

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, January 9, 2012 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 6 –Rafal, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, and Bockelman and Absent – 3 – Taylor, Bastardi and Curtatone.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 5, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2011 Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- December 19, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2011 Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi provided the following report regarding happenings at Somerville High School:

Students are back to school and working hard after the winter break.

1. Midterm examinations will be from 1/24/12 – 1/26/12
2. Class Advisors from the Class of 2013 and the Class of 2014 are planning a combined Junior Prom/Sophomore Semiformal which will be held in the Somerville High School gym in an effort to cut costs associated with the event. Students will decorate the gym and are looking forward to a great time.
3. The Green Club recently won a competition which awarded them \$1,000 that they will use on a project to increase recycling in the school cafeteria.
4. The Junior Statesmen of America Club will attend the Winter Congress in Washington, DC in early February. Ms. Rossetti will be in Washington, DC those same dates and will try to make arrangements to see these students while they are both there.
5. The Trivia Club is sending students to represent the high school on a Cable TV trivia program
6. Preparations for Science Fair are ongoing – judging of projects will take place in early February
7. Preparations are also being made for a visit by students from Gaeta, Italy – one of our Sister Cities. Currently host families are being sought for these visiting students.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Finance & Facilities – Jan. 3 (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti reported on the Finance & Facilities Meeting of January 3rd. Her report included: The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on January 3, 2012 in the Conference Room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette. Also in attendance were a representative from the Somerville Teachers Association and a reporter from the Somerville Patch. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. ESCS Update – Phil Tuminelli, his staff and the project's architects were present and will be present at a community meeting regarding the reconstruction of the East Somerville Community School on January 10 at the Capuano Early Childhood Center. Mr. Sweeting requested more regularly scheduled updates to the School Committee. It was also discussed that the East Somerville Community School Advisory Committee should be meeting regularly. Monthly reports and bi-monthly meetings were discussed.

2. School Vans and Activity Buses – Ms. Durette provided a report on the status of our school vehicles – vans, etc. After a period of questions and answers, it was decided to refer the matter to the Capital Improvement Plan.
3. FY12 Expenditure report – Reviewed expenditures to date. The Special Education line item shows a 2% deficit. Last year at this time it reflected a 5% balance. The Committee will discuss this line item monthly.
4. FY12 Bill Roll – Bill rolls were reviewed and the Ms. Rossetti made the following motion:

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to approve the FY12 bill rolls as presented.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

5. Other – Discussion took place regarding the Somerville High School Concourse No Parking Zone follow-up as well as parking near the Vocational Wing. Included in the Capital Improvement Plan was the installation of bollards around all of our schools. The bollards were installed around the West Somerville last week and installation at schools that have not been done will continue in the spring.

Mr. Bockelman asked for an update on the commemorative brick sales and installation at Somerville High School. The Superintendent communicated with the person heading up this project and reported that the project was moving forward. The School Committee has requested to be updated regularly on this project.

Ms. Rossetti spoke regarding the production of a Performance Report for the Somerville Public Schools similar to Needham's. Ms. Durette has communicated with someone from Needham and will be forwarding a sample document from Springfield for the School Committee's review. Ms. Rossetti would like an update on the status of this document production at each meeting and hopes that this type of document will be produced in Somerville this year.

Ms. Rossetti reminded members that discounted registration rates are available for the NSBA Conference being held in Boston in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

1. Report of Executive Session – January 9 (Mr. Bockelman)

Ms. Rossetti assumed the Chair and Mr. Bockelman reported on an Executive Session that took place prior to this evening's Regular Meeting.

In Executive Session of the School Committee this evening, two contracts were approved.

The first – A memorandum of agreement between the Somerville School Committee and the Somerville Teachers Association, Unit A for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Commencing September 1, 2011 and concluding August 31, 2012. This is a one-year contract which provides a salary increase of 2.5%, estimated to cost \$770,000 effective September 1, 2011. The agreement also provides a reduction in early release days from 15 to 13, effective September 1, 2012. It also provides for a number of Joint Study Committees being formed such as a Joint Committee to analyze and develop a new evaluation instrument and procedure for all bargaining unit members to conform to new state regulations; a Joint Committee to study a new schedule for Somerville High School to accommodate advisory periods; and a Joint Committee to develop needs assessment for implementation plus several other provisions.

The second – A memorandum of agreement between the Somerville School Committee and the Somerville Teachers Association, Paraprofessionals Unit for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement effective September 1, 2010 and concluding August 31, 2013. The agreement will provide salary increases over the three years of the agreement of 1.5% starting September 1, 2010, 2.5% starting September 1, 2011, and 2% starting September 1, 2012. The total, three-year cost of this contract is \$130,000. The agreement also provides more flexibility in scheduling and increased professional development for paraprofessionals among other items.

Mr. Bockelman said he is proud of these agreements which recognize sincere efforts by both the School Committee and the Teachers Association to reach agreements that are fair and reasonable. They also recognize that the Somerville Teachers Association and its bargaining units have been true partners as we work toward educating our students under ever increasing financial constraints. We thank them for this invaluable partnership.

Somerville Teachers Association President Jackie Lawrence thanked the School Committee and commented that she is pleased to have active contracts again, particularly in these challenging and exciting times.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the two resignations for the purpose of retirements listed on tonight's Personnel Report. First is Patrick Smith, teacher in the CVTE Program at Somerville High School after 9.5 years of service. Second is David Willey, Principal of Next Wave/Full Circle after 35 years of service. The Superintendent provided a historical background of Mr. Willey's service in the Somerville Public Schools and wished both men a happy and healthy retirement.

B. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi wished everyone a Happy New Year and a great 2012. This time of year is an important one as it provides lots of uninterrupted days for academics. Mr. Pierantozzi reminded the audience that tutoring is available for all students and that second quarter reports cards will be coming home soon. If parents/guardians have questions or concerns regarding their student's performance they should contact the guidance counselor, counselor educator, teacher, principal or assistant principal for assistance.

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:

1. Tomorrow, January 10th, Tufts University is busing every 4th and 5th grader in the District to Cohen Auditorium for a performance of their Wind Ensemble. This is a fantastic opportunity for almost 500 of our students to be exposed to a first class musical performance. Thanks to Barbara Rubel and the staff at University Relations for their support and logistical expertise in making this happen. Thanks also to our K-12 Music Supervisor Rick Saunders for organizing the event. Dr. McKay looks forward to joining students at the 9:15 show.
 2. Last month, we met with representatives from El Sistema to discuss the creation of an intensive after school music ensemble program for Somerville elementary students. El Sistema is a unique program designed to effect social change and nurture promising futures for underserved communities through intensive, ensemble-focused music education. El Sistema's philosophy is based on the idea of music as a vehicle for social change: that the pursuit of musical excellence teaches students to strive for quality in all areas of their lives. Over the course of 2011, the East Somerville Community School and Conservatory Lab collaborated with From the Top to combine musicians from both schools in an extended rehearsal process, culminating in a performance this past November. Dr. McKay is working with Mr. Saunders to continue program development and the District is very interested in pursuing this program and feel it's a great fit for our city. An Advisory Group is being developed and volunteers are being sought to serve with the group.
 3. Provided a brief preview of items for tomorrow evening's Ed. Programs Subcommittee meeting:
 - a. Report by Sarah Davila and her team on ELL at Somerville High School
 - b. E-portfolio presentation
 - c. Balanced Literacy update
- The Superintendent reported on a series of enrichment activities that have taken place or will take place across the District. These include:
 - ✓ Grade three students from the Argenziano visiting the Museum of Science on January 4, to student the Solar System.
 - ✓ Grade 6 from the East Somerville Community School visiting the Museum of Fine Arts on January 5.
 - ✓ Training on Bullying Prevention on Wednesday, January 4 in the Somerville High School Auditorium, sponsored by the Middlesex Partnership for Youth.
 - ✓ Attendance of 17 High School students at a leadership conference sponsored by MPY at Nashoba Valley Technical High School
 - There will be an East Somerville Community School Community meeting tomorrow, January 10, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for her report regarding a couple of grants. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

1. Ms. Durette provided a brief update on the FY13 budget process and reported that the District is planning on a level-funded budget, but will be required to add funds to maintain some services. She is gathering information now and will have a report ready for the February 9th Finance & Facilities meeting. As of today, increases will need to be made for Special Education and Athletics, based on current projections.
 2. Reported on a meeting with the Capital Projects Office staff regarding furniture, fixtures and equipment purchases for the new East Somerville Community School and how best to move forward with these purchases.
 3. Reported on ARRA second quarter reporting which was submitted on December 22, 2011.
- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that there will be a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Somerville Theater in Davis Square on Monday, January 16, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Art work and essays from District students will be featured.
 - Mr. Pierantozzi announced the following events being sponsored by the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative:
 - The Middle School Years: How Does a Parent Deal with the Changes?
 - Food Safety
 - Somerville Family Music Festival
 - Mr. Pierantozzi also announced that the Brian Higgins Trivia Night will be held on March 22, at 6:00 p.m. in Cousens Gym at Tufts University.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policies are presented this evening for second reading:

- File: JJIF Athletic Concussion Policy
- File: JJIF-R Athletic Concussion Regulations
- File: JRC Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to include File: JJIF - Athletic Concussion Policy, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to include File: JJIF-R - Athletic Concussion Regulations, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to include File: JRC - Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. School Committee Community Forums:

Ms. Rossetti spoke about the potential School Committee Community Forums and reported that her constituents are happy to hear about them. Mr. Bockelman reported that these forums, along with other ways to engage the public, will be discussed at the School Committee Retreat and, hopefully, the date of the retreat will be determined very soon.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trips (Recommended action approval)

January 14, 2012

Somerville High School Boys and Girls Track Athletes to Providence, RI to compete in the East Coast Championship Track Meet. Transportation via school van at no cost to students.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

January 29, 2012

Somerville High School Outdoors Club to Mount Sunapee, NH for skiing and snowboarding. Transportation via school van. Cost to students is \$40-\$66.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the field trip. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Acceptance of Donations (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of \$500.00 to the Somerville High School Student Activities Fund from Pearson Learning in appreciation for use of the High School for MTEL testing in September and November 2011.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation, with gratitude. The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of \$1381.00 from the Ninety-Nine Restaurant in Somerville. These funds were raised through a fundraiser held on December 6, 2011 at the Somerville Restaurant.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the donation, with gratitude. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rossetti extended her thanks to Ms. Eileen Costa from the City's Communications Department for her involvement with this donation.

C. School Committee Goals for 2012-2013 (Mr. Niedergang)

Mr. Niedergang shared his draft of potential School Committee goals for the next couple of years with the other members of the School Committee and encouraged all members to work together to develop a set of goals. Mr. Niedergang's comments included the following:

- Commended Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Bockelman and the work of the Progressive Together for Somerville group
- During this recent Charter School application process, many parents and guardians have provided both praise and criticism of our schools. There was dissatisfaction and frustration from some parents and many parents and guardians were energized to offer input regarding the District. Mr. Niedergang thinks the School Committee should begin working to engage parents and guardians – who are a great and valuable free resource!
- Establish District Goals that aren't vague and unexciting
- Mr. Niedergang has provided his thoughts to School Committee members this evening.
- Mr. Niedergang looks forward to the School Committee and Superintendent's comments and ideas
- The January 18th Long Range Planning meeting regarding Innovation Schools must be viewed with urgency if we are to consider this option during the FY13 Budget development process
- A suggestion that a public comment period be included on our agendas
- Since our Long Range Goals were first established in 2007, under the leadership of Roberta Bauer and Charlene Harris, significant progress has been made on most goals.
- A new set of goals is needed soon and should be made a priority
- Start thinking in Spring for early 2013

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rafal

1. Ms. Rafal is seeking success stories to share as part of a fundraising effort through the Duhamel Education Initiative. Looking for inspirational stories of students who turned their school life around through assistance they received from Duhamel. The hope is to, in turn, encourage members of Ms. Rafal's church to make a donation to the Duhamel group.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Announced that it's good to be sitting around the horseshoe again. Issued a reminder that Open Houses take place next week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in all our elementary schools. Come see what we're all about. Although many people see these Open

Houses as focused on Kindergarten, they are really an opportunity for parents/guardians of all grades to get a sense of our schools/programs. Parents and guardians are invited to start their days with coffee at the Parent Information Center and then venture out to tour schools.

2. In the email newsletter, What's Happening in the Somerville Public Schools, is a listing of upcoming School Council meetings across the District. Mr. Sweeting encouraged audience members to attend these meetings where interesting and dynamic discussions of the future of the Somerville Public Schools take place. This is a great opportunity to become part of the discussion.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Welcomed Mr. Sweeting back to the horseshoe and thanked him for a great year as Chair. Mrs. Cardoso also congratulated Mr. Bockelman and Ms. Rossetti for being elected Chair and Vice Chair.
2. Announced that on January 12, the PTA Council's Holiday Party will take place at the West Somerville Neighborhood School beginning at 6:30.

Ms. Rossetti

1. The School Committee will meet for Long Range Planning on January 18, at 7:00 p.m. On the agenda will be a discussion regarding Innovation Schools and will feature Mr. Dan French Executive Director of the Center for Collaborative Education, and Dr. Paul Dakin, Superintendent of the Revere Public Schools. Dr. Dakin will provide first-hand knowledge of the Innovation School process as Revere currently has an innovation school in the district. This is a great opportunity for community members to come and hard first-hand about the process.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Thanked Mr. Sweeting for his stewardship last year; he did a phenomenal job!

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Mary J. (Maccini) Guarnieri, mother-in-law of Tony Ciccariello, Headmaster at Somerville High School
- Linda A. Vilaine, wife of Joe Vilaine, retired Guidance Counselor and Coach from Somerville High School.
- Frank R. Zonghetti, husband of Maureen Zonghetti, retired teacher from the Lincoln Park Community School
- Margaret Ryan, mother of James Ryan, retired custodian from Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, February 6, 2012 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso and Mayor Curtatone (7:25 p.m.)

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 6 –Rafal, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, and Bockelman and Absent – 3 – Taylor, Rossetti and Curtatone. Mr. Bockelman announced that Ms. Rossetti is away on MASC business and Alderman Taylor is not feeling well this evening.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 23, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi provided the following information about events at Somerville High School:

- Mid-term testing has ended and the third quarter has just begun.
- The Junior Statesmen of America (JSA) were in Washington, DC for the Annual Winter Congress. Ms. Dodi reported that it was a great experience with wonderful field trips and speakers.
- Today was the first session of the SAT preparation course. This course runs for eight weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- The Green Club has begun increased recycling in the cafeteria.
- Spring sports signups have begun and competition will begin in March.
- The Multicultural Fair will be held in March. This is a great day of sharing cultures, ethnic food and dancing.

IV. REPORT/MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

The Personnel Subcommittee met on Monday, January 30, 2012 @6:00 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were School Committee Members Adam Sweeting, Maureen Bastardi, Mary Jo Rossetti, Mark Niedergang and Paul Bockelman along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi and Human Resources Administrator Melissa DeResendes. Also in attendance was Dorothy Scally from the STA.

There were six (6) Agenda Items to be discussed:

1. Retirement Notices for SY 2012: an update on retirement notices to date was provided.
2. Resignation Notices for SY 2012: an update on resignation notices to date was provided.
3. Job Descriptions:
 - Dental Assistant Program Instructor Start-Up Program

This is a new position for the new Dental program at the Vocational School. After an extensive review of the medical careers programs by Tufts University and Tisch College, Dental Assisting is one of the areas of recommendation. Through the Regional Workforce Investment Board, data shows 62-dental affiliates in the City of Somerville. Tufts University has made a large donation of equipment to get this program up and running and at this time we need to hire the individual to start up the program so a job description needed to be created. The Committee reviewed the job description, had questions and discussion and a motion was unanimously approved by the Subcommittee as follows:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve Dental Assistant Program Instructor (Start Up Program) job description.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

- CAD/Pre-Engineering Teacher

This job description reflects a revision with the combination of CAD (computer assisted design) and Pre-Engineering elements. As less and less CAD only jobs become available, research of the job market shows that CAD is a part of many engineering programs. Pre-engineering will still have a CAD element, but this will articulate with pre-engineering in electrical, carpentry and machine shops. Our one dimensional Autodesk = CAD software will change to Solidworks that includes CAD and a pre-engineering focus. 95% of our CAD students over the past 5 years have gone on to pre-engineering schools. Only a few schools offer CAD only. This will enable our CTE program to eventually articulate with larger engineering colleges. The Committee reviewed the job description, had questions and discussion and a motion was unanimously approved by the Subcommittee as follows:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve CAD/Pre-Engineering Teacher job description.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

- UTILITY AIDES

Two Utility Aides are needed at Somerville High School and one Utility Aide is needed at the Kennedy School for the remainder of the 2011/2012 school year.

Though this is a financial issue and was referred to the Finance Committee for funding we found that we did not have job descriptions for these positions. The Committee reviewed the job descriptions, had questions and discussion and motions were unanimously approved by the Subcommittee as follows:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the Elementary Utility Aide job description.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

And

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve Somerville High School Utility Aide job description.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

4. Temporary Assistant Principal at Healey Search Update:

The Superintendent told us that he was thrilled to report that the Assistant Principal for the Healey had been hired and would begin next week. Mrs. Cardoso deferred to Mr. Pierantozzi for further information on this hire.

Mr. Pierantozzi thanked Mrs. Cardoso and announced that Mr. Ian Charles has been hired as the temporary Assistant Principal at the Healey School and began working on Thursday, February 2nd. Mr. Pierantozzi extended his thanks to Ms. Betsy Holland for agreeing to come back from her retirement to help us out at the Healey. Mr. Charles' position is in effect until June 30. Mr. Charles is a Doctoral candidate at Northeastern University. His experience includes work in the state of Florida and in the Cambridge Public Schools. Mr. Charles will attend the School Committee meeting on February 27, so that Mr. Pierantozzi may introduce him to the School Committee and community.

5. Principals Search Update for Healey, Winter Hill, SHS & Next Wave/FC:

Both the Superintendent and Ms. DeResendes gave us updates on the searches as of the date of this meeting.

Everything was going according to the timelines that were approved by the School Committee. We were given copies of Advertisements.

The application deadlines for interview committee applicants was February 1st and the next step is the selection process for the Interview Screening Teams.

NW/FC Staff Focus Groups – were meeting on Feb. 1 and the Parent/Guardian/School Council Groups were also meeting on Feb. 1 and then they will also move onto the step in the search selection process.

As of the date of the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting – January 30th

Central Office had received the following applications for the Principal Searches:

Healey	23
Winter Hill	23
SHS	16
NW/FC	17

With 5 insiders applying.

6. Vacancies Update: an update on vacancies to date was provided.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28th at 6:00 PM at Central Administration.

B. Rules Management – Jan. 30 (Mr. Niedergang)

Mr. Niedergang reported on the Rules Management Subcommittee held on January 30, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rossetti. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and one audience member.

1. File: EFD Wellness Policy - recess/lunch –an update was provided by the Superintendent of lunch schedules at our elementary schools which went into effect on January 3rd. Student in grades K-4 have been provided with more time to eat their lunch. Principals will monitor this revised schedule and Mr. Pierantozzi will periodically provide updates.
2. File: JCA Student Assignment Plan – PreK – Mr. Niedergang reported that he feels our student assignment plan should be based on socioeconomics rather than race and a rough outline of such a plan has been drafted. Discussion ensued relative to the implementation of the new plan. The Subcommittee tabled this item for the time being.
3. File: IJNDD Social Networking Policy – the Subcommittee reviewed a revised draft of the proposed policy and requested that the Superintendent solicit feedback from some teachers and then bring this policy back to Rules for further consideration.
4. File: BHE Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee members – a draft policy was reviewed and the Subcommittee has requested that our attorney, Ms. Hollender, review this draft policy and provide feedback prior to the Committee taking further action.
5. File: DJ School Committee member signature on purchase orders – The Subcommittee reviewed this policy and, after discussion, agreed that the policy should remain as is.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mrs. Cardoso assumed the Chair so that Mr. Bockelman could make two reports.

C. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities – Jan. 31 (Mr. Bockelman)

1. Supplemental Appropriations to FY12 Budget

Mr. Bockelman provided a brief report on the School Committee for Finance and Facilities of January 31, in Ms. Rossetti's absence. Mr. Bockelman announced that collective bargaining agreements had been settled with the STA, Unit A Teachers and Paraprofessionals and now funding was being sought to implement the salary adjustments. The following motion was approved unanimously at the January 31 meeting and he is reporting this action at this full meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Maureen Bastardi, seconded by Adam Sweeting, to request the Mayor to submit a Supplement Appropriation to the Board of Aldermen for the Somerville Public Schools FY2012 Budget of \$931,762 to fund the salary increases for the settlement of various collective bargaining agreements increasing the FY2012 budget of the Somerville Public Schools from \$49,489,422 to \$50,421,184.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of YES – 7 – Rafal, Sweeting, Bastardi, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti and Bockelman and ABSENT – 2 – Taylor and Curtatone.

D. School Improvement Plan Presentations – (Mr. Bockelman)

- January 24, 2012 Somerville High School and Winter Hill Community School
- January 26, 2012 Argenziano and Healey Schools
- January 31, 2012 West Somerville Neighborhood, Brown and Kennedy Schools
- February 2, 2012 Capuano Early Childhood Center, Next Wave/Full Circle and East Somerville Community School

Mr. Bockelman reported that at the School Improvement Plan meeting on February 2, 2012, the following motion was passed unanimously: To accept all 2012 School Improvement Plans as presented to the School Committee (pending funding).

Mr. Bockelman stated that these presentations were a major time commitment for everyone involved but some of the most important time spent. Presentations included information on data collected, school and program needs, and the great things happening at all of our schools. Every school had its own style of presenting. Mr. Bockelman thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that in members' packets this week is a Personnel Report which includes information relative to seven new hires – five to replace staff that have left and two additional SES tutors (funded by Title I). Also, five staff who are on leaves of absence.

Mr. Pierantozzi also reported on two resignations for the purpose of retirement. These staff members are Mary Gooch, a paraprofessional at the Healey School since September of 2000 and Judi Nierenberg, currently the Library Media Specialist at Somerville High School, who is retiring after 13 years of service. Mr. Pierantozzi wished these staff members long, healthy and happy retirements.

Mr. Pierantozzi also reported that Harry Marchetti, Somerville High School Football Coach and Michael Powers, Somerville High School Baseball Coach, have resigned from their positions and issued his thanks for their service.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that it is important for students to study and do their homework. The second half of the school year has just begun. Please find a quiet place for studying and homework to be done, ask what's going on with school, call your student's teacher, assistant principal, or principal to stay informed about your student's progress and school activities.
- Kindergarten registration is ongoing and, as of today, 212 registrations have been made compared to 130 at the same time last year. This figure is significant as the registration session at Head Start has not yet been done. These registrations will take place on February 8th and 15th from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Head Start's Allen Court location.
- Issued thanks to the School Improvement Councils across the District for their work on the School Improvement Plans which are critical elements aligned with the District Improvement Plan.
- The six person District Review Team from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education left on February 2. Issued thanks to staff, the School Committee and others who met with the team. In two weeks, we will receive a preliminary report with a final report about two weeks after that.

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:

- Mass. Model System for Educator Evaluation implementation, Getting Started workshop this morning at Boston University. The district team of me, central office staff, STA/ Jackie Lawrence, a principal (Kathleen Seward) and School Committee member (Adam Sweeting) heard a presentation by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education about the new evaluation standards. I'd like to point out a few key points about the process going forward in remaking the educator evaluation system in Massachusetts.
- The DESE developed the model language in a great deal of input from all the stakeholder groups – teachers, administrators, union leaders – over a LONG period of time.... It's been a work in progress for well over a year, producing a document that's very well developed.

The DESE expects that districts will either ADOPT, ADAPT this model language for implementation of the first elements in September, 2012.

We will be working closely with the STA in a joint committee as we work through the collective bargaining of this change in practice. While most of the work will be in implementing the teachers language, every educator in the District will be impacted. Our challenge is to integrate these practices into our current district and school improvement goals. To vertically align the standards, so that at every level – teacher, principal, and superintendent – there is alignment of goals.

US Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan was a guest at this morning's meeting. Mr. Sweeting will speak about this later in the meeting.

- Also this morning, Somerville High School hosted the MassGrad open house. Educators from around the state including SE MA and Lowell, came to visit our model credit recovery program. They visited one of our two math classes, currently being taught in a blended learning approach. Since we started this initiative almost two years ago, it's expanded to four sites/programs including SHS Math Department, Full Circle, Summer School and the SHS Evening School. They heard from a panel of students from Full Circle. We're very proud of our work in this area and feel it addresses a real need for some of our students. Preliminary data shows a nice drop in our high school dropout rate, which we attribute to new programs and the strong work of Headmaster Ciccariello and his team at Somerville High School.
- Finally, Update on ATP program: 452 students referred, comparable to last year's numbers. 47 tutors providing 56 tutor groups at seven sites.
- The Superintendent reported that an advertisement was in Education Week this week for our principal openings. Provided an update on applications this far (which will continue to grow). Somerville High School – 22 applicants, 3 of which are internal; Healey School – 32 applicants, 1 of which is internal; Next Wave/Full Circle – 19 applicants, 3 of which are internal and Winter Hill Community School – 31 applicants, one of which is internal.
- Mr. Pierantozzi reported on his participation as emcee this morning to 700 Somerville High School junior and seniors at a presentation of, "It Can Wait," which addresses the dangers of texting while driving. This presentation was sponsored by ATT and featured a nine minute video entitled, "The Last Text." Dignitaries in attendance included Congressman Michael E. Capuano, State Representatives Denise Provost and Timothy Toomey, Middlesex Clerk of Courts Michael Sullivan; Mayor Joseph Curtatone and ATT President Patricia Jacobs, all of whom spoke briefly to the audience. All of our students were alert, interested and respectful. Mr. Pierantozzi issued his thanks to the students, as well as our invited guests. Mayor Curtatone thanked the Superintendent and Headmaster for hosting such a powerful presentation and displayed his "It Can Wait" thumb band. A suggestion was made to air this presentation on local cable or on our website. Mr. Pierantozzi will investigate this question.
- The Superintendent reported on various activities across the District including:
 - Sixth graders from the Argenziano School performing songs in honor of Dr. King
 - An Information Session regarding the Unidos Program at East Somerville on January 16.
 - The Healey's Lunch Concert Series presentation on January 27.
 - Eighth graders from the East Somerville visited Biogen Idec's lab.
 - Fifth and sixth graders from the Healey participated in a workshop with artist Sarah Haskell to create a Community Mandala.
 - Eighth graders from the Argenziano School visited the Harvard University Museum.
 - The High School's production of *Guys and Dolls*. Congratulations to Rosemary Sears, Richard Romanoff, Rick Saunders and all involved in this wonderful event!

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for her report regarding a couple of grants. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

Ms. Durette provided a brief report on the upcoming Finance and Facilities meeting on Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street. On the agenda are the FY13 preliminary budget, the Community Outreach pamphlet, Somerville High School facilities, FY12 expenditures and FY12 bill rolls.

8. Mr. Pierantozzi announced the following upcoming events:
 - February 7th – Early Reading and Literacy Training
 - February 27th – Parents' Basic Rights Workshop, sponsored by the Sped PAC
 - March 22nd – 10th Annual Brian Higgins Trivia Night

Mr. Bockelman announced that the School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning will be held on Wednesday, February 8, in the library of the Kennedy School, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Sweeting requested that Mr. Pierantozzi find out if the information included in the District's "What's Happening" newsletter is forwarded to our media partners and, if not, to please arrange to have that take place.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

D. Acceptance of Donation (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of a Zildjian Cymbal Pack with bag, from Stephen Pappone of Norwell, MA to be given to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department. Value estimated by donor is \$850.00

Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to accept the donation with gratitude. The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. Field Trips (Recommended action approval)

March. 8-10, 2012

Somerville High School DECA Students overnight to the DECA State Competition at the Marriott Copley Hotel in Boston. Transportation via school van (to event) and with parent (home) at a cost of \$100.00 per student for hotel fees.

March 1-3, 2012

Somerville High School Band student (1 student) overnight to Seaport Hotel/Symphony Hall Boston for the Mass. All-State Symphonic Band. Transportation via car. Cost to student is \$0.

March 16-18, 2012

Somerville High School Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) to Storrs Connecticut to attend the True Colors Annual Conference. Transportation via school van. Cost per student - \$50.00

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

F. Somerville High School Summer/Night School Graduate (recommended action: approval)

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that Mr. Ciccariello recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the necessary requirements, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Rony Ramos Caballero

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Somerville High School Summer/Night School Graduate.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Bockelman announced that the School Committee received two very nice thank you cards; one from the family of Winifred Mahoney and one from the Vilaine Family, both in appreciation of the Committee's remembrance of their loved one at a recent meeting.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rafal

1. The Somerville Family Network will hold a fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square tomorrow evening.
2. The next Educational Programs Subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14 at Central Office at 7:00 p.m.
3. The Healey and Winter Hill Community Schools will both hold PTA meetings on February 16. Ms. Rafal will also hold office hours in between those two meetings.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Announced that PTA meetings will be taking place at all District schools and encouraged parents and guardians to attend and check in with their students' teachers.
2. Mr. Sweeting shared his impressions from the Educator Evaluation meeting and reported that he learned a lot regarding the mechanics of the evaluation and the goals of the new law.
3. Reported on Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan's comments during his presentation at the meeting. Comments included:
 - a. Praise for Massachusetts
 - b. His view that achievement gaps are morally unacceptable.
 - c. No Child Left Behind is a law that is broken and should be revised and updated, but he is not confident of this happening.
 - d. Education should be viewed as an investment, not an expense.
 - e. Parent involvement needs to increase and offered Chicago as an example. Their schools are community centers that are open 10-12 hours a day and are the heart and soul of the neighborhood.

Mayor Curtatone

1. Commended Harry Marchetti and Mike Powers for their great jobs coaching our students and thanked them for their service.

Ms. Bastardi

1. Check out the School Department and City websites for a full range of events across the city.

Mrs. Cardoso

3. Mrs. Cardoso reported on the play at Somerville High School and thanked the cast members for an incredible performance. Also commented that the orchestra was wonderful. If she closed her eyes, it was like being at a professional performance at the Wang Center.
4. The Argenziano School will have parent/teacher conferences on February 13 in the afternoon.
5. Wished everyone a safe and happy February vacation.

Mr. Niedergang

2. Mr. Niedergang is excited that the School Committee is looking at the big picture, including Innovation Schools, the planning grant for STEM at Somerville High, and Extended Learning Time funding.
3. Looks forward to discussion of School Committee goals at Long Range.
4. Would like consideration of expanding the Volunteer Coordinator position and to change the staffing from one person working 19 hours per week to that of an office with two full time people. Mayor Curtatone commented that, perhaps, SomerServe could supplement this effort to leverage resources and recommended further discussion.

Ms. Rafal announced that she also would like to remind audience members that there will be a meeting on Thursday evening at the East Somerville Community School at Cummings regarding the possibility of having a program similar to El Sistema here in Somerville.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Mayda Dedieu, Social Studies teacher at Somerville High School
- Mary –Lou LaMier, daughter of Claire DeConinck, Kindergarten Paraprofessional at the Brown School.
- Linda Snow, wife of Bob Snow, former Assistant Superintendent of Schools

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, February 27, 2012 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:02 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 –Bastardi, Rafal, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Taylor, and Bockelman and Absent – 1 – Curtatone.

Mr. Bockelman announced that Mayor Curtatone is not in attendance due to illness.

Introduction of New Administrators

- a. Ian Charles, Temporary Assistant Principal of the Healey School
- b. Anna Doherty, SomerPromise Director

Mr. Bockelman announced that Item VI. A. would be taken out of order in order to introduce two new administrators to the School Committee and community. Mr. Bockelman asked Ms. Anna Doherty to step to the podium as Mr. Pierantozzi introduced her.

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that Ms. Anna Doherty is our new SomerPromise Director. She is a Somerville resident and we are excited about her being brought on board. Ms. Doherty announced that she had just started in her new position last Tuesday and is excited to be working with the Somerville Public Schools. Her goal is to set a good pace and go as quickly as she can without leaving anyone behind.

Mr. Bockelman welcomed Ms. Doherty and wished her the best in her new position.

Next, Mr. Pierantozzi introduced Mr. Ian Charles to the community. Mr. Charles is the Temporary Assistant Principal at the Healey School and will be in this position until the end of the current school year. Mr. Charles has experience at every level from primary to college and he has already created quite a buzz at the Healey.

Mr. Charles is excited to be working in Somerville and hopes to be able to remain here. He is grateful for this opportunity to improve the lives of students. His previous experience includes working in the Cambridge Public Schools for three years.

The School Committee recessed at 7:07 p.m. to welcome and congratulate the two new administrators.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:12 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 6, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the minutes of February 6, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was absent this evening

IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES -

Mr. Bockelman asked Ms. Rossetti to assume the Chair in order that he may provide his report on the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning.

A. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning – Feb. 8 (Mr. Bockelman)
Kennedy School Library, 5 Cherry Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Niedergang and Mayor Curtatone. Also in attendance were Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Susana Hernandez Morgan and about ten members of the public.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

1. Innovation School - update
2. NESDEC Demography and Reconfiguration Study – update
3. School Committee Goals

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of February 8, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman's report is as follows:

Innovation Schools

Superintendent Pierantozzi gave background on Innovation Schools and announced that he had met with faculty and staff at the Winter Hill Community School and they voted to seek to become an Innovation School. The District has submitted an application for up to \$15,000 for a planning grant. He said that he also had a city-wide meeting at which about sixty people attended.

So, to date, we have heard some expressions of interest from the Winter Hill Community School, the Brown School, and Next Wave/Full Circle to achieve a flexible school day. For each of these schools, the Somerville Teachers Association has expressed a commitment to have a full and frank discussion about the possibility of achieving Innovation School status.

He identified two other options that are in the works. One is a STEM or STEAM academy that would be a school within a school at the High School. He had written a letter of support for the grant application that would fund close to \$500,000 of the cost of planning and implementing this school.

He also noted that he and other superintendents were reviewing the option of a Virtual School that would be targeted at students who have or are close to dropping out.

I noted that I was very proud that the School Committee had taken such a leadership role in pushing for Innovation Schools and that it spoke well of the District that we were willing to cede significant power, including budgetary authority, to local schools.

I also said that I thought the School Committee should enunciate its criteria for approving charter schools, noting that I was interested in supporting schools that addressed the most vulnerable populations and that worked to close the achievement gap.

Other members felt that we should not express an opinion, but rather permit the local schools to identify the needs and solutions themselves. Mayor Curtatone emphasized that the District had to shoot beyond incremental change to make significant, seismic change to the District.

The next item on the agenda was the NESDEC proposal. Superintendent Pierantozzi said he received no feedback on his email outlining the duties of the consultant. He has scheduled the consultant to meet with the School Committee on March 14th.

We began our discussion of our two year goals. To put this discussion in perspective, I explained that we try to establish goals every two years (short term goals) that coincide with our two year terms as elected members of the School Committee. We also maintain long-range goals – which tend to be in the five-seven year range – and which we will address later this year.

The two-year goals need to be specific and measurable and should be tied to our evaluation of the School Superintendent. We were cautioned about "initiative overload" and had some discussion about the role of the public in the deliberation process.

Mayor Curtatone emphasized the need for action steps and offered the services of his staff to spread the word through social media and noted that Tufts University had offered to help in any way they could.

To move this process forward, we agreed to meet on February 23rd and March 1st, which we subsequently moved to March 8th.

And, just for clarification, we will have a Community Forum on Sunday, March 18th at 2:00 p.m. We have selected three topics for discussion, Innovation Schools, English Language Learners, and the role of Data in knowing your schools.

We also have a School Committee retreat scheduled for Monday, March 12th at the TAB building. The purpose of this meeting is to talk about how we work together and how we can best work better and smarter. It will NOT include any discussions of any substantive topics. It is a process meeting but is, of course, open to the public.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Mr. Bockelman resumed the Chair.

B. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee – Feb. 9 (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti provided her report on the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting of February 9. The meeting was held in the Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA. In attendance were: Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal and Mrs. Cardoso. Also in attendance were Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and three audience members.

The Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. and adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

1. Somerville High School – review of the Executive Summary Report was shared by Mr. Pierantozzi. There is a study team being formed by Mayor Curtatone to review the necessary repairs and improvements needed at Somerville High School and Mr. Ciccariello has been chose to oversee this project. A School Committee member will be appointed to this committee in the future. This study focuses on the outside of the building only. More information to come. The East Somerville Community School monthly report was also reviewed at this meeting. The Advisory Committee met on February 27th prior to the Regular School Committee meeting. The School Committee will receive monthly reports on the progress of the project.
2. Community Outreach Pamphlet – samples of pamphlets were reviewed and discussion ensued regarding information to include in the pamphlet being developed for the Somerville Public Schools.
3. Preliminary FY13 Budget – A preliminary review of the FY13 Budget was presented. This was a very rough draft and members were asked to take documents home to review and digest.
4. Utility Aide positions for Kennedy and SHS – These positions were approved at the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting and were forwarded to Finance and Facilities for budgeting/funding.
5. FY12 Expenditure Report – The Expenditure Report was reviewed. Special Education costs continue to be a concern and close attention will be paid to this item at the next Finance and Facilities meeting.
6. FY12 Bill Roll – reviewed and approved
7. Other – Request of Auditor Susanne Bump – reimbursement of unfunded mandate – Ms. Rossetti reported on the report form Auditor Bump regarding the costs of transporting homeless students who do not live in the district where they attend school. These costs are astronomical and Representative Stanley of Waltham is submitting legislation to have these costs reimbursed by the State.

Ms. Rossetti announced that the next meeting would be a School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities and will be held on March 6, at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.

The following motions were approved at the February 9, 2012 Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting and are presented to the School Committee this evening for approval:

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to request that the Superintendent, working with DPW, determine high priority repair costs for the Winter Hill Community School. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, that Somerville Public Schools Finance Director, Patricia Durette, continue to pursue compilation of a Community Outreach document and report back to the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee at our next meeting. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve funding of two additional utility aides at Somerville High School for the remainder of this school year. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve funding of one utility aide at the Kennedy School for the remainder of this school year. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the FY12 Bill Rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, that given the tight timeline on a matter brought to our attention this afternoon, the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee supports the Superintendent, as Secretary to the School Committee, communicating to Somerville's State Delegation, support for Representative Tom Stanley's (Waltham) letter as it relates to reimbursement of the unfunded mandate of transportation costs of non-resident students. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting of February 9, 2012. The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. *School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs & Instruction* – Feb. 14 (Ms. Rafal)

The School Committee of the whole convened at 42 Cross Street for an Ed Programs and Instruction meeting on Feb 14. The meeting began at 7:04 pm.

Present were Mark Niedergang, Adam Sweeting, Paul Bockelman, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, myself, and Vince McKay, Uri Harel, presenter Rick Saunders and one member of the press.

There were 7 items on the agenda. We discussed 6 of these.

1. The first was an update on the music programs in Somerville Public Schools. The music department offers a great deal to Somerville students, including weekly music classes from kindergarten up and free instrumental lessons to interested students as well as some after-school programming. The music department has also developed some new courses for the high school, as reported earlier this academic year. Somerville's music program focuses on teaching students to be active producers of music, not just listeners, to nurture students' creativity, self-expression and improvisation, and cultural understanding. The music department also has many partnerships and offers community outreach programs. A couple of challenges the department faces include scheduling issues when a teacher may see the instrument lesson as a pull-out, even though the classroom teachers are asked not to introduce new material during music lesson times. Sometimes students taking lessons have been asked to miss recess or stay after school for regular classroom work. There have also been some experiences of bullying of music students, especially at the middle grades level. To remediate challenges, Mr. Saunders proposed a combination of steps including: 1. policy; 2. staff education; 3. building-based support (like from principals), and 4. a quality after-school program to compensate for lack of playing music at home.

One such program could be El Sistema. Donations would be needed to get this program off the ground, which would mean to help hire the instructor and afford instruments.

Mr. Saunders said it is just indescribable how mature and dignified kids feel from learning to make music.

2. The second item was to get an update on the implementation of the new Balanced Literacy program. Balanced Literacy is a program for using real books rather than prepackaged anthology textbooks, often containing abridged stories. By December of 2012, all Somerville teachers are expected to turn in their anthologies and be using Balanced Literacy. A team of dozens (I think they said 35) of teachers from across the district have already been working on creating units of study for books so that teachers will have materials ready to go. This team will continue working on units throughout the summer so there is enough for each grade level through the fall. Since there is very little published curricula for using Balanced Literacy this could be an important thing for our district to share out via the web etc. The work is being coordinated by Dr. McKay and Uri Harel, who joined the district as our elementary curriculum coordinator last summer. Mr. Harel praised Somerville for taking a bold and comprehensive approach to high-level literacy instruction but also for making sure teachers had so much support for making the switch. He also related an example of Somerville's bold and committed teacher, citing one who could have the option of choosing to retire before the deadline to switch in December but who has already made the switch because they felt if it was better for the kids, they would do it (and they are confident in their own abilities, clearly). A question of how this would serve English Language Learners did come up and Mr. Harel and Dr. McKay both indicated that because of its emphasis on reading real and interesting books at just the right level for each student to both succeed and grow, and because of

explicit attention to both phonics and whole-language types of reading skills, Balance Literacy is better for English Language Learners than the system being phased out. Another member asked about writing in the scheme of Balanced Literacy. We learned that both reading and writing are being done in a workshop method, but that yes, there could be more opportunities for extracurricular writing. Mr. Harel said emphatically, that "Yes, it does take a rocket scientist to implement Balanced Literacy." and that because of that our district is now differentiating professional development in much the same way we want to teachers to create very individualized instruction in their classroom that will prevent learners from struggling in the first place. The district is trying to wean off outside consultants and build in-house capacity with coaches and also to use reading teachers better. There is also a different plan for implementing Balanced Literacy in the middle grades because content areas are infused with literacy, and Mr. Harel assured us that from lots of meetings he believes teachers are excited about Balanced Literacy.

A lot of the other "informational items" referred to in the agenda seemed to be embedded in the curriculum status update.

Since we don't see our elementary curriculum coordinator very often, another member also took the opportunity to ask him about Somerville's math scores. Is all the recent focus on literacy having anything to do with weak math scores. He said his initial goal, as someone new to the district, is first to observe math instructional practices; he has the impression that it might be possible to raise our math scores with two adjustments. One of these is to make sure the curriculum selected by the district is actually being taught in a manner consistent with the intent of its design. The other adjustment he mentioned is that the end-of-unit assessments that come with the curriculum are not actually telling teachers what they need to know in order to ensure students' success on the MCAS so the district is working on creating their own assessments for the end of each math unit.

