

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, August 26, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

7:10 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

**Members present:** Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman (7:01), Mr. Roix (7:01), and Mayor Curtatone (7:10).

**Members absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:10 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rossetti asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 6 – Sweeting, White, Niedergang, Cardoso, Rafal, and Rossetti and ABSENT – 3 - Bockelman, Curtatone and Roix.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of June 24, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our student representative was absent this evening.

**IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:*** June 18 (Ms. Rossetti)

1. Continued Discussion of Parent/Guardian involvement (i.e. S.C. policy BDF Advisory Committee to the School Committee)
2. Continued Discussion of Middle School Curriculum
3. RTTT Grant - Grade Level Reading Communities Network (3rd grade literacy)

Ms. Rafal assumed the chair so Ms. Rossetti could provide her report:

The School Committee met for Long Range Planning in the Central Office Conference Room at 42 Cross Street in Somerville, MA on June 18, 2013.

In attendance: Rossetti, Rafal, Cardoso, Roix, Sweeting, Bockelman

Also in attendance: Pierantozzi, McKay, Morgan, Davila and five (5) audience members including three liaisons and one staff member from the SFLC.

The meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. and adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

***Mayor Curtatone arrived at the August 26<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting at 7:10 p.m.***

Ms. Rossetti's report included the following highlights:

Parent/Guardian Engagement - A presentation was made by Dr. Sarah Davila regarding engaging the community which included a PowerPoint presentation on engagement. Discussion also took place around recent Community Forums held to promote family and community engagement in our schools. At these forums, leaders of the community were invited with the hope that they would go back and spread the word on what is happening in the schools. More workshops are being planned.

The School Committee will allow Dr. Davila more time to continue her work before discussing any additional changes to the outreach plan. In the future, the plan is to involve School Council members from all schools with the planning of events, etc. and the goal is to improve all workshops this year. Periodic updates will be provided throughout the year.

Middle School Curriculum – Discussion with Dr. McKay and Mr. Pierantozzi regarding increasing middle school Foreign Language in grades 6-8.

Discussion ensued.

On the horizon next are the new science standards due mid-year and the plan to add science as a strong focus, particularly at the middle school level. The District is also planning on having more standardized assessments.

RTTT Grant – Susana Morgan approached Ms. Rossetti to address this regarding a grant received by the district.

Detailed memorandum

The School Committee needs to work on a strategic plan to drive our goals and develop a tool to help us realize our goals.

The School Committee needs a representative to serve on the Advisory Committee and Mr. Roix volunteered to serve on this and will keep us informed.

Mr. Niedergang commented that there are no Long Range meetings yet planned on our calendar and we should be discussing long range goals, and preparing for thinking about that. Also, communications and public relations should be a priority agenda item. Where will these topics be addressed? Will we have Long Range Planning meetings?

Ms. Rafal responded that facilities-related issues will be discussed at Finance & Facilities.

Ms. Rossetti commented that, as to setting long range goals, she believes it would be unfair for the current board to set new goals at this time. It would be more prudent to set a template/guideline document for new members to follow at the beginning of the year.

The School Committee will meet for Long Range Planning in October or November and will address these issues then.

Ms. Rossetti will discuss this at our first meeting in September.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of June 18, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**B. *Special Meeting for Executive Session:*** August 5 (Ms. Rossetti)

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

In attendance: Rossetti, Roix, Rafal, Bockelman, Sweeting, Niedergang, and White.

Also in attendance, Pierantozzi, Hollender and Marques

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

The following actions were approved in Executive Session:

On August 5, 2013, the School Committee met in executive session and passed two motions.

1. The first motion was to increase the wages and salaries of non-unionized employees, retroactive to July 1, 2013, in accordance with the Superintendent's recommendations, as follows:
  - A. By adding 2% for employees other than the Superintendent, who declined to accept a salary increase;
  - B. By adding an additional 2% for those employees who are paid \$15 per hour or less, applying the monies that the Superintendent declined to accept toward these increases;
  - C. By adjusting the salary of the Coordinator for Grant Writing and Information by adding an additional \$3,000 after the 2% increase; and
  - D. By adjusting the salary of the Assistant Director of Food and Nutrition Services by adding \$5,000 instead of a 2% increase.
  - E. To approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Somerville School Committee and the Somerville Clerical Employees, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 2070 for a Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement, Effective July 1, 2013.

This bargaining unit will see financial increases of 2.25 % in year one, and 2% in years two and three.

The presidents of the STA, Unit A and the AFSCME Clerical units will be invited to our next meeting to sign the contracts.

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT****A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that the School Committee received two Personnel Reports in this week's packet.

On the July report, there were eight (8) resignations for the purpose of retirement. The Superintendent read the names of two additional staff members who have reported their retirements since the last time we met – Ralph Buddy Willey, after 33 years and Mario Barros after eight years.

Also on this report were: 19 resignations, seven (7) leaves of absence, two transfers and one new hire.

On the August Personnel Report were: nine resignations, two more leaves of absence and 106 personnel transactions in total.

The Superintendent commended our new personnel staff – Mariana MacDonald, our HR and Diversity Administrator and her Administrative Assistant, Carleen MacNeill for their hard work during this busiest time of the year.

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, we will welcome 53 new professional educators.

Hiring of administrators has been stable other than the need for a new Housemaster at the Highland House of Somerville High School following the retirement of Joe Burke. Mr. Burke will be replaced by Harry Marchetti who comes to us with vast experiences as a high school administrator in another district. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked all administrators, hiring agents, and interview teams for their work in selecting staff for our open positions and he looks forward to meeting the new staff later this week.

Discussion ensued regarding retirements during the school year and turnover rates in our District.

Mr. Sweeting asked about retirements during the school year and how classroom staffing is handled. Mr. Pierantozzi explained that in future there will be benefits if a staff member leaves between 6/30-9/1. Work has been done to try to encourage staff members to leave during the summer break. The issue is that with the Retirement System, a key date is the staff member's birthday, which affects their retirement benefit. For now, Mr. Pierantozzi uses an informal way to figure out what to do. If a staff member is retiring before Columbus Day, the District hires a new staff member and finds a role for the retiring staff member. If the retirement is after Columbus day, the staff member starts the school year and then a new employee is hired and there is a short transition period where the retiree and new staff member work together.

Mr. Niedergang asked if the Superintendent was concerned about the high level of turnover and if he projects this to be repetitive?

Mr. Pierantozzi responded that, of the resignations, 7 were temporary teachers.

There is turnover in many districts and there are many reasons for people leaving – going back to school, spouse's jobs, etc.

Also, 27 resignations were due to retirements.

The pool of available educators to replace is extremely deep and of high quality. A few years ago we would have 15-20 applicants, this year over 300 for each open position.

Discussion ensued regarding exit surveys, reasons for resignations, and efforts made by the City and District to attract and retain quality staff—including equitable pay, increased diversity outreach, and a new online application system, which has boosted the number of applicants significantly.

Mayor Curtatone commented that the School Committee and Somerville Public Schools administrations should be commended for their hiring efforts.

**DISTRICT REPORT**

- Welcomed viewers to the 2013/14 school year and commented that summers seemed to be much longer years back.
- Reported on what promises to be a positive day – Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, when the Secretary of Education will visit the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and Cradles to Crayons will be at the Healey School to present backpacks full of school supplies to students. Cradles to Crayons donates to our District's schools on a rotating basis each year and we are extremely grateful for their generosity.

- Today, the President of the Somerville Teachers Association informed the Superintendent that it is likely that on September 9<sup>th</sup> the President of the National Education Association will be visiting Somerville. No specifics yet and the visit will be after school hours.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report on curriculum-related issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

As Mr. Pierantozzi indicated, in the Personnel Report, the Somerville Schools are welcoming over 50 new educators to our schools this week. The top priority is to assure the success of these new teachers, success in the classroom that will translate into terrific student learning. We've worked hard to hire them and will work just as hard to support them.

To that end, we provide a comprehensive mentoring and induction program for new staff. That process begins this week with the assignment of a mentor.

A few words about the mentoring program:

All new staff are assigned a mentor. These mentors are chosen by the principal and mentors are experienced Somerville teachers who devote regular time to provide guidance and support for the new staff members.

As you can see, this is a teachers supporting teachers model, one professional to another.

Mentor Leaders: We have worked closely with the Somerville Teachers Association on mentoring, a process that includes a small group of mentor leaders who work directly with me and with our HR staff to guide and plan the program. We're proud of the history of collaboration in this area, collaboration that was recently formalized in the teachers' contract as part of the June settlement. So this group of three mentor leaders works directly with me and conducts the actual training of teachers to prepare them in the role and responsibilities of serving as mentors of the new staff. This new mentor training began today and continues tomorrow, in preparation for the new teacher orientation day on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. A reception will be held beginning at 8:30 a.m., followed by a full program of information sharing. Please join us at the reception if you are able.

Summer course work:

Writing across the Content Areas: All elementary teachers will receive this training. Almost 100 attended session this summer and the others will take the course during the school year.

Summer School/Summer Learning

Over 500 students in formal academic programs, including 200 in the Elementary Summer School, 125 at the High School Summer School and 200 in the SPELL program. In the SPELL Program, there is a final day performance that rivals the high school's multicultural fair with performances, etc.

This year, as a pilot, a Transition to Kindergarten program was held for students entering Kindergarten who have never attended school before.

Curriculum Updates at all levels

Summer Institute for Unidos Program staff (4 days)

E-portfolio at Somerville High School

Project-based learning

Lastly, students—one more week left to get your summer reading done!

The Superintendent continued his District Report:

- The Somerville Public Schools will have a new phone system this year. Families have received information already and this phone information will continue to be publicized. The change to 10-digit phone numbers is modeled on the success of the Somerville High School house system. Each school will publicize in their newsletter and we will also the information will be on our website with a notice stating, "For new phone numbers, click here." The Main switchboard still works automatically for the foreseeable future. The new system is in effect now but old system still works. We are working with city staff to determine when to discontinue the use of the old system. Publicizing is KEY!
- Today and tomorrow the Summer Administrative Workshops are being held at the Healey School
- On Wednesday and Thursday, New Staff Orientation takes place at the Argenziano School

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette for a report on finance-related issues. Ms. Durette's brief report included the following:

- An update on the work done by Finance staff over summer – following up on orders, closing FY13 and going over new orders for new FY14. With the opening of the New ESCS, staff are very busy with orders for the new classrooms.

Several reporting requirements (grants), etc.

- End on June is the closing date for local grants and final reports must be filed
- Federal grants end 8/31 and reconciliation being done
- SPED Circuit Breaker report in July  
Last year we received our 90K more than expected over 1.8 million last year being used to offset this year's fiscal budget  
Claim for FY13 submitted – no word yet on reimbursement
- Lastly, grant applications are being worked on  
Some decreases in entitlement funds (federal) consistent with what we heard with sequestration (4% or so) no significant impact on programs

The Superintendent continued his District Report:

- New development – new time schedule for schools. In order to unify the starting time in all of our elementary schools, students should arrive at 8:10 a.m., and are late at 8:15 a.m. and instruction will end at 2:35 p.m. At Somerville High School, hours are 7:55 a.m. - 2:32 p.m.
- Another change at the High School is that there is no more 7 day schedule. The new schedule should enable our students to participate in more co-ops and partnerships with local businesses, etc. This was always a tremendous challenge on a 7 day schedule. Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders will have it much easier to remember (M-F) schedule, rather than the more cumbersome 7 day rotating one previously used.

Discussion ensued regarding publicizing the new school times and a possible grace period regarding tardiness.

Ms. Rafal inquired about registration for after school and whether incoming parents will still have an opportunity to enroll their students. This should not be an issue and the Superintendent will look into this.

- All schools and offices are closed Monday for Labor Day.
- The Mayor's Office will hold a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the new East Somerville Community School on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m. As you can imagine, it is controlled chaos at the school as many moving parts, furniture, teachers, painters come together to get the building ready.
- All teachers report on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Students in grades 1-12 report on September 4<sup>th</sup> and this is a ½ day for all students.
- PreK and K begin on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Wished everyone a pleasant, happy and healthy end of summer.
- Looking forward to a great school year!
- MCAS preliminary results, though currently embargoed and should be released within next 10 days, show amazing performance. Look for an announcement soon!

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. DRAFT 2013-2014 REVISED School Calendar**

At the time that we voted on the school calendar for 2013-14, we were still in negotiations with several unions as stated in the NB section at the bottom of the calendar. Subsequently, with the settlement of the last Collective Bargaining Agreement (STA, Unit A teachers), where March 17 (Evacuation Day) was eliminated as a non-school day, the school calendar was amended to reflect this change.

The Superintendent recommends the approval of the amended calendar with March 17<sup>th</sup> as a school day.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the draft revised 2013-2014 school calendar.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

NB – still in negotiations with one unit but no further changes anticipated. We can take the NB off of the bottom of the calendar at this time as we do not foresee any other changes this year.

**B. Powder House Community School**

Ms. Rossetti provided a brief report on her attendance at the Powder House Community School Advisory Committee meetings and on the decision of the committee to consider Tufts University as the purchaser of the PHCS. Ms. Rossetti provided her history on the committee—she did not sit in on interviews, but resumed attendance at meetings. There were serious conversations regarding the decision and Ms. Rossetti did not vote. She supports the recommendation, but it is not final yet.

Mayor Curtatone explained that the process is for the recommendation to go to him and then a very specific process is followed, including public input when development is being planned.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS****A. Field Trip** (Recommended action: approval)**Oct. 4, 2013**

Full Circle/Next Wave students to Mount Monadnock, NH.  
Transportation via school van. Cost to students - \$5.00

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

**April 3-6, 2014**

Somerville High School Chorus to Nashville, TN to participate in the World Strides Heritage Music Festival. Mode of transportation and cost to students to be determined after fundraising. Information will be provided to the School Committee, once finalized.

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

**B. 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:

<b>Ronaldo Antunes</b>	<b>36 Mansfield Street</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02143</b>
<b>Kelsey Nicole Carreiro</b>	<b>311 Medford Street</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02143</b>
<b>Olga Cecilia Diaz</b>	<b>89 Grant Street</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02145</b>
Joseph James DiDomenico	15 Winter Street	Reading	01867
Brianna Melissa Spearman	339 Adams Street, #2	Boston	02122
James Patrick Wallace	62 Circuit Street, #3	Melrose	02176

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

**C. Approval of Donations** (recommended action: approval)

1. The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$71.00, from an anonymous donor, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.
2. The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of 10 computer monitors from Jai Singh Khalsa of Somerville, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools Technology Department. Estimated value (by donor) is \$1500.00.
3. The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$125.00, from Sara Shostak of Somerville, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.
4. The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of a violin with case and bow, valued at \$100.00 and a music stand, valued at \$25.00, from Cheryl Renkes of Somerville, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.
5. The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of a junior drum set, valued at \$125.00, from Adam Sweeting of Somerville, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal to accept donations 1-4 and 6 with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

6. The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of one full size Pernambuco Wood Cello Bow from Regina Cheung of Cambridge, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools to aid in learning/instructing the playing of the cello. The instrument was assessed by a string instrument repair specialist as being valued at approximately \$500.00.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept donation number 5 with gratitude.

Mr. Sweeting recused himself from voting on this donation as he is the donor.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**C. Education Reform Forum** (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rafal to chair – shared communication of Senator Jehlen to cosponsor a forum regarding education reform – Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Central Library and she is looking for sponsors/co-sponsors.

Ms. Rossetti asked if the School Committee would like to honor the wish of Senator Jehlen.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, that the School Committee co-sponsor the "Look Before you Leap: Lessons for the Next Wave of Ed Reform from the Last Twenty Years" being held by Senator Jehlen. Mr. Niedergang feels this is a great opportunity for the School Committee and City.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**D. Meeting/Conference Reports** (Ms. Rossetti)

- Massachusetts Association of School Committees – Board of Director's Meeting Report

Met July 10 in Marlboro – agenda and documents submitted

Draw attention to annual joint conference information

List resolutions

New board nominated—list names – our delegate will vote in November

- National School Board Association President's Retreat – many handouts and PowerPoint's
- Different type of conference, more PD for leaders than talking specifics
- Advocacy more now
- Op Ed on common core
- School connect free of charge, with free training, etc. easy tool for SC, staff and community members to learn about what is going on in the schools

Members expressed an interest in the possibility of purchasing the Advocacy Tool Kit, particularly for new members. Ms. Rossetti will look into the Tool Kit purchase.

Ms. Rafal commented that she is proud of Ms. Rossetti and thanked her for all she does and has done for the Committee and the City.

Ms. Rafal asked that since there is no longer a Personnel Subcommittee, how will the Superintendent's evaluation be handled this year and what subcommittee would be the appropriate one to discuss this at.

Ms. Rossetti would like to appoint someone to take over the task and the matter will be discussed at Long Range Planning meeting.

Mr. Niedergang mentioned instituting a feedback form to use to allow community members to offer input regarding the Superintendent's evaluation.

Mr. Niedergang also asked for an update on the RFP on SHS Guidance Department Evaluation.

Mr. Pierantozzi responded that the RFP is on the streets and we are awaiting the appropriate timeframe with respect to the bidding process, before we discuss the matter any further.

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A thank you note from Mary Jo Rossetti thanking the School Committee for remembering her late mother and father at a recent meeting.
- A thank you note from Sheila Fahey thanking the School Committee for remembering her late mother at a recent meeting.

- A letter from the Elections Chairman requesting use of certain schools for the upcoming Municipal Elections.
- Copies of letters (thank you's) and condolences
- Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS****Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Wished everyone a happy Labor Day
2. Personally thanked Ms. Rossetti for her leadership and attendance at conferences, etc.
3. Thanked Central Office, principals, etc. summer staff, etc. including East Somerville Community School, Human Resources, Parent Information Center.
4. Residents - please be cognizant of your surroundings, bushes, tree limbs, etc. and make walking safer for our students—particularly on trash day. Please do not block sidewalks and cause our students to have to walk on the street.
5. Drive safely and slowly

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Attended the summer sports camp in Lenox with Somerville High School football and soccer teams and reported how our students represented our city so well. Camp staff shared comments that our group is by far the best group of students who attend the camp. We arrived back safely late this afternoon.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Reported on an informational meeting regarding the Joan Rubin School—a private school slated to open in the fall of 2014. It seems like they want to cooperate with the local School Committee, but they want to be a private school running 180 days and 190 hours. This will be a free school named after the founder of the Sudbury Valley School – many communities are being considered.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Thanked Mayor Curtatone for his support at camp Lenox where Mr. Sweeting's son had a great time.
2. Meeting with the proposer of the Steam Academy—a proposal has been developed and the basic plan is that the committee will ask for a high school staff vote on the proposal sometime in early fall to approve or disapprove the plan. The hope is to get the whole group together in September for last questions/issues. If it passes, it would then go to negotiation with the Superintendent and STA President and then go to full School Committee for a vote.
3. Has asked the Chair of Ed Programs to invite the proposer to a future Ed Programs for questions, etc. and to learn what the proposal is all about.
4. Welcomed everyone back.

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Kennedy School Innovation Planning Committee met in the spring, conducted conference calls over the summer. Plan still being developed—hoping for 2014/2015 school year
2. Article in Somerville Journal on August 15 was frustrating to read.

Mr. Sweeting commented on the article of May 8, 2011 and that he felt a sense of déjà vu.

Discussion ensued regarding the quality of the article and the research done in preparing. Discussion also ensued regarding being proactive in reaching out to the media, etc.

Mayor Curtatone stated that he is also frustrated by the story and discussed the City's branding strategy.

Ms. Rossetti stated that she refused to be defeated by one article. She is a graduate of SHS along with her family, friends, etc. Big stories are always the bad news!

Susana Morgan is working on a plan with the City's communication department and we are fortunate that we have the support of our education system by elected officials. Alderman White stated that sometimes it's beyond us—professionals can do a better job figuring out how best to combat the non-truths. Transiency affects us all. The goal is to market the city as a place where young people want to stay and raise their families.

Mayor Curtatone reiterated that there is a definite way to do this.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Rafal reported that there are no condolences to report this evening, but on the topic of good stories, congratulated Ms. Marques on becoming the grandmother of twin boys!

The meeting was adjourned via voice vote at 9:06 p.m.



