- The future of the Choice Council
- Make whole school Choice – if it ain't broke, don't fix it!
- Parent Involvement
- Merging programs
- Horace Mann Charter
- An explanation of grouping
- The strong desire to do what's best for all children
- A new constitution for a new Healey School
- A revised, strengthened Choice Program

The decision was made that a vote on the future of the Healey School would be taken on June 21, 2010, at the next School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning.

### **B. MASC Update – Ms. Rossetti**

Ms. Rossetti provided a brief report from recent MASC Division II and Division XIII meetings. Topics discussed included: the new Bullying Legislation, Conflict of Interest around having work done, etc. by the District's Vocational program. This would also pertain to dining at the restaurant run by the vocational program. Printed copies of Ms. Rossetti's minutes and handouts were provided to all members.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Ms. Rossetti presented the following policy for First Reading *for Adoption*:

File: JICEB – Bullying Policy

### **B. Field Trip (Recommended Action: Approval)**

#### **June 21, 2010:**

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

#### **Aug. 15-18**

Somerville High School Varsity Cheerleaders to Pine Forest Camp, Pennsylvania. Transportation via coach bus at a cost of \$250 per student.



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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

#### **IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

##### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Mr. Bockelman announced on Wednesday, June 16, the corner of Willow and Kidder Avenues will be dedicated to John Clancy, deceased Brown School custodian and veteran.
2. Announced his Office Hours for Ward Six
3. Congratulated the graduates and issued compliments to the Headmaster and Superintendent. Honored to have been able to present his son's diploma to him.

##### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Congratulated Mr. Niedergang and Mr. Bockelman on their graduates. Thanked staff and families for a wonderful Class Day and Graduation.
2. The Personnel Subcommittee will meet at 5:30 tomorrow in Gallery 81 at Somerville High School.
3. The Ward Two Clean Up will take place on Saturday beginning at 9:45 in Union Square.

##### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported on the Flag Day event at the Winter Hill Community School. Great annual event with student poems and songs!

##### **Ms. Bastardi**

1. Graduation was awesome!
2. Congratulated all of tonight's honorees
3. Announced Full Circle Graduation on June 16 at 5:00 p.m. at the Dante Club, followed the Scale Graduation at 7:30 p.m. in the Somerville High School auditorium.
4. On Saturday, there will be painting of the East Somerville Community School mural at the Cummings School from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

##### **Ms. Rafal**

1. Reported on end of the year celebrations including the Talent Show at the Healey School and the Winter Hill's Tech. Presentations and Academic Project Displays.
2. Ward Four's Clean Up will begin at the Boathouse on Saturday.
3. Announce her upcoming attendance at an Alternative Educational Resources Conference.

Mr. Niedergang announced that the School Committee will meet with the East Somerville Advisory Council on June 28, at 5:30 p.m. There will be presentations by Jerry Boyle and Dave Morrow from the Maguire Group.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Mercedes Torres, mother of Rosie Federico, secretary at Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

# ***Somerville School Committee Official Citation***

*This certifies that*

## ***Retiree***

***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.***

*Somerville School Committee*

*Mark Niedergang, Chairperson*

*Adam Sweeting, Vice Chairperson*

*M. Teresa Cardoso*

*Christine Rafal*

*Mary Jo Rossetti*

*Paul Bockelman*

*Joseph Curtatone, Mayor*

*Maureen Bastardi*

*John Connolly, Aldermanic President*

*Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools*

*June 14, 2010*

# ***Somerville School Committee Official Citation***

*This certifies that*

***Charlie O'Rourke***

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted this Certificate of Appreciation for having been named the 2010 Division One Coach of the Year by the Boston Globe. The Somerville School Committee commends you on this award and thanks you for all you have done while serving as the Girls' Track Coach at Somerville High School. Mr. O'Rourke's outdoor teams have been undefeated for the past two years and Greater Boston League Champions in 2009 and 2010.*

*Somerville School Committee*

*Mark Niedergang, Chairperson*

*M. Teresa Cardoso*

*Mary Jo Rossetti*

*Joseph Curtatone, Mayor*

*John Connolly, Aldermanic President*

*Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools*

*June 14, 2010*

*Adam Sweeting, Vice Chairperson*

*Christine Rafal*

*Paul Bockelman*

*Maureen Bastardi*

# ***Somerville School Committee Official Citation***

*This certifies that*

***Carl Stauffer***

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted this Certificate of Appreciation for having been named the 2010 Assistant Coach of the Year by the Massachusetts State Track Coaches Association. The Somerville School Committee commends you on this award and thanks you for all of your fine efforts while serving as the Throwing Coach for Indoor and Outdoor Track at Somerville High School since 1979.*

*Somerville School Committee*

*Mark Niedergang, Chairperson*

*Adam Sweeting, Vice Chairperson*

*M. Teresa Cardoso*

*Christine Rafal*

*Mary Jo Rossetti*

*Paul Bockelman*

*Joseph Curtatone, Mayor*

*Maureen Bastardi*

*John Connolly, Aldermanic President*

*Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools*

*June 14, 2010*

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, June 28, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi.

**Members absent:** Mr. Connolly and Mayor Curtatone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mark Niedergang called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:09 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Niedergang asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 7– Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Sweeting, Bastardi and Niedergang, and Absent – 2 – Connolly and Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

- Duhamel Mini-Grant Recipients  
Ms. June Pietrantonio and Ms. Alba Chitouras stepped to the podium. Ms. Pietrantonio gave a history of the Paul Duhamel and the Duhamel Initiative and its dedication to working to keep our young people in school.

**2010 Grant Recipients**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Kate Cremens Basbas	Healey	Establish and after-school Community Service Club for 10 students in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade.	\$1,000
Eithna Sweeney	Kennedy	Purchase Charlie Cards so that students in the Learning Support Class (ages 11-14) can attend live theater performances.	\$412
Kim Conley	Healey	Establish a board game lending library for students and parents (K-2).	\$1,000
Mary McClellan	East Somerville	Funding for field trips that emphasize good citizenship and character as a way to succeed in schools.	\$1,000
Judith Nierenberg	Somerville High	Student/staff book club (books eventually go to Next Wave/Full Circle)	\$400
Eve Shelton Jones	Somerville High	Support for bringing in guest speaker on Civil Rights who is featured in literature taught in classes.	\$1,000
Bonnie Tumelty	Somerville High	Support for the Redirect Program at the high school	\$600
Eve Shelton Jones	Somerville High	Funding for a 9 <sup>th</sup> grade recognition luncheon for students who have shown significant improvement – both academically and other	\$600

The School Committee recessed at 7:29 p.m. to congratulate our grant recipients and thank the representatives of the Duhamel Initiative.

The School Committee resumed at 7:34 p.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Somerville High School Grading Policy**

Mr. Tony Ciccariello and Sebastian LaGambina stepped to the podium to provide a report on the grading policy. Mr. LaGambina gave historical information and presented the following recommendation:

The Grading Policy Committee (GPC) recommends that a grade of F have a range of 45-59 during the first three quarters of a full year course and the first quarter of a semester long course, with the range 25-59 used for an F grade during the final quarter of all courses. It is the belief of the GPC that an F range of 45-59 will ensure that students are provided with a reasonable pathway for success throughout the course while the lowering of the floor in the final quarter will hold students accountable until the completion of the course. A floor of 45 allows students receiving this grade to achieve a passing average by receiving a grade of C, 75, during any other quarter. This supports students who may have difficulties at the beginning of a course, prevents them from becoming discouraged to participate in class and ensures that passing the class is still attainable. The final quarter floor of 25 is intended to hold students accountable for their grades and work ethic, and puts the onus on the students to keep working throughout the final quarter of a class. Additionally, the GPC recommends the following minor changes to the grading policy; the addition of an A+ to make the grading system more consistent, and a numerical grade of 59 be given to students who fail due to excessive absences but have a passing grade otherwise. Ultimately, the GPC believes this policy will hold students accountable for their actions and grades but still supports a positive learning environment and the needs of our students.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Somerville High School Grading Policy, as presented, effective September 1, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **B. SomerPromise**

Ms. Stephanie Hirsch gave a brief presentation of the SomerPromise program which is the new name for the Mystic Promise or Mystic Children's Zone initiative. Currently more than 70 people are involved with this project. The Mystic Housing Development is the target area for the project and the hope is that this initiative will improve student achievement by lessening gaps in services for these students. Ms. Hirsch answered questions from Committee members regarding funding, timeline, by-laws, and demographics.

### **C. LEA Approval – Somerville Transition Shelter**

Special Education Director Debbie Connell reported on the request from the Somerville Transition Shelter for LEA approval from the Somerville Public Schools. This is a shelter on Cross Street in Somerville for males aged 10-18 through the Department of Youth Services. The facility is unmarked, has three classrooms with Smart Boards and is staffed 24-hours a day. The facility can accommodate up to 25 students. Ms. Connell did a thorough check of all licenses and permits and reported that the facility and its staff more than meet the criteria for approval. Mr. Pierantozzi stated that he recommends the approval without qualification.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the renewal of the LEA approval of the Somerville Transition Shelter for 2010 through 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The School Committee recessed at 8:15 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy and conduct bargaining with non-union personnel. The Regular Meeting will resume following the Executive Session.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 9:09 p.m.

## REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Niedergang reported on two motions that were passed in Executive Session:

1. To implement, for FY11, a 1.92% furlough for non-union employees, which is equivalent to one week's salary for a 12 month employee, according to the same terms and conditions as those in FY10.
2. That the School Committee give up 1.92% of their salary in FY11 as a show of solidarity with our non-union employees.

As a result of these actions, the Somerville Public Schools FY11 budget will need to be amended to reflect these changes.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to amend the FY2011 budget so that the total budget plan for FY 2011 is changed from \$49,157,917.00, which was approved on June 14, 2010 to \$49,076,349.00 and to change the FY2011 local appropriations amount from \$48,759,034.00 also approved on June 14, 2010, to \$48,677,466.00.  
The approved Foundation Reserve remains at \$398,883.00.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 14, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of June 14, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- June 21, 2010 – School Committee for Long Range Planning

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2010 School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dodi was not at this evening's meeting.

### V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### A. Personnel Subcommittee: Mrs. Cardoso (June 15)

Personnel Subcommittee Met on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 @5:30 P.M. at Somerville High School

In attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal, Paul Bockelman, Mark Niedergang, Adam Sweeting, Mary Jo Rossetti and Maureen Bastardi along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi and Director of Operations Joseph Tringale. Dorothy Scally was in the audience from the STA.

There were three (3) Agenda items to be discussed.

#### A. Update on Administrative Searches and Hiring:

East Somerville Community School Asst. Principal– there were 65 applicants for this position and the Principal was down to two candidates and would be making her recommendation to the Superintendent on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.

West Somerville Neighborhood School Asst. Principal – there were 80 applicants for this position and the Principal has decided to begin the interview process in late June so that she can focus on her current responsibilities as Principal of the Brown School. The School Principal has communicated with applicants to inform them of the schedule for the hiring process.

Program Administrator for ELL at SCALE – the deadline for applications was extended to June 10<sup>th</sup> and interviews were scheduled to begin on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Food Services Director – the position has been posted and advertised and the deadline for applications is June 18<sup>th</sup>. An interview team will be convened by no later than June 18<sup>th</sup> and preliminary interviews will be conducted the week of June 28 and July 5.

B. Revised Job Descriptions

Union Positions:

Department Head for Guidance and Testing Services, Grades 9-12 Job Description – after much discussion and some questions it was decided to table this approval and have the job description redone and returned for approval at our next meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

C. **Department Head for Guidance and Testing Services, 9-12 Job Description**

Title I Coordinator, Grades PreK-8 Job Description – after discussion and suggested revisions to the job description there was a motion set forth as follows:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Title I Coordinator, Grades PreK-8 Job Description, subject to the suggested revisions.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Non-Union Positions:

Food Services Director Job Description – after discussion there was a motion set forth as follows:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi to approve the Director of Food Services Job Description.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Technology Specialist/Trainer Job Description – after discussion and suggested revisions to the job description there was a motion set forth as follows:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Technology Specialist/Trainer Job Description with the addition of qualifications.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Update on FY 2010 Retirement Notices Submitted to Date.

There were 4 additional retirements added since our last meeting.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

***B. School Committee for Long Range Planning:*** Mr. Niedergang (June 21)

2. Future of the Healey School

Mr. Niedergang gave a very brief report on the Long Range meeting of June 21. Given the late hour and the length of this meeting, Mr. Niedergang informed the audience that the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was recorded and is running frequently on City Cable. Also, the minutes of this meeting, including the motions passed, will be on the website along with the press release. Mr. Niedergang thanked all involved in this process.

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**VI. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi gave a brief report which included the hiring of a Literacy and Math Coach, current paraprofessional openings and the upcoming retirement of Ms. Candace Hembrough following 22 years of service. Mr. Pierantozzi also announced that Laura Bonnell is the new Assistant Principal of the East Somerville Community School and wished her congratulations on her new position.

**B. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the High School Summer School program is being held at the Winter Hill Community School and the Elementary Summer School program is being held at the Healey School. The Spell Program will be at the Argenziano School. The String Camp will be held at the Kennedy School, the Adventure Camp at the Healey School and there are also programs being held at the Capuano Early Childhood Center, Kennedy School, and Next Wave/Full Circle.
2. Free breakfast and lunch will be provided at 13 sites across the City over the summer.



The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for his report regarding curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- The school-based meetings wrapped up Wednesday of last week in the elementary schools with a staff review of the new report card for grades 1 - 5 that's being implemented in the fall. Every teacher was provided with the same presentation materials prepared by the district office. The principals reported great enthusiasm among teachers for the new procedure. The fact that teachers will be provided with a computer-based template was an area we thought, at first, might be seen as an obstacle but that definitely was NOT the feedback we received.
  - On Thursday, the Instructional Leadership Team members and the school principals spent a working day together. The morning was in a district wide meeting, the handouts and agenda for that day are at your place this evening. That session was led by our Focus on Results partner Joe Palumbo, and was focused on reviewing the success of our first year's work, and also some initial planning for the coming school year. The afternoon sessions were school-based, with an opportunity for the leadership teams to do more in-depth planning. Summer meeting time for the ILTs will be around the latest achievement data, including MCAS and MAP. We will be providing each school with a packet of data which they can use for their needs-assessment.
  - Day 3 of our PD marathon was with the district admin team, a full day workshop held last Friday on multi-tiered systems of support. A copy of that agenda has also been provided for you.
  - And finally, the final session with the district admin team was a short wrap up meeting, expertly facilitated by our own Supt. Pierantozzi. Focused on celebrating our success and some strategizing priorities for next year to key in on areas that can most impact student achievement.
  - Thanks to our Tufts University for hosting us these past several days.
  - Wishing everyone a healthy and relaxing summer vacation... once the budget is resolved, of course!
3. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the dedication of several plaques at the Argenziano School on June 23, including one to Mrs. Cardoso.
  4. Wished everyone a great summer.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. NSBA Updates – Ms. Rossetti**

Ms. Rossetti reported on the Education Jobs Fund, which the School Committee had previously written to Senator Brown to endorse. It seems, at this time, he has still not signed on to the bill. The NSBA has sent communication to its members with sample language to be sent to legislators to request their support.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to request that the Superintendent send a letter, on the School Committee's behalf, to Senator Brown asking for his endorsement of the Education Jobs Fund.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

The following policy is being presented for Second Reading *for Adoption*:

File: JICEB – Bullying Policy

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to adopt File: JICEB – Bullying Policy - for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Somerville School Committee Meeting Dates for the 2010-2011 School Year**

School Committee members were provided with a proposed calendar of Regular School Committee meetings for the 2010-2011 school year for review. The proposed dates were

mutually agreeable to all members. It was suggested that an Educational Programs and Instruction meeting may be added on August 30.

**B. Field Trips**

Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Aug. 26-29, 2010:</b> | Somerville High School Girls Soccer Team to Camp Lenox overnight for pre-season training. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$100.00 per student.  |
| <b>Aug. 26-29, 2010:</b> | Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team to Camp Lenox overnight for pre-season training. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$100.00 per student.   |
| <b>Aug. 26-29, 2010:</b> | Somerville High School Boys Football Team to Camp Lenox overnight for pre-season training. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$100.00 per student. |
| <b>Oct. 1, 2010:</b>     | Next Wave/Full Circle students to Mt. Monadnock, NH. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$4.00 per student.                                  |

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

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 FY2010 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 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.

**D. Participation in National School Lunch and Breakfast Program**

The Superintendent of Schools recommending that the School Committee vote to participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services for the 2010-2011 school year, as in previous years.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to approve participation in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program and the Commodity Food Distribution Program for the 2010-2011 school year.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

The Superintendent advised that the contract for Student Accident Insurance for the 2010-11 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

**F. FY2010 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>Michael Andrew Bordenave</b>	<b>10 Brook Street</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02145</b>
<b>Kendra Lorencette-DeSouza</b>	<b>166 Walnut Street</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02145</b>
<b>Farah Jean-Baptiste</b>	<b>30 Canal Lane, #3004</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02145</b>
<b>Nicole Ann Palmisano</b>	<b>63 Concord Avenue</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02143</b>
<b>Jessica R. Sullivan</b>	<b>21 Claremon Street</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02144</b>
<b>Anny Carolini Fonseca</b>	<b>202 Pearl Street</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02145</b>
Marlos Acordi	20 Waverly Place	Everett	02149
Nicholas J. Burns	43 Bainbridge Road	Reading	01867
Jose Wilfredo Lara	39 Englewood Avenue	Everett	02149
Brian Anthony Lucia	105 Roland Road	Revere	02151
Kamila Santa Rosa Alves	13 Clarence Street, #3	Everett	02149
Avila Miami Bonfa	98 Walnut Street, #1	Everett	02149
Dora Gladys Romero	1 Highland Street	Woburn	01801

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi to approve the Scale graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ms. Bastardi**

1. On this Thursday, July 1, there will be fireworks at Trum Field.
2. Wished all and safe and happy summer.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. On Wednesday night, there will be a Ward Four meeting concerning the possibility of the Ocean State Job Lot going into the old Star Market space on Winter Hill.
2. Reported on a conference attended regarding Alternative Programs and shared information from the various workshops she attended. For more information, visit [rafalforward4.wordpress.com](http://rafalforward4.wordpress.com).

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Mr. Bockelman wished all a happy summer.
2. Informed the public that, although our schools are closed, the administration is preparing for the upcoming school year over the summer.
3. Encouraged all to read a book over the summer.

**Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Thanked all staff for their efforts during the year and all non-union staff for their sacrifices to assist the District.
2. Commented on how wonderful the Argenziano plaque dedication ceremony was and what an honor it was to be remembered with a plaque. Mrs. Cardoso also read the list of retirees whose names are included on the plaque listing retired teachers from the Lincoln Park and Argenziano. The names are as follows: Dr. M Harriet Allen, Donald Cappucio, Geraldine Cataldo, Angelina Costa, Amalia Di Mauro, Peter Escott, Joseph Francis, Ines Goncalves, Carol Gunning, Patricia Hallion, Elizabeth Healey, Joseph Healey, Marion Keough, Robert Keough, Marcella Lang, Lois Meagher, Paul Rappoli, Natercia Rodrigues, Mary Sevlund-Beals, Barbara Stasiak, Susan Wing, Linda Zaccheo, Thomas Zaya, Barbara Zingarelli, and Maureen Zonghetti.
3. The Sunsetters will perform at Lincoln Park on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
4. Wished everyone a happy and healthy summer.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. The Sunsetters will perform outside of her house on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

2. Congratulated Mrs. Cardoso on the dedication at the Argenziano School.
3. Issued a homework assignment to her colleagues to visit the DESE's website at [www.doe.mass.edu/STA/dart](http://www.doe.mass.edu/STA/dart) and compare Somerville to similar districts.
4. Wished everyone a great summer hiatus.

**Mr. Sweeting**

2. Issued thanks to staff and colleagues for a great year.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Robert "Bob" O'Dea, retired Supervisor of Custodians for the Somerville Public Schools.
- Nancy Trapani, mother of Phil Trapani, recently retired teacher from Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, August 30, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Connolly, and Ms. Bastardi.