3. The third item was to discuss the administration's recommendation to introduce Spanish in grades 7 and 8 across the city. We had earlier voted to introduce foreign language study in these grades but had not decided which languages. Assuming that about half of the students in these grades will be both interested and academically eligible for language study there will be three teachers shared among the six schools. The discussion mainly focused on the pros and cons of offering the same language at all sites. With three teachers it could have been decided to teach the top 3 languages indicated in our survey. It was pointed out that the survey only reached current families in the schools and there could be some reason to believe that at least one of the choices would have made a stronger showing had the sample included Somerville resident families not currently in public schools. On the pro side, it was recognized that the teaching might be more effective if the teachers could be colleagues to one another teaching the same subject at the same grade level, and that having different languages at different schools could cause transfers. Spanish was the top choice at all the schools. After this discussion, Mary Jo Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Teresa Cardoso, to accept the recommendation of the administration and the foreign language department head to institute Spanish as the foreign language for grades 7 & 8. The motion passed.
4. The fourth item was a quick look at the implications of the No Child Left Behind Waiver. We got a working draft of an overview about these implications that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is working on. The main points that Dr. McKay summed up for us are that the accountability system is going to change from MCAS to the Common Core assessment. This will also change educator evaluations. So the waiver doesn't just address MCAS concerns. It also should give the district more control over both Title One money and afterschool programs. Before the waiver teachers were not allowed to tutor their own students even though it is known to be more effective. Now they can. Paperwork will also be streamlined. Money will be directed to interventions. For example, trying to get middle grades students to participate in after-school programs.
5. In the interest of time, I decided to table discussion of item 5, Place-based education as a possible model for middle grades instruction. Mr. Harel did tell me that he had worked with one of the seminal authors of this method and that he knows several schools use it for the science and social studies curriculum. I look forward to exploring this topic further in the future. As promised at this meeting, I wrote a little (more) about it on my blog: <http://rafalforward4.wordpress.com/2012/02/27/place-based-education-ideas/>

The last item of the agenda was to review in-service courses. Mark Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Teresa Cardoso, to approve the three in-service courses: 1. Introduction to second-language learning; 2. Sign language workshop; 3. Models of Systematic Intervention. All were in favor.

Adjourned at 9:15

The following motions were approved at the February 14, 2012 School Committee meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction and are being reported this evening:

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the administration with the foreign language department head to institute Spanish as the foreign language for grades 7 and 8.

MOTION: To approve the three in-service courses:

1. Introduction to Second Language Learning and Teaching
2. Sign Language Workshop
3. Models of Systematic Intervention

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of February 14, 2012. The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that this is a busy time of year. We are now a month into the third quarter. Please ensure that your student has a quiet place to read and do homework.
- For your information, the 21st Century Community School site visits have been conducted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at the Healey, Kennedy and Winter Hill Community Schools. The feedback following these visits has been positive regarding the transition of the daycare program to an enrichment program that provides remediation and support and also feedback regarding the integration between the school day and after school curriculum and academic goals, as well as the implementation of behavior modifications for our Special Needs students.
- The Superintendent provided an update on our open house season. In total, 511 families visited our schools; 444 to our elementary programs and 57 to Somerville High School. This is the highest number of visits during open house season by 100. As of today, 323 students have been registered for Kindergarten for September 2012 vs. 279 at this time for September 2011. This is an increase of 54 students. Mr. Pierantozzi did report that last year we had horrible weather which likely impacted registration.
- On last Saturday, the Somerville Public Schools joined the City of Somerville in celebrating the fourth year as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People. There was an amazing turnout. Thanked our community partners for their provision of information, handouts and treats; the youth performers; Emcee Jimmy DelPonte, Susana Hernandez Morgan, Nancy Bacci, Jackie Rossetti and everyone else involved with this wonderful event!

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:

- An update on Innovation Schools. A number of schools is exploring the possibility with Winter Hill Community School being the furthest along. Based on the successful submission of a grant application, the school has been awarded a \$10,000.00 planning grants and has entered the next phase of planning and is developing an action plan. The first meeting for the Winter Hill will be Thursday, March 1 at Winter Hill. The steps are as follows: Plan is developed, Plan is reviewed and voted on by staff and a 2/3 majority approval is required. An area of focus, types of innovation, etc. are to be determined. The planning committee is made up of teachers, PTA, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Pierantozzi and other school representatives and consists of 11 people. Dr. McKay is listed as the applicant on this project and will continue to provide updates to the School Committee.

Ms. Rossetti inquired as to whether she heard correctly that Dr. McKay was the applicant and the answer was that Vince is the applicant. Also, Debbie Connell is Tony's designee on this committee.

Dan French from the Center for Collaborative Education is the group's advisor. Ms. Rossetti also spoke about the Revere Superintendent's comments about his staff not taking a role in the development of the Innovation School there. Is Somerville's administration taking an active role in the development of our school? Yes, they are.

- Groundworks Somerville's annual Maple Syrup Boil Down is March 2. 19 second grade classes will take a field trip to the community growing center on Vinal Avenue and take part in various fun activities. There is also a community event on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- The Superintendent reported that the Somerville Public Schools will co-host a presentation, "Facebook: What All Parents Need to Know" on Tuesday, March 20, at the Argenziano School beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- The East Somerville Community School Grade Seven students visited the lab at Biogen Idec recently. The students at the Argenziano School had a school dance on February 7, and a group of students from the Winter Hill Community School visited the Aquarium recently.
- Please visit the Somerville Public Schools website at www.somerville.k12.ma.us to learn about all of the activities in the Somerville Public Schools – including the those of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC).
- On Wednesday, February 29, Uri Harel will provide a workshop through the SFLC for parents entitled, "Preparing to Meet with Your Child's Teacher", beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Argenziano School.
- On this coming Friday, Susana Hernandez Morgan and Regina Bertholdo will represent the Somerville Public Schools at Tufts Presidential Symposium.
- The Multicultural Fair at Somerville High School will be held on Friday, March 9, in the Field House at Somerville High School.
- The Brian Higgins Foundation's Trivia Night will be held on March 22, at Cousens Gym.
- The City-wide Elementary Swim Meet will be held on March 3, at the Kennedy School. Students should see their Physical Education teacher for more information. All students are welcome and encouraged to participate.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

G. Field Trips (Recommended action approval)

March 9-11, 2012

Somerville High School Track athletes to New York, NY to compete in the New York City-Scholastic Track National Meet. Transportation via school van. Cost to students will only be for individual student lunches. All other costs are being paid by the Track PAC.

May 5- 6, 2012

Somerville High School Ultimate Frisbee Team to Amherst, MA to compete in an Ultimate Frisbee tournament. Transportation via minibus. Cost to students is money for one dinner and snacks. All other expenses are covered.

May 30-June 1, 2012

Next Wave Students to Martha's Vineyard, overnight. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$15.00 per student.

May 30-June 1, 2012

Full Circle students to Cape Cod, overnight. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$15.00 per student.

June 7-8, 2012

Healey School grade 7 & 8 students to New York City to study about culture, history and immigration. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$250 per student.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

H. FY2011 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

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

Oles Berleus	28 Cameron Avenue	Cambridge	02140
Daysi M. Guerrero	253 Hyde Park Avenue, #33	Jamaica Plain	02130

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to waive the reading of the graduates and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

I. Acceptance of Donation (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of the donation by the Tufts Dental School of dental equipment as detailed below:

- 2 fully equipped Dental Chairs – valued at \$30,000.00, when new
- 2 sink/shelve units – valued at \$8,000.00 each, when new
- 32 lockers – valued at \$4,500.00
- 1 X-ray machine set-up – valued at \$60,000.00

Total estimated value = \$140,500.00

This donated equipment will be used at Somerville High School in the new medical careers suite currently being developed in the Career and Vocational Technical Wing of the High School.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to accept this donation with the utmost gratitude and requested that a special framed citation be produced and presented to the appropriate person at Tufts when it is ready.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

J. Approval of Citation to the Lincoln Technical Institute (Ms. Bastardi)

Ms. Bastardi made a request to provide a citation from the School Committee to the Lincoln Technical Institute in recognition of their fundraising efforts on behalf of the Somerville Youth Development and Boxing Club.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the awarding of a citation to the Lincoln Technical Institute for their efforts on behalf of our students.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

K. National School Boards Association Leadership and Federal Relations Network Conferences (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti provided reports from recent conferences attended in Washington, D.C. Her report included the following:

NSBA Leadership Conference –

- “Getting More Students and Families Online” (Comcast)
Comcast is now 5 months into a 3-year plan attempting to bring more affordable internet access to students and families. “No more Free and Reduced Lunch, now it’s Free and Reduced.” They are currently supporting 41,000 low income students (4,000 school districts, 30 thousand families). The family pays \$9.95 per month for internet access, as well as purchasing a new computer for \$150.00. Comcast additionally supplies computer/internet training for the family. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that Somerville has been participating in this program for a couple of years and was a pilot district for Comcast.
- Seven Sources of Power in Public Advocacy – students have made a series of short videos where students tell why THEY like public schools – maybe something similar could be done here in Somerville.

NSBA Federal Relations Network Conference –

- Mary Broderick, NSBA’s President made a presentation regarding the re-authorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Last month was the 10th anniversary of NSBA. NSBA has been working feverishly for the past 5 years for the re-authorization of NCLB (a/k/a ESEA). Our top concern is funding. State and local districts “cannot do this alone.” There are more students today who qualify as *Free and Reduced Lunch* students. “We need a commitment that educational funding will match the goals.” Two new House Bills include high standards and rigorous assessments, but they differ in funding. Both Bills do eliminate AYP by 2014 and the sanctions imposed. .0005% of 1% of the total Budget equals the requested Title I money.

MASC's Glenn Koocher represented Massachusetts and shared that our state motto appears to be, "regulate and punish."

- *ESEA Reauthorization* - During this presentation a Detroit School Board member expressed his concern of the needed acknowledgement by the Federal Government as it relates to student mobility!
- *Education Funding* – S.1403 (Senator Harkin, Dem., IA) – By 2021 IDEA should be fully funded
S.1597 Fix America's School Act (building repairs and renovations) \$25 billion
H.R.2394 Rebuilding America's Schools Act (bond programs)
Title I and IDEA need to be increased by at least \$1 billion each (less than 1% of entire Federal budget)!

Ms. Rossetti provided School Committee members with printed copies of her notes in order to share more information.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Cardoso

6. The Personnel Subcommittee will meet tomorrow, February 28th at 6:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.

Mr. Niedergang

5. Mr. Niedergang reported that he had attended the Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meeting prior to this meeting. The topic this evening was a Parent's Basic Rights Workshop and there were approximately 15-20 people in attendance. Mr. Niedergang congratulated the co-chairs for moving things forward and informed members that these co-chairs are interested in working with the School Committee in the future.

Ms. Rossetti

4. There will be a School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities on March 6th at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.

Mr. Taylor

1. Reported on a wonderful collaboration he took part in with the Music Department and stated that we are extremely lucky to have Rick Saunders working with us. He and his staff do an outstanding job with our students. He is 2nd to none!

Mr. Sweeting

2. Reported that he will be unable to attend tomorrow night's meetings due to a work commitment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Antonette (Marino) Buscanera, mother of Janet Galvin, teacher at the Kennedy School
- Rosa (Albano) Patalano, mother in law of Lisa Patalano – Paraprofessional at SHS

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

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, March 5, 2012 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti and Mayor Curtatone (7:13 p.m.)

Members absent: Alderman Taylor

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:02 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Bastardi, Rafal, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, and Bockelman and Absent – 2 – Taylor and Curtatone.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was absent this evening

III. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES -

Mr. Bockelman asked Ms. Rossetti to assume the Chair in order that he may provide his report on the School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning.

A. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: - Feb. 23 (Mr. Bockelman)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti and Mayor Curtatone. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Morgan and Dr. McKay.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

1. School Committee Goals – Mr. Bockelman provided the following report:

Each School Committee member identified specific 2-year goals they would like considered for adoption by the entire School Committee. 24 initial potential 2-year goals were identified.

Each School Committee member voted on their top 5 goals from the original list of 24, and also had an opportunity to designate a "Super Vote" for their highest-priority 2-year goal. Using this process, followed by a verbal discussion on goal ideas that might be combined to develop a more concrete, measurable goal, the original list of 24 goal ideas was narrowed to the following 13 potential goals:

- 1) Strong home school connections city-wide
 - Reaching out to pre-school parents
 - "A thousand handshakes."
 - Build on number of contacts we have with families
 - Develop a parent/guardian outreach program
- 2) Successfully implement Innovation School(s)
- 3) Ensure that Healey School Plan is fulfilled as School Committee voted
- 4) New website
- 5) Ensure educational initiatives are reaching the ELL population
- 6) Engage ELL and Immigrant communities
- 7) Develop a plan for middle school success
- 8) Attract and retain best-qualified Principals
- 9) Have a SMILE class for anyone who wants to attend / prioritize entry into SMILE program / do away with lottery system
- 10) Increase 'rigor' for earning Professional Status
- 11) Completion of ESCS on time and on budget
- 12) Achieve the following increases in student performance:
 - 55 SGP average
 - Get out of bottom 10%
 - Increase in math scores (?%'age)
 - Minimum of 40 SGP
 - Increase percentage of Proficient and Advanced by 10% in every subgroup

- 13) Increase District's and City's capacity to engage community resources to improve student learning

School Committee members discussed remaining 13 proposed goals, agreed on items that were already under way and could be eliminated, identified goals that could be combined, and collaboratively narrowed their choices to the following seven possible 2-year goals. The first three goals were unanimously selected for adoption pending further clarification and identification of appropriate evaluation metrics. Goals 4-7 are still under consideration and will be further discussed at the March 8, 2012 School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning (7:30 p.m.).

Goals Adopted

- 1) Successfully implement at least one Innovation School, and provide support for others.
- 2) Achieve the following improvements in student performance:
 - 55 SGP average
 - Minimum of 40 SGP
 - Get out of bottom 10%
 - Increase in Math scores (%'age)
 - Increase number of students ranking Proficient and Advanced by 10% in all subgroups
- 3) Develop stronger home school connections City-wide
 - Reach out to pre-school parents
 - Engage ELL and Immigrant communities
 - Develop a parent/guardian outreach program

Goals Still Under Consideration

- 4) Increase District's and City's capacity to engage community and City resources to improve student learning.
- 5) Ensure that Healey School Plan fulfilled as School Committee voted.
- 6) Make SMILE classes available to all who want it / prioritize enrollment process / get rid of lottery system
- 7) Increase 'rigor' for earning Professional Status.

NEXT STEP:

The School Committee Long-Range Planning Committee will meet on:

Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

to discuss proposed goals 4-7 still under consideration. Total number of 2-year goals will be narrowed to 5 that will be adopted by the School Committee and further defined. Outcome measurements will be identified for each adopted goal.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of February 23, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. *Personnel Subcommittee*: - Feb. 28 (Mrs. Cardoso)

Personnel Subcommittee Met on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 @6:10 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street

In attendance were Mrs. Cardoso, Personnel Subcommittee Member Maureen Bastardi along with Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi and Human Resources Administrator Melissa DeResendes.

Also in attendance were School Committee Members Mary Jo Rossetti, Mark Niedergang and Christine Rafal as well as Dorothy Scally from the STA

There were four (4) Agenda Items to be discussed:

1. Resignations for Purpose of Retirement Notices for SY 2012:

We were given an update on retirement notices to date.

2. Resignation Notices for SY 2012:

There were no changes since our last report.

3. Job Descriptions:

- Arts Integration Coordinator

This is a new position as part of the Healey Unification Plan and is focused on developing recommendations on integrating the arts into the Healey curriculum as well as establishing partnerships with external organizations. This position will be filled as soon as possible through the end of the school year. The Subcommittee reviewed the job description, had questions and discussion and a motion was unanimously approved as follows:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the Arts Integration Coordinator job description pending collective bargaining with the Somerville Teachers Association, Unit A. The motion was approved via voice vote.

- Service Learning Coordinator

This is also a new position as part of the Healey Unification Plan and is focused on implementing one service learning project in every classroom per school year. This position will be filled as soon as possible through the end of the school year. The Subcommittee reviewed the job description, had questions and discussion and a motion was unanimously approved as follows:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the Service Learning Coordinator job description pending collective bargaining with the Somerville Teachers Association, Unit A. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Also, there was a request made by a member of the School Committee that the Superintendent give us an update on the Healey School Unification Budget, with a breakdown on what has been spent to date.

4. Principal Searches Update:

The Superintendent and Ms. DeResendes gave us an update on the four (4) current searches; the Healey, Somerville High, Winter Hill and Next Wave/Full Circle – they reported that the Screening Committee had just completed the screening that afternoon of the applications and there was no need to have another day to perform this task.

We were given approximate numbers of applicants for each school and they are as follows:

Healey	39
SHS	33
WHCS	31
NW/FC	27

We were told that there was some cross-over of candidates. They chose approximately 9-12 ready for the Interview Committees – there were at least 2 in-house candidates for each position and the positions will remain open until filled.

We then began the discussion of the actual "Interview Schedule" which begins this week starting Wednesday with the Healey and ending on March 20th– each school will have two-days of interviews and each team will send either 2, 3 or 4 candidates on to the Superintendent for his interview and then ultimately on to the School Committee.

Further we had a discussion regarding the logistics of the School Committee interviews where, when and how they should happen. We decided that they should happen at the schools where they candidate will ultimately be working so that the staff, parents, students and community can easily attend the interviews and then we had a much more lengthy discussion regarding whether they should be taped by our local cable channel. We all agreed that the high school interviews should be taped but there was disagreement about the other three which leads to the discussion coming before us this evening for us to decide.

Discussion ensued relative to which, if any, of the interviews should be taped. After said discussion, the following motion was moved:

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to tape and televise the School Committee interviews with the High School Headmaster candidates, but not to tape and televise the interviews with the candidates for the Healey, Winter Hill Community and Next Wave/Full Circle Schools. The motion was approved via voice vote with Mr. Niedergang voting in opposition.

Also it was agreed that I would work out a schedule with Ms. Marques and Ms. DeResendes for the School Committee interviews sometime in late March. All interviews will take place in the home building for the particular principal openings (WHCS, Healey, NW/FC, SHS).

The Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, March 26th at 6:00 PM at Central Administration.

The following motions were approved at the February 28, 2012 Personnel Subcommittee meeting and are presented to the School Committee this evening for approval:

MOTION: Motion by Mrs. Cardoso, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the Personnel Subcommittee meeting of February 28, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. *Rules Management Subcommittee*: - Feb. 28 (Mr. Niedergang)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Niedergang

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi and 3 audience members

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

1. Resolution for Centro Presente regarding immigration – the School Committee looked at the terminology in which immigrants are referred to (illegal, etc.). Ms. Rafal will bring this issue back to the full School Committee at a later date for further consideration.
2. File: IJNDD Social Networking Policy – this draft policy was forwarded to the Somerville Teachers Association so that feedback from teachers could be obtained before any formal action is taken.
3. File: BHE Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee members – this policy is being reviewed by the School Committee, particularly for the use of email communications by School Committee members. No action was taken this evening; however, Mr. Niedergang requested that the Superintendent inquire to the MASC regarding the last paragraph of the policy and whether it is law or opinion. Mr. Niedergang also requested that the Superintendent please schedule training for School Committee members on the Open Meeting Law. Not urgent – but please try to squeeze into the schedule.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Niedergang, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the report and minutes of the Rules Management Subcommittee of February 28, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. *Special Meeting for Executive Session* - Feb. 29 (Mr. Bockelman)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal and Mr. Niedergang

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Mr. Tringale, Attorney Hollender and Ms. Marques

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

The following motion was approved in Executive Session and Mr. Bockelman reported the action this evening:

MOTION: To approve the memorandum of agreement between the Somerville School Committee and the Scale Program Administrators Association, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, Local 1596.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the monthly Personnel Report. The Leaves of Absence speak for themselves. There is on Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement – Ms. Eve Shelton-Jones, currently a Housemaster at Somerville High School will retire at the end of June after 40 years of service. Ms. Shelton-Jones will be missed immensely. She has served as a professional development leader, English teacher, Co-Chair of the last two Somerville High School Accreditation processes and an original teacher of the High School Cluster Program. Mr. Pierantozzi wished her a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Mr. Sweeting thanked the Superintendent for his warm words for Ms. Jones and asked if there was a process and timeframe for hiring her replacement. Mr. Pierantozzi explained that the position will be posted and candidates will be collected through our AppliTrack system. The process, however, will be delayed until the new Headmaster is hired as under M.G.L, the building principal has hiring authority for assistant principals. It is expected that the new Headmaster should be known by April vacation and screening interviews for this assistant principal position will take place after vacation with an expected date of decision on or about May 15. Some discussion ensued relative to the process including starting date.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that there is a lot going on across the District. The city-wide Swim meet was held last week with approximately 80 students participating. Each school was represented. Thanked Rich Cheney and his staff for their work on this. The Healey School was the grade 1-5 meet winner and also the school with the greatest amount of students participating. The Brown School tied with the Healey for grade 6 honors.
- On March 2, Susana Hernandez Morgan, Regina Bertholdo and Nomi Davidson represented the District at the Tufts Presidential Symposium and learned about new initiatives to connect with the student body.
- The Superintendent reported on the work of our Recruiting Committee who has been visiting local colleges and universities in the hopes of drawing new teachers to our District. Visits included Harvard, Merrimack and Boston College and over 100 resumes have been collected so far.
- On next Friday, March 9, the Medford Elks will continue their tradition of providing dictionaries to all of our 3rd grade students with a kick-off celebration at the Healey School. Thanks to the Medford Elks for their continued support of our students.
- The 23rd Annual 7th and 8th grade Track and Field Meet will take place on Wednesday, March 14, at 3:00 p.m. at the Somerville High School Field House. For more information, please contact your school principal or physical education teacher.
- Congratulations to Regina Bertholdo who will be awarded the "Somerville Woman of Excellence" award by the Somerville Commission for Women at the upcoming reception honoring Women's History Month. The reception will be held at the Lowell Street Visiting Nurses' Association (VNA) on March 21st.

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:

1. We are in the midst of Read Across America Week which includes in-class readings and student-family reading pledges. Students should read or be read to for 30 minutes per day. Last Friday, Dr. McKay visited Mrs. McSweeney's class at the East Somerville Community School and read *Green Eggs and Ham*. Dr. McKay thanked the class for being such a great audience.
 2. The Somerville High School Science Fair is being held on Thursday and Friday, March 8 & 9. The Region IV Science Fair will be held on March 24 in the Field House. The judging begins at 9:00 a.m. - the public is welcome at 11:00 a.m. Thanked Mr. LaGambina for doing a great job on this every year.
 3. At next week's Ed. Programs Subcommittee meeting, there will be a preview of summer programs for enrichment, academic remediation, etc. Summer programs are slated to begin on July 2.
- The Superintendent reported that the Somerville Public Schools will co-host a presentation, "Facebook: What All Parents Need to Know" on Tuesday, March 20, at the Argenziano School beginning at 6:30 p.m.
 - Mr. Pierantozzi has been in the midst of award his Student of the Quarter Awards. This is always one of his favorite things to do. He loves seeing all of the children's smiling faces!
 - Winter sports teams are still going strong with girls' and boys' basketball and hockey teams and the cheerleading team all participating in post-season competition.
 - Our Track and Field Teams' special athletes have been doing well in championship competition. Andre Rolim has become the New England and Massachusetts champion in the 600mtrs. With a time of 1:20:08. This is the 2nd year in a row that Andre has been champion. Also, Nicole Genard placed 3rd in the 55m hurdles. Mr. Pierantozzi wished these students continued good luck in future endeavors.

- The Superintendent reported on the tremendous success of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative since its start in September 2010. The Literacy Group and New Mom's Group has been particularly successful. The Literacy group served 150 families/176 children in its first year and 183 families/221 children this year. The New Mom's Group serves 27 parents at this time and, in spite of its name, is open to new fathers as well!
- The East Somerville Community School building project is progressing well thanks to the Owner's Project Manager and Gilbane Construction. Thanks to this year's great weather, very good progress has been made. The expected construction completion date is March or April 2013 and the school is scheduled to open September 2013. What a difference a year makes!

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for a report on some financial matters. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

1. An update of grants received over the past week including an Academic Support Grant of \$45,185 for program development and implementation for new Somerville High School students, \$30,000 for Middle School Leadership for At-Risk Students at the Kennedy and West Somerville Neighborhood Schools. The Education Job Acts Grant has been increase by \$17,769 bringing the total funding to \$1.2m, starting in July and to be used for retaining or hiring new staff.
 2. The School District will undergo an independent audit of the FY2011 End of Year Report on March 22 and 23, 2012.
 3. The School Committee will meet tomorrow night for Finance and Facilities and the agenda includes an update on FY2013 budget planning.
- Mr. Pierantozzi announced several upcoming events:
 1. The Multicultural Fair at Somerville High School on March 9th
 2. The Somerville High School Vocational Fair on March 10th
 3. The Community Forum sponsored by the School Committee, Progress Together for Somerville, the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, Somerville Council of PTA's, Somerville Teachers Association and the Mayor's Office on Sunday, March 18, at the Argenziano School. This event is open to all and childcare will be available.
 4. The Brian Higgins Foundation's Trivia Night will be held on March 22, at Cousens Gym.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Field Trip** - This Field Trip has been withdrawn by the Administration for this evening so no action was taken.

June 6-10, 2012

East Somerville Community School 8th grade students to Washington, D.C. Transportation via bus. Total cost to students is \$474.00.

- B. **Awarding of Somerville High School Diplomas to Veterans** (Recommended action: approval)

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that in accordance with M.G. L. Chapter 71, Sec. 4, he is recommending the requests of Somerville High School Headmaster Anthony Ciccariello, in conjunction with the City of Somerville's Veterans' Services Department, that the following veterans be awarded a Somerville High School Diploma:

Mr. Charles Gillingham, Jr.	US Navy, World War II	SHS Class of 1944
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Mr. John R. Driscoll	US Marine Corps, Korean Conflict	SHS Class of 1950
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MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to gladly and proudly approve the high school diplomas with gratitude for their significant service to our country. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Discussion ensued regarding inviting these gentlemen to a service to award the diplomas – maybe Class Day or Somerville High School Graduation. Also, discussion took place regarding outreach to other veterans who may also qualify for diplomas. The Mayor and Superintendent will work together on this effort.

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

5. There will be a School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities on tomorrow, March 6th at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.
6. The West Somerville Neighborhood School will hold its PTA on March 8, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
7. The Vocational Fair is this Saturday.
8. Tomorrow is Election Day – please exercise your right to vote. For more information, contact the City's Elections Office.

Mrs. Cardoso

7. The Memorial Day Parade fundraiser is being held this Friday at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Mr. Sweeting

6. Mr. Sweeting welcomed two students who were in the audience this evening:
 - a. Taylor Williams, Boston University Advanced Journalism Student
 - b. A young woman from Framingham State University who attended the meeting as part of her Educational Policy course. This young woman had just departed the meeting prior to this portion of the agenda. Mr. Sweeting welcomed the students and hope they found the meeting interesting!

Ms. Rafal

2. Reported on her experience reading at the Healey School for Read Across America week. Readers received certificates and bookmarks as thanks.
3. Reported on her attendance at the Winter Hill Community School Innovation School Planning and announced that the school was not yet totally committed to being an Innovation School, but it looks very promising.
4. Announced that members are actively being sought for the Democratic Committee and she has posted the names of those interested on her blog so that people can "write them in" on tomorrow's ballot.

Mr. Bockelman

3. Voting for Ward 6, Precinct 1, will be at the Kennedy School.
4. The Duhamel Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 31 and will be prepared and served by the School Committee.
5. Planning for the Community Forum is moving ahead and a flyer is being developed by Nomi Davidson and Sarah Davila for distribution in our target languages. Redbones has agreed to donate food for this event.
6. Congratulations to the Somerville High School Trivia Team for performing so well and making it to the Sweet 16. We are very proud of our students!

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Margaret M. (Swensen) Thonis, sister of Steve Swensen, teacher at Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, March 19, 2012 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Alderman Taylor, and Mayor Curtatone

Members absent: none

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:02 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 9 –Bastardi, Rafal, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, Taylor and Curtatone.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 27, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2012 Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- March 5, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2012 Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not present at this evening's meeting.

IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES -

A. *Special Meeting for Executive Session: – Feb. 29* (Mr. Bockelman)

1. Contract of Employment for Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The following motion was approved in Executive Session and is being reported this evening:

MOTION: To approve the Contract of Employment between Vincent P. McKay and the Somerville School District for the Position of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

B. *School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: – March 6* (Ms. Rossetti)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Bastardi (departed at 8:00 p.m.), Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang and Mr. Bockelman (7:09 p.m.)

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette and 2 audience members

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. and adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

1. ESCS building update – The Superintendent brought members up to date on the progress of the East Somerville construction project. The outdoor site plan is still being discussed. Updates will continue on a regular basis.
2. Virtual High School -
3. Community Outreach brochure – a lengthy discussion took place regarding what information to include in the brochure and the timeline for producing the document.
4. FY13 budget discussion – update on the FY13 budget process to date.
5. FY12 expenditure report – expenditures were reviewed and discussed.
6. FY12 Bill roll – reviewed and approved.
7. Other – Mr. Pierantozzi provided an FYI regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between the Cambridge Health Alliance and the Somerville Public Schools for the Teen Connection at Somerville High School.

The following motion was approved at the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities on March 6, 2012, and is being reported this evening:

MOTION: To approve the FY2012 Bill Rolls

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of March 6, 2012. The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. *School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:* – March 8 (Mr. Bockelman)
Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA
In attendance: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti (7:42 p.m.) and Mr. Bockelman
Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m. and adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

1. School Committee Goals – The School Committee reviewed and worked from the document prepared by Susana Morgan. Three broad goals were agreed upon and a fourth will be added. Further discussion at our next meeting on April 11.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of March 8, 2012. The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. *Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting:* - March 13 (Ms. Rafal)
Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA
In attendance: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, and Ms. Rafal
Also in attendance: Dr. McKay, Mr. Pierantozzi and 4 audience members
Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. and adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Three agenda items were discussed:

1. Middle Grades Improvements: What we learned from the update and questions...

In math, the implementation of the Common Core standards is coinciding with the 7th and final year of the current textbook cycle. A committee of teachers and the administration has conducted an in-depth review of the middle school math program, and have narrowed down from 10 curricula to 3 possibilities. We can expect a recommendation for the new program in a month or so.

There is also a very active study group working to develop literacy maps and units of study for English Language Arts, also to align with the Common Core.

Social studies pacing guides, collaboration between high school and middle grades teacher so all rising 8th graders enter high school with consistent key skills.

Middle grades science partnerships; all 8th graders get to go to Biogen labs.

Aspirations teams, excitement about different kinds of student leadership opportunities. The Superintendent received compliments about our students who attended a regional conference. People from the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth (education/prevention arm of District Attorney's office) remarked that our students were outstanding, well-behaved, courteous, and remarkable for their leadership, their comments and their participation. These were a very heterogeneous group of students and they are a different group from those who would be in student council.

Middle grades project work is going to go to the next level. This is a multi-media research project that is so important at this development level.

Q: In those schools where there is active student government, what is the relationship with Aspirations teams? How are we looking at student leadership in general?

A: it's a both/and not an either/or situation. The Aspirations teams are completely focused on culture/climate within the building. Student council may be more involved in outside service or fundraising, etc....

Q: Has there been much emphasis on getting middle grades students out of the building for experiential learning or educational field trips or service learning?

A: We encourage this in many different ways, as with Biogen and the middle grades project at the Healey has been revamped around their service learning goals...I think you'd be hard-pressed to find a middle grades program that did more outside of school experiences.

Q: about extracurricular writing opportunities.

A: There is an active publishing group at the Healey due to the long-term energy of an active volunteer. There has sometimes been a student newspaper at the Winter Hill. There is some student writing in school newsletters, like Next Wave. But there could be more.

Q: about standardizing middle grades experience—on the one hand it's good to have differences so people can make meaningful choices—like the special music electives at the Argenziano middle grades--but on the other hand, you have to choose.

Q: about peer mediation: some schools have it and it seems like a leadership as well as a service opportunity.

A: We meet the needs for mediation/intervention in a variety of ways at each school. The larger schools have had staff to train students in peer mediation. As for the music electives at the Argenziano, that was just a pilot where students were grouped for all their specialist classes according to their music interests. It has not only allowed the music program to do more, but it hasn't had a downside at all in the other specialist classes so it will be considered as the new schedule has to be designed to incorporate foreign language and academic intervention classes.

Q: Will the new math program enable 8th graders to take algebra 1?

A: Yes. But also the Common Core standards call for algebra 1 concepts to be infused throughout 6th- 7th- and 8th grade math. Eventually, it is possible that students who do very well in 7th and 8th grade math could go directly to Algebra 2 in high school.

Check for audience questions.

Q: Extent to which e-portfolios are incorporated into the middle grades. Can they bring their middle grades project to put into their eportfolio?

A: E-portfolios begin in 9th grade. Students in the summer transitional program can set their e-portfolios up then. Yes, they can capture their projects and store them on the e-portfolio, that is what it is for. Originally the thinking was that doing a multimedia project in the middle grades would serve as some training for working with the eportfolio.

2. How to support Innovation School Planning

Update about the Winter Hill. Strong partnerships with STA. Pace and process led by the teachers. They're going first. Being very thoughtful about process. For example how to choose the teachers to be on the planning team.

Q: happy to hear about the other ideas the other schools might be considering and what kind of support the School Committee might be able to give them.

Discussed field trips to model schools.

Q: time line. Can it be designated an Innovation School even as rollout and planning might continue?

A: No a detailed and thoughtful plan needs to be set. The process has to take its own natural progression. No advantage to pressure. Plan has to be submitted to Superintendent and he has to verify that it meets the DESE criteria for an Innovation school. Teachers have to vote to want to do it. The School Committee has to approve it. The DESE has to review and accept the Innovation Plan. Sept 2012 is a reach but who knows it may take off. WHCS are being the pathfinders.

Q: Does the p/g community know?

A: Some communication. A forum is being planned. Difficult decision about when to inform. How early in the process? Because the process may stop. But you also want people to feel involved.

More discussion about letting go and trusting teachers to do the planning. Unless the SC wants to start an Innovation School. Lots of different groups can.

3. Possible models for Innovation Schools. Place-based education and 21st century skills... Introduced the topic didn't really get very far. Mr. Harel mentioned before that he had worked with one of the seminal authors on place-based education and he would be happy to talk about it but he couldn't make the meeting that night. Mention of other models. More interested in results, improved student learning than in actual methods/models. Superintendent wanted to separate skills from frameworks. Skills are delivered regardless of the model.

Idea of expanding tutoring programming or of Extended Learning Time came up. Superintendent could bring the School Committee plan for non-mandated extensions, provided in a variety of ways. Other examples of tutoring/volunteering...like our own Foster Grandparent program. There are significant numbers of parents who don't want ELT, so it really cannot be mandated. The real place that ELT had an impact across the state was in the middle grades, so maybe that could be an Innovation School. The concept is on the table at WHCS. The concept of flextime might be more beneficial and even more affordable.

There were no motions.

Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

MOTION: To approve the report and minutes of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of March 13, 2012.

E. ***School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:*** – March 14

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Bastardi and Mr. Bockelman

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Mr. Harel, John Kennedy, Margery Clark and one audience member.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

1. NESDEC Demography Study – update – Mr. Bockelman reported that most of this meeting was dedicated to the review of the Draft presentation provided by NESDEC. Much discussion ensued after this review.
2. Other – 2-year goals were reviewed and members were requested to get their comments to Susana Morgan for refinement. Also discussed were the revised mission statement and examining certain concepts of the proposed Charter School proposal. Discussion also took place regarding whether or not to reach out to the Charter School proponents.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of March 14, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

1. **DISTRICT REPORT**

- Mr. Pierantozzi provided an update on the principal hirings:
 - Healey School** – four finalists forwarded to Superintendent. Interviews are complete and references are now being checked.
 - Winter Hill Community School** – four finalists forwarded, one more to interview and then reference checks will be done.
 - Somerville High School** – four finalists forwarded, once interviews have been completed, reference checks will be done.
 - Next Wave/Full Circle** – Initial interviews today and tomorrow, then finalists will be interviewed and references will be checked.
- School Committee interviews will be followed by "meet and greet" receptions at each school.

- The first in a series of Community Forums on Education was held on Sunday, March 18, 2012. More than 100 people attended the forum held from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Argenziano School. These forums are a collaborative effort of Progress Together for Somerville, the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, the School Committee, Mayor's Office, Somerville Council of PTA's, the Somerville Teachers Association and the Somerville Administrators Association.
- More than 120 6th, 7th and 8th grades from across the District participated in the 23rd Annual Somerville Schools Track & Field Championships last week. All schools participated. Winter Hill took both team honors. The boys team scored 54 points to earn the Vin Cronin Memorial Plaque and the girls team scored 74 points and was awarded the Jean Foley Memorial Plaque. Shannon Higgins from Kennedy and Andre James from Healey earned individual MVP honors. Congratulations to all!
- Representatives from the Somerville Public Schools Recruiting Committee will be attending the Massachusetts Partnership for Diversity in Education Annual Job Fair this Wednesday from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Arlington High School.
- Congratulations to Regina Bertholdo, Director of the Parent Information Center. Regina will be recognized as the Somerville Women's Commission "Somerville Woman of Excellence" at a reception on Wednesday evening (March 21st) at 6:00 p.m. at the Lowell Street Visiting Nurses Assistive Living Facility. Regina will be joined by CASPAR, who is receiving the "Best Service Provider to Women" award.
- Mr. Pierantozzi had the honor of introducing Middlesex County District Attorney Gerald Leone as the keynote speaker and the Superintendent also made opening remarks this morning at the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth Conference: Exploring Legal Topics. Topics of discussion at the Lexington Conference included: Confidentiality of School Record Information, Harassment, Civil Rights Violations and Bullying.
- Tomorrow night, March 20th from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Margaret Brumberg, Middlesex Partnerships for Youth Education Coordinator will be the presenter of the workshop entitled, "FACEBOOK: What All Parents Need to Know."
- The District has been awarded a grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to implement a Middle School Leadership program at the Kennedy and West Somerville Neighborhood Schools. The 12-week program is designed to develop leadership skills among a target high-risk group of 18 students at each school, focusing on mentoring and small group sessions.

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:

4. Reported on several collaborations with teachers including the Joint Study Committee on Professional Development, which is meeting tomorrow and the Educator Evaluation Committee which will meet in early April.
 5. Provided an update on the District's collaboration with local colleges. The District will begin a new partnership with Tufts and their Early Childhood Department. Mr. Pierantozzi and Dr. McKay are meeting with representatives from Tufts who will take part in a new internship program which will start with 1-2 students for a full year in grades K-2. Thanks to Tufts for their support!
 6. Testing season update – MEPA is done, MCAS ELA starts tomorrow with the long comp. for grades 4-7. There is a positive spirit across the District around the test. There is a great balance between building-level administrators and students showing a great spirit of confidence and focus. Students feel prepared and confident. A reminder to all families that students should arrive on time and do their best not to be absent during testing times.
 7. The Region IV Science Fair will be held this coming Saturday, March 24th at the High School Field House. Exhibits will be open to the public beginning at 11:00 a.m.
- The Superintendent reported that he has completed second quarter Student of the Quarter Awards and congratulated students, parents/guardians, family members and staff for their work in helping students earn these awards.
 - Somerville High School hosted its annual Multicultural Fair on Friday, March 9. As always, the event was a great success with students showcasing food, attire, displays, dances and other performances representing a myriad of cultures from around the world.

- The Annual Vocational Fair was a resounding success with more than 300 visitors stopping by the Center for Career and Technical Resources on Saturday, March 10, for tours and hands-on activities.
- Argenziano fifth graders took a field trip to the Museum of Science on March 9th, where they explored earth and space science in support of their curriculum goals.
- Healey K-4 students held their annual dance on March 9.
- The Argenziano held its Family Math Night on March 13th, with family-fun math activities for grad 3-5 students and their families.
- The Kennedy School celebrated MCAS Spirit Week last week with a pep rally on Monday, Crazy Hat day on Tuesday, Pajama Day on Wednesday, Celebrate Words Day on Thursday, and a Spirit Rally on Friday.
- Students from the West Somerville Neighborhood School benefited from a financial literacy program presented by the Blue Hills Bank Charitable Foundation. The program used music, improvisation and games to introduce the basic concepts of saving, sharing and spending to third and fifth grade students.
- Thanks to the Somerville Mathematics Fund for sponsoring Pi Night on Friday night, March 16th at the Healey School. Mr. Pierantozzi can recite Pi to multiple digits, but shared only a few of them tonight – 3.14159265...

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for a report on some financial matters. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

4. An update of grants received over the past week including an Academic Support Grant of FT13 budget development continues. Currently firming up Kindergarten enrollment, elementary class sections, and Somerville High School course selection numbers in order to determine actual class sizes and staffing needs.
 5. The next Finance and Facilities meeting will be on April 3 at 7:00 p.m.
 6. Third quarter ARRA report is due on March 23. This includes all staff and vendors paid with the stimulus funds.
 7. Working with administrators regarding End of Year spending. Final requisitions are due by mid-April for all grant and local funds.
- Mr. Pierantozzi announced several upcoming events:
 1. The Brian Higgins Foundation's Trivia Night will be held on March 22, at Cousens Gym and all tables are sold out.
 2. Region IV Science Fair is Saturday at Somerville High School. This is the 37th year for this event. Good luck to our students. Mr. Pierantozzi will distribute program booklets to School Committee members.
 3. On March 26, the SFLC will present a workshop entitled, Learning about Literacy at Home and at School, at the Argenziano School from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
 4. Brown School students will enjoy a David Zucker Poetry performance on Wednesday, March 28th.
 5. The Navy Northeast Dixieland Band will perform in the Healey Lunchtime Concert Series on Friday, March 30th at 11:00 a.m.
 6. The Winter Hill Community School will offer a great night of movies, starting at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30th.

At the conclusion of the Superintendent's report, Mr. Niedergang had a few questions. The first was regarding Kindergarten registration. Mr. Niedergang noticed that registration for the Unidos Kindergarten was roughly two times higher than other schools/programs, excluding the Capuano, and wondered if the Superintendent had any idea why that was the case. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that overall the number of registrations compared to last year is a little bit higher, but the weather last year likely impacted registrations. The number of choices for parents on the registration form has been increased from three to five to facilitate families getting one of their choices. Historically, 95% of families are assigned to their first or second choice school. As for Unidos, these numbers are preliminary and no language testing results have been determined at this time. Also since the program has English and Spanish speaking components, that increases the number of students. The Superintendent will get more information regarding registration for Unidos Kindergarten and report back at a future meeting.