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, September 9, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

7:16 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

**Members present:** Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Roix, and Mayor Curtatone.

**Members absent:**

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:16 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rossetti asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 9 –Sweeting, White, Niedergang, Cardoso, Rafal, Rossetti Bockelman, Curtatone and Roix.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our Student Representative Marcelo Brociner reported on the following:

- Marcelo is very excited for the start of school year; it's strange to be a senior!
- Getting used to the new schedule - it's a little weird for the upper classmen, but we are adjusting well. Lots of new teachers have been hired and they are great!
- Marcelo and others are not excited about SAT signups with tests scheduled for October and November and seniors are preparing for them now.
- Students are settling in well and upper classmen are being welcome to freshmen.
- The Club Fair is in two weeks and is a great way to learn about clubs/activities where students may fit in, etc.
- The Boys' Soccer Team won their game today, 3-1, and after the incident of the past few weeks, the team is sticking together, witnessing great leadership, and doing their best to make the victims comfortable. Today was the first opening day win in 3 seasons and the team is doing the best they can to be state champions!

Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to take Item IV. A. out of order. The motion was approved via voice vote.

For the record, Mr. Sweeting was at the game today and witnessed a beautiful assist by Marcelo!

**IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. DISTRICT REPORT**

The Superintendent presented his District Report:

- Commented on an excellent start of school year!
- We had a fantastic turnout at the East Somerville Community School ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We estimate that more than 300 people were in attendance. Our sincere thanks go out to everyone involved in that much-anticipated celebration. For those who missed the event, catch a glimpse of it on Vimeo at [www.vimeo.com/svilleschools](http://www.vimeo.com/svilleschools).
- Cradles to Crayons were at the Healey School on September 6<sup>th</sup> to distribute backpacks filled with school supplies to the students in grades K-5. Each year, Cradles to Crayons donates backpacks to our students and the schools are selected on a rotating basis.
- Students are excited for the new school year as are staff members.  
This is very important this year following the serious incident involving some of our high school students, a sense of routine is important to all. Resources have been made available to all impacted by this allegation.

Mr. Pierantozzi requested that the School Committee authorize him to negotiate a contract providing for the expenditure of up to \$25,000 for the purpose of establishing a School Safety and Review Committee to be chaired by an individual who is independent of the Somerville Public Schools and City of Somerville.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to negotiate a contract expenditure of up to \$25000 for a School Safety Committee.

Before the School Committee acts on this request, Mr. Sweeting disclosed his potential conflict of interest due to having a son on the Soccer Team and reported that has filed with City Clerk's office. Adam feels he can deliberate objectively

Mayor Curtatone reported that it is no secret that he was present at camp and has declared the same potential conflict as Mr. Sweeting and will file the same paperwork.

The motion authorizing the Superintendent to negotiate a contract up to \$25,000 to support the schools Safety and Security Committee was approved via voice vote.

- The NEA is hosting a Town Hall Meeting titled "Educator Voices" at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School Cafeteria on Thursday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. NEA President Dennis Van Roekel and MTA President Paul Toner host a conversation with educators from Somerville and nearby districts and public higher education campuses, about the state of public education. The discussion will be moderated by STA President Jackie Lawrence. A Meet and Greet begins at 2:45, followed by the Town Hall Meeting at 3:45.

Mr. Niedergang inquired as to whether this event was open to the public or if attendance was by invitation only. Ms. Lawrence informed the Committee that the event would be open to the public.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report on curriculum-related matters. Dr. McKay's report follows:

Opening of school is the best time of year, the spirit of optimism is in the air. Lends a very special meaning to the visits to all of our schools and programs that the Superintendent and I conduct week to week.

New school year, a time of renewal – a time of hope and unlimited promise – for our students and staff.

I am grateful for a number of exciting new programs for our students:

Grade 6 Spanish instructions and the introduction of a Spanish Language class at Full Circle High School

New High School schedule

60 new educators, working closely with their mentors, are off to a great start

Also new: The District has invested significant resources in new curriculum materials at all levels. All of our students deserve – and I assure you will receive up to date books and other teaching resources—including:

Including numerous sets of classroom readers to support balanced literacy instruction;

All 300 of our 9<sup>th</sup> graders attending the high school received brand new Geometry texts, aligned with the Common Core;

World History books are upgraded as well

As a preview to tomorrow's Educational Programs subcommittee meeting, I will encourage you to review the RFP that was recently released to assist in developing a strategic plan to help us promote college readiness at Somerville High School.

Announced the addition of new SAT preparation resources to improve our student performance on the SAT. As Marcelo mentioned in his report, as a high school senior, SATs are a major focus and I want to wish him and all our seniors good luck with their post-graduation planning. As a parent of a high school senior myself, I am very aware of the buzz and excitement as you move ahead.

STEM Initiative: Met with representatives of the STEM Garden Institute last Thursday. We are planning to partner with the Institute to bring their hydroponic growing program to Somerville. Hydroponics is the growing of plants without soil.

Programs are planned in the Somerville afterschool program of Community Schools and the Somerville High School Science Department.

Ms. Rafal asked about the format for School Improvement Plans. The School Committee relies a lot on the plans for budget planning, etc. and the format doesn't allow for the expression of exactly what needs to be said.

The Superintendent responded that he and his staff have heard the same concerns. They are in the process of reviewing the format. As you know the Superintendent reviews and approves School Improvement Plans and he will share the format down the road.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- Two announcements:
  - ✓ Please visit your school's calendar of events to learn when your student's school will hold its Open House. There are too many to report tonight, but this week Open Houses will take place at the Argenziano, Brown and West Somerville Schools.
  - ✓ Also, many schools are looking for parent/guardian and community representatives for their School Councils. Please consider becoming a member - training for School Council members is being planned for next month.
- The Somerville High School All Sports Information Night will be held at the SHS Fieldhouse on Thursday, September 12, from 7:30-9:30pm.

The Superintendent announced that, since this has not been a typical year, he is deferring to John Oteri, Headmaster of Somerville High School, to speak about the beginning of school at Somerville High School under extraordinary circumstances.

Mr. Oteri's report included the following:

This opening has been unlike any opening we've had. The focus has been on the support of the student body and he and his staff are working with rings of concentric circles where the students are the center circle and working outward.

There will be ongoing support for as long as needed and the school is working with the Somerville Trauma Response Network and other supports to provide support to the entire student body.

One thing we've noticed is that having a sense of routine and getting back to school has made a tremendous difference. Our student body is phenomenal. Upperclassmen have bridged the invisible divisions to embrace new students and a mindset of everyone being one school is predominant – "We are Highlanders!"

We are at a rallying point of how to build and define our school year.

Other supports have been put in place to build a more positive school culture--

Advisory program – beginning on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school allows for a student/teacher connection

And the new schedule allows opportunities for additional supports. Also, we will early release days where school ends one hour early for Professional Development and, once a month, school assemblies with speakers around defined themes, to help our school and promote a positive school culture will be held.

On another note, our new state of the art language lab has opened, new textbooks are in place and new classes and 21 new educators are on board at the school.

Staff members are doing a lot with the focus from the very beginning of compassionate support for as long as needed.

Mr. Bockelman commented that true leadership often comes from crisis.

Thanked the Mayor, Mr. Pierantozzi, Central Office Staff, Mr. Oteri and staff, and the Somerville Police for their leadership, which he admires.

Mayor Curtatone, Mr. Pierantozzi and Mr. Oteri all led the community on how to address a very difficult situation while enduring endless work hours, and a certain lack of sleep.

Thanks to Marcelo and his peers who have embraced their underclassmen—great to hear

Mr. Bockelman is very impressed with how the situation has been handled and issued his thanks for the great work.

Mr. Niedergang also thanked Ms. Rossetti for providing numerous hours of updates to keep us informed and thanked her for her time and leadership.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Signing of Collective Bargaining Agreements**

➤ Somerville Teachers Association, Unit A Teachers

Ms. Rossetti invited Jackie Lawrence, STA, Unit A President to join her in signing the agreement and shared highlights of the agreement.

➤ Somerville Clerical Employees, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 2070

Ms. Rossetti invited Leah Arredondo, President of the AFSCME Clerical Unit, to join her in signing the agreement and shared highlights of the agreement.

Ms. Rossetti stated that it was an honor and a privilege to sign these two agreements with the presidents of the bargaining units.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. 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:

<b>Lucas Crivel Cruz</b>	<b>416 Medford Street #2</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02145</b>
William C. Morrissey	133 Edenfield Avenue	Watertown	02472

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

### 2. Approval of Donations (recommended action: approval)

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$220.00, the proceeds of PorchFest, from Jennifer Dorsen of Somerville, MA to the Music Department of the Somerville Public Schools.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting 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 a Konica Minolta C6501 color copier from Fleming Printing of Somerville, MA to the Somerville High School Print Shop. Value to be determined by donor.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting 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 two (2) Canon black and white copiers, from Rockland Trust of Rockland, MA, one to be placed at SCALE and one at the Special Education Department. Value to be determined by donor.

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

### 3. Contract of the Director of Special Education

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the contract of employment between Catherine D. Connell and the Somerville School Committee for the position of Director of Special Education.

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

## VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

### Mr. Niedergang

- Looking forward to Brown School Open house
- Commented on Jennifer Dorsen's donation. Ms. Dorsen hosts a festive event on Josephine Avenue each year and at least 200 people, including students, attended this year and there was even a bake sale. PorchFest is an incredible event where so many people look so happy!
- Asked about the Superintendent's evaluation and the new provisions, this year, requiring community involvement, etc. Make sure this is on our viewpoint.

Ms. Rossetti responded to Mr. Niedergang's question regarding the Superintendent's evaluation and reported that, after review, she found that Commissioner has agreed to delay parent/faculty/community input to School Committee regarding the Superintendent's evaluation. For this year, we will carry on as is. Legislation that speaks to parents/staff input, this has been delayed to 2014-15 school year.

Ms. Rossetti will appoint a member within the next few weeks a person to compile the evaluation. Mr. Niedergang thanked Ms. Rossetti for the research and information and spoke of the Brookline document of soliciting community input. It would be great to have a conversation to develop a possible short questionnaire to solicit input and have a trial implementation.

Ms. Rossetti announced that a meeting will be held to discuss timeline, form, etc.

Mr. Sweeting reported that he does not make a formal request for information, but more of an informal method which included more informal questions, etc. of constituents to gain the same information and this was very useful and helpful. Mr. Sweeting feels that we don't need formal document.

Ms. Rafal will submit a document regarding changing the process. The thought was to be formal enough to be fair when soliciting input.

**Mr. Roix**

1. Commended the City and Somerville Public Schools for a successful reopening of the ESCS. The building and yard are spectacular and will stay spectacular and it is great to have this back in our neighborhood.
2. There will be an East Somerville Community Block Party on 9/21 @ noon to celebrate.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. The MSBA Director's comments of how Somerville people value the arts so much – evident in the music and murals.
2. One of our other assets is linguistic diversity and the LIPS Program (Liaison Interpreter Program of Somerville) for teens, sponsored by the Welcome Project begins on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 at the Mystic Activity Center

**Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Congratulated Ms. Rossetti and her family on the wedding of her daughter and son-in-law. Ms. Rossetti has continued to represent us so well even with so much going on in her family. Congratulations to all!
2. Welcome back to everyone!
3. Went to AFA today where her grandchildren began PK and K!
4. Great feedback from all and thank you to all who prepared.
5. Wished a special happy birthday to Ellie Blute who is 80 years old today.
6. Reported that former colleague Julie DiPasquale is recovering from triple bypass surgery and asked that we please add to her to your prayers.
7. The ESCS opening was Mrs. Cardoso's 6<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting and they have gotten better and better each time thanks to all involved. Take good care of the building.
8. Open house at AFA on Tuesday night and, next week, on September 16<sup>th</sup>, a coffee hour will be held in the morning also at AFA.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Congratulated all involved for all the hard work done to open school.
2. Reported that the State treasurer made positive comments regarding arts in our schools and the Director of the MSBA said it largest ribbon cutting ever.
3. Tomorrow night Ed Programs subcommittee – agenda reviewed
4. So many positive things going on across the district
5. Kennedy School Council meets on September 10<sup>th</sup>.
6. Brown Open House will be held on September 10<sup>th</sup>.
7. School Improvement Councils are really important – please consider being involved.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Louise Canavan, mother of Christine (Chi-Chi) Canavan, GED Chief Examiner for SCALE
- Bertram "Bert" A. Gay--husband of former Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay
- Helen C. (Mack) KcKenney, mother-in-law of Liz McKenney, Redirect Teacher at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park
- Yannis Stephano, father of Steve Stephano, teacher at the Healey School
- Guy Tringale, father of Joe Tringale, Director of Operations for the Somerville Public Schools.

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

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, September 23, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

7:10 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

**Members present:** Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Roix, and Mayor Curtatone (8:10).

**Members absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:10 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rossetti asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Roix, Sweeting, White, Niedergang, Cardoso, Rafal, Bockelman, and Rossetti and ABSENT – 1 - Curtatone.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- August 26, 2013 Regular Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to approve the minutes of August 26, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- September 9, 2013 Regular Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the minutes of September 9, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our student representative, Marcelo Brociner, was not in attendance this evening as he is recovering from an injury incurred while playing soccer.

**IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting:** Sept. 10 (Mr. Bockelman)

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

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Roix and Mr. Sweeting

Also in attendance: Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, and nine (9) audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

1. STEAM Academy presentation
2. Guidance/College Readiness
3. Professional Development Preview 2013-14
4. Unidos Update
5. Early Childhood Program Planning Update
6. Other

Others present: Christine Rafal, Teresa Cardoso, Mary Jo Rossetti, Vince McKay, Tony Pierantozzi, Alec Resnick, Karen Woods, Leo DeSimone, Betsy Reardon and several members of the public

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

We had four items on the agenda.

**1. STEAM Academy**

This was the School Committee's first look at the proposed STEAM Academy – which stands for Science, Technology, and Engineering – the Arts – and Math. Alec Resnick is proposing this innovation school as a 9-12 alternative to the traditional Somerville High School education. It is not a charter, but an innovation school much like the Winter Hill Innovation Community School and the work being done at the Kennedy School.

The envision the STEAM Academy as being a vocational lab school emphasizing computational immersion and targeting struggling students with a large focus on project-based learning. The

target is to open in the fall of 2014 to 40 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and eventually growing into an 8-12 grade school.

One of the goals is that one-half of the students will be identified as struggling as evidenced by MCAS scores or attendance rates. The goal is to match the school's demographics and socioeconomics with what is currently at the high school.

Work continues on the Plan with the Innovation Plan Committee and we are represented by our member, Adam Sweeting. They have yet to finalize and vote on the plan. Once approved, the Plan will identify modifications to the collective bargaining agreement which will be reviewed by the Superintendent and the Union President. The School Committee will hold a public hearing and accept comments from all of those interested. We, as a committee, are being asked to vote on the school in December, if they are able to hit all of their other target dates. The proponent and Mr. Sweeting will work with the Chair to schedule the hearing and timeline for decision-making.

It is quite an intriguing plan, which has been given a lot of thought. We appreciated the work that the proponents had put into the plan so far and wished them well in their work with the Innovation Plan Committee.

2. Unidos Update

Next we met with Betsy Reardon, who has taken on the role of Program Coordinator for Unidos. She summarized the summer institute that she organized for all 16 Unidos teachers during the summer. At this four-day session, which included Principal Hatch and others, the group reviewed the evaluation of Unidos conducted last academic year. They also discussed the theory of language acquisition and recommendations for realigning the program.

She felt the program was a great success because it created a program-wide understanding of the research and best practices of dual language programs.

Next, Betsy will be developing a Program Improvement Plan for the tangible changes to the program to make it one of the leading dual language programs in the country.

3. Guidance/College Readiness

Dr. McKay distributed the RFP for Guidance Department College Readiness Strategy Evaluation that will take a full and comprehensive review of our guidance operations at the high school, a priority funded by the School Committee in the budget we passed this year. Responses to the RFP are due September 27<sup>th</sup>.

4. Professional Development Preview

Dr. McKay distributed the 2013-2014 Professional Development calendar for our information. There is a lot of exciting professional development being done in the District, led by Mr. Uri Harel.

5. Early Childhood Program Planning Update

Lastly, Dr. McKay updated us on the work being done on our early childhood program planning. This is very exciting because we are looking with a fresh eye at how and to whom we are providing early childhood education. Key questions being asked by Dr. Sarah Davila and her team are if the highest risk students are participating, are the investments we make balanced with those we are making in the elementary schools, are our programs aligned with the needs of our target families, do any changes to our program create any adverse impacts to the infrastructure of private care providers, and how do we ensure predictability of enrollment.

This will be a very rich discussion in the coming months.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the report and minutes of the Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of September 10, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rafal expressed concern about the potential hazards of unstructured periods, etc.

Mr. Sweeting responded that in a meeting held after the Ed Programs meeting, a number of issues came up, including Supervision, autonomy, etc. There was a frank discussion regarding selection process and identification of students – gender equity, etc.

Mr. Sweeting is not sure where it's all going, but, hopefully, this will be determined during their meeting next week. Mr. Sweeting has been impressed by level of discussion and candor.

**B. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting:** Sept. 11 (Ms. Rafal)

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

In attendance: Mrs. Cardoso and Ms. Rafal

Also in attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, and one (1) audience member.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. and adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

1. FY14 Expenditure Report
2. FY15 Budget Timeline
3. Facilities Update
4. FY13 and FY14 Bill Roll
5. Other

Ms. Rafal's report is as follows:

We discussed the items on the agenda.

First we discussed the budget timeline, which will be pretty similar to last year's, with the addition of a time to work on innovation school budget planning, at least I don't remember that being part of last year.

Also this triggered a question following up on the question from last spring about whether we could offer a School Finance Workshop. We talked about different questions new and continuing School Committee members and the public might have and we decided to start by asking the MASC to provide a workshop in early January that would be a kind of "school finance 101." Subsequent to the meeting, the Superintendent has already lined up a date with MASC: January 9, 2014 at 7pm. Save the date!

The Superintendent went over facilities issues. A lot of regular maintenance work happened at every building. Notable themes were painting and installing even more bollards. Some requests have not been fulfilled yet, including a request for new carpet in one of the offices. We did ask if all the other buildings have been replacing old carpet with tile. Everything seems set up at the gorgeous new ESCS, except for the salad bar which for some reason was delivered at and assembled in the Edgerly. So that will have to be moved.

Now that the ESCS is operating, we did ask about a facilities plan, in part with an eye to "continuous use." The Superintendent said he had requested in February a meeting to discuss facilities use with the City. Subsequent to that meeting he re-sent the request to the City. This is probably still a long-range topic.

We looked at expenditures so far this academic year. Ms. Durette reminded us that the Special Education line represents tuitions that are encumbered for a year ahead. One tuition was mistakenly listed twice.

We looked at only the FY13 bill rolls; that's all we had so far. We asked quite a few questions and Ms. Durette replied to the questions in email the following day.

We adjourned at 8:04

So we bring only two motions

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the FY15 Budget Timeline.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the FY2013 bill rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the report and minutes of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of September 11, 2013. The motion was approved via voice vote.



**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT****A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

The Superintendent provided a report on the Personnel Report included in the members' packet and sang the praises of all staff and others who were involved with the interview teams.

The Human Resources Office is finalizing five (5) positions which will make us fully staffed.

Mr. Pierantozzi appreciates the time and effort devoted to the hiring process and stated that the new hires are an outstanding group of individuals.

At our last meeting, a member asked a question regarding staff members leaving.

As a result, Mr. Pierantozzi has put together an analysis of staff members who have departed and the reasons for departure. The data included the following numbers and percentages:

2010-2011      11 retirements (2%)      17 resignations (4%)

2011-2012      19 retirements (4%)      13 resignations (3%)

2012-2013      26 retirements (5.5%)      25 resignations (5%)

Also, 11 paraprofessionals who were listed as resignations are now teachers – eight (8) in the Somerville Public Schools and three (3) in other districts.

The Superintendent also announced two resignations for the purpose of retirement:

Ann Ward will be retiring at the beginning of July after 38 years and Linda McGillicuddy will retire at the end of December after 39 years. We wish these retiring staff members health, happiness, and a long retirement.

We also had five resignation notices, 10 transfers and 17 new hires.

A total of 190 personnel transactions have been handled for this school year.

**B. DISTRICT REPORT**

MCAS – Dr. McKay provided a summary document at members' seats.

On Friday, the spring 2013 MCAS results were released and it is a great pleasure to announce that the rather aggressive School Committee goal for growth at 55 Student Growth Percentage (SGP) was exceeded by the District.

- Somerville's overall SGP in Math increased by 12.5 points to an SGP of 59.0, the highest of any Urban District and well above the state median
- Somerville's overall SGP in ELA increased by 7.0 points to an SGP of 58.0, also the highest of any Urban District and well above the state median
- Somerville High School made a 2-Level leap to a Level 1 designation, the highest rating that a school can earn
- Kennedy School moved from a Level 2 to a Level 1 school
- Argenziano School moved from a Level 3 to a Level 2 school

Congratulations to our students, our parents/guardians our teaching staff (most important), and our administrators.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for more details on student performance. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

He and his staff have been very busy for the last several days dissecting the data. Good news every way we look at it. We are thrilled at results.