**Members absent:** Mayor Curtatone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mark Niedergang called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:09 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Niedergang asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 8– Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Sweeting, Bastardi, Connolly and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 – Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

- Cross-Mass Trek Participants
  - ❖ Michael Conte
  - ❖ Danny Huang
  - ❖ Thomas Sullivan
  - ❖ John Thomas

Mr. Bockelman introduced the four high school students who are receiving citations this evening. He announced that the Cross-Mass Run was about 4 young men running 86 miles in 6 days and covering half the state doing so. These students started by dipping their toes in the Quabbin Reservoir and ended by dipping their toes in Boston Harbor. They developed a website, a Facebook page with over 121 friends, and raised over \$3,000 for the Somerville Homeless Coalition. These boys were spurred on by the phenomenal support of family, friends and coaches. Coach Tesch even ran part of the way with the students. Mr. Bockelman read the citations, the text of which is included at the end of these minutes.

One of the students, John Thomas, spoke about how these students were able to turn a dream into a reality and asked that audience members please continue to support the Somerville Homeless Coalition as any help is greatly appreciated.

The School Committee recessed at 7:07 p.m. to congratulate the four young men.

The School Committee resumed at 7:12 p.m.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- June 28, 2010 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Motion made by Ms. Bastardi, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of June 28, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**D. *Report of Executive Session:*** Mr. Niedergang (June 23)

Mr. Niedergang reported the following actions from the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Executive Session meeting:

- The approval of a three-year contract for C. Deborah Connell, Director of Special Education. This contract does not include any monetary increase
- The approval of a \$5,000 salary increase for Lauren Mancini, interim Food Service Director, and the appointment of Ms. Mancini as the Summer Director of Food Services.

**E. *Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Mr. Bockelman (Aug. 30)

The Ed. Programs Subcommittee met at 6:00 p.m. this evening in the Committee Room of City Hall. Members in attendance were Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rossetti, and Mr. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and Healey School Principal, Jason DeFalco. The agenda for this evening focused on:

1. Healey School/Choice Unification-Updates were provided by Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay and Mr. DeFalco. The RFP has been publicized, deadlines were reviewed and the timeline for the process of hiring a consultant was discussed. There has already been good interest in response to the posting of the RFP and the consultant should be on board by the end of September. Mr. DeFalco has met with various stakeholder groups and stated that good communication—in all target languages—is a high priority.
2. New Grade 1-5 Report Card – Discussion regarding the new standards based report cards and outreach being planned to inform parents/guardians of the changes. Information will be made available at report card time and an overview will be done at the first PTA meeting at each school. The new format was used during summer school and was well received.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Personnel report and announced that this is, by far, the busiest time of year for the Human Resource office. All hiring is almost completed. Today was the first day of the new staff orientation program. Mr. Niedergang and Ms. Rafal were on hand this morning to welcome the new staff to the District.

Mr. Pierantozzi gave a breakdown of some hiring statistics to date – 20 retirements, 47 hires, most replacements for departing/retiring staff members. 4% of our new hires minority status. The only *new* hires are a teacher and two paraprofessionals for our new Autism class at the Winter Hill Community School and a .4 Italian teacher for the Healey School, which is being funded through a grant.

The superintendent announced two new retirements – Peter Frasca and Richard McCann from Somerville High School and wished them a happy, healthy and long retirement.

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. The Superintendent welcomed everyone back to the new school year. This is an exciting time of year. Opening day information is available on our website – [www.somerville.k12.ma.us](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us).
2. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the first day of school for students in Grades 1-12 is Wednesday, September 8, and is a half day of school for all students. PreK and Kindergarten students will begin on Monday, September 13. As some people may know, there is a question of whether or not the Capuano School will be ready for the first day, but parents/guardians and staff will be notified by both phone and other media. Remediation is being done on damage caused to the building during the flooding in July and early August. Work is going along well and the hope is that all will be ready for the start of school.

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent Vincent McKay for his report on Curriculum matters. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- Dr. McKay provided a report on the many summer programs that were held. These programs included Elementary and Secondary Summer Schools, the Special Education Summer Programs, the English Language Learners' Program, the String Camp, Adventure Camp, and the Next Wave/Full Circle Summer Program. All programs were highly successful and Dr. McKay thanked all staff and students for their hard work.
  - Dr. McKay also reported on a survey conducted of Summer School students and read a few of the comments received.
3. Mr. Pierantozzi issued appreciation to all staff members who worked during the summer months. Staff worked in academic programs, String Camp, Adventure Camp, the Spell Program, and the Next Wave/Full Circle summer program. Issued thanks to staff and administrators for the wonderful planning and execution of all these summer programs.

The Superintendent deferred to Director of Finance Patricia Durette for an update on financial issues. Ms. Durette's report is as follows:

I have an update on the Federal Education Jobs funding and the FY11 Chapter 70 Program. On August 10, President Obama signed a law establishing the new Education Jobs program. This

program provides additional federal recovery funding to the states and Massachusetts was allocated approximately \$204 million dollars. Last week Governor Patrick announced how these monies will be allocated to school districts in conjunction with the state's Chapter 70 program funding formula. The largest portion of these funds will be used to offset the previously announced 4% cut in Chapter 70 funds. You may remember that in FY10 Somerville received over \$20.1 Million dollars in Chapter 70 funds. This year, FY11 Somerville is scheduled to receive only slightly more than \$19 Million. This is a decrease of \$1,179,225. It is this decrease in Ch 70 funding that the Governor is addressing with a portion of these new federal funds. The funds will come in the form of two grants. We are scheduled to receive \$1.2 Million in Education Jobs Grant program. This grant is to be used primarily to retain, recall or rehire employees, or to hire new employees. Money not spent in FY11 can be carried over to FY12 and the first quarter of FY13.

In addition we are scheduled to receive \$102,033 in FY11 State Fiscal Stabilization Funds.

Although these grants amounts sound significant, it should be noted, that if all 3 sources of money were combined, Ch 70, SFSF, and Jobs Act, and compared the total from FY10 to FY11, the increase is approximately \$128,000 of new dollars.

We will be submitting grant applications and we are expecting to receive more guidance from the state on the appropriate use of these funds. It is expected that grant awards will be made in November.

4. The Superintendent reported that on September 1 and 2, all District administrators will be involved in workshops where they will review policies and procedures and take steps to prepare for the new school year.

Mr. Bockelman asked Mr. Pierantozzi for an update on any physical changes to school department buildings over the summer.

Mr. Pierantozzi provided the following information:

- Somerville High School - New flooring on the main level is completed.
  - Capuano School – Water remediation being performed after 3.4" of rain caused damage
  - Winter Hill and Somerville High School – roof repairs
  - Edgerly – Classroom improvements including flooring
  - Somerville High School – food service line has been improved
  - Brown – monitoring of exterior wall continues
  - Argenziano – new sidewalk around park
  - District-wide – new signage to comply with Civil Rights requirements and bollards being installed around buildings
  - A new activity bus has been purchased for use in the District
  - Central Office will be moving to 42 Cross Street over Columbus Day weekend and procedures will be put into place for temporary communication methods during this move.
5. Mr. Pierantozzi introduced Mr. Omar Boukili, Mayor Curtatone's new aide who will be working with the School Department and School Committee.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business this evening.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Somerville High School Graduates** (recommended action: approval)

Mr. Pierantozzi recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed summer school and earned the necessary credits, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Hezkeil Zenebe
- Nicholas James Judson Glover
- Tony Lavon Burris

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the high school diplomas.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**B. FY2010 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:

Matthew D. Delaney	34 Marathon Street	Arlington	02474
Merielle Claire Stamm	42 Clarke Street	Lexington	02421

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to waive the reading and approve the Scale ADP Graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**C. Acceptance of Donations (Recommended Action: Approval)**

- **Cradles to Crayons** - The Superintendent of Schools recommending, with gratitude, approval of acceptance of the donation of 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies donated by Cradles to Crayons to be distributed as follows:
  - 175 = Healey – to be distributed to needy students
  - 325=WSNS – to be distributed to all students in grades K-5 (& grade 6 if supplies allow)
  - 500=AFA – to be distributed to all students in grades K-5 (& grade 6 is supplies allow)

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- **D & R General Contracting, Inc.** – The Superintendent recommending, with gratitude, acceptance of the use of light towers to the City of Somerville for the Fall 2010 Soccer and Football Season at Foss Park.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- **Pat's Towing** - The Superintendent recommending, with gratitude, acceptance of the use of two flatbed trucks and their drivers for the purpose of moving football equipment for the Somerville High School football team, as well as the girls' and boys' soccer teams, from Somerville to Lenox and back for football camp.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang read a thank you note from the family of Mary O'Keefe sent in appreciation of the School Committee's remembrance of her passing during a moment of silence at a recent meeting.

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Welcome back everyone. Mr. Sweeting has two children returning to school with mixed degrees of anxiety and excitement.
2. Commended the Adventure Camp staff for an outstanding summer with engaging and affordable activities.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Looking forward to seeing parents at PTA Welcome Back coffee hours, etc.
2. Encouraged parents to email School Committee members their questions and concerns and stated that email addresses for all may be found on the Somerville Public Schools website.
3. Reported on her attendance at many meetings of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees over the summer where preparations were made for their annual conference and planning was done for financial and educational issues in the upcoming school year.



**Alderman Connolly**

1. Happy to report that his voice is getting much better and thanked Committee members for their patience during the months when he was having communication issues.
2. Announced that the MWRA will be working on water lines and that, although the water is safe to use, some discoloration may occur. Any questions or concerns may be directed to 311.

**Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Welcome back to everyone
2. Thank you to all staff who worked over the summer. Lots of work for many hands to get schools ready.
3. Made a plea to residents to be mindful of our students walking to school and to please trim bushes and take care not to have trash blocking our sidewalks as both of these issues present a safety concern for our students.
4. Also reminded everyone to please drive safely. Let's make sure the City is safe for all—walkers, bike riders and drivers!

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Welcome back to all!
2. Lots of work done over the summer – a beehive of activity. Thank you to the DPW and the Superintendent's staff for all of their work, particularly with the challenge of the flooding.
3. Reminded everyone to get their summer homework and reading done.
4. Good to see everyone again.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Welcome Back!
2. Exciting year ahead
3. Attended many meetings over the summer, including SomerPromise and Mystic Tenants. Mr. DeFalco accompanied her to the Mystic Tenants meeting and made a promise to attend a meeting at the Mystic once a month to reach out to parents/guardians.
4. Ms. Rafal is happy to attend these meetings and looks forward to upcoming PTA meetings this year.

**Ms. Bastardi**

1. Welcome back, everyone!
2. First Day is September 8, for students in grades 1-12.
3. Reminded everyone to please use the crosswalks
4. Safety is essential – pay attention – kids are everywhere!

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Dorothy M. Petrola, mother of Cheryl Petrola, teacher at the West Somerville Neighborhood School
- Emelia DiGuardia, infant granddaughter of Mary DiGuardia, Assistant Director of Special Education.
- Dolores M. (Tosti) Zappala, mother of Ann Marie Valeri, Psychologist from our Special Education Department
- Rita (Garvey) Capuano, mother of US Congressman Michael Capuano and mother-in-law of Jennifer Capuano, Volunteer Coordinator for the Somerville Public Schools
- Maria (DiCecca) DiCiaccio, sister of Tony DiCecca, Utility Aide at Somerville High School
- Charlotte E. (Hamilton) Bonnell, mother of Laura Bonnell, Assistant Principal, East Somerville Community School
- Patricia A. Kerr, lunch aide at the Brown School and mother of Susan Mackey, paraprofessional at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.
- John "Jack" Burgess, retired teacher from the Powder House Community School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**Somerville School Committee  
Official Citation**

*This certifies that*

***Michael Conte, John Thomas, Danny Huang, Thomas Sullivan***

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted  
this Certificate of Award for completing the Cross-Mass Run, traveling 86 miles from the Quabbin  
Reservoir to Boston Harbor. The Cross-Mass Run was a fundraising event to benefit the Somerville  
Homeless Coalition that raised close to \$3,000.00. Congratulations on a selfless and generous  
accomplishment and for demonstrating true Somerville Pride!*

*Somerville School Committee*

<i>Mark Niedergang, Chairperson</i>	<i>Adam Sweeting, Vice Chairperson</i>
<i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i>	<i>Christine Rafal</i>
<i>Mary Jo Rossetti</i>	<i>Paul Bockelman</i>
<i>Joseph Curtatone, Mayor</i>	<i>Maureen Bastardi</i>
<i>John Connolly, Aldermanic President</i>	
<i>Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools</i>	

***August 30, 2010***

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, September 13, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Connolly, Ms. Bastardi and Mayor Curtatone(7:58).

**Members absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mark Niedergang called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:09 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Niedergang asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 8– Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Sweeting, Bastardi, Connolly and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 – Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

Ms. Bastardi made a motion to suspend the rules to take up Item VII. A – Introduction of New Administrators. All members were in agreement. The new administrators were introduced to the School Committee members and the audience and each one approached the podium and made brief comments regarding their new positions, thanks for the opportunity and excitement at working in their new roles. The new administrators introduced were:

- Laura Bonnell, Assistant Principal, East Somerville Community School
- Jason DeFalco, Principal, Healey School
- Leo DeSimone, Housemaster/Assistant Principal, Technical and Vocational Education
- Jeanne Irwin, Director of Food Service
- Richard Melillo, Director of Student Services
- Kathleen Seward, Principal, Brown School

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our student representative, Ms. Dea Dodi, provided the following report on happenings at Somerville High School:

- Freshmen Orientation was a great opportunity for our ninth graders to start to familiarize themselves with the high school. This year saw the largest group of upper class volunteers.
- Second floor renovations and the addition of landscaping by the newly formed garden club are wonderful.
- The High School's Club Fair will be held on September 28, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Approximately 36 clubs will be represented and providing information to interested students.
- A post high school planning night will be held on September 22, at 7:00 p.m.
- Back to School Night will also be held on September 22, and parents are invited to come and learn about what will be happening throughout the year at Somerville High.

**III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**F. Long Range Planning:** Mr. Niedergang (Sept. 1)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning of September 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 181 Washington Street. In attendance were Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Pierantozzi, and Ms. Kinder. There were three items on the agenda.

1. The District Improvement Plan (DIP) – the DIP for the period of January 2010 to December 2011 was reviewed. Mr. Niedergang read the School Committee's Long Range Goals, which are found on every School Committee Regular Meeting Agenda. These goals are:

Goal #1: Achieve and sustain the highest levels of student achievement.

Goal #2: Enhance and sustain safe and healthy learning environments.

Goal #3: Maintain a highly effective workforce.

Goal #4: Maintain efficient and effective facilities and operations.

Goal #5: Monitor the East Somerville Community School reconstruction project and maintain the East Somerville Community School community at temporary locations at the Edgerly and Cummings schools.

Discussion took place regarding including the School Committee's Long Range Goals (LRG) into the two-year District Improvement Plan.

Mr. Niedergang read the Long Range Goals which are:

**Long Range 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.

**Long Range 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.

**Long Range Goal #2:** Create a groundbreaking, exciting middle school instructional program.

**Long Range Goal #3:** Increase inclusion opportunities for special education students.

**Long Range Goal #4:** Establish a foreign language instruction program before high school.

**Long Range Goal #5:** Develop greater multicultural understanding and increase staff diversity.

Discussion continued regarding the DIP and the LRG's and possible ways to blend or integrate the two. No resolution was made at this meeting and discussion will be continued.

Discussion also took place regarding the formatting of the Long Range Goal document and the reporting of progress on goals. More discussion will continue at the next Long Range Meeting.

## 2. Unique features of elementary schools

- a) Collecting data about the interests of the school communities
- b) Theme-based school enhancement activities for the long term
- c) Developing a District marketing plan

Discussion ensued regarding many ideas for creating distinctive schools, including an arts academy, an urban academy with extended day and, perhaps, a uniform, and a STEM school. This topic is a result of work done last spring regarding the integration of programs at the Healey School. The Superintendent offered his view on changes in schools and offered suggestions for collecting data by surveying teachers, staff, parents, guardians and other constituencies in a similar fashion to our exit survey. Discussion also took place regarding the idea of having School Councils "brainstorm" to develop ideas for what their schools might become. Further discussion took place about keeping families with children in Somerville and developing a marketing plan for the Somerville Public Schools. Ms. Kinder suggested recruiting some of our volunteers who have professional marketing experience and creating a committee to develop a working plan. School Committee members seemed to support this idea, but took no formal vote.

## 3. Common features of elementary schools

- a) Nature's Classroom
- b) Other activities

Discussion took place regarding whether any new, overreaching common programs should be initiated that would engage our elementary school students. One idea put forward by Mr. Niedergang was to expand participation in Nature's Classroom beyond the Healey and West Somerville. Cost considerations were discussed. Discussion will continue at the next Long Range Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

# IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

## A. DISTRICT REPORT

1. The Superintendent welcomed everyone back to the new school year. We had a great opening. Issued thanks to all administrators and staff for their efforts.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the first day of school for students in Grades 1-12 was Wednesday, September 8.

3. Today 200 PreK and 220 Kindergarten students began school, including all students assigned to the Capuano Early Childhood Center. The Superintendent issued his thanks to the Mayor, Ms. Holmes. Susan Boyle, HUB Testing, the Health Department, the Department of Public Works, the Police and Fire Departments, our Food Service – which has prepared food off-site until the Capuano’s kitchen has undergone a final sanitization - and all of the Capuano Staff. Mr. Pierantozzi also issued his thanks to the parents and guardians who attended the information meeting on September 8, at the Winter Hill Cafeteria. The educational wings are all operational. The administrative wing is ready for finishing. The custodial wing and some built-ins still need to be finished. This process encompassed an incredible team effort and thanks go out to everyone involved!

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent Vincent McKay for his report on Curriculum matters. Dr. McKay’s report included the following:

- Healey School - Choice Unification  
As you know, the request for proposals was released in early August, and they are due this Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Principal DeFalco and I will be convening an evaluation team to review and rate the proposals
  - according to the criteria established in the RFP
  - only qualified bidders, meaning they have met the standards for application
  - Early next week, the proposal evaluation team will meet to rank the proposals using the criteria specified in the RFP. We anticipate naming the consultant by the end of the month.We’re very excited to begin this next phase of the process, when we roll up our sleeves and get to work on the redesign plan through the Healey School Council. We will be reporting back to the Committee periodically with updates, a process scheduled to be complete by March 1<sup>st</sup> in the creation of a redesign plan that will reframe the Healey school around the strongest points of the existing Choice Program.
- Race to the Top: Just last week, we received the first set of detailed information from the DESE regarding the RTTT award.  
Almost \$200K/ year over next four years  
While it sounds like a great deal of money, there is a specific menu of project that can be funded under RTTT. And particular districts, like ours, are required to address these projects. And they are significant undertakings!  
State-wide educator evaluation framework  
Implementing new state curriculum standards (Common Core)  
Strengthening climate/culture  
Accessing data through the Ed Data Warehouse

There is some latitude as to WHEN these projects are addressed, but they all must be.

Collaborative process for submitting applications, similar to the process used last spring to create the initial plan, involving all stakeholder groups including teachers, unions, etc.

- MCAS release is tomorrow. Parents/Guardians, please be aware that the new student reports feature information on student growth. This is very important data, and gives a great deal of information about student progress over time. Please feel free to contact my office, or your school principal, if you have any questions about your child’s MCAS results.
4. Mr. Pierantozzi provided a facilities update which included the following:
    - Somerville High School - Stage flooring plans at SHS are delayed due to the Capuano issues
    - Edgerly – hall painted, flooring replaced, library totally cleaned
    - Next Wave – Room 306 has been refurbished, including new carpeting and work is still being done on the science lab.
    - Winter Hill – roof work, water damage remediation, all cleaned, sanitized and dehumidified
    - Scale and Community Schools – Tufts has done waterproofing and refurbishing, as needed
    - 42 Cross Street – painted and Central Office has begun preparations for their move
    - Kennedy – new fire alarm panel and watching an intermittent leak in the principal’s office
    - Argenziano – new sidewalks and work on the HVAC system
    - West Somerville – remediation from water damage and work on gym roof
    - Brown – new roof is holding and we are awaiting the latest report from the Maguire Group regarding the exterior wall crack.

Mr. Pierantozzi thanked everyone for their tremendous efforts.

5. On Wednesday, September 15, at 10:00 a.m., the Superintendent will accompany Jerry Boyle, our Capital Projects Manager for our presentation of the schematic designs to the MSBA regarding the plans for the new East Somerville Community School. This presentation follows a series of community and stakeholder meetings. This has been a long time coming and the next step should be the development of full blown architectural plans.
6. On Thursday, September 16, there will be a special event held at the Argenziano School at 1:45 p.m. At this event, Cradles to Crayons and Citizens Bank will present 500 backpacks, filled with school supplies to the students. This is the second year that we have had a generous donation from Cradles to Crayons. This year, not only students at Argenziano, but also at the West Somerville and Healey Schools. Last year, backpacks were donated to students at the East Somerville and Winter Hill Schools. All backpacks are being distributed to the neediest children first. Mr. Niedergang held up a backpack and showed the supplies to the audience.