Mr. Sweeting inquired as to the grant mentioned for at risk students at the West Somerville and Kennedy Schools. What kind of follow-up will be done? Will the District follow these high-risk students over the next few years? Also, will this program be used as a model? Mr. Pierantozzi explained that this pilot program was recommended by Mr. Melillo and the Supervisors of Attendance to assist with a variety of issues, including transition from eighth grade to high school, development of leadership skills, and improving academics, attendance and behavior. These schools were chosen because they do not currently have a Redirect teacher on staff.

Mr. Niedergang asked about the deadline for the Expanded Learning Time (ELT) grant and whether the District had any school expressing interest. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that there was already some interest and that the March 30th deadline was more of a place holding deadline to inform of basic interest in ELT. One thing to note is that once a school is approved for ELT, the expanded time must be universal within that school. This may be more appropriate in smaller schools as all students would be required to have an extended day. To date, the East Somerville Community School has expressed interest.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

Apr. 29, 2012

Somerville High School Outdoors Club to Mount Washington, NH. Transportation via SHS mini-buses at no cost to students.

June 11-15, 2012

Brown School grade 6 students to Nature's Classroom in Groton, MA, overnight. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$287.00 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to waive the reading of the field trips and approve. Mr. Sweeting reported that he wanted to just say a few things about the field trips.

Prior to voting, Mr. Sweeting reported that he appreciates the spirit of both these field trips and commends the experiential learning associated with both of them. Great to see that the Brown School will now be attending Nature's Classroom, a long-time hallmark of the Choice Program. Winter Hill, and West Somerville have also sent students on this trip and Mr. Sweeting hopes this type of learning continues across the District.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that, through fundraising efforts, the cost of the Brown trip has decreased from \$287 per student to about \$100. There will also be scholarships available for families who cannot afford the cost.

Along this same vein, the field trip withdrawn for consideration at the last School Committee meeting from the East Somerville Community School, has been cancelled due to inadequate fundraising or scholarship opportunities.

B. Goal Setting – Ms. Bastardi

Ms. Bastardi requested that the School Committee review the current lottery system for assignment of students to the Smile Preschool. This item was referred to the Rules Management Subcommittee for review.

C. MASC Day on the Hill – Mrs. Cardoso

Mrs. Cardoso reminded members that the MASC Day on the Hill is Tuesday, March 27 and asked if members planned to attend. Also, Mrs. Cardoso reported that on Tuesday, March 27 and Thursday, March 29, the School Committee will meet for Personnel to interview the finalist for the various principal positions. As these meetings are School Committee Meetings for Personnel, they should be chaired by Mr. Bockelman.

D. MASC Board of Directors Meeting – Ms. Rossetti

Ms. Rossetti provided highlights from her attendance at the MASC's Board of Director's Meeting. These highlights included the following:

- Plans for a new model of Professional Development for teaching English Language Learners

- MASC currently is conducting 11 searches for Superintendent of School positions.
 - MASC is working with the Executive Office of Education regarding Innovation Schools and can assist us here in Somerville, if necessary.
- Ms. Rossetti will not be at the Rules Management meeting on Monday evening as she will be at an MASC Board of Director's meeting preparing for the Day on the Hill, a public policy compendium and several division meetings, including one in Medford regarding Supervision and Evaluation.

Mr. Bockelman thanked Ms. Rossetti for her continued commitment to the MASC and for representing Somerville so well!

VII. COMMUNICATIONS – Mr. Bockelman announced that the School Committee had receive two thank you cards from Claire DeConninck and Lisa Patalano expressing thanks for remembering their loved ones who have recently passed with a moment of silence.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rafal

1. There will be a fundraiser tomorrow night at Davis Square Flatbread to benefit the Somerville High School band.
2. On Saturday, March 24, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Porter Square Books will hold a fundraiser to benefit the Healey School library.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Mr. Sweeting followed up on Ms. Rafal's report on the Porter Square Books Fundraiser by adding that 20% of the proceeds of sales during the aforementioned time will be donated to the Healey School Library.
2. Reported on his attendance at two wonderful events—the Multicultural Fair at Somerville High School on Friday, March 9th was extraordinary, powerful, moving and fun. Mr. Sweeting sampled great food provided by great young people. Made him proud to be a parent of a Somerville High School student and to be a Somerville community member. Also, Mr. Sweeting attended the Vocational Fair on Saturday, March 10th. He liked the new format and he and his daughter tried a few different things with the hands-on displays. The student guides that were helping out were great ambassadors. This event was very impressive!

Mayor Curtatone

1. On Friday, March 23, Mayor Curtatone will join US Surgeon General Regina Benjamin and John Auerbach, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as the announcement of a \$1.57 million Community Transformation Grant to promote health and wellness in Middlesex County. This grant allows for the expansion of MDPH's "Mass in Motion" initiative, which works to reduced obesity and supports MDPH's smoking cessation and prevention activities.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Reported on her reading in grade 6 at the Argenziano School. Wonderful to be with the students who had so many questions about what the School Committee does.
2. On Wednesday, March 21, the Argenziano PTA will hold a literacy book swap.
3. The February issue of the MASC Bulletin has a wonderful picture of Congressman Michael Capuano with our own Mary Jo Rossetti. Thank you, Mary Jo, for all you do!

Mr. Niedergang

1. Mr. Niedergang spoke about how wonderful it was to see the front page article in last week's Boston Globe touting our Music Program. This was an extraordinarily positive article and was a tremendous source of pride for Somerville. Issued his thanks to the Mayor and School Department for their support of our Music Program. Mr. Niedergang is very excited about the future of our program with the work being done to create and after school program similar to El Sistema's here in Somerville.

Ms. Rossetti

1. On Wednesday, March 21, the School Committee will hold its annual meeting with the PTA's from across the City. This meeting will be at the Capuano Early Childhood Center at 7:00 p.m.
2. On Saturday, March 31, the School Committee will be the chefs at the Duhamel Education Initiative's Pancake Breakfast being held at the 1st Congregational Church on College Avenue.

Alderman Taylor

1. Enjoyed spending time reading at the Healey School along with Aldermen Sullivan and LaFuente, Captain Anzalone of the Somerville Fire Department and Chief Pasquarello of the Somerville Police Department. Alderman Sullivan brought his dog, a former rescue dog, with him—a true hit!

Mr. Bockelman

1. The Community Forum was really well done. What started as a germ of an idea turned into a great event. Sarah Davila took charge and pulled it all together. Everyone who was asked-- said yes-- The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, Progress Together for Somerville, The Somerville Administrators Association, Somerville Teachers Association, the Argenziano School PTA and the PTA council. Thanks to Dan French, Emily Blitz and Stephanie Hirsch, Janice Philpot, Christy McWayne and Tony Pierantozzi for all of their hard work. The hope is to host another forum in the fall.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, April 23, 2012 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Alderman Taylor, and Ms. Rafal (8:49 p.m.)

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Bastardi, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, and Taylor and Absent – 2 - Rafal and Curtatone. Mr. Bockelman announced that Mayor Curtatone and Ms. Rafal were at a function with the visiting students from Gaeta, Italy and would attend this meeting following the event, if possible. *Ms. Rafal arrived at 8:49 p.m.*

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- A. **Tufts University** – presentation in recognition of Tufts' recent donation of dental equipment to Somerville High School's CVTE Department. Mr. Bockelman asked Ms. Rossetti to assume the Chair and stepped to the dais to make a special presentation. Mr. Bockelman announced that it is a great honor to recognize such an outstanding, loyal community partner for such a generous donation. Tufts University has donated equipment from their Dental School to the District which is valued at \$140,500. Mr. Bockelman welcomed Barbara Rubel and Sue DeAmato from Community Relations, Bob Aronson from the Dental School Facilities Department and Dr. Mark Nehring, Chair of the Department of Public Health and Community Service at the Dental School. Also in attendance were Leo DeSimone, Assistant Principal for Career, Vocation and Technical Education and John Oteri, Housemaster and Incoming Headmaster, from Somerville High School. Mr. Bockelman read the citation and presented it to Ms. Rubel. Ms. Rubel, Dr. Nehring, Mr. Oteri and Mr. DeSimone all shared expressions of appreciation with the School Committee and audience.

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

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:16 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 2, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the minutes of April 2, 2012. The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi reported on the following events at Somerville High School:

- The Junior Statesmen of America enjoyed their trip to Stamford, CT, for New England Spring Convention. Ms. Dodi was elected Mayor!
- The Green Club continues its extensive recycling campaign in the cafeteria and has been raffling off gifts cards for participating.
- Tennis season and spring sports in general have begun.
- 27 students took part in a trip to Europe and North Africa over the vacation week. Students visited Portugal, Spain and Morocco.
- The last PTSA meeting of the school year is being held on April 25th. This is a great opportunity for parents and guardians to speak with teachers about student progress and also about class selections for next year.
- Testing time has begun with AP testing, SAT's, ACT's and MCAS taking place within the next two weeks. This can be a very stressful time for students. Some students are taking five AP exams! Passing of the AP exams with a score of 3 or higher can entitle students to be exempt from that class at the college level. This saves students and their families a good deal of money!
- Reported that students were currently visiting from Somerville's Sister City of Gaeta, Italy.

V. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:* – April 3 (Ms. Rossetti)

Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville

In attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Bastardi (departed at 9:00 p.m.), Alderman Taylor (arrived at 7:43 p.m.)

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. and adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

1. ESCS building update – Members received the monthly handout and the Superintendent provided a timeline which calls for a March 2013 completion date for a move in date of September 2013. This schedule allows time for detailed finishing.
2. Requests made by PTA Councils – requests were reviewed, discussed and considered during the FY13 budget development process.
3. FY13 Budget – review of preliminary budget #2 which included lengthy discussion of SPED costs. A recommendation to increase the SPED budget by \$400,000; the School Committee has requested more detailed information. Another request is to increase time on learning, home-school connection (one of the School Committee's goals), look at re-instating bilingual PAC's, and discussion about increasing the number of paraprofessionals at the elementary level, adding administrative aides and a data specialist. Additional money was also requested to assist Innovation School planning. There was also discussion regarding web redesign, but improvements are already being made.
4. FY12 Expenditure report – reviewed.
5. FY12 Bill roll – reviewed and approved.
6. Other

The following motion was made and approved at this meeting:

MOTION: To approve the FY12 bill rolls.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of April 3, 2012.

The motion as approved via voice vote.

B. *School Committee Meetings for Long Range Planning:* - April 11 (Mr. Bockelman)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti and Ms. Rafal

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Morgan and 1 audience member.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Even though we had three things on the agenda, we only got through one of them, but it was an important one!

1. School Committee Goals

We discussed each of our four goals and worked through specific language for each goal to make sure they were stating our true intentions. We did a lot of editing and came up with four goals that are articulate, clear, identifiable, and achievable.

We will discuss the four goals more later tonight and may, if the Committee is so inclined, vote to adopt them.

2. Mission Statement – N/A
3. School Committee Retreat – N/A

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of April 11, 2012.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the new and improved Somerville Public Schools website is up and running. It is easier to use and provides all the information most people need about our District. Bookmark the site – www.somerville.k12.ma.us.

- Last week was a wonderful vacation week full of great weather and get-aways. Now is a critical time of year with SAT's (May 5), MCAS, AP exams, mid-terms and projects. Please do your best to make sure your students are prepared.
- The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC), a homegrown subset of the School Department run by Sarah Davila and Nomi Davidson, continues to be terrifically successful. On April 4, at the Argenziano School, more than 100 families took part in "Looking for Summer Programs for Your Child" and learned about summer camps, recreation, and learning opportunities available across the City.
- On Monday, April 9, the Superintendent and three other Superintendents from the Urban Superintendent's Network attended a meeting at the Massachusetts State House with the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Education and the co-chairs of the Joint Education Committee to address drop-outs, students with behavioral and dependency issues. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked Tom Scott of the Mass Association of School Superintendents for inviting him to attend.

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:

1. Teacher registration for Summer Curriculum work recently ended, and I'm thrilled to report a tremendous upsurge in participation with over 450 teachers signed up for some type of professional development.
The listings include 21 different courses ranging the new Mathematics Common Core standards, to balanced literacy to technology training.
Two benefits: 1 – we get ahead of the curve on curriculum changes and 2 – we avoid meetings in the fall when teachers might be required to miss class for PD.
I'm also very proud of the fact that with only a few exceptions, these courses are being taught by our own staff including our instructional coaches, teachers and a number of administrators.
2. Last week, two academic camps were held at two schools, including Healey and Somerville High School (SHS). In visiting the two programs, I was very impressed with the level of focus and dedication of the students. Way to go, kids! Great dedication! The teachers, too, are to be commended for putting together engaging lessons. Thanks to all those who participated.
3. Unidos is our intensive Spanish and English language program at the East Somerville Community School. The Unidos program evaluation is launching next week. I am working with Holly Hatch, Sarah Davila and Uri Harel on this. We have hired the Educational Development Center (EDC) to conduct this study. The four of us are very pleased with the credentials and the expertise that EDC is bringing to this work. We anticipate the final report to be made available in mid-June, with at least one interim report that will be made available, which we will share with you.
4. SHS Art Fair opens tomorrow, April 24, at 12:30 p.m. in the SHS Atrium.

Upon Mr. Sweeting's request, Dr. McKay provided an overview of the Unidos Evaluation process, which includes focus groups, interviews, on-site visits, classroom observations, and parent interaction. A report will be made at Ed. Programs in June.

- Somerville High School held its annual College Fair on Wednesday, April 11th from 6:30 to 8:30pm. 43 colleges/universities were represented. More than 100 SHS students attended the event.
- Announced that the Somerville High School Art Fair begins on April 24.
- Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay and Ms. Connell attended the Urban Superintendents Meeting on Friday, April 13th where Dr. Hehir presented his report on Special Education.
- Provided an update on the East Somerville Community School construction process, which is moving along very nicely. The black color that can be seen on some of the exterior walls is waterproofing material. Two weeks after the waterproofing has been applied, insulation will be added followed by the siding. The progression of colors on the exterior of the building is: yellow – black – blue – siding. Completion is still on target for March 2013.
- The East Somerville Community School Advisory Board will meet on April 30 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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

1. At tomorrow night's Finance & Facilities meeting, the 3rd budget scenario for FY13 will be presented along with reports on needs assessment, class sizes and sections, requests for the Capital Improvement Plan and Special Education.

2. All administrators are being requested to finish all requisitions against the current year's budget now, so that all orders are completed prior to June 30th. There is lots of paperwork currently being generated in the Finance Office.
 3. Summer program planning is underway with scheduling of building use. The scheduling includes Summer School, Community Schools, Music Events, ELL programs, etc. This information is being shared with principals and the Department of Public Works for appropriate coordination and planning.
- The Superintendent reported on the following events being presented by the SFLC:
 - Tues., April 24: Guiding Your Child through the Teenage Years
 - April 25 and 26: Preparing to Meet with Your Child's Teachers
 - Wed., 4/25 at AFAS (English workshop - led by Uri Harel; translators available)
 - Thurs., 4/26 at the Edgerly (Spanish and Portuguese workshops - led by Emily Blitz and Kayla Boisvert; HC translator also available)
 - Thurs., April 26: Somerville HS Spring Concert; 7-9pm SHS Auditorium
 - Thurs., May 3: Pre-Prom Drug & Alcohol Seminar for Somerville High School seniors; co-sponsored in partnership with Middlesex Partnerships for Youth at SHS from 1:15 to 2:25 pm.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policy was presented this evening for second reading, as amended:

- File: BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee Policy

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to include File: BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee Policy, as amended, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rossetti supported the motion and asked that Mr. Niedergang please put Policy BDE on a future Rules Management Subcommittee agenda for further review.

The following policy was presented this evening for second reading, for adoption:

- File: BHE Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to include File: BHE – Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual. The motion was approved via voice vote.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

June 5, 2012 West Somerville Neighborhood School Grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH. Transportation via charter bus at no cost to students.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. FY2012 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:

Paulo H. Mira	18 Lake Street	Somerville	02143
Jean Malherbe Norbrun	17 Joyce Road	Hyde Park	02126
Barbara C. Rodrigues	120 Porter Street	Malden	02148

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the SCALE graduates. The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Local Government Advisory Commission Report (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti provided a report from her attendance at the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting on April 10, 2012. Her report included the following:

- State Revenue and Budget Update
- Community Innovation Challenge Grant Program

- Chapter 90 and Long-Term Transportation Finance Challenges
- Unemployment Insurance Reform

D. 2012 – 2014 Somerville School Committee Goals

Mr. Bockelman reported that School Committee members received a copy of the 2012-2014 goals for their review and approval.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the Somerville School Committee Goals for 2012-2014, as presented.

Mr. Taylor asked about adding an additional goal to improve the dropout rate?
Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to amend goal #1 to include a goal to reduce the dropout rate by 10% a year.

Discussion ensued regarding the impact of this goal, the reality of achieving the goal and the perception of the goal by the community.

A friendly amendment was made to Mr. Taylor's motion that the wording of the goal be to improve the graduation rate by 10% per year.

Mr. Niedergang asked that the phrase, per year, be stricken from the goal.

The amended motion was passed via voice vote.

The final vote was tabled until Ms. Rafal arrived.

E. National School Boards Association Conference

Ms. Rossetti provided some highlights from the NSBA's conference which was held in Boston this year. Her report included:

- The adoption of the Mobility Resolution at Friday evening's delegate assembly.
- Congressman Capuano's attendance as a speaker where he spoke from the heart about the issues to 150 leaders from across the country.
- A workshop by the Teacher of the Year - a Science teacher from Maryland.
- The Khan Institute's presentation regarding technology.
- A presentation by the Harlem Children's Zone
- A presentation by CNN's Soledad O'Brien
- Expanded Learning Time and the provider Champions

Lastly, Ms. Rossetti spoke about the presentation made at the conference by Mr. Pierantozzi and Chelsea Superintendent Mary Bourque regarding student mobility. Ms. Rossetti thanked Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Bourque for an awesome presentation and was especially thankful that they took time away from their busy day—the first day after April Vacation—to make this presentation.

Mrs. Cardoso also attended the conference and thanked Ms. Rossetti for her all of her work. She is very proud of Ms. Rossetti.

Mrs. Cardoso thanked Mr. Pierantozzi for his work on the Mobility Workshop.

Mrs. Cardoso also thanked her fellow School Committee members for their work on the new goals for 2012-2014.

Mrs. Cardoso felt validated after attending the workshops at the conference.

F. MASC

Mr. Niedergang gave a brief report on his recent attendance at an Education Evaluation Regulations workshop hosted by the MASC. Mr. Niedergang has provided copies of handouts for members to review. Mr. Niedergang stated that although this is dense and terse text to read, he urged members to read through.

Ms. Rafal arrived at 8:49 p.m.

Mr. Bockelman welcomed Ms. Rafal and item XIII. D was brought back for further action.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to approve the School Committee Goals for 2012-2014 as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman asked Ms. Rafal to please provide her report on the Ed. Programs Subcommittee meeting of April 10.

C. ***Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting:*** - April 10 (Ms. Rafal)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rafal

Also in attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, Ms. Foreman, Mr. Oteri, Ms. Philpot and two audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. and adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

1. High School Math Department presentation, focused on what the math department is doing differently in service of the goal of reducing MCAS failures. In 2011 failures decreased from 14 to 10.
Some of the new practices to improve math instruction include: Preteaching, increasing the rigor of general education, increasing differentiation in general education, preparing students for all tests in parallel, including the formative tests, PSAT, SAT, MCAS...etc. Teachers are using Common Planning Time and Professional Learning Circles to better differentiate their instructional strategy and design.
A question from the audience about higher calculus etc. was answered by Mr. Bockelman. For example it is not cost-effective to have a teacher for Calc. BC but there are other ways of doing this, letting kids take college courses for example.
 2. Next we heard about the SCALE program. SCALE administration is smaller than it has been and they are still running at capacity. They are focusing on their core programs of Adult Basic Education, GEC, Adult Diploma Program and English Language Learners. Assessments help students choose the program that is best for them. They help students determine next steps and work on employability. The programs are still exceeding the performance standards the state requires in order to fund the work. The Director has organized a number of collaborations with other agencies in the city to help meet students' needs. For example she described how senior citizens often have different goals for their learning that can be better met by classes at the Council on Aging. You can find SCALE on Facebook and Twitter. SCALE graduation will be on June 13 this year.
 3. Updates: a) volunteer coordinator letter... b) Innovation School planning... update on Winter Hill process including recent parent forum, next meeting is Wednesday...Kennedy School has submitted an Innovation School prospectus...East Somerville Community School is discussing Extended Learning Time...NW/FC, Brown & Argenziano are all considering the Innovation Model...Healey is also thinking about Innovation re: student support, SomerPromise or Unification...c) Unidos update—the consultant for the evaluation left after one week, but the
- Adjourned 9:20 pm

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of April 10, 2012.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Alderman Taylor

1. Announced the Joint School Committee Board of Aldermen Finance Meeting will be held on May 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermen's Chambers.

Ms. Rafal

1. There will be a fundraiser for the Healey School to benefit the Healey School.
2. Ms. Rafal reported that she enjoyed the NSBA Conference. She acquired a lot of new ideas along with validation for things already being done.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Mr. Sweeting announced that Somerville High School's PTSA will meet on Wednesday evening. Urged parents and guardians to take advantage of this opportunity.
2. Gave a shout out to the Welcome Project and their Taste of Immigrant City event being held at the Armory.

Ms. Bastardi

1. Ms. Bastardi announced that there will be a Ward One Resistat meeting tomorrow night from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
2. Spring Clean-Up on Saturday in Ward One and across the city.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. The Argenziano School will hold a Heritage Night on April 27, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
2. Ms. Cardoso will meet volunteers for the Ward 2 Spring Cleanup at the Argenziano School at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday. There will also be another team of volunteers meeting in Union Square.
3. The Personnel Subcommittee will meet on Monday, April 30, at 6:00 p.m.
4. PTA at the Argenziano School will be held on Tuesday, May 1.
5. The PTA Dinner Dance will be held on Friday, May 4th at Anthony's in Malden. This year's honorees are: Chuck Gerlach, Maryann Salami, Betsey Holland, Officer Nick Stiles and Debbie Duhamel. Tickets are still available and may be purchased from your local PTA officers.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Mr. Niedergang attended the first all-district School Improvement Council meeting on April 11. It was exciting to see 25-30 people, mostly staff and administrators working together. It would be good if more parents were able to attend in the future.
2. The 6th Annual Youth Peace Conference will be held this coming Saturday at Somerville High School.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of family members of School Department employees who have passed away recently:

- Robert L. Stauffer, father of Carl Stauffer, retired teacher and track coach from Somerville High School.
- Barbara Waka, retired School Adjustment Counselor at Kennedy School.
- Kevin J. Murphy, retired teacher from the Healey and Powder House Community Schools
- Frances Ferrone, former Food Service worker at the Powder House Community School.
- Cecilia Rose Chapdelaine, sister of Peg Leavitt, Nurse at the Kennedy School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Citation presented to Tufts University
3. School Committee Minutes of April 2, 2012
4. File: BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee Policy
5. File: BHE Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members Policy
6. Out of State Field Trip Form
7. List of SCALE ADP graduates for approval
8. Local Government Advisory Commission notes provided by Ms. Rossetti

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

THE SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
EXTENDS ITS DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

IN RECOGNITION OF

TUFTS UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AND BEING A STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNER TO THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE IS ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE DONATION OF DENTAL EQUIPMENT, VALUED AT \$140,500, WHICH PROVIDES THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH TREMENDOUS SUPPORT IN LAUNCHING A DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM - THE NEWEST ADDITION TO OUR ALREADY COMPREHENSIVE VOCATIONAL OFFERINGS AT THE SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CENTER FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

WE VALUE THE STRONG PARTNERSHIP WE HAVE WITH TUFTS UNIVERSITY, AND ARE SINCERELY APPRECIATIVE OF THIS GENEROUS DONATION AND THE NUMEROUS OTHER INITIATIVES IN WHICH TUFTS SUPPORTS THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.



SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PAUL BOCKELMAN, CHAIRPERSON

MAUREEN BASTARDI

ADAM SWEETING

JOSEPH CURTATONE, MAYOR

MARY JO ROSSETTI, VICE CHAIRPERSON

M. TERESA CARDOSO

CHRISTINE RAFAL

MARK NIEDERGANG

THOMAS F. TAYLOR, PRESIDENT – BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ANTHONY PIERANTOZZI, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

APRIL 23, 2012

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, May 7, 2012 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 –Bastardi, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, Rafal and Taylor and Absent – 1 - Curtatone. Mr. Bockelman announced that the meeting was being recorded.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 23, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the minutes of April 23, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dodi was not present at this evening's meeting.

IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. ***School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:*** – April 24 (Ms. Rossetti)
Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville

In attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang
Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and Ms. Debbie Connell and three members of the public.

The meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. and adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

1. Special Education Costs – Director of Special Education, Debbie Connell provided information regarding the increase in Special Educations costs and prepared a document with the following information: 1/3 of our out of District students are in residential programs and are not able to receive appropriate services here in Somerville, students in the SKIP program are now beginning to age-out and we do not have a program for them to attend beyond grade 8 at this time. It was suggested that, as plans are made for the High School's renovation, this issue be brought to the attention of those involved in the planning and that, perhaps, a program could be included in the reorganization. As for the rest of the students receiving services, there is a 50/50 split between those receiving services in District vs. those in out of District placements. It was noted that Somerville is doing better than most districts at keeping students "home".
2. FY13 Budget – Ms. Durette and Mr. Pierantozzi provided updates and recommendations. Lengthy discussion took place regarding budget proposals #2 and #3. Highlights included the following:
 - Somerville High School adding a HOME, Inc. intern
 - FY10 furlough repayments to approximately 35 staff members.
 - Mr. Pierantozzi's request for additional paraprofessionals in the grade one SEIP classes at the East Somerville, Healey and Argenziano Schools.
 - Also, in keeping with the School Committee's goal to improve the home-school connection, the addition of liaisons, etc.Discussion and review will continue at Thursday night's meeting. On Thursday night, the School Committee will meet with the Board of Aldermen at 6:00 and then will hold a School Committee meeting for Finance and Facilities at 7:00 p.m.
3. FY13 Capital Improvement Plan – Ms. Durette prepared and reviewed a suggested prioritized list for School Committee review. Ms. Rossetti reported that items for the Winter Hill and Somerville High School be added as priorities.

4. Other – Summer Facilities Use – Ms. Rossetti reported that many of our schools will be used this summer to provide services to students – both academic and recreational.

The following motion was made and approved at this meeting:

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the Somerville Public Schools Capital Improvement prioritized items, as amended.

Questions arose that led to discussion regarding the following:

- Publicizing budget information including public hearing information
- Budget proposals of paraprofessionals in grades 1, 2 and 3 or simply grade 1, across the District
- A proposal of adding administrative aides at each school across the District

The School Committee recessed at 7:23 p.m.

The School Committee resumed at 7:27 p.m.

Mr. Bockelman announced that information being reported this evening is simply Ms. Rossetti's report on the last meeting for Finance and Facilities and discussions related to budget planning should be done at Finance and Facilities and the next meeting will be this Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Bockelman also reminded members that the budget currently under review is the Superintendent's budget, not the School Committee's budget. This budget will be reviewed and adjusted as the School Committee sees fit after the public budget hearing.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of April 24, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. *Personnel Subcommittee Meeting:* - April 30 (Mrs. Cardoso)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Sweeting

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. DeResendes and four audience members.

Meeting called to order at 6:20 p.m. and adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

1. Resignations for Purpose of Retirement Notices for SY 2012: We were given an update on retirement notices to date.
2. Resignation Notices for SY 2012: We were given an update on resignation notices to date.
3. Leaves of Absences for SY 2012: There were no additions to our current list as of the date of our meeting.
4. Inter-District Personnel Transactions: There were no additions to our current list as of the date of our meeting.
5. New Hires: There were no additions to our current list as of the date of our meeting.
6. Staff Exit Surveys: Ald. Taylor asked that this item be placed on the Agenda for discussion. He felt that meeting with staff who are leaving our district and who are willing to share their experiences with us would be helpful and would be useful for goal setting and the budget process going forward. Our Human Resources Administrator Ms. DeResendes said that this currently does happen but on an informal basis – she presented us with a draft Exit Interview form – we had a lengthy discussion and questions were answered and we made corrections and suggestions to the draft form - it will be brought back to the Personnel Subcommittee at our next meeting for further discussion and approval.
7. Staff Diversity: SC Member Mark Niedergang asked that this item be placed on the Agenda for discussion. He felt that we needed to revisit this issue. This is an issue we have discussed many times in this Subcommittee but we all feel we can do a better job at attempting to hire staff that better mirror our students. Mr. Niedergang felt that there may be some positions that we could do a better job at outreach to increase diversity within our staff – we had a lengthy discussion and we were given some back-up data by the Supt. which demonstrated that Somerville has been increasing its diversity over the years while not at the rate we would like to see but still it is on the rise.

Mr. Niedergang asked that the Supt. provide the SC with a further breakdown of this data by positions in the SPS.

There was also a request that the Supt. provide the SC with data gathered from exit surveys gathered from parents leaving our district, why they are leaving – where they are going, etc. and referring this issue to the SC Long Range Subcommittee for further discussion in the future.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

The next Personnel Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, May 22nd at 6:00 PM at Central Administration.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of April 30, 2012.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. *Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting:* - April 30 (Mr. Niedergang)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang,

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi and 2 audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. and adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

1. File: BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee Policy – This policy was recently amended to assure compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Much more substantial editing is needed; however, the Committee has decided to put this on hold until the District receives the results of the DESE's District Review regarding subcommittee structure and then put the policy on a Rules Management Subcommittee agenda.
2. File: EFD Wellness Policy – update – Mr. Pierantozzi has consulted with staff from Shape Up Somerville for feedback on possible changes to the Wellness Policy. Mr. Pierantozzi has heard that the legislature may be making changes to the State's Nutritional Acts and suggested that we wait to hear about these changes before taking action on amending the policy.
3. File: JK Student Discipline—Collective Punishment – Mr. Pierantozzi reported that he has had discussions with principals around discipline and has included the Student Discipline Policy, as well as his memo regarding lunch and recess, to the Teaching and Learning Tuesday (TLT) publication that is distributed electronically to administrators and others, District –Wide. Text from the policy was cited, "The purpose of disciplinary action is to restore acceptable behavior. When disciplinary action is necessary, it shall be administered with fairness and shall relate to the individual needs and the individual circumstances." This policy clearly specifies that disciplinary actions should be individual. There was also discussion of the new Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) being used in Somerville, currently at the Kennedy and Healey Schools, which uses positive rewards to improve behavior. Extensive discussion ensued.
4. Translation of documents – Concerns over the two-week timeframe designated for translation of documents was reviewed. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that this has not been a problem in the District. We have standard templates that are used to make communication easier as well as the availability to use online translation sites to help. No actions were taken on this item.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the report and minutes of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting of April 30, 2012.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. *REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT*

1. *PERSONNEL REPORT*

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that School Committee members have the April 2012 Personnel Report in their packets. As is customary, Mr. Pierantozzi read the names and years of service of staff members resigning for the purpose of retirement:

- Beverly Sorrentino, teacher at Somerville High School, after 18 years
- Antonio "Tony" Cardillo, teacher at Somerville High School, after 32 years
- Irene Torardi, Special Education teacher at Somerville High School, after 32 years
- Janet Weiner, Reading Teacher at the Argenziano School, after 34 years
- Kathleen Ambrogio, Reading Teacher at the Healey School, after 41 years

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that these staff members will be dearly missed and wished them many years of health and happiness upon their retirement.

Also included in the Personnel Report are two resignations, a significant number of Leaves of Absence, and five inter-district transactions which are additional duties for current employees.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi congratulated the Somerville Council of PTA's on the success of their 38th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance which was held on last Friday evening at Anthony's in Malden. Mr. Pierantozzi was the emcee for the event. Congratulations to the PTA and to all of this year's honorees.
- Over 500 people took part in Teen Empowerment's Youth Peace Conference on Saturday, April 28th at the high school atrium. Somerville Public Schools was one of several co-sponsors of the event.
- On May 2, Somerville High School's Career, Vocational and Technical Education Department held its Annual Vocational Awards Banquet. Each shop presented awards to two students. The major award – the Vocational Student of the Year Award – was presented to Nicole Mary Cunningham, a student on the Computer Assisted Drafting program. Ms. Cunningham has a class rank of 21 out of 320 students and, after being recruited by several schools, has decided to study architecture at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
- ON Thursday, May 3, District Attorney Gerald Leone presented a pre-prom program to Somerville High School seniors on drug and alcohol avoidance. This year's senior prom will be held on May 11 at the Cambridge Marriott. Part of the program included the signing of a banner by all students as a pledge to stay safe. This banner will be on display at the Marriott during the prom. Along with this presentation, the District Attorney and Mr. Pierantozzi send a letter to each member of the senior class reminding them to make good decisions to remain healthy and safe.
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) began in several schools. This is a program whereby a variety of positive actions are used to improve attendance, punctuality and behavior. The Kennedy School is one of the first to use this system. Thank you to Rich Melillo, Buddy Willey, David DiGuardia, Anne Foley and Mark Hurrie for their work on implementing this system. At the Kennedy School, for the 3rd marking period, 152 students had perfect attendance. Congratulations!

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:

1. At our last meeting, Dr. McKay shared information regarding professional development for teachers and other instructional staff. This evening, he has shared information regarding professional development for administrators. A schedule has been placed at each member's seat this evening.
 2. On Thursday, May 9, representatives from Haifa, Israel will be visiting Somerville High School to learn firsthand how a successful school with a diverse student body operates on a day-to-day basis.
 3. Reported on two partnerships – the first with Lesley University called the Elementary Education Urban Initiative which prepares teachers to work with culturally and linguistically diverse students. This program is expanding from two students to approximately 10 for next year. An Open House Reception is being held on May 31st at 3:00 p.m. at the Argenziano School. The 2nd partnership is with Tufts University's Early Childhood Department. Somerville will be hosting a full-time master's degree student in a full-year internship in one of our classrooms. This program is being subsidized by Tufts and will provide us with a high-level student.
 4. Math and Science MCAS testing will take place over the next two weeks. As always, attendance and punctuality are of extreme importance and universal breakfast will be available to all students at all schools.
- The Somerville Public Schools web calendar has a great listing of all events across the District – www.somerville.k12.ma.us. Visit the events section for a full listing of happenings.
 - Tomorrow will be the last session of reading at the Argenziano School by Somerville Rotary Club members for this school year. Books on friendship, bullying and getting along have been shared by the Rotarians this year.

- The Somerville High School Scholarship Awards Night is on May 9th in the High School auditorium. This is a great chance to see the best of the best receive scholarships. Special thanks to the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation for help with organizing the event. This year, two young ladies will receive full scholarships; one to Boston University and one to Tufts University.
- Also on May 9, the Winter Hill Community School will host a Family Math Night beginning at 5:30 p.m. Check the District calendar to find similar events at other schools.

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

1. The District was recently notified of our eligibility for additional grant money. The first grant is the Full Day Kindergarten grant which was initially for \$145,000. We are now eligible to apply for an additional \$50,500 bringing the total grant to over \$195,000. The additional funds will be used to establish book rooms at our schools and to provide stipends to staff to work of their creation. The second grant is the Literacy Partnership grant for professional development. We have been invited to write for an additional \$10,000 in money. Amendments were submitted very quickly. We were originally awarded \$33,000. This offer of additional grant money is good news!
 2. On Thursday, May 10, there will be a School Committee for Finance and Facilities and the FY13 budget development discussion will continue. This meeting will be held in Gallery 81 at Somerville High School. Enter through main entrance; go up the stairs, take a right and Gallery 81 is down on the right just a bit.
- The Superintendent announced that Welcome to Kindergarten events will be taking place at all schools beginning with an orientation program for students attending Kindergarten at the Argenziano School next year. This event will take place on May 10. Orientation sessions for our PreK Smile students will be held during the first week of school in September and students and families will be invited to meet the teacher and visit the school.
 - On May 17, the World Famous Somerville Public Schools Spring String Fling will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. This year will also feature a choreographed orchestra performance.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville High School Graduate (recommended action: approval)

Mr. Ciccariello recommends that the following student, who has successfully completed the necessary requirements, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Jose R. Martinez

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Somerville High School Diploma.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

June 15, 2012 Healey School Grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH. Transportation via charter bus at a cost of \$25.00 per student.

June 18, 2012 Kennedy School Grade 7 & 8 students to Canobie lake Park, Salem, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$23.00 per student.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Letter of Appreciation (Mr. Bockelman)

Mr. Bockelman read a letter from the Duhamel Education Initiative thanking the School Committee for their assistance at their Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser in March.

D. NSBA Conference (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti shared her conference notes in this week's packet and drew attention to several areas for administrative investigation, review and consideration:

- Texas' "Buy Board" and Utah's "USBA Flex" to be looked at by Ms. Durette

- Town Hall Meeting – Virtual Schools to be looked at by Mr. Pierantozzi and referred to Ed. Programs and, if warranted, then to Rules Management
- When Pigs Fly – building athletic-like community support for academic endeavors – for Mr. Pierantozzi's opinion and feedback.
- The Khan Academy – for Dr. McKay's review and discussion at Ed. Programs

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Cardoso

1. On Friday, Mrs. O'Brien will hold a principal's roundtable at the Argenziano School beginning at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation's raffle will be held on Friday, May 18.
3. The "Save Our Homes" walk will be held on Sunday, May 20 beginning at the City Hall Concourse at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Mr. Sweeting reported that the String Fling is always a wonderful event.
2. Gave a shout out to the Somerville Public Schools Art Department, led by Dr. Luci Prawdzik, and commented on the beautiful artwork on display at City Hall, the Somerville Public Library and the Somerville Public Schools Administrative Offices at 42 Cross Street.
3. Mr. Sweeting reported on a meeting he attended with Ms. Rafal in an effort to reach out to various stakeholder groups. This meeting was with the Director of Youth Program Organization for Centro Presente. The hope is that all can work together to help Latino youth in the District. One issue of great importance to the group is a place to lock up bicycles as many of these youth use bikes as their primary mode of transportation. A bike corral near their offices on Innerbelt Rd. would be a great help. Centro Presente has established positive relationships with the Welcome Center and also with staff at the Argenziano School and would like to unfold these relationships with other schools. Another meeting will be held in a couple of weeks in an effort to maintain ongoing dialogue.

Ms. Rafal

1. Ms. Rafal mentioned that two members of the Centro Presente Youth Group would be travelling to Chicago for a national performance.
2. Ms. Rafal joined staff members from the Winter Hill Community School on a visit to the Paul Revere Innovation School in Revere, which is a beautiful school. This school was able to make a change in the use of time in the regular school day schedule to provide enrichment to students. They also established "centers" for math and reading intervention. These centers use software to not only provide assistance to students but to also assess and provide guidance to teachers relative to levels of achievement/understanding for each student. It was also noted that at the Paul Revere School, there were 2-3 adults in every classroom.
3. Reported on an Art opening at Tufts University that featured artwork by our students, including multimedia projects.
4. Ms. Rafal announced that she will be visiting a school in South Carolina and, therefore, will not be in attendance at some of this week's meetings.

Ms. Rossetti

1. The Duhamel Education Initiative will hold its Annual Walk to Support the Somerville Public Schools on Sunday, June 3rd. In an effort to raise a large amount of funds, DEI President Larry Sciraco will be walking in a hot pink tutu. For more information, or to donate, please call Doris McDaniel at 617-623-3168.
2. The Highlander Awards will be given on May 15th at Somerville High School.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Mr. Niedergang attended the Kennedy School PTA's coffee hour on April 25. Discussion focused on student behavior. 15-20 people were in attendance and the meeting was positive and up-tempo with good dialogue. School staff were getting ready to implement the PBIS program. This new system is going well and this was a very positive meeting.
2. Dr. Foley from the Kennedy School is interested in the addition of a Redirect Counselor when the School Committee considers the FY13 budget.
3. Mr. Niedergang offered a remembrance of Ward 5 resident and neighbor Bruce Brodigan who passed away at age 57 as the result of a freak accident while hiking. Mr. Niedergang shared some comments from Volunteer Coordinator Jen Capuano regarding Mr. Brodigan who was a long-time volunteer in the Somerville Public Schools: "We are deeply saddened by Bruce's death. He was a devoted father, caring and thoughtful man, and our hearts go out to his family."

Bruce had been volunteer tutoring three times a week for Somerville Public Schools, and volunteering in numerous other capacities in our community. Bruce was an extraordinary tutor with a dedication to and empathy for students that I've found unmatched. He had the true and valuable gifts of an eagerness to understand individuals, of listening, and an opened mind in order to better understand. The students that Bruce worked with developed a meaningful connection to a caring and understanding adult in their lives. We're tremendously grateful for the time and care that Mr. Brodigan devoted to his community, and we will miss him."

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of family members of School Department employees who have passed away recently:

- Pamela Knight, sister of Rose Ryan, Vocational Aide in the Culinary Arts Department at Somerville High School.
- Manuel Teixeira, father of Jay Teixeira, teacher at the Brown School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of April 23, 2012
3. The Somerville Public Schools Personnel Report for April 2012
4. A request for the approval of a Somerville High School, Class of 2009, diploma
5. Two (2) Out of State Field Trip Forms
6. National School Board Association Annual Conference notes provided by Ms. Rossetti
7. Copies of condolence letters sent to staff members (2)
8. Copies of thank you letters to three (3) donors to the Somerville Public Schools
9. A copy of a letter of thanks sent to C.A.S.I.T. President Adelaide Giarracino

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, May 21, 2012 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Alderman Taylor, Ms. Rafal and Mayor Curtatone (8:00 p.m.)

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 –Bastardi, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, Rafal and Taylor and Absent – 1 - Curtatone.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 7, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the minutes of May 7, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dodi reported on the following happenings at Somerville High School:

- Advanced Placement testing season is over.
- The ACT and SAT tests for the Spring will be done at the beginning of June.
- Preparations for finals are underway.
- Students are investigating various summer programs and internships, as well as opportunities from the Mayor's Summer Jobs program.
- The Talent Show will take place in mid-June with much singing, dancing and even a little comedy!
- The Somerville High School Book Club is reading, "I'm Not Leaving" by Carl Wilkins, a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide.
- The Drama Club is performing "Laughing Stock" beginning on May 23rd.
- Senior Spirit Week is this week with Twin Day on Tuesday, Whacky, Whacky Day on Wednesday, Throw Back Day on Thursday and College T-shirt Day on Friday.
- The Senior Prom took place on May 11 and was a wonderful event. The prom was featured in the Somerville News.
- Class Day and Graduation take place in early June. Rehearsals for the seniors, as well as juniors and sophomores who are volunteering as Company Leaders are ongoing.

Item VI C. Field Trip Mr. Bockelman announced that, unless there were any objections, this item, regarding a field trip to Paris and Rome, will be taken out of order so that staff members from the Art Department may answer any questions School Committee members may have regarding this trip.