Details added related to:

Performance index –

Composite Performance Index (CPI)

- Somerville's overall CPI was higher in all 3 areas (Math, ELA, and Science/Tech/Eng) compared to 2012.
- Grade 10 CPI improved by 4.8 points in ELA to a 2013 CPI of 94.2.
- Grade 10 CPI improved by 3.9 points in Math to a 2013 CPI of 84.1.

CPI numbers are hard to move. 4-5 changes is impressive overall.

- 84% of Grade 10 students scored P/A in ELA, a 10% increase over 2012
- 69% of Grade 10 students scored P/A in Math, a 10% increase over 2012
- 69% of Grade 8 students scored P/A in ELA, a 4% increase over 2012
- 67% of Grade 7 students scored P/A in ELA, a 10% increase over 2012

Focus on middle grades is paying off, as well!

SGP – improvement score – we are the leading urban district

- Somerville's overall SGP in Math increased by 12.5 points to an SGP of 59.0, the highest of any Urban District and well above the state median
- Somerville's overall SGP in ELA increased by 7.0 points to an SGP of 58.0, also the highest of any Urban District and well above the state median
- We were the highest performing Urban District as measured by SGP
- We exceeded the state median SGP in both ELA and Math at nearly every grade level (with the exception of Grade 4 ELA)
- Grade 7 Math SGP leaped to 70.0, an increase of 24.5 points over 2012
- Grade 7 ELA SGP improved by 6.5 points to an SGP of 62.5
- Grade 10 ELA SGP improved by 15.0 points to an SGP of 68.0
- Grade 5 Math SGP improved by 8.0 points to an SGP of 62.0

#### Accountability ratings

- Somerville High School made a 2-Level leap to a Level 1 designation, the highest rating that a school can earn
- Kennedy School moved from a Level 2 to a Level 1 school
- Argenziano School moved from a Level 3 to a Level 2 school

Discussion ensued regarding sustainability, which should not be an issue, thanks to upgrading curriculum, good assessment tools, systems for working, targeted instruction for all students, team work, meeting time to talk about student learning, rigorous feedback using data in real time. There is a general all hands on deck approach with the City providing additional resources, partnerships with colleges, etc., focusing on parents as partners, liaisons, the focus on the whole child and not having cut corners and still providing support for specialists, music, visual arts, athletics. What's good for kids is the focus. It has taken a couple of years to get here.

Dr. McKay witnessed students (10 year olds) going into the public library with football pads, violin cases and backpacks which shows a great balance.

Dr. McKay echoed thanks to all for great work!

#### Discussion ensued which included the following:

- Many thanks and accolades
- The focus on SGP including an explanation of how it is determined
- The two most significant things that impacted these scores – teamwork and quality data systems including the use of common planning time/meeting time which included Special Education and ELL staff in planning.
- Our Data Analyst giving user friendly data reports right away.
- Balanced Literacy is going well.
- Speaking of teamwork, parents are an important part of the team – there is a silent P in team!
- The more parents become involved and feel comfortable, improvement will continue.
- Applauds Administration and staff for math scores

Mr. Pierantozzi explained the fine points on MCAS Data. Actual scores still count four (4) times as much as growth, but there is a multiple view. 80% of the formula is still based on score. We did well by every accounting measure including sub groups. One thing to fight for is participation rate and status. Students who can't read English are not seated in some districts. If this is only a small number of students, that may be OK, but in an Urban district, this would be impossible. A student who is an English Language Learner has to qualify in an ACCESS level of 4 or 5 to participate. A school should not be penalized for the number of low level participants.

Argenziano, Winter Hill and Somerville High School have 80 students a year, on average, who do not possess academic English. Statistics show that it used to be 5-7 years to develop academic English and now it seems to be 8-10, but we test these students during their first year. English speakers must have 2 years of testing to be included in stats. There should be a one-year hiatus before testing. We are thrilled but we are Bill Belichicking this. Every year there are new challenges, new students, etc. Mobility continues to be an issue.

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director, Patricia Durette, who provided the following reporting information.

- Currently the Finance and Payroll offices are in the middle of a major reporting period including the school year 2014 quarterly report on ARRA funds to the Department of

Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). ARRA are stimulus dollars started in 2010 and this is a cumulative report. The DESE uses the data from our report to report to the federal government.

- On August 30, State grant final financial reports were due.
- Federal grant reports due on October 30, and are being worked on now.
- Staff members from both departments are working on the DESE End of Year report – a comprehensive report which is due on October 1. This report includes all expenditures and revenues from last fiscal year from all funding sources, grants, revolving, etc.

Ms. Rossetti inquired as to the recent news from the Federal Government regarding a possible shutdown and concern if money expected does not come.

Ms. Durette does not currently have anything to report in this regard and Ms. Rossetti asked that the School Committee be kept informed should Ms. Durette hear of any funding issues.

The Superintendent continued his District report:

- Upcoming PTA/Open Houses: Tuesday, 9/24: Kennedy, 6-8:30pm; Monday, 9/30: Winter Hill, 5:30-8pm; Wednesday, 10/2: Capuano, 5:30-8pm. Parent Teacher meetings are really the way parents/guardians learn what's going on. These are not conference times for individual students. Interpreters will be available.

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Somerville Public Schools School Safety and Security Review Committee

Mr. Pierantozzi provided an update on a report he presented at our last meeting regarding the establishment of a School Safety and Security Review (SSSR) Committee and funding for this committee were approved at that meeting. This evening, a draft of a letter and the makeup of the committee were shared with members.

Mr. Pierantozzi elaborated on Attorney Leone's background and stated that it was his pleasure to recommend appointing Mr. Leone to chair this committee.

If approved, the proposed statement of interest form would be made available to all members of our community.

Mr. Pierantozzi applauds Mr. Leone for his consideration of chairing this committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the makeup and size of the committee, timeframe for delivery of its report to Superintendent, how information will be distributed to solicit committee members, whether the meetings would be public under the Open Meeting Law and who will make that determination. It was suggested that a deadline for return of form be added to the form.

*Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:10 p.m.*

Also discussed was the mission of the committee. A suggestion was made to include an approximate time commitment needed for a person interested in serving on the committee to the form.

Mr. Pierantozzi stated that his personal opinion is that the more details decided by Chair of the SSSR, the better, and that the Superintendent did not want to set the parameters.

Mayor Curtatone commended the Superintendent for the proposal stated that he feels the proposal is appropriate and to have Mr. Leone leading the committee sends a very powerful message.

Ms. Rossetti asked for a motion to authorize her to sign.

MOTION: Mayor Curtatone made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement for Legal Services with Gerard T. Leone, Jr.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS****A. 2013 Somerville High School Summer School Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)**

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

- Andre Barboza
- Michael Bobick

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the Summer School Graduates, with congratulations.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**B. Approval of Donations (recommended action: approval)**

- The Superintendent recommending 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: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of a musical keyboard, maracas and a tambourine, valued at \$250.00, given by Irene Leamon on behalf of an anonymous donor, to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**C. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)**

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Oct. 6, 2013</b>     | Somerville High School Outdoors Club to Mr. Kinsman, NH. Transportation via Somerville High School buses at no cost to students.   |
| <b>Oct. 28, 2013</b>    | Somerville High School Cosmetology students to the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, RI, to participate in the Annual Beauty School Convention. Transportation via bus. Estimated cost to students is \$20.00. |
| <b>Oct. 28 - Nov. 1</b> | Healey School fifth and sixth grade students to Nature's Classroom, Yarmouth Port, MA <i>overnight</i> . Transportation via bus. Cost to students is \$288.00 each   |
| <b>Nov. 1, 2013</b>     | Somerville High School seniors to the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH to tour campus and meet with the Director of Admissions. Transportation via bus at no cost to students.                                    |

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**D. Meeting Reports (Ms. Rossetti) Ms. Rafal to Chair**

- a. Local Government Advisory Commission (9/10)

Ms. Rossetti reported on her attendance at the recent LGAC meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of her report included the following:

- An update on FY14 revenue and the state economy
- \$1.6 billion in the Rainy Day Fund
- \$139 million over benchmark; just over 1/2 is from a one-time tax settlement in July

- The Community Innovation Challenge Grant Program (\$4 million) - deadline to apply is November 22. Ms. Rossetti hopes Somerville will submit a proposal.
- A presentation by Undersecretary Aaron Gornstein, Department of Housing and Community Development, which included discussion of a smart growth zoning law and the Homeless Prevention Program.

b. MASC Board of Directors Meeting (9/11)

Ms. Rossetti reported on her attendance at the MASC's Board of Directors Meeting on September 11. Her report included the following:

- A joint meeting of Divisions II and IX on Thursday, October 24 in Framingham regarding Advocacy
- The MASC/MASS conference in November and the Friday night dinner being held in honor of Ms. Rossetti as outgoing president. The Somerville High School Chorus will be entertaining the audience at this event and the Vocational Department is working on treasures to share. It is wonderful to have Somerville highlighted at the conference.
- Her attendance at the New England Regional Conference in New York this coming weekend.

Ms. Rossetti announced that at our next School Committee meeting, we will vote on delegates for the November conference.

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

#### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Tomorrow elections are being held in three (3) wards.
2. Reported on the STEAM academy proposal discussion which includes an ambitious plan. The committee, of which he is a member, is meeting again next week. Mr. Sweeting has been impressed with the last few meetings.
3. Speaking with his parent hat on, he has a son at SHS and a daughter at Healey who have several different teachers this year and Mr. Sweeting has been very impressed by the amount of communication from all teachers on a number of fronts. He assumes this is representative of what is going on across District and expressed his thanks.
4. Two weeks from tonight is the next Rules Management Subcommittee meeting at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

#### **Mr. Roix**

1. Happy and impressed with the test scores and gave a shout out to SHS for jumping right to level 1 and not even bothering to go to level 2! This is a testament to our teachers, etc.
2. Announced PTA at Capuano next Wednesday and reported that this is an important one and encouraged attendance by parents/guardians.

#### **Niedergang**

Good news – as the School Committee's representative to the Kennedy School Innovation Committee, Mr. Niedergang announced that the committee is ready to put together a plan. Mr. Niedergang circulated two handouts via email today and reported on a couple of things to give overall description: Their mission is to become a top urban school and the hope of the committee is to begin implementation of the plan in the next school year (14/15).

#### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Kennedy Open House will be held tomorrow night from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, which is also election night
2. Kennedy will also host a Book fair Tuesday thru Friday
3. Sunday is Community Day @ Tufts. Mr. Bockelman noted a quite impressive list of what Tufts does for Somerville including a Strong Girls, Strong Women Group @ Brown.

#### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Announced the Argenziano School's Parent Aspirations Team meetings being held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
2. Next Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, is corn shucking day.
3. Food Service Appreciation Day is in October!
4. Offered her condolences to Natalie Vieira on the loss of her father.

#### **Ms. Rafal**

1. The Finance & Facilities Subcommittee will meet on October 2<sup>nd</sup>

2. Reported on the SHS Sports Night and commended the Superintendent on this and also commended community's response to safety and security – a truly powerful collection of people were on hand to assist our students!
3. Attended Back to School Night which was fun and Ms. Rafal was impressed with the new teachers.
4. Sent her congratulations to all involved with PTA!

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. On Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a community forum centered around Education Reform and led by Senator Patricia Jehlen and is being co-sponsored by Representative Denise Provost, Representative Carl Sciortino, Representative Timothy Toomey, Somerville School Committee The Duhamel Education Initiative, The Center for Teen Empowerment, Progress Together for Somerville, Immigrant Service Providers Group and the Boston Teachers' Union. The event is being held at the Somerville Community Access Television building in Union Square. Good conversation expected!
2. The Duhamel Education Initiative's fall fundraiser is being held on October 5<sup>th</sup> and features a spaghetti supper. The supper begins at 6:00 p.m. Please reserve a seat ahead of time as this is usually a sell-out!

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjourning, in addition to remembering the Vieira Family, Ms. Rafal expressed the School Committee's condolences for the following relatives of staff members who have recently passed away:

- Lorraine Jones, mother-in-law of Julie Jones, teacher at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.
- Mary Louise Lawrence, mother-in-law of Jackie Lawrence, President of the Somerville Teachers Association.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 a.m. via voice vote.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Monday, October 7, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Roix, and Mayor Curtatone (7:35 p.m.).

Members absent:

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti 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. Ms. Rossetti asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Roix, Sweeting, Niedergang, Cardoso, Rafal, Bockelman, and Rossetti and ABSENT – 2 - White, Curtatone.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- September 23, 2013 Regular Minutes

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of September 23, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our Student Representative, Marcelo Brociner, provided the following report on happenings at Somerville High School:

- The school year is now fully underway with many activities. Last week was the Club Fair in the library and lots of under and upper classmen attended. It was great to see new faces and many clubs represented. Food and water for the event was provided by Culinary Arts. Student council recruited many new members.
- SAT's were held last Saturday morning and then Homecoming that night which helped students unwind after a stressful day.
- On last Friday, the focus was on breast cancer awareness with students and staff wearing as much pink clothing as possible. Hundreds of dollars were raised for breast cancer research.
- At the last Student Council meeting we had a follow-up to last year collection of hundreds of signatures for requesting changes to the school lunches. The issue was revisited and students got a sense that the food can't be changed, but possibly prices could be adjusted. The Student Council is also hoping that seniors may be allowed to buy lunches in culinary and Student Council representatives are talking to housemasters about this proposal
- Marcelo discussed the Wednesday advisory period and expressed that seniors feel very strongly that right now there doesn't seem to be much structure to the period and they would like to make it more oriented toward college application because many of them can really use the help with the application process, etc. Housemasters are providing an hour or so on certain days to assist, but it would be better to spend the advisory period on it. Underclassmen as well could use a more structured focus during the period.

Ms. Rossetti asked if, regarding the advisory period, students are looking for direction from the School Committee on these discussions or are they working with headmaster? Marcelo is writing a proposal to give to housemaster but he welcomes help!

Ms. Rossetti thanked Marcelo for bringing this to the School Committee's attention.

Dr. McKay will assist with this if Marcelo would like him to.

Ms. Rossetti asked if Marcelo and the students also need assistance regarding the lunch issue, but Marcelo reported that he did not need assistance at this time.

Ms. Rossetti reported that she participated in the Breast Cancer walk in the rain on Sunday and was happy and impressed to see the Somerville High School cheerleaders along the walk route cheering participants along.

**IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES****A. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting: Oct. 2 (Ms. Rafal)**

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

In attendance: Mrs. Cardoso and Ms. Rafal

Also in attendance: Mr. Roix, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, and Dorothy Scally.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. and adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

1. Revolving Accounts Review
2. Grant Accounts Review
3. Edgerly School - Proposal from STEM Garden Initiative
4. FY14 Expenditure Report
5. FY14 Bill Roll
6. Other

Ms. Rafal provided the following report:

**Revolving Accounts**

The Circuit Breaker figure doesn't include the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter so the total from last year is \$1,612,917.00  
Our claim last year \$1.8 million and reimbursement rate is 75%.

Employee Day Care housed at Somerville High School lost \$40,000.00 of carryover but now is making \$1,000.00 a month.

El Sistema was originally being funded from fundraising and tuition but now is running through the Community Schools Program (healthy cash flow)...so they are providing tuition and some teachers and administering the tuition, etc. Being under Community Schools means it will more closely reflect the ideals of El Sistema, using the sliding fee scale of Community Schools (last year nobody paid). Students also get Community Schools snack and homework help, etc.

The Food and Nutrition Services Department last year had higher expenses than revenues (purchased truck). The government shut down may affect them. The department is operating with fewer employees and needs less cold storage rental now that ESCS online.

Homeless transportation is at zero right now. Most cities and towns are paying directly so less reimbursement is happening.

Community Schools had less carry over because the City asked the School Department to pay their own fringe benefits. Also, they pay for the late bus. We can't charge the paying students less than the voucher rate.

The Special Education revolving account for tuitions from students from other districts was also reviewed.

The Summer School account was down several thousand dollars-- much of the costs were grant funded through Title 1 at the elementary level. The District used a combination of grants and tuition for the secondary level and covered all but \$7,000.00. This was mentioned because summer school is not self-funded.

A review of grant accounts was done.

We don't have some of our big grants in like IDEA, which won't arrive if the government is shutdown.

Although we built the 2013 budget using \$500,000.00 of unrestricted Foundation Reserve, we did not spend it, but actually applied for another \$60,000.00.

Some grants we apply for during the year and receive in the spring or at the end of the year.

Jim Nocito got a \$7,500.00 grant from CASIT for Italian language.

In terms of the shutdown, if you don't have an award letter, it could be more delayed. But we do have the letter for Title 1 & 2.

Discussed the GED test center grant. The State is privatizing the GED so the assumption is there will be no GED support money.



Do we have any way of knowing if we are maximizing the amount of grant money. Is there a benchmark out there? Do we have enough personnel for grant seeking?

Criteria: can we carry out the grant (capacity)? Can we guarantee the positive data or be able to generate it easily enough? E.g. grow AP programs? Groundwork: have AP-trained teachers. Another criterion: is grant aligned with our goals?

STEM Garden Initiative Inc. has applied to be an after school vendor, but this is complex.

1. After-school programming through Community Schools
2. Provide a 4'x4' hydroponic setup and training to high school teacher (loan)
3. Proposal to City-- contacted office of Strategic Planning; they have seen the Edgerly and decided the 3 empty rooms would be good but just on a temporary basis.

Other

Argenziano door was broken again and was fixed today. Going to change door mechanisms to magnetic; will cost a lot but should be more reliable.

ESCS pipe is repaired; contractor took responsibility to fix it but is battling out cost of fixing it with designer... Someone missed a pipe in design changes when switching soccer field and basketball court; paving will be replaced by next week. Superintendent had them flush out every entrance to that pipe. City will not have to pay. The half day of school made the repair easier.

John Breslin has 360 computers he took offline this summer between the new school opening etc. and he will get a firm to clean the data and certify that the information is all destroyed. These computers will be declared surplus in the near future.

Teresa had two parents ask about recycling. Yes, we recycle in every single building but where does it go? Who picks it up? Some schools have kids collect the bins.

Parents asking about bathroom availability; are they open every day? Typically, they are open in every school, but can be locked if the rooms are out of the way and not used much. Argenziano has had significant damage in boys' bathrooms and they are now locked. Even now students are logging in and out of bathrooms.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the FY13 bill rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the FY14 bill rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the report and minutes of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of October 2, 2013. The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. DISTRICT REPORT**

- As a follow up to Marcelo's report regarding the damage from Sandy to cafeteria and auditorium, we share his concern that it's now a year later and no work yet. We are waiting for the insurance adjuster to settle the claim before we can start work. We are afraid it won't even be done by next school year. We will keep everyone informed as things develop.

Mr. Bockelman announced that a year is a really long time. He would like to request that the Capital Projects manager meet with us or provide a written update through the mayor's office. This is a huge inconvenience for students and community. We have been really patient but it's time to put a formal request into the City for more information.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to request a report from the Capital Project manager regarding the status of work on the high school's kitchen and auditorium. The motion was approved via voice vote.

- Thank you to the City and to the Mayor's Office who made it possible to send students from Next Wave/Full Circle to see the Cavalia show. Students reported on their impressions of the show in the latest Next Wave/Full Circle Newsletter.

- Wicked Local Somerville article about MCAS scores and we have been promised by editor, etc. that a large article will be in this week's edition

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report on curriculum-related issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

**PARCC**

The partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a consortium of 18 states working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. These assessments are based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which were adopted by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in July 2011.

PARCC will be piloted in a number of states in 2013-2014 and should be ready for use in 2014-2015. Massachusetts is an active member of this consortium, as well as a participant in this field test program. Moreover, we have been told that the Massachusetts Board could consider adopting PARCC as our statewide assessment system (beginning in the 2015-2016 school year) at their October or November meeting. PARCC would replace MCAS.

We were recently informed that all elementary schools in Somerville have been selected to participate in the 2014 PARCC field test, which will be administered to more than one million students across many PARCC states in grades 3-11.