The Superintendent deferred to Director of Finance Patricia Durette for an update on financial issues. Ms. Durette's report is as follows:

As you may be aware, any group looking to use a school facility after 6:00 PM on week days, or anytime on weekends, must fill out a building use form, that is approved by our Central Administration and by Department of Public Works. We have recently put the building use application process on-line. Any group or individual wishing to rent or reserve a school facility can now go the Somerville Public School website, and on the front page, click on the button that says Somerville Facilities. This will open up a calendar, where you can view the currently scheduled events, or you select a school, and see what areas of the building can be reserved or rented. The program will allow the public to make the request online, and will then go through an electronic approval process. It will allow our building Principals to easily see what events are scheduled in their building.

I want to give you a quick update on our Central Office move. Three moving companies have walked through our offices to give us a quote for the move. I anticipate that we will select the moving company by the end of the week. The move is planned for the weekend of October 9.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:58 p.m.

7. The Superintendent announced the schedule for registration for Evening School, which is as follows:
  - Registration can be done online or in person at Somerville High School on Tues. or Thurs nights from 6-8:00 PM, Sept. 14, 16, 21, 23
  - Classes begin: Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Additional information may be found at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/eveningschool](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/eveningschool)

The Superintendent deferred to Mr. Joseph Tringale, Director of Operations, for an update on reporting and technology. Mr. Tringale's report is as follows:

- Many staff changes and personnel transactions, including updating all payroll records which have been impacted by the terms and conditions of Collective Bargaining Agreements.
- The staffing plan, attendance and Human Resources databases are all being updated
- Preparing of many reports including EPIMS, SIMS, and the End of Year Report
- The implementation of our new MUNIS system
- Preparing for the move to Cross Street
- The installation of 16 new Smart Boards in our schools:
  - 4 at Somerville High
  - 2 at Brown
  - 3 at Healey
  - 2 at Kennedy
  - 3 at Winter Hill
  - 2 at West Somerville
- Replacement of 420 workstations per the attrition plan
- This has been a busy summer and will be an even busier fall!

Ms. Rossetti questioned whether Race to the Top funds may be used to purchase additional Smart Boards. Dr. McKay replied that he would certainly look into that possibility and report back to the School Committee.

8. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on new staff hired over the summer. In total, 62 new staff have been hired; 8 administrators, 17 paraprofessionals and support staff, and 37 teaching staff – including Somerville High School Special Education, a .6 business teacher, and a new home trainer for the new Autistic class at the Winter Hill Community School. Issued thanks to all who served on hiring committees. The quality of the staff hired is very impressive.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business this evening.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Declaration of surplus goods**

A request from the Somerville Public Schools Network Administrator to have 420 computers declared as surplus. Value to be determined. The Superintendent provided background relative to the possible methods of disposal and informed the Committee that he would report back to Committee to inform them of the final method.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to declare the computer equipment as surplus.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **B. Acceptance of Donation**

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of a wooden office desk and some office chairs for use in the Guidance Office and Gallery 81 at Somerville High School, donated by the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept, with gratitude, the furniture donation.

The motion was approved via 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, 2010 Annual Business Meeting of the MASC.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to nominate Mr. Niedergang as the delegate and Ms. Rossetti as the alternate delegate at the November MASC/MASS conference.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

### **Ms. Bastardi**

1. An Open House will be held at Next Wave/Full Circle on September 15 from 6:30-8:00. At 6:00, there will be a meeting of the new parent group at Next Wave/Full Circle.
2. Open House at East Somerville at Edgerly from 6:00-8:00 on September 14.
3. Voting on September 14 at Capuano. Please use the entrance on the park side of the building.
4. Thank everyone for the rehabilitation of the Capuano and the successful opening today. Happy to see so many parents/guardians at the informational meeting on September 8.
5. The Special Education Parent Advisory Council will host a Welcome Back meeting on September 27.

### **Ms. Rafal**

1. Happy Birthday, Ms. Bastardi
2. Thanked all involved with work on all of our buildings
3. The Healey School is seeking volunteer math and literacy volunteers. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jennifer Capuano at extension 6023. Background checks will be performed and training will be provided.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Tufts Community Day is September 26th from 11:00 – 3:00.
2. The Somerville Mathematics League 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.
3. The Somerville High School Junior Class will hold a car wash on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-1:00 outside of City Hall.

**Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Welcome back to everyone
2. Happy Birthday to Ms. Bastardi today and to Ms. Rossetti on Saturday.
3. Mr. Sweeting and Mrs. Cardoso attended the beginning of the Argenziano's Open House earlier this evening—Mrs. O'Brien's first meeting as the new principal.
4. The new PTA board at Argenziano was sworn in this evening, as well. It's wonderful to get new people involved in PTA. The board is already planning a healthy "bake sale" during the day on Tuesday and a traditional bake sale after school for the adults who are coming to vote.
5. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Fun Day at the Argenziano will be held on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 – 2:00.
6. Voting for both precincts of Ward Two will be held at the Argenziano School this year.

**Alderman Connolly**

1. Last Friday, Tufts Athletic Director Bill Kelly donated \$2,000.00 worth of weight-training equipment to the City of Somerville for use in the weight room at Somerville High School. Many thanks to Mr. Kelley and Tufts for their generosity.
2. Happy Birthday to Ms. Bastardi and Ms. Rossetti!

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. The Duhamel Educational will hold its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fundraiser on September 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on College Ave. Dinner will be prepared and served by the Somerville Board of Aldermen.
2. The West Somerville Neighborhood School will hold morning coffee hours on September 15 for grades K-4 and September 16 for grades 5-8 parents and guardians beginning at 8:45 a.m. each day. Meet the PTA officers, the Principal and learn more about the school.
3. Thanked all of our volunteers for all they do and stated that she is proud to be a member of the Somerville Public Schools.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Welcome back and thank you to all for the hard work and collective effort to get our schools ready.
2. Schools look fantastic.
3. Reported on Channel 5's Chronicle featuring Somerville on a recent episode. PBS will also be featuring Somerville during a future broadcast.
4. Somerville continues to lead the way!

Ms. Bastardi announced that Mayor Curtatone will be receiving an award on October 1<sup>st</sup> for having the Healthiest City in Massachusetts

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Happy Birthday to my colleagues.
2. Reported on the Open House at Argenziano and, in particular, Mrs. O'Brien's remarks that we need to get as many adults to think of school as a special place, just as the children do. A wonderful message.
3. Mr. Sweeting attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Healey 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade barbecue, which was terrific
4. The Somerville Family Network will hold a pizza fundraiser on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
5. The Somerville Garden Club will hold its plant sale on Saturday, September 18, from 9:00-1:00
6. Math tutoring, provided by, will take place at the Somerville Public Library from 2:30-4:30.
7. The next Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23, at 7:00 at 181 Washington Street.

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Reminded School Committee members that Executive Session minutes have been reviewed by our attorney and need to be approved for disclosure. Please review all minutes and be prepared to vote on their disclosure at our September 29<sup>th</sup> Executive Session meeting.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Mr. Joseph Galvin, former Somerville School Committee member
- Mr. Bobby Joe Sampson, parent of Somerville Public Schools students

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

Patricia Marques, Executive Secretary



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, September 20, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Connolly, Ms. Bastardi and Mayor Curtatone(7:58).

**Members absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mark Niedergang called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:09 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Niedergang asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 8– Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Sweeting, Bastardi, Connolly and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 – Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

Ms. Bastardi made a motion to suspend the rules to take up Item VII. A – Introduction of New Administrators. All members were in agreement.

- Barbara O'Brien, Principal. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park
- Zita Samuels, Title I Director

The new administrators were introduced to the School Committee members and the audience and each one approached the podium and made brief comments regarding their new positions, thanks for the opportunity and excitement at working in their new roles. The new administrators introduced were:

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our student representative, Ms. Dea Dodi, was not in attendance this evening.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- August 30, 2010, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 30, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- September 13, 2010, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *Educational Programs and Instruction:*** Mr. Bockelman (Sept. 13)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 181 Washington Street. Members present: Paul Bockelman, Maureen Bastardi, Christine Rafal. Others present: Mark Niedergang, Teresa Cardoso, Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Jennie McGoldrick, and Anastasia Gentry.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation on the Somerville After School program by director Jennie McGoldrick. Jenny explained that the After-School and Out-of-School time programs have been changing from being after-school childcare to academic enhancement and enrichment program that complement the school day. They also provide parents and guardians with homework help in a secure, safe environment. We have programs at the Brown, Capuano, East Somerville, Kennedy, West Somerville, and Argenziano at Lincoln Park schools.

The after school program starts with an hour of academic support so the kids can get their homework finished or do other work from the school day and then the spend an hour and a half on an enrichment activity that they sign up to do.

They are able to keep the kids until 5:30 daily and they also offer programs that operate during school vacations.

Fees range from \$75 per week to \$125 per week, depending on the age and, of course, there is a sliding scale based on income, plus scholarships.

We continue to utilize 21<sup>st</sup> century grants for programming at the Healey, Kennedy, and Winter Hill Community Schools.

The majority of staff have Bachelor's or Master's degrees in education.

Some of our partners include Groundworks Somerville and the Center for Engineering Education and Outreach, which does the Lego Club. The number of classes offered and the variety of subjects is remarkable.

We are continuing our initiatives in Supplemental Educational Services. This presentation was delivered by Anastasia Gentry. SES services are offered to income eligible students in schools in the second year of improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. Typically, these services had been offered by private companies. But, the Somerville Public Schools developed its own program that has become very popular. It is specialized tutoring either one-on-one or in relaxed small groups. The big focus of our tutoring is on developing literacy skills and "mathletics." This work is tied closely to the work being done in the classroom and, often, the tutors are actual, certified Somerville Public School teachers. Assessment of the tutoring of the children is done regularly and monitored so we can assess the impact on the students. Our next topic was an update on student retention. Assistant Superintendent McKay reported that the trend of retaining students has been reversed after analyzing the data and policies, and a key policy reversal by the School Committee last year to give our professional educators more leeway in determining whether a child is retained or not. Now there is a tiered intervention model, abandoning the concept that a second year in a grade represents a form of remediation. He reported that there are still some items that need a closer look, such as the gender gap in which twice as many boys are retained as girls, and the overrepresentation of ELL, Hispanic, and low-income groups (although, interestingly, not SPED). This was an encouraging and progressive update.

Dr. McKay reported on the Middle Grades Project, which began last year. There continues to be progress in this area. Mr. Niedergang stated that he saw this initiative as one of the highest, if not the highest, priority of the School Committee. He said that with such emphasis from the School Committee, he would expect to see more progress on this initiative, noting the substantive steps already taken.

The last item on our agenda was an update on the new report cards. Dr. McKay distributed a draft brochure that clearly needed additional editing. Members of the Committee expressed concern that there was still too much education jargon in the brochure for normal parents to understand.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi provided a brief Personnel Report and announced that most of the "new hires" are actually replacement for staff members who have resigned/retired. The exception to this is the staff hired for the new Autism class at the Winter Hill Community School, as well as an Inclusion teacher at the Healey School and a paraprofessional at the High School whose funding came from a Perkins grant and were mandated by the recent Coordinated Program Review.

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Last week was very important regarding the rebuilding of the East Somerville Community School. On Wednesday, September 15, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) took the schematic designs under reviewed and these plans were very well received. As expected, cost is a factor and a review of the financial considerations for the project are under review. Some items may get scaled back, but not educational spaces. They are now analyzing green space. Mr. Pierantozzi will report back to the School Committee on the final submission. The hope is that the final will be put before the MSBA by the end of the month.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that he had visited all buildings and schools and academics and activities are well underway. It is wonderful to see how marvelous and optimistic everyone is for a great year.
3. The Superintendent reported that a School Committee member is invited and encouraged to attend a meeting on the Race to the Top initiative on October 8, at 8:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Marlboro. Mr. Pierantozzi, the Somerville Teachers Association president and a representative

from the School Committee will interface with representatives from other districts about next steps in the process.

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent Vincent McKay for his report on Curriculum matters. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

- **Healey School - Choice Unification**  
Dr. McKay reported that he attended a meeting prior to this one at the Healey School to review the applications for consultants to work on the unification process. There were five interested parties and their proposals are in the process of being evaluated. The team will meet again on Wednesday and, based on the criteria, they are thrilled with the overall quality of the submissions. Dr. McKay will provide updates as he has them.
- **SomerPromise** – the team is working hard to create a plan that aligns the efforts of all factions across the city to maximize student achievement for our students. The next step is to bring the matter to the Rules Management subcommittee.  
Discussion ensued relative to the SomerPromise by-laws, data release issues and confidentiality. Dr. McKay assured members that the group is being diligent about keeping things confidential and establishing protocols. Students brought home permission slips for parents/guardians to sign off on regarding data sharing. An Advisory Committee will need to be developed, etc. It was suggested that this all be discussed in subcommittee and further discussion ceased.
- 4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on a wonderful event at the Argenziano School on September 16. 1,000 backpacks, filled with school supplies, were donated by Cradles to Crayons to the Somerville Public Schools. There was a wonderful celebration at the Argenziano School to celebrate this generous donation. Mr. Pierantozzi was the emcee and principal, Barbara O'Brien, Mayor Curtatone, the president of Citizens Bank and Lynn Margherio from Cradles to Crayons all spoke; the fifth graders performed an enthusiastic drum concert.
- 5. On Wednesday, September 29, at 4:00 p.m., Be Safe will be holding a mock safety drill at the Argenziano School. They will use three classrooms and a hallway of the building and no children will be present in the area at the time. This is a training exercise for first responders and representatives from Boston University, Homeland Security, Somerville Police, Somerville Fire and the Somerville Public Schools will all participate in the drill. There will not be any weapons in the school. This drill will test a new technology for a portable system that projects needed information on the visors of the first responders.
- 6. Through funding from the REMS grant, 1700 Emergency Shelter in Place kits have been distributed to all of our schools. Thank you to Frank DiChiappari and Rich Melillo for their work on this. A kit was circulated among members.
- 7. In members' packets is a letter from Senator Scott Brown regarding the Jobs Act. Ms. Rossetti issued her thanks at our efforts in sending this letter to Senator Brown, but informed members that Senator Brown did not vote in favor of this act.
- 8. The Somerville Community Schools is sending out information regarding programming for non school days and the availability of child care on those days. These include our two Professional Development Days on October 8 and November 2, as well as the school vacation weeks.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Niedergang announced that members have been provided with the packet of Massachusetts Association of School Committee Resolutions, which will be voted on at the upcoming meeting in November. At our next School Committee meeting on October 4, members will vote on how they would like their delegate to vote on these resolutions.

Ms. Rossetti asked if the administration has heard anything further on the speed bump issue near the West Somerville. As of this time, requests for information have been forwarded to the Department of Public Works, but we have not received an answer.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Somerville High School Summer School Graduates** (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent, after notification from the Somerville High School Headmaster, recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed summer school and earned the necessary credits, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Alejandro Cabrera
- Jose Lao

- Jose Hernandez
- Jesus Maldonado
- Tatyana McAndrew
- Ryan McKenna
- Alex Mejia
- Kelly-Alexis Perez
- Tremaine Peterson
- Brandon O'Regan
- Aarielle Penesi
- Jatindr Singh

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the summer school graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**B. Acceptance of Donations** (Recommended Action: Approval)

- **Representative Denise Provost and the Beacon Hill Women's Caucus** - The Superintendent of Schools recommended, with gratitude, approval of acceptance of 15 backpacks to be distributed to students determined by the principal at the East Somerville Community School.
- **Cross Country Automotive Group of Medford**– The Superintendent recommended, with gratitude, acceptance of the acceptance of 45 backpacks, filled with school supplies to be donated to students at the East Somerville Community School, as well as \$200 in Target gift cards to be used to purchase school supplies for students determined by the principals in other schools across the District.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept both donations, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**C. Field Trips** (Recommended Action: Approval)

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Oct. 17, 2010:</b> | Somerville High School Outdoor Club to Mr. Mansfield, VT. Transportation via school vans at no cost to students.   |
| <b>Oct. 25, 2010:</b> | Somerville High School Cosmetology students to Providence, RI to attend a Beauty Industry convention. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$20.00 per student. |

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**D. MASC**

Ms. Rossetti reported on the recent MASC Board of Directors meeting held on September 16. Handouts were provided at members seats this evening. Ms. Rossetti's report included the following highlights:

- Division II will host a program on the new Anti-Bullying law on October 20.
- The president of the MASC will be working with a group in Delaware regarding Race to the Top, as Delaware was one of the first round funding recipients.
- Our plans for RTTT are due to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on October 22. Dr. McKay will keep abreast of the deadlines, etc.
- Ms. Rossetti requested that the Superintendent and Mary Bourque, of the Chelsea Superintendent's office, prepare a resolution regarding Mobility that Ms. Rossetti may present at the National School Board Association meeting in April.

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

### **Ms. Bastardi**

1. The East Somerville Community School at Cummings will host an Open House on September 21, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
2. This weekend, the Fluff Festival will be held during the day on Saturday and Riverfest will be held in the evening.
3. Evening School Registration is beginning. The list of course offerings is very impressive. We have come a long way!

### **Ms. Rafal**

1. The Duhamel Educational Initiative's Fundraiser is Saturday evening
2. The Healey School Open House is Thursday evening.
3. Corn shucking will take place at our schools next week

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Tufts Community Day is the coming Sunday, September 26th from 11:00 – 3:00.
2. The Evening School offers a great assortment of courses and is very well organized.
3. CAAS will hold its Annual Gala and meeting on Thursday, October 28 at the City Club.

### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. The Personnel Subcommittee will meet on September 27, at 6:00 p.m. at Central Office.
2. Corn shucking will be held at the Argenziano School on September 30, from 7:30-8:00, as will be the case in most of our elementary schools. Staff and students shuck corn in the morning and then it is served at lunch time.
3. The Argenziano School's Family Fun Day will be held on October 2, from 10:00 – 2:00.

### **Alderman Connolly**

1. The Duhamel Fundraiser on Saturday will feature dinner prepared and served by the Somerville Board of Aldermen.

### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. The Rules Management Subcommittee will meet on September 27, at 7:00 p.m. at Central office. Three items are on the agenda – the Student Assignment Plan, SomerPromise and an update on the Bullying Policy. The Student Dress Code policy is currently being reviewed by School Councils for action at a future meeting.
2. The Somerville High School PTSA and Open House will take place on September 22.
3. The West Somerville Neighborhood School's Open House will be held on September 29.

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, September 23, at Central Office at 7:00 p.m. On the agenda are: the Federal Job Acts Bill, staffing plan, and an expenditure report.
2. Since the Board of Aldermen are cooking and serving at the Duhamel Fundraiser, Mr. Sweeting issued a challenge to School Committee members to do the same at a future Duhamel event.

Ms. Bastardi announced that she will be late for the Finance meeting on Thursday as she will first attend the Aldermen's meeting because Captain Devereaux will be presented with a citation that evening and Ms. Bastardi appreciates the work Captain Devereaux has done while at the East Somerville Substation and across the City.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Laura (Braga) Melo, mother of Maria Tully, School Nurse at the Brown School

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE

#### Monday, October 4, 2010 – Regular Meeting

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Connolly, Ms. Bastardi and Mayor Curtatone(7:20).

**Members absent:** Mr. Sweeting

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 7– Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Bastardi, Connolly and Niedergang, and Absent – 2 – Sweeting and Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang announced that Mr. Sweeting is not in attendance due to a work-related commitment and that Mr. Sweeting has not missed a meeting before. Mr. Niedergang also stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

#### II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our student representative, Ms. Dea Dodi, reported on the following events at Somerville High School:

1. The Club Fair was held recently and many, many students participated. This year, a Philosophy Club has been added at the high school.
2. The Somerville High School Curriculum Committee met and reviewed the following proposals:
  - An Introduction to Nutrition semester course.
  - The addition of a Team Sports 2 class
  - A new Current Events semester class in the Social Studies department
  - A new Entrepreneur class in the Vocational department
  - Review of the new Physical Education requirements and the transition plan that was established for this year to assure that all students will meet the requirements for graduation—basically a catch up plan for students who began at the high school prior to these new regulations so that they may have meet all requirements.
3. The Post High School Planning night was held on September 20, and was well attended and informative.
4. The Parent Night was held on September 22, and allowed parents/guardians to follow their student's schedule and meet their teachers.
5. Progress Reports will be issued soon as we are almost half-way through the first quarter.