Apr. 11-20, 2013

Somerville High School students to France and Italy, trip sponsored by the Art Department. Transportation via air and train. Cost to students is \$2,888.00.

Dr. Luci Prawdzik and Dorothy Contos from the Art Department, along with Serena Steele, a teacher from the Foreign Language Department, were in attendance. Dr. Prawdzik and Ms. Contos gave an overview of the trip details, including price, fundraising, etc. School Committee members asked questions relative to including students who may not be able to afford the trip and discussion ensued. It is the hope that fundraising will help all of the students who wish to participate. Mr. Bockelman thanked the staff members for coming to tonight's meeting to provide information.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the field trip. The motion was approved via vote.

IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. ***Joint School Committee/Board of Aldermen Finance Committee Meeting:*** – May 10 (Ms. Rossetti)

Committee Room, 2nd Floor, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA
The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. and adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Ms. Rossetti reported that the School Committee, in conjunction with the Board of Aldermen's Finance Committee, met to discuss preliminary budget information. Further information was requested by Aldermen Heuston and White regarding the following:

- The new Capital Planning position
- Community Schools

The meeting took just over ½ hour and members of the Board of Aldermen were encouraged to contact Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Pierantozzi or Ms. Durette with any further question.

B. ***School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:*** – May 10 (Ms. Rossetti)

Somerville High School Gallery 81, 81 Highland Avenue, Somerville

In attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, and Mr. Niedergang.

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and Dr. McKay

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

1. FY13 Budget – Discussion continued regarding the FY13 budget development. Discussion ensued regarding the following:
 - a. Tutoring
 - b. Middle school sports
 - c. Innovation School funding
 - d. Welcome Centers in elementary schools
 - e. Paraprofessionals in first grades vs. school-wide paraprofessionals

FY13 budget information is posted to our website – www.somerville.k12.ma.us/finance

Discussion also took place regarding the production of several short videos to have posted on the web to promote our schools/programs.

2. FY12 Bill Roll

3. Other

Ms. Rossetti announced that the Somerville Public Schools Budget Hearing will take place this Wednesday evening, May 23, in the library at Somerville High School, beginning at 7:00 p.m. At this meeting, the Superintendent will present his proposed budget. The public may comment about the budget at this meeting. If members of the public are not able to attend, they may submit comments via the website using a link to "contact the School Committee". At the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities on June 5, the School Committee will vote and the School Committee's budget, which will be presented to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen in June.

The following motion was made and approved at this meeting:

MOTION: To approve the FY12 Bill Rolls.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of May 10, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Alderman Taylor shared information regarding a proposal he had made regarding increasing the number of paraprofessionals at the elementary level, specifically in grade one. He emphasized that in order for paraprofessionals to be effective, professional development is key. Ms. Rossetti asked for verification on the number of first grade sections for next year. Ms. Sweeting asked if the best use of and extra \$150,000 or so, is to increase the number of paraprofessionals. He requested that the School Committee think carefully before making any decision on this.

Mr. Pierantozzi assured Alderman Taylor that all paraprofessionals employed in Somerville have either an Associate's Degree or have passed a test proving competency. He also reported that paraprofessionals have already been added in intergraded classrooms at three schools for next year.

Alderman Taylor thanked School Committee members and the Superintendent for their consideration of this matter.

Mrs. Cardoso requested that the School Committee listen to what the principals are requesting. Is there a need for these paraprofessionals? Don't make a blanket decision. Please consider that there may be many other ways of best using \$150,000. Mr. Niedergang agreed and urged members to look at the broader picture. He would like to see the budget increase significantly to add programs, etc.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Rossetti assumed the Chair so that Mr. Bockelman could provide the following report:

C. *School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:* - May 16 (Mr. Bockelman)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Morgan, Ms. Durette, Don Kennedy, Margery Clark and 4 audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. and adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

1. NESDEC Demography Study – update – Mr. Bockelman reported that representatives from NESDEC attended the meeting and provided information regarding the background that led to the study being done, along with information regarding potential building use. Next steps include assessing the various scenarios and developing a cost analysis for these scenarios. After much discussion, the School Committee requested that NESDEC representatives return with a final report by the end of June, hopefully. This was a very lengthy meeting filled with many questions and much discussion.
2. Other

MOTION: To approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of May 16, 2012.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- The end of the year is approaching at warp speed. First, the Superintendent shared activities that have already occurred.
- The Somerville High School Scholarship Awards Night was held on May 9. 179 scholarships were awarded to our graduating seniors totaling \$133,100. Congratulations to all of the awardees and thank you to all who contributed to the scholarship funds, especially the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation for all of their work. This dollar figure does not include two (2) full-tuition scholarships in the name of Doris York which are awarded to two female graduates pursuing their educations at Tufts and Boston University.
- On May 15, the Highlander Athletic Awards Ceremony was held at the High School. 36 scholarships, totaling \$15,000 were awarded along with 84 four-year plaques, 44 Highlander Awards for service and 149 first year letters.
- On May 10, the Welcome to Kindergarten event was held at the Argenziano School. The cafetorium was full. Translators were available for Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole speakers. Parents and guardians of incoming Kindergarten students should watch their mailbox for an invitation to transition day, which is coming up very soon.
- The Senior Prom was held at the Cambridge Marriott on May 11. Students looked sashing and lovely at this very formal event!

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:

1. The impact of the waiver law regarding NCLB and resulting changes:
 - a. High marks were given for student achievement along with more flexibility regarding how these goals are achieved.

- b. SES requirements loosening. We now have more control over Title I funds for supplemental educational services. A detailed memo will be included in the Ed. Programs packet.

Ms. Rossetti asked that data be gathered to show the difference in the number of students serviced now that there is local control vs. when there was not, in an attempt to show efficiency, etc.

2. Reported that at the Ed. Programs meeting, a new Middle Grade Math Curriculum will be brought forward. This curriculum was chosen after an extensive review process which included work with middle grade teachers, Mr. Harel and high school teachers.
 3. Reported on the Mass Grant Coalition. Somerville will have two teams from Somerville High School and Full Circle and students from both programs will be showcased via a video recording regarding the Credit Recovery Program. Five students will be presenting regarding best practice.
- Congratulated the Scholarship Foundation on their recent raffle fundraiser. 239 \$100 tickets were sold and 10 people shared the \$10,000 first prize. Thanks to the Scholarship Foundation Board, led by Gene Brune, for all of their hard work on this event.
 - On May 9, Mr. Pierantozzi attended the Middlesex Partnership's for Youth's 14th Annual Secure XIV: Protecting and Empowering Digital Youth conference.
 - On May 15th, Mr. Pierantozzi had the pleasure of joining several staff members at the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists' month networking dinner. Sibby LaGambina was a presenter at this event.
 - On May 17, the World Famous Somerville Public Schools Spring String Fling took place at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. This year featured a choreographed orchestra performance. Hundreds of students participate and at least half of our students use instruments that have been donated. Congratulations to Rick Saunders and Andy Blickenderfer for their hard work on this event and in getting our students prepared to perform.

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

1. Work continues on FY13 budget development. Documents are being reviewed for accuracy and the Projected FY13 Staffing Plan is being produced. Staff included are paid with both local and grant money.
 2. Reported on Entitlement grant levels. There is an expected 3% decrease in Title I (\$30,000) and we are checking on the SPED Allocation and Title II grants.
 3. Preliminary budget documents have been posted to the Somerville Public Schools website under Finance – www.somerville.k12.ma.us/finance. These documents will continue to be updated throughout the budget process.
 4. Last Thursday, Ms. Durette and her staff met with the City's Finance and Auditing staff to plan for FY12 close-out.
- The Superintendent reported on the East Somerville Community School Advisory Board meeting of May 21. He is pleased to report that the project is within budget and on time. Completion is expected for March 2013 with a September 2013 opening date.
 - Announced the following Somerville Family Learning Collaborative Events:
 - ❖ Food & Nutrition – Proportion Distortion on May 24, at 6:30 p.m.
 - ❖ Supporting Your Child in a Stressful World on June 5, at 6:30 p.m.
 - There will be no school on May 28 in honor of Memorial Day. Thanked our veterans for their service to our country.

Mr. Bockelman announced that Mr. Pierantozzi was recently honored with an award from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS). Mr. Pierantozzi's work on various statewide issues and recognition for this work is certainly a feather in Somerville's cap. Congratulations!

Mr. Taylor reminded everyone of the City's Memorial Day parade being held on May 27, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Somerville High School.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Donations (recommended action: approval)

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of a Yamaha Drum Kit, valued at \$500.00 and cymbals and stands, valued at \$150.00, to the Somerville High School Music Department, donated by Paul Josey of Medford, MA.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of a Hard Body electric guitar, valued at \$200.00 and a small practice amp, valued at \$50.00 to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department, donated by Kerry Spielberger of Somerville, MA.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of tickets to the Reading Symphony, valued at \$100.00, donated by Herlinda Saitz of Stoneham, MA.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of a Two-Octave Hand Bell Set, valued at \$1500.00, donated by Norah Piehl, on behalf of the Back Bay Ringers to Mr. Adam Epstein and the East Somerville Community School.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. FY2012 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

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

Miguel F. Coelho	37 Gorham Street	Somerville	02144
Christopher James McCann	18 Kingston Street	Somerville	02144
Jamir R. Benitez	62 Bingham Avenue	Dedham	02026
Dinorah D. Lainez	77 Baystate Road	Quincy	02171
Enrico Edward Mancini	24 Clairmont Street	Lynn	01904
Mohamed Zaker	29 Campbell Avenue	Revere	02151

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the SCALE ADP graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

June 11-14, 2012	Kennedy School students to the University of Maryland to compete in National History Day. Transportation via charter bus at a cost of \$475.00 per student.
June 14, 2012	Argenziano School Grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$23.00 per student.
June 14, 2012	Argenziano School Grade 7 students to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$35.00 per student.
June 18, 2012	East Somerville Community School Grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$25.00 per student

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to waive the reading of the four remaining field trips and approve.

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that, although the Kennedy School trip to National History Day lists a cost of \$475.00 per student, fundraising and funds from the District are covering these costs.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- VII. **COMMUNICATIONS** – Mr. Bockelman read a letter from the Duhamel Education Initiative to the School Committee, thanking them for their assistance at their recent pancake breakfast fundraiser. A copy of the letter is included at the end of these minutes

VIII. **ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Rossetti

1. PTA at West Somerville Neighborhood School beginning at 6:00 on May 24.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Mr. Niedergang attended the Progress Together for Somerville (PT4S) meeting held on May 20 at the First Church on College Ave. There were approximately 75 people in attendance. The meeting was interesting and well organized. Alain Jehlen provided a wonderful synopsis of the day's events on the Somerville Voices site. People were very engaged and there were simultaneous translations available in Spanish and Portuguese. The group worked on choosing goals much like the School Committee recently did. Parent Involvement and helping schools tailor to the needs of student were discussed. A follow-up meeting is being scheduled. Communication was a big topic. Mr. Niedergang brought PT4S business cards for members who wished to have them.
2. Reported on his attendance at the Ward 5 ResiStat meeting on Monday, May 14th and commented that it was good to have the school issues included at these meetings. 13 of the 70 PowerPoint slides were dedicated to school-related data.
3. Commented on the TLT newsletter that is generated every week from the Curriculum Office. Very informative and positive publication.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. The Argenziano School will hold its Annual Memorial Day remembrance on Friday, May 25.

Mayor Curtatone

1. Mayor Curtatone reported that he does not yet have a formal date for his budget presentation to the Board of Aldermen but expects it will be held by the second week of June.
2. The Mayor urged citizens to visit the city's website for the dates of the various ResiStat meetings and encouraged residents to attend and learn what is going on in their ward and across the city.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Mr. Sweeting attended the Ward 3 ResiStat meeting and it was great to have discussion about schools.
2. The Spring String Fling was terrific.
3. Commended the Mayor and the Arts Council on Porch Fest. He heard great music which included Brazilian Percussion and Bell Ringing.
4. Attended the Healey School's Young Artists in Action event at the Armory and thanked all involved in this event.

Ms. Rafal

1. The Young Artists in Action event exceeded their fundraising goal after changing their venue – congratulations to all!
 2. Attended the Mystic Herring Run on Shore Drive.
 3. On Thursday Night Ms. Rafal attended the Community Council Meeting at the Healey School which featured the Unification Plan rollout. Mixed grades did not work the way it was envisioned, but work can be done to make it work in different ways.
 4. Winter Hill's Innovation School is making very fast progress. This was a great week in both schools. Both schools know what they need.

Mr. Niedergang added that regarding the mixed grades not working at the Healey, it is great that things can be tried and then reviewed and reorganized.

Ms. Rafal reminded the audience that the Ed. Programs meeting will take place on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of family members of School Department employees who have passed away recently:

- John Tobin, father of Erin Van Vliet, teacher at the East Somerville Community School.
- John Prendergast, husband of Irene Prendergast, former Hearing Tester in the Somerville Public Schools, now employed in the Board of Health Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of May 7, 2012
3. Four (4) Donation Acceptance Forms
4. A request for the approval of ADP diplomas for six (6)
5. Five (5) Out of State Field Trip Request forms
6. A letter of appreciation from the Duhamel Education Initiative
7. Two (2) letters of condolence.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 11, 2012 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Somerville High School Library - 81 Highland Avenue

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

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone and Alderman Taylor

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Library of Somerville High School at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Bastardi, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, and Rafal and Absent – 2 - Taylor and Curtatone. Mr. Bockelman explained that the Board of Aldermen is meeting this evening in chambers, so the School Committee meeting was moved to the High School.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- School Choice Public Hearing of May 21, 2012

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of the School Choice Public Hearing of May 21, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- May 21, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of May 21, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not present this evening.

IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *Somerville Public Schools Budget Hearing* – May 23 (Ms. Rossetti)

Somerville High School Library, 81 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Alderman Taylor, Mayor Curtatone.

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, Dr. McKay, Ms. Hernandez-Morgan and approximately 14 audience members.

The hearing was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Pierantozzi presented the Superintendent's FY2013 Budget to the School Committee and audience. Following this presentation, two community members participated in the public comment period. Mr. Cohen spoke regarding support of the family support/parent liaisons and Ms. Bullard spoke regarding a dual-language coach for the East Somerville Community School. She also spoke about the loss of a grade one teacher at the ESCS and the trickle-down effect this created.

With no further business before them, the School Committee adjourned the budget hearing at 7:58 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the Somerville Public Schools Budget Hearing of May 23, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. *Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting*: May 29 (Ms. Rafal)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi and Ms. Rafal

Also in attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, Mr. Harel and 5 audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. and adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Ms. Rafal's report is as follows:

The meeting began at 7:02 pm in the Central Office conference room at 42 Cross Street. Ed Programs subcommittee members Maureen Bastardi, Mark Niedergang and myself (Christine Rafal) were in attendance, as were, Mary Jo Rossetti and Teresa Cardoso. Also present were Uri Harel, Vince McKay, Debbie Connell and about 6 other audience members.

1. The first item on the agenda was a presentation from the Coordinator of Elementary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, aka Mr. Uri Harel, about the selection of the new math curriculum for grades 6-8. The search process started with a brainstorming session asking teachers what they need in such a math curriculum and generated criteria for searching/rating. Then they examined several different curricula for middle grades math using a lengthy rubric to rate each one. And the final selection was...: Pearson's Connected Math 2, for many reasons, including its close alignment with Common Core Standards and Standards for Mathematical Practice. But because the teachers already knew what they wanted, they also already know ways they want to improve or supplement it for our students, so they will begin this summer both addressing certain gaps and also identifying in the curriculum certain "Power Standards" needed for state assessments etc.

The switch will require a lot of support for teachers, beginning this summer. Mr. Harel also said a workshop for parents would fit very well as a Title One activity.

2. Next we heard some of the key points about how Massachusetts' NCLB waiver will impact Somerville. One of the changes is that external tutoring services will no longer be provided. Our schools and even a student's own teacher are now allowed to provide academic tutoring which should save money and be more effective. Goals and performance targets have been redefined as well. Luckily since Mr. Pierantozzi was closely involved with this process in his capacity as President of the Urban Superintendents of Massachusetts, our new district improvement goal #1 has been described in an annual way to help us hit the 2016-17 benchmark. Another aspect of the waiver includes changes to the educator evaluation system, about which we are required to hold a public hearing.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to recommend a public hearing about the educators' evaluation at 6:45 p.m. on June 18, 2012 and have the Regular School Committee meeting immediately following.

Ms. Rossetti asked if the Stand 4 Children ballot question will have any impact on the Educator Evaluation. An explanation of the ballot question was given, including the fact that seniority will no longer be considered for layoffs, etc. The predominant issue is that employee and student performance will be part of the evaluation process going forward. The evaluation document is a mandatory subject of collective bargaining and the development of the document will be a lengthy process.

Mr. Bockelman asked that material regarding the Educator Evaluation regulation be posted on our website so that parent/guardians and other members of the public might be able to learn more about it. No action will be taken during the Public Hearing—only comments, etc. from those who choose to attend and testify.

3. Then we had our annual presentation from the Director of Special Education. Overall, the district is moving toward more inclusion, and our percentage of students with IEPs who are fully included is now above the state average. For inclusion, planning is key, and co-teachers look at key concepts, goals and methods together. The Winter Hill Community School has been moving toward whole school adoption of SPED Inclusion and you will probably see a continuation of movement in this direction as a key feature of their proposed Innovation school. The SpEd Dept administration does a lot of professional development with both SpEd and General Ed teachers to support students' needs. Differentiation and academic tutoring are ways to help students whose needs don't rise to the level of IDEA (they may have learning difficulties but are still accessing the curriculum). Last December the DESE conducted a review of our SpEd department and recommended some items to address. All but one of those have been addressed and accepted and an additional progress report is due in October. Moving forward the Department is implementing Multi-tiered Systems of Support, more interventions and more assistive technology as well as more training for staff.
4. We had a progress report about the activities conducted so far on the evaluation of the Unidos program. We expect to hear the final presentation tomorrow night.

Our meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

The next Ed Programs meeting will be tomorrow night at 7 pm at 42 Cross St.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the report and minutes of the Ed. Programs Subcommittee Meeting of May 29, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. *School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities* May 30 (Ms. Rossetti)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman and Mr. Taylor.

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, Dr. McKay, Mr. Tringale and 3 audience members.

Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m. and adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

1. FY13 Budget – Following lengthy discussions with the Superintendent and Ms. Durette, as well as comments presented by the public, both in person and via email, the School Committee discussed changes needed prior to submitting their budget to the Board of Aldermen for approval. Discussion took place regarding Alderman Taylor's request to have additional paraprofessionals in the first grades across the District. Alderman Taylor reported on research he has done on the impact of the paraprofessionals. Lengthy discussion ensued and a motion was made and failed. A request was made by Alderman Taylor to reconsider this issue next year. A request was made that the Superintendent discuss this idea with building administrators to see if they feel that a grade one paraprofessional would be something they would like.

MOTION: That the School Committee add six (6) all-school paraprofessionals city-wide, for a total of \$105,000 to the Superintendent's FY13 budget proposal.

The motion failed on a roll call vote of YES – 2 – Taylor and Rossetti; NO – 6 - Rafal, Sweeting, Bastardi, Cardoso, Niedergang and Bockelman and ABSENT – 1- Curtatone

Mr. Niedergang asked for consideration regarding the parent/guardian outreach coordinators and asked that the hours for these positions be increased from 10 to 17 hours per week. This increase in hours for the nine staff members would increase the budget by \$37,800. Discussion ensued, followed by a motion.

MOTION: To add \$37,800 to the Superintendent's FY13 budget proposal, an increase of seven (7) hours/week for each of the nine (9) school-based parent/guardian outreach coordinators, increasing salary from \$6,000 to \$10,200/year.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 8 – Taylor, Rafal, Sweeting, Bastardi, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti and Bockelman and ABSENT – 1 - Curtatone.

Mr. Niedergang asked that the number of school-based volunteer coordinators be increased by three and therefore the budget be increased by \$4,800. Discussion ensued followed by a motion.

MOTION: That the School Committee increase the Superintendent's FY2013 budget proposal relative to the school-based volunteer coordinators by three (3) to be allocated as determined by the Superintendent, representing a total of \$4,800 to be added to this budget line.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 6- Taylor, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, and Bockelman; NO – 2 – Rafal and Bastardi and ABSENT – 1 - Curtatone

MOTION: To approve a School Committee budget of \$52,545,257 for FY2013.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 8 – Taylor, Rafal, Sweeting, Bastardi, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti and Bockelman and ABSENT – 1- Curtatone.

MOTION: To approve the FY12 Bill Rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities of May 30, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the Personnel Report in this week's School Committee packet. Three staff members have submitted their resignations for the purpose of retirement – Paula Atwood, 1st grade teacher currently at Brown, formerly at East Somerville – 21 years
Patricia Davenport, Special Education teacher at Somerville High School – 25 years
David Dickerson, Special Education Facilitator and track coach – 32 years
Mr. Dickerson will continue to coach at Somerville High School.
Mr. Pierantozzi wished these retiring staff members a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Resignations and Leaves of Absence need no further explanation.

Inter-district transactions – currently 16 staff members are listed under this category.

The next personnel report you receive at the end of the summer will show many, many transactions with over 100 new hires/transfers expected to transpire over the next couple of months.

New hires include short and long-term hires and include tutors, a dropout prevention specialist and a utility aide.

The Superintendent provided an update on the Assistant Principal hiring processes and thanked all of the interview teams. The Winter Hill interviews were held on Thursday. 14 people will be interviewed – 5 outsiders and 9 insiders. Finalist names have been forwarded to incoming principal Chad Mazza who will conduct final interviews the last week of June.

Interviews for the two Housemasters at Somerville High School have been conducted. Thanks for the team, which included students, for the hard work and time. 12 people were interviewed. Five names were forwarded to John Oteri for finalist interviews. Mr. Oteri will forward two names to the Superintendent for his approval.

These Principal and Assistant Principal hiring processes took much time and coordination and Mr. Pierantozzi gave kudos to Melissa DeResendes, Human Resources and Diversity Administrator and Mariana MacDonald, Human Resources Administrative Assistant.

DISTRICT REPORT

The Superintendent provided the following report on happenings around the District:

- Congratulations to the Class of 2012.
- Somerville Class Day on June 1st provided yet another opportunity to celebrate the wonderful traditions that make our schools and our City great.
- The Somerville High School Graduating Class of 2012 enjoyed a fabulous Graduation Ceremony at the Gantcher Center last week, thanks to the incredible support of Tufts University, who quickly responded to our last-minute request for use of their facility. Congratulations and the best of luck to our 323 graduates. Thanks also to Headmaster Tony Ciccariello (who delivered his final SHS Graduation Speech on Tuesday night) and our esteemed School Chairman, Paul Bockelman, for their inspiring messages.
- Congratulations to our 5 Full Circle High School graduates who received their diplomas last Thursday in a great ceremony at the Dante Club.
- A team of Wellness representatives from Somerville were invited to present at a DESE School Wellness Forum in Wakefield on May 30th. Susana Hernandez Morgan, Tim O'Keefe and Lauren Mancini from the district were joined by Paulette Renault-Caragianes, Director of the City of Somerville's Health Department, in making a presentation to approximately 150 Forum attendees from throughout the Commonwealth.

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

1. Preliminary results of recent state assessments are in and there is good news regarding our ELL students and MEPA testing. Details will be provided at Ed. Programs, but we are certainly making progress with an increase in scores of about 4%. Students at the Winter Hill Community School had scores in sub-tests (Reading, Writing, etc.) which exceeded the state's scores by twice.

2. Program Developments
 - a. New teacher mentoring
 - b. High School Science and Math and CVTE Robotics program
 - c. Innovation work at Winter Hill with grade level work. The Innovation Plan is at members' seats this evening. The teachers have done all the work. Thanks for Ms. Rafal for being the School Committee's representative. Next steps include School Committee review and approval.
3. At the Ed. Programs meeting this week, reports will be provided on the Unidos Program Evaluation by EDC and also a report from the CVTE's Advisory Board.

Ms. Rafal issued her thanks to all at Winter Hill. The faculty has been incredible. Thanks to the School Committee for letting her represent them on the committee.

- The Superintendent announced that there are now three schools involved in the Innovation School process. On Thursday, the Kennedy School held its first meeting and Mr. Pierantozzi and Mr. Niedergang attended. The next step is to pick a planning team. The Somerville High School STEAM Academy is in the very first stages and a screening committee will be meeting this week to review the proposal.
- Congratulations to first-graders Tanya Dorsen (Brown School) and David Ou (Argenziano), two of 13 winners from throughout the Commonwealth in the MSBA's "My Ideal School" contest. The contest is designed to "...promote discussion among students and teachers as to how thoughtful design and construction of schools in Massachusetts supports student learning." Winners were recognized in a special ceremony held June 5th at the Massachusetts State House.
- To date, 475 students are registered for Kindergarten. At the same time in 2011, 455 students were registered. We also have 474 1st grade students for next year. This is the high point in the registration process as we have not yet been informed of all withdrawals of students leaving the District. This is the highest enrollment in seven years and the enrollment trends discussed at the Long Range Planning meeting seem real.
- The Somerville High School Welcome Center hosted an International Potluck for more than 50 parents, students and faculty on Friday, June 8th. The event was planned by the students, showcasing the support given to students at the Welcome Center and facilitated by the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative.

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

- Provided members with a one page sheet of summer programs, which offer a wide array of opportunities for our students.
- Linda Walsh is the elementary summer school principal. Students recommended by their teachers for summer school will attend the program free of charge. Title I funds will be used to cover the costs.
- The High School summer school is being led by Chris Angelli and the cost is fee-based. Residents will be charged \$125.00 per class with non-residents paying more. Registration takes place beginning on June 27 from noon to 3:00 p.m.
- Other summer programs include String and Music Camps, the SPELL program for elementary and high school English Language Learners, Community Schools Summer Camp, a robotics program run by Tufts University, and a program facilitated by Riverside Community Health for a small group of students being held at the Healey School

Mr. Sweeting asked about the ease with which parents/guardians are informed about the various summer offerings. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that in early spring, a Summer Program Fair was held at the Argenziano School and that several hundred people attended. The Fair featured representatives from many programs, including those that are not part of the Somerville Public Schools. Parents and guardians can also find information in the main office of their student's school or on our website.

Ms. Rafal asked about the long-term plan for Innovation Schools. Mr. Bockelman responded that, as discussed at the School Committee's retreat, we have no criteria. We will use the Winter Hill as a model and be very thoughtful about how we proceed. This is new for us and the state.

The Superintendent announced several upcoming events in the schools:

- Student Aspirations Leadership Conference, Tues., June 12
- WHCS 4th Annual Multicultural Fair, Wed., June 13
- ESCS Spring Concert, Thurs., June 14
- Healey School International Day, Fri., June 15

Also, a number of Awards Ceremonies, Middle Grades Projects presentations, dances, Moving On ceremonies, and other special events and activities are on the schedule. Remember – Last Day of School is Tuesday, June 19th.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2012 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

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

Ashley Marie Mento	50 River Road, #5001	Somerville	02145
Barbara Jennifer Blois	148 Prospect Avenue	Revere	02151
Tananya T. Deus	30 Chelsea Street	Everett	02149
Bertha L. Flores	108 Woodlawn Street	Everett	02149
Alfredo Landaverde	24 Woodville Street	Everett	02149
Robson Luiz Martins	37 Clark Street	Winchester	01890

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the SCALE graduates. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Approval of Donation (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$1,700.00 from Evan Fetras of the Davis Square Flatbread Company, to be used by the Somerville High School Art Department for the purpose of purchasing materials and supplies for the Art Program at Somerville High School. The funds were raised during a year-long Bowling League and Somerville High School was selected as the charity of choice.

The School Committee and Superintendent praised Mr. Fetras for being so generous to the various groups involved with the Somerville Public Schools by sponsoring many different fundraisers at his establishment.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept the donation, with gratitude. The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

June 15-16, 2012 Somerville High School students to the National Scholastic Track Championships in Greensboro, NC. Transportation via automobile at no cost to students.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the field trip. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rossetti reported on the Ward 7 Resistat meeting and noted that the new budget information was in the presentation handout. She referred to page 8 of the handout and the reference to Somerville spending the least per capita in the state. Asked what percentage of the budget do other school departments have in other cities and towns.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS – Mr. Bockelman announced that the School Committee had received a thank you note from Mr. Jay Teixeira in appreciation at a recent School Committee meeting for the recognition of the passing of his father.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Niedergang

1. Mr. Niedergang attended the Kennedy School's Innovation School meeting. Approximately 20 people were in attendance – 15 parents/guardians and 5 teachers. Dr. Foley facilitated the meeting. This was a round-robin type of meeting with people sharing lots of ideas including science education, project-based learning, movement, uniforms, etc. There is lots of interest in an Innovation School at the Kennedy and more meetings are being scheduled. Mr. Niedergang will forward information to the School Committee via email.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. The Argenziano School will hold its Spring Concert on June 12, at 9:00 a.m.
2. Argenziano Middle grade projects will be displayed on Wednesday from 1:30-2:00 on June 13.
3. The Argenziano School's Kindergarten potluck breakfast and awards ceremony will be held on June 14.
4. Argenziano 8th graders will be going to Canobie Lake Park as part of their moving on activities.
5. Mrs. Cardoso asked the Superintendent if any thought is being given to having Somerville High School's graduation ceremonies indoors so that weather is not an issue. The Superintendent responded that the plan right now is to keep the ceremony outside, but keeping Tufts as a back-up if we need to move indoors.

Ms. Rossetti

1. The West Somerville held its Volunteer Appreciation Night last Friday with dinner and raffles. Thanks to the PTA for all their work.
2. Tomorrow, June 12, at 6:00 p.m., the Superintendent will present the School Committee's budget to the Board of Aldermen at City Hall.
3. On Thursday, June 14, West Somerville will hold its Moving On Ceremony for the eighth graders.
4. On June 15, the West Somerville will hold its Field Day at Dilboy.
5. On Wednesday, Ms. Rossetti will attend the MASC's Board of Director's meeting.
6. Tomorrow afternoon, Ms. Rossetti will attend the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting in the Governor's Office.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Mr. Sweeting reported that he and Ms. Rafal met on May 31st with representatives of the Haitian Coalition as part of their outreach efforts. Franklin Dalember and Wadson Michel held organize the meeting. Discussion included concerns and interests of the group who were very excited about the parent/guardian and volunteer liaisons. They agree that it is important to get parents and guardians involved but it can be very difficult. The idea of school uniforms also came up at the meeting, which last about 60 minutes or so. All involved look forward to more meetings in the future. The plan is to meet with leaders from various stakeholder groups.

Ms. Rafal

1. Thanked all involved for work done on the middle grades projects.
2. Thanked the community members and agencies who helped/donated with the service learning projects.
3. Thanked those involved with the Healey's New York City trip. This was a great learning activity for the students who learned about money management, living with others in addition to seeing the sites. Thanks to those who donated and participated/led fundraising efforts.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Reported that he and Mrs. Cardoso met with Mr. Pinto from the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS). It was a very productive meeting where both parties listened and discussed ways we could support each other and our constituents. Just a beginning with continued dialogue in the future.
2. Somerville High School's International Night, organized by students aided by the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, was a great event.
3. Reported on his attendance at the GSA's recent fundraiser.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of family members of School Department employees who have passed away recently:

- Lorne Murphy, father of Lorne Murphy, teacher from the Argenziano School and Interim Assistant Principal at the Healey School.
- Donald Medeiros, father of Donald Medeiros, Jr., Machine Technology Teacher at Somerville High School.
- Marie Nigro, mother of Janet Weiner, Reading Teacher at the Argenziano School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Choice Public Hearing Minutes of May 21, 2012
3. School Committee Minutes of May 21, 2012
4. Personnel Report for May 2012
5. One (1) Donation Acceptance Form
6. A request for the approval of ADP diplomas for six (6)
7. One (1) Out of State Field Trip Request form
8. A letter of appreciation from Jay Teixeira and family
9. Four (4) donation thank you letters.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 18, 2012 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

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

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone and Alderman Taylor

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 –Bastardi, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, Rafal and Taylor and Absent – 1 - Curtatone.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- **Duhamel Education Initiative grant awardees**

Mr. Bockelman introduced Mr. Larry Siraco, president of the Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI), who stepped to the podium to give a brief history of the DEI as well as announcing the grant recipients and the title of their grant proposals. Recipients greeted Mr. Siraco and then spoke briefly about the objectives of their projects. Grant recipients were:

- ✓ Suzanne A. Morris, Somerville High School, *Assisting the Transition of 8th Graders into Somerville High School*
- ✓ Linda Wiegenfeld, Val Gouvea and Liliana Skero, East Somerville Community School, *Inspiration*
- ✓ Adam Epstein and Charlotte Huffman, East Somerville Community School, *Make and Take Your Own Dulcimer*
- ✓ Roxane Scrima and Sharon Sotiros, Kennedy School, *Kindergarten Literacy Bags*
- ✓ Kirsten Spence, Argenziano School at Lincoln Park, *Life in a pond...Big or Small!*
- ✓ Lisa Brewster, Somerville High School, *Fostering a Lifelong Love of Reading*
- ✓ Alicia Kersten, Somerville High School, *Facing History and Ourselves – Living History Guest Speaker*

- **Retiring staff members with 10+ years of service**

Mr. Bockelman invited various School Committee members to introduce those retiring staff members who were in attendance at this evening's meeting. Both School Committee members and the retirees shared remembrances and wishes for great things in the future. Staff members listed in ***bold, italic*** font were present at this meeting. Citations were mailed to those not able to attend. Citation wording is included at the end of these minutes.

❖ <i>Kathleen Ambrogio</i>	Paula Atwood
❖ <i>Janet Weiner</i>	Antonio Cardillo
❖ <i>Evelyn Scheri</i>	Anne Carr
❖ <i>Margaret Clapham</i>	Linda Cignetti
❖ <i>Donna Daley</i>	William Dineen
❖ <i>Ruth Daigle</i>	Mary Gooch
❖ <i>David Dickerson</i>	Mary McClellan
❖ <i>Margaret Frechette</i>	Eleanore Grochowska
❖ <i>Patricia O'Connor</i>	Nancy McSweeney
❖ <i>Stephen Tuccelli</i>	Elaine Mitchell
❖ <i>David Willey</i>	Judith Nierenberg
❖ Frank Beebe	Robert Slattery
❖ Eve Shelton-Jones	Irene Torardi
❖ Beverly Sorrentino	

The School Committee recessed at 7:38 p.m. to congratulate the honorees and share in coffee and cake.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 8:00 p.m.

III. **STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Ms. Dodi was not present this evening.

IV. **REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

A. ***Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting:*** June 12 (Ms. Rafal)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Ms. Rafal, Mr. Niedergang and Ms. Bastardi.

Also in attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Mrs. Cardoso, Dr. McKay, Dr. Davila, Dr. Hatch, Ms. Bonnell, 3 presenters from EDC and 22 audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Ms. Rafal's meeting report is as follows:

The meeting began at 7:00 pm in the Central Office conference room at 42 Cross Street. Ed Programs & Instruction subcommittee members Maureen Bastardi, Mark Niedergang and myself (Christine Rafal) were in attendance, as were, Adam Sweeting and Teresa Cardoso. Also present were Vince McKay, Sarah Davila, Holly Hatch, Laura Bonnell, 3 presenters from EDC and about 22 other audience members. We were later joined by more presenters--Leo DeSimone and Thomas Bent--as well as after the Board of Alderman Budget meeting, Tony Pierantozzi and Paul Bockelman.

1. The first item on the agenda was a presentation from the consultants from EDC who are conducting the evaluation of the Unidos program. The complete report is not yet ready, but we expect to receive it by the end of June. When completed, the report will contain data. Using both research- and practice-based knowledge of effective dual language education, the evaluators observed classes and interviewed various stakeholders including administrators, teachers, parents and students. Some of the initial conclusions are that the Unidos teachers are good language models and teachers for the program, but sometimes the program doesn't always have good separation of the languages and this can hurt the goal of giving both languages equal status. Unidos also has good material resources. So far the recommendations seem to focus on reconceptualizing certain aspects of the program and making sure that the framework of support, all the way from instructional support to district policies, is responsive to the unique needs of a dual language program.
2. Next we heard about some of the changes in the Center for Career and Technical Education. Some of program highlights include that this year all areas were open for exploratory and as a result all 139 interested first-year students got their first choice. Mr. DeSimone used Perkins money which is grant money specifically for career and technical education, to make sure CTE students have good math skills, integrating MassCORE standards in to the CTE courses. He also used some Perkins money for an online service called "Your plan to College" which now all SHS students can use. CCTE faculty and advisors really keep their eye on industries in the area and are upgrading program offerings accordingly. For example what used to be AutoCAD is becoming focused on architecture and pre-engineering, collaborating with the SHS science department and with Tufts. Every program has at least one articulation agreement with a local college and/or employer.
3. Then we had an initial discussion about our process for approving an Innovation Plan in general, how it might change as we learn, some specifics about the Winter Hill Community School's Innovation Plan, and then scheduling next steps for working with the Winter Hill's Innovation Planning meeting. We have scheduled three meetings for making our decision. At 5:30 Thursday June 21 at the Winter Hill Community School to talk about the Innovation Plan with members of their Innovation Planning Team. Next Monday June 25, will be the public hearing at 7:30 pm at WHCS and then on June 27th at 6:30 pm another Ed Programs meeting of the whole School committee to vote at 42 Cross St.
4. Though it had been on the agenda, we did not talk about topics for future subcommittee meetings.

Our meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

The next Ed Programs & Instruction meeting will be a meeting of the whole Thursday June 21 at the Winter Hill Community School to talk about the Innovation Plan with members of their Innovation Planning Team.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the report and minutes of the Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of June 12, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- Today is June 18th. Tomorrow, June 19th is the last day of school for all students. Pre-K and High School students are released at 11:30 and K-8 students are released at noon.
- This is the last Regular televised School Committee meeting until late August. This doesn't mean that the School Committee and School Department are not still working. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked the School Committee for their leadership and support; the staff for all their efforts during the 2011-12 school year; students for their hard work; and parents and guardians for their support.
- It's been a great final week of student learning and celebration of another year of academic achievement. Here is a just a sample of year-end events:
 1. AFAS Awards Recognition Day for Grades 1-6 was held Monday, June 11th.
 2. ESCS PTA Roundtables "Planning for Next Year" were held Mon., June 11th.
 3. AFAS Banquet and Dance were held Wednesday, June 13th.
 4. ESCS Final Quarter Awards presentations were held Wed., June 13th.
 5. WHCS Moving Forward Ceremony and Banquet tonight from 6pm to 10pm.
 6. Brown 6th grade Moving Up Ceremony
 7. All other grade eights also participated in moving up ceremonies.

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

1. On June 12, the School Committee's FY13 budget was presented to the Board of Aldermen. This budget shows an increase of approximately 6% or \$3million over last year's budget and includes the addition of foreign language instruction in the middle grades, an afterschool orchestra program (El Sistema), parent/guardian outreach coordinators, additional teachers and paraprofessionals, increases in funding for afterschool tutoring, intramurals, and Innovation School planning.

Ms. Rossetti thanked Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette for their presentation and attention to detail. She is grateful for everything done and the smooth process that resulted.

- The Superintendent reported on several other events across the District including:
 - ESCS 7th/8th Graders took a field trip to the Arnold Arboretum on June 11th.
 - The AFAS Student Performing Arts Showcase was Tuesday, June 12th.
 - The Winter Hill After School Program held its 4th Annual Multicultural Festival on Wednesday, June 13.
 - The Healey School International Day was Friday, June 15th.
 - Many, many concerts which were held at the various schools across the District

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Deborah Connell*, Director of Special Education for her report regarding Special Olympics. Ms. Connell's report included the following:

1. The Special Olympics were held at Dilboy Stadium on June 7. 125 athletes participated in the day's events and it was marvelous to be at Dilboy to watch the competitions. Ms. Connell issued thanks to the Special Olympics Team - Tim O'Keefe, Kathleen Houghton and Debby Higgins. A special thanks to the Brian Higgins Foundation for providing shirts and also money for the event. Ms. Connell also thanked Alderman Bruce Desmond, George Wood of the Communications Department, the Physical Education Department and the seven student volunteers who offered peer-to-peer assistance to the athletes.
- The Superintendent issued congratulations to 92 SCALE graduates who celebrated the completion of their graduation requirements in a wonderful Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday night at Somerville High School. There were 22 ELL Program Graduates, 36 ADP Graduates, and 34 GED Graduates in this year's SCALE graduating class.
 - There are a variety of summer programs going on at our Schools and in the City - including Summer School, Summer Success program, SPELL, Adventure Summer Camp, Summer Swim at the Kennedy Pool, and more. Get details on our website Calendar of Events. There's also a great resource on Summer Activities for Kids & Families on the SFLC website at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families.

- Issued this reminder: The Last Day of School is Tuesday, June 19th. Pre-K and High School students are released at 11:30. K-8 students are released at noon.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

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

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 FY2013 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. 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. Accept all state and federal grant monies awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Early Education and Care and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to authorize the Superintendent to act on the School Committee's behalf for the reasons stated above.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. **Student Accident Insurance** –(Received and placed on file)

The Superintendent advising that the contract for Student Accident Insurance for the 2012-13 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

C. **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 2012-2013 school year, as in previous years.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program and the Commodity Food Distribution Program.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. **Somerville High School Graduates** (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the necessary requirements, be granted a SHS diploma:

- Etta M. Resnick-Field
- Jessica Cortez
- Courtney Kilburn
- De André Singletary
- Marie Lin

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Bastardi, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the Somerville High School diplomas.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. Field Trips (Recommended action: approval)

July 18-20, 2012

Somerville High School Varsity Cheer to the East Elite Cheer Gym for preseason camp. Transportation via vocational vans and lodging at an area hotel. Cost to students is \$200.00 each.