Following is a summary of some important information about this pilot program:

- The primary purposes of the Field Test are to: (1) examine the quality of items so that PARCC can build assessment forms for the 2014-2015 school year; (2) test assessment administration procedures; and (3) give schools and districts the opportunity to experience the administration of PARCC assessments.
- PARCC assessments are comprised of two components: Performance-Based Assessments (PBA) and End-of-Year Assessments (EOY). PBAs will be administered at any time between March 24<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>, while EOYs are to take place at any time between May 5<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- No student will participate in the entire PARCC assessment. A student will participate in one of the two following ways: (1) some students will take both the PBA and the EOY in one content area; or (2) some students will take either the PBA or the EOY in one content area.
- Some students will take these assessments on-line, while others will take a paper/pencil version of the tests.
- We will not receive scores for students in either PBAs or EOYs.

Districts have the option of exempting students taking part in a PBA from the corresponding MCAS subject area test. However, students participating in an EOY will need to take both PARCC assessments and the complete MCAS test.

Somerville schools are participating in the PARCC Field Test. Although we are still looking carefully at the ramifications of such a decision, at this point we are skeptical about taking advantage of this option and exempting these students from MCAS. The Superintendent will make a final decision on this matter within the next few weeks.

Obviously, this is a tremendous undertaking and will require a great deal of effort and communication with staff and parents. I am committed to keeping the Committee informed regarding this process, as well as to minimizing the impact of this pilot on our instructional program.

Lastly, despite this shift in the State testing system, we will continue our focus on our own measures to assess and improve teaching and learning in Somerville.

**SHS Guidance/College Readiness Study**

Contract is to be awarded to a group from the Education Development Center. Particulars are being worked out now.

Discussion ensued regarding PARCC which included:

How pilot districts were chosen (RTTT)

The issue being a resolution at the MASC/MASS Conference in November

Concerns from other states who participate

Publicity

*Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:35 p.m.*

The Superintendent continued his report:

- Friday, October 11 – NO SCHOOL for STUDENTS – Professional Development Day
- Monday, October 14 – NO SCHOOL – Schools and offices closed in observance of Columbus Day
- Today was the MPY Safety and Security Summit and several members of the District attended. At the event, District Attorney Marian Ryan gave the Citizenship in Action Award to Richie Melillo, who spent most of his career as a Supervisor of Attendance for the District before becoming the District's Student Services Director.
- October 3 – corn shucking, employee appreciation day
- Partnerships – 9/20 Boston Cares, Biogen Idec day of service Winter Hill Community Innovation School and West Somerville Neighborhood School – Connections newsletter
- Porter square books gave gift certificate to three (3) Kennedy School students as winners of the summer reading challenge. Several students read more than 2000 pages this summer. Students who qualified has their names put into a hat and three winners were drawn. The Superintendent congratulated all of Kennedy's amazing readers

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. School Safety and Security Review Committee**

The Superintendent provided an update on this committee. Mr. Leone will chair the committee and nominations are being accepted for members to volunteer on the committee through Friday. Mr. Leone's contract is being finalized and is nearly completed. Mr. Leone will choose the members of the committee; the Superintendent and School Committee will not have a part in this. It has also been announced that meetings will be held in public session. Dates and times are not yet known as it is believed that the committee will meet and determine mutually agreeable times.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

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

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$7,500.00 from C.A.S.I.T. to the Italian Program at Somerville High School.

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

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 from the Beveridge Family Foundation to the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park. Funds will be used to purchase books to support the literacy program for first grade classrooms.

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

### **B. 2013 Somerville High School Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)**

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from Somerville High School, be granted their diplomas:

- Esperanta Gelin
- Jacques Preval

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal to approve the diplomas, with congratulations.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **C. FY2013 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:

Jakeuderm Bernadin	5 River Road, #507	Somerville	02145
Julia L. Melgar	10A Memorial Road, #33	Somerville	02145

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the SCALE graduates, with congratulations.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**D. Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)**

School Committee Vote: Members of the School Committee elect an official voting delegate and alternate for the November, 2013 Annual Business Meeting of the MASC. At our next meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>, members will vote on the following resolutions (full text included in packet) being forwarded by MASC's Resolutions Committee for consideration:

1. Funding for K-12 Transient Student Success
2. Performance Assessment for Readiness for College and Career
3. Teacher Evaluation
4. Evaluation of the Commissioner of Education
5. Confirming Actions from 2012
  - a) Establishment of a Special Commission of the Legislature for the Study of Mandated Reports and Data Submissions for Schools Districts
  - b) Modification of the Circuit Breaker Formula
  - c) Health Insurance Coverage for Medically Necessary Treatment in School
  - d) Funding for Educator Evaluation System
  - e) Relative to an Adequacy Study
  - f) Election of Governing Boards of Commonwealth Charter Schools

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, nominating Ms. Rossetti to be the School Committee's delegate at the Annual Business Meeting of the MASC.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**E. National School Boards Association Northeast Region Conference (Ms. Rossetti)**

Ms. Rossetti provided a report on her attendance at the NSBA's Northeast Region Conference. Highlights included:

- A presentation by Dr. Kate Kemker, Southeast Education Development Executive for Apple, Inc. Dr. Kemker's presentation included: "Digital Convergence", Apple's focus on education 2010-2015, and the EPub App.
- Dr. John King, Commissioner of Education in New York who spoke about the transition to the Common Core and the challenges of the new assessment system that corresponds with the Common Core. Please visit the New York Department of Education's website at [www.EngageNY.org](http://www.EngageNY.org) for more information.
- Rashid Ferrod Davis, Founding Principal of "Pathways in Technology Early College High School" (P-Tech), Brooklyn, NY. This is a grade 9-14 program that has students earning an Associate's Degree in Computer Science upon completion. Statistics about how students are chosen for the program, success rates, demographics, student and staff retention etc.

For more information, please contact Ms. Rossetti who is happy to share notes and handouts.

**VIII. COMMUNICATIONS****A. New Bunker Hill Partnership – STAND**

Announced that Somerville High School nursing students and Bunker Hill Community School are partnering in the Students Taking Action for Nursing Diversity (STAND) program – a wonderful opportunity for our pre-nursing students. If they participate, they are guaranteed admission upon successful completion of all prerequisites. Please refer to the pamphlet in the packet.

**B. Thank you letter from NEA President**

Self-explanatory – see letter in packet regarding the recent visit to the Winter Hill Community Innovation School.

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

1. Asked if there would be department/subject presentations at regular meetings again?
  2. Spoke about the Mass Computer Users Conference each year and how with all the new technology available, there is almost an app a minute!
- Dr. McKay is working on a schedule of presentations and will discuss in the next couple of weeks.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Announced that the Ed Programs Subcommittee meets tomorrow night and shared some details including reviewing the agenda which includes - Kennedy School parents and principal will be there to give an update on the Innovation School Proposal, MCAS results, PARCC, and program updates
2. Reported on his attendance at a Somerville High School Building Committee meeting – Mr. Ciccariello presented information regarding the proposed Steam Academy and its impact on development on Somerville High School. Also discussed their recent visit to Quincy High School. The meeting included a presentation by Daniel Hadley of Somerstat on enrollment and population statistics.

Mr. Niedergang asked for a copy of the enrollment analysis.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Reported that, regarding the Capital improvement issue, updates are being made to the CIP on the status of school requests and will be published in near future.
2. Announced as a follow up on the possibility of the branding project that we need to sell educational accolades and work together to promote the city and schools and send the true and right message!

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of adding this as an item for Long Range Planning in November.

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Issued thanks to the Mayor for following up on PR campaign/branding issue.
2. Thanked Mr. Sweeting for his letter to Somerville Journal
3. Although relationships with media groups are important, playground conversation also plays a critical role in the perception of our schools and city. Onward and upward, etc.!

**Mrs. Cardoso**

1. The SomerStreets program ends with their fall event in Wards 2 and 3 with the Monster Mash-up and will include a costume parade, safe trick or treat and live entertainment, etc.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Rules management met this evening prior to our regular meeting and the subcommittee report will be made at our next meeting. On the agenda were Life Threatening Food Allergies and the Concussion policies.
2. Mr. Sweeting continues to work with Steam Academy on their proposal.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Announced the Long Range Planning Meeting on Tuesday, 10/15 at 7:00 pm. On the agenda are the development of a tool for evaluating the Superintendent and a representative from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees will attend the meeting to offer assistance with this task. Also on the agenda are discussion of facilities and the development of a goal setting template.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Ronald Colman, father of Ron Colman, custodian at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.

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

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of September 23, 2013 for approval
3. A letter from C.A.S.I.T. re: a donation of \$7,500.00 to the World Language Program
4. A letter from the Beveridge Family Foundation re: a donation to the Argenziano School
5. A request for two (2) Somerville High School Diplomas
6. A request for two (2) SCALE ADP Diplomas
7. A copy of the MASC Resolutions for review prior to voting at our next meeting
8. A letter and flyer re: the STAND Program partnership between Somerville High and Bunker Hill Community College.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Monday, October 21, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

7:06 p.m. - Board of Aldermen's Chambers - 93 Highland Avenue

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

Members absent:

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:06 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rossetti asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 9 – Roix, Sweeting, Niedergang, Cardoso, Rafal, Bockelman, Rossetti White, and Curtatone.

**II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our Student Representative, Marcelo Brociner, provided the following report on happenings at Somerville High School:

- The College Fair is taking place now in the high school gym. Many students are looking at colleges which have representatives with tables of information, etc. at tonight's fair.
- At the last meeting, Mr. Brociner reported that the Student Council would be discussing the new advisory period with the Headmaster. Mr. Brociner and other Student Council representatives were told that they would need signatures of 2/3 of senior class to push this matter further. In five (5) days, 203 signatures of the 282 class members were collected, so we are progressing towards college prep being addressed during the advisory period.
- Questioned the status of the cafeteria and auditorium repairs and the obvious slow progression. Unhappy with the food being cooked off-site at 9 a.m. and then reheated and served later. Students are wondering if action could be taken to fix the affected areas with the cafeteria as the priority. It is essential to get back on track with school events, etc. with the auditorium, as well.

Discussion ensued regarding insurance issues and the time it takes to settle claims, arranging the repairs through Capital Projects, a reminder of the lengthy process following the fire at the ESCS, and everyone's wish to have these projects move forward to get life back to some sort of normalcy with the use of auditorium and kitchen at Somerville High. Mayor Curtatone asserted that as soon as word comes through, he will notify the School Committee and ask that the communication be sent to Mr. Brociner. Members also expressed their thanks for Mr. Brociner bringing "deep" issues to the School Committee.

On November 14, the School Committee will meet for Long Range Planning and, based on availability, hope to have our Capital Projects Manager at the meeting to address two (2) issues that will be combined – the status of repairs at Somerville High School and the long range future use of facilities in the city. The Superintendent will contact Mr. Bandini to confirm his availability for this evening.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the use of the Advisory Period, time for assistance with college applications and the RFP for the College Readiness and Guidance Strategy evaluation (EDC was awarded the contract).

**III. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting:** Oct. 7 (Mr. Sweeting)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Committee Room, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA  
In attendance: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Roix and Mr. Sweeting  
Also in attendance: Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, and Mr. Pierantozzi.  
Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

1. File JJIF: Athletic Concussion Policy
2. File JLCDD: Managing Life Threatening Allergies in the Educational Environment

Mr. Sweeting provided a brief report on the Rules Management Meeting of October 7. His report included:

Providing background on the Athletic Concussion Policy – File JJIF - Mr. Sweeting spoke somewhat from experience as his son and our student representative, Mr. Brociner, along with other athletes were victims of concussions this fall.

Our current Concussion Policy was drawn up last year and now we have new, updated protocols coming to the School Committee for a vote.

Whether a concussion comes from a serious injury or not, the ramifications are all serious and need to be treated as such and students need to be monitored. Every 2 years, there is a pretest of athletes for baseline record establishment, etc. With young people growing fast and their bodies changing all the time, it is important to monitor their wellbeing.

Each step related to monitoring students who have experience a concussion/head injury is clearly outlined in writing and all policy and procedural information is included in policy manuals, handbooks, etc.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to amend File JJIF-R: Athletic Concussion Policy and forward for first reading on October 21, 2013.

The motion was passed via voice vote.

File JLCDD: Managing Life Threatening Allergies in the Educational Environment – no action taken as more information needs to be reviewed i.e. insuring food safety (tree nuts), etc. We also need a clearer statement from our health officials and, after our Board of Health administrators review the current protocols, the policy will come back to Rules. We have also asked for a legal opinion from MASC or MASS regarding our options regarding establishing nut-free zones, prohibiting certain food from being allowed in our schools, etc.? It is essential that we understand the parameters before moving forward on this policy.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the report and minutes of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting of October 7, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**B. *Education Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting:*** Oct. 8 (Mr. Bockelman)

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

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Roix

Also in attendance: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, and six additional audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

1. Kennedy Innovation update
2. MCAS results
3. "Parent Advisory" committee discussion
4. Updates:
  - PARCC assessment pilot
  - Early Childhood initiative
  - Winter Hill Innovation
  - STEAM innovation
  - current curriculum initiatives
  - enrollment
5. Other

Mr. Bockelman gave a preliminary report on the Educational Programs Subcommittee Meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the report and minutes of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of October 8, 2013.

Mr. Roix asked if Mr. Bockelman would be reporting on the agenda item regarding Community Schools. Mr. Bockelman expressed that he had neglected to include that in his report and that he would provide at our next meeting.

Mr. Bockelman asked that the report be tabled and he will add the Community Schools Report at next meeting.

Mr. Bockelman withdrew his motion accepting the report and minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to lay the report of Ed Programs on table.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The full report of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting will be voted at our next meeting.

Ms. Rafal assumed the Chair so that Ms. Rossetti could provide her report on Long Range Planning.

**C. *School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:*** Oct. 15 (Ms. Rossetti)

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

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

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Hernandez-Morgan, Mr. Glenn Koocher (MASC) and 15 audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

1. Superintendent's Evaluation Form - The School Committee invited Mr. Glenn Koocher from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) to attend this meeting to provide guidance regarding the Superintendent's evaluation. Mr. Koocher reminded members that there are currently 875 rules and regulations regarding evaluation. The MASC has condensed this information into a 12 page document.  
Mrs. Cardoso was appointed to chair the Special Committee for the Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools.  
Mr. Koocher reviewed our current tool and stated, "Our past evaluation tool is more ambitious than most districts." Ms. Rossetti reported that we are on the mark to be in line with changes in the regulations.  
The Evaluation Committee will meet on Wednesday evening to determine whether changes be made to the tool and to guide Mrs. Cardoso as to how to aggregate the information received from the various stakeholders as well as School Committee members.  
Mr. Koocher suggested that the School Committee consider developing a mid-year formative assessment tool to use in evaluating the Superintendent next year.  
Ms. Rossetti reported that this will be taken into consideration and reminded members that the tool used needs to be negotiated with the Superintendent as his contract states that the tool must be mutually agreed upon.
2. Long Range Goal Setting—this item has been talked about at numerous meetings. It is time again to set new goals for the District to have in place. Updates were last done In February 2012, and it is now time to re-evaluate. Our previous form provided for inclusion of regular reports on current goals, the person responsible, etc.  
Discussion also ensued on community input before voting on new goals. Some parents weighed in. One parent from the Argenziano School said that many parents would like to give feedback; nothing has been set in stone regarding this feedback. The tool is being reviewed. Ms. Rafal will be working on this more following the caucus in December and will send a memo to the various stakeholder groups with a heads up regarding goal setting, etc., to allow for advance notice so that groups can organize and join the meeting and provide input.
3. Facilities—part of the packet was the memo regarding the future use of buildings, and discussion took place regarding meeting with city leaders regarding future use, including the TAB Building rental, Edgerly, Cummings, SHS future project, and repairs from last October's storm. Mr. Skip Bandini from Capital Projects will be invited to our next meeting to help us address these questions. The next Meeting will be scheduled for November 14.
4. Other PARCC –Letter to BOE, etc. - This item was forwarded to the Committee of the Whole by Mr. Sweeting following the Educational Programs meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> and the upcoming meeting date of Board of Education—Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and the PARCC rollout. There is serious concern raised by this body relative to the fast pace of this rollout.

Mr. Sweeting expressed that we personally deliver our letter regarding the delay of PARCC testing to the Board of Education. The Superintendent requested through the Department of Education and his request was accepted. Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Sweeting will be given 3 minutes each at the board meeting tomorrow and will present statements and deliver letters to the board members.



It seems now that there has been much misunderstanding and that the Commissioner is only seeking approval of the pilot program, not whole program. Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rossetti will provide reports from their attendance at the board meeting.

The following motions were approved at the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:

Ms. Rossetti read the motions made and approved at Long Range into the record of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2013.

MOTION: That the Director of Capital Projects be asked to attend the next Long Range Planning Committee meeting for further discussion of facilities (i.e. SHS, Cummings, Edgerly and T.A.B buildings).

MOTION: WHEREAS: the Somerville School Committee questions the reliability, validity, and equivalency of the PARCC test when compared to the MCAS test;

NOW, THEREFORE: The Somerville School Committee voices its opposition to the roll-out plans for the PARCC test and requests that the Massachusetts Board of Education delay the vote to accept the PARCC test for one year until after the field tests have been completed and the results analyzed and,

FURTHER: That the Secretary to the School Committee convey the content of this motion to the Massachusetts Board of Education, the Secretary of Education, the Commissioner of Education and to the elected state representatives representing Somerville.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of October 15, 2013.  
The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

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

In members' packets is a three page report with the addition of four (4) retirements. Mr. Pierantozzi announced the wonderful work done by our retiring staff members:

1. Elaine Cullinane, Special Education Facilitator, 43 years
2. Sandra Moriarty, Paraprofessional, 15 years
3. Christine Colangelo, Teacher, 31 years
4. Sharon Staples, Counselor Educator, 18 years

Mr. Pierantozzi thanked these staff members for their years of service and wished them a long, happy and health retirement!

The report also contained three (3) resignations – one paraprofessional and two food service employees, six (6) Leaves of Absences and five (5) inter-district transactions.

There is also a lengthy list of new hires—most of whom are part-time.

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

The Superintendent announced he has two very good items to report on –MCAS results #1 in state in terms of growth, urban district

- Somerville High School was recently named a *Boston Globe* Dreamschool. SHS ranked #13 overall among all Massachusetts high schools, according to the *Boston Globe's* new Dreamschool rating system. The Dreamschool rating system looks at 6 factors: MCAS Math SGP, MCAS ELA SGP, School Climate, College Readiness, School Resources, and Diversity.
- Congratulations to the Mayor and his staff for the recent negotiation with Tufts University—yeoman's work was done in negotiations culminating in an agreement which included some financial and academic matters. Please see below for an excerpt from the Mayor's Press Release:

The City of Somerville and Tufts University have reached a partnership agreement through which Tufts will contribute \$1.375 million over five years to the City. As part of the agreement, Tufts will also waive the university's application fee for Somerville High School students and provide college preparation assistance for Somerville students beginning in the sixth grade.

Tufts will make annual payments to the City of \$275,000, representing a significant increase of nearly two-thirds more in financial payments, from \$175,000 to \$275,000 per year, as well as the inclusion of the new provisions to both support and benefit Somerville Public School students.

Those provisions include Tufts agreeing to waive the \$70 application fee for students applying from Somerville High School and that the university's Dean of Undergraduate Admission will personally read and evaluate applications from Somerville High School students. Tufts will bring the entire Somerville High School ninth grade class to the university's campus during the school year for early exposure and awareness about the college process, and will offer SAT preparation tutoring, essay writing workshops for applying students and writing workshops for teachers who are preparing recommendations for their students.

Alderman White requested data from the last 5 years regarding tufts students' tutoring, etc. How many Somerville students went on to study at Tufts? Can an hourly component be determined?

Alderman White would like Tufts to set aside a few seats/provide money for our graduates

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report on curriculum-related issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

**Data meetings, School Improvement Planning**

Last Wednesday was the school improvement council's orientation meeting which was very well attending. This is the beginning of the season that the School Improvement Plans are developed. These Plans are intended to be living documents, in effect a road map for each school's improvement planning. The school principal is the key person here, since they lead the School Improvement Council while leading the instructional program at the school. For this reason, this year I have initiated a new data review process aimed at supporting the school improvement planning process. This process utilizes the skills of our new data analyst – and I want to thank you for the support for this new, part-time, position – to provide detailed data about their school's path forward.

We are almost complete with the first round of meetings, held at each school with the principal, the data analyst Stephanie Hirsch - and in most cases the Special Education Director Debbie Connell and ELL Director Sarah Davila as well – we review the data with the principal. That data includes student demographics and enrollment, latest school achievement data and tracking of student participation in supplemental support programs. At the second round of meetings, which will start in about a month, there will be a series of follow up items and a new round of data to continue the refinement of the action plans.

Again, our goal is to make the SIP a living document which guides and tightly monitors the school's progress, is our goal. During the spring budget season, these Plans will also very influential in the principal's budget request for the next fiscal year.