#### III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

##### A. **Finance and Facilities:** Ms. Rossetti (September 23)

Ms. Rossetti reported on the Finance and Facilities meeting in Mr. Sweeting's absence this evening. The Finance and Facilities subcommittee met on September 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at 181 Washington Street. Members in attendance were Mr. Sweeting, Ms Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal and Ms. Bastardi. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette. Highlights of her report included information on the following:

1. State and Federal Allocations – Education Jobs Grant, State Fiscal Stabilization Funds
2. FY11 Staffing Plan – a brief presentation was provided
3. FY10 Bill Roll – information regarding carryover invoices from FY10 which need to be paid.
4. Facilities Update – update on all buildings provided by Mr. Pierantozzi
5. Central Office move - an update was provided on the upcoming move by Mr. Pierantozzi

**MOTION:** Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by, That the Superintendent communicate with Traffic and Parking requesting that ticketing on street cleaning days not begin until 8:30 a.m. on streets near schools.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by, to approve the FY10 Bill Rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

- B. **Personnel:** Mr. Bockelman (September 27)
1. Review of Job Descriptions
  2. Human Resources Database (HRDB) Update
  3. Update on Searches
  4. Update on Retirements to date

The Personnel Subcommittee met on September 27, at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room at Central Office. Members present were Paul Bockelman, and Christine Rafal. Others present were Mark Niedergang, Mary Jo Rossetti, Adam Sweeting, Tony Pierantozzi, and Rebeca Martinez. Mr. Bockelman chaired the meeting in Mrs. Cardoso's absence.

The first agenda item discussed were several job descriptions:

The Subcommittee reviewed three revised job descriptions relating to early childhood education, much in response to mandates from the Department of Early Education and Care:

The Director of Somerville Family and Community Connections replaces the Community Day Care Director for Parent-Child Home Program  
Family Liaison

The Subcommittee also approved a new job description for the Supervisor of Attendance.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the following job descriptions:

- Director for Somerville Family and Community Connections
- Director of Parent-Child Home Program
- Family Liaison

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve Supervisor of Attendance job description.

The Subcommittee requested a new organization chart for the Central Office for its next meeting.

Ms. Martinez updated the Subcommittee on the new Human Resources Database. The Database now consolidates an employee's personal information online and asks employees to review key policies such as the District's Sexual Harassment Policy and notes that they have seen it. We have a very high level of compliance in reviewing these policies.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

- C. **Rules Management:** Ms. Rossetti (September 27)
- Ms. Rossetti reported on the Rules Management meeting held on September 27. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at 181 Washington Street. Members in attendance were: Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, and Mr. Sweeting,. Also in attendance was Mr. Pierantozzi.
1. SomerPromise – the bylaws for the SomerPromise initiative, provided by Dr. McKay, were reviewed and edits were suggested. Discussion ensued regarding this initiative and will continue at a future meeting. At this time, there have been no meetings of the SomerPromise committee. Dr. McKay will provide an edited copy of the bylaws before the next Rules Committee meeting in October.
  2. Review of Policies – the following policies were reviewed.
    - School Admissions – revised and on agenda for first reading this evening
    - Student Dress Code – being reviewed by School and Student Councils at the building level.
    - Student Assignment Plan – further review/editing is needed and this will continue at the next Rules meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by, to approve File: JF – School Admissions, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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

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

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that members have received a letter from Matt Dias, Director of Traffic and Parking, regarding delaying the ticketing of vehicles around schools on street cleaning days until after drop-off time.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the new preschool (Smile) class at the West Somerville Neighborhood School. This class is will be in place for just this year due to low enrollment in the Kindergarten classes at the West Somerville. The District had 48 children on the waitlist for preschool and three other children who were enrolled after the waitlist was established. All parents/guardians of these children were contacted, following the order of the waitlist. All families on the waitlist were offered a seat. Some declined the offer, but others accepted happily. The new class at the West Somerville will be comprised of five students who transferred from the Capuano and 13 students from the waitlist. Students were also added at the Capuano due to seats opening after students transferred to the West Somerville. Only one family was not able to be reached during this process.
3. The Superintendent announced that there will be no school on Friday, October 8, because of the Professional Development Day for staff and also no school on Monday, October 11, due to the Columbus Day holiday.
4. Staff at Central Office are busy packing and preparing for the upcoming move to 42 Cross Street on Saturday, October 9. On Friday, October 8, computers will be dismantled by our IT staff, but we will still be able to be reached by phone. Our extensions will remain the same after the move. On Tuesday morning, our IT staff will be at Cross Street first thing in the morning to get all technology operational. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their support of this move.
5. Mr. Pierantozzi provided an update on the remediation work at the Capuano. All HVAC is up and running. The kitchen will be cleaned tonight by the second shift DPW staff and will undergo a health inspection tomorrow. Set up of the kitchen/cafeteria will take place on Wednesday and Thursday and the plan is that it will be fully operational by Wednesday, October 13. The Administrative wing will be the last area finished. New carpet and tile is scheduled to be installed over the next two weeks. Built in cabinetry is also needed and is slated for several weeks from now.
6. On Wednesday, September 29, the Massachusetts School Building Authority approved the project proposal for the East Somerville Community School. The \$15.2 million estimate is for structural and architectural work. A timeline is being developed and will be provided to all members.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report:

- **October 8 Professional Development Day in Somerville Public Schools**

- **KINDERGARTEN:**

All district Kindergarten teachers will work with the Capuano staff. They plan on revisiting the Kindergarten Report Card to make the Mathematics section more compatible with Investigations curriculum. We are then going to look at the rubrics for the report card and make the criteria for each assessment measurable.

- **Grade 1 - 5 Teachers:** New Report card by grade level teams meeting at Healey.

- **Middle Grades** - Middle Grades Project, and several other activities.

- **SHS:** response to "bullying" legislation

Goal: sustaining safe and healthy learning environments in part by reducing bullying through a very interactive anti-bullying effort which includes:

- Understanding agreed upon definitions of bullying
- Pro-active prevention practices
- Effective intervention
- Social emotional learning
- Accurate reporting



The goal for Friday's session: to empower staff and students to feel less like bystanders. Faculty meeting in the auditorium to review district goals and state and local laws and initiatives led by Alice Comack, Peer Mediation program coordinator.

Teachers will work in groups of 15-20. They will be asked to brainstorm /share situations they have witnessed where they believe bullying might have taken place or potentially could take place then brainstorm ways to prevent those situations from occurring. They will be asked to explore reasons why bystanders often do not act in support of victims of bullying.

The bullying prevention segment will end as teachers participate in pre-scripted role plays to respond to case studies. Appropriate, safe, and realistic responses, as well as conflict resolution strategies, will be modeled. Language that can be used to diffuse situations will also be modeled and practiced.

This issue has been in the news, obviously, with the tragedy in S Hadley and the suicide of Phoebe Prince. But this just makes good sense for SHSS, and I am proud of SHS' leadership role in the area of bullying prevention.

- **One more SHS - related item:**

Next Wednesday, October 13, is PSAT day at Somerville High School

ALL sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT next Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. They are to report to school at the normal time, and will be assigned a classroom for the testing period. This test is being provided by the school at NO COST to students to assist our students in getting a jump on the college application process. This is especially important as recent research has shown that students who take the PSAT more than once, score much higher on the SAT. We want to encourage all of our students to pursue their dreams for pursuits beyond high school. This is in line with our schools' overall belief that all students graduate college-ready.

Seniors and freshmen only, will report to school at 11am on PSAT day, Oct. 13.

- Finally, I'd like to announce that as of this afternoon, a consultant has been named for the Healey - Choice unification process. Since the district received the five proposals in mid-September, I have been working with Principal DeFalco to review and evaluate the proposals. And we have a named Teachers 21, based in Wellesley, as the designated consultant. We expect finalization of our contract with them soon to make it official. We welcome Teachers 21, as partners, as we begin the important work of building a united, ever stronger, Healey School. I know I speak for the principal Jayson DeFalco is expressing our steadfast commitment to the success of this project. We're ready to get to work! We will be sharing periodic progress reports over this next, very intensive, five month period leading up to the March 1 reporting deadline.

7. The School Department is working with Somerville Cares About Prevention and the Board of Health to prepare for the Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The survey is scheduled to be given on March 29, 2011, with a makeup day on March 31.
8. Two Fridays ago, NSTAR informed administrators at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park that they would be doing work on Lincoln Parkway from 7:30 am. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Mr. Pierantozzi spoke with our Commissioner of Public Works, Stan Koty, and he was able to work with NSTAR to get the work hours on Lincoln Parkway changed to 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. so that students may be dropped off in the morning without families having to deal with road closures, etc., when dropping their students off on Clark Street. This work is slated to last three weeks and began today. There will be two police details on site to help avoid any bottlenecks. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked Mr. Koty and his staff, NSTAR, Barbara O'Brien and Betsey Holland for their work on this.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. MASC RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Niedergang asked Ms. Rossetti to speak about the following seven resolutions which will be voted on by Somerville's delegate at the Annual MASC meeting in November.

1. Special Education Circuit Breaker Extension
2. Charter School Authorization
3. MCAS Scores and 766 Approved Schools
4. Charter School Funding Formula
5. District Consolidation, Restructuring and Expanded Regionalization
6. Mid-Year Retirements

## 7. Mid-Year Budget Cuts

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to authorize our delegate to vote Yes on all resolutions on the School Committee's behalf at the annual MASC/MASS conference in November.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **B. Surplus Computer Equipment – Update**

Mr. Pierantozzi provided an update on the computer equipment that was declared surplus at our last meeting. These 460 computers will be cleaned of all data by our computer repair class at Somerville High School. Once information has been cleared, these computers will be donated to the Haitian Coalition for distribution as they see fit. Computers will be processed in batches of 28.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Field Trip (Recommended Action – Approval)**

**Nov. 12-13, 2010:** Somerville High School Painting and Decorating students to Newport, RI. for the Annual Faux Painting Contest  
Transportation via school van at a cost of \$60.00 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the field trip.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **B. Somerville High School Graduate (recommended action: approval)**

Mr. Anthony Ciccariello, SHS Headmaster, recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the necessary credits, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Sukhdev (Student's legal name)

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the awarding of the diploma.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **C. Acceptance of Donation – (recommended action: approval)**

The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of equipment to be used in the Ceramics Program at Somerville High School, donated by the Oil and Staff Foundation for the Arts. Equipment, valued at \$1051.19, includes one mini slab roller, one wedging board, and six hardwood clay rollers.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

The following policy was presented by Ms. Rossetti this evening for *first reading*, as amended.

File: JF - School Admissions

### **E. Dream Act**

Mrs. Cardoso reported that she, Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Bockelman attended a presentation held by Centro Presente and the Welcome Project regarding the Dream Act. Members received invitations in the mail. Students spoke about their experiences as immigrants who have lived most of their lives in the United States, but are not eligible for financial assistance for a college education. Students' stories were awesome, moving, and inspiring. Mrs. Cardoso requested that we invite students to make a presentation at our next School Committee meeting. Mr. Connolly reported that the Board of Aldermen took up this issue and that it has been referred to committee so that official versions of this act may be obtained from Congressman Capuano's office. He will have this forwarded to the School Committee. Mr. Bockelman also feels that

listening to these young people explain, in their own words, what they have gone through will be very beneficial to the Committee.

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang read a thank you note from Laura Bonnell, Assistant Principal at the East Somerville Community School, showing appreciation of the School Committee's remembrance of her late mother at a recent meeting.

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

### **Ms. Rafal**

1. This week she will be corn shucking at the Winter Hill Community School and that should be fun!
2. Interviews will take place for the Healey School consultant.
3. Announced a Save the Date for the Middle Grades Information night and Mr. Ciccariello's visit on October 26, as part of the Somerville High School – On the Road program. Ms. Rafal and Mr. Sweeting are organizing this event.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. This Wednesday is a half-day for elementary students.
2. There is no school of Friday, October 8, or Monday, October 11
3. CAAS will hold its Annual Meeting on October 28.
4. Please join your local PTA/PTSA. This is a tremendous organization and all parents/guardians should do their best to become members.

### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Thanked Mr. Bockelman for chairing the Personnel Subcommittee meeting in her absence.
2. Corn shucking at the Argenziano will be fun and this is a wonderful event!
3. Congratulations to all involved with the MSBA proposal for the East Somerville. This is great news!
4. Family Day at the Argenziano was an incredible day. Thank you to Kristy Savage and Lorne Murphy for all of their planning and for all who came. It was great to have Dr. Argenziano, Mr. Johanson, and Mrs. Rudolph come back to participate in this beautiful day.
5. On this coming Thursday, there will be a bullying prevention workshop at the West Somerville Neighborhood School beginning at 6:30. All are welcome.
6. On Sunday, October 10, 2010, the Somerville Mathematics Fund will hold a fundraising event at the Somerville Museum at 2:00 p.m.
7. Wished everyone a wonderful long weekend.

### **Alderman Connolly**

1. Alderman Connolly reported how pleased the Board of Aldermen is regarding the East Somerville.
2. Tufts Community Day, held on last Sunday, was an extremely positive event. Over 4, 000 people were in attendance.

### **Mayor Curtatone**

1. The Mayor spoke about the East Somerville Community School project. He will be making a request for appropriations to the Board of Aldermen for a bond to cover the City's portion of the cost. He invites the School Committee and community to support him in this effort. Mayor Curtatone is looking forward to moving forward. This is very exciting for the City.

Ms. Bastardi requested that the Mayor please continue to keep the School Committee updated on the presentation date to the Board of Aldermen.

Ms. Rafal would like to issue her appreciation for the update on the surplus computer equipment and the donation to the Haitian Coalition

Mrs. Cardoso announced that Ms. Rossetti has been nominated as Vice President of the MASC, which is quite an honor. Mrs. Cardoso stated that we are all very proud of Mary Jo and thanked her for her continued efforts.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, October 18, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Connolly, Ms. Bastardi and Mayor Curtatone(8:26 p.m.).

**Members absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mark Niedergang called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:06 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Niedergang asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 8– Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Bastardi, Connolly, Sweeting and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 – Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed.

Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi to suspend the regular order of business to take up item VII. A under New Business – the Introduction of New Administrators. All members were in agreement. Mr. Niedergang invited Purnima Vadhera, Assistant Principal at the Healey School, to step up the podium to introduce herself to members and to the audience. Ms. Vadhera expressed her excitement in her new role, gave a brief history of her professional life and a glimpse into her hopes for the future. Mr. Niedergang thanked Ms. Vadhera for attending the meeting and wished her luck now and in the future.

Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to take up item **VI. B under Unfinished Business – the Dream Act**. All members were in agreement. At this time, Mr. Niedergang invited representatives from Centro Presente and the Welcome Project to the podium. The two women introduced students from the Somerville Public Schools who spoke in support of the Dream Act. These students are all illegal immigrants who are seeking passage of the Dream Act so that they may have the opportunity to attend college or join the military. All speakers gave moving presentations. Mr. Warren Goldstein-Gelb, Executive Director of the Welcome Project, issued his thanks for the School Committee's consideration and stated that he was very proud of all of the students. Ms. Patricia Montes, the Director of Centro Presente, congratulated the students for their hard work, courage, vision and tenacity. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, that the Somerville School Committee supports the passage of the Dream Act and that the Chairman convey the School Committees' support to our congressional delegation.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 8 – Bastardi, Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Connolly, Rossetti, Sweeting, and Niedergang and ABSENT – 1 – Curtatone.

Prior to voting School Committee members debated the actual wording of the motion in order to make sure the correct message was being conveyed. Questions arose around support the House Bill, the Senate Bill, or to support the general concepts of the Bill. All comments from School Committee members were heartfelt and reflected their support of the Dream Act, however, the comments of our student representative, Dea Dodi, was so impressive and poignant – particularly for such a young person; an outstanding presentation!

The School Committee recessed at 7:57 p.m.

The School Committee resumed at 8:04 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- September 20, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the minutes of September 20, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our student representative, Ms. Dea Dodi, was reported on the following events at Somerville High School:

1. Tonight, at the high school, is the Grade 7/8 Parent/Guardian Information night for all potential students.
2. Last week was Senior Spirit Week
3. Friday Night was the Homecoming Game vs. Medford. Somerville High School was victorious.
4. On last Saturday night, there as a Halloween themed dance sponsored by the senior class.
5. Somerville High School on the Road will be presenting at the Healey School on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
6. The Accreditation Team will be visiting the high school for four days beginning on November 7.
7. The Somerville High School Curriculum Committee met and passed the following proposals:
  - An Introduction to Nutrition semester course.
  - The addition of a Team Sports 2 class
  - A new Current Events semester class in the Social Studies department
  - A new Entrepreneur class in the Vocational department
8. Provided an update on recent club events including the Green Club and the Junior Statesman on America.

### IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### A. **Finance and Facilities:** Mr. Sweeting (October 6)

**Mr.** Sweeting reported on the Finance and Facilities subcommittee met on October 6, at 181 Washington Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette. This was a very brief meeting. Items discussed included:

1. FY12 budget timeline
2. FY11 Bill roll
3. FY10 DESE End Of Year report extension

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the FY12 budget timeline.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the FY10 Bill Rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the FY11 Bill Rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

#### B. **Ed. Programs:** Mr. Bockelman (October 12)

1. High School Guidance Department Program Update
2. Drop Out Prevention Update – including Grade 9 Retention Information
3. Visual Arts Department Program Update
4. Family and Community Engagement Plan Presentation
5. Curriculum Updates

Mr. Bockelman reported on the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee which met on October 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park. Members present: Paul Bockelman, Maureen Bastardi, Christine Rafal. Others present: Mary Jo Rossetti, Mark Niedergang, Adam Sweeting and Assistant Superintendent Vince McKay.

**Visual Arts Department Program Update** Luci Prawdzik presented a very impressive update of recent developments in the Visual Arts Department at Somerville High School and at all of the elementary schools. She presented the current staffing plan for our system and described how the visual arts were supporting the key educational goals of the district.

**High School Guidance Department Program Update** Carolyn Richards presented an extensive slide show on the operations of the Guidance Department at Somerville High School. Also present was ELL Counselor Anne Herzberg. In addition to staffing the four

houses at Somerville High School, the Guidance Department provides services for English Language Learners, Technical Education, and Redirect and Adjustment counselors. The Guidance Department provides a range of services that includes student services and collaborating with key partners including Tufts University, post-secondary institutions, and community groups.

New efforts include PSAT testing for all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders at Somerville High School, offering the ACT test in addition to being a testing site for the SAT, implementing comprehensive visits to the 8<sup>th</sup> grades in the city's schools, special focus on 9<sup>th</sup> grade retention rates that includes three interventions by the end of October, implemented at the request of the Headmaster.

**Drop Out Prevention Update – Grade 9 Retention Information** We looked in detail at this year's Grade 9 repeater report and compared it to a similar report presented to the School Committee last year. This report is informative and helps the Guidance Department direct its efforts to reduce retention rates. Special emphasis is needed in students who are eligible for Free and Reduced lunch and Hispanic students. I want to emphasize that 9<sup>th</sup> grade repeaters are often students who failed to gain the minimum number of credits.

**Family and Community Engagement Plan Presentation** We had an excellent and educational presentation by Sarah Davila in her new position overseeing the District's Family and Community Engagement plan. She, along with Nomi Davidson, have organized the services under the banner of Somerville Family Learning Collaborative. A new brochure is about to be distributed. Sarah is also reviewing protocols for incorporating translation services into the District's communication efforts. There are opportunities to utilize community partners in this initiative.

**Race to the Top** Superintendent Pierantozzi, Chair Niedergang, and the STA president attended a presentation on the RTTT. Key initiatives revolve around improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance, ensuring effective teachers in every classroom, using data to inform instruction, and increase college and career readiness.

**Curriculum Updates** Assistant Superintendent McKay updated us on the following:

- Training on the new report card was the focus of the Professional Development day. The new card is receiving good reviews
- Bullying prevention program
- Literacy plan is the focus of new professional development working with Tufts University on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades
- Middle grades
- Focus on Results
- Lesley University partnership which we should hear about by the end of the month.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi announced the retirements of the following employees, who, in accordance with the Somerville Administrators and Somerville Teachers Associations' guidelines, have reported their notice of retirement on or before October 1.

Retirees are: Roberto Chao, Joseph Vilaine, Mary Ripley, Joan Waldman, Kathleen Johanson, Elizabeth Holland, Nancy McSweeney, Jean Ferreira, Anne Carr and Catherine DeCola. The Superintendent announced that these employees will be tough to replace and he respects them for a job well done and wishes them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Mrs. Cardoso inquired as to the years of service of these retirees, as it is not listed on the Personnel Report. This information will be provided at our next School Committee meeting.