Aug. 24-27, 2012

Somerville High School Athletics to Lenox, MA for preseason camp. Transportation via coach buses. Cost to students is \$100.00 each

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

F. FY2012 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

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

Dianela Gomes Barros	42 Pearl Street, #2	Somerville	02145
Brian A. Flores-Walen	3 Walter Terrace	Somerville	02145
Frederico L. Huguenin	99 Franklin Street	Somerville	02145
Michael Ferreira Vargas	54 Richdale Avenue	Somerville	02145
Clara Monica Melara	34 Evelyn Road	Everett	02149
Wendy Carolina Melendez	152 Bow Street	Everett	02149
Jake Mooneyhan	3 Graystone Road	Stoneham	02180
Drielly Ribeiro Paula	167 Ferry Street	Everett	02149

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Scale ADP graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

G. Approval of Donations (recommended action: approval)

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$5,000.00 from the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region and its affiliates to the Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park to be used to purchase school library books and magazines. This grant was provided from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries Fund.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$500.00, donated to the Moving Forward Committee 2012 of the Winter Hill Community School, by Mr. David Dean of Somerville. Donation to be used to cover the cost of activities related to the 8th grade Moving Forward Program at the Winter Hill.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$250.00, donated to the Moving Forward Committee 2012 of the Winter Hill Community School, by Ms. Sandra McGoldrick on behalf of the Winter Hill Bank of Somerville. Donation to be used to cover the cost of activities related to the 8th grade Moving Forward Program at the Winter Hill.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

H. MASC and LGAC Report (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti provided reports from the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting of June 12th in Boston. Her report included information regarding the following:

- State Revenue and Budget Update
- Success of the Solar Industry in Massachusetts
- Chapter 90 and Transportation Funding Update
- Discussion of Pending Economic Development Legislation
- Successes of Municipal Health Insurance Reform One Year Later
- Ms. Rossetti's request to have the impact of student mobility on education on the next meeting's agenda

Ms. Rossetti also provided a very brief report on her attendance at the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's meeting on June 13th in Marlboro. Ms. Rossetti shared the MASC's statement on the proposed changes to the MA Educator Evaluation System. More to follow in an email.

Ms. Bastardi asked why the School Committee had to approve the donation from the Laura Bush Foundation if the check had already been sent. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that the acceptance is in keeping with the normal protocol for donations.

Mr. Bockelman reminded members of the following meetings:

Wednesday, June 20 - Personnel Subcommittee meeting at 6:30 p.m. followed by a School Committee meeting for Long Range Planning at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.

Thursday, June 21– School Committee meeting for Educational Programs @ 5:30 p.m. in the library of the Winter Hill Community School.

Monday, June 25 – Tour of the East Somerville Community School at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Public Hearing regarding the Winter Hill Community School Innovation School at the Winter Hill Community School.

Wednesday, June 27– School Committee meeting for Educational Programs at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Special Meeting for Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rafal

1. Healey International Day was wonderful and a symbolic success of the unification process.
2. Wished everyone a great summer and thanked all for a great year!

Mr. Sweeting

1. Repeated the close of school information provided earlier by the Superintendent.
2. Thanked teachers and other staff for their great work and wished them a restful summer.
3. Reported on meetings with various community groups. A meeting was recently held with representatives from the Bellas Manitas Preschool on Cross Street. These people questioned what traffic-calming measures might be taken once the new school is opened. These representatives are eager to hear more about the Somerville Public Schools and to meet with Nomi Davidson and others. It was a very productive meeting.
4. Reported on the Middle Grade Projects he viewed last week at the Argenziano School. The projects were remarkable examples of interdisciplinary work with the project theme being "potential careers".
5. Enjoyed the Immigration Museum videos at the Argenziano. Great to hear family stories.
6. Wished everyone a great summer.

Ms. Bastardi

1. In response to Mr. Sweeting's report and the question of traffic-calming measures, Ms. Bastardi reported that there will be raised crosswalks around the ESCS and that these raised crosswalks should help with traffic-calming issues.
2. Announced that, although this is the last televised meeting of the school year, we don't go away during the summer.
3. Wished everyone a safe, happy and healthy summer and reminded audience members to check the school and city website calendars to keep informed about events over the summer.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Congratulated the Duhamel Educational Initiative for their hard work and the staff for the wonderful projects submitted for funding.
2. Congratulated retiring staff members and asked that all names be read into the record at a future meeting.
3. Reported on the Argenziano's 8th grade Moving On Ceremony
4. Wished her colleagues a belated Happy Father's Day
5. Thanked all staff for all they do on a day-to-day basis.
6. Urged residents to remember that the kids are out of school and to help keep them safe.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Reported on the Kennedy School Innovation School Committee and stated that the very earnest group is working hard and will continue to meet in June and July. Many different ideas being discussed, but no central idea yet.
2. Gave a shout out to Debbie Connell for the great job she is doing in the Special Education Department.
3. Praised the Innovation Schools at the Winter Hill and Kennedy for their great work and terrific leadership.

Ms. Rossetti

1. Congratulated the West Somerville 8th graders for a wonderful Moving On Ceremony. Mrs. Davis invited two former West Somerville students to be guest speakers. One is now a Social Worker and the other just recently graduated from the high school. Both were very well-spoken and engaging.
2. Wished everyone a healthy and happy summer and reminded students to do their summer reading.

Mr. Bockelman

1. We will be hard at work all summer long with our next Regular Meeting in late August.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of family members of School Department employees who have passed away recently:

- Elizabeth Mackey White, retired teacher from Somerville High School and wife of the late Clement F. Mackey, former Principal of the Western Junior High School. Also, mother of the late Joseph Mackey, who was one of the founders of the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation, as well as active with coaching and many other school and city-related organizations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Citations for 2012 Somerville Public Schools retirees
3. Request for approval of Somerville High School diplomas for five (5) students
4. Three (3) Donation Acceptance Forms
5. A request for the approval of ADP diplomas for eight (8) students
6. Two (2) Out of State Field Trip Request forms

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

Paul Bockelman, Chairperson	Mary Jo Rossetti, Vice Chairperson
M. Teresa Cardoso	Christine Rafal
Adam Sweeting	Mark Niedergang
Joseph Curtatone, Mayor	Maureen Bastardi
Thomas F. Taylor, Aldermanic President	
Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools	

June 18, 2012

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, August 27, 2012 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

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

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 –Bastardi, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, Rafal and Taylor and Absent – 1 - Curtatone.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 11, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of June 11, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- June 18, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the minutes of June 18, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- July 31, 2012 Special Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of July 31, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not in attendance this evening.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Personnel Subcommittee: June 20 (Mrs. Cardoso)

The Personnel Subcommittee Met on Wednesday, June 20, 2012 @6:20 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were myself and Personnel Subcommittee Members Adam Sweeting and Maureen Bastardi along with Supt. Tony Pierantozzi. Also in attendance were School Committee Members Mary Jo Rossetti, Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal and Paul Bockelman.

There were seven (7) Agenda Items to be discussed:

1. Resignations for Purpose of Retirement Notices for SY 2012: We were given an update on retirement notices to date.
2. Resignation Notices for SY 2012: We were given an update on resignation notices to date.
3. Leaves of Absences for SY 2012: There were no additions to our current list as of the date of our meeting.
4. Inter-District Personnel Transactions: There were no additions to our current list as of the date of our meeting.
5. New Hires: There were no additions to our current list as of the date of our meeting.
6. Job Descriptions:
 - Administrator for Leadership, Program and Planning

This new position will work under the Superintendent's direction to mentor new administrators, support implementation of Educator Evaluation System and to serve as a liaison between the Somerville Public Schools and the City of Somerville in district-wide capital planning. The Subcommittee reviewed the job description, had questions and discussion and the motion was unanimously approved as follows:

MOTION: to approve the Administrator for Leadership, Program and Planning job description.

- Intervention Specialist – K-8 Community Schools After School Program

This is a part-time after school position for the Kennedy, Healey and Winter Hill schools. The Intervention Specialist for the Community Schools Program works collaboratively with the Site Coordinator to serve as a resource within the program, providing a variety of short-term social services and behavior support to students and their families. The Subcommittee reviewed the job descriptions, had questions and discussion and the motion was unanimously approved as follows:

MOTION: to approve the Intervention Specialist K-8 Community Schools After School Program job description.

The Subcommittee also reviewed the job descriptions for the Literacy Play Group Coordinator for the Somerville Family Network, the Academic Tutor Coordinator Afterschool Tutorial Program-Elementary K-8, and the Academic Tutors Afterschool Program, Elementary K-8. The job descriptions were reviewed and discussed by the Subcommittee and the motions were unanimously approved as follows:

MOTION: to approve the Literacy Play Group Coordinator for the Somerville Family Network job description.

MOTION: to approve the Academic Tutor Coordinator Afterschool Tutorial Program, Elementary K-8 job description.

MOTION: to approve the Academic Tutors Afterschool Program, Elementary K-8 job description.

(Please note that these five (5) job descriptions were formally voted by the SC at a School Committee Meeting for Ed Programs on June 27, 2012. The reason this occurred was to allow our Human Resources Department to move forward with these new hires as soon as possible.)

7. New Positions in the Budget:

This issue was placed on the Agenda in order to discuss how we would move forward with postings, hirings, etc. in July and August.

It was discussed and agreed that the Human Resources Department along with the Supt and Central Office Staff would handle this in the usual manner and keep the SC updated via Personnel Reports.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

The next Personnel Subcommittee Meeting will be held next Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 6:30P.M.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of June 20, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rossetti assumed the Chair so the Mr. Bockelman could provide his report on the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of June 20, 2012.

B. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning – June 20 (Mr. Bockelman)

a. NESDEC Demography Study – update

The School Committee met for Long Range Planning on June 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. Members present were Paul Bockelman, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, Maureen Bastardi, and Mark Niedergang. Staff present were Tony Pierantozzi and Suzanne Hernandez Morgan.

The meeting was called to order at the conclusion of the previous meeting.

The School Committee reviewed the final report of the New England School Development Council. The report studied the School Department's facilities to determine their best use in response to their projections for student enrollment.

Long range plans like this are critical to the proper planning for the district to provide a better understanding of the long-term future of each building and as a guide to budget planning.

NESDEC studied demographic data and prepared enrollment projections by year. They reviewed each building, assessed its existing uses, identified their potential capacities and reviewed their findings with District staff.

Findings:

- Enrollment will increase by 481 students between 2012 and 2022. They cautioned that many factors may influence this number including the availability of affordable housing in Somerville and the development of housing throughout the city, such as Assembly Square and MaxPak.
- The City needs to continue to fund maintenance and repair schedules for our buildings.
- Need to replace or upgrade school spaces that do not support 21st century educational programs.
- By 2018-2019, the K-8 enrollment will creep near the planned operating capacity of our existing facilities which would indicate the need for a new building or an addition to an existing building.

NESDEC proposed several options for reconfiguring the school district, depending on the long range goals of the School Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of June 20, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. School Committee Meeting for Educational Planning & Instruction - June 21 (Ms. Rafal)

The School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction was held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 in the Winter Hill Community School Library.

In attendance: Adam Sweeting, Mary Jo Rossetti, Maureen Bastardi, Teresa Cardoso, Paul Bockelman, Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal, Tony Pierantozzi, Susana Hernandez Morgan, Debbie Connell. Teachers Debra Dixon, Evan McAlear, Mary McGivern and Amanda Bell from the Winter Hill presented the major plan components and their rationales, and answered our questions.

There were about 6 people in the audience.

The meeting started at 5:30 pm.

Just a little background for the public, there are 6 possible areas in which a school could autonomy and flexibility in order to become an Innovation School. These areas are:

1. Curriculum, instruction, and assessment;
2. Schedule and Calendar
3. Staffing
4. Professional Development
5. District Policies and Procedure
6. Budget

The Winter Hill Community School is requesting certain autonomies in all 6 areas; this was the advice from the CCE consultant. [And just as an editorial aside I also had the privilege of attending with Dr. McKay and several of our teachers the launch of the Innovation Schools Network, where we also heard from Dr. Linda Nathan, founder and long-time headmaster of the Boston Arts Academy that "the more autonomies you can use, and the more you can use them together, the more successful your school can be..."]

Briefly, these are some of the ways the WHCS is considering using each autonomy:

1. Curriculum, instruction, and assessment—an empowering and completely infused social curriculum, maybe something like Responsive Classroom; a different formative assessment system that does not rely on scheduling every class into the computer lab and does not depend so much on students' computer skills as some teachers feel these are not accurate for the special needs of some students; expanded models of team teaching, not just for inclusion, but also across grade levels to enable more flexible grouping for differentiated instruction to challenge students at all levels; similarly re-mixing middle grades students at different points of the year; complementing Balanced Literacy with a phonics program; seeking a less-language-based math curriculum better suited to some of the students' special needs; also more experiential learning
2. Professional Development—they seek flexibility to create professional development based on student and teacher need as well as school data. It will be targeted and individualized for teachers, but to support goals of expanded inclusion model, specialists as part of grade-level teams, creation of common expectations across each grade. This will require common planning time.

3. Schedule and Calendar—Ideas here include having each core subject every day; a rotating block schedule for the middle grades; flexible schedule for staff to enable them to offer before- and after-school program implementation; and possibly exploring ways to create more common planning time like four longer days a week and one half-day each week for students so students still get all the instructional time and teacher have more time for PD/common planning. Ms. Ms. Rossetti asked about common planning time. Staffing wise it has been really difficult to have time to consult with occupational therapist, physical therapists, etc. They are thinking about ways to provide for students to be at the school during the early-release time.
4. Staffing—The staff requests freedom to set their own job descriptions and the nature of the position for all new and vacant positions. School Committee members asked some questions about staffing, layoff, bumping & bidding, and evaluations. They still need to work out details about complying with the union contract and with Mass General Law.
5. District Policies and Procedure—The staff would like to set a school-wide discipline policies and programs that promote high attendance and a school culture of respect. The governing board would be like the School Site Council with increased responsibilities, and would be composed of 5 parents, 4 faculty members, 1 principal, 3 community members. They will explore with parents any interest in having uniforms.
6. Budget—request consideration of a weighted per-pupil budget rather than a lump-sum budget to ensure adequacy for the unique composition and resource needs of the Winter Hill Community

Mr. Bockelman asked for a couple of sentences about what the Innovation School would be about. Amanda Bell answered "Targeted, individualized instruction." The documents also indicate it would all occur in a culture of social competence, inclusion, and consistent expectations and coordinated teamwork.

We did a little planning for the public hearing to be held the subsequent Monday.

We thank the teachers for the incredible thinking and teamwork they put into this plan in such a short time.

Adjourned at 6:57

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Planning & Instruction of June 21, 2012.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. School Committee Meeting for Educational Planning & Instruction - June 27 (Ms. Rafal)

School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction was held on Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 42 Cross Street. In attendance: Adam Sweeting, Mary Jo Rossetti, Maureen Bastardi, Teresa Cardoso, Paul Bockelman, Mark Niedergang, Tom Taylor, Christine Rafal, Tony Pierantozzi. There were about 5 members in the audience, mostly WHCS faculty from the Innovation Planning Committee. The meeting started at 6:30 pm.

The first item of business was to review some job descriptions so that positions could be filled during the summer. All of following motions passed:

- Adam Sweeting made, and Mary Jo Rossetti seconded, a motion to approve the job description of "Administrator for Leadership, Program and Planning."
- Adam Sweeting made, and Teresa Cardoso seconded, a motion to approve the job description of "Intervention Specialist—k-8 Afterschool Program."
- Maureen Bastardi made, and Mary Jo Rossetti seconded, a motion to approve the job description of "Literacy Playgroup Coordinator for Somerville Family Network of the SFLC."
- Maureen Bastardi made, and Adam Sweeting seconded, a motion to approve the job description of "Academic Tutor Coordinator, Afterschool Tutorial Program (SPS-ATP), Elementary Schools, Grades k-8."
- Teresa Cardoso made, and Mary Jo Rossetti seconded, a motion to approve the job description of "Academic Tutors—Afterschool Tutorial Program (SPS-ATP) , Elementary Schools, Grades k-8."

For the second item on the agenda, we discussed a motion suggested by the lead applicant relating to the Winter Hill Community School's innovation plan. The suggested motion would have authorized the Winter Hill Community Innovation School for a period of two years.

The Superintendent pointed out that 3 elements in the plan need significant development. These are 1) the governing board and its relationship to other leadership in the school; 2) District policies, especially what will need to go to Rules management and what are procedures rather than policies; and 3) the business plan. Budget allocating and costing out will have to be developed during the first half of the 2012-2013 school year.

Mr. Niedergang pointed out that most of the initiatives are not written as decisions but as explorations. We discussed how we support the initiatives in the plan but see it as a draft and expect to work together in good faith on the specifics.

We had some discussion about the number of years for which we wanted to authorize the Innovation School. For the public: we could authorize an Innovation School for up to 5 years each time. Mr. Bockelman also pointed out that under Mass General Law the school would be evaluated every year for goals.

In the end, Mr. Niedergang moved to authorize the Innovation School at the Winter Hill Community School consistent with the Innovation Plan dated June 5, 2012, for a period of three years beginning July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2015. Maureen Bastardi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously through a roll call vote.

We thanked the staff in the audience for their work.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Addendum: Because the Winter Hill Community School Faculty were able to draft and approve a plan and get it authorized by June 30, they were able to apply for and win a \$50,000 grant from the state to support further development of the Innovation School details during the 2012-2013 school year. I personally feel, and think most of us do, that this is a testament to the strength of teamwork and professionalism among the Winter Hill faculty.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Planning & Instruction of June 27, 2012. The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- It's been a great summer and now we're gearing up for another exciting year of teaching and learning. We have a full week of preparation with Administrators and teachers before students in grades 1-12 return to our classrooms on September 5th. A reminder that September 5th is a half day for all students. Pre-K and K begin school on September 10th.
- Open House dates for all schools are posted on our website – www.somerville.k12.ma.us.
- The District is still working on the new Educator Evaluation System. Meetings have taken place with the Somerville Teachers Association, but have not yet reached successful completion. Training, however, has moved forward with three days of training with Patti Grenier of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Teachers 21. Trainings took place on June 29, July 23 and August 23.
- New Administrators took part in a half-day orientation program on August 21st. The District has hired four new Principals, four new Assistant Principals, three Department Heads, and a Director of Food Service.
- Today was the first day of Administrative Leadership meetings. These meetings will conclude tomorrow with a half-day session.
- On Wednesday and Thursday, New Staff Orientation will take place at the Argenziano School.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*, for his report regarding Professional Development and Curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

This week caps off a very intensive summer of professional development by Somerville educators. If we add up all the person days for meetings, that is, the total number of people who participated in various trainings, the total would be about 750. That is just teachers. This includes such topics as mathematics work in developing common assessments for grades 1-6 and support for the new middle grades math program and curriculum alignment for Somerville High School math courses.

In the English Language Arts/Literacy area, over 100 of our teachers took part in summer professional development which included phonics and work developing common unit assessment for the new balanced literacy instructional program.

Curriculum work in Science and Social Studies took place at Somerville High School, as well as the middle grades, facilitated by the new Science Department Head, Karen Woods. Plus, our three new middle grades Spanish teachers met recently with our Work Language Coordinator to finalize plans for the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade positions.

I'd like to highlight several specific institutes that are tied to our overall district improvement efforts. These include an intensive, four day institute in mathematics coaching with nationally recognized trainer, Lucy West. We had 25 administrators, teacher leaders and coaches participate in the institute that met August 6-9. This was focused specifically on math content and strategies to support a high level of student engagement and deep understandings about math concepts.

Other workshops included a two-day mentor training program that started just today and a full day ILT meeting for our Instructional Leadership Team members that took place last Friday. 70 teachers and administrators attended this meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to bring the teams together, to reconnect with their school improvement goals, and to begin the process of planning their building-based professional development for the coming year.

Just a few key concepts that underlie the planning for this work:

- Coherent, long-range planning – no quick hit workshops
- Mixture of school based and District organized professional development
- Teachers take an active leadership role in both providing professional development and in participating in the PD.
- Developing our own internal expertise means a reduced role for outside experts and long-term capacity building.

Funds from the Race to the Top grants have been instrumental in supporting this work as we move ahead with alignment with the Common Core curriculum and our District Improvement Plan. I will be providing a good deal of supporting documents in the packet next week in advance of the September 11 Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting.

- At the end of June, preliminary approval was given for the Somerville Steam Academy to establish a planning committee to develop an innovation school within Somerville High School. The planning committee is applying for a grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to assist with this planning.
- There have been many facilities improvements performed over the summer. Mr. Pierantozzi has worked with George Landers and Pat Durette to develop a list of these improvements. This list will be provided to the School Committee at next week's Finance & Facilities meeting. Thanks to the Mayor, Stan Koty, Mike Bowler, George Landers, their staff and the various contractors involved with all this work.
- Congratulations to the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative on their upcoming third year and the tremendous success of their program. This program has grown a great deal over the past couple of years. This year, there are so many activities being offered that their brochure is changing from being done quarterly to one being done monthly. Programs begin late September/early October.
- Thank you to all the staff and administrators for their summer work. Hundreds of children were involved in programs provided by the Somerville Public Schools at schools, parks, camps, etc. Thanks to parents/guardians and students for participating!

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

The following policies are being presented for second reading, as amended:

- File: EBC Emergency Plans
- File: JLC Student Health Service and Requirements

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to include File: EBC Emergency Plans, as amended, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to include File: JLC Student Health Service and Requirements, as amended, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) – Ms. Bastardi

During the meeting of July 31, Ms. Bastardi asked Mr. Pierantozzi to investigate the cost of having an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) placed in every school. The approximate cost would be between \$1,200 and \$1,700 per unit. Right now, AED's are located at the Kennedy Pool, the Somerville High School Fieldhouse and there is another that travels with the Athletic Trainer to games and practices.

Ms. Bastardi requested that this item be placed on a future Finance & Facilities Meeting agenda for discussion and, hopefully, action. Alderman Taylor questioned whether the School Department has \$17,000 in their current budget to pay for these AED's and suggested that if the School Committee determines a need for them, they should work to find the money.

MOTION: Alderman Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi to approve \$17,000 for defibrillators in the schools.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for more information, as well as the potential for finding grant money, etc. to fund these AED's. Ms. Rossetti assured Mr. Taylor that she would place this topic on the agenda for next Tuesday evening's Finance and Facilities and that the item will be given the attention it deserves at this meeting. Discussion also took place relative to training, etc.

After this discussion, Alderman Taylor and Ms. Bastardi agreed to withdraw their motion and let the issue be discussed at the September 4th Finance and Facilities meeting.

B. Acceptance of Donation (Recommended action: approval)

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of the donation of \$5,000.00 on behalf of Peter Lee of Young Construction Co, LLC of Cambridge, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools El Sistema Program.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of the donation 10 Roland Keyboards with stands from Philips Academy, Andover, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department. Value, as determined by donor is \$8,000.00

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$154.24 from Jennifer Dorson of Somerville, MA. These funds were collected during Porchfest 2012 and are being donated to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$400.00 to the Somerville High School Business Department. This money was donated in memory of the late Elizabeth Mackey, a retired Business Department teacher.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trips (Recommended action approval)

Oct. 5, 2012

Next Wave/Full Circle students to Mount Monadnock, NH.
Transportation via school van. Cost to students - \$5.00 each.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Report of National School Board Association's President's Retreat – (Ms. Rossetti)

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rafal

1. Announced that there will be an Ed. Programs Subcommittee Meeting on Tuesday, September 11.
2. Please remember to vote in the September 6th Primary Election.
3. Expressed her excitement for the new school year and was impressed by the new staff.
4. Thanked whoever was responsible for the new chairs in the Aldermen's Chambers.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Welcomed everyone back and is shared his excitement for the new year.
2. Earlier the Superintendent mentioned the STEAM Academy at Somerville High School and is happy to report that he will serve as the School Committee's representative to this group. Thus far, there have not been any meetings. Mr. Sweeting looks forward to serving on this committee and will be reporting back to the School Committee once the meetings get started.

Ms. Bastardi

1. Hopes everyone enjoys the end of their summer break.
2. Still lots happening across the city. Encouraged viewed to check the City and School Department websites for a full listing of activities.
3. Reported on a notice she saw on the City's website regarding East Broadway construction which will limit use of some sidewalks and crosswalks for about three weeks. Urged drivers to be cautious in this area, particularly when school starts.
4. Happy to report that the East Somerville Community School construction project is on time and on budget. There was an East Somerville Advisory Board meeting prior to this evening's School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Great news about the East Somerville project!
2. Issued a plea to residents to please trim back any overgrown shrubbery that may interfere with students being able to walk safely to school. Also, please do your best not to impede pedestrian traffic when putting trash out for pick up.
3. Thanked all who worked throughout the summer – staff, Central Office, DPW and all others. It was a busy summer and Mrs. Cardoso issued a big thank you from the School Committee!
4. Reminded audience members that volunteers are sought at all of our schools. Please contact the principal or PTA president or call the Volunteer Coordinator, Jennifer Capuano for more information.
5. Wished everyone a happy and smooth opening day and a Happy Labor Day.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Reported on the School Committee goals and remarked that he is excited and proud of the Somerville Public Schools work and their tremendous efforts. We are slowly and steadily gaining speed – ready to launch!
2. The Kennedy School Innovation School group had three meetings over the summer and exchanged some interesting ideas, but no specifics have been developed yet. Mr. Niedergang will forward minutes of the meetings to members. It is a pleasure to be a part of this process.
3. The Rules Subcommittee Meeting will need to be rescheduled. If Subcommittee members could meet after this meeting to discuss possible dates, it would be appreciated.
4. Mr. Niedergang share that he has met with Somerville Public Library Director, Maria Carpenter regarding the proposed new library and the School Committee being involved in the process. The plans were reviewed and he was informed that the City is on a waitlist for an \$18million grant. Discussed having Ms. Carpenter coming to a future School Committee Meeting.

Ms. Rossetti

1. The West Somerville's Parent/Guardian Open House will be held on Thursday, September 13th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. All schools will be holding similar events.
2. The Finance & Facilities Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of family members of School Department employees who have passed away recently:

- Demetria Stern, mother of Cynthia Stern, Reading Specialist at Healey School
- Caroline A. "Kerry" Taylor, mother of Christine Hauray-Gilbert, teacher at Somerville High School
- Helen Whitney, former Special Education paraprofessional at East Somerville Community School

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Citations for 2012 Somerville Public Schools retirees
3. Request for approval of Somerville High School diplomas for five (5) students
4. Three (3) Donation Acceptance Forms
5. A request for the approval of ADP diplomas for eight (8) students
6. Two (2) Out of State Field Trip Request forms

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, September 12, 2011 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi, and Gewirtz and Absent – 1 – Curtatone.

Mr. Sweeting asked the School Committee and audience members to please remember the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks on this 10th anniversary of the tragedy.

Mr. Bockelman assumed the Chair as Mr. Sweeting stepped to the podium.

Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti to suspend the rules and take up Item VIII, B 2 – Acceptance of Donation.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of a donation to the Somerville Public Schools Winter Hill Community School by the Schwartz Family as follows:

- \$81,201 in FY2012
- \$59,380 in FY2013

These funds are to be used to build the capacity of the Winter Hill Community School teachers to use instructional technologies that maximize the potential of youth with disabilities through creative, inclusive instruction in the least restrictive environment possible. Funds will be used to (a) build wireless internet capacity, (b) purchase hardware for use by teachers to increase the diversity of their instructional strategy and design, (c) purchase hardware and software to be used by students in the interest of classroom inclusion, including adapted computers and iPads, with support from their Teachers, Inclusion Specialists and other professionals, and (d) teacher training and other support in the use of new hardware and software to support innovative, multimodal, differentiated instructional strategies.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Niedergang expressed his appreciation for this extraordinary gift. These women used wisdom and intelligence in their decision to provide this donation in order to make the biggest difference for our Special Education students. It is worth noting that they do not have any students at the Winter Hill Community School.

Ms. Rossetti thanked the Schwartz's from the bottom of her heart. This is the 3rd or 4th donation they have made to the District. They have gone above and beyond and are special people who help us be able to help others.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Ms. Beverly Schwartz
- Ms. Miriam Schwartz

Mr. Sweeting asked Beverly and Miriam Schwartz to step to the podium as he Mr. Sweeting thanked both women for affirming the work we do with their generosity and caring spirit. Mr. Sweeting presented each woman with a certificate of appreciation from the School Committee and read one certificate aloud. The wording is the same on both certificates. The wording may be found at the end of these minutes.

Miriam and Beverly said a few words and thanked the School Committee for this recognition.

Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to suspend the rules to take up item 7A – New Administrators.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Introduction of New Administrators

- Melissa DeResendes, Human Resources & Diversity Administrator
- Darius Green, Housemaster, Broadway House, Somerville High School
- Uri Harel, Elementary Curriculum and Title I Coordinator
- Lorne Murphy, Interim Assistant Principal, Healey School

The Superintendent introduced four of the five new administrators in the District and asked them to stand and be recognized. Mr. Mark Hurrie, Assistant Principal at the Kennedy School, could not attend this evening due to an Open House at the Kennedy tonight.

The School Committee recessed at 7:12 p.m. to congratulate our honorees.

The School Committee resumed at 7:18 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 29, 2011 – Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the minutes of August 29, 2011, Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not present this evening.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee: Mr. Bockelman (Sept. 6)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on September 6, in the conference room at 42 Cross Street at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Niedergang and Mr. Sweeting. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette.

1. Final FY 11 Revolving account summary – review of revolving accounts
2. Charter School Tuition payments and rates – Review of rates – payments have increased by \$4M
3. FY11 Bill Roll – review of bill roll
4. FY12 Expenditure Report - reviewed
5. Facilities Update – Mr. Pierantozzi provided an in depth facilities update which included all buildings. Much work was done across the District. The DPW is to be commended for their great work.
6. Other

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the bill rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to request a meeting with the Capital Projects Manager and all involved parties regarding an update on the construction of the East Somerville Community School

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, requesting that the Superintendent report costs for the implementation of foreign language in middle school system wide.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Discussion took place regarding further consideration of foreign language implementation at both Finance and Facilities and Ed Programs meetings. Ms. Rafal reported that foreign language implementation is an agenda item at the October 18 Ed. Programs meeting. Discussion also took place regarding the possibility of a joint Finance and Facilities and Ed. Programs meeting.

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that discussion should also take place at a future Long Range Planning meeting and that Jane Cummings should also be a part of the discussion. This is a global plan with a broad scope of parameters which could be fine-tuned at Ed Programs.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that staff, students, and parents/guardians are all ready for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Pierantozzi visited every school last week and found every building appropriately quiet with students on task and things running very smoothly.
- The Superintendent thanked the staff of the Department of Public Works, under the leadership of Mayor Curtatone and Mr. Koty, for doing an outstanding job of preparing for the school year. This is the best shape the Superintendent has seen the schools in for opening day since he came to Somerville in 2005.
- Today was the first day of school for our prekindergarten and kindergarten students. An exciting day for everyone – staff, parents/guardians and our four and five year old students!
- The Superintendent announced that the current enrollment spreadsheet was placed at members' seats this evening. The figures are as of today and are fluid numbers as students are still being dropped from our rolls as they notify us of their departure from the District. It is important to note that last year's October 1st enrollment was 4,864 and that figure seemed to hold.

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:

Instructional Leaders meeting, review of School and District improvement planning process for the school year:

1. School Council Training will take place on October 6, 2011, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Argenziano School.
2. School – based professional development planning.

Middle Grades District goal, some recent activities being noted for your consideration:

1. Biogen Idec will be partnering with our middle grades (6-8) this year. Eighth grade students will participate in a common Genetics lab as part of an on site visit to Biogen Idec labs.
 2. Also, the middle grade Foreign Language program at the Healey School has been expanded for a .4 position to a .6 position. This Italian Language program is partially grant funded.
 3. Development of a Leadership Program for our middle grade students with assistance from QISA (Student Aspirations).
- The Superintendent reported that Melissa DeResendes and Joe Tringale have completed a successful EPIMS, SIMS and Student Course Load report. They are to be commended for meeting and successfully completing this challenging task in such a timely manner.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Acceptance of Donation – (Recommended action: approval)

1. The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation a Casio Electronic Keyboard valued at \$100.00 from Charles Kline of Somerville, MA, to be given to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of 1,200 backpacks filled with school supplies from Cradles to Crayons. These backpacks will be or have been distributed to every K-6th grader at the Argenziano, East Somerville and Winter Hill Community School.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

3. The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of 200 backpacks from Tana.org (Telugu Association of North America). These backpacks will be distributed to students across the District, as needed.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

1. Ms. Rossetti will be missing the Long Range Planning meeting on Wednesday as she will be in attendance at a meeting for the MASC.
2. West Somerville's PTA will hold a coffee hour on Monday, September 19.
3. West Somerville's Open House will be held on September 20.
4. Tomorrow is Election Day in Ward 7. Please get out and vote. People in the 3rd precinct should vote at Capen Court.
5. Gave a plug for two former West Somerville Neighborhood Students who are also Somerville High School graduates who are trying to win a wedding paid for by Fox 25 on November 11, 2011. Rebeca Rais and Keith O'Donnell are both members of the service and Keith is currently serving in Afghanistan. Please give them your vote!

Mr. Niedergang

1. Reported on the Open House at the Kennedy School which was well attended. Great to see the PTA growing in strength. New Assistant Principal Mark Hurrie seems to be off to a great start.
2. Somerville High School will hold a Post High School Planning night on September 19.
3. The Brown School's Open House will take place on September 26.

Ms. Cardoso

1. Welcomed back everyone to the new school year.
2. Open House at the Argenziano School will be held on September 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Rafal

1. Reported on the partnership between the PTA's and SwellR for fundraising.
2. Announced how wonderful the donation from Cradles to Crayons was and informed the audience that, along with the school supplies, each backpack has a handwritten note enclosed. This year there were over 27,500 handwritten notes composed for inclusion Cradles to Crayons always can use volunteers to help stuff the backpacks.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Frances Gadsby, retired teacher from the Somerville Public Schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. via voice vote.

Certificate of Appreciation

**The Somerville School Committee and the
Administration of the Somerville Public Schools extends
deepest appreciation to:**

**Miriam/Beverly
Schwartz**

**In recognition of
Generously providing continuous local support for
students and staff by donations of technology to
enhance classroom environments and student learning**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“Deeds of giving are the very foundations of the world.” The Torah

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Somerville School Committee

Adam Sweeting, Chairperson

M. Teresa Cardoso

Mary Jo Rossetti

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

Paul Bockelman, Vice Chairperson

Maureen Bastardi

Mark Niedergang

Christine Rafal

Rebekah Gewirtz, Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

September 12, 2011

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, September 19, 2011 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adam Sweeting called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:02 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Sweeting asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Cardoso, Niedergang, Sweeting, Bockelman, Rafal, Rossetti, Bastardi, and Gewirtz and Absent – 1 –Curtatone. Also present this evening is our Student Representative, Dea Dodi.

Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to suspend the regular order and take item V. A. – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) District Review, out of order. The motion was approved via voice vote.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education District Review

- Ms. Eva Mitchell, Associate Commissioner
- Ms. Lynda Foisy, Associate Commissioner

Mr. Sweeting announced that two representatives from the DESE are making a presentation this evening to inform the Committee of the process for the District Review. Mr. Sweeting introduced Ms. Lynda Foisy, Senior Associate Commissioner, to start the PowerPoint presentation. Also presenting this evening is Ms. Eva Mitchell, Associate Commissioner and Director of the Center for School and District Accountability. School Committee members thanked the presenters for taking the time to provide such valuable information regarding the upcoming review. A brief question and answer session ensued.

The PowerPoint presentation made this evening is included at the end of these minutes.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Dea Dodi, provided her report on happenings at Somerville High School. Ms. Dodi reported that most of these are typical events every year. Her report included the following:

- Senior Post High School Planning Night is being held this evening at the High School
- Somerville High School PTSA and Open House will be held on Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- The Club Fair, always a popular event, will be held next Tuesday in the Somerville High School Library. There is a great variety of offerings from Athletics to Cultural to Art and Musical clubs.
- The first football home game is this Friday evening. Ms. Dodi encouraged all to attend to show support.
- Many great restorations/renovations over the summer including the painting of 17, masonry work on stairs and a new floor in the Cowboy Café. Students are excited at the possibility of a salad bar being implemented at the high school.
- Reported on her experiences over the summer and how proud she was to share her experiences as our student representative with students from other parts of the country.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. ***Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Ms. Rafal (Aug. 29)

1. Update on communications regarding educational programs

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on August 29, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Committee Room at City Hall. Present: Subcommittee members Mark Niedergang, Paul Bockelman and Ms. Rafal, as well as School Committee members Adam Sweeting, Mary Jo Rossetti, Teresa Cardoso, and Maureen Bastardi. Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi and Vince McKay.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

The School Committee reviewed and discussed a document recently received via the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. It was the prospectus for a possible "Somerville Progressive Charter School."

The School Committee decided to send a letter of response to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. It was also decided to invite members of the proposing group to meet with the Superintendent and the Chair and Vice Chair of the School Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

B. ***Executive Session:*** Mr. Sweeting (Aug. 31)

The School Committee met in Executive Session on August 31, 2011 in the Conference Room at 42 Cross Street. At that meeting the following motions were approved unanimously:

- Salary adjustment for employee in the Technology Department
- Settlement agreement with District employee

C. ***School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:*** Mr. Sweeting (Sept. 14)

The School Committee met for the purposes of Long Range Planning on September 14 in the conference room at 42 Cross Street. In attendance were Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, and Mr. Bockelman. Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi and one audience member.

1. Future educational and space needs study – continuation of discussion that began last spring. The goal is to maximize space to provide the best results for our students, particularly in the middle grades. The School Committee is seeking a consultant to assist them with this process via the RFP process. The School Committee will interview potential consultants on October 19. Mr. Niedergang announced that concerns about middle grades instruction was the impetus for this study.
2. District Improvement Plan Updates – Discussion on how best to use our District goals. Also, how to develop new goals and the timeline to do so. Discussion on how to use the District Improvement Plan to shape and guide the School Improvement Plans. Further discussion will take place at tomorrow night's Ed Programs meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:03 p.m.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

- The Fall 2011 edition of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) Activity Guide will be rolled out in our four target languages very soon. Activities cover four key elements – Family in the Community, Leadership and Advocacy, Teaching and Learning and The Whole Child. English Classes will begin very soon for our parents/guardians whose first language is not English. The goal of these classes is to improve English skills and to also learn to be an effective and involved parent/guardian. Last year, 240 people participated. Registration dates can be found on our website at www.somerville.k12.ma.us.
- The After School Report will be on the agenda at tomorrow night's Ed Programs meeting. Community Schools is fully functioning and serving approximately 400 students as of today. The first trimester of after school courses begins on October 5. Parents and guardians should be aware that fees are determined upon the family's ability to pay.

- Activities at the Kennedy School Pool are in full swing. The pool was closed for a few weeks for routine maintenance, including the replacement of the HVAC system and work on the moisture control unit. The pool is open six days a week. More information can be found on the website - www.somerville.k12.ma.us.
- Open Houses continue across the District. School Committee members will likely mention specifics during their items report later in the meeting, however, information can be found online.

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:

Two grants to report on:

Mass grad \$210,000

RTTT \$750,000

Submission of year 2 plans is a great opportunity to refine our goals for these two significant grants

Mass Grade supports increasing our graduation rate

RTTT is a major federal grant

Curriculum alignment, Common core

New Teacher evaluation framework

Middle grades developmental school guidance program, college readiness

Working with our new grants coordinator on these two grants

Last year, you may recall, I told you about a City-school partnership to support energy conservation in our schools. This program is called ACT EARTH and we're participating in this in collaboration with the City Environmental office and our energy management partner Honeywell. We just finished our first year, and reviewing the results, one school was named the energy-saving champion. That was the Kennedy School.

133,000 KW hours – 8 houses for a year

Savings over a 90 day window

Kennedy will be treated to a school-wide barbeque this Friday, September 27, to celebrate their energy-saving success.

Please drop by if you can!

- Mr. Pierantozzi held up the Somerville Public Schools' Anti-bullying poster, produced by our Graphic Arts Department. These posters will be placed in the hallways of our buildings. A smaller version will be placed in each classroom across the District. All posters refer to the website and phone lines for reporting bullying. The hope is that, once an issue is reported, a quick resolution can be achieved.
- On Thursday morning, our annual corn shucking event will take place in elementary schools across the District beginning at 7:30 a.m. Approximately 3,000 ears of corn will be shucked and then cooked and served at lunchtime.
- At our next meeting, the Superintendent will present a Personnel Report with demographic information.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette*, Finance Director for her report regarding reporting season. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

The Director of Operations and the Finance Director have been busy preparing final reports for submission to the Department of Education. Included are:

1. A report on ARRA Funds (Stimulus Money). We must file quarterly reports detailing payments to vendors and employees. This report covers July 1 through September 30. Information from this filing is used to prepare the jobs report.
 2. On September 30, all Federal Grant reports are due to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Grants ended on August 31. This report details all expenditures for these grants.
 3. On October 1, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education End of Year report, a large, comprehensive report of all revenues of expenses from all funding sources is due.
- Mr. Pierantozzi spoke about the "What's new in Food and Nutrition Services" packet that the School Committee received earlier in the month. Changes will be made over the next 12 months regarding beverages, food service offerings and food brought to school to share with other students from private homes. Mr. Pierantozzi and the Food Service staff are working out what this all means.

Discussion ensued relative to food allergies, Shape Up Somerville and the decision was made to have the subject discussed at an upcoming Rules Management Subcommittee meeting.

Mrs. Cardoso also requested that the Chair of Rules Management consider adding the protocol regarding email exchanges among School Committee members to a Rules Management agenda. Mr. Niedergang stated that he would be happy to do so.

V. NEW BUSINESS

B. Acceptance of Donation – (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of the following items from Biogen Idec, Boston Cares, to be given to the Healey and Kennedy Schools:

- A day of volunteer service to the Healey and Kennedy Schools on September 30, 2011 to complete the projects utilizing materials listed below.
- 4 map stencils (2 US, 2 World, one-time use) valued at \$520
- Paint and supplies for outdoor maps and line games valued at \$500
- 4 planter benches valued at \$800
- Planting materials valued at \$100

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

4. The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation \$251.00 from the Somerville Rotary to the Argenziano School.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trips (Recommended Action: Approval)

Oct. 17, 2011

SHS Cosmetology students Providence, RI, to attend a Beauty Industry convention.
Transportation via bus at no cost to students.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. MASC/LGAC Meeting Reports (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti gave a brief report on her attendance at recent MASC and LGAC board meetings. Ms. Rossetti provided notes from both meetings to School Committee members. Her report highlighted the following:

- The State's economic condition, which is better than the nation's. Secretary Gonzales stated, "We feel good where we stand as being compared to the rest of the country, but still have a ways to go."
- The Governor's proposed supplemental budget which gives \$300 million to the Rainy Day Fund and \$95 million to one-time job related assistance to communities. This will build the Rainy Day Fund to the 4th highest in the nation.
- \$49 million in tax revenues generated in the first two months of FY12.
- Mr. Gonzales' statement of, "We will be sending you \$65 million hopefully by the end of September." Ms. Rossetti awaits word on how much Somerville will receive and how it will be used.
- The Municipal Grant Program
- Discussion of the potential impact of Federal budget reductions
- The Federal Fiscal Year begins in October - \$1.2 trillion needs to be cut, plus an additional \$1.5 trillion is under discussion (over the course of 10 years). These cuts will impact Massachusetts in FY13.
- Statement of the MASC Call for Action on President's Economic Proposals urging Congress to enact the American Jobs Act as described by President Obama.