**Educator Evaluation:** Now in our second year of implementation, the processes themselves are unchanged, as you know, but we are moving ahead. This new approach has a new training component that features school-based teams, made up of both teachers and administrators, to deliver the content related to the new evaluation system. As you know, we've collaborated with the Somerville Teachers Association This first part of this training, a two hour session, took place on the October 11 Professional Development day. These sessions went very well received, and we're looking forward to the next session on November 5.

Software implementation to be used to manage the paper associated with Ed Evaluation.

**PSAT:** Last Wednesday, almost 500 SHS sophomores and juniors took the PSAT.

This is our 5<sup>th</sup> year in providing the test, free, to our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. This is an important statement of our values as a school community: That we value college readiness, the expectation that all SHS grads will be ready for college. We believe that the opportunity to pursue higher education is a door open to all of our students.

Mr. Bockelman asked about the revisions of the School Improvement Plan template.

Dr. McKay responded that he has not revised the template yet, but is in the process of making some final revisions to template.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- On Wednesday, October 16, the District held School Council training where attendees reviewed the law, work of School Councils, number and makeup of membership. These meetings are also a device

of the law and are held to the same standards relative to the Open Meeting Law, etc. The training/orientation was successful with an agenda that was rapid and rigorous with quite a good dialogue!

Discussion ensued as to number of students taking the PSAT and the criteria for taking the test.

- Congratulations to Somerville High School Senior Ken Allen for being invited to participate in the Massachusetts Junior Academy of Science Symposium held at MIT on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Ken was one of 13 Massachusetts students invited to participate in this Symposium. Symposium participants made oral presentations of the research they conducted for their first-place science fair projects in the Spring of 2013. Ken's was titled "Sailing: The Balance Point of Speed and Direction." Congratulations, Ken and thanks for representing Somerville with distinction!

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director, Patricia Durette, for her report on financial issues. Ms. Durette's report follows:

- On November 6, the Finance Department will undergo an audit initiated by the Department of Early Education and Care of the RTT Early Learning Challenge Grant. This grant was approved last year to be used for strategic planning for children from birth to grade 3 and the audit will examine programmatic and fiscal issues.
- The Finance Department has finished all final financial grant reports for grants ending August 31. All final spending reports are due within 2 months of the end of the grant's end date. New grants for FY14 are coming in and we have received the first payment for most grants.
- Procurement issues—the stage curtain at Kennedy School is the original curtain from 15 years ago and is in bad condition - tattered and ripped. The Finance Office is currently seeking quotes for a replacement curtain.
- The Finance Office is also looking for a contract vendor for dental equipment to be placed in the new dental program and this equipment is being purchased through a state grant

Mr. Niedergang issued his thanks for the new curtain at the Kennedy.

Ms. Rafal asked about Somerville submitting nominees for the Presidential Scholars Program and Mr. Pierantozzi informed members that the form was received today and forwarded to the High school Headmaster.

Mr. Niedergang expressed his concern regarding the fact that several of our parent liaisons hired last year have resigned. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that some liaisons have taken other positions within the Somerville Public Schools and believes financial considerations may have led to these resignations.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> – El Sistema Harvest Concert, 5:30pm at the East Somerville Community School.
- Fall College Fair – TONIGHT at the SHS Atrium. Nearly 90 colleges/universities are on hand to meet with students and offer information about their programs.
- Wednesday, October 23rd – SPS Volunteer Training: Helping English Language Learners

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. School Safety and Security Review Committee**

The Superintendent provided an update on School Safety and Security Review Committee. Mr. Pierantozzi communicated late this afternoon with Mr. Leone. Statements of Interest from individuals were forwarded to Mr. Leone for his review. These statements contained submissions by five staff members, two law enforcement representatives, two parent/guardians, a mental health professional, and several Somerville High School students. Mr. Leone will determine the committee members after reviewing the statements of interest. Also, Mr. Leone's contract is being finalized now.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of a 2000 Honda Odyssey Van from Susan Post of Somerville, MA to the CVTE Automotive Repair Department at Somerville High School. Value, as determined by donor, is \$10,000.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$100.00 from Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone to the Somerville High School Cheerleading Team.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote. Mayor Curtatone recused himself from voting.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of eight (8) fish tanks/aquariums, from Luke Vietas of Somerville, MA to the Science Department of the Somerville Public Schools. Value, as determined by donor is \$830.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote

**B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Mr. Sweeting)**

The following policy is presented for first reading, as amended:

File: JJIF-R Athletic Concussion Policy Regulations

**C. Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)**

School Committee Vote: Members of the School Committee vote on the following resolutions (full text included in packet) being forwarded by MASC's Resolutions Committee for consideration:

Ms. Rossetti read the titles of the resolutions into the record of the meeting.

1. Funding for K-12 Transient Student Success
2. Performance Assessment for Readiness for College and Career--
3. Teacher Evaluation
4. Evaluation of the Commissioner of Education
5. Confirming Actions from 2012
  - a) Establishment of a Special Commission of the Legislature for the Study of Mandated Reports and Data Submissions for Schools Districts
  - b) Modification of the Circuit Breaker Formula
  - c) Health Insurance Coverage for Medically Necessary Treatment in School
  - d) Funding for Educator Evaluation System
  - e) Relative to an Adequacy Study
  - f) Election of Governing Boards of Commonwealth Charter Schools

Ms. Rossetti, as the School Committee's voting delegate, sought direction from members on how they wish her to vote on these resolutions.

Mr. Sweeting responded that Ms. Rossetti should vote her conscience to make the best decision for our district, etc.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, that Ms. Rossetti cast her votes on the resolutions by reflecting on what feels like the School Committee's consensus feelings and that members know that she will give each item her full deliberation and fully support her decisions.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Reported on his attendance at the College Fair. He is wearing two hats while giving this report; one as a parent of a high school junior and the other as a School Committee Representative. Very impressed by the numbers and range of schools represented. He knew it was a success when he found it hard to find a place to park. Congratulations to the event organizers!
2. Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rossetti will be traveling to Malden tomorrow morning to attend the Board of Education meeting and share the School Committee's concerns regarding the PARCC test - a follow-up report will be given.

**Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Announced the meeting of the Special Committee for the Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools being held on Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. The original start date was 7:00 p.m., but the Call has been amended to reflect the new start time.

2. The Ward Two Resistat meeting will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Argenziano School.
3. There will be a Lincoln Park "Listening Session" from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on October 30<sup>th</sup>, also at the Argenziano School.
4. Requested that the Superintendent forward the Annual Halloween Letter to the DPW.

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Reported that there are still some technical difficulties with sending the Tufts Agreement email, but he will be sure to get it to the Superintendent and Ms. Marques for forwarding.

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Thanked Mrs. Cardoso for being diligent about safety and mentioned that, last year, crossing guards were also stationed in some areas.
2. Regarding the partnerships with Tufts, Ms. Rafal met in August with Community Relations and their office was very busy and may not be readily available to provide the information requested.
3. Congratulated Winter Hill Community School for winning the corn shucking contest.
4. Lauded our Athletic Trainer for her great work!
5. Mentioned tips from her daughters' attendance at the Pathways to College Conference at MIT including one that encourage juniors to write their essays over the summer and to check college application dates and send your application as soon as it is ready. Don't wait for the deadline!

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Ms. Rossetti reported that, years ago, she used to attend monthly meetings with Barbara Rubel and Bob Snow and various department heads from Tufts. The group met for three (3) years and when it appeared that the tables had turned, Ms. Rossetti stepped back. She wonders now if these meetings should be reinstated.

Mr. Pierantozzi will forward an extensive list of partnerships with Tufts which includes activities, partnerships, supports, acceptance data, etc.

Mr. White announced that he has been spoiled by SomerStat when it comes to data reports!

2. Ms. Rossetti thanked the West Somerville PTA and colleagues for a fun Spelling Bee. The PTA raised some money and is planning another event for next year!
3. Ms. Rossetti commended the Local History Club for their work at the Ward 2 SomerStreets event on Sunday. Along with a parade from Union Square to Conway Park and contests with hundreds of families participating with such beautiful weather, our students volunteered at the Milk Row Cemetery with tours for about 4-5 hours and represented Somerville High School very well. Thanked students for volunteering and Brandon Wilson for organizing the tours.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. via voice vote.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

1. Agenda
2. October 2013 Personnel Report
3. Three (3) donation acceptance forms
4. File JJIF and JJIF-R Athletic Concussion Policy and Regulations
5. A copy of the MASC Resolutions Document
6. A condolence letter to Ronald Colman

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Monday, November 4, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Roix, Alderman White (7:36 p.m.) and Mayor Curtatone (7:37 p.m.).

Members absent:

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti 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. Ms. Rossetti asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Roix, Sweeting, Niedergang, Cardoso, Rafal, Bockelman, and Rossetti and ABSENT – 2 - White, Curtatone.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- October 7, 2013 Regular Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the minutes of October 7, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- October 21, 2013 Regular Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of October 21, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our student representative, Marcelo Brociner, reported on the following happenings at Somerville High School:

- He started by stating that the only problem with New England is the weather; it got cold overnight, and today is the first day of bitter, relentless cold which makes us want to stay inside now.
- Happy to report that the Somerville High School Boys Soccer team won in their first tournament game by a score of 4-0. Tomorrow the team faces Brookline at Dilboy at 3:00 p.m.
- Winter sports teams are gearing up with students preparing for tryouts, etc.
- Announced a new cable television program for youth through SCAT. This is especially good for students in the TV and Media program.
- Provided a follow-up on the Advisory Period. Last week, when students went to their classroom, there was a sign on the door stating, "We are currently in the computer lab working on Common Applications." This is great for students and makes life less stressful.
- Mr. Brociner is proud of the work of the Student Council and the initiatives they have undertaken to make changes to the school. He hopes more and more students will become involved and encourages students to join.

Mr. Sweeting issued a compliment to Marcelo on his good work in school as well as on the soccer field.

**IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**B. Education Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting:** Oct. 8 (Mr. Bockelman)

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

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Steve Roix, Adam Sweeting

Also present: Teresa Cardoso, Mark Niedergang, Christine Rafal, Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Chad Mazza, Ann Foley and 10 members of the public.

Mr. Bockelman's report is as follows:

1. Kennedy Innovation Planning Update – provided by Jennifer Phillips, Anthony Sharp (teacher), and Principal Ann Foley. The three members of the Innovation School Committee presented a status report on the most recent developments as summarized in the attached PowerPoint.

2. Chad Mazza updated the Subcommittee on status of the Winter Hill Innovation School implementation. A team of teachers, administrators and even a parent attended a week-long training this summer on the new classroom management system they are using called Responsive Classroom. He said they have begun implementing this and that the entire building is on board. It has led to a very positive start to the school year. He also said they are beginning to discuss the implementation of a uniform policy. More to come on that.
3. Parent Advisory Committee. We added this to the agenda at the request of Ms. Rafal to formally involve parents in a constructive way in helping to frame policy decisions...especially parents and guardians who aren't normally involved including immigrant parents. The goal would be to provide meaningful access to school decision-making. We discussed the excellent work already being done by the Somerville Family Learning Center under the direction of Sarah Davila. We took no action on this but thought it might make sense for the Long Range Planning Committee to take this on. One suggested name was to call it an "enfranchisement committee".
4. Community Schools Discussion. We added this to the agenda at the request of Mr. Roix. We reviewed a memo from Jennie McGoldrick, Director of the Community Schools program; she reported a slight increase in enrollment, especially at the East Somerville Community School, our largest source of students. The memo is available for review.
5. Updates: PARCC; we discussed the proposed implementation of PARCC, a new assessment system that is designed to replace MCAS. Members had serious concerns about the reliability and validity of the test and the equivalency with existing MCAS data. After extensive discussion and concern that the new assessment tool was being rolled out very quickly and without even being field tested, the Subcommittee voted:

WHEREAS: The Somerville School Committee questions the reliability, validity, and equivalency of the PARCC test when compared to the MCAS test;

NOW, THEREFORE: The Somerville School Committee voices its opposition to the roll-out plans for the PARCC test and requests that the Massachusetts Board of Education delay the vote to accept the PARCC test for one year until after the field tests have been completed and the results analyzed, and,

FURTHER: That the Secretary to the School Committee convey the content of this motion to the Massachusetts Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, and to the elected state representatives representing Somerville.

6. We reviewed the October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment numbers, which the state uses as our official enrollment data. We show a total enrollment of 4,962 (compared with 4,826 last year) with much of the enrollment increase occurring in the early elementary grades but growth pretty much across the board. Good news.
7. We began to discuss the very important news of the MCAS results, but agreed that a more detailed, comprehensive discussion would be had at the December meeting. While our MCAS results are really amazing – truly impressive – we did want to know which of the strategies that we were using seemed to be having the greatest impact and where the test results showed extraordinary strength and weakness.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the report and minutes of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of October 8, 2013.

**C. *Special Committee for the Evaluation of the Superintendent:*** Oct. 23 (Mrs. Cardoso)

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

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

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, and 2 audience members (Carrie Normand and John Carreiro).

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. and adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The Superintendent's Evaluation was the only item on the agenda:

As a continuation of the discussion at our last Long Range Planning Meeting we discussed the possibility of having public input/comment in the Superintendent's Evaluation this year and after some further discussion decided that it was too late in the year to begin this process – we looked at the Brookline model and they begin their process (which does include public input/comment) in the Spring). It was suggested and agreed that in early 2014 when the new School Committee discusses their Long Range Goals they add this matter to their discussion in order to allow plenty of time for its implementation if they so choose. Also, we agreed to use the same tool, rating scale and process as we did last year.

Next we discussed the Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline and made the necessary date adjustments and there was a motion by the Committee to approve the timeline.

MOTION: To approve the 2013 Superintendent of Schools Evaluation Timeline.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the report and minutes of the meeting of the Special Committee for the Evaluation of the Superintendent of October 23, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. DISTRICT REPORT**

- Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Development Day. There is no school for students that day, but there will be bake sales across the city held to raise funds for various student activities.
- Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, all SPS schools/offices will be closed in observance of Veterans Day.
- The 2013 SHS Fall College Fair was a great success, with more than 100 colleges and universities from around the U.S. represented at the Fair last month. Students had an opportunity to learn about college options in preparation for the next step in their educational journeys.
- Congratulations to the following 5 Posse Scholarship finalists from Somerville High School. Each of these students is under final consideration for full 4-year scholarships to some of the Northeast's most prestigious liberal arts colleges:
  - Robert "RJ" Bingham (Bucknell University)
  - Diego Aldana (Bucknell University)
  - Brenna Forristall (Union College)
  - Yuying Guo (Bryn Mawr College)
  - Anthony Scrima (Bucknell University)

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent Vincent McKay for his report on curriculum-related matters. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. Professional Development Day tomorrow, major portion of the day devoted to educator evaluation. Focus on the first two phases of the evaluation cycle, Self-Assessment and Goal-Setting.
2. Pleased to announce that my office, in collaboration with the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative is bringing noted author David Kirp to Somerville on March 12th. Please hold the date, the evening of March 12. Dr. Kirp, a professor at the education school at U Cal Berkeley, is the author of *Improbable Scholars*. I have copies of the book available for members to read.
3. A group of 5 staff members (including Uri Harel, 3 K-5 math coaches, and 1 6-8 math coach) attended the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Baltimore on October 17th.

The goals in attending were to:

- 1) Find resources for addressing identified gaps in the Investigations and CMP2 curriculum (ex. fractions on a number line, Kindergarten number sense)
- 2) Find methods for preparing students for more rigorous application problems as seen in the new Common Core Standards and the upcoming PARCC tests
- 3) Coordinate our K-8 coaching efforts across schools and the district, specifically in the mathematical practices and concepts we focus on



The day exceeded expectations in addressing these three goals. The team came back with numerous resources (included technology) and are already making changes to our pacing guides, supplemental appendices, and common assessments.

4. Finally, congratulations to the El Sistema program and East Somerville Community School for a very successful Harvest Concert on Oct. 29. Mrs. Rossetti joined almost 300 community members for a wonderful evening of music. The musical selections varied from folk music to classical and rock. The concert was followed by a pot-luck supper in the school cafeteria. It was the first big school event to be held in the new school auditorium!

Ms. Rafal asked if the District is using a consultant this year to work on Educator Evaluation. We have taken a very different approach this year. The whole program of the delivery of information to teachers is done in collaboration with the STA and a consultant who was jointly hired. Trainings have been done as a joint venture, as well.

Ms. Rafal also asked if the event where there will be a presentation by Dr. Kirp will be open to the public or if it is by invitation only. It is a public event and there will be a limited number of books made available to share.

Mr. Niedergang asked about when the School Committee may be receiving a presentation regarding student MCAS scores and an analysis on why the scores were so outstanding this year. This topic will be on the agenda for the December Ed. Programs Subcommittee Meeting.

Mr. Sweeting asked if the goal of the work regarding Educator Evaluation is that everyone will leave with a clear understanding of how it will work and have clear expectations, etc.?

Mr. McKay explained that there are six (6) required 2 hour modules to the training and each component has a required curriculum and gave the schedule for addressing each module.

Mr. Sweeting asked if State protocols are being followed and Dr. McKay responded that they were.

Mr. Roix asked how we determine maximum class size, is it contractual, and how often we review class sizes.

The Superintendent explained that the contractual maximum is 30, but we have never even approached even 25. We try to keep 18-22 primary, 22-23 intermediaries, and we work very hard to keep class sizes at an effective size across the system. The Average class size is around 19. Smile and Kindergarten classes also have a paraprofessional in them.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative will be among the featured Panels at the 2013 MASC/MASS Joint Conference, November 6-9 in Hyannis, MA. The SFLC session will be offered on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, and will focus on building and sustaining community partnerships to strengthen family engagement in support of student learning.

Participation at SFLC events has increased from 1,000 parents attending in year one, to having 3,000 parents, guardians, etc. who participated last year and it is our pleasure to share what we've learned!

- Boys Soccer vs. Brookline in MIAA North Division 1 Play – Tuesday night, 3pm at Dilboy Field. Top-seeded Somerville defeated Cambridge, 4-0, Sunday afternoon to advance to the Quarterfinal match against Brookline.
- Congratulations to the Somerville High School Football, Varsity Boys' Soccer, Cheerleading, and Volleyball Teams for advancing to MIAA post-season competition this year. Thank you for your commitment and leadership. The Boys' Soccer team continues its post-season play tomorrow night.

Congratulations to our athletes, parents/guardians coaches and Athletic Department for great play and, most of all, good sportsmanship at all events!

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

- The 2014 budget book has been placed at members' seats and includes an updated staffing plan, etc. Also, an updated personnel plan for 2014 which updates preliminary staffing plan with actual positions as they are now filled—current positions, locations, salaries, etc.

Budget documents are currently on the Somerville Public Schools website in various pieces and we are working to put everything into one document.

- Announced that the November Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting will be moved from November 6<sup>th</sup> to November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- Upcoming SFLC Workshops:
  - Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>: Grand parenting – the Joys and Challenges, 6:30-8:00pm at the Argenziano School.
  - Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>: Creating Meaningful Family Traditions without Spending Lots of Money, 5:30-7:00pm at the WSNS.
- Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am to noon @ the Healey School: 2013 Family Literacy Fair, featuring Curious George and a wide range of fun literacy activities for children aged birth to 6 years old. Families are encouraged to stop by to learn about the many resources and fun activities available to Somerville families with young children.

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Safety and Security Review Committee Update

The Superintendent provided an update on the Safety and Security Review Committee. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19 and the second on Tuesday, November 26, both at 5:15 p.m. All of the various stakeholder groups will be represented with a total of 13 individuals on the Committee.

*Alderman White and Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:36 p.m. and 7:37 p.m., respectively.*

Although these are public meetings, Ms. Rossetti discouraged School Committee members from attending.

### B. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Mr. Sweeting)

The following policy is presented for second reading, as amended:

File: JJIF-R Athletic Concussion Policy Regulations

Mr. Sweeting explained the practice associated with policy review – Rules Management review, first reading, second reading, etc.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Acceptance of Donations

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of \$5,000.00 from the Duhamel Education Initiative to the Somerville Public Schools to be used to fund the Bambury Duhamel Argenziano Roars morning tutoring program at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of a \$10.00 gift certificate to the Somerville Public Schools, from Mr. Michael Kamio on behalf of Anna's Taqueria, to be used as a prize at the High School for their dress-up contest.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**B. Full Circle High School Summer School Graduate** (recommended action: approval)  
The Superintendent recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the necessary requirements, be granted a Full Circle diploma:

- Aaron Messina

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the Full Circle Graduate, with congratulations.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

### **VIII. COMMUNICATIONS**

- Thank you card from Joe Tringale and family on the remembrance of their late father at a recent School Committee Meeting.
- Thank you letter from Beth Britz on awarding her a citation on the occasion of her retirement.
- Letters from the Triton Regional School District—regarding PARCC—mirrors concepts communicated by MJR and AS at BOE meeting

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

#### **Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Read the Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline aloud.
2. Announced Bake Sales by the AFA PTA at the school and public safety building tomorrow.