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the move of the Central Office to 42 Cross Street on October 12. All in all, things went very smoothly, with the exception of the sidewalk being torn up shortly after our arrival. There will be an Open House on November 9, prior to the Ed. Programs Subcommittee meeting. He also informed the Committee that the first Principals' meeting will be held at Cross Street tomorrow and the first School Committee meeting (Long Range Planning) will be held on Wednesday night. Our new offices are "intimate, but

beautifully appointed.” The City will save \$196,000 year in rental fees by having our office in this new location.

2. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that things at the Capuano Center are winding down nicely. The Main door on Glen St. is now ready to be used for egress at the direction of the Principal. The Floor tile and Carpet have been installed in the Administrative wing of Capuano. It looks great! DPW is doing a final prep this week. On Monday, the furniture, equipment, etc. will be moved back into the Administrative wing. All items not moved back will be stored in the trailer so the gym can be used. On Tuesday, IT staff will be at Capuano after 2:30 p.m. to help the Capuano staff with the move. On Wednesday, October 20, the administrative wing will be open for business. At the discretion of the Principal, this includes the after school activity room and the Art/PTA room. The built in cabinets will take a significant amount of time to be ordered, following the appropriate bid processes; constructed and installed. We are using the areas w/o the built-ins.
3. The Superintendent announced that there will be a half day of school for elementary students on Wednesday, October 22. A Connect Ed message will be sent out prior to all half day Wednesdays throughout the remainder of the year informing parents/guardians of all half-days, and days off, including Thanksgiving and Winter break.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report:

- Dr. McKay provided an update on academic after-school program, which is not a part of the Community Schools program. Community Schools provides enrichment programming for the full year at each school site and has strong enrollment.
- The academic after-school program will integrate ACE-IT and SES to provide academic support to our students. A new online database is being implemented to help us track student attendance and progress towards learning goals. Standards-based curriculum is linked to regular school curriculum. Two 11 week sessions will run with the first beginning on November 9. Parents of eligible students will be receiving invitation letters next week.
- The School Council Orientation session will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, October 19, at 6:00 p.m. at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park. School Councils are an essential part of our school improvement planning process and councils are made up of parents, teachers and community members who assist the principal in setting school goals.

*Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:26 p.m.*

4. On October 12, The Superintendent attended a reception at the Seaport Hotel in Boston where Somerville was named, “Healthiest City in Massachusetts.” The Mayor and a contingent of City officials enjoyed great food and a great night of festivities hosted by the Massachusetts Health Council.
5. Period of Public Comment on the District’s Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan  
The District is nearly finished with the first draft of its bullying prevention plan. We had a useful meeting on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> where members of the community raised helpful questions about policies, procedures and programs we might consider to ensure Somerville schools are safe for all learners. Members of the public are invited to share their comments on the plan at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/bullying\\_comment](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/bullying_comment). If you aren’t comfortable commenting online you are welcome to send an email to [gkinder@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:gkinder@k12.somerville.ma.us) or a letter to Gretchen Kinder at the Central Offices (42 Cross Street, Somerville MA 02145). We can translate letters sent in languages other than English. If you want help writing your comments please call the Parent Information Center at 617-625-6600 x6962.
6. The Kennedy Pool is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday by giving away free swimming lessons! Every month through May, on the third Tuesday of the month, two sets of children’s swimming lessons (valued at \$50) will be given away. Visit [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/pool](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/pool), call 617-625-6600 x6676 or visit the Kennedy Pool (5 Cherry Street) to learn more!

The Superintendent deferred to our newest Central Office Administrator, Dr. Sarah Davila, District Administrator of Programs, for a report on family and community partnerships. Dr. Davila’s report included the following highlights:

- The production of a District Wide Family and Community brochure – which is currently being translated in our target languages and will be distributed once completed.

- A report on various workshops being offered, including English Classes, Report Card workshops, Why Eat Whole Wheat?, Improving Communication with principals, interpretation and translation services.
  - The goal is to increase family members' capacity to improve learning.
7. The Somerville Public Schools answered a call from the Human Rights Commission to pitch in to help plan the annual celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This will be hosted in 2011 on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.
  8. Two presentations were given by SPS staff at a recent Shape Up Somerville Steering Committee – one on the availability of physical activity options for girls in the City and the other on ongoing improvements to Somerville Food Service. The District plans to participate in an Ad Hoc Committee focused on improving outreach to families and teens regarding available for girls and other groups that appear to be less engaged in available physical activities in the City.
  9. Members of the Somerville community are invited to drop off decorated or carved pumpkins in elementary schools across the City from October 20<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>. These pumpkins are being collected by City Hall to decorate Somerville Avenue for the grand re-opening of Somerville Ave at a celebration on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-4:00 PM.
  10. On October 8, Mr. Pierantozzi, Mr. Niedergang and Ms. Lawrence (Somerville Teachers Association) attended a meeting with the Commissioner of Education and his staff, sponsored by the Urban Superintendents' Network, regarding Race to the Top. Our draft proposal must be submitted to the DESE by this Friday. Mr. Pierantozzi reviewed the various requirements and elements and the goals to be gained as a result of our proposal. Goals included:
    - Aligning local and state standards with federal standards
    - Increasing a positive working environment in schools
    - Access to data via the Education Data Warehouse
    - Increasing the percentage of high school graduates completing the Mass core requirements
    - Implementing one or more statewide teaching and learning systems

Most of the initial work will focus on the high school, as the elementary curriculum is more closely aligned than that of the high school. More updates will be provided along the way.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

The following policy was presented this evening for *second reading*, as amended.

File: JF - School Admissions

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **B. Field Trip (Recommended Action – Approval)**

#### **Nov. 4-5, 2010:**

Next Wave and Full Circle students to Camp Nihan, Saugus, *overnight*. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$5.00 per student.

#### **Nov. 20-21**

Somerville High School Junior Statesmen of America to the Boston Park Plaza Hotel for the Fall State Debate Convention. Transportation via subway. Cost to students - \$65.00

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **C. NSBA Northeast Conference**

Ms. Rossetti provided a report on her recent attendance at the National School Board Association's Northeast Conference. Ms. Rossetti reported on the documentary, Waiting for Superman – a powerful documentary regarding education which she believes casts a positive light on charter schools and a less than positive opinion of public schools. Ms. Rossetti reported



that, nowhere in the film, is there any mention of school boards or committees. Mr. Niedergang asked for a description of the movie and Ms. Bastardi, who has seen the film, provided a synopsis of the film. Ms. Rossetti provided members with copies of her notes, as well as two newspaper articles from the Washington Post. Ms. Rossetti also reported that she will be presenting two resolutions at the NSBA's National meeting; one on student mobility and the other on the Windfall Provision. Ms. Rossetti has been asked to be a representative on the Resolution Committee. This is a highlight for her, personally. Ms. Rossetti also reported on Race to the Top. The NSBA, with the National Education Association and the American Association of School Administrators is exploring the principles for teacher incentive funds. Ms. Rossetti asked that we keep this at the "top of the pile".

#### **D. Referendum Questions on November 2nd ballot**

Ms. Rossetti requested that her fellow School Committee members consider publicizing their opposition to Question 1 – Alcohol Tax and Question 3 – Sales Tax.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, that the School Committee publicly go on record to support voting no on questions one and three as this would have a detrimental effect on finances in the City of Somerville.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Discussion ensued regarding publicizing the Committee's position. Mr. Bockelman will draft a letter for publication and send it to the School Committee members for review.

#### **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Niedergang read a thank you note from the Albano Family showing appreciation of the School Committee's remembrance of their late son, Peter, at a recent meeting. Mr. Niedergang read quotes from the card and showed the photograph of Peter that was enclosed in the card.

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

##### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Somerville High School on the Road will visit the Healey School on Tuesday, October 26, 2010. There will also be a Healy School Grade 7/8 information session beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by the high school presentation at 7:00. Teachers, Department Heads and students from the high school will participate in the presentation. This event is open to everyone, not just Healey School families.

##### **Mayor Curtatone**

2. The Mayor spoke about Somerville being named the healthiest City in Massachusetts. Issued his thanks to all – School Committee, teachers, parents, guardians, staff and students for their work in supporting healthy living. Our First Lady, Michelle Obama, looks to Somerville as a model for promoting healthy lifestyles.

##### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. The Rules Management subcommittee will meet on Monday, October 25, at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street. The revised Somer Promise document will be reviewed at this meeting, along with some policies.

##### **Alderman Connolly**

1. Issued his thanks to all of our students who were involved in Fall Sports for their wonderful sportsmanship.

##### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Announced the SomerStreets event taking place on Somerville Avenue on Sunday, October 24, beginning at noon.
2. Requested that the Superintendent forward the annual Halloween safety letter be forwarded to the Department of Public Works regarding lighting around our buildings on Halloween.
3. Announced the Pumpkin Stroll on October 31.
4. Announced that the Personnel Subcommittee will meet on October 25, at 6:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street. One item on tap is the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation.

##### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Congratulated the Central Office staff on the move to Cross Street.
2. The Friends of the Public Library will hold a book sale on October 22, 23, and 24.
3. At everyone's seats tonight is a calendar provide by the Brown School PTA

4. The Kennedy School's PTA has been rejuvenated with a new board. Thanks to the PTA Council's leadership and hard work.
5. Reported on the Math Fund event. Somerville's organization has been recognized nationally for its success.
6. The Outdoor Club at Somerville High School traveled to Mount Mansfield in Vermont yesterday morning. The group left at 5:50 a.m., climbed—in snow—and were back to the high school by 8:00 p.m. Special thanks to Mr. Glynn for his leadership of this group. Mr. Glynn traveled the week before and climbed the mountain to ascertain the best trails, etc. to follow in order that our students had a safe and enjoyable day. There is actually a waiting list of students wishing to attend these outdoor excursions. Participation is limited base upon how many students can fit in the van.
7. The CAAS Annual Meeting will take place on October 28, from 6:30 – 8:30 at the City Club. The meeting will be followed by entertainment by Jimmy Tingle and other festivities.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Reported on the Healey School principal's presentation on MCAS and what the scores meant for the Healey School. He took the risk of laying it all out – not just the data – but action steps to improve. Ms. Rafal appreciates the efforts of this new principal

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Carmen Nunziato, retired Utility Aide at Somerville High School, father of Joanne Taddeo, Paraprofessional at the Winter Hill Community School and brother of retired high school building master and coach, John Nunziato.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, November 1, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Connolly, and Ms. Bastardi.

**Members absent:** Mayor Curtatone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mark Niedergang called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:06 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Niedergang asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 8– Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Bastardi, Connolly, Sweeting and Niedergang, and Absent – 1 – Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed. Mr. Niedergang also announced that our student representative, Dea Dodi is present for this evening's meeting.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- October 4, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the minutes of October 4, 2010, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- October 18, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the minutes of October 18, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our student representative, Ms. Dea Dodi, reported on the following events at Somerville High School:

1. Reported on the Vocational Advisory Committee meeting of October 27, and commended Mr. DeSimone on the great success of the meeting.
2. Last Friday was Senior Dress Up Day at SHS. The event was organized differently this year. All seniors met in the gym and had lunch in the atrium, which allowed seniors to see each other's costumes, take pictures and enjoy time together. Many great costumes were seen!
3. Winter Sports sign-ups will be held from 2:45-5:00 on November 4, in the Atrium.
4. The NEASC Visiting Team will be at Somerville High School from Sunday, November 7, through Wednesday, November 10.
5. There will be a teacher debate, sponsored by the Junior Statesmen of America, on Tuesday, November 9, at 3:00 p.m.

**IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

Mr. Sweeting assumed the Chair so that Mr. Niedergang could report on two committees that he chairs.

**A. Executive Session:** Mr. Niedergang (September 29)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the following motion that was approved unanimously at the September 29<sup>th</sup> Executive Session meeting.

MOTION: To approve redactions, as proposed, for the Executive Session minutes of 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 and to disclose these minutes in redacted form upon request.

Mr. Niedergang also provided information relative to Executive Session minutes and the reasons why redacted minutes may be necessary.

**B. Long Range Planning:** Mr. Niedergang (October 20)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning meeting of October 20. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. Present were: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Kinder.

1. Continued discussion of strategies/activities to improve the outreach/appeal of the SPS to new and potential families – discussion took place regarding outreach to families to determine how to differentiate schools to attract families. Discussion ensued regarding marketing and outreach, the use of exit surveys, gathering and analyzing data, involvement of the School Improvement Councils and it was agreed that more planning must be done. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.
2. Review District Improvement Plan (DIP) progress – Review of the two-year plan and the layout of the Improvement Plan document, itself. The School Committee feels a briefer, more to the point document would be better. Ms. Kinder showed the members how DIP is formatted on our website and the members agreed that all versions of the DIP should follow the same formatting as that of the web version.
3. Integrating the Long Range Goals into the two-year District Improvement Plan
  - a) Print the Long Range Goals on all full SC agendas along with the two-year District Improvement Plan goals? A very brief discussion about integrating the Long Range Goals with the District Improvement Plan goals. The Committee decided very quickly that they do not wish to integrate the two.
4. Somerville Education Enrichment Fund (Education Foundation) – The School Committee revisited the idea of developing an Education Foundation to raise funds for our schools and programs. This idea began last year and progress was being made, however, the topic was put on hold during budget season. At this point, with the development of the SomerPromise initiative, the School Committee has decided to put the idea of an Education Foundation on hold, once again, in fear of SomerPromise and the Education Foundation competing for funds. After SomerPromise is up and running, the Education Foundation idea will be revisited.
5. Adding a new long-range goal: Develop 21st Century Skills and Ensure Universal College Readiness (Superintendent's proposal) – Mr. Pierantozzi inquired as to whether the School Committee wished to add a new long range goal regarding 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. The Committee decided to take the time to develop and think about this idea and come back at a future meeting to discuss further.

Mr. Niedergang informed the audience that the following motion regarding Ballot Question 2 was approved unanimously at the School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning. Question 2 focuses on maintaining affordable housing opportunities for our citizens. The School Committee had previously publicly voiced their opposition to Questions 1 and 3 and felt it important to make their feelings known on Question 2 prior to the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election.

**MOTION:** That the School Committee voices its opposition to Question 2 on the November ballot.

The Long Range Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**C. Personnel Subcommittee:** Mrs. Cardoso (October 25)

Mrs. Cardoso reported on the Personnel Subcommittee of Monday, October 25, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal, Mark Niedergang, and Adam Sweeting along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi. Dorothy Scally from the STA and Andy Metzger from the Somerville Journal were also in attendance. Agenda items discussed:

1. Superintendent's Evaluation: There was a brief discussion regarding one change to the Superintendent's Evaluation process for this year. This year the gathering of all written evaluation information to complete the composite for the evaluation from School Committee Members is now subject to the Open Meeting Law. There was also a review of the Evaluation Timeline - the Superintendent's Evaluation is scheduled to be discussed by the School Committee at the Personnel Subcommittee on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Finally, in

preparation for the evaluation, we asked that the previous two years evaluations be forwarded to us.

2. Academic Tutorial Program: The Superintendent explained to us that this Program is a parallel structure to our Community Schools Program and that the two positions discussed; first, the Academic Tutor Coordinator of Afterschool Programs which is a new position is only different from the Site Coordinators in the Community School Programs in that these are part-time, stipend positions and non-supervisory. Although this is a new position it did not require School Committee approval because it was a stipend position. The second position - the Academic Tutors - are not new positions but the length of the sessions and number of sessions has been changed - these are the positions to be coordinated by the Academic Tutor Coordinator of Afterschool Programs.
3. Update on Searches: The Superintendent informed us that the Supervisor of Attendance position is still ongoing and that the Interview Committee would be selected this week. The position of Home Trainer is still continuing to be advertised at this time.
4. Update on Retirements to date: The Superintendent presented a list of 10 retirees for 2011.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:25P.M.

**D. Rules Management Subcommittee:** Ms. Rossetti (October 25)

Ms. Rossetti reported on the Rules Management Subcommittee meeting of October 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were: Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Sweeting, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Pierantozzi and Dr. McKay. Items discussed included:

1. SomerPromise – The SomerPromise initiative has been under discussions for several months. Ms. Rossetti had requested more information from Dr. McKay regarding governance, data sharing and by-laws. Dr. McKay has been very helpful as the liaison between the School Committee and the SomerPromise administrators. At this point, there are still some more questions that need to be answered. Therefore, this issue will be on the agenda again at the next Rules meeting.
2. School Committee and District Legal Counsel Contact – the Committee has agreed that a member may request information from our Legal Counsel by requesting said information through the School Committee Chair. As a result, Policy: BDG – School Attorney – has been amended to reflect this change. This policy will be presented for first reading, as revised, later in the meeting.
3. Review of Policies
  - School Admissions – PreK – being presented for first reading later this evening.
  - Student Dress Code – still being reviewed by School Councils and the Student Council at Somerville High School.

Also brief discussion took place regarding Face Book and other social networking sites. Further discussion will take place at a future Rules Management meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to strike the first sentence of the fifth paragraph of File: BDG - School Attorney and insert, "the Chair on behalf of" in paragraph four (a..... will be made the "the Chair...." the Somerville School Committee), and strike "at the direction" from the same paragraph and insert "on behalf."

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve File: BDG – School Attorney, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve File: JF-1 – Placement for Students Whose Parents Seek to Enroll them in Pre-Kindergarten at Age 5, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that at the last School Committee meeting, he announced the retirements of the following employees, but, due to our recent move and subsequent inaccessibility of our records, did not report their years of service. The Superintendent read the names and years of service for these retirees.

They are: Roberto Chao (10 years), Joseph Vilaine (28 years), Mary Ripley (22 years), Joan Waldman (29 years), Kathleen Johanson (29 years), Elizabeth Holland (32 years), Nancy McSweeney (34 years), Jean Ferreira (25 years), Anne Carr (21 years) and Catherine DeCola (32 years). The Superintendent announced that the total years of service of these employees is 266 years, an average of 26.6 years. Mr. Pierantozzi wished them health and happiness upon their retirements!

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the visit of the NEASC Accreditation Team at Somerville High School. The high school goes through the reaccreditation process every 10 years. Preparations for this visit have been ongoing for the past three years and all members of the high school's staff have been involved in the planning process. Approximately two dozen members of the visiting team will be present from Sunday, November 7 through Wednesday, November 10. The School Committee and Central Office administration are scheduled to meet with the visiting team during their visit to Somerville.

Mr. Bockelman inquired as to whether the School Committee may be provided with information relative to what the goals of the high school are during this process. Mr. Bockelman also inquired as to whether the various sessions scheduled are open to the public or by invitation only. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that he will have a brief summary of the high school's goals forwarded to members and that presentations, etc., are by invitation only.

2. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that on October 28, he attended a meeting regarding a new sustainability partnership for the City and School Department with Honeywell. The goal of this partnership is to educate staff, students, parents and guardians in an effort to save money through energy conservation and, at the same time, help the planet.
3. The Superintendent announced that there will be no school for all students on Tuesday, November 2 due to a Professional Development Day for staff. A Connect Ed message will be sent to parents/guardians informing them of this day off. The scheduling of the Professional Development Day intentionally coincides with Voting Day as many of our schools are used as polling places. At some polling places, flu shots are being provided as part of the City's vote and vax program.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report:

Dr. McKay reported on the following:

- **Professional Development Day** - Tomorrow is the second full PD day for this year, and members found a packet at their places this evening with the agendas for each of our schools. The activities listed on the handout show an incredible range of experiences planned with adult learning in mind - ACTIVE learning  
SHS - critical thinking. Development of school-wide measures of critical thinking skills. This is a key 21<sup>st</sup> century skill and we want to assure that all SHS departments are teaching critical thinking.  
Elementary schools: Three main areas of focus you'll notice: School-wide instructional focus, use of data to support learning and report card implementation.  
Healey - Choice-Unification work for the morning.  
Dr. McKay thanked our principals who have worked with their leadership teams to develop this program for learning. This is the product of many weeks of careful preparation.  
Dr. McKay looks forward to traveling across the city tomorrow, visiting as many of the schools as possible.
- **Implementation of our District Literacy Plan - k12**  
A more detailed report will be presented at the December Ed Programs Subcommittee meeting. On October 30, Dr. McKay visited two schools who were participating in professional development around Literacy. The School Department has a Contract with a teaching and learning alliance which provides 2 to 3 consultants to work with 2-3 different schools. This system allows for a small number of substitutes to be present at a school on the PD day.