E. Healey School Principal (Ms. Rafal)

Ms. Rafal requested that the Chair of Personnel add to the next Personnel Subcommittee agenda, the Healey School Principal search. Ms. Rafal feels that being proactive in this search will allow us to have the best possible staff. Discussion ensued regarding the process dictated by the timeline and the best time of year to advertise for this position. Mrs. Cardoso agreed to place this item on the next agenda for discussion.

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

1. West Somerville's Open House will be held tomorrow, September 20 beginning at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Duhamel Education Initiative's Fall fundraiser is being held on October 1. Please RSVP early if you are planning to attend this event as a banner crowd is expected.
3. Ms. Rossetti reported that while at the Red Sox game yesterday at Fenway Park, Healey School Interim Assistant Principal Lorne Murphy was honored as a Person of the Year and received a standing ovation. Congratulations to Mr. Murphy!

Mr. Niedergang

1. Mr. Niedergang reported that he attended the Winter Hill's Open House last Thursday, which was well attended. Learned about the Middle School After Hours Program being offered and announced that tomorrow there will be a Middle Grades Mixer from 6:00-7:30 at the East Somerville at Cummings.
2. The Brown School's Open House will be next Monday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m.
3. The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee will also meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Kennedy School on September 26.
4. Commented on the great work done on this year's Parent/Guardian Guide and the beautiful, high quality work. He is proud of this publication.

Ms. Cardoso

1. Wished Ms. Rossetti a Happy Birthday. Her birthday was yesterday.
2. Commended the Class of 2012 on the Car Wash held last Saturday. Mr. Bockelman was at the event lending a hand.
3. Mrs. Cardoso will be at the Argenziano School on Thursday to assist with corn shucking.
4. Tufts Community Day is this Sunday, September 25.

Ms. Bastardi

1. Open House at East Somerville Community School at Edgerly tomorrow.
2. On Saturday, from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. the Fluff Festival will be held in Union Square. Check out the City and School Department websites and calendar of events for more information.

Ms. Rafal

1. On Thursday, September 22, Ms. Rafal will be shucking corn at the Winter Hill Community School at 7:30 a.m.
2. Also on Thursday, September 22, Ms. Rafal will host office hours at the Thurston Spa from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
3. Open House at the Healey is September 22, at 6:00 p.m.
4. Save the Date for – "College Graduation Happens in High School," presented by Dr. Pamela Ellis. This event will take place on Sunday, October 2nd from 3:00-4:30 PM in the Somerville High School Library.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Mr. Bockelman reported on the Post High School Planning Night at Somerville High School tonight. Mr. Bockelman stopped by prior to this meeting and reported that there were approximately 75 people in attendance.
2. Somerville High School PTSA is this Wednesday night.
3. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet at 7:00 on Monday, September 26, at 42 Cross Street.
4. Thanks to the Mayor for bringing exciting events to the City such as the Fluff Festival, Honk Festival, and others.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, October 1, 2012 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Taylor and Mayor Curtatone (7:41 p.m.)

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 –Bastardi, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, Rafal and Taylor and Absent – 1 - Curtatone.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi reported on some happenings at Somerville High School:

- The beginning of the new school year has been smooth even with the changes in administrators.
- Improvements have already been seen with ID's and promptness. The tardy line in the morning has gotten much smaller already!
- The theme of Respect/Diversity continues to be a major area of focus at Somerville High. Every Friday, there is a special 5 minute block where a song revolving around respect is played throughout the school.
- The Club Fair was held last week and over 40 clubs, including two new clubs, were represented. The new clubs are the Future News Anchors and Global Advantages for Women clubs.
- Senior Post High School Planning also took place last week and helped students to see what's next – college, a vocational school, work, military, etc.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management Subcommittee: Sept. 24 (Mr. Niedergang)

Board of Aldermen's Committee Room, City Hall, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Sweeting, and Mr. Niedergang

Also in attendance: Ms. Bastardi and Mr. Pierantozzi

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

1. Review of Policies

File: EFD – Wellness Policy and School Nutrition – Mr. Pierantozzi provided background regarding the change in laws relative to food and nutrition and also reported on guidelines from our Food Service Director for any food served in our buildings. Mr. Pierantozzi also forwarded these guidelines to all K12 so that everyone is informed District-wide. Mr. Pierantozzi informed the members that a Wellness Advisory Committee was meeting and that, after receiving input from people on the Wellness Advisory Committee, revisions will be made which will incorporate both the new laws and regulations and input from this committee.

File: BEC – Executive Session - decision to take MASC recommendations; add all text in red to our policy. Also, in second numbered list, combine our current numbers 1 and 2 and add new MASC language to this to make a new number 1.

On page 2, after number 10, eliminate text in parentheses.

File: AC – Nondiscrimination – "Gender Identity" added to the policy

File: ACA – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex or Sexual Orientation-"Gender Identity" added to the policy

File: GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity - "Gender Identity" added to the policy

File: GCF – Selection Process for Professional Positions - "Gender Identity" added to the policy

File: IJ: - Instructional Materials - "Gender Identity" added to the policy

File: JB - Equal Educational Opportunities - "Gender Identity" added to the policy

File: JBA – Student-to-Student Harassment - "Gender Identity" added to the policy

File: JFBB – School Choice – decision to take MASC's JFBB-1 and make it our JFBB. Changes also include adding a sentence in first paragraph, gender identity language, and updating Legal Reference information.

File: JFBB-1 – School Choice – becomes our JFBB

File: EBC – Emergency Plans – add the Director of Public Health to the list of people involved.

File: JLC – Student Health Services and Requirements – reviewed – no action taken.

Mr. Niedergang reported that the following motions were approved in Subcommittee:

1. Motion by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to amend File BEC – Executive Sessions and forward to full School Committee for first reading.
2. Motion by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to amend File AC – Nondiscrimination and forward to full School Committee for first reading.
3. Motion by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to amend File GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity and forward to full School Committee for first reading.
4. Motion by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to amend File GCF – Selection Process for Professional Positions and forward to the full School Committee for first reading. Also, refer policy back to Rules Management Subcommittee for additional review.
5. Motion by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to amend File IJ – Instructional Materials and forward to the full School Committee for first reading.
6. Motion by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to amend File JB – Equal Educational Opportunities and forward to the full School Committee for first reading.
7. Motion by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to amend File JBA – Student-to-Student Harassment and forward to the full School Committee for first reading.
8. Motion by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to amend File: JFBB – School Choice and forward to the full School Committee for first reading.
9. Motion by Ms. Rossetti, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to amend File EBC – Emergency Plans and forward to the full School Committee for first reading.
10. Motion by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Mr. Pierantozzi also provided an update on a meeting focusing on LGBT issues with Sonja Darai, Elizabeth Field and Gay Koty. The District is working to develop training for staff and is also looking at programs from our LGBT students.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the report and minutes of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting of September 24, 2012. The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. DISTRICT REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi provided the following report on happenings around the District:

- About 5 minutes after the start of our meeting, the Superintendent was notified by the STA President that the STA has ratified the new Educator Evaluation Model Language adaptation. This follows approximately 26 hours of negotiations resulted in this action. This was necessary due to legislative and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education changes which require comprehensive changes to ensure every licensed educator will follow the same precepts. Polls were open at STA Headquarters from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. No details regarding the vote were given; just informed about the ratification. This agreement pertains to caseload licensed educators – guidance, social workers, Sped facilitators, Redirect Teachers, non-classroom and classroom teachers. The

The Somerville Administrators Association recently met and is close to an agreement. Within a few days the process will be in line. Training began over the summer and continues. Congratulations to the educators and administrators.

Mr. Bockelman inquired as to whether action must be taken in Executive Session.

Ms. Rossetti expressed her gratitude to the STA members for ratifying and looks forward to the administrators doing the same.

She is also looking forward to learning more about the Municipal Salary Survey and its impact on non-union salaries.

Mr. Taylor announced that the survey will be discussed on October 9th at a Board of Aldermen's Legislative Matters meeting.

Mr. Niedergang seconded Ms. Rossetti's thanks regarding the ratification. This is a tremendous step forward for the Somerville Public Schools and will increase teacher and student satisfaction and performance.

Mr. Bockelman thanked Mr. Pierantozzi and Dr. McKay for their work on this issue.

- NO SCHOOL reminder: There will be no school for students on Friday, October 5th due to a scheduled Professional Development day for SPS educators. All Somerville Public Schools and offices are closed on Monday, October 8th, in recognition of Columbus Day. **Don't forget Somerville's "Honkfest" is scheduled for that weekend -- October 5th through the 8th.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*, for his report regarding Professional Development and Curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. October 5 Professional Development Day – Key aspects of the new Educator Evaluation process.
 - Morning session, for all teachers, at SHS
 - Afternoon session, teachers reconvene at their schools to work on goal setting.
 - Ed Evaluation is a big undertaking, changing many key aspects of the professions. We believe that it's good for the students of Somerville as well as good for the teachers and administrators.
2. Educational Programs Subcommittee Meeting next week
 - Continued planning for program development in Unidos
 - Report on the Healey's Unification work
 - MCAS report
 - SAT report
3. Early Learning Challenge Grant Award – The District has been awarded this grant in the amount of \$160,723.00 over two years for community-wide activities relative to children from birth-grade three and strategies to align services. One of the goals is to provide a schedule of what is to be expected from year-to-year.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his report.

- School Open Houses are wrapping up this week with the Capuano Open house scheduled for Thursday evening. Schools have reported very positive and active participation in Open Houses this year. Special thanks to the PTA's for their help with the Open Houses and for their assistance throughout the year in so many ways. Please join and support your local PTA. Membership dues is \$5.00 per person, per year.
- The El Sistema Kickoff Concert & Celebration last Thursday was a phenomenal success. We had a full house at the Edgerly and look forward to the continued development of this innovative music program. Thanks to the Mayor, Board of Aldermen and School Committee for supporting this program. In a few years we will have a full Youth Symphony Orchestra!
- The East Somerville Community School reconstruction process continues on time and on budget. More details will be shared at the Finance and Facilities meetings. The school is scheduled to open on September 1, 2013. Right now, work is being done to make the building weather-tight – including doors, windows and exterior siding. The roof is done and no leaks are present. Current work also includes the removal of a retaining wall to make way for the new entrance. Also, meetings to order furniture, fixtures and equipment are ongoing.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette, Finance Director*, for her report regarding some new grants. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

1. Early Learning and Care Grant – Ms. Durette acknowledged the participants of this very competitive grant – Nomi Davidson, Ana Fox-Doherty and Susana Hernandez Morgan.
2. Innovation School Implementation Grant – The Winter Hill Community School has received a \$35,000.00 Race to the Top grant to be used for staff planning, and to provide support with Math, ELA and Social Competency.
3. Three schools are sharing a fresh fruit and vegetables grant of \$87,720.00. The schools are the Argenziano, East Somerville and Winter Hill. This money will be used to provide students with a greater variety of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his report.

- The Somerville High School Curriculum Committee meets Wednesday, October 3rd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Library.

- West Somerville Neighborhood School Coffee Hour with Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Baker is this Thursday at 8:30 a.m.
- The Brown Schools hosts a Parent/Guardian Workshop Night on Thursday, October 18th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- Somerville High School is hosting a Fall College Fair on Monday, October 15th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Field House. To date, there are 65 Colleges and Universities scheduled to participate in this Fair.
- Gave a shout out to our Athletic Teams who represent Somerville so well and conduct themselves with class and dignity, especially Boys' Varsity Soccer, currently ranked #2 in the league.
- The Special Education Inclusion Committee will meet on October 9.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual – Mr. Niedergang

The following policies were presented for first reading, as amended:

- File: BEC – Executive Session
- File: AC - Nondiscrimination
- File: GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity
- File: GCF – Selection Process for Professional Positions
- File: IJ: - Instructional Materials
- File: JB - Equal Educational Opportunities
- File: JBA – Student-to-Student Harassment
- File: JFBB – School Choice
- File: EBC – Emergency Plans

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:41 p.m.

B. Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)

School Committee Vote: Members of the School Committee elect an official voting delegate and alternate for the November, 2012 Annual Business Meeting of the MASC. At our next meeting on October 15th, members will vote on the following resolutions being forwarded by MASC's Resolutions Committee for consideration:

1. Establishment of a special commission of the legislature for the study of mandated reports and data submissions for school districts
2. Modification of the Circuit Breaker Formula
3. Health insurance coverage for medically necessary treatment in school
4. Funding for educator evaluation system
5. Adequacy study

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to nominate Christine Rafal as the official voting delegate at the MASC Conference in November.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to nominate Mary Jo Rossetti as the alternate voting delegate at the MASC Conference in November.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

Voting will take place at the meeting of October 15, 2012, relative to the five (5) resolutions being considered at the conference.

C. FY2012 Somerville High School Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for a Somerville High School diploma, be granted his diploma:

- **Charles Casey**

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Somerville High School Graduate.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

Oct. 21, 2012

Somerville High School Outdoors Club to Mt. Monadnock, NH.
Transportation via school vans at a cost of \$10.00 per student.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- E. Charter School Application** – Ms. Rossetti reported that on September 28th, Education Commissioner Chester announced that 12 proposed charter schools would have their applications moved forward in the process for approval. The Somerville Progressive Charter School was not one of the 12 schools chosen to move forward this year.

Ms. Rossetti was also delighted to announce that on last Sunday, during the Patriots Game broadcast on CBS Radio, Somerville High School's Mike Maloney was featured as the Teacher of the Week. Congratulations to Mr. Maloney on this honor. Susana Hernandez Morgan is looking into this to determine how Mr. Maloney was chosen for this honor. This is outstanding!

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Alderman Taylor

1. Thanked the Superintendent for providing information for his report to the Board of Aldermen and informed members that they are welcome to submit items for him to bring to the BOA by emailing him prior to the meeting.

Ms. Rafal

1. The Ed Programs Subcommittee will meet Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
2. Asked about voting on the MASC Resolutions. This voting will take place at the meeting of October 15.
3. Somerville Cares About Prevention will host an informational meeting regarding the legalization of medical marijuana.

Mayor Curtatone

1. Regarding the playground renovations and de-paving, the City is looking at the Healey, Winter Hill and Capuano school yards and the City is also working with the DCR to create more field space. Mayor Curtatone hopes to give more updates soon.

Alderman Taylor asked if a skateboard park was being considered at the Healey and the Mayor responded that nothing was known yet about this possibility.

Ms. Bastardi

1. Open House at the Capuano on October 4, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
2. Continue to check the City and School websites for upcoming events – including the Honkfest!

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Following up on discussion regarding open space, there is a new process underway regarding the renovation of Lincoln Park. This should be a more inclusive process.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Thanked Mayor Curtatone for his remarks regarding the playgrounds. A Committee has been formed already at the Healey School regarding landscape issues. Jen Capuano has been involved with this committee and has emailed that she is excited about this and is looking for willing partners to participate.
2. El Sistema was remarkably beautiful and the performance of the Bluegrass Band was wonderful. Having this program in Somerville is a perception changer that will wake people up about our schools. Mr. Niedergang is excited about new programs and their impact.
3. Regarding the medical marijuana presentation, School Committee policy prevents campaigning on school grounds and he is not sure of what the program will consist of and whether or not a pro/con stance may be taken. Mr. Niedergang suggests that this event not be held in a school so that our policy will not, potentially, be violated.

Mayor Curtatone departed the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Ms. Rossetti

1. Ms. Rossetti placed a sheet with two questions at members' seats this evening. Please review and provide input to Ms. Rossetti so that she may consider them at the NE Regional NSBA Conference this weekend in Delaware.
2. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at Central Office. There is a lengthy agenda for this meeting.
3. The Duhamel Education Initiative will hold its fall fundraiser supper on October 20, at 6:00 p.m. and the DEI is accepting reservations for this very popular event. Dinner will be prepared and

served by the Board of Aldermen. If interested, contact the Duhamel Education Initiative or the Superintendent's Office.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of family members of School Department employees who have passed away recently:

- Doris M. Walsh, mother of Joan Shea, teacher at Somerville High School, Maureen Cronin, teacher at Winter Hill Community School and mother-in-law of Stephen Cronin, teacher at Winter Hill Community School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Copies of policies for 1st reading
3. Request for a Somerville High School diploma
4. One Out of State Field Trip for approval
5. A copy of the MASC Resolutions for members' review

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, October 15, 2012 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Taylor (7:24 p.m.) and Mayor Curtatone (7:41 p.m.)

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Bastardi, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, Rafal and Absent – 2 - Taylor and Curtatone.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 24, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of September 24, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was absent this evening.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. **Finance & Facilities Subcommittee:** Oct. 2 (Ms. Rossetti)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso and Ms. Rafal

Also in attendance: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman (8:25 p.m.), Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and one audience member.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. and adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

1. School Photography contract – Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette reported that the current contract expires on 12/31/12 and the School Department is beginning the bidding process.
2. Review of School Revolving Accounts – Report was reviewed
3. FY13 Expenditure Report – reviewed thoroughly. Items discussed included: the Special Education Account (over by 3% already), Out of District tuition costs for students who cannot receive the services they need in District, Circuit Breaker reimbursements (increase proposed for next year), reimbursement for transportation of homeless students under the McKinney-Vento Act (no word yet on this), analysis of Summer School fees, and investigating adding a high school component for the SKIP program in the future.
4. Facilities Update – Mr. Pierantozzi provided a report that included a status on the East Somerville (on time, on budget), parking challenges with the winter upon us, work done in our schools by the DPW
5. ESCS Construction Update – included in Facilities update.
6. Recycling Update – David Lutes met with Mr. Pierantozzi and informed him the recycling in the schools has increased, especially at Somerville High School where the Green Club has worked hard to increase recycling.
7. Edgerly Parking Lot usage – Mr. Lutes also visited the Edgerly parking lot with the Superintendent and informed Mr. Pierantozzi that, with the dumpsters and oil tanks, this area would not be a good place for children to play. Mr. Pierantozzi reminded the School Committee and audience that the Edgerly gym is open every morning for students to play in.
8. De-paving Schoolyards – continued discussion from last meeting. More work being done regarding this issue, including the investigation of permeable surfaces to potentially be used in place of the pavement.
9. Solar Panels – the possibility of adding solar panels is being investigated, as well as grants to fund the purchase since Somerville is considered a "Green Community". More information to come in the future.
10. FY 2012 Bill Rolls – reviewed, discussed and approved.
11. Other – FY 2013 Bill Rolls – reviewed, discussed and approved.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the FY12 Bill Rolls.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the FY13 Bill Rolls.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the purchase of 10 Automated External Defibrillators at a cost of \$13,900.00 to be taken from Facilities, equipment line of FY13 budget.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to defer discussion of K12 Insight Communication System to the Long Range Planning Committee.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the report and minutes of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of October 2, 2012.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rossetti assumed the Chair so that Mr. Bockelman could provide his report from Long Range Planning.

Mr. Sweeting thanked members for approving the addition of AED's at our schools and asked what the next steps are regarding training and implementation. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, working with the Board of Health and the Cambridge Health Alliance, training is being determined and then the purchase of the units will be done. The timeframe is late fall/early winter.

Ms. Bastardi thanked her colleagues for working so quickly on this issue.

B. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: Oct. 4 (Mr. Bockelman)
Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso and Mr. Bockelman

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, Ms. Morgan and one audience member.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mr. Bockelman's report follows:

One of the benefits the State Department of Education offers to the Somerville Public Schools is an analysis of our operations, called a District Review.

From January 30 to February 2nd, the DESE conducted a site visit that included 34.5 hours of interviews and focus groups with over 75 stakeholders ranging from school committee members to district administrators and school staff to teachers' union representatives. The Team also visited most of our schools and observed classroom teaching.

I will not summarize the entire report. The entire report is available online.

The Long Range Planning Subcommittee meeting was dedicated to reviewing this report, which had been received recently. Like any report, we found much of the report useful and informative and some of it less so.

The comments in the report fell into three broad categories: Role of the School Committee, Student Achievement, and Curriculum and Assessment.

The report cited several instances where the School Committee was participating in areas that were explicitly outside the bounds of its authority. For instance, the School Committee holds interviews or meets with potential principal candidates. The School Committee has no role in hiring principals. The superintendent, however, has stated that he finds the public interview process to be a useful evaluation tool because interacting in public is an important skill for a principal.

The School Committee is voting on items in some subcommittees over which it has no purview. The School Committee has established detailed goals – since reduced in scope – which many in the district could not properly recount.

We have referred all recommendations in the report on School Committee policies to the Rules Management Subcommittee, which will review them in detail.

In student achievement, the report identified the issue with which we and every other urban school district struggles: the challenge of improving student learning in every subgroup. While our most recent scores show some impressive results, we are clearly not satisfied and need to continue our emphasis on making inroads.

We have referred all recommendations in the report on student achievement to the Education Programs and Instruction Subcommittee.

The comments about our curriculum and assessment were generally positive with many observations of positive learning experiences happening in our classrooms. There was concern that our ELA and math curriculum were not totally aligned from K-12 and that is something we are working on. They encouraged more differentiated instruction in the classrooms, an area that is being prioritized.

There is much more in the report. I can't say that it reported anything that we didn't know already and that we weren't already working on. The report did provide a catalyst to address some of the issues in a systematic way.

I anticipate that our subcommittees will begin working on many of these issues and will be presenting changes in the near future.

I would like to that the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the dedication of its resources to assist the Somerville Public Schools in the improvement of our district.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be on November 20th – moved from the original date of November 6th.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of October 4, 2012. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Alderman Taylor arrived at 7:24 p.m.

C. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee: Oct. 9 (Ms. Rafal)

1. 2012 MCAS results
2. Unidos program review, progress report
3. Updates:
 - a. Healey Unification
 - b. SAT data for 2012
 - c. Middle Grades Spanish Language
 - d. Innovation Schools update
 - e. Educator Evaluation
4. Other

Ms. Rafal's report follows:

Ed Programs met October 9, 2012 at 42 Cross St. In attendance were Mark Niedergang, Maureen Bastardi, and myself. Other School Committee members in attendance were Adam Sweeting, Teresa Cardoso and Paul Bockelman. The Superintendent and Dr. McKay were there as were presenters Sarah Davila and Holly Hatch. The STA was represented by Dorothy Scally.

We started the meeting at 7:02pm

We talked first about proceeding with the UNIDOS evaluation. Overall, staff praised the evaluation's design of comparing the Unidos program with best practices and strengths of dual language programs. The overall feeling is to embrace the recommendations as a good roadmap to take Unidos to the next level. Some recommendations, such as extra academic support and differentiation in middle grades, have already been implemented. Some recommendations are large program changes and the administrators need to make sure they are well understood and stakeholders are on board.

An RFP, not to exceed a cost of \$12,000, has gone out to hire a consultant who will work with the stakeholders to process the recommendations and help develop actions plans. The plan should be done by March so that we can plan for any needed resources in the next budget.

The second item on the agenda was to take an initial look at our MCAS data. Much has changed under Massachusetts' NCLB waiver. One of the biggest changes is that the overall goal is no longer 100% proficient by 2014, but instead the goal is to cut the achievement gap in half by 2017. This means each year's improvements in performance are not compared to an absolute, but to a "target" set based on the performance of the school or district last year. Different PPI points are assigned to a school depending on whether it performs worse than last year, the same as last year, better but not enough better to reach the target, meeting the target or exceeding the target. This PPI is still figured in with CPI and other school quality factors like dropout rates. Also it seems worth noting that students' scores now count once even if they belonged to multiple subgroups. If they belong to any subgroup they are classified as high-need students. Our percentage of high-needs students is in the 80s. It is still possible to see data in the prior kind of subgroups. We got the data laid out in lots of nice ways, and in some interactive ways. We have one fewer school in Level 3 this year. We are making progress but the Superintendent expressed concern that last year's progress was too little or too slow and some concern in particular about 4th grade scores. We also looked at SAT scores and Dr. McKay talked about some programmatic changes to math instruction at the high school.

We received updates about the Innovation Schools in the works, and about the Healey Unification because really it is very much like an innovation school. The faculty at the Kennedy is still interested in moving ahead and exploring what kind of innovations they might like to adopt.

We heard an update about the Middle Grades Spanish program and the way each school has tailored the work of the Spanish teacher to meet their population's needs. Also, the Middle Grades Spanish teachers integrate with the high school teachers for monthly department meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the report and minutes of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting of October 9, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

1. Ms. Rossetti announced that she had several questions regarding the MCAS scores and apologized for not being at the Ed. Programs meeting, as she was representing the School Committee at the Board of Aldermen's Legislative Matters Committee meeting.
2. How does our current SGP compare to our goal of 55? How close are we?
Dr. McKay responded that the District is making progress, overall and provided current SGP data.
3. Regarding curriculum currently being used – the new middle grade math, the Investigations Math series (year 3 of the new series), are these aligned to the Common Core? Ms. Rossetti is disappointed with the results in Math. Are we conducting more formative testing? The District Review states that not enough formative testing is being done – are there currently any other plans for testing?
Dr. McKay responded that lots of work has been done over the last 6-8 months and that assessments are being developed in-house in Math. They are being utilized and field tested now and the overall goal is to provide teachers with more data.
4. Is there now coaching in all buildings?
Dr. McKay responded that there are coaches in all buildings.

Ms. Rafal reminded members that the School Committee goal of an SGP of 55 was set after the MCAS tests were administered last year.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that members had received the October Personnel Report in their packets and transactions on this report include nine (9) resignations for the purpose of retirement, eight (8) resignations for other reasons, three (3) leaves of absence, four (4) transfers and 15 new hires – including the community liaisons.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi provided the following report on happenings around the District:

- The new Educator Evaluation process is moving forward for all licensed educators. There was an hour and a half meeting today with the evaluators. Work is being done, in conjunction with the

STA, to develop forms. This is a complex document and the last few details are being worked out now.

- Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the School Committee's goal of 55 SGP for all students continues to be a goal for him and he will reflect this in his self-evaluation and will continue to strive for this aggressive but important goal.
- Regarding the District Review Report, more discussion will take place at Ed. Programs regarding Instructional Strategy and Design, Differentiated Instruction and group work, and Curriculum Alignment. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that he has asked all licensed staff members to tutor two students. If everyone participates, 1000 students will receive extra help.
- With the addition of the X-Block to the schedule for elementary school students, there should be no more pullouts and this time can be used not only for remediation, but also for enrichment activities such as band, etc.
- SGP in Science has shown great improvement. In three years, we have halved the gap between the State and the District. We will continue to build on this.
- Congratulations to Somerville High School senior Ruth Grossman, who was named a Commended Student in the 2013 National Merit Scholar Program, ranking in the top 5% of more than 1.5 million students who took the 2011 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Ruth now adds this accomplishment to a very long list of activities and accolades at Somerville High, including being:
 - a National and Spanish Honor Society member,
 - a 2013 recipient of a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship,
 - a member of the Youth Symphony at the NE Conservatory of Music,
 - a member of the Somerville All-City Chamber Orchestra,
 - and a member of the SHS Musical cast since her freshman year.
 - She also earned Honorable Mention honors at the 2012 Region IV Regional Science Fair.
 - These are only a few of the honors and recognitions Ruth has earned.

The Superintendent deferred to *Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*, for his report regarding Professional Development and Curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. On Wednesday, October 17, Somerville High School will administer the PSAT examination to all Grade 10 and 11 students beginning promptly at 7:53 a.m. Grade 9 and 12 students will report to school at 11:00 a.m. Students will need two #2 pencils, a Somerville High School ID and a calculator is optional. Students should get a good night's sleep so they can come in rested and confident to do their best on this exam.
2. The Somerville High School Curriculum Committee is meeting on Wednesday, October 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Somerville High School Library. The committee is considering important matters related to updates to the SHS Program of Studies for next year. Approval of these proposed changes will be presented to the School Committee next month.
3. Congratulations to the Somerville High School TV/Media program for putting the daily announcements on the cable TV system within the school.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his report.

- The SFLC invites parents/guardians to its "Helping Your Young Child Succeed" workshop on Wednesday, October 17th, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Capuano Early Childhood Center. The first of a 4-part series of workshops titled "Parenting for Student Success" will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 am on Friday, October 19th at the Argenziano. Contact the SFLC to register or for more information. There is so much going on that the SFLC has now begun publicizing events monthly, rather than quarterly.

Ms. Rossetti asked if all workshops would be held at the AFA or does the SFLC plan to offer programs in other parts of the City. Mr. Pierantozzi will look into this and get back to Ms. Rossetti.

- The Fall College Fair is taking place until 8:30 this evening at the Somerville High School Field House. Representatives from 70 colleges and universities from across the country are on hand to share information about their programs and help students and their parents/guardians learn how to navigate the college entry process.

The Superintendent deferred to *Ms. Patricia Durette, Finance Director*, for her report regarding some new grants. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

4. Members have been provided with an updated staffing plan which lists all current staff with their salaries. Please replace the preliminary staffing report in your budget book with this updated plan. Thank you to Joe Tringale and his staff for providing this information.
5. On Friday, the new Activity Bus was delivered for Next Wave/Full Circle. In April, a bid went out for this vehicle and it was delivered to the City Yard for inspection etc. before it goes over to Next Wave/Full Circle for use. Students and staff are excited to be getting this new bus!

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his report.

- Mr. Pierantozzi gave an explanation of the Circuit Breaker fund. The Circuit Breaker fund is money that helps to reimburse school districts for the cost of out of district tuition for their outplaced Special Education students. For instance, a school district is allotted \$38,000.00 per student for the education of a Special Education student. If this student needs to be educated in a private setting, the cost is considerably more than \$38,000.00 and the Circuit Breaker fund reimburses districts for a percentage of that extra cost. Next year, it is projected that the Circuit Breaker fund would reimburse 70% of these costs.
- An update on the East Somerville Community School construction informing the audience that the outside of the building is being made weather-tight so that work may continue indoors during the winter months. The roof has been deemed waterproof, particularly after the bouts of rain we've had recently. On any given day, more than 70 workers are on site performing various construction tasks.
- Tuesday, November 6th is Election Day and there will be no school on that day for students. Staff will attend for Professional Development.
- The Somerville High School Evening School is offering a new 5 week Holiday Flower Arrangement course beginning on October 30th.

Mr. Niedergang asked about the hiring of the Volunteer Coordinators as he did not see anything listed on tonight's Personnel Report. Mr. Pierantozzi informed the Committee that all but two schools have completed the hiring process. Since these are stipended positions for current staff members, this would not have been an item for the Personnel Report. Mr. Pierantozzi will ask that it be included on the next report for the School Committee's information.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual – Mr. Niedergang

The following policies are being presented for second reading, as amended:

File: BEC – Executive Session
 File: AC - Nondiscrimination
 File: GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity
 File: GCF – Selection Process for Professional Positions
 File: IJ: - Instructional Materials
 File: JB - Equal Educational Opportunities
 File: JBA – Student-to-Student Harassment
 File: JFBB – School Choice
 File: EBC – Emergency Plans

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sweeting, to include the policies listed above, as amended, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trips (Recommended action: approval)

Jan. 18-21, 2013 Somerville High School Music students to Washington, DC to participate in the World Strides Heritage Inaugural Festival, overnight. Transportation via bus with an approximate cost to students of \$500.00.

April 9, 2013 Somerville High School Science League to Cape Elizabeth, Maine to compete in Science League Competition. Transportation via school van at no cost to students.

April or June 2013 Brown School Grade 6 students to Nature's Classroom, Groton, MA overnight. Transportation via bus at a cost to students of approximately \$200.00.

Mr. Niedergang commented on the high per student costs associated with some of these trips, particularly the Washington, DC trip. The Superintendent will look into what fundraising is being done to offset this cost and assured School Committee members and the audience that no students is ever turned away from attending a field trip because of his/her inability to pay.

Mr. Sweeting commented that each of these trips speaks to hand-on learning, be it Music, Science or Nature's Classroom, these are exactly the sorts of trips that spark creativity and hands-on, experiential activities.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the field trips. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)

School Committee Vote: Members vote on Resolutions up for consideration at the November, 2011 Annual Business Meeting of the MASC.

6. Establishment of a special commission of the legislature for the study of mandated reports and data submissions for school districts
7. Modification of the Circuit Breaker Formula
8. Health insurance coverage for medically necessary treatment in school
9. Funding for educator evaluation system
10. Adequacy study

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, that the Somerville School Committee supports all five of the resolutions being considered at the Annual Business Meeting of the MASC.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. National School Boards Association (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti gave a report on her attendance at the NSBA Regional Conference and informed members that her report has been included in this week's packet. Ms. Rossetti's report included the following highlights:

- The October 6th Networking Breakfast and the NSBA's push to best serve their members.
- The NSBA Program Update – strengthening their legislative advocacy by launching a NSBA Action Center @ www.nsbac.org; looking at the positions of Presidential candidates; looking at doing public advocacy—not just for state associations.
- Sequestration – we should be talking to our Congressmen and Senators now. Ms. Rossetti will share Senator Harkin's report, *Under Threat – Sequestration's Impact on Nondefense Jobs and Services*.
- Effective Family Engagement ideas
- A report on Rural and Small District Challenges – these districts actually face the same challenges as larger districts.
- Ms. Rossetti also placed a listing of some of the potential sequestration cuts to the Department of Education at each members' seat this evening.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, that the Superintendent, on the School Committee's behalf, send communication to all Massachusetts legislators informing them that the School Committee does not want to see sequestration become effective.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Alderman Taylor

1. At next Tuesday's Board of Aldermen Legislative Matters Committee meeting, it is expected that the BOA will vote regarding the Municipal Compensation Review. Alderman Taylor thanked Ms. Rossetti for her attendance at these meetings. The subcommittee will meet at 6:00 p.m., followed by a meeting of the whole at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Rafal

1. Wednesday is the last day to register to vote.
2. Commented that field trips are such an important part of a student's education.

3. Informed members that she is assisting in selling flower bulbs to help defray field trip costs at the Healey.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Please register to vote.
2. Mr. Sweeting has attended two informal STEAM Academy meetings. The STEAM Academy is an Innovation School being proposed by community members for STEAM at Somerville High School. At these meetings, ideas are being shared as to what works well and what the challenges are. Nothing on paper yet. There have been some scheduling difficulties in getting meetings scheduled. Mr. Sweeting will continue to provide information as the School Committee's representative on this committee.
3. Over the last 48 hours, Mr. Sweeting has received 2-3 calls from various factions of the Somerville Public Schools. One about the College Fair, one about PSAT testing and one about the ½ day Wednesday. The District has a good level of communication and reaching out to parents and guardians. Another great tool is the Connections newsletter that is emailed weekly to various constituents. All these things help to keep people on track.

Ms. Bastardi

1. Open House at the Capuano on October 4, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
2. Continue to check the City and School websites for upcoming events – including the Honkfest!

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Following up on discussion regarding open space, there is a new process underway regarding the renovation of Lincoln Park. This should be a more inclusive process.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Thanked Mayor Curtatone for his remarks regarding the playgrounds. A Committee has been formed already at the Healey School regarding landscape issues. Jen Capuano has been involved with this committee and has emailed that she is excited about this and is looking for willing partners to participate.
2. El Sistema was remarkably beautiful and the performance of the Bluegrass Band was wonderful. Having this program in Somerville is a perception changer that will wake people up about our schools. Mr. Niedergang is excited about new programs and their impact.
3. Regarding the medical marijuana presentation, School Committee policy prevents campaigning on school grounds and he is not sure of what the program will consist of and whether or not a pro/con stance may be taken. Mr. Niedergang suggests that this event not be held in a school so that our policy will not, potentially, be violated.

Mayor Curtatone departed the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Ms. Rossetti

4. Ms. Rossetti placed a sheet with two questions at members' seats this evening. Please review and provide input to Ms. Rossetti so that she may consider them at the NE Regional NSBA Conference this weekend in Delaware.
5. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at Central Office. There is a lengthy agenda for this meeting.
6. The Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI) will hold its fall fundraiser supper on October 20, at 6:00 p.m. and the DEI is accepting reservations for this very popular event. Dinner will be prepared and served by the Board of Aldermen. If interested, contact the DEI or the Superintendent's Office.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of family members of School Department employees who have passed away recently:

- Doris M. Walsh, mother of Joan Shea, teacher at Somerville High School, Maureen Cronin, teacher at Winter Hill Community School and mother-in-law of Stephen Cronin, teacher at Winter Hill Community School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of September 24, 2012 Regular Meeting for approval
3. The October 2012 Personnel Report
4. Copies of policies for 2nd reading and approval
5. Three Out of State Field Trips for approval
6. A copy of the MASC Resolutions for members' vote
7. Notes provided by Ms. Rossetti of the NSBA Northeast Conference

8. Notes provided by Ms. Rossetti of the Board of Aldermen's Legislative Matters Committee re: the Non Union Salary Survey
9. Four (4) condolence letters.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, November 5, 2012 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Taylor and Mayor Curtatone (7:33 p.m.)

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Bastardi, Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, Rafal and Taylor and Absent – 1 - Curtatone.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 1, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2012 Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- October 15, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2012 Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi provided the following information regarding happenings at Somerville High School:

- It's nice to be here this evening. Things are back on track at the high school following Hurricane Sandy thanks to the strong leadership and quick actions taken following the storm and its resulting damage to the school.
- High School students held mock elections and President Barack Obama was overwhelmingly the winner
- The Seniors participated in a Halloween Dress-up day on the 31st and it was a great time. All students were dressed in appropriate attire.
- The TV and Media Program is happy to have new MacBook Desktop Computers in their lab. These computers will be a great tool for students as they produce digital media of all kinds.
- Students are proud of the high school's online newspaper – The Piper – which has become the voice of students! Students from the Film Studies class have written movie reviews to be included in this publication, as well.
- Everyone is managing well in spite of the cafeteria and auditorium crisis. Lunches have gone on with little problems. The auditorium issue will be done over time. It was important to have the cafeteria functioning as soon as possible.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. K12 English Language Arts Presentation

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay to introduce the K12 ELA Presentation. Dr. McKay reported that, in a departure from the routine, tonight will see the first of several planned program presentations being made at a regular School Committee meeting. Dr. McKay thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to share our work with the program update.

Dr. McKay introduced Elementary Curriculum Coordinator, Uri Harel, to begin the presentation with information on ELA in the elementary grades. Mr. Harel provided background on English Language Arts curriculum, assessments, professional development, establishment of book rooms and classroom libraries, video libraries, coaching and aligning to the Common Core.

Mr. Harel turned the presentation over to High School Curriculum Chair Jodi Remington who provided a report on ELA at Somerville High School. Ms. Remington reported on bridging the middle school with high school, the establishment of a 3rd quarter research paper for every

student, work on improving writing skills in general, MCAS preparation and, lastly, the new student newspaper, The Piper.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:33 p.m.

Ms. Remington introduced Mr. Bert Stoker, one of the advisors to the newspaper and a student, Max, who is one of the editors. The paper is student run and includes photos and videos. Max reported that the online newspaper is modeled after the New York Times and that it includes a carousel of articles that showcases current news. There are also tags on the main page that link to other articles. The paper will continue to grow with online polls and sections (politics, etc.).

As for what's next for Somerville High, Ms. Remington responded that emphasis on research, writing, differentiated instruction, enrichment programs and working to instill a love of reading are high on the list.

Ms. Rossetti thanked everyone for coming and sharing information with the School Committee and viewing audience. She asked if professional development is still as intense and was informed that it is. One change is that we no longer rely so much on consultants, but do more in-house, for instance, with our coaches leading the professional development. Somerville Public Schools staff have also been working to develop units of instruction to be used in place of textbooks. This has been in progress for grades K-5 this year and will extend to the middle and high school grades over the next year. Emphasis is being placed on collaboration between middle and high school teachers to allow for as seamless a transition as possible for our students.

Ms. Rossetti also asked how one may find The Piper and was given the address: www.thepiper.k12.ma.us/wordpress

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Mr. Sweeting remarked that the presentation was absolutely terrific. He was interested to learn that the focus from K-8 was reading then writing and then switched to writing to reading when students get to the high school. Mr. Sweeting was curious as to why the push was to encourage the reading on non-fiction. As a person who loves fiction, he was curious about this trend.

Ms. Dodi commented that in her AP English class, there is serious conversation and students dig deeper into their readings. She feels that her education in the Somerville Public Schools has greatly prepared her for college and beyond.

Mr. Niedergang thanked the presenters for coming and for their good work. He has always believed that writing empowers a person for life!

Alderman Taylor was impressed with the curriculum and for the real, definite progression being done.

Mr. Bockelman thanked everyone and commended Ms. Rafal for suggesting that some presentations be done at full meetings.

Ms. Rafal thanked the staff for their wonderful work.

B. DISTRICT REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi provided the following report on happenings around the District:

- The Superintendent thanked everyone for coming and sharing information about English Language Arts instruction in our schools.
- Informed the School Committee that the sample agenda for tomorrow's Professional Development day has been left at their seats this evening.
- Announced that, along with no school tomorrow, school will also be closed on Monday, November 12, in honor of Veterans Day.
- On Wednesday, November 21st, schools and offices will close at 1:00 to prepare for the Thanksgiving Holiday. All schools and offices will be closed on Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving (11/22 and 11/23)
- On Thanksgiving Day, Somerville High School will face Cambridge Rindge and Latin for the traditional Thanksgiving Day Football Game.
- Congratulated the Boys Soccer Team for their victory against Billerica (6-2) and plays in the next round of post-season play tomorrow (11/6) at Dilboy Stadium. Wished the team Good Luck

tomorrow
!

- Mr. Pierantozzi provided the School Committee with an update on conditions after the storm. The most serious issues are at the High School. The storm blew the roof off of the high school auditorium. Water traveled down through the auditorium and into the kitchen and created serious problems in both areas. Temporary repairs are being done to make the kitchen operational again. Today, Sterling Movers were on the scene to move heavy kitchen equipment from the damaged kitchen area into the cafeteria area so that staff could begin food preparations again. Much electrical work also needs to be done before fairly regular food prep. can begin and electricians will be on site tomorrow to begin that work. The goal is to have the needed equipment hard-wired by Friday. Currently, food is being prepared at the Winter Hill and Argenziano and transported in insulated units to the High School. Thanked the DPW, contractors and all staff for their industriousness through it all. The auditorium will be off-line for a substantial period of time. Once the kitchen is fixed, we will look for alternative spaces through colleges, universities and private companies.

Ms. Rossetti asked if any of the equipment was salvageable and Mr. Pierantozzi responded that all equipment is still being evaluated. It will take time to complete the evaluation process.

Mayor Curtatone reported that there was a 25-30 minute microburst that came through Somerville.

Mayor Curtatone was in his office when it hit and there was a steady downpour and winds that sounded like a freight train. Luckily, insurance should cover most of the repairs. Commended the great teamwork and coordination between the City and Schools.

Ms. Rossetti also inquired as to the condition of the north wall of the school and was told there was no further visible damage.