#### **Ms. Rafal**

1. Wished everyone a happy Veterans Day. Ms. Rafal holds veterans in her heart and is thinking of them!

#### **Mayor Curtatone**

1. Provided a branding exercise update and will have information forwarded to the Superintendent. City officials are reaching out to branding experts and the hope is that the City and Schools will work together and be consistent in the message and value we express.

#### **Mr. Bockelman**

1. Announced that Election Day is tomorrow and nearly 30 people are on ballots throughout the city. Running for office is not an easy thing, and is brave and important to do. Thanks to all for running and taking that leap of faith!
2. To all here tonight, thank you for serving in public office. Ms. Bockelman asked Mr. Roix and Mr. Niedergang if, like the champion Red Sox, they will participate in a beard shave-off following the elections!

#### **Mr. Sweeting**

1. Last week on Halloween, Mr. Sweeting hosted 8<sup>th</sup> graders at BU who came to have a tour of the university, led by students, and then came to his office. Students and college students talked about college work load and expectations and then headed to the Physics Department to watch the annual Halloween pumpkin dropping. Mr. Sweeting encourages people who work in higher education to invite students to visit their campuses and make an effort to coordinate college visits in a more systematic basis. Mr. Sweeting would like the District to draw up a list of people who work in higher education to encourage them to work and meet with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
2. Announced that when the question is asked as to the best place to go to Trick or Treat, the answer is always the Ten Hills, which clearly has very generous residents!
3. Mr. Sweeting testified on PARCC and was honored to be joined by Ms. Rossetti and he thinks it had a real impact. He doesn't know where it's going to go but it's important that we spoke in one voice
4. This Thursday at Suffolk, Mr. Sweeting will be pinch hitting for the Mayor at the Business School to work with local chambers of commerce. Mr. Bockelman organized the event and the topic will be charter schools, raising the cap, and other charter school related issues. The program will feature Paul Toner of the Mass Teachers Association and a representative from the Charter School Association. The general theme of the event is how to engage the public in meaningful discussion?
5. Also issued a reminder to vote, but pointed out that one person's name will not be on ballot after 22 years of public service—that of Mrs. Cardoso who is retiring at the end of this year. Mr. Sweeting thanked Mrs. Cardoso for all of her service!

#### **Mr. Niedergang**

1. Mr. Niedergang shared something going on at Kennedy School. A Drama Club has been started internally by some parents and will perform The Secret Garden, a play written by Miriam Kolb.

Students in grades K-3 meet on Tuesdays, and students in grades 4-8 meet on Wednesdays. Over 60 students are participating and are working on a performance for December.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Mr. Rossetti announced the Somerville Council of PTA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance on Friday, May 2, and would like the event listed on all city calendars.
2. Thanked Mr. Sweeting for encouraging their attendance at the Board of Education meeting. We did strike a chord at meeting, Triton letters, would have given Adam and I a standing ovation if he could have. Ms. Rossetti plans to attend the November meeting as well and is anticipating a vote that day. She will attend the pre-meeting and meeting and mentioned that one of the resolutions being voted at MASC is on this same topic and she will deliver information from conference back to members.
3. Ms. Rossetti will attend Local Government Advisory Commission meeting on Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup>.
4. She will also be going to the Connecticut State School Board Conference and will report back.
5. Ms. Rossetti thanked Susana Morgan for attending the workshop in Framingham on October 24<sup>th</sup>, related to PR/communication strategies. Chris Horan, a communications consultant spoke and his suggestion that when doing readings of policies that after the first reading to the School Committee, we forward the policies to all school councils for review to allow the councils to become aware of new and amended policies and weigh in. Ms. Rossetti asked is we should consider doing this here in Somerville. It was also noted that we have policies on communications—Files KB and KBA, but we need to decided how to encourage and publicize—good policy but we should produce and promote. Susana may have more thoughts on this.

Mr. Sweeting will put this topic on a future meeting Rules Management agenda on either November 18 or at the meeting in December.

6. The School Committee will meet for Long Range Planning on November 13<sup>th</sup> when Capital Projects Manager Skip Bandini will be present for discussion re: buildings, etc.  
Looking forward to a very good dialogue

**X. ADJOURNMENT—**

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

- Florence M. (Moore) Park – Of Somerville October 30, 2013, mother of Linda Geehan, paraprofessional at the Healey and previously at the Kennedy School.
- Anne Joyce, mother of Anne Marie O'Connor, teacher at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School; wife of the late William Joyce, former Alderman and City Messenger; mother of Ken Joyce, former Alderman and mother-in-law of Laney Joyce, Somerville Food and Nutrition Services employee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. via voice vote.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of September October 7 and October 21, 2013 for approval
3. The report and minutes of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting of October 8, 2013
4. The Athletic Concussion Policy and Concussion Policy Regulations, Files JJIF and JJIF-R
5. Two (2) donation acceptance letters
6. One (1) Full Circle Diploma approval
7. Two (2) thank you notes
8. Two (2) letters from Triton Regional School District regarding PARCC testing.
9. Three (3) thank you letters sent to recent donors.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Monday, November 18, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

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

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

Members absent:

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti 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. Ms. Rossetti asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Sweeting, White, Roix, Niedergang, Bockelman, Cardoso, Curtatone, Rafal, and Rossetti.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

- Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team

Ms. Rossetti announced that we are having a celebration tonight and invited Mr. Sweeting to the podium. Mr. Sweeting stepped to the podium to introduce Coach George Scarpelli and provide him with a team resolution and to share his experiences and pride regarding the boys soccer team, of which his son is a member. These young men and their coaches had a tremendous athletic year after such a horrendous start to their season. Their leadership and maturity throughout this whole season was in no small part due to the leadership and direction evidenced by Coach Scarpelli and his staff. Coach Scarpelli introduced the members of the team and invited each boy to come up for his certificate and stand beside the podium until all the names were read (text of resolution included at end of these minutes). Coach Scarpelli also announced the following special recognitions:

**Francisco Fernandes Neto** – GBL MVP, Boston Globe All Scholastic, All East Mass Soccer All-Star, NSCAA All New England Team

**Thayrone Miranda** - GBL MVP, Boston Globe All Scholastic, All East Mass Soccer All-Star, NSCAA All New England Team, NSCAA All American Select and High School All American

Following the presentation of certificates, the honorees and guests were invited to enjoy cupcakes, cookies and drinks.

Alderman White congratulated the team and shared that he was a member of the first Somerville High School Soccer Team and, though they never won a game, they also had great pride and teamwork. He encouraged the team members to use these same great life skills as they go through the many phases of their life.

Mayor Curtatone announced that he is not the least bit surprised at the incredible success of this team, especially after the trying time at the beginning of the season and told the team members that they inspired a whole city. Great team, exceptional staff!

*The School Committee recessed at 7:15 p.m.*

*The School Committee resumed at 7:28 p.m.*

Mr. Sweeting learned of great news during the recess regarding Coach Scarpelli. The coach has been chosen as the Boston Globe's Division I Coach of the Year and is a Massachusetts Soccer Coach Hall of Fame Nominee. Congratulations Coach Scarpelli!

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 4, 2013 Regular Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of November 4, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote

**IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our Student Advisory Representative, Marcelo Brociner, provided the following report on happenings at Somerville High School:

As of last week, second quarter, fresh start for all

- Activities are in full force including the choice of *1984* as the latest book club read

- The National Honor Society is holding a food drive to help area food pantries
- Best Buddies is planning their first fundraiser
- The Senior Class group picture will be taken on Wednesday
- There will be an open house/PTSA at Somerville High School
- The School's Literary Magazine which has an option of accepting anonymous submissions has resulted in more creative submissions since students don't have to be embarrassed
- The Student Council's survey regarding school lunches will be on X2 for the next month or so in order for students/staff to complete the survey in an easy manner
- Marcello wished the football and volleyball teams congratulations for qualifying in the state tournament
- Football vs. Cambridge on Thanksgiving
- On behalf on the soccer team, Marcello wants to get this across—Thank you to the entire Somerville community for so much support and love during the tournament. We accomplished so much and left a legacy for future kids! It may not sink in for 10 years or so that we did this, but it was such a great experience! Lastly thanks to the coaches for all they've done for the city; the life skills they taught will stay with him for the rest of his life!

Ms. Rossetti reported that she attended a workshop regarding student representatives at the Connecticut School Committee's conference last weekend. Close to 30 students were present at the workshop. Connecticut does not have legislation regarding student representation on School Committees as in Massachusetts. Ms. Rossetti would like to ask the Rules Management Subcommittee look into the possible establishment of a policy regarding student representation. Mr. Sweeting is happy to put this item on a future agenda of that subcommittee.

## V. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

### A. *Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting:* Nov. 13 (Ms. Rafal)

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

In attendance: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal

Also in attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Roix, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, and one audience member.

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

1. Recycling survey
2. FY14 Expenditure Report
3. FY14 Bill Roll
4. Other

We discussed items from the agenda.

In response to constituent questions a member had raised last month, the Director of Finance conducted a survey about recycling in the schools. All schools recycle, though every school has a different system for getting the recycling out to the main tote for the building. For example collectors might be a recycling club or a certain grade level of students etc...Not all the school personnel had realized that their totes can now accept single stream recycling, so the Superintendent will make an agenda item for a principals' meeting to inform them that plastic can also be recycled.

Mr. Sweeting asked about recycling food waste. He would like for Somerville to be out in front on that, doing it in a systematic educational way like composting for the school gardens.

We looked at the expenditure report and asked about the negative percentage available for Special Education. Ms. Durette said that now that the government shutdown is over and Federal grants have come in, she has to look over the accounts to see if some things that had been funded from local money really needed to be charged to Title II or anything like that. The Superintendent also said he serves on the MASS State Finance Task Force. That group is working on three issues: 1) trying to get the circuit breaker threshold lowered from \$39,000; 2) raising the reimbursement rate; 3) addressing the problem that private providers have there is no oversight.

Ms. Durette also talked about rethinking the tuition in a similar way to the way charter school payments work.

We looked at bill rolls. A small set of items, mostly things charged to grants or revolving accounts, had come in as FY13 expenses. Mrs. Cardoso made a motion to approve the FY 2013 bill rolls, seconded by Mr. Niedergang.

We asked a few questions about items on the FY 2014 bill rolls. Mr. Sweeting would like a description of what is entailed in the home visiting. Mrs. Cardoso made a motion to approve the FY 2014 bill rolls, seconded by Mr. Niedergang. Ms. Durette answered the questions within the next couple days. Home visiting is literacy and other kinds of educational support for families that might be vulnerable starting out in school. Staff speak several different languages.

Under other, Mr. Niedergang asked about Brown School renovations. Right now the Brown School's request to convert attic storage space into more space useable by students is on the Capitol Projects list but no action has yet been taken. Use by students might require creating windows and possible other work. We would first have to determine if it is even feasible and then decide whether the building should be left with absolutely no storage space. The Superintendent said that given the number of steps in the process, the theoretical earliest it could be ready is Sept. 2015.

As for the outdoor space at the Brown, there was no plan yet, as of this subcommittee meeting date. The Brown School Council has been developing this project and has consulted with parent volunteers who are landscape architects. They have a bunch of ideas, but have not yet decided what they want.

Then Mr. Niedergang asked about signage for the No Idling policy. Over 40 signs have been made and say what state law mandates them to say. They will be installed over the next few weeks. The Superintendent and the City are also trying to encourage parents to park a couple blocks from school and walk the rest of the way to help keep cars away from schools.

Mr. Niedergang would like to have "internet connectivity" on the agenda for next month as he knows of a teacher who cannot use the internet from the classroom.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sweeting, to approve the FY13 Bill Rolls  
The motion was approved via voice vote

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the FY14 Bill Rolls  
The motion was approved via voice vote

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of November 13, 2013.  
The motion was approved via voice vote

**B. *School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning:*** Nov. 13 (Ms. Rafal)

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

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

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Ms. Durette and 4 audience members, including Skip Bandini and Omar Boukili from the City.

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. and adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

1. Capital Projects Update
  - Somerville High School Repairs and renovations
  - Future building use
2. Other

The Capital Projects Update focused on two Somerville High School Repairs and renovations.

1a. First there was some discussion of why repairs to the auditorium and kitchen have not started yet. In summary, it took months to uncover the extent of the damage, and then time to devise plans and estimate costs for repair. The estimate the City and consultants arrived at is between \$2.3 million-\$2.4 million. Several months later the insurance company prepared an estimate at \$695,000. In hindsight the City could have gained a few months by not waiting for the insurance company to their devise their own estimates. The City right now is getting things set up to proceed with the bidding and appropriations process even while the consultants and engineers look over the discrepancies between the work their estimate is based on and the work the insurance company's estimate is based on. There really is little

question about what needs to be done--there are plans and specs ready to go. The only question is who is going to pay for what. An example of one of the cost discrepancies is that the insurance only wants to replace what was there, but in the case of the two-prong wiring--once wiring gets wet it all has to be replaced and to bring it up to current code, that means three-prong wiring.

Anyway, before work can actually happen, the City does need (maybe a bond) \$2.5 million. We can have a better answer about when this work can start in two to three weeks. If a contract could be in place by January 1, there is a possibility of finishing the work by June. There are 15 different types of subcontracts that the work will require. The Superintendent announced a priority on completing the kitchen first as lunch options have been limited for 1400 students. Mr. Sweeting agreed but said the auditorium would also be important and Class Day without the auditorium just didn't have the same feel.

While much of the work plan is already made, there will be a review process for some of the finishing design decisions.

This project will take at least 5 or 6 months so there is no way to complete it without school being in session. The auditorium is fairly isolated from much of the school. All the workers will be CORI-checked and there will be precautions for the workers not to mix with students.

Mrs. Cardoso said she remembered that reconstructing the Kennedy while students were there was difficult. There were complaints every day.

The Superintendent said he has overseen construction projects in other schools, with and without students present. He says construction with students in classes is doable, issues can be minimized and spaces isolated. Another option, though very costly, is to hire second shift work, starting at 3:30 or something like that.

The School Committee asked for a monthly update from Mr. Bandini from this point forward. He said sure.

1b. Room 143 seems to have presented a similar scenario, uncovering more extensive construction needs than first thought. The \$180,000 request of the Board of Aldermen was based on an estimate of renovating the square footage. But since this will be a room for educating medically fragile students in district and saving them lots of travel time, the Director of Special Education and School Nursing staff provided a better needs analysis, including items like a separate private space, multiple sinks, ramps, air filtration, etcetera, bringing the expected cost to \$270,000. A cost reduction analysis showed only \$18,000 could be saved and so to take the best care of these and possible future students, it was decided not to cut anything. We hope that the new request will go to the Board of Aldermen November 21 or December 5.

2. Regarding Future Building Use...Capital Projects Committee has been meeting with all City Dept. Heads. Mrs. Cardoso asked if this included the Superintendent. It does not. We asked that the Superintendent be involved in these meetings and with this group to represent the School Dept. /School Committee's interests. The Superintendent did enumerate the occupants of the Cummings, Edgerly and TAB building. The Cummings and Edgerly should not be considered empty by any means. The Superintendent also wants the City to look at future population projections as part of the puzzle. The puzzle involves moving various building occupants in ways that make sense and determining whether leases are really more expensive than some of the renovations that the very old building would require. The Capital Committee will make recommendations to the Mayor in about a month. A couple of School Committee members expressed wanting the School Committee to be able to say what we want; what our plan would be and one member said he had no intention of giving up any buildings. Some of the other buildings the City is considering in the mix include the City Hall Annex, 42 Walnut St, TAB, Traffic & Parking, Cross St Senior Center, and City Hall. The committee requested the Superintendent be included.

Mr. Bandini was hired to help create a more formal process to submit capital projects and how they get approved. What would be most helpful is to understand the schools' needs and future needs, based on projections from NESDEC. The Superintendent said his most immediate concern is about the HVAC system at the Edgerly, in particular the exterior oil tank (he has mentioned in prior meetings that it is also difficult to find parts for the 1935 boiler).

The Superintendent and School Committee appreciate how difficult this is with very old building assets and also recognized that just since 2005, two new schools have been built.



We adjourned at 8:15.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the report and minutes of the meeting of the School Committee Meeting for long Range Planning of November 13, 2013.  
The motion was approved via voice vote

## **VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

The Superintendent announced that members received a Personnel Report in this week's packet. Included on this report were the following:

- No new retirements, but one change of date where the retiring staff member moved her retirement date back to June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 2 resignations for personal reasons
- 2 Leaves of Absence
- 1 inter-district transaction
- 15 new hires of which 9 are replacing staff members who have resigned, etc. and the other 6 include a PT Utility Aide at WSNS, an In-building math tutor funded from Title 1, 2 ELL Parent Leaders– funded under the SFLC's budget, a position at Scale – funded by grant and local money and a Head Start Classroom Literacy Coach in order to make all programs similarly supported.

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

- The Somerville Early Childhood Literacy Fair, coordinated by Nomi Davidson and the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative, continues to grow. More than 300 community members are estimated to have attended the 2013 Fair this past Saturday at the Healey School. The Fair promotes literacy opportunities for children ages birth to grade 6, and provides Somerville families with young children the opportunity to learn about the many great resources available to them in Somerville and the surrounding communities. A special appearance by Curious George, free books, and a wide range of hands-on activities for young children are among the highlights of what has become a much-anticipated community event.  
Brown outdoor space – those plans are tentative plans – school council, faculty and PTA have not weighed in yet. Principal believes much volunteer work could bring this to fruition. Not sure if it is a capital project. Remove bushes to make usable space

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay for his report on curriculum-related issues. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

Race to the Top Grant

We are entering our fourth and final year of this grant program from the state and federal education agencies. 12 states took the president up on this offer.

Among the areas of focus for this coming year include the following:

- Support for educator evaluation implementation
- Implementation of the Common Core curriculum, including a large variety of conference and professional development opportunities for teachers. NCTE Conference, for example, four SHS teachers attended this national conference recently held in Boston.
- Developing our program of induction and mentoring of new staff
- Leadership development
- Support for boosting SHS graduation requirements (Mass Grad). Next month's Ed Programs Agenda will include requested approval of several of these measures.
- The Edwin teaching and learning system, providing student achievement data to teachers.
- Technical infrastructure
- Innovation work was also funded through RTTT funds
- Life after RTTT will be part of our planning for FY15 in order to keep these important initiatives.

Discussion ensued regarding the District's expected responsibilities in continuing programs, etc. originally funded with RTTT money. Dr. McKay explained that the District planned for the end of this grant and that these initiatives will be fully implemented and therefore no additional costs are expected (overall). Edwin is the one area that may need additional funds.

*The Superintendent continued his report:*

- Congratulated members for success with their campaigns on Election Day and looks forward to Inauguration Day!
- School Safety and Security Review (SSSR) Committee Meetings – The first 2 SSSR Committee meetings have been scheduled for Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is under the direction of Committee Chair, Gerry Leone. Both meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and will be held at the Central Office Conference Room.
- In preparation for the kickoff of Kindergarten Registration, the SFLC invites you to “Learn About the Somerville Public Schools” at a presentation on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8pm at the East Somerville Community School.

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director Patricia Durette for her report on financial matters. Ms. Durette’s report included the following:

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

- Ms. Durette will be arranging meetings with all principals and reviews the plan at least twice a year. The CIP reviewed with principals is different from the comprehensive city-wide plan. Meetings with each principal to discuss their CIP regarding ongoing items will be starting this week. Ms. Durette takes this information and prioritizes it in the spring to incorporate into the City’s plan.
- Capital needs such as copier machines and equipment such as vehicles, technology, etc. are also reviewed.
- The next step will be to develop a “needs assessment” of projected services and supplies for the budget planning process sometime in January or February.