Teachers are involved in two-hour professional development activities and the substitutes rotate from class to class accordingly. This schedule allows for less instructional time away from students for our teachers while allowing our consultants to focus in depth on the task at hand.

*Ms. Bastardi departed at 8:35 p.m.*

4. Mr. Pierantozzi informed School Committee members that there has been a request made by Mr. Richard Whitworth, on behalf of the Eastern Mass YMCA, to hold their District Swimming Championships at the Kennedy Pool on January 29 & 30 and February 5 & 6. This repeat event should be as successful as in previous years thanks to the efforts of Mr. Cheney, our Pool Director.
5. On October 27, nine members from the Somerville Public Schools attended the School Safety Summit, presented by the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, in conjunction with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. Guest presenters at this year's event included Rosalind Wiseman and Matthew MacAvoy.
6. Prior to this School Committee meeting, a meeting of the East Somerville Advisory Committee took place. At this meeting the proposed schedule was shared with committee members. As of today, the City is awaiting the return of documents from the Massachusetts School Building Authority in order for the Board of Aldermen to vote to approve the budget for the project. There will be a community meeting prior to the start of demolition sometime in late December or early January. It was also announced that a project website is being developed in order to provide up-to-date information about the project.
7. Remediation work at the Capuano Early Childhood Center is basically all done. Mr. Pierantozzi issued his thanks to all involved in getting this work done. The school looks beautiful thanks to the enormous efforts of many. Built-ins still need to be installed, but are currently still be crafted.
8. On Wednesday, October 27, the Superintendent attended the Vocational Advisory Board meeting held at Somerville High School. Through the organizational efforts of our new Assistant Principal for Career and Technical Education and the Chair of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Tom Bent, over 80 people were in attendance at this meeting. Wonderful to see such an increase in attendance.
9. On this coming Saturday, November 6, the Career, Vocational and Technical Education Fair, previously known as the Vocational Fair, will be held at the high school from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Great opportunity to see the great work that is done at Somerville High School by our students and staff.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were no items of unfinished business this evening.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

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

The following policies are presented this evening for *first reading*.

File: JF-1 - Placement for Students Whose Parents Seek to Enroll Them in Pre-Kindergarten at Age 5.

File: BDG – School Attorney

### **B. Acceptance of Donations** (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommended, with gratitude, approval of acceptance of a Bundy Flute, donated by Ms. Joan Moreton of Somerville, to be used in the Music Program, under the direction of Mr. Richard Saunders.

The Superintendent of Schools recommended, with gratitude, approval of acceptance of a Beginner Violin, Chinese made, donated by Mr. John Pyburn of Medford, to be used in the Music Program, under the direction of Mr. Richard Saunders.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to accept the two donations, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Tomorrow is Election Day. Get out and vote. The School Committee requests that everyone please vote No on all three referendum questions.

### **Alderman Connolly**

1. November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day. Please remember all of the men and women who have served our country with valor. Remember that we have the privilege of being able to vote thanks to the valor, wisdom and bravery of our veterans.

### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. There will be an Election Day Bake Sale at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park tomorrow during voting.
2. Issued her thanks to everyone involved with the Pumpkinville Avenue event held recently on Somerville Avenue. This event was such a great success that the Mayor has announced it will be an annual event going forward.
3. Best wishes to Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal and Mr. Pierantozzi as they attend the Annual Joint Conference of the MASS/MASC.

### **Ms. Rafal**

1. Issued her gratitude to those involved in the Opportunities for Success Event held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Healey School. There was a great bunch of students from Somerville High School and the event was informative and showed how exciting Somerville High School can be!
2. On October 29, Ms. Rafal took part in some eighth grade college tours for Healey School students. Two student ambassadors from MIT were inspiring and taught our students that nothing is beyond their reach.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Victor DeMilia, father of Linda Maher, retired teacher from the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, November 15, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Connolly.

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 7 – Rafal, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rossetti, Connolly, Sweeting and Niedergang, and Absent – 2 – Bastardi and Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed. Mr. Niedergang announced that Ms. Bastardi is absent tonight due to medical issues and that our student representative, Dea Dodi, is present for this evening's meeting.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 1, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of November 1, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our student representative, Ms. Dea Dodi, reported on the following events at Somerville High School:

1. The NEASC visit went extremely well. High School staff have been planning for this visit for three years. While here, the visiting team met with student leaders to get their perspectives on Somerville High School. All in all, this was a very positive experience. The official report is expected in early March.
2. Congratulations to the Boys' Soccer team for advancing to the semi-finals in tournament play. Although they lost this game to Brookline, they did a great job and had an outstanding season!
3. Six students will be visiting Somerville High School as part of the SERAPO exchange program with Gaeta, Italy. These students will be staying with host families in Somerville. In the Spring, students from Somerville High School will go to Gaeta and stay with families there to get the Italian experience. There will be a welcoming dinner for the students in the Highlander Café.
4. There will be a Freshmen College Experience panel on November 17, at Somerville High. Graduates from the Class of 2010 will return to the high school to share their college experiences with current seniors.
5. The Annual Pep Rally will be held on Wednesday, November 24.
6. The Annual Thanksgiving Day Football game will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Dilboy Stadium against Matignon High School.
7. The Craft Fair, which benefits the Somerville Track PAC, will be held on Saturday, November 27, in the high school's field house.
8. The Community Service Club has seen a tremendous increase in its membership with over 40 members to date. These students have all shown a strong commitment to service.
9. The Junior Statesmen of America's Debate Fundraiser has been rescheduled to tomorrow afternoon. Topics for this debate are: The Teaching of Evolution and the Influence of the Jersey Shore on society.

Ms. Rossetti inquired about when the School Committee would be able to meet and greet these students. Mr. Connolly reported that these students will be coming to the Aldermen's meeting on November 23, and invited the School Committee to attend and to make this a Joint Meeting of the School Committee and the Board of Aldermen. A joint citation will be issued, by the Board of Aldermen, on behalf of the School Committee and the Board. This meeting will be added to the School Committee's posting for the week of November 22.

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

Mr. Sweeting assumed the Chair so that Mr. Niedergang could report on two committees that he chairs.

**A. *Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Mr. Bockelman (Nov. 9)  
Members present: Paul Bockelman and Christine Rafal. Others in attendance: Mark Niedergang, Adam Sweeting, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Jason DeFalco, and Charlie LaFauci. There were also approximately 10 members of the public in attendance, including Senator Jehlen.

We had three things on the agenda: the Healey Choice Unification, a report on the Middle Grades initiative, and an update on MCAS results.

Principal Jay DeFalco of the Healey School and lead consultant Mariann Nogrady led the discussion of the Healey School unification. Ms. Nogrady said this project was the high point of her career because the commitment to change an existing school was inspirational. She said the project was challenging and hard – in a good way.

They described the process and time line for presenting a proposal to the School Committee. The process is highly inclusive with members from every “stakeholder” group involved. There has been a special emphasis on translating key documents to ensure involvement by those who don’t speak English.

The time line – we all agreed – is very ambitious. The consultant didn’t start working until the first week of October and it was amazing how much work had been done already. However, I believe the School Committee should be cognizant that the process may need more time to reach a successful conclusion. We will discuss this at our next Educational Programs subcommittee meeting in December.

The School Site Council – which has been expanded – has divided the project up into five working groups:

- School vision and mission
- School structure and operations
- Parents/staff/student partnership and leadership
- Teaching and learning
- School culture, community, and climate

I am very excited about this process. It is ambitious and there are a million issues to address at the same time as you are running a school and teaching kids. I liken it to changing the tires on a moving school bus!

Community involvement is key. All meetings are open to the public and I encourage the entire school community to participate in creating something great.

Next, we had an update from Dr. McKay and Charlie LaFauci about the middle grades initiative. They talked about the key areas for this year that include content area professional development and subject area meetings, support for team meetings and common planning time, content rigor, and a foreign language pilot at the Healey School.

The big initiative is the multi-media video each student will complete using the prompt, “How can you change the world?”

Lastly, Dr. McKay walked us through the most recent MCAS data that, this time, includes student growth data. This data shows the progress an individual student makes in comparison to every other student in the state that had the same score the prior year. This is incredibly powerful information and, in some ways, bypasses the usual criticisms of the MCAS.

The short message is that our effort in early literacy is paying off, as is the focus on results efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

#### **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

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

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that today was the last day of the first quarter and report cards will be sent home in about a week. This year, there are new standards-based report cards

- for students in grades one through five. Meetings have been held with parents, guardians and community groups to inform and educate them on this new report card.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that last week, on November 3, 4, and 5, he, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Niedergang and Ms. Rafal attended the Annual Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents/Massachusetts Association of School Committees' Joint Conference. Mr. Pierantozzi gave a brief report on documents he received at this conference which were included in this week's School Committee packet. These documents included:
    - The Superintendents' Legislative Report
    - The School Law cover sheet
    - The cover sheet from the document, "A Promising Practices Guide" – which focuses on operational efficiency. Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette have been discussing the information included in this guide in order to ascertain how Somerville might improve our operational efficiency. Mr. Pierantozzi was happy to report that the District is already doing some of the things suggested in this document.
    - A flyer regarding the Fit Kidz program, sponsored by Reebok. Currently, Mr. Tim O'Keefe, Dr. McKay and Mr. Pierantozzi are meeting to discuss the possibility of being involved with this program, which provides before school fitness activities for students. Reebok would provide the funding, supplies and equipment. Still in the investigational stages.
    - Copies from slides from a PowerPoint presentation, "Avoiding Leadership Mistakes".
  3. The Superintendent reported on the visit by the NEASC's visiting team. Ms. Dodi provided a very good report earlier this evening. On this Wednesday, there will be a faculty meeting with the team where the team will say their thank you's and good-bye's. Mr. Pierantozzi issued his thanks to the administrators, faculty, staff, and students. The Chair of the visiting team remarked that out of the more than 20 visits she has made, this visit to Somerville has been the most remarkable visit of her career. Although we got a good sense from the team, we should not jump ahead of the formal report, which is due in March. In all 17 team members, composed of a chair, co-chair and 15 others visited Somerville High School.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report:

Dr. McKay reported on the following:

- Drop Out prevention: Mass High School Graduation Initiative: Last week, Massachusetts was awarded \$15m over the next five years to support statewide and local efforts for HS dropout prevention and recovery.  
Somerville High School is justifiably proud of its low dropout rate (3.5%) which is the envy of districts that share our urban character and student population, including mobility. But we can always do more, and our District dropout prevention team will be working to submit a proposal for a piece of the state award.  
Our submission will be strengthened by the work already underway at Full Circle HS, a project funded by an almost \$200K grant last year.
- This is a good time to provide you with an update on this project: Technology - Aided Credit Recovery and Acceleration Program for At-risk Alternative Education Students in Somerville  
This is an academic credit recovery and acceleration program that combines virtual and classroom learning. It was piloted at SHS Summer School and is currently the Algebra 1 course at Full Circle HS. As you know, Full Circle students are diverse in age, and academic performance who are highly mobile, and are "off track" from graduating on time. The course combines the talents of a certified teacher with the embedded technology of on-line learning courses. The specific learning needs of students will be addressed using this technology, which allows for multiple entry points for students, self-paced, guided learning, and an individualized learning experience. This technology allows us to replace seat time with the mastery of the content, so students can move ahead as they test out of a unit of study instead of the time they put in the classroom.  
This blended approach for credit recovery programs in the Somerville Public Schools we feel holds great promise.  
Researchers from Brown University's Education Alliance will be visiting Full Circle High School on Monday as part of the ongoing evaluation process.  
Thanks To: Margaret DePasquale, David Willey

We are exploring how the lessons learned at Full Circle with tech assisted credit recovery can apply to SHS.

The new grant could allow us to expand this opportunity to more students.

- Focus on Results and Observing and Analyzing Teaching (OAT) Course

Dr. McKay is spending time with our principals and administrative team this week. Today - full day training with Focus on Results involving all the elementary principals along with several members of their ILT. We are planning next steps in their school improvement process.

OAT course: 30 members of our admin team are in the 6<sup>th</sup> of 7 full days of training, sharpening their skills in supervision and evaluation. The critical work of supporting teachers improves their performance in the classroom.

4. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Capuano for recruiting over 400 volunteers for our District. The number of volunteers, training, organization and coordination provided by Ms. Capuano is commendable. These volunteers provide valuable academic and social assistance to our students.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. C. Deborah Connell, Director of Special Education for a report on her department. Ms. Connell's report included the following:

- The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IDEA – the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It was 35 years ago this week that the legislation was passed. IDEA is a United States federal law that governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to children with disabilities.
  - December 6<sup>th</sup> – December 10<sup>th</sup> is Inclusive Schools Week. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Inclusion Committee is meeting from 3:00-5:30 and one of the items on the agenda will be how to celebrate this event. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of this landmark decision.
  - Dr. McKay is planning to include a presentation to the Ed. Programs Subcommittee by the Special Education Department sometime in December or January where an update will be provided on inclusion and improved outcomes for all students. Dr. McKay will make the final scheduling determination.
5. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that Health and Safety are at the forefront this week. Preventing bullying, sexting, and other forms of harassing behavior are all on our radar. We have been invited to participate in a research project through the University of Massachusetts in Lowell to study factors in order to identify a prevention framework relative to using technology for bullying, sexting, etc. This survey will be done in conjunction with Somerville High School and the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth.
  6. On Wednesday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m., the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative will host a presentation entitled, "Why Eat Whole Wheat?" Jeanne Irwin, our Food Service Director, will assist with preparing foods with whole grains.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. School Committee Policy Manual**

The following policies are presented this evening for *second reading*.

File: JF-1 - Placement for Students Whose Parents Seek to Enroll Them in Pre-Kindergarten at Age 5.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the policy as presented.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

File: BDG – School Attorney

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the policy as presented.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Sweeting assumed the Chair.

## **B. Report from the MASS/MASC Annual Conference**

Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Niedergang and Ms. Rafal all provided a report on their recent attendance at the MASS/MASC Annual Conference in Hyannis. All three attended different workshops so that they would get the most information possible to share with their fellow Committee members.

Ms. Rossetti's report included:

- Dr. Mitchell Chester's speech at dinner
- The topic of an 8 hour school day on the West Coast
- Online learning – Greenfield
- Beverly's one-on-one laptop initiative
- General Session topics of the 2012 Presidential Election beginning this past Election Day, Longer School Days, Improving Supervision and Evaluation to Raise Student Achievement - a plan for teacher accountability by 2012, Data Tools for Financial and Program Management: Analysis, Benefits and Compensation – which assists districts with collective bargaining. There was also a Financial Crisis Update, which addressed the budget forecast.
- Ms. Rossetti provided typed notes from the conference for all.

Mr. Niedergang's report included:

- His role as the voting delegate for the Somerville School Committee. This was his first time attending the conference and that it was a bit overwhelming, but Ms. Rossetti helped him find his way.
- There were seven resolutions which were debated and voted upon. Mr. Niedergang voted according to the full Committee's wishes. The results of the votes were as follows:
- Resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 were all adopted as presented. Resolution 6 – Mid-Year Retirements – was defeated.
- Ms. Rossetti was elected as the Vice President of the MASC – congratulations!
- Workshops attended included one on Healthcare Negotiations. Mr. Niedergang has handouts that he will share with his colleagues and hopes to make a presentation to the School Committee—in Executive Session.

Ms. Rafal's report included:

- Thanks to Ms. Rossetti for her help at the conference and an expression of her pride in Ms. Rossetti for her role with the MASC.
- Her attendance at workshops on school meals and student achievement and the benefits of switching recess and lunch times on achievement.
- All notes are posted on Ms. Rafal's blog – Rafal4Ward4.info, which she uses very carefully so as not to violate the Open Meeting Law.

## **C. Report of the School Committee's meeting with the NEASC visiting team**

School Committee Members Mark Niedergang, Adam Sweeting, Teresa Cardoso, Paul Bockelman and Christine Rafal met with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Visiting Team Members Paul Krueger, Kay Costa, Elizabeth Draper, Sheila Muir, Josh Blagg, Mike Hashem, Susan Bennett and John LaFlamme on Sunday, November 7, 2010 at SHS in Gallery 81 at 2:30 PM.

The interview lasted approximately 45 minutes.

The Visiting Team began our interview by stating that even though they had just arrived and began the process they felt a very positive attitude at Somerville High and were looking forward to the four days of work ahead! They asked various questions of School Committee Members relating to Somerville High School from our involvement in the accreditation process and the Mission Statement to the Headmaster's role and how we see it and value it? We were also asked about curriculum issues, complaints from parents, the issues of having an older building, budgetary questions, how the needs of all students are being met at Somerville High School and the last question was what we expected to hear back from the Visiting Team. As you can expect from the School Committee Members present – we had lots to say in a short amount of time but the consensus was that we were very pleased and proud of our high school - our Headmaster, Assistant Principals, highly-qualified staff, students and parents and the work that goes on each and every day. We spoke about being kept fully informed throughout the process of the accreditation and how Tony Ciccariello is a valuable asset to the high school and how he is always promoting it everywhere he goes – how he is highly respected by the staff, students and parents. We discussed the "SHS on the road" and how effective that program is at promoting the high school. We also told them that complaints from parents had gone down significantly since Tony Ciccariello had become the new Headmaster and the new Superintendent had arrived and the building's cleanliness issues have

greatly improved over the past several years. The Mayor and the Board of Aldermen have put a lot of attention into facility improvements such as new floors, painting, new bathrooms, etc. as well. Regarding the budget we told the Visiting Team how supportive the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are as well as the community of our schools and we have been extremely lucky throughout the years with our budget requests and it has worked well for us. We discussed how we teach and reach all students through our many offerings – AP Classes, Universal PSAT for Sophomores and Juniors, MCAS Prep classes, high attendance rate, a new Welcome Center for ELL Students, special attention to Special Ed students our highly acclaimed Mediation Program and how proud we are that our students, staff and families feel safe in our high school. In answer to the Visiting Team's last question of what we would like to hear back from them – we said that we would like to hear what we had heard back from a previous Visiting Team that "We are still the 'Best Kept Secret in Massachusetts'!"

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Somerville School Committee Draft Meeting Schedule**

School Committee members reviewed the draft schedule of meetings for the rest of the school year and made edits to the calendar. It was noted that these meetings may also change as new Subcommittee Chairs are appointed after the first of the new year. We also need to schedule the School Improvement Plan presentations as we prepare the 2011 calendar of meetings.

### **b. Acceptance of Donations (Recommended Action: Approval)**

- The Superintendent recommending acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of \$1,000.00, donated from Project Bread to be used by the Food Service Department.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of weight training equipment, Valued at \$2,000.00, donated by Tufts Athletic Director Bill Gehling for use in the weight room at Somerville High School.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

### **Ms. Rafal**

1. The Winter Hill's celebration of AYP and their pledge to instructional focus.
2. The Winter Hill's book of the month.
3. The great work of the Literacy and Math coaches from the Healey and Winter Hill.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Congratulations to the Boys' Soccer team on a great run. The final game was a heart breaker!
2. The Somerville High Pep Rally is Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.
3. The Thanksgiving Football game will be at Dilboy Field vs. Matignon.
4. The Crafts Fair will be held on Saturday, November 27, in the Field House. Do some holiday shopping and support the Track PAC.
5. Central Office, Somerville High School administrators, staff and students deserve much credit on the successful visit by NEASC. Mr. Bockelman saw the positive light of current happenings and has gained a greater appreciation for all that happens at the high school. Sends credit to Mr. Ciccariello and his team for putting together a great package. Mr. Bockelman is impressed with all aspects of preparation of this tremendous amount of work.

### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. NEASC has rediscovered that Somerville High School is the best kept secret in Massachusetts.
2. Title 1 will host the Second Cup Café at the Argenziano at 8:15 a.m. and a parent group at 9:30 on?
3. The Personnel Subcommittee will meet in November 22, at 6:00 p.m.
4. The Argenziano's PTA meeting will be on November 30, beginning at 2:45 p.m.

5. The Argenziano PTA will reinstate their monthly social hours beginning on Thursday from 6:30-7:30.
6. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
7. Reviewed the timeline for the Superintendent's evaluation with members.