- Mr. Pierantozzi reported that he has been in touch with staff from the MASC regarding a training for our School Committee. Since this is the week of their big conference, he will wait until things settle down next week to arrange for a date.
- Congratulations to Ms. Rossetti who will be inaugurated as the MASC President at this week's conference.
- Congratulations, also, to Mayor Curtatone who is receiving a leadership award at the conference.
- Approximately 75 community members were in attendance at the Community Forum on Education – Supporting All Learners on Sunday, November 4, 2012. The guest presenter at the event was Debbie Lee Keenan, Director of the Eliot Pearson Children's School at Tufts University. The Forum included an excellent dialogue about Differentiated Instruction and Learning. Thank You to all the community members who participated in this Forum, and to all the partners who put these events together. We look forward to continuing to build on these discussions as we move forward on fulfilling our educational mission.
- Update on Early Learning Challenge Grant – Alignment Coordinator position has been posted, and applications are being reviewed as they are received. Initial work on designing and developing a database to support mapping efforts is anticipated to start within 2 weeks, and Project Managers are coordinating with the EEC (Early Education and Care) to be part of a study of communities that are implementing strategic plans to address the birth to Grade 3 alignment.
- SFLC Early Childhood Fair: Family Literacy Celebration – "Curious George" will make his second appearance at this annual community-wide FREE event on Saturday, November 17th. The event will be held at the Healey School Gymnasium from 10am to noon and will include a variety of literacy activities for children aged birth to 6 years, raffle prizes, a Book Swap, and the opportunity for families to learn about the many resources available to Somerville families with young children. Numerous community partners will be participating in this event.
- MTA President Paul Toner will be visiting the Winter Hill Community School on Wednesday, November 7th at 11:00 am. We look forward to welcoming President Toner to Somerville's first Innovation School.
- Artist Residence program at Kennedy and WHCS. Students from the Kennedy School and Winter Hill will be the beneficiaries of an Artist in Residence program this week which will offer them the opportunity to learn about Mexican folk art from master woodcarvers. Community partner Nina Hasin is working with Luci Prawdzik to bring in Mexican artists to the Kennedy School on November 7th and to Winter Hill on November 8th. Mr. Ventura Fabian, a master woodcarver from Oaxaca, Mexico who is well-known for his intricate work, and his son Norberto will offer a day of presentations about the art and craft of Oaxacan woodcarving.

- The Healey School Salad Bar opened on Thursday, Nov. 1st. Students in Grades 3- 8 now have another healthy meal option that includes fresh fruits and vegetables. The Salad Bar at the West Somerville Neighborhood School is scheduled to open this week.
- Provided information regarding fundraising efforts for two field trips. The Brown School is having a fundraising event at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square, selling energy efficient light bulbs, holding and Election Day Bake Sale, an auction and selling t-shirts. The High School Chorus is hoping to raise \$18,000-\$20,000 to offset their travel costs. They will be caroling during the holidays, selling coffee and pastry in the morning, selling decorative buttons at the High School, soliciting donations from members of the Chamber of Commerce and has already raised \$1,000 at the Fluff Festival.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome visiting officials from Pakistan

Mr. Bockelman introduced three women who are visiting from Pakistan. These women applied through the US State Department to take part in this partnership program from public administrators. There were over 5,000 applicants for this partnership. These women have been assigned to Somerville. Mr. Bockelman asked the women to step to the podium and introduce themselves.

- Ms. Saima Najam is a Judge with the Family Court Hub Chowski.
- Ms. Rehana Farid is a Social Welfare Officer with the Social Welfare Organization, Special Education and Women's Empowerment Department.
- Ms. Iram Saba is an Assistant Director (Veterinary Officer), with the Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Government of Balochistan.

Ms. Najam spoke on behalf of the group and thanked the School Committee for allowing them the opportunity to share in the meeting process and allowing them to speak. She also thanked the US Government for this opportunity and commented that, after visiting many City and school offices and departments, they are impressed with the democratic and open process afforded our residents. The women spent a day visiting the Argenziano and Somerville High Schools and also attended a Ward 2 ResiStat meeting.

B. Acceptance of Donation

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of 20 sack packs from Office Depot facilitated by Representative Denise Provost on behalf of the National Foundation for Women Legislators, to the Somerville Public Schools.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trips (Recommended action: approval)

Nov. 17-18, 2012 Somerville High School Junior Statesmen of American (JSA) students to Danvers, MA, overnight, to attend the JSA Northeast Convention. Transportation via school van or family vehicle with an approximate cost to students of \$60.00 for lodging and food.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the SCALE ADP graduates. The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. FY2012 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

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

Meybelin E. Mateo-Cruz	55 Broadway, #1	Somerville	02145
Nathan C. Shields	21A Putnam Street	Somerville	02143

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to waive the reading of the field trip and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. FY2012 Full Circle High School Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for a Full Circle High School diploma, be granted his diploma:

- **Amanda Mitchell**
- **Stephanie Varella**

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the Full Circle High School graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

F. Personnel Subcommittee Report

Mrs. Cardoso provided the following report from the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting.

The Personnel Subcommittee Met on Monday, November 5, 2012 @6:30 P.M. in the Committee Room at City Hall. In attendance were myself and Personnel Subcommittee Members Adam Sweeting and Maureen Bastardi along with Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi and the Human Resources and Diversity Administrator Melissa DeResendes. Also in attendance were School Committee Members Christine Rafal, BOA Pres. Tom Taylor, Paul Bockelman, Mark Niedergang and Mary Jo Rossetti.

There were seven (7) Agenda Items to be discussed:

1. Superintendent's Evaluation - We discussed the newly created Evaluation Tool for the Superintendent's 2012 Evaluation as well as the Superintendent's Self-Evaluation Tool for 2012. We also discussed the Evaluation Timeline which had to be amended due to the rescheduling of the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting.

There were two motions unanimously approved by the Subcommittee:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the Superintendent's Evaluation tool for January 2012 through December 2012, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the Superintendent's 2012 Evaluation Timeline, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. Job Descriptions - The Superintendent presented us with the newly created Early Learning Challenge Grant Alignment Coordinator job description for our review and discussion. This is a new position funded through the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant – it is a two-year grant-funded position.

The Subcommittee unanimously approved the following motion:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bastardi, to approve the Early Learning Challenge Grant Alignment Coordinator job description.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

3. Retirement Notices for SY 2013-2014 - The Superintendent gave us an update of the retirements as of the date of the meeting (10).
4. Current Postings 2012-2013 - The Superintendent gave us an update on the current postings – there were 4 vacancies to be filled as of the date of the meeting.
5. New Staff – 2012-2013 - The Superintendent and Ms. DeResendes gave us an update of the new staff as of the date of the meeting – 148 positions have been filled and 4 left to fill.
6. School-Based Family & Community Liaisons - The Superintendent gave us an update on these positions – there have been 11 hires, many of whom are bilingual.
7. School-Based Volunteer Placement Coordinators - The Superintendent gave us an update on these positions – 10 Coordinators thus far with 3 left to fill.

Mr. Sweeting asked the Superintendent how will these new positions be evaluated and how will we know this new program is working? The Superintendent said he will discuss this with the Director of Programs and the SFN Director and give the SC an update at a later date.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

The next Personnel Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Monday, November 26, 2012 at 6:00P.M.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the report and minutes of the Personnel Subcommittee meeting of November 5, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

G. MASC Resolutions

Ms. Rafal reported that members received an additional resolution for consideration at the MASC/MASS conference and asked for guidance on how to vote on this resolution. Members assured her that they trust her judgment and to vote as she sees fit.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS – Letter re: Beverly and Miriam Schwartz – text is included at the end of these minutes.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Alderman Taylor

1. Mr. Taylor reminded members to submit any items they wish to share with the Board of Aldermen to him as there is a standing BOA agenda item for him to share School Committee items.

Ms.

Rafal

1. On November 16, from 8:00-9:00 a.m., Ms. Rafal will hold office hours at the Healey School. Winter Hill office hours will be held soon!

Mr.

Sweeting

1. Mr. Sweeting has two items which evoke civic pride. The first is to remind everyone to vote tomorrow. The second is to encourage everyone to cheer on the High School's Boys Soccer Team as they compete in post-season play. This is a wonderful Somerville story of really great kids doing well!

Mayor

Curtatone

1. Wished the members of the soccer team the best of luck!

Ms.

Bastardi

1. Praised the City for having crossing guards working on Halloween night to assist children and families with crossing streets. Ms. Bastardi doesn't know of any other communities that provide this to their citizens.

Mrs.

Cardoso

1. Echoed everyone's praise for the ELA presentation and hopes it will run again on the Cable TV.
2. PTA's will be holding Election Day Healthy Bake Sales tomorrow. Please support them!
3. The Early Childhood Fair will be held on Saturday, November 17, from 10:00-2:00 at the Healey School

4. Thanked the DPW, Somerville Police and Fire Departments, 311 and School Department for all their efforts around Hurricane Sandy. We were very lucky not to have more damage.

Ms. Rossetti

1. The Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation dedicated/unveiled the brick walkway outside of the Somerville High School Atrium on Sunday, October 21. \$10,000 has been raised so far. This is just the start! Orders are being taken now for the next round of brick installations.
2. Thanked the Community Forum organizers for their great work putting together the event. There was healthy dialogue and great discussion. Mr. Harel's presentation on the X Block was wonderful and she hopes this can be replayed on Cable TV.
3. The West Somerville Neighborhood School will hold an Email Night on November 15th. Parent Liaison Gina D'Haiti will help parents learn about email and help those who do not currently have an email account to establish one.

Mr.

Bockelman

1. Displayed the Beacon Newsletter and referred to page 8 which has a photograph of the

Superintendent presenting at a recent Mass Mayors Association meeting.

2. Reminded audience members that there are seven ballot questions included as part of tomorrow's election process. Please read ahead so that you are informed prior to voting.
3. Informed the audience that Mr. Pierantozzi and his staff did lots behind the scenes during Hurricane Sandy, including preparing food for the emergency workers. Thanks to the Superintendent and everyone else who worked so hard during the storm!

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

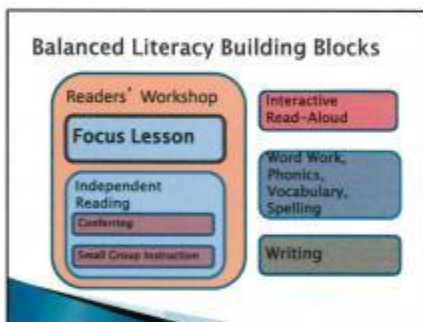
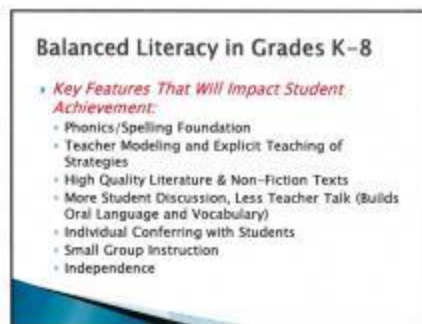
- Patricia Ripley, mother-in-law of Mary Ripley and grandmother of Meaghan McDevitt and Chris Angelli, all staff members at Somerville High School.
- Manuel DeGois, father of Jayne Campos, teacher at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.

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

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of October 1 and October 15, 2012 Regular Meeting for approval
3. One (1) Out of State Field Trip approval
4. Two (2) requests for approval of SCALE/ADP Graduates
5. Two (2) requests for approve of Full Circle Graduates
6. A letter of thanks and congratulations to Bev and Miriam Schwartz
7. Three (3) condolence letters

ELA PowerPoint Presentation





In The Middle Grades...

- » Emphasis on Non-Fiction and Using Evidence
- » Student Discussion and Engagement
- » "Close" Reading

ELA Curriculum Plan for Middle School - Revised Literacy Instructional Units (July 17, 2016) (Page 15, 16)

Unit	Unit Title	Unit Description	Unit Objectives	Unit Assessments	Unit Resources
Unit 1	Reading for Information	Students will read and analyze informational texts to understand the world around them.	Students will be able to identify the main idea and supporting details of a text.	Students will be able to evaluate the credibility of a source.	Students will be able to use evidence from the text to support their claims.
Unit 2	Reading for Information	Students will read and analyze informational texts to understand the world around them.	Students will be able to identify the main idea and supporting details of a text.	Students will be able to evaluate the credibility of a source.	Students will be able to use evidence from the text to support their claims.
Unit 3	Reading for Information	Students will read and analyze informational texts to understand the world around them.	Students will be able to identify the main idea and supporting details of a text.	Students will be able to evaluate the credibility of a source.	Students will be able to use evidence from the text to support their claims.
Unit 4	Reading for Information	Students will read and analyze informational texts to understand the world around them.	Students will be able to identify the main idea and supporting details of a text.	Students will be able to evaluate the credibility of a source.	Students will be able to use evidence from the text to support their claims.
Unit 5	Reading for Information	Students will read and analyze informational texts to understand the world around them.	Students will be able to identify the main idea and supporting details of a text.	Students will be able to evaluate the credibility of a source.	Students will be able to use evidence from the text to support their claims.

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Supporting Teachers

- » New Units of Study Developed by SPS Teachers
- » High Quality Professional Development
- » Coaching
- » Building Up Book Rooms and Classroom Libraries
- » Using Common Assessments To Guide Instruction

Next Steps – Grades K–8

- » Advanced Word Work
- » WRITING ACROSS ALL AREAS!

In Grades 9–12...

- › Emphasis on Writing to Reading Connection, Research Papers and Open Responses
- › Transition from Literature to Informational Texts
- › Challenge Students to be Detectives of Texts



Supporting Teachers

- › High Quality Professional Development:
 - Create Scope and Sequences
 - Design Standards-Based Units of Study
 - Focus on Writing
 - Gradual Release of Instruction (Summer)
- › MCAS Coordinator and Teacher Collaboration

Journalism: 21st Century Approach

- › Easy Editing: A Paperless Process
- › Wordpress Summer Professional Development
- › Multimedia
- › Student Interest



A Closer Look

The Piper



Next Steps – Grades 9–12

- › Shared Responsibility for Writing and Literacy
- › Foundations of Writing Course in Grade 10
- › Differentiated Instruction and Enrichment

An Open Letter for Bev and Miriam Schwartz

Somerville is a great city. It has great attributes, great citizens...and great challenges.

One of our city's great qualities is that regular people step up and make real contributions in times of need. Today, the Massachusetts Advocates for Children recognizes one couple that has contributed regularly, generously, and without fanfare to the children of Somerville.

Bev and Miriam Schwartz are quick to recognize a problem or identify a challenge and then take concrete action to fix the problem and meet the challenge. Their efforts are most obvious in their contributions to support the Massachusetts Advocates for Children, the elementary schools in Somerville, and the efforts to ensure high quality and comprehensive special education services are available to Somerville children without regard to the financial circumstances of the child.

But Bev and Miriam do so much more than that. They take leadership roles in their schools and in the special education community. And they aren't afraid to do the little things that sustain a volunteer group, be it maintaining detailed minutes, facilitating communications, or hosting information sessions.

Most important, however, Bev and Miriam bring disciplined, critical thinking to problems, open minds to solutions, and a can-do attitude to getting things done.

As a community, as a school district, and as friends and neighbors we are all very fortunate to count Bev and Miriam and their family as members of our community and, more importantly, friends.

On behalf of the entire Somerville School Committee, I thank you for the many contributions you have made to our District, our City, and especially our children.

Sincerely,

Paul Bockelman
Chair

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, November 19, 2012 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman Taylor and Mayor Curtatone (7:34 p.m.)

Members absent: Ms. Bastardi

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Sweeting, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti, Bockelman, Rafal and Taylor and Absent – 2 – Bastardi and Curtatone.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team – Division I North Champions

Mr. Bockelman invited Mr. Sweeting to step to the dais to present a citation to the Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team. The citation will be displayed at the High School. Mr. Sweeting offered his thanks and congratulations to this wonderful team. He is proud of the whole team but singled out three things, in particular, about them:

1. They play soccer extraordinarily well – offense, defense, goal keeping;
2. They demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship. Last year they were presented with an award from the MIAA for receiving such a low amount of yellow cards and this year the team has received even fewer;
3. They have captivated the City in unique ways – from Somerville High School alumni to those new to watching high school sports, their play, skill and sportsmanship united the City.

Mr. Sweeting announced that Coach George Scarpelli, who led this wonderful team, could not attend tonight's meeting because he had a School Committee meeting in his own town. In his place, Mr. Sweeting invited Assistant Coach Tony Arias to join him as he read a citation being presented to the team from the School Committee (copy at end of these minutes).

Players - Luis Guerra, Kenny Pinho, Andre Filipe Rolim, Elliot Rippe, Francisco Fernandes Neto, Martin Rodriguez, Matheus Augusto Reis, Felix DeBona, Thayrone Miranda, Maynniquis Das Chagas, Jonathan Mesias, Jose Ayala, Junior Firmino, Jonathan Figueroa, Carlos Guerra, Ethan Sweeting, Jonathan Argueta, Jamie Keegan, Julian Murphy, Marvin Escobar, Augusto DeOliveira, Marcelo Brociner, Guil Vincentin, Andre DeOliveira, Victor Melendez, Managers - Pedro Santos, Chris Soares, Rosenberg Perez, and Sarthak Khanal, and Assistant Coaches - Tony Arias and Tiago Moreira were all present for the award.

Coach Arias stated that it was an honor to be at the meeting and that it was a tremendous season. He also announced, "We'll be back!"

The players were announced one by one and asked to come and stand around the coach.

Ms. Rossetti requested that signs be made and placed around the City commemorating this wonderful accomplishment in a similar manner as were the signs made and displayed for the Somerville High School Girls Basketball Team in 2001.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to ask the Superintendent, on behalf of the School Committee, to contact the City to begin the process of creating signage in recognition of the SHS Boys Soccer Team being the MIAA Division I North Champions.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Alderman Taylor thanked the players for the positive attention they have brought to the City and requested that each player be given a copy of the citation.

Mrs. Cardoso requested a recess at 7:15 p.m. so that School Committee members could congratulate the players and coach.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Bockelman stated that it was wonderful to have these students here and that they will never forget this accomplishment!

Continuing on with awards and citations, Mr. Bockelman announced that we now have royalty among us and welcomed Mrs. Cardoso and Ms. Rafal to the dais to present Ms. Rossetti with a gift of congratulations for her recent election to President of the MASC and to recognize this tremendous accomplishment. Mrs. Cardoso stated that she is in awe of Mary Jo who began like she did as a PTA mom and worked her way up the ranks. Ms. Rossetti makes us all look good. As a School Committee member, her work on transiency/mobility has been taken to the State House and the Capitol in Washington, DC. Ms. Rossetti has served as Division Chair and on the Executive Board of the MASC and now is President. Mrs. Cardoso and Ms. Rafal were proud to be present as Ms. Rossetti was sworn in as MASC President on November 9th. Ms. Rossetti is a voice across Massachusetts; a gentle giant with tremendous Somerville pride! Along with working a full time job, raising a family and caring for her aging parents, Ms. Rossetti has used her vacation time to do all of these things for our students and City.

We are very proud of you, Mary Jo. Ms. Rafal presented Ms. Rossetti with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the School Committee.

Ms. Rossetti thanked her colleagues for the flowers and kind words.

Mr. Bockelman stated that, out of 400 districts in the state, we are proud to have Mary Jo representing us so well!

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 5, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2012 Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not in attendance this evening.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities: November 13 (Ms. Rossetti)
Winter Hill Community School Library, 115 Sycamore Street Somerville, MA
In attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Bastardi

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, Dr. McKay, Mr. Tringale and 17 audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. and adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Ms. Rossetti provided the following report on the meeting:

1. SPS Non-union salary survey and recommendations – After receiving a report from consultants hired by the City, the School Committee reviewed the report and asked the Superintendent to make recommendations relative to salary increases for the School Department's non-union employees. The School Committee respected the City and waited for them to address their employees' salaries before moving forward with the School side's. The Superintendent reported that non-union School Department employees had not received an increase since July 1, 2008. Along with not having any salary increases, these same employees paid 25% of the premium for health insurance, vs. 10-15% paid by employees in union positions, and also took two furloughs. One of these furloughs has been repaid to the employees; the second has not. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that his recommendations are conservative and that he tried to make the fairest recommendation possible for all non-union staff.

Mr. Bockelman requested that, in the future, the School Committee not go more than two years before considering increases. These employees stuck it out for our District and he doesn't want to see this happen again.

MOTION: To accept the Superintendent's recommendation for nonunion staff salary increases as outlined in the November 13, 2012 memo.

Approved by a roll call vote of YES – 7 – Rafal, Sweeting, Bastardi, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti and Bockelman and ABSENT – 2 – Taylor and Curtatone.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:34 p.m.

MOTION: To request the Mayor to submit a Supplemental Appropriation to the Board of Aldermen for the Somerville Public Schools FY2013 Budget of \$365,529.00 to fund the salary increases for the Non Union School Department Employees, resulting from the recommendation of the Municipal Salary Survey, thus increasing the FY2013 budget of the Somerville Public Schools from \$52,545,257.00 to \$52,910,786.00.

Approved by a roll call vote of YES – 7 – Rafal, Sweeting, Bastardi, Cardoso, Niedergang, Rossetti and Bockelman and ABSENT – 2 – Taylor and Curtatone.

Ms. Rossetti requested that communication be sent to the Mayor and his staff regarding this issue.

This item will be placed on the December 13th Board of Aldermen's Agenda.

Mayor Curtatone stated that the School Committee should not expect any action at that meeting. The issue will likely be referred to the BOA Finance Committee before action is taken.

Mr. Bockelman stated that the School Committee is just seeking equity for our staff and expressed concern over potential tax implications for School Department staff.

Alderman Taylor stated that potential tax implications should be known and informed the School Committee that the Finance Chair is the key person in this. Alderman Taylor also inquired as to whether there is a contingency account to address these increases.

Mayor Curtatone supports these increases and that contingencies are in place, but there is a process to go through Finance first.

Mr. Niedergang asked why this item is not on the agenda for tomorrow evening's Aldermen's meeting.

Alderman Taylor explained that there is a 48 hour lead-time rule for placing an item on the agenda and to contact the City Clerk to request that an item be added.

Mayor Curtatone reported that it is not a possibility for this to be on tomorrow night's agenda as his staff is not ready to present tomorrow evening.

Ms. Rossetti asked Alderman Taylor if, once this is on an agenda, the School Committee could be notified in advance. She also asked if School Committee members should plan on attending the meeting on December 13th.

Alderman Taylor will communicate with Alderman Heuston, the Finance Chair, and let School Committee members know the plan.

2. Facilities Update – Mr. Pierantozzi provided an update on the damage in the SHS cafeteria and auditorium. Plan B is going strong and the first SandyStat meeting was held on November 14th. Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette have been keeping organized records and tracking the needs across the District. This information is being sent to the insurance adjuster and expenditures are being tracked. This group will be meeting on a regular basis and updates will be shared with the School Committee.

3. FY13 Expenditure Report – reviewed with particular concentration on the Special Education line which includes out of district tuition payments. Steps are being taken to attempt to keep more students in Somerville. Discussion of possibly extending the SKIP Program to the high school level by having some renovations done at the high school.

4. FY13 Bill Roll – reviewed. Included was \$98,454.00 for curriculum for the purchase of books.

5. Declaration of Surplus Goods – recommendation from Kennedy School – motion below.

6. Other:

The following motions were approved at this meeting:

MOTION: To approve the FY13 Bill Rolls

Approved via voice vote.

MOTION: to approve the recommendation of surplus items from the Kennedy School.

Approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded Mr. Niedergang, to accept the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of November 13, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi referred School Committee members to the November Personnel Report that was included in their packets. There were no resignations, no resignations for the purpose of retirement; there were 13 Leaves of Absence for various reasons; 17 inter-District transactions; 13 new hires – 11 part-time and 2 full-time replacements.

2. DISTRICT REPORT

1. The Superintendent wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and informed the School Committee that at 4:30 p.m., today, a Connect Ed message in the target languages was being sent to all families. Mr. Pierantozzi also informed the School Committee that Connect Ed calls are made on all weeks where there is a half-day Wednesday and that doing this has cut down on the amount of confusion regarding pickup times.

Mr. Sweeting announced that the Community Schools Program is not in session on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that all District offices will close at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday and will remain closed until Monday morning when normal business hours resume.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay for his report on some curriculum-related topics:

Dr. McKay provided an After School Program update:

There are two major programs in the Somerville Public Schools – Community Schools, which is fee-based and the Academic Support Program, which is free to all students who need support.

- Academic Support/ATP: Tutorial program started up over the past several weeks at all elementary schools. There are 200 students enrolled currently, ramping up to about 300 by early December. These students will receive at least 25 hours of intensive academic support in small group settings.

As you might recall, we've changed the program structure this year by eliminating the district level director position and putting more responsibility at the school level.

Just this afternoon, we completed a very intensive tutor training program that's required for all ATP staff. This training gives our tutors specialized training in teaching reading, designed to accelerate the skills kids need to catch up. For this training, we're including staff from our other afterschool partners as well, including Boys and Girls Club, Community Schools and El Sistema at ESCS, which falls under the Community Schools umbrella.

- The Community Schools program is off to another successful start with enrollment up slightly from last year to just about 500 students. The Community Schools Program combines homework support with an extensive selection of enrichment offerings that includes yoga, rock climbing, pottery making, gardening, dance, science and music. Parents can contact the Community Schools Office at 617-625-6600 X6970 for more information to take advantage of this terrific program.

You'll find detailed updates from the program directors in this week's Educational Programs Subcommittee Meeting packet.

- An Ed. Programs preview: I want to thank Mr. Oteri and the SHS team for their comprehensive approach to the revisions to the SHS Program of Studies. The team will be present tomorrow evening to present their recommendations.
 - Finally, I want to announce the start of a Spanish Language for Educators course being offered in-district. This is a 12 hour course, taught by Somerville Public Schools World Language Department Head, Jim Nocito. We have 25 staff members enrolled and a waiting list of 15, with plans for another offering beginning in early February.
2. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked the Mayor and Jim Halloran and George Scarpelli of the Recreation Department regarding a new morning program slated to begin on or about December 1st. This Wake-Up Program will include physical education and breakfast and will be held at the East Somerville at Edgerly and Cummings, the Brown, Healey and Winter Hill Schools. More information to follow as the program progresses. The Kennedy and Argenziano Schools are also starting some pilot programs. The program at the Argenziano is being supported by the Duhamel Education Initiative.
 3. The Somerville High School Music Department is proud to announce that they have three students who have been selected to the State Senior District Orchestra – Ruth Grossman, Celine Lessard-Brandt and Graziella Oliveira.

Mr. Pierantozzi deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Finance Director, for an update on facilities-related issues.

- Regarding repairs at Somerville High School following Hurricane Sandy, food preparations are still being done offsite while repairs are done to the equipment in the kitchen, etc. Equipment is being assessed and, where possible, repaired. New microwaves have been purchased to replace those damaged by the water. Superior Equipment has looked at all of the equipment,

with the exception of the walk-in freezer; a quote was sent to the City's Law Office who will forward on the insurance company.

- In the auditorium, Music Supervisor, Rick Saunders is bringing in experts to assess damage to the sound system and the grand piano. Again, quotes will be forwarded to the Law Office and then on to the insurance company. School Department staff are currently looking for alternate venues including other schools, colleges, etc.
- Pat Durette and Joe Tringale filed the FY12 End of Year report on last Friday with the DESE. This report provides information on all revenues and expenditures of the Somerville Public Schools.

Ms. Rossetti asked about an email she received this afternoon which referred to fundraising and the fact that they are "taking a beating with no auditorium." Is our budget helping with the costs to provide alternative sites for musicals, etc.?

Mr. Pierantozzi responded that no budget cuts have been made to any programs. We have just begun to look into alternative sites. For instance, the Somerville High School Musical will be performed at the Somerville Theater.

Mayor Curtatone assured the School Committee that he is happy to lend a hand with this issue and that more than money is an issue.

4. More than 300 people attended the 2012 Early Childhood Fair: Family Literacy Celebration the Healey School Gymnasium on Saturday morning. The event was a phenomenal success and included book giveaways, a Book Swap, literacy-based activities for young children, and a chance for families to connect and learn about the many resources for families with young children available throughout the City and in the surrounding area. "Curious George" and Jesse the Long-Tailed Skink (Stone Zoo) were among the more popular attractions.
5. Congratulations to Senior Indira Evora on signing a Letter of Intent to play basketball at NCAA Division 2 St. Michael's College in Burlington, Vermont this afternoon. A three-year starting point guard for the Highlander varsity girls' basketball team, Indira has numerous accolades while at Somerville High, including Greater Boston League (GBL) MVP honors in 2012. She is a 3-time GBL All-Star, and averaged a team-high 16.3 points, 4.8 steals and 4 assists per game last season. Indira is also an AP/Honors student lists Law, Sports Medicine, Coaching and Counseling among her fields of interest.
6. Superintendent Awards at ESCS Cummings this afternoon. Superintendent Awards at Kennedy School on Thursday, November 29th.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donation

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation \$7,500.00 from Tufts University's Eliot-Pearson School, to be used to help defray the costs associated with the salary for the Data Analyst to provide this information to assist the Somerville Public Schools and the SomerPromise Initiative.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. 2012 Somerville High School Summer School Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for graduation from Somerville High School, be granted her diploma:

- **Marie Lin**

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the high school diploma.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. MASC/MASS Conference Report (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti provided a brief report on her attendance at the following workshops:

- The New ELL Regulations and the anticipated implementation cost of \$1350/teacher for a total of \$383,000.

- Indicators, Dashboards and Benchmarks – Oh My! Using Data to Transform Schools and Districts
- Reading is currently piloting a data tool of Long Leaf Solutions Company
- Virtual Learning: A Collaborative & Regional Approach
- District Governance: Norms and Protocols
- General Session: Post Election Analysis and Discussion
- Blended and Digital Learning in the Commonwealth
- Advocacy Strategies for School Leaders
- General Session – Encouraging Civic Participation and Raising Overall Student Achievement

Ms. Rossetti provided a typed, more detailed report of all workshops to every member in this week's packet.

D. Local Government Advisory Commission Report (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti provided a report on her attendance at the November 13, 2012 Local Government Advisory Commission Meeting. Ms. Rossetti provided members with printed copies of her report at their seats this evening. Highlights of her report are as follows:

- A state Revenue and Economic Update by Secretary J. Gonzales
- A discussion of the Federal "Fiscal Cliff" with Secretary J. Gonzales
- Discussion of Fiscal 2014 Chapter 90 Authorization and the Long-Term Funding Needs of Cities and Towns
- Discussion of Superstorm Sandy and the subsequent damage
- Student Mobility and Transiency follow-up with Deputy Commissioner of Education Jeff Wulfson.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – Letter from Congressman Michael E. Capuano

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rafal

1. In Ms. Bastardi's absence, Ms. Rafal reminded viewers to continue to check the calendars of events from the City and School Department for a full listing of activities across the City.
2. Announced that it is report card and PTA meeting time.
3. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at Central Office. The agenda includes a presentation and report on the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative.
4. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Mr. Sweeting

1. Thanked members for allowing him to represent them to present the citation to the Soccer Team. Honored to do so!
2. Announced that he will not be present at tomorrow evening's Ed Programs meeting due to another commitment.
3. Reported on his attendance at a Somerville STEAM Academy Planning Committee meeting. A lot is in play with many possibilities being discussed. There is not really much to share at this time as most of the meeting was spent brainstorming. Mr. Sweeting will keep members informed along the way.
4. Wished all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Mayor Curtatone

1. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!
2. Encouraged everyone to watch the Thanksgiving Day football game vs. Cambridge Rindge and Latin.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. The next Personnel Subcommittee Meeting will be on Monday, November 29th at 6:30 p.m., followed by Rules Management at 7:00 p.m.
2. The Argenziano PTA will meet on November 27th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
3. At members' places this evening is a navy blue folder with documents for the Superintendent's annual evaluation. Please return completed evaluations to Mrs. Cardoso by November 30.
4. Last night, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Niedergang, Alderman Taylor, Mayor Curtatone and many, many others were in attendance at Gene Brune's retirement celebration. Mayor Curtatone spoke eloquently at this event and we will miss Mr. Brune's involvement in politics, but wish him a happy retirement.
5. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels!

Mr. Niedergang

1. Thanked Mrs. Cardoso and Mr. Bockelman for being so thoughtful about the scheduling of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting. This is an important meeting where members will discuss policies highlighted by the recent District Review of the District and Mr. Niedergang hopes that attendance is good at this meeting.
2. Reported on his attendance at a recent Kennedy Innovation School Planning meeting. The group has been foundering a bit, with no jelling of consensus being agreed upon. Members discussed the possibility of either abandoning the idea, but then decided to try to speed up the process by meeting weekly. Some parents volunteered to drive the process as there has been broad community interest. Mr. Niedergang will keep members informed as things progress.
3. Mr. Niedergang asked a question regarding the point value associated with the various categories on the Superintendent's evaluation document. For the members' information, the rating system is 1 through 4 with 1 being the highest rating possible.

Ms. Rossetti

1. The Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation is taking orders now for the next round of brick installations outside of the Field House. This first round of orders resulted in a \$10,000.00 addition to the fund. This is a great holiday gift!
2. The West Somerville Neighborhood School PTA will be held on November 29th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
3. Also, the West Somerville will hold a Vendor Craft Fair on December 7th from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
4. The Somerville High School Track PAC will hold its Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 24th beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the field house. The El Sistema musicians will be performing during this event!

Mrs. Cardoso added that the Next Wave/Full Circle's Wreath fundraiser has begun and the Tree Lot at Foss Park will be up and running after Thanksgiving. Mrs. Cardoso made this report in Ms. Bastardi's absence!

X. ADJOURNMENT

- Teresa C. Tuccelli, mother of Stephen Tuccelli, retired Principal from the Winter Hill Community School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of November 5, 2012 Regular Meeting for approval
3. November 2012 Personnel Report
4. One (1) Out of State Field Trip approval
5. A copy of Ms. Rossetti's speech given at her inauguration to MASC President
6. Notes provided by Ms. Rossetti on her attendance at the MASC/MASS Joint Conference in November
7. A copy of a letter from Congressman Michael E. Capuano regarding potential spending cuts.

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
School Committee

Somerville High School Boys Soccer

WHEREAS, *The Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team completed its regular season with a historic record of 16-0-2, and*

WHEREAS, *The Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team is the first team in the history of the program to go undefeated, and*

WHEREAS, *The Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team defeated Billerica, Westford Academy, Madison Park and St. John's Preparatory School in post season play, thus becoming the Division I North Champions, and*

WHEREAS, *The Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team, though defeated in the Eastern Mass Final round against Needham, demonstrated strength, hard work, maturity and teamwork, and*

WHEREAS, *Throughout the entire season, Coach George Scarpelli praised these athletes for being gentlemen, scholars and, lastly, soccer players, and*

WHEREAS, *Their maturity and sportsmanship on the field was evident during the entire season as they put their team above themselves, therefore be it*

RESOLVED: *That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to the team.*

Somerville School Committee

Paul Bockelman, Chairperson

Adam Sweeting

M. Teresa Cardoso

Thomas Taylor, Aldermanic President

Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent

Mary Jo Rossetti, Vice Chairperson

Maureen Bastardi

Mark Niedergang

Christine Rafal

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

November 19, 2012

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, December 3, 2012 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Bastardi, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, and Alderman Taylor (7:05 p.m.)

Members absent: Mr. Niedergang and Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 6 – Sweeting, Cardoso, Rossetti, Bockelman, Rafal and Taylor and Absent – 3 – Niedergang, Taylor and Curtatone.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi provided the following report on happenings around Somerville High School:

- This is a very busy time of year. PTSA was last Wednesday, November 28th. This was a good opportunity to find out how students are doing academically.
- On December 10, there will be a College Financial Aid Fair at Somerville High School. Students and families will be provided with assistance in filling out financial aid forms and also learn of possible ways to make college more affordable through various scholarship opportunities.
- The Winter Concert and show will be held on December 19th in the Field House and will feature music, dance and a lot of fun!
- The Thanksgiving Pep Rally was a great success with a pie eating contest and many harmony producing events.
- This is a stressful time of year for seniors as they count down to college application deadlines.
- The Green Club is conducting a shoe drive where they will collect moderately used shoes and distribute them to needy children.
- The Junior Statesmen of America will participate in the Annual Winter Congress in February. Preparations are underway now to develop bills to debate. The top 10 bills will be sent on to the United States Congress for potential debate at the federal level.
- The Global Advocacy Club is corresponding with entrepreneurs and educators from Uganda to learn more about successful endeavors there.

MOTION: Ms. Bastardi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to take Item IV. B - K12 Science Presentation - out of order.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

1. K12 Science Department Presentation

Mr. Pierantozzi deferred to Dr. McKay for introductions of the guests from the Science Department. Dr. McKay welcome all to the second of four curriculum presentations being made at Regular School Committee meetings. In November, a presentation on English Language Arts was made and, tonight, the Science Department will make their presentation. Later in the year, there will be presentations on Math and Social Studies.

Alderman Taylor arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Dr. McKay stated that we must amplify efforts to bring STEM to life with a new focus on hands-on learning through engaging, content-rich curricula that emphasize the application of knowledge to current, real world challenges. Classrooms must be vibrant environments that encourage creativity and exploration. We must capture the interest of students, provide them with a solid base of knowledge and then teach them how to think and act like scientist. Teachers need the capacity to build learning experiences which will inspire young scientists. We need to increase partnerships between businesses, museums, scientific organizations, universities and schools and provide more support for families at home.

The PowerPoint presentation from tonight's meeting is included at the end of these minutes.

Mr. Uri Harel stepped to the dais and began with the elementary science curriculum presentation which included the following information:

- The development of new standards to guide their work
- Piloting content readers to support units
- Creating a replenishment system for science kits
- Engineering integrations
- Expanding Biogen experiences for middle grades students

Looking forward:

- Realignment of Science curriculum to the new MA Next Generation Standards
- STEM as a unifying force
- Creation of rich assessments
- Material purchases to support learning
- Professional development for teachers in new standards and methods

Somerville High School's Science Department Chair, Karen Woods, took over the presentation and gave information on science at the high school level. With her this evening were Lauren Poussard, Ann McCabe and Mike Maloney who are teachers in the Science Department at Somerville High School.

Ms. Woods started the high school presentation by providing the following information:

- A background on the Science program, course curricula and current course offerings and sequence of courses
- MCAS results and trends
- Department strengths
- Industry and Community partners
- Science curriculum guides aligned with ELA Common Core Literacy standards
- New frameworks
- AP class offerings
- e-Portfolios
- Establishment of a Science National Honor Society

Ms. Wood introduced Ann McCabe who is a first year teacher and is already so involved at Somerville High School. Ms. McCabe provides afterschool Science support, oversees the Green Club, coaches Ultimate Frisbee, and volunteers at Drumlin Farm.

Ms. McCabe continued the presentation with information on the following:

- Alliance for Climate Education
- Expanding Ecology curricula including Project WILD
- Green initiatives and opportunities

Next, Ms. Wood introduced Mr. Mike Maloney, the veteran in the group. Along with teaching physics, Mr. Maloney is the yearbook advisor and does a wonderful job. He also oversees the Science League and serves on the Curriculum Committee.

Mr. Maloney provided the following information:

- Evolution of the SHS Engineering Program and affiliations with Tufts University
- Parametric Technology
- Tufts InterLACE Software

Last, Ms. Wood introduced Ms. Lauren Poussard. Ms. Poussard teaches Biology, is an MCAS tutor after school, a Boston University Representative, serves on the School Culture Committee and has been taking courses in Neuroscience in her spare time.

Ms. Poussard provided the following information:

- Information of the Verizon Thinkfinity grant--
- One of six schools in the nation selected for a \$70,000.00 award.
- Award provides wireless infrastructure in science and math wings at SHS including 2 iPad carts and Professional Development for teachers

Ms. Wood finished up the presentation by providing what's in the future including:

- MassCore Requirements which dictate that students must complete 3 years of **lab-based** science
- Realignment of all curricula to the Next Generation standards and new AP standards
- A new Science Research semester elective course

School Committee members thanked everyone for such a wonderful presentation. This is very exciting information for the community to hear about. The excitement and passion in the voices of the presenters makes it evident how important and meaningful their work is. Questions, answers and discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Reaching out to area hospitals to try to establish partnerships

- The use of iPads by Math and Science departments
- Mobile lab in our community and budgeting for this lab
- An increased interest in the Ecology program
- An explanation of science kit contents and their use in the curriculum
- The connection being established between the elementary schools and Somerville High
- Next Generation Standards
- Process used in determining new initiatives to focus on and how to prevent initiative overload
- Loss of partnership with the Broad Institute and ways to compensate

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting: Nov. 20 (Ms. Rafal)

Ms. Rafal provided the following report:

The Educational Program and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting was held in the Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA.

The meeting called to order at 7:00 and adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

1. Somerville High School Program of Studies: Presentation of proposed revisions for 2013-2014
2. Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC), informational presentation
3. MCAS update: teacher and administrative use of data, informational presentation
4. Program Updates
5. Other

In attendance: Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal, Mary Jo Rossetti, Paul Bockelman, Vince McKay and about 12 presenters from the high school faculty and SFLC staff.

We heard from the High School Curriculum Committee about new courses proposed for the new course catalog. The main foci were college and career readiness, new graduation requirements and the Common Core, as well as added math courses to prevent experiences of failure on first MCAS.

Highlights include:

- New English courses that will better align with the two AP exams offered to juniors and seniors;
- New half-semester courses in Common Core math for first-year students and first-semester sophomores; these will be required for students whose math achievement in the middle grades suggests they need extra instruction in order to succeed on the grade 10 math MCAS (for example if they did not complete algebra in 8th grade, they would not have completed geometry before the MCAS, one-third of which is geometry).
- A new Dental Assisting course in CTE, which will lead to a certification that normally takes two years of post-high school coursework. Next year's sophomores will be able to enroll even though there was no exploratory piece in Dental Assisting this year.
- Additional math requirements for CTE students
- A heritage language course for students whose dominant home language is Portuguese. Not only do these students have specific needs from a class, but if several take the regular classes it also changes the experience for students truly beginning the language.

The High School is also working on a new schedule because it makes dual enrollment, among other things, difficult. Several local colleges and universities do offer dual enrollment for qualified, pre-approved students; the grade is weighted at honors level and the college or university's name appears on the student's transcript.

We discussed whether we needed to approve these proposed courses or whether we should only approve them pending funding. The only anticipated change is a .2 FTE for the next level of Mandarin.

So Mark Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Christine Rafal, to approve the proposed revisions to High School course of study.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by , to approve the proposed revisions to the High School curriculum of study.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Then we heard a presentation from Sara Davila and Nomi Davidson about the expanding activities of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative. They continue doing many of their similar activities like early learning support, classes for parents to learn English and workshops supporting parents with children of all ages. They have also hired school-based volunteer coordinators and family liaisons. We heard from three of the liaisons, too. Different initiatives are going on at each school, based on the community and their liaisons' interests. Overall it sounds like the liaisons are feeling like they become a personal connector and problem solver to help parents work with the school.