*The Superintendent continued his report:*

- maintenance- replacement – Kennedy curtain – installed last week  
3 levels
- A number of schools are hosting Student of the Quarter Celebrations, including:
  - Argenziano, NW/FC and ESCS on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Healey and Brown on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>
- Parent/Teacher Conferences Kick off this week. Here’s the schedule of upcoming Conferences:
  - Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6-8:30pm – Argenziano School
  - Wednesday, Nov. 20, 5:30-8pm – Capuano Early Childhood Center
  - Wednesday, Nov. 20, 6:30-9pm – Somerville High School
  - Thursday, Nov. 21, 6-8:30pm – East Somerville
  - Monday, Nov. 25, 6-8:30pm – West Somerville
  - Tuesday, Nov. 26, 5:30-8pm – Kennedy School
  - Monday, Dec. 2, 5:30-8pm – Winter Hill
  - Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6-8:30pm – Brown School
  - Thursday, Dec. 5, 5:30-8pm – Healey School
- The annual Thanksgiving Football Game between Somerville and Cambridge Rindge and Latin will be at CRLS’ Russell Field this year. Kickoff is 10am. Tickets for the game are available in the SHS Athletics Office (Room 180), and are \$3 for Students; \$5 for adults. Tickets at the door on game day will be \$7.
- Finally, just a quick reminder that Thanksgiving Recess is around the corner. Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, is a HALF DAY for all students. All schools and offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, for Thanksgiving Recess.

Discussion ensued regarding planning for funding cliffs and revisiting Race to the Top and the fact that the District chose to fund items it was already working on using Race to the Top funds, i.e. the Common Core.

Discussion also ensued regarding graduates needing remediation at the college level and the request of a report on the instances of this being the case, which will be discussed further at a future Ed. Program Subcommittee meeting.

## VII.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

**Mar. 31-Apr. 2, 2013**

Winter Hill 5<sup>th</sup> Graders to Nature’s Classroom in Groton, MA. Transportation via bus with a projected total cost to students of \$175 each.

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

**B. Acceptance of Donations**

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of 202 books for young children, donated by Maureen Zonghetti of Andover, MA to be used and enjoyed by the children and staff of the Argenziano School. Value not yet determined.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of a Magnetic Mini-Stirrer, a Turkey Baster with Cleaning Brush, four (4) Pyrex Low Form 100mL Beakers, and Magnetic Stirring Bars – B type, donated by Patricia Marques of Somerville, MA to the Science Lab at the Kennedy School. Value of items is \$150.73.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a donation of 100 tulip bulbs, from Lina Morales of Somerville, MA to the Healey School. Value of donation is \$33.00

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the all three donations, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**C. Conference Reports** (Ms. Rossetti)**MASC/MASS Joint Conference of 11/6-11/9/13**

- Thanked School Committee members for letting her represent them at the conference. Tonight's packet has highlights
- Suzanne Bump was one of the keynote speakers who spoke about her concerns over unfunded mandates
- NE Patriot Jermaine Wiggins spoke on the importance of nutrition and breakfast for young students and adults
- 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address
- D. Michael McGough of York College, York, Pennsylvania delivered a keynote on "Leadership Lessons from Gettysburg."
- Thanked the Superintendent for arranging the workshop with SFLC and gave thanks to those who attended. The workshop went over time and the audience didn't want them to stop. Ms. Rossetti has been approached by other towns to give presentations and the PowerPoint has been requested by many, as well.
- SHS chorus – issued her thanks to Rick Saunders and Beverly Mosby and their students for providing the entertainment for the evening.
- Thanked the Somerville High School CVTE students and staff for creating and providing the centerpieces for the dinner on Friday night.
- The 5 resolutions were all adopted though the resolution regarding PARCC had a couple of amendments
- Ms. Rossetti presented a workshop on Advocacy

Ms. Rossetti inquired as to Somerville's involvement in Project 351 and Mr. Pierantozzi responded that he believes this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year we have been involved and that 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from all cities and towns come together once a year and discuss community service projects. Each principal recommends 2 students to participate.

**Local Government Advisory Commission Meeting of 11/12/13.**

- Update on FY14 Revenues and the State Economy
- Discussion of FY15 Local Aid
- McKinney Vento, Circuit Breaker spending, Charter School funding, homelessness should be a line item—not supplemental
- Commissioner Chester spoke regarding early literacy and post high school success
- The Commissioner also urged attendees to view the DESE website Chapter 70 review and recommendations
- Ms. Rossetti spoke regarding student mobility

- The MASC Vice President spoke on Charter School and PARCC concerns
- Commissioner Chester will recommend a 2-year trial of PARCC to the Board of Education tomorrow and the actual PARCC testing will begin in the Fall of 2015 and stated that there will be a paper and pencil version
- Commissioner Chester also recommends supporting upgrading technology (funding)

Connecticut School Board Association State Conference, 11/15 and 11/16

- Vision of how to move forward—NextEd – which advocates for:
  - More personalized learning
  - The Student Voices project –[www.ctstudentvoices.com](http://www.ctstudentvoices.com) - an annual competition of videos to improve education produced by middle and high school students
  - Collaborative of New England States NESSC which does not include Massachusetts
  - The importance of sustainable leadership—not changing leaders every 2 years, etc. as it takes an average of five years to implement a new idea
- Connecticut Governor –created a \$10 million line item for technology grants - \$24 million in grant requests have been received in the first round of applications
- Student representatives on school boards and a related policy

**VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. This Thursday at 6:30 is the Ward 3 ResiStat meeting. This is a special meeting with the upcoming changing of the guard due to Alderman Taylor stepping down after many years.

**Mr. Roix**

1. Issued his thanks to the organizers of the Early Childhood Literacy Fair and to the 27 community organizations who attended as community partners. This was another well done event!

The ribbon cutting for the new playground at Capuano will take place on Friday at 9:00 a.m.

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Kennedy PTA next Tuesday 11/26 at 5:30 p.m.
2. The new stage curtain was very well received and people are excited to have it at the Kennedy.
3. The Brown School Council met and discussed outdoor space and storage space as it is very cramped at the Brown. The School Committee's decision to keep the 6<sup>th</sup> grade being there is partly to blame. The attendance at the meeting was so great that parents on staircase landing
4. Ward 5 ResiStat meeting will take place on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Kennedy School.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Ward 6 Resistat Meeting tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. at the Davis Square Theater.
2. Somerville High School PTSA will be held on Wednesday night
3. Special Ed. Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held next Monday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Kennedy School.
4. Regarding the Soccer Team – At that final game, some people attended who had never seen a game before to rally around this event and to see our kids play and offer their support of the team. The members of this team were winners before ever playing the game. The leadership shown was amazing  
This was a tremendously winning team without playing. Players from St John's Prep, who we defeated in the playoffs, came to watch our team play. This was a great event for our city!  
The Mayor, Administration, Superintendent, etc. were all great - even going so far as the police escorts, was outstanding. Thank you all!

**Mrs. Cardoso**

1. PTA at the Argenziano School tomorrow night from 6:00-8:30 p.m. tomorrow
2. This evening members received the Superintendent's evaluation packet and completed evaluations are due back to Mrs. Cardoso before November 26<sup>th</sup>
3. On the heels of Ms. Rossetti's report – Mrs. Cardoso is so proud to have her as the MASC president and Mary Jo's speech was inspiring and Mrs. Cardoso is proud to be her friend and be from Somerville and can you share with colleagues. Thank you for all you do!
4. wish a happy, peaceful thanksgiving

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Somerville High School's PTSA is a very challenging event, but it is important to go and meet with teachers to learn about your student's progress. Teachers like to see parents!
2. The Healey has resumed the Friday morning coffee hours. This Friday ADHD will be the topic of discussion.

3. The Annual Track PAC Craft Fair will be held on the Saturday after thanksgiving

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. The West Somerville Neighborhood School will hold its PTA meeting on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Angelo Colangelo, husband of Christine Colangelo, teacher at the Kennedy School.
- Dave Murray, husband of Cheryl Murray, paraprofessional at the Healey School and father of four daughters, two of whom are current students at the Healey School.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. via voice vote.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of November 4, 2013 for approval
3. The November 2013 Personnel Report
4. One (1) overnight field trip request form
5. Three (3) donation acceptance forms
6. Two (2) thank you letters sent to recent donors.
7. Three (3) conference reports re: MASC/MASS, LGAC, and Connecticut School Board Association

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 record of 16-1-1, and*

*WHEREAS, The Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team exhibited an outstanding work ethic, maturity and perseverance in the face of adversity, and*

*WHEREAS, The Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team defeated Cambridge, Brookline, Malden, St. John's Preparatory School and Silver Lake Regional in post season play, thus becoming the Division I Eastern Massachusetts Champions, and*

*WHEREAS, The Somerville High School Boys Soccer Team demonstrated strength, hard work, maturity and teamwork in the State Tournament finishing second in the State in Division I, and*

*WHEREAS, Throughout the entire season, everyone had a role, stepped in and performed when needed, and*

*WHEREAS, These young men are excellent examples of the definition of sportsmanship, respecting the game, their coaches and each other throughout the season, making the Somerville Community proud, 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.*

Mary Jo Rossetti, Chairperson  
Steven Roix Paul Bockelman  
Adam Sweeting  
Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent  
William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President

Somerville School Committee  
Christine Rafal, Vice Chairperson  
M. Teresa Cardoso  
Mark Niedergang  
Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

November 18, 2013

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Monday, December 2, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

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

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

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti 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. Ms. Rossetti asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 8 – Sweeting, White, Roix, Niedergang, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rafal, and Rossetti and Absent – 1- Curtatone.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 18, 2013 Regular Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to approve the minutes.

Mr. Niedergang had questions regarding the Brown School section of the Long Range Planning minutes included in this set of minutes and a decision was made to refer the approval of these minutes until our next meeting.

Ms. Rafal withdrew her motion to approve the minutes.

**III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Our Student Representative, Marcelo Brociner, provided the following update on happenings at Somerville High School:

- Hoped everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It was nice to have time off, catch up on sleep, and enjoy good food!
- The TV and Media students are putting the finishing touches on their school-related news pieces and will air on the next Somerville Neighborhood news program airing
- Seniors have until December 18<sup>th</sup> to submit their biographies for inclusion in the yearbook.
- The pep rally last Wednesday was a lot of fun and the participation of the drum line, coaches, staff, and emcees bolstered the intensity of school spirit!
- Lots happening in the gym starting today with the start of winter sports. The hockey and basketball teams were GBL champs and we hope they can repeat and have other teams join the ranks as well this year!

Ms. Rossetti recognized School Committee woman-elect Carrie Normand, who is in the audience this evening.

**IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *Ed Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting:*** Nov. 14 (Mr. Bockelman)  
Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street, Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Roix

Also in attendance: Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Dr. Vince McKay, Tim O'Keefe, Cory Mashburn, School Committee Member-Elect Laura Pitone and Dorothy Scally.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

1. 2013 Middle Grades Youth Risk Behavior Survey data presentation
2. Updates:
  - a) Somerville High School Guidance and College Readiness evaluation
  - b) Somerville High School's new schedule and Advisory period implementation—55 minute advisory period
  - c) Somerville Public Schools Volunteer Program
  - d) Early Childhood Alignment Grant
  - e) Educator Evaluation implementation
3. Other

Mr. Bockelman provided the following report:

1. 2013 Middle Grades Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Presentation: Cory Mashburn and Tim O'Keefe presented the results of the Middle Grades Youth Risk Behavior Survey. This is a survey that is conducted every other year – high schoolers are surveyed in the off years – and provides a mountain of data that can help understand the culture of our schools. There is a mother lode of data and the information will be presented in an interesting and engaging way on Wednesday night at the Teen Empowerment Center on Broadway in East Somerville. The public is invited and encouraged to participate.
2. Updates:
  - a. Somerville High School Guidance and College Readiness Evaluation: The District has contracted with a consultant who is reviewing material and meeting with key informants including student and parent/guardian focus groups. Dr. McKay said we should see a draft in January and it will be on the agenda of the Education Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting in February. Mr. Sweeting said he was worried that students were being harmed by a lack of staffing in the guidance office. Dr. McKay assured the Subcommittee that students were being well served.
  - b. Somerville High School's new schedule and advisory period implementation: The high school has implemented a 55 minute advisory period where students work with teachers to get oriented about Somerville High School, foster a stronger sense of community, and discuss college-readiness, among other topics. Mr. Niedergang expressed dismay that Student Representative Marcello Brociner had to obtain the signatures of 2/3 of the senior class in order to get the issue of advisory addressed by the high school administration. He asked how the administration would be evaluating the success or failure of the advisory period. One of the side benefits of the advisory period is that the high school now has a regular 5-day schedule, which has already paid dividends with students cooping at Sentry Lincoln Mercury, Herb Chambers, Nardone Electric, and an early education program.
  - c. Somerville Public Schools volunteer program: Dr. McKay reported that the volunteer data management program is in place with 45 volunteer contact records entered and about 25 new volunteers have been placed in schools since September 2013. Mr. Niedergang said he found it impossible to tell how well our volunteer program was doing and that this was frustrating for a program that has been in place for several years. Mr. Roix asked that the quarterly reports be given to the Education Programs and Instruction Subcommittee every quarter. Dr. McKay said he would work on an evaluation of what's working and what's not with the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative with focus on the volunteer program and family liaisons.
  - d. Early Childhood alignment grant: The District is one of five communities awarded a grant from the state. The District contracted with former Tufts University professor Mon Cochran who is reviewing all of the material. They anticipate his work to be completed in January.
  - e. Education evaluation implementation: Progress continues on the restart and implementation of the educator evaluation system. Dr. McKay said the Massachusetts Teachers Association, a certified trainer, was training staff and that the new system was going to be entirely online and this process was being overseen by former headmaster Tony Ciccariello.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the report and minutes of the Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of November 14, 2013. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Discussion ensued regarding the Somerville High School Guidance and College Readiness Evaluation – specifically student awareness of services offered, guidance curriculum, reaching out to students and monitoring of visits, etc.

The Superintendent shared information relative to the Guidance curriculum and recording keeping practices.

Marcelo shared his great experiences and suggested a TV/Media project to "advertise" what Guidance has to offer.

**B. Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting:** Nov. 18 (Mr. Sweeting)

Board of Aldermen's Committee Room, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA

In attendance: Mr. Roix, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang.

Also in attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal and Mr. Pierantozzi.

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. and adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

1. File: JLCDD-R - Life Threatening Food Allergies Guidelines
2. File: ECA – Use of Security Cameras on School Property
3. File: JICFB – Bullying in Schools

Mr. Sweeting provided the following report:

File: JLCDD There are two parts of one policy. JLCDD must be in place in accordance with state law. The basic thrust behind developing File: JLCDD-R is that we have building specific plans for students and staff and JLCDD-R provides these building-specific and age-appropriate guidelines specific to the population in a building.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to recommend File: JLCDD – Life Threatening Allergies, as amended, to the School Committee for first reading.  
The motion was approved via voice vote.

File: JLCDD-R – This policy provides that certain protocols are in place so people understand priorities and procedures. This lays out what everyone has to do and is specific to various stakeholder groups (families, nurse, school staff, etc.) Guidelines/protocols, etc. are all laid out and we have asked the nurses and Board of Health to review and help lay this out and streamline and thanks for their help.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to recommend File: JLCDD-R – Life Threatening Food Allergies Guidelines, as amended, to the School Committee for first reading.  
The motion was approved via voice vote.

File: ECA – no action –policy approved months ago. Healthy discussion and agreed to revisit to be sure all pieces are in place – policy is working, so no action/amendments

MOTION: AS/SR To amend File: JICFB – Bullying in Schools.—minor amendment – outlines types of bullying, our policy to prevent, etc. – added another clause to policy to make clear that bullying can happen at many levels - not just student to student – so we have agreed to expand the policy to include staff members. The following new language was read aloud by Mr. Sweeting:

“Bullying” is the repeated use by one or more students **or by a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional** of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that...

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the report and minutes of the meeting of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting of November 18, 2013.  
The motion was approved via voice vote.

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT****A. DISTRICT REPORT**

- Hopes everyone had a wonderful thanksgiving
- Today marks three weeks till the winter break and this is a very important 3 weeks; it is important to be in school and on time for this high intensity period of learning!
- The SFLC hosts the 2013 “**Learning About the Somerville Public Schools**” presentation, with an emphasis on Kindergarten, Wednesday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm at the ESCS. All Somerville parents/guardians with young children are invited to join us to learn more about our schools. Educators and parents/guardians of current SPS students will be available for questions.



- SPS was one of 2 MA recipients of a **2013 USDA Farm to School** grant. Somerville was awarded a \$45,000 Planning Grant, and will work with community partners including Shape Up Somerville and Groundwork Somerville, to develop a district-wide strategy that supports local sourcing and expands current F2S efforts.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay for his report on curriculum related matters. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. This is summary of what the district can expect during the coming Coordinated Program Review (CPR). As you know, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Program Quality Assurance (PQA) conducts reviews of public and charter school districts' compliance with federal and state laws and regulations on a schedule of once every six years. SPS will be due for a full review during the school year 2014-2015. In preparation of this review by PQA, the district will be conducting a self-assessment from January 2014-May 15, 2014 that will encompass the criteria established for each area including: Special Education, Civil Rights, English Language Learners and Career and Technical Education. Special Education (SE) and Civil Rights (CR).

#### Jan. 1, 2014-May 15, 2014

During the self-assessment period Special Education will provide PQA with data and evidence that we are compliant in 52 criteria, review processes and procedures for compliance, and select/review student records. Civil Rights will provide information in 18 criteria and select/review student records. ELL and CVTE will conduct a self-assessment but use the paper documentation format that has historically been in place. The paper documentation will not be submitted immediately but will be made available for review by the on-site PQA team.

#### Summer 2014

PQA will review the electronically submitted documentation, make preliminary recommendations and select an on-site visitation date.

#### 2014-2015 school year

During the site visit, PQA staff will review student records, review documents, interview selected staff, interview PAC representatives, conduct parent surveys and interviews, and class observations. Student interviews will be conducted for CTVE students only.

Approximately 60 days following the site visit, PQA will submit a Report with a rating in all selected criteria in all four areas reviewed. For any Partially Implemented or Not Implemented rating, the district will have 20 school days to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). The CPR Report and any required CAP will be then posted on the DESE website.

2. The School Improvement Planning process

**About the Process:** In the 2013-2014 school year, the District is implementing a School Improvement Plan support process that features direct assistance to school leaders in the ongoing monitoring of their Plans.

Goals of Process: The process has been implemented to achieve the following goals:

1. Increase the use of data analysis to inform school and District goal-setting and progress monitoring;
2. Allow for more substantive and iterative discussions between principals and District administrators about key school challenges, opportunities, and strategies to improve student achievement;
3. Create a more rigorous School Improvement Planning process and link it more closely to the annual budgeting process; and
4. Strengthen the opportunities for schools to provide feedback on District and School Committee strategy, culminating in a set of goals to inform FY15 budgeting and goal setting.

Description of Process: Somerville's Performance Data Specialist, Stephanie Hirsch, has compiled data on each school's operations, drawing from the following sources: enrollment, assessment data,

3. Ed Programs on December 10, 2013 agenda will include MCAS report with more detail, the Somerville High School Program of Studies and an update on the Coordinated Program Review.

*The Superintendent continued his report:*

- Student of the Quarter presentations continue this week:
  1. Tuesday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:45am: Kennedy School;
  2. Thursday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:45am: West Somerville Neighborhood School

Mr. Pierantozzi explained the award process and sent his congratulations to the students and their parents/guardians for the good work!

- PTA Parent/Teacher Conferences wrap up this week:
  1. Monday, Dec. 2, 5:30-8pm – Winter Hill
  2. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6-8:30pm – Brown School
  3. Thursday, Dec. 5, 5:30-8pm – Healey School

Conference scheduling needs some work and there is a joint study committee team that will review this issue. The difficulty is the result of so many parents coming to see the same teacher and there not enough time for everyone. A cumbersome process is currently in place but we are working to develop a system that is better –perhaps fewer conferences, pre-registration, etc.

- There are a number of musical performances coming up this month:—all dates and times on web or call our office or school office or music department. The Superintendent highlighted the following city-wide events:

1. Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm – All-City Middle Grades Winter Concert @ the East Somerville Community School
2. Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm – SHS Winter Concert
3. Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm – El Sistema Somerville's "Community in Harmony" Concert at the ESCS

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director Patricia Durette for her report on finance-related matters. Ms. Durette included the following:

Grants—

- \$5,000 from the Department of Early Education and Care for coordinated family engagement which is overseen by Nomi Davidson and will be used to buy supplies and kits for early childhood programs--
- In the pipeline—a proposal submitted for over \$21,000.00 for Special Education Improvement grant to be used for staff professional development. Learning and support services for the planning and implementation of a summer program for 8<sup>th</sup> graders – \$50,000.00
- An alternative education state grant (competitive) with funds targeting students at-risk of not graduating and the use of distance learning to increase success. The target population is middle or high school students who not attending school for various reasons such as long-term suspensions, etc.