**Alderman Connolly**

1. Congratulations to the Boys' Soccer team and all our fall athletes. All students represented Somerville very well.
2. Best wishes to our winter athletic teams!
3. Announced that Mayor Curtatone sends his regrets at not being in attendance this evening. One of his sons is in need of medical attention so he was not able to attend tonight.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Rules Management will meet on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. or immediately following the Personnel Subcommittee meeting.
2. The West Somerville Neighborhood School's PTA will meet on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:45-4:45 p.m.
3. The West Somerville's PTA will hold their Holiday Shopping Night on Friday, December 3, from 6:00-9:00.
4. The West Somerville's PTA is holding a community service fundraiser, "Keys for Hope", to benefit the Somerville Homeless Coalition. For every pound of keys collected, they will raise \$1.50. Please consider sending unwanted keys to the West Somerville for this worthwhile cause.
5. Ms. Rossetti also requested that the Long Range Plan reflect her request for an additional bullet which would address the principals gathering input from their staffs. Mr. Niedergang explained that this memo referred to the conceptual phase of the new Long Range Plan and that it was, in no means, the final product.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. The Vocational Fair—or Career, Vocational and Technical Education Fair, was wonderful. Mr. Sweeting enjoyed breakfast in the Highlander Café with Mr. Bent and Mr. Ciccariello. This was a terrific event under new leadership. Wonderful opportunity to see how well-rounded Somerville High School is and to see such great examples of our students' work.
2. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet tomorrow, November 16, at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- James Nikkel, father of Joy Nikkel, teacher at the Brown School.
- Hazel Marsh, mother of Evelyn DiChicco, teacher at the East Somerville Community School.
- Alice Scott, former Food Service employee

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, December 6, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

7:02 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Connolly, Mayor Curtatone (7:53pm).

**Members absent:** Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Bastardi

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 6 – Rafal, Cardoso, Rossetti, Connolly, Sweeting and Niedergang, and Absent – 3 – Bockelman, Bastardi and Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed. Mr. Niedergang announced that Ms. Bastardi is absent tonight as she recovers from recent surgery.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

- David Fichter
- The Somerville Museum

**The East Somerville Community School Mural**

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to take Item 8A – East Somerville Community School Mural – out of order and include it with the awards and citations.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang announced that, as the third anniversary of the fire at the East Somerville Community School approaches, everyone is coming together to acknowledge the completion of a project that has brought the entire school and neighborhood community together to celebrate their shared history. Utilizing grant money, along with funds from the Somerville Arts Council and the East Somerville Fire Fund, Community Muralist David Fichter and partners at the Somerville Museum assisted administrators, teachers, students and community members with the production of an 80 X 20 mural reflecting the history of the school and community. The mural, parts of which were on display in chambers this evening, will be installed on the outside of the renovated building upon its completion.

Mr. Niedergang announced that Ms. Rafal would present a citation to Mr. David Fichter, Artist in Residence, and designer of the mural. Ms. Rafal read the citation, included at the end of these minutes. Mr. Fichter thanked the art teachers, staff, students, and principal for all of their hard work on this beautiful piece of art.

Mr. Sweeting presented a citation to Mr. O'Connell, a representative of the Somerville Museum, copy at end of these minutes. Mr. O'Connell thanked everyone on behalf of the Museum and explained that Evelyn Battinelli, the Museum Director, was really the person who spearheaded this collaboration. Ms. Battinelli was not able to be at tonight's meeting and Mr. O'Connell is happy to accept on her behalf. Ms. Battinelli assisted with an educational program that provided the students with access to Somerville's historical archives and a wealth of historical information which was used as research to determine what images should be included on this mural.

Dr. Holly Hatch, the principal of the East Somerville Community School spoke about how much this mural project has meant to the school community. Dr. Hatch thanked Gretchen Kinder for her persistence in getting funding for the project and thanked Debra Lewis, Stacey Dinarello, Diana Turemi, Charlotte Huffman, Linda Wiegenfeld and Dr. Prawdzik for all of their hard work on this project. The addition of this mural on the new building will make the outside of the building as vibrant as the inside. The installation of this mural will also be the ultimate reflection of the recent history of the East Somerville in that, it too is in pieces but will all come together when everyone is reunited at the new building—just like the students and staff.

The School Committee recessed at 7:19 p.m. to thank the honorees and to enjoy the wonderful biscotti provided by Supervisor of Art, Dr. Luci Prawdzik.



The School Committee resumed at 7:30 p.m.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 15, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of November 15, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our student representative, Ms. Dea Dodi, reported on the following events at Somerville High School:

1. On Wednesday, PTSA conferences will be held. The business meeting will be from 6:30-7:00, followed by parent/teacher conferences from 7:00-8:30. Please attend and check on your student's progress.
2. On December 17, the Guidance Department will hold a Financial Aid night from 7:00 – 8:30 for parents/guardians and students.
3. On December 16, at 7:00 p.m., the High School's Winter Concert will be held.
4. Six students who were visiting Somerville High School as part of the SERAPO exchange program with Gaeta, Italy have returned to Italy. In the Spring, students from Somerville will visit Gaeta for two weeks to complete the exchange.
5. The Fall Rally was a great success as Somerville High School went on to defeat Matignon, 34-6, in the Thanksgiving Day football game.
6. Winter Sports start this week.
7. The Green Club is working hard to increase recycling in the high school's cafeteria. The club members are working with our Director of Food Service in an attempt to spearhead their efforts. The hope is that milk cartons can be recycled and, also, that plastic reusable trays will be purchased for use in the high school cafeteria.
8. The South Asia club held a fundraiser today of Henna Tattooing.
9. The National Honor Society is assisting with fundraising for the Toys for Local Charity organization, which provides toys and gifts to families who may not otherwise be able to provide for their children during the holiday season.

### **V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

#### **A. *Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:*** Mr. Sweeting (November 16)

Mr. Sweeting reported on two Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meetings. The first was held on November 16 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Items discussed were:

1. Facilities – WHCS – discussion on current conditions, photos of problem areas. These concerns were forwarded to the Department of Public Works.
2. FY11 Expenditure Report – another brief report on funds expended
3. FY11 Bill Roll – review of bills submitted for payment
4. Review of FY10 Revolving accounts – report on deposits and expenditures to our revolving accounts, such as Food Service, the Pool, etc.
5. Other – Update on End of Year report – this yearly report has been filed by Mr. Tringale and Ms. Durette.
6. Possible activity bus donation from Head Start to SHS – Ms. Durette informed members of the availability of this bus to be donated to the District by CAAS.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the FY2011 bill rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The second meeting reported was the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting held immediate prior to this evening's Regular School Committee meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall. In attendance were Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Durette and Dr. McKay.

1. FY2011 Monthly Expenditure report – routine review
2. FY2011 Bill Roll - routine review of bills
3. FY2011 and FY2012 Estimated Copier costs – discussion of expected costs for copier expenses across the District.
4. Facilities update – a report that work has begun on the previously determined problem areas at the Winter Hill Community School

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**B. Rules Management Subcommittee:** Ms. Rossetti (December 1)

Ms. Rossetti reported on the Rules Management meeting of December 1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Conference Room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Pierantozzi and Dr. McKay

1. SomerPromise – Dr. McKay provided a report on the SomerPromise initiative and the proposed bylaws. Discussion ensued and the School Committee endorsed the bylaws with a formal motion (below).
2. Bullying Policy – the amended Bullying Policy was reviewed and approved for first reading this evening.
3. Policy on Advertising/Public Solicitation in Schools – after reviewing the School Committee's current policies, it was agreed that no changes should be made at this time.
4. Student Assignment Plan – this policy will be reviewed at the next Rules meeting. No action this evening.

Ms. Rossetti thanked Mrs. Marques, Mrs. Coulombe and Mr. Pierantozzi for their hard work on the Policy Manual over the past years culminating in the entire manual being provided to members in CD form, rather than as an expansive notebook. These same policies are also now available on the Somerville Public Schools' website so that parents/guardians/community members may find them should they have a question about a policy. These same people can also call their School Committee member of the Superintendent's office if they need assistance with a policy. Mr. Sweeting thanked Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Bockelman for their work on the manual during their times as Chair of the Rules Management Subcommittee.

**MOTION:** That the Somerville School Committee formally endorses the bylaws of the governance structure of the SomerPromise fund with the continuing hope that Section 3.3 be amended for equal representation by the City and School Department.

**MOTION:** To approve File: JICFB – Bullying in Schools Policy as amended and to present this policy for first reading on December 6.

**C. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:** Mr. Niedergang (November 17)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the meeting for Long Range Planning of November 17. In attendance were Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Pierantozzi, and Ms. Kinder. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Topics discussed included:

A. Timeline and activities for the next long range planning process – Ms. Kinder provided members with a detailed memo with proposals for next year. The School Committee felt that the plan needs to be scaled down and focused. Three elements are key:

- Gathering data from parents/guardians
- Gathering data from faculty/staff
- Forming a marketing group to promote our schools

B. District mission/vision statement – the current Mission Statement was reviewed. The statement is excellent in content, but not well known. It is a very long statement; not bouncy and memorable. The statement will be analyzed and deconstructed and will be discussed again at a future meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**D. Report of Executive Session:** Mr. Niedergang (December 1)

Mr. Niedergang reported the following motions that were approved in Executive Session on December 1, 2010.

- To approve a salary adjustment of \$5,000.00 each for the positions of HRIS Specialist and Director of Somerville Family and Community Connections.

- To approve new furlough language for non union employees for FY10 and FY11
- To approve the amendment to the Contract of Employment between Anthony Pierantozzi and the City of Somerville School Committee relative to the furlough language and to authorize the Chair of the School Committee to sign on behalf of the School Committee
- To approve the Settlement Agreement resolving Count II of a complaint of prohibited practice issued by the Massachusetts Division of Labor Relations relating to the Somerville Teachers Association's request for information in the Matter of the City of Somerville, the Somerville School Committee and the Somerville Teachers Association and to authorize the Chair to sign on the School Committee's behalf

## **VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that last week, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) informed the District that the Coordinated Program Review filings were all up-to-date. Thank you to all staff members involved in this process. A more detailed report on the CPR will be provided at a future Ed. Programs Subcommittee meeting.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report:

Dr. McKay reported on the following:

Today marks the opening of the SPS after school tutorial program, which we're VERY excited about. This program will at our elementary schools in between now and the end of April. This is part of our "Multi-Tiered System of Support" system taking place both within and outside of the school day. Now in our second year, under the leadership of after school program Coordinator Anastasia Gentry. Several improvements based on an analysis of our student outcomes from last year's programs. For example, our recommendation for a two day minimum/week for student to attend the program was based on the results of last year. Some of the program highlights include:

- Most of the tutors are SPS classroom teachers; Professional development provided for all the tutors
- Linked to the CS schedule
- Consistent curriculum
- Maximum tutor group size of 7 students; targeting the most needy students learning plans required for all participating students that links the tutorial content to the students' learning needs
- Online reporting system for tutors for attendance, planning and monitoring of student learning.

Right now, we have 360 students enrolled with a capacity of approximately 550 which we anticipate reaching by the beginning of the second session in January. This number represents a doubling of the students participating over last year!

The DESE Curriculum Summit is on Wednesday. We have one presenter - K -12 Art Coordinator Luci Prawdzik. A four person team will be attending including SPED Director Debbie Connell, Social Studies Department Head Alicia Kersten, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator Shannon Gilligan and me. We're looking forward a great day of learning.

2. Mr. Pierantozzi provided a follow-up to Dr. McKay's report in that it is a District goal to ultimately provide support services to 100% of the students who need it. Many factors are being considered when determining need – MAP, DIBELS, MCAS, CPI, Student Growth, along with demographic data will all play a part. The number of students being served will be growing over time until, hopefully, all students are being assisted.
3. The Superintendent announced that an East Somerville Community meeting was held on November 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the Capuano Early Childhood Center. Work will begin this month with the installation of a fence around the property, selective demolition, hazmat remediation, and the removal of various items that were being stored in the building. The Superintendent and Ms. Durette provided information relative to the Board of Aldermen's approval of \$33,185,258.00 for the renovation of the school. \$15M will come from the MSBA, approximately \$10M from insurance and the balance from the City. The District is working with Jerry Boyle's office on this project. Mayor Curtatone announced that the City stuck to its commitment to rebuild this school. Teamwork got this done! This is the first

- time the MSBA has dealt with an issue like this where a building was destroyed by fire. As a result, new regulations have been adopted by the state. Issued thanks to Treasurer Cahill and MSBA Director Craven for their assistance. Alderman Connolly expressed the support of the Board of Aldermen, Mr. Niedergang announced that he knows that Ms. Bastardi will be thrilled with this news and Ms. Rossetti stated that to get a school built for this amount of money is quite a bargain!
4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that staff and community members can monitor the progress on the rebuilding via web pages on the City and School Department website. Also, there will be a dedicated East Somerville Community School project website established with a possible live cam feed.
  5. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the tree and wreath lot at Foss Park which benefits enrichment opportunities for the students from the Next Wave/Full Circle Schools.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business this evening.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

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

The following policy was presented this evening for *first reading*, as amended.

File: JICFB – Bullying in Schools

### **B. 2010-2011 School Calendar**

School Committee members reviewed the Draft 2011-2012 School Calendar. Discussion ensued and members agreed to review the calendar more closely and revisit at the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **C. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)**

<b>Dec. 7, 2010:</b>	Somerville High School Culinary Arts students to Southern New Hampshire University to visit the campus and tour the Culinary Department. Transportation via school van at no cost to students.
<b>Jan. 21, 2011</b>	Next Wave/Full Circle students to Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$10.00 per student.
<b>February 17, 2011</b>	Next Wave/Full Circle students to Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$10.00 per student.
<b>March 10-11, 2011</b>	Next Wave/Full Circle students to Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH <i>overnight</i> . Transportation via school van at a cost of \$10.00 per student.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **D. Acceptance of Donations (Recommended Action: Approval)**

- The Superintendent recommended acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of \$100.00, donated by Mr. Marcus Santos of Somerville to be used in the Somerville Public Schools Music Program.
- The Superintendent recommended acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of \$50.00, donated by Ms. Janine Fay of Somerville to be used in the Somerville Public Schools Music Program.
- The Superintendent recommended acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of 3,825 copies of Chop Chop Magazine to the students of the Somerville Public Schools, donated by Ms. Sally Sampson of Watertown. Estimated value equals \$15261.75.

- Mr. Sweeting, upon the recommendation of Ms. Durette and the Superintendent, recommended acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of an activity bus from CAAS Head Start to be used by our schools during and after school.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept all four donations, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. PTA at West Somerville will be held tomorrow from 2:45-4:45 p.m.
2. West Somerville School Improvement Council will meet on December 8, at 5:00 p.m.

### **Ms. Rafal**

1. Healey PTA tomorrow.
2. Winter Hill PTA on Thursday.
3. Healey School Unification groups have all been meeting and Ms. Rafal issued her thanks to all for their hard work during this process.

### **Alderman Connolly**

1. East Somerville Main Streets will hold a fundraiser at Casey's on Broadway on December 7, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. There will be raffles, etc. to benefit this great organization

### **Mr. Niedergang**

1. Announced that this is Inclusive Schools week, which is a time to celebrate and show appreciation to both Special Education and Regular Education teachers, etc. for their work to make sure all students experience equal educational opportunities.
2. Celebrated the life of the late Marie Siraco and provide a history of her life, activism, and dedication to service. Mr. Niedergang stated that Mrs. Siraco was a blessing to the world and one of his heroes.

### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Please support Next Wave/Full Circle by purchasing your holiday wreath or tree from their lot at Foss Park.
2. Last Thursday evening was the PTA Council's Holiday Party, held at the Healey School. A great evening, however, Mrs. Cardoso was disappointed not to see more Central Office and school-based administrators there. We need to show our support of this group.
3. The January fundraising calendars to benefit the Argenziano School are currently for sale for \$10.00 each. Please contact the school for more information.
4. On Wednesday, the Argenziano PTA will host a Cocoa and Crafts for grades K-3.
5. Mrs. Cardoso thanked her colleagues for their cooperation in providing input to her, according to the timeline, which allowed her to complete the Superintendent's Evaluation on time. This evaluation was provided to members this evening and will be the main event at the Personnel meeting on December 13, at Central Office at 7:00 p.m.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Matilda R. (Sarno) Gardner, mother of Lorraine Driver, retired Reading Specialist from the East Somerville Community School.
- Paul Welch, former Somerville Public Schools Food Service employee and brother of John Welch, Redirect Teacher at the Winter Hill Community School
- Thakur Singh, a teacher from Next Wave/Full Circle, passed away over the Thanksgiving weekend.
- Mr. Charles Killin, parent of Somerville Public Schools students
- Mrs. Marie Siraco, founding member of the Duhamel Educational Initiative and community advocate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m., by voice vote.

Patricia Marques  
Executive Secretary

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
School Committee**

**The Somerville Museum**

- WHEREAS,** *The Somerville Museum served as a strong and enthusiastic partner of the East Somerville Community School mural project funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Somerville Arts Council from Fall 2008 through June 2010, and*
- WHEREAS,** *The Somerville Museum voluntarily organized programming intended to actively engage East Somerville Community School students in learning about the history of the their neighborhood through presentations, storytelling and field trips, and*
- WHEREAS,** *The Somerville Museum voluntarily supported East Somerville Community School teachers in designing classroom activities to help students demonstrate their understanding of local history through the design of a mural that tells the history of the neighborhood of East Somerville, and*
- WHEREAS,** *The East Somerville Community School mural will be installed on the outside of the East Somerville Community School at 115 Pearl Street upon completion of its renovations as a public celebration of history, diversity and community, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to a representative of The Somerville Museum.*

**Somerville School Committee**

<i>Mark Niedergang, Chairperson</i>	<i>Adam Sweeting, Vice Chairperson</i>
<i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i>	<i>Maureen Bastardi</i>
<i>Mary Jo Rossetti</i>	<i>Paul Bockelman</i>
<i>Joseph Curtatone, Mayor</i>	<i>Christine Rafal</i>
<i>John Connolly, Aldermanic President</i>	
<i>Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools</i>	

**December 6, 2010**

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
School Committee**

**David Fichter**

- WHEREAS,** *Community Muralist David Fichter served as an Artist in Residence at the East Somerville Community School from Fall 2008 through June 2010 through the Creative Schools program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and with financial support from the Somerville Arts Council, and*
- WHEREAS,** *As Artist in Residence David Fichter collaborated with students, teachers and volunteers from The Somerville Museum to research the rich history of the neighborhood of the East Somerville Community School, and*
- WHEREAS,** *David Fichter, in partnership with East Somerville Community School teachers, co-facilitated standards-linked classroom and afterschool art activities that engaged students in demonstrating their understanding of local history, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Artist in Residence David Fichter translated East Somerville Community School students' artwork into a 20' x 80' mural called "Rising From the Ashes" that has been collaboratively painted by students, teachers and members of the community, and*
- WHEREAS,** *David Fichter donated significant professional and personal time beyond the length of his artist residency to finish the East Somerville Community School mural, and*
- WHEREAS** *David Fichter's two-year artist residency and subsequent volunteer work has resulted in the creation of a piece of public art to be installed on the outside of the East Somerville Community School upon completion of its renovations, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to Community Muralist David Fichter.*

**Somerville School Committee**

*Mark Niedergang, Chairperson*

*M. Teresa Cardoso*

*Mary Jo Rossetti*

*Joseph Curtatone, Mayor*

*John Connolly, Aldermanic President*

*Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools*

*Adam Sweeting, Vice Chairperson*

*Maureen Bastardi*

*Paul Bockelman*

*Christine Rafal*

**December 6, 2010**

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, December 20, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

7:01 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

**Members present:** Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Connolly, Mayor Curtatone (8:19pm).

**Members absent:** Ms. Bastardi

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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 asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: Present – 7 – Bockelman, Rafal, Cardoso, Rossetti, Connolly, Sweeting and Niedergang, and Absent – 2 –Bastardi and Curtatone. Mr. Niedergang stated that a quorum is present and the meeting may proceed. Mr. Niedergang announced that Ms. Bastardi is absent tonight as she recovers from recent surgery.