Then we got a whole bunch of various data. It was not always clear why some of the data was selected. And in other cases it was not always clear what we should do or think about regarding the data. [It made me think of needing Nate Silver or Sam Wang to help interpret raw polling data]. We decided to plan a data workshop, hopefully for some time in January.

By then it was late and we took the updates home with us to look at.

We adjourned at 9:09 pm.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to accept the report and minutes of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of November 20, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: Nov. 26 (Mr. Bockelman)

Ms. Rossetti assumed the Chair so that Mr. Bockelman could provide his report on the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of November 26.

The meeting took place in the Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA.

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Christine Rafal, Mark Niedergang, Adam Sweeting, Mary Jo Rossetti

Staff present: Tony Pierantozzi, Susanna Hernandez Morgan, Charlie LaFauci

Two guests including Library Director Maria Carpenter

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

The Subcommittee invited Library Director Maria Carpenter to the meeting as part of the School Committee's effort to increase engagement with the community in order to enhance student learning.

Ms. Carpenter provided the Subcommittee with an overview of the Library's youth services and the partnership that she has forged with the School District, its professional library staff, and with Charlie LaFauci. She was thrilled to show images of the new Teen Space that has been built in the main library and has had nearly 1,500 visitors since the Fall.

The Library has launched a teen advisory board with an active group of high school students providing guidance for library programs for young adults.

Ms. Carpenter that presented plans and a model that showed images of a proposed new library to be located in Union Square with over 70,000 square feet of space. The vision of this stunning new library is to create seamless service for students and learners of all ages.

While the new library will be eye-popping and a real landmark for our community, and while the City has received a provisional grant of \$18 million, the total cost of about \$43 million will need to be discussed seriously.

Lastly, Ms. Carpenter noted that the two branch libraries in East and West Somerville were not going to be neglected and new investments in both branches were in process and more were on the drawing boards.

Next, the Subcommittee discussed the School Committee goals and, simultaneously, the District Review presented to the School Committee in the spring by the Massachusetts Department of Secondary Education.

The purpose of this discussion was to enumerate what success measure we would actually be using when we judged the District's performance next year. We did not want there to be any ambiguity as to whether a particular goal had been met or not.'

As we discussed some of our goals, we tried to ensure that the measures we were using were numbers already being collected and reported to the state. Calculations will be performed by the state. And the data will not be open to easy manipulation.

We recognized that some of our enunciated goals are quite ambitious; the Superintendent felt it was important that we establish challenging goals that matched the targets set by the State.

After further discussion, we agreed to review these items again at our December meeting and adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of November 26, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Rules Management Subcommittee: Nov. 29 (Mr. Sweeting)

In Mr. Niedergang's absence, Mr. Sweeting provided a report on the Rules Management Meeting of November 29.

The meeting was held in the Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Niedergang.

Also in attendance: Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal and Mr. Pierantozzi.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. and adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

1. File: BDE School Committee Subcommittees – being reviewed and discussed as a result of the DESE's District Review. The Committee is looking at in-depth rewrites of this policy and others. Language about the Open Meeting Law will be added.
2. File: BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee – Information for this policy which was included in File BDE will be removed and File BDF will be its own policy. Language about the Open Meeting Law will be added.
3. File: BE School Committee Meetings – reviewed with minor changes needed including language about the Open Meeting Law being added.
4. File: EFD Wellness Policy PK-12 - this was the last item of the evening. Not much review done yet. More to come at a future meeting.
5. File: GCF Selection Process for Professional Positions – another policy being discussed after the DESE report. The Superintendent is reworking this policy to align the policy with actual practice and to make it more efficient and in line with Education Reform.

There were no motions made at this meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept the report and minutes of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting of November 29, 2012.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

- The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative hosts a workshop on the Effects of Toys and Media on Young Children; 6:30-8pm at the Capuano on Wednesday, December 5th.
- All-City Middle School Winter Concert – Thursday, December 13, 6pm at the Cohen Auditorium at Tufts University due to damage to the high school's auditorium from super storm Sandy.
- On December 10, one of the High School's big events, the College Financial Aid Night where Financial Aid Forms are distributed and reviewed will take place in the cafeteria. Local scholarship forms and the application process will also be reviewed. Members of the SHS Class of 2012 were awarded over \$1million in scholarships.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Pat Durette, Finance Director, for some budget planning information. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

1. In preparing for the FY14 budget process, Ms. Durette will be meeting with principals and reviewing the Capital Improvement Plan to determine if any major equipment such as copiers need to be replaced as part of the Capital plan.
2. Ms. Durette will also be starting to discuss the upcoming budget and any additional needs, be it staff or supplies for next year.
3. Today, the District was informed that additional funds are available through the Full Day Kindergarten grant. There is more than \$79,000 possibly available. A grant amendment will be filed requesting these additional funds.

The Superintendent continues his report:

- Tomorrow, Mr. Pierantozzi will make his last Student of the Quarter Awards presentation for the first quarter. This is one of Mr. Pierantozzi's favorite things to do!
- The Superintendent reported on his attendance today at a conference sponsored by the Rennie Center and the Massachusetts Education Partnership focusing on Leading Change: Improving Student Achievement through Labor-Management Collaboration. STA President Jackie Lawrence was also in attendance at this conference. Mr. Pierantozzi shared a handout from today's event to School Committee members this evening which provides more specific information about the conference focus.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. DRAFT 2013-2014 School Calendar

The first draft 2013-2014 was provided in this week's packet for School Committee review and input. At this time, this is a tentative calendar which could change depending on collective bargaining. This draft has been reviewed by the presidents of the STA and SAA. Discussion ensued relative to having school on Election Day, closing school on December 23 and possibly rescheduling half-day Wednesdays. New draft calendars with the various scenarios discussed will be developed and presented at the next School Committee meeting for review and possible approval.

Research will also be done regarding space constraints of buildings on Election Day as well as safety concerns for our students.

B. Acceptance of Donations

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

1. A donation of 3-ring binders, Investigations Math materials, a Smart Board and Projector from Nadine Macolini of Somerville, MA, to the Kennedy School. Estimated value not known. If items were new, value would be approximately \$3,000.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. A donation of children's books from Rick Monteforte of Somerville, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools, to be distributed across the District. Estimated value is \$250.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

3. A donation of Pulled Chicken and Coleslaw for 50 people donated by Redbones of Somerville, MA to the El Sistema program for their Winter Harmony/Edgerly Music Concert on December 18th. Value to be determined.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

4. A donation of \$500 in printing costs donated by RISO Products to the El Sistema Program.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

5. A donation of 10 dresses from Denise Provost of Somerville, MA to the El Sistema Program. Value to be determined.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

6. A donation of two dress shirts, slacks and 2 pair of dress shoes from Patricia Abreu to the El Sistema Program. Value to be determined.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

7. A donation of \$500.00 to the Kennedy School from Jim Connolly and Jennifer Phillips of Somerville, MA, given on behalf of Pilgrim Health Care to be used for educational games and activities for students in grades K-2.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Sweeting, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept the donation with extreme gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

8. A donation of two (2) milling machines with the latest safety features and very low usage history, from Tufts University, Dennis Dupuis, Director of the Tufts Science and Technology Department Machine Shop, to Somerville High School's CVTE Machine Technology Shop. Along with the donation of this equipment is a donation of the installation by Chris Hawks from Dale Engineering. The estimate value of these machines is over \$30,000 each.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees
- B. Thank you from Alderman White for condolences offered upon the death of his mother.
- C. Mr. Bockelman announced that the School Committee Caucus for Chair and Vice Chair will be held prior to our meeting on December 17th at 6:45 p.m.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Taylor

1. Non-Union salary increase will be brought forward to the Board of Aldermen at their meeting on December 13th. Alderman Taylor reported that he will try to have the issue resolved before the end of the year.

Ms. Rafal

1. The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, December 11 at 42 Cross Street.
2. The Winter Hill PTA will be held on Wednesday night at the same time as the Ward 4 ResiStat meeting. Ms. Rafal will hold office hours on December 5th from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. at the Thurston Spa to make up for not being able to attend the PTA meeting and welcomes parents and guardians to join her there for coffee and conversation.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Commented on how Somerville has so many coffee shops and how they factor into the educational process here in our District. Recently, Mr. Sweeting stopped into a local shop and observed Mr. Harel having a working meeting with the educational coaches. Mr. Sweeting was invited to join and Mr. Sweeting was impressed with the conversation and engagement. This was great to see!

Ms. Bastardi

1. Lots going on in Ward 1. ResiStat meeting at the Cross Street Center on December 4th beginning at 6:30 p.m.
2. The Next Wave/Full Circle School has opened their tree lot at Foss Park. The lot is open from 4:00-8:00 p.m. on week days and 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. on weekends.
3. The ESCS at Cummings will hold its PTA on Tuesday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and the ESCS at Edgerly will hold its PTA on December 11th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. The Superintendent's 2012 Evaluation will be an agenda item at the School Committee Meeting for Personnel on December 10. This is always an exciting time!
2. The PTA Council Holiday Celebration will take place on Wednesday, December 12th at the Argenziano School.

Ms. Rossetti

1. Ms. Rossetti will be meeting tomorrow with the DESE's Jeff Wulfson to discuss the issue of mobility. She has been working with Mr. Pierantozzi, Chelsea Superintendent Mary Bourque and Revere Superintendent Paul Dakin on this issue and hopes to have positive news to share at the next meeting.
2. On Wednesday evening, Ms. Rossetti will attend an MASC Board of Directors Meeting.
3. The West Somerville Neighborhood School will host their monthly coffee hour on Friday morning. Parents/guardians and community members are welcome.
4. On Friday evening, the West Somerville will hold its annual Vendor Craft Fair.
5. The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet tomorrow night at 7:00 at 42 Cross Street. There is a hefty agenda which includes the photography contract, FY11 furloughs, End of Year reporting, an update on the ESCS construction project, storm damage at the high school, expenditures and bill rolls.
6. The City's Arts Council will, once again, hold the Illuminations Tour. This year's event will be on Saturday, December 15th.

7. Reminded audience members and colleagues that the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation's brick fundraiser is ongoing and orders are being taken now for the next round of installation in front of the Somerville High School atrium. Bricks are \$100 each and all proceeds go directly towards scholarships for our students. Please contact staff in the Somerville High School Main Office for more information.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of family members of School Department employees who have passed away recently:

- Robert "Bob" Sorabella, retired Principal from the Lincoln Park Community School
- Margaret Johansen, recently retired cafeteria worker from Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. A copy of the slides used for the PowerPoint presentation by the Science Department
3. Draft 2013-2014 School Calendar for review
4. Eight (8) donation acceptance approval forms
5. A copy of a letter from the MASC to Mr. Bockelman
6. A thank you card from Alderman William White for condolence offerings on the death of his mother.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, December 17, 2012 – Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, and Mayor Curtatone Alderman Taylor (7:05 p.m.)

Members absent: Ms. Bastardi resigned from her position on December 13, 2012.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Bockelman called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Bockelman asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Sweeting, Cardoso, Rossetti, Bockelman, Niedergang, Rafal, Taylor and Curtatone and Vacant – 1 – Ward One. Ms. Dodi was also present.

Mr. Bockelman asked all present to please remember the victims of the tragedy at Sandyhook Elementary School.

Mr. Bockelman asked that someone make a motion to suspend the rules in order to honor a former colleague.

Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to suspend the rules to honor a special guest. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mrs. Cardoso and Ms. Rossetti went to the podium. Mrs. Cardoso spoke of how she has known Maureen Bastardi for many years – first as a PTA Mom, then during her work in Special Education, etc. They have always been friends. Mrs. Cardoso thanked Ms. Bastardi for her service to the City, students and constituents. Mrs. Cardoso stated that many School Committee colleagues have graduated to the Board of Aldermen and urged Ms. Bastardi not to forget where she came from!

Ms. Rossetti read a resolution prepared for Ms. Bastardi into the record of tonight's meeting (at the end of these minutes). Ms. Bastardi was presented with flowers and a token of appreciation from her School Committee colleagues.

Ms. Bastardi stepped to the podium and thanked School Committee members for their gifts. She further stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to have served the residents of Ward One for nine years as their School Committee Representative. Ward One is that of several unique schools – the Capuano Early Childhood Center, which serves all preK & K students from across the District; the Next Wave/Full Circle School, which provides alternative programming to junior and senior high school students from across the District and the East Somerville Community School, which houses the Unidos two-way bilingual program, again serving students from across the District.

Ms. Bastardi introduced and recommended Steve Roix as her replacement for the School Committee Representative for Ward One. Steve is a member of the School Council of the Capuano Early Childhood Center. Steve, along with his wife Julie and his children, is a Ward One resident. Ms. Bastardi sought out Mr. Roix as her replacement with an open mind and clear head and with no political agenda. Ms. Bastardi stated that, although she respects the decision of the School Committee with respect to the process of determining her replacement, she does not agree with it.

Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to take a two minute recess at 7:17 p.m. The motion was approved via voice vote and the meeting recessed.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:21 p.m.

Mr. Bockelman explained the process by which the new Ward One School Committee person would be determined and opened it up for discussion.

This very important task involves putting trust in the remaining School Committee members.

Questions have been submitted to the City Solicitor regarding how to vote, etc.

Mr. Bockelman has developed a DRAFT proposed timeline for the process and a copy of this timeline has been placed at each member's seat.

Discussion ensued regarding the process itself and not allowing Ms. Bastardi to choose her replacement, the timeline, screening of applications, interviews, deliberations, the CORI process, qualities of candidates (core values, student achievement, etc.), the City Charter, deadline for appointing the new representative. Since many members needed to consult their calendars before the timeline could be finalized, it was decided that the opening and process would be advertised in all media outlets and the deadline to submit a statement of interest/resume will be January 10.

Mr. Bockelman thanked audience members and also all constituents who have sent emails relative to this opening.

Further discussion ensued relative to scheduling of interviews and the fact that School Improvement Plan presentation dates have been set with principals. Members will determine any date/time issues and contact the Chair or Superintendent with calendar issues.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to vote on the process up to Part C and to follow the rough guidelines of the rest of the proposal.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Cardoso made friendly amendment to the motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to follow the plan, but to add that the dates for sections D-F should be listed as to be determined (TBD).

The motion was restated as follows: To approve the process up to Part C and to follow the rough guidelines for parts D-F with the dates for Parts D-F to be determined.

The motion, with the friendly amendment, was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Alderman Taylor, that an amendment be made to the motion adding that the decision should be made no later than February 4, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Presentations to Board of Alderman President Thomas Taylor and School Committee Chairman Paul Bockelman for their service to the School Committee.

Mr. Sweeting asked President Taylor to join him at the podium as he presented him with a plaque in recognition of his service to the School Committee for 2012. Mr. Sweeting shared that it has been a pleasure and an honor to have served with Tom this past year. Tom is a great friend and has been an advisor to Mr. Sweeting on various policies and issues through the years. As a member of the School Committee during this past year, Mr. Taylor distinguished himself as one who argued points with great gusto, participated in discussion and even made motions. Mr. Sweeting announced that Mr. Taylor will be missed around the horseshoe and thanked him for his tremendous work this year.

Alderman Taylor stated that it was an honor and pleasure to serve. Mr. Taylor respects all School Committee members are hard workers who are concerned with education and student achievement. The School District is a better plan than ever and continues moving forward.

- Mr. Bockelman asked Mrs. Cardoso to assume the Chair as Ms. Rossetti stepped to the podium to make a presentation to outgoing Chairman Paul Bockelman. Ms. Rossetti announced that on behalf of the School Committee, she extends gratitude to Mr. Bockelman for the wonderful work done as Chair of the School Committee over the past year. Ms. Rossetti announced that we were led in a very good direction with Mr. Bockelman at the helm and she is happy to know that she can rely on him for guidance as she assumes the Chair for 2013. Mr. Bockelman tells it like it is while following the law and staying on pace and on target.

Mr. Bockelman thanked everyone and appreciates the privilege of serving as Chair. He has been pleased to see the positive direction the school district is moving in thanks to the Mayor's commitment, a good committee and good discussion among hard working individuals.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Dea Dodi provided the following report on happenings at Somerville High School:

- This morning, the custodial entrance and all doors other than the front door of the High School were locked causing Ms. Dodi to have to enter through a door she does not ordinarily use. Mr. Oteri made a speech regarding the tragic events of last Friday and announced that only the front door was to be used from now on to enter the building.

- Students and staff are wearing green and white ribbons as a symbol of support for the Newtown, CT. community.
- The JSA will be debating gun laws and the second amendment while preparing for the Winter Congress in Washington, DC. The top ten bills at the JSA Conference will be sent to the US House of Representatives for potential debate by Congress.
- The Swim Team defeated Medford for the first time at today's meet.
- The Winter Concert will be held this Thursday, December 20th at the Cohen Auditorium of Tufts University.
- The January Somerville High School Musical will be a production of the Wizard of Oz at the Davis Square Theater.
- Students planning on attending the April trip to France have been busy fundraising to assist with associated costs.
- The National Honor Society has been collecting for Toys for Tots.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 19, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of November 19, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- December 3, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of December 3, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting: Dec. 4 (Ms. Rossetti)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA.

In attendance: Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso and Ms. Rafal.

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and 2 audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 and adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

1. Photography contract – this item was discussed previously. The current contract is expiring and the District is seeking bids from new vendors. Bids were submitted to Pat Durette. Three proposals were received and reviewed – Errico Studios, Geskas Studios and Coffeepond Studios. After discussion by the School Committee, it was recommended to give Errico a second opportunity to submit their best package.
2. FY11 salary furlough – The Superintendent of Schools reminded School Committee members that 31 staff members are owed \$32,600 repayment of the FY10 furlough. Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Durette provided an analysis and informed the Committee that this money must be repaid by July 15, 2013.
3. FY12 EOY report
4. ESCS update – a monthly update was provided by the Superintendent of Schools which essentially stated that the project continues to be on time and on budget.
5. SHS storm damage update
6. FY13 Expenditure report – reviewed and discussed.
7. FY13 Bill roll – reviewed and discussed.
8. Other – MSBA Communication, Gov. 9C cuts

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the FY2013 Bill Rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to accept the report and minutes of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of December 4, 2012.

Further discussion ensued after Ms. Rossetti concluded her Subcommittee Report. Items discussed included physical address of one of the studios, the fact that one of the studios is a Somerville business that has done business with the School Department for many years, and whether or not the School Committee can override the Superintendent's decision.

Alderman Taylor stated, as a point of interest, although he questions the decision made, he wants to make it clear that he does not feel antagonistic towards the Superintendent regarding the decision.

B. Rules Management Subcommittee: Dec. 10 (Mr. Sweeting)

The Rules Management Subcommittee met on December 10, 2012 in the Central Office Conference Room at 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA.

In attendance were Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rossetti. Mr. Niedergang had a family emergency about an hour before the meeting and, therefore, could not attend. Mr. Sweeting chaired the meeting in his absence. Also in attendance were Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mrs. Rafal Mr. Pierantozzi and 1 audience member. The Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. and recessed at 7:00 p.m., then reconvened at 8:25 p.m. and adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

1. File: BE School Committee Meetings – copies of the current and proposed policies were reviewed. Language changes were made and the policy was reorganized for cohesiveness. Open Meeting Law legal references were added.
2. File: GCF Selection Process for Professional Positions – this policy deals with the hiring of principals, assistant principals, district-wide administrators – including the Assistant Superintendent, Finance Director and Director of Special Education. Review of this policy was the result of the District Review report which questioned the process of how candidates move through the interview process. There were substantive changes made including language regarding the Superintendent of Schools will determine the number of finalists to be interviewed. Further discussion of this policy will take place during the first reading at Mr. Niedergang's request.
3. File: BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee – a tweak of language was made and Open Meeting Law legal references were added.
4. File: BDE School Committee Subcommittees – this is another policy that was mentioned in the District Review Report. The report questioned whether the current subcommittee structure made the most efficient use of the School Committee's time. Although more language updates need to be made and the policy will be sent back to Rules Management, the Subcommittee did agree that, going forward, the subcommittees of the School Committee will be Finance & Facilities, Educational Programs and Rules Management.
5. File: EFD Wellness Policy PK-12 – this item was not taken up at this meeting, but will be at a future meeting when more time can be dedicated to the proposed changes.

MOTION: Recommending File: BE School Committee Meetings as revised be forwarded for consideration by the full School Committee.

MOTION: Recommending File: GCF, as amended, be forwarded for consideration by the full School Committee.

MOTION: Recommending File: BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee for consideration by the Full School Committee

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, recommending that the Standing Subcommittees of the School Committee will be Finance & Facilities, Educational Programs and Rules Management.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the report and minutes of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting of December 10, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. School Committee Meeting for Personnel: Dec. 10 (Mrs. Cardoso)

The School Committee Meeting for Personnel was held on Monday, December 10, 2012 @7:05 P.M. at Central Office at 42 Cross Street.

In attendance were Mrs. Cardoso, School Committee Members Adam Sweeting, Maureen Bastardi, Christine Rafal, Mary Jo Rossetti, Paul Bockelman and President of the Board of Aldermen Tom Taylor as well as Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi and Human Resources Administrator Melissa DeResendes. Also present were Dorothy Scally and Mr. DeSimone.

There were 4 items on the Agenda:

1. Current Postings 2012-2013: The Supt. gave us an update on the current postings – there was one vacancy and it was currently in the process of being filled.
2. New Staff – 2012-2013: The Supt. and Ms. DeResendes gave us an update of the new staff as of the date of the meeting – there were two additional staff members hired.

3. Job Description: The Superintendent presented us with a revised Job Description for the Career Counselor position. This individual will work with the Career Development Center, guidance and the teachers of Somerville High School as well as directly with the Library Media Specialist, school Guidance Counselors and the CTE Instructors in preparing students for successful completion of their Career Portfolios and Career Plans. This individual will also work with NW/FC students and staff. This position was endorsed by the CTE Advisory Committee. After discussion and questions by the School Committee, the SC unanimously approved the following motion:

MOTION: To approve the Career Counselor Job Description.

4. Superintendent's Evaluation: The SC met with the Supt in a very relaxed atmosphere to discuss his 2012 Evaluation. 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 Evaluation.

The Supt's evaluation process had a timeline which began in October and ended at the Personnel Meeting last week. It was a 360 degree evaluation.

The Evaluation tool used this year was based on the State Standards combined with our district goals. We used the State's rating scale (which is Unsatisfactory, Needs Improvement, Proficient and Exemplary).

We received summaries from principals, supervisors, directors and central office administrators as well as a self-evaluation from the Superintendent.

The School Committee's overall rating of the Superintendent for 2012 was (PROFICIENT) – according to the State's Rating Scale "Proficient" is understood to be fully satisfactory. This is the rigorous expected level of performance.

I would like to share with the public some of the positive comments made during our evaluation of the Supt:

STANDARD #1: INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Superintendent has assembled a solid team of educators to guide the District's educational initiatives. Under his leadership there is a clear focus on student learning and achievement. I believe his focus on "student learning" has percolated throughout the District. This is good. This year, the Superintendent has brought a new energy to conveying the importance of this message to the District's employees. His efforts must focus on things that change performance in a material way. The attainment of organizational goals coupled with the maximum employee growth is the mark of true management success. Curriculum development has been fostered by the good leadership of the administration.

The Superintendent has also overseen the expansion of inclusion opportunities for Special Education students, particularly though far from exclusively, in the High School. I appreciate the Superintendent's concern for our students who need help the most, and his commitment and work to improve the Special Ed and ELL programs. He also leads by example.

STANDARD #2: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Superintendent consistently demonstrates exemplary managerial skills. He is an outstanding financial manager, thus enabling the District to maximize its resources without ever seeming to short change vital programs. In times of financial hardship, he has enabled the SPS to do more with less. When we had more funds last year, he added several important new or revived programs into the budget - foreign language instruction in the middle grades and the Parent/Guardian Liaisons at each elementary school. The school district has been faced with many challenges and obstacles over the past few years. The good leadership of the administration has made the difference in successful resolution of these challenges. He is highly ethical in making decisions that impact students, faculty and staff – he sets a very high standard for all other staff in the District.

The Superintendent excels in these complex areas; he makes health and safety the top priority. He is an excellent manager, and uses systematic practices to staff the district with excellent people - he has made progress on diversifying the workforce.

His building knowledge, comfort in working through technical details of facility issues, and his relentless monitoring of all buildings has improved the operation and comfort of the District's facilities. His expertise in this area has provided much needed support to the District's principals.

He shows up for everything, is a presence in all the schools, and stays connected to and supports the many administrators he directly supervises.

STANDARD #3: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Superintendent has taken several important steps this year to increase family and community engagement. Among the most significant additions are the Family Learning Collaborative, School Parent Liaisons and School-Based Volunteer Coordinators – this is a huge step forward and is already bringing huge benefits and positive feelings - this is one area where the Superintendent's performance has shown significant improvement over the past year. The school district has made great strides in this area.

The District is quite good at getting information to parents/guardians with District-wide newsletters and monthly school-based newsletters. These are new initiatives of the Superintendent and have been well-received. It also gives the District the opportunity to attract staff with a wider range of language competencies.

Tony does a very good job at engaging with business leaders, fraternal organizations and political leaders in Somerville. So he deserves quality marks for his work in these important areas. He is also excellent at navigating the City bureaucracy using innate social skills and an excellent reputation established over the years to secure services needed by the District from the City and the State.

The Superintendent is very good at handling individual crises in a competent, sensitive, confidential manner. I believe we don't know the half of the efforts he makes to help individual staff members and students and their families.

STANDARD #4: PROFESSIONAL CULTURE

The Superintendent insists upon and receives a high level of commitment to excellence from the entire staff. The message that we always need to do more to push student achievement is communicated directly and consistently to everyone in the District. The Superintendent projects self-confidence, authority and enthusiasm. As noted in the evaluation by his administrative staff school-wide, he has earned their respect and loyalty. As evidenced by his active involvement with MASS, he strives to grow professionally through continuous study and participation. This past year I believe the Superintendent did an especially fine job of getting all stakeholders to view themselves as vital participants in a shared vision of educational excellence.

In the past, I have criticized the Superintendent for not providing a sufficiently exciting and dynamic vision for where the SPS is heading to get staff, parents and community excited and pumped up. I want to commend him for stepping up in this regard over the past year, with support for Innovation Schools, new programs and staff, and more positive engagement in the community. I think the SPS is becoming a more and more exciting place for people to work and send their children, which will have many great benefits in the coming years.

He has been particularly strong in creating an atmosphere that welcomes staff (and students) of all backgrounds and in creating a safe and nurturing environment in our schools. I can see the culture in our schools around teaching and learning changing for the better as a result of their work. The District has taken strong steps to becoming a true "community of learners" led by the Superintendent and his willingness to engage in the day-to-day activity of student learning. His hands-on approach set a standard for all professionals in the District.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOAL #1: IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY MEETING THE PRESCRIBED ANNUAL TARGETS

While we came close in some categories, we are not meeting all of our goals. The Superintendent is well aware of this and I believe he has put the pieces in place to ensure improvement; nevertheless, we clearly still have work to do. We have ambitious goals, but we need to keep working to ensure that we meet them. As stated above, progress on student achievement has been stubborn to change. It is imperative that we start to see tangible results for these efforts. A real urgency for change must be core to every employee's work every day. The School Committee, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, has established a challenging goal for student achievement. It is achievable, but will require a concerted effort by the Superintendent and every employee in the District. The Superintendent must be the person leading this effort.

It is really too early still to evaluate the Superintendent in this area, as the test results that make it easiest to measure performance of our students will not be in for a while.

There has been great effort made to meet the prescribed annual targets for student achievement. Benchmarks have been established, testing has been enhanced and student involvement has increased.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOAL #2: PROMOTE INNOVATIONS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE STUDENT PERFORMANCE

I am pleased that the Superintendent embraced the concept of Innovation Schools at the Winter Hill Community School, Kennedy and the STEAM Academy at Somerville High School - even though that would mean less power and control for the Central Office and the School Committee. The Superintendent should continue to show appropriate leadership and guidance for these efforts.

He has also helped to foster an environment at the Healey School, both through financial resources and time commitment, to keep the Unification plan on track. While I personally love this about him, there has been some criticism that the sum of the parts is less than the whole; i.e., there are too many initiatives which defuse focus and scatter attention - the Superintendent now seems to be well aware of the need for our District to focus better on a few key goals.

Programming for all students has been enhanced and the student's skills and talents have been allowed to manifest through academic and non-academic avenues. This has allowed the student to feel more engaged in the education experience.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOAL #3: DEVELOP STRONGER HOME-SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

The Superintendent has made this goal one of his top priorities during the past year. The Superintendent has been very responsive to the School Committee's wishes on this goal.

We have seen improvements through the Family Learning Collaborative, the new on-line newsletter, and the enhanced translation services that enable more families to participate in school discussions. The introduction of community liaisons is a significant development in addressing this issue. It also gives the District the opportunity to attract staff with a wider range of language competencies.

This being year 1 of a very important goal, with plans now in place I anticipate giving the Superintendent an 'exemplary' rating next year. Attention to detail is critical, and to date I have no reservations.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOAL #4: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

Tony does a very good job at engaging with business leaders, fraternal organizations and political leaders in Somerville. So he deserves quality marks for his work in these important areas. He is also excellent at navigating the City bureaucracy using innate social skills and an excellent reputation established over the years to secure services needed by the District from the City and the State.

The new SomerPromise initiative is but one example where District leadership has collaborated with agencies and City Departments in order to enhance educational opportunities for all students

The school district has been aggressive in this area. Positions such as, family liaisons, volunteer coordinators and community involvement coordinators has greatly enhanced the entire educational experience for students.

There was a unanimous motion made to approve the following Motion:

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Alderman Taylor, to approve the School Committee's 2012 Superintendent's Evaluation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in this evaluation process - our principals, central office, supervisors and directors, my school committee colleagues - the Superintendent and last but of course not least - Patti Marques!

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Alderman Taylor, to accept the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Personnel of December 10, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting: Dec. 11 (Ms. Rafal)
Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA.
In attendance: Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Bastardi, Ms. Rafal.

Also in attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Dr. McKay, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Connell, Ms. DiGuardia, and Dorothy Scally (audience member).

Meeting called to order at 7:04 and adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

1. Special Education, inclusion status report – Ms. Connell and Ms. DiGuardia provided a report on inclusion throughout the District. Increasing inclusion has been a School Committee goal and it was reported that at least 75% of students on IEP's have taken part in inclusion. The highest numbers of students included were registered in 2009-10 with numbers dropping off as new approaches have been taken. One such approach is a push-in model where an inclusion specialist works in the classroom rather than pulling the student out for inclusion. Reassignment of some paraprofessionals has been done whereby paras. have been assigned to the Inclusion Specialist rather than a classroom. This reassignment provides four extra hours of services to students. Ms. Connell and Ms. DiGuardia also reported that they are determining whether inclusion is best for students in substantially separate classes on a case by case basis. It has been discovered that some substantially separate students do not do better in inclusion, which is why the case by case system is being used. Work is being done to decide if inclusion is the best model.
2. Program Updates:
 - Unidos Program evaluation – the plan is not yet being implemented as the consultant has not yet been hired. There was only one response to the original RFP so it was reposted and the deadline is December 19.
 - El Sistema has taken off and currently includes students from the East Somerville and Argenziano Schools. The Director is doing a great job with the program.
 - Healey Unification – pretty much everything in the plan is being worked on and, although mixed grades were not wanted, there is planning underway relative to flexible classes for 5th and 6th grades to try to prepare students for 7th and 8th grade.
3. Innovation Schools Updates Innovation Schools – Winter Hill is going along speedily. 10 teachers have been trained on the social curriculum and will train others. Protocols are being developed regarding common planning time. The STEAM Academy is still in talks. The School Committee has received minutes of recent meetings. The Kennedy School is still very interested in moving forward. Teachers have been surveyed to help determine what direction to take.
4. Discussion to plan for Data Workshop – some talk regarding planning for the data workshop was done, but since not all School Committee members were present, no decisions were made.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Alderman Taylor, to accept the report and minutes of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of December 11, 2012.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi thanked the School Committee and everyone else involved in his evaluation process. He is privileged and proud to serve as our Superintendent.

Mr. Pierantozzi announced three resignations for the purpose of retirement; Barbara Marder, currently and Art Teacher at the Kennedy School, Barbara "Bonnie" Tumelty, Redirect Counselor at Somerville High School and Joseph Burke, Housemaster at Somerville High School. Ms. Marder will retire effective February 2013 and Ms. Tumelty and Mr. Burke will retire at the end of June. We thank them for their service to our School District and wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Other personnel transactions include two resignations, 10 leaves of absence for various reasons, two inter-district transactions, and eight new hires.

B. DISTRICT REPORT

- Mr. Pierantozzi's report this evening was focused on school safety after the tragic events of December 14 in Newtown, CT. where 20 students and six staff members were killed when an intruder entered their school. Mr. Pierantozzi commented that we are all haunted by this tragedy and struggle to understand. There are no words, we must persevere and do all we can to be ready to handle crises as they arise and work hard to keep everyone out of harm's way. Mr. Pierantozzi

displayed a large red binder which contains the confidential District Emergency Plans for each building. We are ready to respond to crisis, but this recent episode has heightened our senses and driven us to revisit our plans to see how we can do better. Today, Central Office administrators were at schools to provide support, if needed. Also, as of today, each building will have only one point of entry – the main door. All doors will be locked and closed. Anyone entering a building must identify him/herself and, if visiting, sign in at the Main Office of the building. The only exception to this is at Somerville High School where the door at the atrium will also be opened with a staff member manning the door, to allow visitors to go to the Highlander Café, auto repair, and cosmetology. Small amendments and adjustments have been made to the emergency plans, for now. The Superintendent and his staff will consult with the Somerville Police and Fire Departments to make sure strong safety protocols become even stronger. Mr. Pierantozzi displayed his Bullseye of safety for audience members and provided the members with a copy at each of their seats. Mr. Pierantozzi also informed members of the various communications over the weekend, including talking tips for parents/guardians.

- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that Statements of Interest (SOIs) are being developed to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to inform them of our interest in assistance with some of our buildings. Following the damage from Superstorm Sandy, Somerville High School has now become the priority school for the District. SOIs will also be submitted for the Winter Hill Community School and Brown School. Mr. Pierantozzi is currently working with Skip Bandini, the new Special Project Manager for the City. These SOIs will be brought to a future meeting for a vote of the School Committee.
- The Superintendent reported on an Administrative Meeting held with Marge Clark and John Kennedy of NESDEC. Recommendations were made regarding future use of buildings. Although we have seen a decrease of almost 1,000 students over the past 10 years, research shows an expected increase of approximately 400 students over the next decade. Options were reviewed with Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Pierantozzi. The next step is to do an in-depth analysis regarding options. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked Ms. Clark and Dr. Kennedy for their work on this study.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, for some curriculum information. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. Massachusetts – a national leader in student learning in English and Math. Science results released last week show that MA is a leader, internationally, in science education too. Under Gov. Patrick Sec. of Education Paul Reville's leadership, MA is also a leader in early childhood education.
2. Early Childhood Alignment Grant: As you may know, Somerville was one of four districts state – wide to receive this two-year, state grant to support early childhood programs. The goal of this grant is to assure that every entering student enters our system with the skills they need to be successful kindergarten.

One of the key aspects of our successful grant application was Somerville's existing network of support for this kind of work. This work is across different sectors of our community which involve the public schools and our own programs like SMILE; private pre-school providers; Head Start; and then the Early Childhood Advisory Council, SomerPromise and the SFLC and Tufts University. The key aspect of this grant work is the hiring of an Alignment Coordinator, and I am pleased to announce that we are in the process of finalizing the appointment for this position. Our new staff person's responsibility will be to align services for Somerville's pre-school students in two ways. First, so there is consistency between pre-school programs, outcomes, assessments, all kids are at the same level.

Second, we want to assure that their work lines up with the K – 3 curriculum within SPS.

I will be happy to provide further updates as the year progresses. We're very excited about this grant program and the potential for improving student achievement at the primary grades.

More will be discussed at Ed. Programs.

Ms. Rossetti asked about getting a copy of the Harvard Graduate School of Education's (HGSE) report/PowerPoints. Dr. McKay is in the process of collecting the presentations and will share with the School Committee as soon as he has them all.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative has posted its January schedule of events.

- The "Community in Harmony" concert, featuring El Sistema, the Somerville High School Choir, SHS Chamber Orchestra, and select members of the SHS Band will be held tomorrow night, Tuesday, December 18th starting at 6:30 p.m. at the ESCS-Edgerly Gymnasium.
- The SHS Winter Concert – Thursday, Dec. 20th, 7 p.m. at Cohen Auditorium (Tufts University)
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy 2013!

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **DRAFT 2013-2014 School Calendar** – this item was tabled until the next meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual – Mr. Niedergang

The following policies were presented this evening for first reading, as amended:

- File: BE School Committee Meetings
- File: BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee
- File: GCF Selection Process for Professional Positions

Mr. Niedergang announced that he felt more edits are needed to File GCF relative to the hiring of District-level administrators. After discussion, it was suggested that Mr. Niedergang develop some new language and bring it back to the Committee for consideration. Mr. Niedergang agreed that this was a good way to proceed. Policy GCF will be sent back to the Rules Management Subcommittee for further discussion.

B. Acceptance of Donations

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

- A donation of a snare drum with stand and sticks from Michelle Marques of Somerville, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department. Estimated value not known.
- A donation of a Nook Simple Touch Reader from Bambi Warner of Stoneham, MA to the Life Skills Room at Somerville High School. Value is \$83.19.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. FY2013 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

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

Erik Rolando Orellana-Vargas	335 Washington Street	Somerville	02145
Nathan A. Prentice	8 Evergreen Avenue	Somerville	02144

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the SCALE ADP Graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Field Trips (Recommended action: approval)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Jan. 11 – 13, 2013 | Somerville High School Boys and Girls Track Teams to Dartmouth, NH, overnight to participate in the Dartmouth College Relays.
Transportation via school vans at no cost to students. |
| Jan. 18, 2013 | Next Wave/Full Circle students to Pat's Peak, NH for a ski trip.
Transportation via school van at a cost of \$10.00 per student. |
| Jan. 19, 2013 | Somerville High School Boys and Girls Track Teams to Providence, RI, to participate in the East Coast Championship Invitational Meet.
Transportation via school vans at no cost to students. |
| Jan. 27, 2012 | Somerville High School Outdoors Club to Mt. Sunapee, NH to ski and snowboard. Transportation via SHS min-buses at a cost of \$40-\$61 per student. |

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|-------------------------|---|
| Feb. 15, 2013 | Next Wave/Full Circle students to Pat's Peak, NH for a ski trip. Transportation via school van at a cost of \$10.00 per student. |
| Feb. 21-24, 2013 | Somerville High School Model Congress to Boston, overnight, to participate in the Harvard Model Congress. Transportation via MBTA with no cost to students. |
| Mar. 8-10, 2013 | Somerville High School Boys and Girls Track Teams to New York, NY to participate in the New Balance National Scholastic Championships. Transportation via school vans at no cost to students. |

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Taylor

1. Non-Union salary increases will be brought forward to the Board of Aldermen tomorrow evening.

Ms. Rafal

1. Ms. Rafal commented on the HGSE Finance Class she recently participated in and praised these professionals for the great research and for the great projects presented.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Commented on the wonderful Middle School Concert held at Tufts University; it was terrific!
2. Wished everyone happy holidays and thanked Mr. Bockelman for his service as Chair and Ms. Rossetti for her service as Vice Chair and Finance Chair.

Mayor Curtatone

1. Happy Holidays to everyone!

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Stay safe and be mindful of the people of Connecticut who are in her thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Reported on his attendance at the Kennedy School Innovation School Planning meeting. Plans are moving forward with four general goals in mind.
2. Attended the Brown Holiday Concert this afternoon, which was great!
3. Open House for prospective parents will begin on January 21st.
4. This has been a tremendous and productive year for the School Committee. Sent thanks to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their support. It's great to see goals realized.

Ms. Rossetti

1. Ms. Rossetti thanked her colleagues for electing her as Chair for 2013.
2. Thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for meeting to facilitate the non-union salary increases.
3. Wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of family members of School Department employees who have passed away recently:

- Edson Steward MacKenzie – Retired Teacher from Powderhouse Community School
- Grace Cannan, mother of Catherine Cannan, Math teacher at Somerville High School

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Two (2) sets of School Committee minutes for approval.
3. The December 2012 Personnel Report
4. Three (3) different Draft versions of the 2013-2014 School Calendar for review
5. Four (4) School Committee policies for 1st reading
6. Two (2) SCALE ADP graduate for approval
7. Two (2) donation acceptance approval forms
8. Seven (7) Out of State or Overnight Field Trip requests for approval
9. Seven (7) thank you letters for donations
10. Three (3) condolence letters

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
School Committee

Maureen Bastardi

- WHEREAS,** *Maureen Bastardi has been a dedicated member of the Somerville School Committee since 2004, serving as Vice Chairman in 2005 and 2008, and Chairman in 2009, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Bastardi has chaired and served on numerous subcommittees including, but not limited to, Educational Programs and Instruction, Rules Management, Personnel, Finance and Facilities, and*
- WHEREAS,** *She has been a valued School Committee member, earning the respect and appreciation of her colleagues, parents, students, teachers and administrators, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Bastardi has served as a dedicated PTA President at the East Somerville Community School, and also as an officer on the City-Wide PTA Council, as well as a strong advocate for the Next Wave/Full Circle School, and*
- WHEREAS,** *While serving on the Somerville School Committee, Ms. Bastardi has been dedicated to the well-being of the students, staff and families of the East Somerville Community School, particularly following the devastating fire in December, 2007, and has taken an active role in the Advisory Committee established regarding the reconstruction of the school. Ms. Bastardi also served as a member of the School Committee for the opening of the Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park, the hiring of many new administrators, the Healey Unification process, the Winter Hill Innovation School process, and many other new and exciting initiatives, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maureen also was a member of the award-winning Somerville contingent competing in the All-America City competition in Tampa, Florida in 2009, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That the Somerville School Committee publicly acknowledge the accomplishments of Ms. Maureen Bastardi, and wish her continued success in her new role as Ward One Alderman and in all future endeavors, and be it further*
- RESOLVED:** *That these well-earned Resolutions be included in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to her.*

Somerville School Committee

Paul Bockelman, Chairperson
Adam Sweeting
M. Teresa Cardoso
Christine Rafal
Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent

Mary Jo Rossetti, Vice Chairperson
Maureen Bastardi
Mark Niedergang
Thomas Taylor, Aldermanic President
Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

December 17, 2012