**II. AWARDS & CITATIONS**

- Presentation of a plaque to retiring member Aldermanic President, John Connolly – Mr. Sweeting assumed the Chair as Mr. Niedergang presented a plaque to Alderman Connolly and thanked him for his steadfast loyalty and concern and for being such a strong liaison between the School Committee and the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Connolly announced that it was an honor and a privilege to serve and it will be easy for him to recall his service to the School Committee each and every time he looks at his three daughters who were all educated in the Somerville Public Schools. Today's groundbreaking ceremony at the East Somerville Community School was especially memorable. Alderman Connolly also expressed his thanks to his wife and daughters for allowing him to serve for the past 25 years.
- Presentation of a gavel and plaque set to 2010 Chairperson, Mark Niedergang, Ward 5 – Mrs. Cardoso assumed the Chair as Mr. Sweeting stepped to the podium and presented a plaque and gavel to Mr. Niedergang. Mr. Sweeting stated that it was a pleasure to invite Mr. Mark Niedergang to the podium and to present him with this token of appreciation of his great work as 2010 Chair of the Somerville School Committee. Mr. Sweeting has learned a lot from Mr. Niedergang and announced that Mr. Niedergang is a source of information and ideas and that, during his tenure as Chair, some tough issues were presented - including the Reorganization of the Healey School and a very challenging budget development. Mr. Niedergang demonstrated fine leadership through it all. Mr. Niedergang expressed his appreciation and gratitude for this presentation and issued thanks to Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti and Ms. Bastardi, who, though their experience on the Committee, taught him quite a bit. He also thanked all other School Committee members for their support and wisdom throughout the past year. Mr. Niedergang expressed his appreciation to Alderman Connolly for always keeping the Board of Aldermen apprised of School Committee issues and for the positive sense of collegiality among the two groups. Mr. Niedergang also announced that it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Marques who, along with other Central Office staff, have been enormously helpful and supportive.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- December 6, 2010 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to approve the minutes of December 6, 2010.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Ms. Dea Dodi provided a report on recent activities at Somerville High School. Her report included the following:

- The Holiday Spirit is very evident at the high school, especially in the presentation of the Holiday Concert held last week.



- The student/staff Holiday show will be held on Thursday.
- Progress Reports will be sent home next week. This provides an opportunity for parents/guardians to become informed of their students' progress to date.
- School Improvement Plan presentations will be made by the School Improvement Council at the end of January.
- Winter Sports are well underway. Holiday sporting events include the Track Team's Holiday Meet, the Girls' Basketball Holiday Hoopfest, Boys' Basketball Holiday Tournament, as well as other track and hockey events. Ms. Dodi encouraged the public to attend these sporting events and show support and community spirit.
- Wished everyone happy and safe holidays!

## V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

### A. ***School Committee Meeting for Personnel:*** Mrs. Cardoso (December 13)

There was a School Committee Meeting for Personnel on Monday, December 13, 2010 @7:10 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Paul Bockelman, Christine Rafal, Mary Jo Rossetti, Mark Niedergang, and Adam Sweeting along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi. Dorothy Scally from the STA and Andy Metzger from the Somerville Journal were also in attendance.

There were three (3) Agenda items to be discussed that evening-the agenda items were taken out of order.

1. Superintendent's Evaluation: This was a very relaxed meeting between the School Committee and the superintendent where individual school committee members discussed the composite and made additional remarks and comments and the superintendent also had the opportunity to respond to the School Committee – it was a very positive atmosphere and there was also discussion about goals that still need to be met going forward.

There was one motion from the Committee:

**MOTION:** That the School Committee accepts the composite compiled by the Chair of Personnel of the Superintendent's evaluation.

2. Update on Retirements: There were no changes since the last time we met.

3. Update on Searches:

Supervisor of Attendance – Mr. David DiGuardia has been selected for this position and was hired on December 6, 2010. Mr. DiGuardia holds a current and valid Certification from the DESE as a Supervisor of Attendance, is familiar with the MGL regulations on Student Attendance, and has previous working experience in our school district. The Director of Student Services, Richie Melillo, has been providing Mr. DiGuardia with one-on-one training and Mr. Daly (our current substitute) will continue to provide coverage, through December 31<sup>st</sup>, in order to ensure that Mr. DiGuardia's transition into his new position is successful.

Paraprofessional – Substitutes (3) positions – These vacancies are a result of the mid-year resignation of one and retirement of two paraprofessionals. In accordance with the STA, Unit B, positions which become vacant mid-year must be posted as temporary substitutes. The same positions would then need to be posted as permanent positions at the end of the school year.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:00P.M.

As I mentioned last time, the Supt's evaluation process had a timeline and began back on October 25<sup>th</sup> and ended this past Monday at our Personnel Meeting. It was a 360 degree evaluation. It was based on our five district goals and three additional goals for the school committee evaluation. We received summaries from principals, supervisors and central office administrators as well as a self-evaluation from the Superintendent. The School Committee's overall rating of the Superintendent's Evaluation was 1.82 which was an excellent rating! For the SC this is one of our most important tasks and I would like to share with the public some of the positive comments made during the SC evaluation of the Supt:

GOAL #1: Achieve and sustain the highest levels of student achievement.

The Superintendent continues to focus the SPS on improving instruction and improving student achievement – this is always at the forefront of the Superintendent's mind. The Superintendent continues

to provide educational direction and leadership in close conjunction with his academic leadership team – his focus on “student learning” has percolated throughout the district. The after-school program grows stronger every year and is more aligned with the curriculum.

GOAL #2: Enhance and sustain safe and healthy leaning environments.

The Superintendent says that safety is his top priority and his actions confirm this. Last year the bullying issue became a serious concern and this year there is nothing but positive things to say about our District’s efforts and programs in this area. The Superintendent has had our District out in front and is addressing bullying in a comprehensive and serious way. Social competency programs are in place. Our schools work on health issues and nutrition continues to receive awards and national recognition.

GOAL #3: Maintain a highly effective workforce.

The Superintendent is an extremely hard worker and his example has been noted and followed. He delegates effectively and has pushed responsibility and authority down which clearly motivates administrators. He has made good choices in his hires and his administrative reorganizations have enabled the District to do more with less money. The SPS has done well in hiring teachers over the past few years. While the SPS workforce does not come close to reflecting the diversity of our student body, staff diversity has increased significantly over the past few years due to the Superintendent’s and the HR Director’s leadership.

GOAL #4: Maintain efficient and effective facilities and operations.

There are ways in which the Superintendent far exceeds expectations, just one example, trudging through floodwaters in flip-flops to rescue furniture and equipment. The Superintendent does an outstanding job staying on top of facilities issues. He did an extraordinary job getting the Capuano ready for the start of school after the flash flood. He has shown us that he will step up in a crisis and provide the leadership and drive to address it. He oversaw the move of the Central Office to 42 Cross Street and it went off without a hitch. He was able to get improvements made at Somerville High in time for the re-accreditation. The Superintendent is an outstanding financial manager; he has a superb financial team, and has done an excellent job of managing the recession.

GOAL #5: Monitor the ESCS reconstruction project and maintain the ESCS school community at temporary locations at the Edgerly and Cummings Schools.

It’s hard to imagine a Superintendent with greater skill and understanding of the reconstruction project. He has also been proactive/creative about assuring students’ continued access to the Unidos Program in the meantime. The Superintendent has done everything possible to move the City’s application for funding for a new ESCS forward with the Mass. School Building Authority. He has been deeply involved in a positive way with the architects and City staff responsible for the project. He deserves some of the credit for the positive outcome of our application to the MSBA. The Superintendent continues to support the ESCS students and staff at the Cummings and the Edgerly. Great job coordinating a complicated effort without compromising learning.

GOAL #6: Relationship with the School Committee (School Committee Only).

The Superintendent maintains a positive, professional relationship with the School Committee and its members. He responds quickly to questions and concerns and provides information when it is sought. He consults appropriately with SC members, sometimes even more than he is required to, and there is usually a lot of constructive back-and-forth. He keeps the SC extremely well-informed about what is going on in the District; there are no surprises. He maintains a close working relationship with key figures such as the Mayor and the Chair.

GOAL #7: Long Range Goals.

The Long Range Goals remain on the Superintendent’s horizon even if financial realities preclude realizing all of them. The School Committee established Long Range Goals through a superb group goal-setting exercise. The Superintendent has been diligent in maintaining attention on these goals. We have made progress on many of them and have less progress on others, usually due to lack of funding or other, external forces. Often times, long range goals get placed on a shelf and ignored. The Superintendent has used these goals to help establish clear values for the District. He has an eye on the future, but his feet solidly on the ground.

GOAL #8: Educational Leadership (School Committee Only).

The Superintendent has built a capable central office team and has successfully modeled a collaborative, working style. He is committed to developing our District's leaders. He has worked effectively with the principals. He and his leadership team are focused on the most important thing; teaching and learning. He sets a consistently positive tone and expresses appreciation for the work of the staff. He holds out the goal of continuous improvement in a positive way. He has made continuous improvement in the SPS as an organization through reorganizations. He has been a tremendously capable manager. He recognizes where his strong employees are and stays out of their way so they can do their jobs. He also recognizes when an employee needs support or guidance and makes himself available to the employee.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in this evaluation process – our principals, supervisors, central office administrators, my school committee colleagues – the Superintendent and last but of course not least – Patti Marques – she is always there for this and all of the task we need done throughout the year!

**B. *Educational Programs and Instruction:*** Mr. Bockelman (December 16)

The Educational Program and Instruction Subcommittee met on December 16, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Paul Bockelman and Christine Rafal. Others present: Adam Sweeting, Mark Niedergang, Mary Jo Rossetti. Staff present: Vince McKay, Tony Pierantozzi, Tony Ciccariello, Joe Burke, Jason DeFalco, Debbie Connell and approximately 20 members of the public. Agenda items discussed included the following:

1. Somerville High School Program of Studies changes:  
Housemaster Joe Burke and Headmaster Tony Ciccariello presented eight modifications to the current high school Program of Study. The Committee approved seven of the eight, recommending that the eighth course – a year-long journalism workshop – be reviewed by the full Curriculum Committee before it is re-presented to the Subcommittee.
  - The elimination of the temporary EPP tutorial option as it is no longer necessary.
  - The addition of a semester "Current Events" course to the Social Studies department.
  - The addition of a No Credit grade for the Redirect program.
  - The approval of a revised Exploratory Program that will last a full year and incorporate all 14 shops.
  - The incorporation of an entrepreneurship program required of all Seniors in Career and Technical Education, to be a part of the existing shop.
  - The addition of a semester course, "Shape-Up Nutrition", to the Family/Consumer Science department.
  - The replacement of the Physical Education course, "Team Sports and Activities" with two courses; "Team Sports and Activities" (for beginners), and "Competitive Sports Activities" (for more advanced students).

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Program of Studies, as presented, except for the Journalism Class.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. Healey-Choice Unification progress report.

Principal DeFalco presented an update on the progress made in studying how to unify the various programs in the Healey School, including the Choice Program.

A large group of people have been involved in this exciting process. The parents/guardians, professional staff, and, yes, students are involved in re-inventing this school! It is a tremendous effort being led by the principal, Jay DeFalco, and consultant Mariann Nogrady with special assistance from numerous teacher and parent leaders.

Last week, we heard a presentation from parent Will Thalmeyer who had developed a 'wiki' as a way to catalog information to ensure the process is transparent and to provide a forum for group discussions to help reach out to people who may not be able to attend meetings and to chronicle discussions.

The Committee has developed a set of four core values after receiving the results of a survey of 444 constituents, which included parents, teachers and others. These Core Values are:

- A commitment to a strong academic foundation,
- Respect for and acceptance of human differences,
- Love of learning that develops self-direction and independence,
- A commitment to creativity

The five working groups, which are overseen by the School Improvement Council are focused on the following:

- School vision and mission,
- Teaching and learning,
- Parent, staff, student partnership and leadership,
- Culture, community and climate,
- School structures and operations

Each of these groups has its own set of parent and teacher leaders. Many, many people are involved in all of these groups and are working together to develop recommendations for a new Unified Healey School.

The targets for January, which was the deadline set by the School Committee at the beginning of this process are to come up with things that are innovative or new at the Healey; improvements to continue next year; pass-throughs, which will, hopefully, continue next year with minor improvements; and things that can be put off and be looked at later which are not necessarily important to look at this year.

Mr. Niedergang expressed concern that the Healey won't have a mission to express during the open house period for schools. Those present were aware of the concern and could only state that the Healey is a work in progress, but that parents who wanted to have a hand in building a school that would meet the needs of their children. It is an exciting process...

Mr. DeFalco said that Tufts University had recently expanded its involvement in the restructuring by adding a second person to the school improvement council, a healthy sign of commitment from the university.

3. Next. Ms. Connell reported on recent developments in our process of including special education students into the regular education classrooms. She was pleased to report that the trend toward inclusion, a goal of the School Committee, was upward in all schools. The goal is to provide special education students, or students with IEPs with as many opportunities for being included in regular education classrooms – with or without support – as possible. Evidence indicates that ALL students in these classrooms benefit from the inclusion of special education students. One personal anecdote is that my daughter has a one-period internship in which she sometimes works with a student on Social Studies. She has found this very satisfying and we are told the student has had an excellent response to this peer-to-peer work.

4. We then reviewed six In Service Courses, which we voted to approve:

MOVED: approve the following six in-service courses:

Given the late hour, we deferred discussion on the other items on the agenda.  
The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

### ***C. 2011 School Committee Caucus***

Mr. Niedergang reported on the 2011 Caucus for Chair and Vice Chair of the School Committee for 2011. Mr. Sweeting has been elected as Chair and Mr. Bockelman has been elected as Vice Chair. This will be formalized at the Organizational Meeting on January 3.

## **VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi provided a report on Personnel issues in the District. He was saddened to report the death of a beloved teacher from the Next Wave/Full Circle School, Thakur Singh. Mr. Pierantozzi attended Mr. Singh's services and shared some of the stories about Mr. Singh that family and friends shared at the services. Mr. Pierantozzi also announced the retirements of Joan Taddia, a paraprofessional from the Capuano School after 18 years, Richard Johnston, a teacher from Somerville High School, and Ann Burgholzer, also a

paraprofessional from the Capuano School after 9 years of service. Mr. Pierantozzi wished these retirees a happy, healthy and long retirement.

**B. DISTRICT REPORT**

1. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that school vacation will begin at noon on December 23 and that school will be back in session on January 3. Mr. Pierantozzi wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and informed the audience that the Central Office and others will be open for regular business during the vacation week.
2. Vacation Camp will be held at the Kennedy School.
3. On December 9, the Elementary Winter Concert was held and on December 16, the High School concert was held. These concerts are always filled with enthusiasm and the quality of the music improves every year. We have a talented student body who are gifted in music and art, as well as in other areas. Individual schools will also have their own concerts and information on these school-specific concerts may be found on our website.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report:

Dr. McKay reported on the following:

- Race to the Top and the six areas of concentration, which are:
    1. Teacher and principal effectiveness
    2. Effective teachers and leaders
    3. Using data to inform instruction
    4. Increased college and career readiness
    5. State-wide teaching and learning system
    6. Turning around the lowest performing schools
  - A report on the Common Core curriculum, including a report on his attendance at a Curriculum Summit, presented by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - A discussion of the history of the Common Core curriculum in Massachusetts and the differences between this Core Curriculum and the current curriculum.
4. Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Family engagement event, Communicating across Cultures, which was held on December 14, in the Edgerly gym. This was the first of its kind event and was a great event.
  5. The Superintendent announced that the District's Bullying Plan has been submitted and administrative procedures are forthcoming.
  6. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that parents and guardians of high school seniors attended a Financial Aid night on December 7. Another financial aid event will be held in January. For more information, call 617-625-6600, ext. 6100.
  7. Mr. Pierantozzi provided a facilities update which included the demolition of Saint Ann's Parish Hall which will be done over the December break and a great groundbreaking ceremony to kickoff the renovation of the East Somerville Community School.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual**

The following policy was presented this evening for *second reading*, as amended.

File: JICFB – Bullying in Schools

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to approve the policy for inclusion in our Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**B. 2011-2012 School Calendar**

The 2011-2012 School Calendar was presented, again, this evening for School Committee review and approval.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. 2011 School Committee Regular Meeting Schedule**

A schedule of Regular School Committee meetings for 2011 was provided for School Committee members' information.

### **B. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)**

**Mar. 25-28, 2011:** Somerville High School Varsity Cheerleaders to Orlando, Florida compete in a National Competition. Transportation via plane at a cost of \$700.00 per student.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the field trip. The motion was approved via voice vote.

**Jan. 7-8, 2011:** Somerville High School boys and girls track to Dartmouth, NH, overnight to compete in the Dartmouth Relays. Transportation via van at no cost to students.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal to approve the field trip. The motion was approved via voice vote.

*Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:19 p.m.*

### **C. Somerville High School Certificate of Achievement**

- Anthony Michael Manchester

The Superintendent reported that this student has met all the requirements for a Certificate of Achievement while attending the Lighthouse School.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Certificate of Achievement.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **D. MASC**

Ms. Rossetti provided a report from the December 8<sup>th</sup> MASC Board of Directors Meeting held in Marlboro. Ms. Rossetti's report included the following:

- Attendance at the Joint MASS/MASC conference in November far exceeded expectations.
- A reminder to members to mail in their membership surveys to the MASC in the envelope provided.
- The MASC is currently conducting searches for nine Superintendents across the state for FY2011.
- A report on various meetings regarding Race to the Top and assessment and evaluation taskforces.
- The announcement that MASC Division IX, of which Somerville is a member, is initiating a series of Webinars this year so that more members may participate in the meetings. This is a Pilot program for the MASC.
- Ms. Rossetti was in touch with Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Mary Bourque from the Chelsea Public Schools concerning the Mobility and Transiency Resolution being considered by the NSBA. Some edits were suggested and approved by Tony and Mary and the resolution, hopefully, will now move forward.

### **E. Dates to Remember**

Mr. Niedergang announced some upcoming event dates for the School Committee's Information:

#### **Winter Open Houses**

January 19, 20 and 21 – Elementary Schools

February 8 and 9 – Somerville High School

#### **School Improvement Plan presentations**

Tuesday, January 25 – Winter Hill and Somerville High at Somerville High

Thursday, January 27 – Capuano, Healey and Next Wave/Full Circle at Capuano

Tuesday, February 1 – Argenziano and East Somerville at Argenziano

Thursday, February 3 – Kennedy, Brown and West Somerville at West Somerville

## **IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to colleagues, staff, students and families
2. Thank you to my colleagues for electing me Chair for next year.
3. Requested that School Committee members send him their preferences for Subcommittees this week so that he can make committee assignments.
4. Spoke about the East Somerville Community School and issued many thank yous to elected officials, etc. Spoke of the children's semi-demolition at the groundbreaking today and the happiness at the project finally moving forward. Mr. Sweeting is very happy to see this day.

### **Mayor Curtatone**

1. Apologized for his tardiness this evening.
2. Wished everyone great holidays – Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Hanukah!
3. Very happy that the East Somerville is on its way. Thanked the School Committee for their support and work during the entire process.

### **Ms. Rossetti**

1. Thanked Mr. Niedergang for his service as Chair during this past year. She is looking forward to our new leadership.
2. Issued best wishes for the holidays.
3. Reminded audience that our police officers and firefighters are all working while we are enjoying our holidays. She will take the time to visit her local fire station and bring a treat and let the firefighters know that she appreciates their work year-round to keep us safe.
4. Reported that Steve DeCarlo from the City's Communications Department has announced that School Committee meetings will now be streaming live on our website.

### **Alderman Connolly**

1. Praised our student athletes for a great fall season. Congratulated Somerville High School student, Homero Morais, for being named an All Scholastic athlete for the third year in a row.
2. Announced that it has been a joy to serve with the School Committee.
3. Regarding the East Somerville Community School, Mrs. Cardoso announced that, "we got it right by investing in our young people!"

### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Issued thanks to Mr. Niedergang and Mr. Sweeting for their leadership during the last year.
2. Congratulated Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Bockelman on their election to Chair and Vice Chair.
3. Thanked staff, students, and families for a great 2010.
4. Happy Hanukah and Merry Christmas and have a safe and happy new year!
5. Sent a special hello to all of our friends who have been struck with illness and wished them a speedy recovery and health and happiness in 2011.

### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Thanked Mr. Niedergang and Mr. Sweeting for their leadership.
2. Thanked the Committee for electing him as Vice Chair.
3. Announced how great it was to see Ms. Bastardi looking so well at the East Somerville groundbreaking ceremony. Can't wait to have her back with us. He looks forward to the ribbon cutting ceremony!
4. Wished all of our families a happy, peaceful and restful holiday season!

### **Ms. Rafal**

1. Reported on how wonderful the dictionary donation ceremony at the Winter Hill was last week.
2. Thanked everyone for their service and support to her during this year.
3. Wished everyone a happy holiday season!

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Eileen Houghton Phillips, sister of Kathleen Houghton, Special Education Department, and retired teacher Rita Houghton and Aunt of former School Committee member, Megan Foster and Diana Foster, Paraprofessional at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.
- Brenda Risi, parent of Somerville Public Schools students and former PTA treasurer at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m., by voice vote. Patricia Marques, Executive Secretary