Ms. Durette thanked Susana Hernandez Morgan and Vince McKay, along with other administrators who have participated in the various grant proposals.

At members' seats is a purple folder for Wednesday night's Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Roix asked for clarification regarding the Early Childhood Grant and whether it is for in-district programs? Ms. Durette explained that this grant is primarily for community programs that provide services to early childhood aged children in non-SPS programs (Head Start, etc)

*The Superintendent continued his report:*

#6

Winter season compressed timeline. Signups extended to end of day on Wednesday—by going to AD's office

Mr. Niedergang expressed his thanks for the comments regarding parent/teacher visits and Somerville for schools list serve has much positive discussion over this topic—very respectful and positive – sharing of information/innovations. Excited to see this happening.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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

The following policies were presented this evening for first reading, as amended, by Mr. Sweeting:

- JLCDD – Life Threatening Food Allergies
- JLCDD-R – Life Threatening Food Allergies Guidelines
- JICFB – Bullying in Schools

The School Committee will vote at the next meeting. Mr. White has proposed a review of the Bullying Policy, specifically language regarding the section entitled, "Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan".

Discussion ensued relative to the development of the policy and intervention plans.

Mr. Sweeting accepts the proposals as friendly suggestions and hopes to vote at our next meeting—and would like to be able to finish at next meeting.

The policy will be reviewed and changes will be designated in **bold** font within the draft policy.

**B. DRAFT 2014-2015 School Calendar**

The Superintendent provided an early version of a possible calendar which follows the same patterns as past years and fits in with beginning of school/end of school/holidays, etc. This draft has been reviewed by union leadership.

Mr. Bockelman requested that we postpone action until the new School Committee is seated in order to let the new members make the decision. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that there is no real urgency and we can certainly wait for new School Committee members before taking action.

Ms. Rossetti asked that the STA, Unit A, contract be reviewed to be sure the correct number of days and dates have been designated as early release days.

**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:

<b>Mitchell William Bowe</b>	<b>8 Durham Street</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02143</b>
Tyler Edward Roberts	106 Chestnut Street	Everett	02149

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

**D. Field Trip**

December 7-8, 2013	Somerville High School Junior Statesmen of America Program to Boston, MA overnight, to participate in the Fall State Convention. Transportation via public transportation. Cost to students for hotel, etc. is \$68.00
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MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the field trip. The motion was approved via voice vote.

**E. Acceptance of Donations**

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a grant of \$2,000.00 from the Target Corporation to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools to be used for the foundation of an Artist-in-Residency Program to begin in January 2014.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of a ½ Bass – Strunel, valued at \$1175.00, a ½ Bass – Seraphim, valued at \$1275.00 and a 5/8 Bass – Seraphim, valued at \$1700.00, from Mary Person of Somerville, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department in memory of her late husband Paul Mark Ronsheim – a lover of music.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a full set of the Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, donated by Joseph Auner of Medford, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department. Value of donation is \$500.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a ½ size violin, valued at \$200.00, from Gladys Maged of Somerville, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**VII. COMMUNICATION**

- A. A thank you note from Linda Geehan on remembering her late mother at a recent meeting was received and placed on file.

**VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS****Cardoso**

1. Happy Hanukkah!

**Ms. Rafal**

1. Reminded the audience of Wednesday night's Finance and Facilities meeting and shared the agenda, which includes the Capital Improvement Plan.

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. On November 7, Mr. Sweeting attended a workshop/conference sponsored by Suffolk University and the Boston Chamber of Commerce re: business leadership and, specifically, lifting the cap for charter schools. There was very good discussion. Mr. Sweeting was joined on the panel by Paul Toner of the MTA and Mark Kennon, a Boston charter school principal.
2. The STEAM Academy plan now has the support of the advisory committee and the next step is for the proposer to meet with the Superintendent and president of the STA.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. There will be a special reception at the Argenziano School on Thursday night from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. to honor Teresa Cardoso as she retires from the School Committee after serving for 22 years. This event is open to the public.
2. The West Somerville Neighborhood School will hold its Craft Vendor Night on Friday, December 6 in the gym. There will also be a dance for students at the same time.
3. On Saturday evening, Toys for Local Children will host its fundraiser at the Holiday Inn. Donations are accepted and appreciated!

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- Bradley Snow, brother of Bob Snow, former Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.
- Helen McKenna, mother of Janice McKenna, retired teacher from the Winter Hill Community School.
- Timothy Meagher, son of Lois Meagher, retired teacher from the Lincoln Park Community School.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. via voice vote.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of November 18, 2013 for approval
3. One (1) overnight field trip request form
4. Four (4) donation acceptance forms
5. A request for SCALE ADP diplomas for two (2) students
6. A thank you letter from a staff member the remembrance of her mother's passing at a recent meeting.
7. Two (2) thank you letters sent to recent donors.
8. Five (5) condolence letters

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Monday, December 16, 2013 – Regular Meeting**

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

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti 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. Ms. Rossetti asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 9– Sweeting, White, Roix, Niedergang, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rafal, Rossetti and Curtatone.

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Certificate of appreciation from Ms. Rossetti to:

- Dave Keating

Mr. Keating was unable to be present at this evening's meeting. Ms. Rossetti will make her presentation to Mr. Keating at another time. The text of his citation and those presented to departing School Committee members are included at the end of these minutes.

Presentations to the following members for their service to the School Committee:

- Board of Alderman President William A. White, Jr. by Ms. Rafal.

Alderman White offered his thanks for a great year and pride in the focus of the Committee and the City.

- School Committee Representative Mark Niedergang by Mr. Bockelman.

Mr. Niedergang offered heartfelt remarks on his appreciation of his time on the School Committee and his excitement at working with the Board of Aldermen in the coming years.

- School Committee Representative Teresa Cardoso by Ms. Rossetti

Mrs. Cardoso offered heartfelt thanks and an engaging history of her time on the School Committee.

- School Committee Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti by Ms. Rafal

Ms. Rossetti offered deep thanks and shared her thoughts and experiences both on the School Committee and also on various other City endeavors, etc.

The School Committee recessed at 7:47 p.m. and resumed at 7:53 p.m.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 18, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of November 18, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- December 2, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the minutes of December 2, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

- Provided a report on athletic events including an All-American Soccer Match, boys and girls basketball wins, boys track and hockey.
  - Reported that many seniors have been accepted early decision to great colleges
  - The band and chorus have been busy entertaining lots of groups across the city
  - Everyone is getting excited to see the annual school show where which is always great fun!
  - Marcelo is thankful for the draft construction schedule/update
  - Thanked the departing School Committee members for their service with commitment
  - Announced that the holiday season is an exciting time with lots happening
- Mr. Sweeting announced that Marcelo is one of the students who has been accepted early decision—to Brandeis University. Congratulations, Marcelo!

**V. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES****A. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting:** Dec. 4 (Ms. Rafal)

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

In attendance: Ms. Rafal and Mrs. Cardoso

Also in attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Durette and Mr. Pierantozzi. Also Dorothy Scally was in the audience.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

1. Update of School Capital Improvement Plan
2. Capital Equipment needs
3. FY2014 Expenditure report
4. FY2014 Bill Roll
5. Other

First we looked at the School Capital Improvement Plan. Maintenance of the buildings is always going on thanks to the Superintendent and the Department of Public Works. Some of the topics especially on everyone's minds, included work on the high school and request from the Brown School. The Superintendent told us he would ask the Board of Aldermen for two actions at their meeting of December 12. He planned to ask for the projects of repairing the high school kitchen and auditorium to go out to bid without waiting to find out how much the insurance company is going to pay. He also planned to ask for the additional money to fund the conversion of Room 143 into a space where we would be able to educate some of our most fragile exceptional needs students in the district, saving them a lot of travel. Mr. Sweeting offered to accompany Mr. Pierantozzi to that board meeting.

Mr. Bockelman asked if we could also get clear communication about timelines etc. on these projects.

On the projects the Brown School is proposing, Mr. Pierantozzi mentioned that on the following day the principal would be meeting with head of the Department of Public Works to look at feasibility and possible costs associated with making an attic storage room in space useable by people and on the same day he would meeting with the head of Historic Preservation Commission to talk about the outdoor project.

Also as part of capital improvement planning, Mr. Pierantozzi talked about improving the wireless internet connectivity at a couple schools where there are "dead spots" that don't reach the wireless.

We looked at the schedule of anticipated capital equipment needs.

We looked at the FY2014 Expenditure report.

We looked at the FY2014 Bill Roll. We had a couple small questions to which we received answers. We made a motion to approve the FY2014 Bill Rolls.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the FY14 bill rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Under "other," having been reminded by seeing items for Credit Recovery and software licenses, I did ask about something I had asked about before which was whether there is some way for us to advanced online courses for middle grades students, maybe those who need extra challenges for X block. Mr. Pierantozzi said we already have that capacity. In fact, the licensing fee for the online courses is based on number of simultaneous users, so our district keeps the fee low by staggering the times when different schools and classes use the online courses AND they offer very advanced courses that middle schoolers could take. We would just have to work any middle-grades users into the schedule.

After we vote on the report I can offer a few subsequent updates.

We adjourned at 8:02 pm.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the report and minutes of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of December 4, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**SUBSEQUENT UPDATES:**

For the public, since most of School Committee members already know this: The chair of finance was absent from the Board of Alderman meeting so the Superintendent did not yet present our requests.

The Superintendent is looking into establishing a temporary kitchen at the high school as soon as possible.

If the attic storage space at the Brown School could be remodeled, staff from the DPW suggest it could cost about \$300,000.

Updates since meeting – construction timeline, Mr. Pierantozzi did not attend the BOA meeting, temporary kitchen, temporary space at Brown = approximately \$300,000.

Discussion ensued relative to the renovations/construction projects regarding the high school auditorium and kitchen, as well as the spaces at the Brown School. Discussion included student involvement, anticipated completion date, accessibility concerns, budgetary process including bids, and a possible joint communication plan.

**B. *Special Committee for the Evaluation of the Superintendent Meeting:* Dec. 9**

(Mrs. Cardoso)

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

In attendance: Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Jr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Roix, Mrs. Cardoso, Mayor Curtatone.

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Dorothy Scally (STA), Carrie Normand and three other audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. and adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**1. Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools**

**Superintendent's Evaluation:**

The SC met with the Supt in a very relaxed atmosphere to discuss his 2013 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 last week on December 9th. 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 2013 was 1.87 which is between (PROFICIENT) and (EXEMPLARY) – according to the State's Rating Scale this 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 comments made during our evaluation of the Supt:

**STANDARD #1: INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP**

**RATING: 2.03**

The Superintendent provides the educational direction and leadership in close conjunction with his academic leadership team. By one measure (MCAS), the results show clear improvement and we must acknowledge that the district exceeded its goals for student learning. The Superintendent is to be commended for keeping his focus on the education of the whole child and for encouraging the expansion of arts, music and experiential learning for all students. By another measure – SGP – the results speak for themselves as Somerville has shown the greatest growth of any urban district in the Commonwealth. It is nice to see standardized test scores confirm this, especially since, unfortunately, so many people regard MCAS scores as a sign of a school district's quality.

The educator evaluation system is, perhaps, the most important tool for improving instruction. The educator evaluation implementation failed last year and we lost a full year in evaluating our teachers. Obviously the teacher evaluation was the big exception to an otherwise exceptional year for Tony. Evaluations had to be recalibrated. This was painful and, if scores were any indicator, not completely warranted but he is fixing it. The missteps in the evaluation process distracted many district educators, and we missed some opportunities as a result.

**STANDARD #2: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS****RATING: 1.39**

This is Tony's real strength. He is an outstanding financial manager, which enables the district to maximize its resources without shortchanging vital programs. In times of financial hardship, he enabled the SPS to do more with less. He has handled the budget masterfully, and done a good job in negotiations with many unions that represent SPS staff. Now that the City of Somerville is in stronger shape financially, he has worked closely with the School Committee to develop budgets that increased spending by six and seven percent in each of the last two years. These additional funds have enabled significant progress in many important areas. He has done a masterful job with logistics and has met a number of challenges relating to our buildings. The Superintendent is also an incredibly hard worker, setting a good example for all our staff. Administratively, he runs a tight ship and hires smart, hardworking competent people. The District's finances are well managed and above approach and he has established an ethical, qualification-based hiring process for all positions under his responsibility. He supports a range of technological programs that enable various departments (especially Human Resources) to function with great efficiency.

**STANDARD #3: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT****RATING: 2.00**

Family and community engagement is a daunting task as diverse as Somerville and the Somerville public schools however the Superintendent clearly is committed to engaging the community and the SFLC is doing good work in this area. The Superintendent obviously takes this mission seriously. The on-line Connections newsletter has also been helpful. The Superintendent is to be commended for these initiatives. But I believe there is more we can do in this area, particularly in the way we conduct outreach to the broadly diverse communities of Somerville. I think we need to heighten our focus on a multimedia approach to communications. We need to maintain and update our website, which is one of the primary ways that families get information about our schools.

He is now seen as a significant asset to our Community. He provides clear and unequivocal leadership for our District and provides care and comfort individually to staff members in need. Tony has handled several crises superbly, some simultaneously, which can be a real challenge. In the educator evaluation issue, Tony took clear responsibility and forged a process that sets the stage for successful implementation in the coming years.

**STANDARD #4: PROFESSIONAL CULTURE****RATING: 2.14**

The Superintendent has brought a culture of professionalism and hard work to the District. This is clearly reflected in his leadership team and in the staff response to his initiatives. Tony fosters a commitment to high standards for all administrators and has modeled his hands-on approach visibly by being present at practically every school function in the District. He has also modeled his personal engagement as a tutor of two students with whom he meets regularly. Tony is a clear and direct communicator which, in and of itself, establishes him as a strong leader. In addition, he is a good listener and models respectful, professional demeanor in public meetings. Outstanding in this area and I believe credit is due for staffing decisions among his key administrators. The Superintendent holds and models high standards and supports and models continuous learning. He can anticipate and try to avert conflict as well as manage conflicts that do break out.

I've heard that many teachers say that one of the main reasons they want to become an innovation school is to control their own professional development and be free of the District's program, which they don't find effective in making them better teachers. One theme I hear from teachers in all of the schools is the need for more common planning time.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOAL #1: IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY MEETING THE PRESCRIBED ANNUAL TARGETS****RATING: 1.33**

The Superintendent and his administration hit a grand-slam home run in this area. The improvement in MCAS scores was tremendous, particularly in the most important area of student growth scores. The district met and exceeded the achievement goals established by the School Committee. These were ambitious goals and the results speak for themselves. The School Committee, in collaboration with the Superintendent, set a numerical target for Student Growth Percentage which we thought was a stretch but achievable. I believe that steady field work by the Superintendent and his instructional leadership team put in place goals, guides, and support over the years and it has paid off with our teachers and



students racking up scores that are the envy of every urban school district in the Commonwealth. Many people deserve credit for this success, and the Superintendent is among them. With these results, SPS is much less likely to be placed on the list of districts where the charter cap would be lifted. He seeks to get Somerville out of the bottom 10% and improvement like this year, if sustained, would be a great gift.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOAL #2: PROMOTE INNOVATIONS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE STUDENT PERFORMANCE

RATING: 1.86

The Superintendent has facilitated and encouraged discussions about innovation schools. The Winter Hill Innovation School is up and running while the Kennedy School is well on its way to developing a plan for review and eventual vote by its staff. These innovation efforts as well as the STEAM Academy will need support and guidance from the central office to be successful.

Tony has introduced new academic features that are designed to improve student performance including X-Block, foreign language instruction in the elementary schools, and after-school support and enrichment programs. One of his strength's is that he's not afraid to try new things and then to modify them and try again if they don't work well at first.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOAL #3: DEVELOP STRONGER HOME-SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

RATING: 2.11

The Liaison program has helped, we still have a long way to go here but the Superintendent takes this seriously and is moving things in the right direction.

Tony has taken significant steps in building systems to cultivate stronger home-school connections. The SFLC is taking a building-block approach to connect with parents who are not traditionally involved in our schools. The introduction of community liaisons in our schools has been a significant development in connecting with parents and guardians. Tony continues to grow the practice of cultural awareness throughout the District and, I believe, has established home-school-connections, especially with teachers, as a priority.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOAL #4: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

RATING: 2.11

The Superintendent has worked hard to build relationships with City agencies and community groups. Tony maintains excellent relations with local business leaders and fraternal organizations and does an excellent job working with political leaders in Somerville. Somerville is fortunate to be located in the middle of an area rich in talent from universities, technology companies, and emerging industries.

While individual schools forge working relationships with many of these partners, the District lacks an overall strategy to build relations and leverage contributions to support our students.

There was a unanimous motion made to approve the following Motion:

MOTION: To approve the School Committee's 2013 Superintendent's Evaluation Composite.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

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 Mr. Sweeting, to approve the report and minutes of the meeting of the Special Committee for the Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools of December 9, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

**C. *Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee:*** Dec. 10 (Mr. Bockelman)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

In attendance: Mr. Roix, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman.

Also in attendance: Ms. Rafal, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, Mr. Oteri, Mr. LaGambina, Ms. Woods, Ms. Foreman and one audience member.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

1. SHS Program of Studies
2. MCAS Results for 2013
3. Updates: Coordinated Program Review preview; PARCC administration
4. Other

SHS Program of Studies:

The four members of the high school staff mentioned above presented fourteen proposed changes to the Somerville High School program of study. The process begins in the Spring with a request to all department heads to evaluate their current course offerings and recommend additions, changes and deletions. This information is gathered and reviewed with the Curriculum Committee over a series of meetings in October. The recommendations are then forwarded to the School Committee for its review and approval.

The changes include:

- New requirement to require two years of a foreign language;
- New course entitled Spanish Heritage Speakers II Honors
- New course Statistics offered as honors and AP;
- New courses Content-based ESL and Literacy ESL;
- New course Common Core Math Concepts;
- New courses Composition I and Composition II;
- New course SAT Preparation: Critical Reading and Writing;
- Delete Public Speaking, English 4: Dystopian Darkness due to lack of interest;
- Delete Conceptual Physics, Introductory Physics, Pre-Biology, Biological Science, Pre-Biology and ALCS Biology. Add CPS Chemistry, CPS Physics, and CPS SEIP Physics.
- Restructure AP Physics into two separate courses, AP Physics I and AP Physics II.
- New course Jazz Band
- New courses Introduction to Band, Introduction to Chorus, Introduction to Orchestra;
- Begin grading Advisory on a pass/fail basis at 1.25 credits/year;
- Add Core Department descriptors to the program of studies for AP – Advanced Placement, H Honors, CP College Prep, and CPS College Prep with Support. This will comply with NEASC recommendations.

Mr. Sweeting moved to approve the Program of Studies as presented pending funding. Mr. Roix seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the Somerville High School Program of Studies changes, pending funding.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made an amended motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to accept – not approve - the Somerville High School Program of Studies changes, pending funding.

The amended motion was approved via voice vote.

MCAS Data for 2013

Dr. McKay reviewed the MCAS data, which showed the incredible growth from prior years. This was a remarkable achievement with progress shown across the board except for special needs students, which remains an important priority.

He and the Superintendent explained that there was no single thing that made the difference but rather was developing a plan to improve student learning, allocate resources accordingly, and maintain fidelity to the goal.

Dr. McKay said that aligning the content so that everyone was on the same page and understanding what students had to be learning was a immense task. It required the commitment and cooperation of the central office, principals, coaches and professional teaching staff.

When asked what initiative didn't work, he said they rolled out the tutoring initiative with too large a target population. They have since scaled back the tutoring program to ensure high quality and concentrated tutoring and now tutoring is offered district wide with quality instructors.

When asked if this year would prove to be a fluke, Dr. McKay responded that they systems are built for the long haul...we will not be a one-hit wonder.

Other insights include the fact that professional development is important and does work, that more coaching does not equate to better coaching, and that there is an optimal level of common planning time that is efficient and effective. Beyond that, the value becomes questioned.

Areas that need additional focus include the early grades where testing is a bigger challenge.

The Superintendent emphasized that these great scores should be a sign of hope but that the District should maintain a sense of urgency because the achievement gap remains a reality and needs to be addressed with organized discipline.

In other business, Dr. McKay updated us on the implementation of the PARCC testing initiative, which will eventually replace MCAS. To implement PARCC at the test sites without digging into too much instruction time, the District will eliminate the Spring MAPS test. The net result will be an additional two hours of testing for those student effected.

The District is preparing for the Coordinated Program Review, which will occur during 2014-2015.

The District is revising its approach to District Improvement Plans with more focus on data, linking the plan to the District's budget process, and including School administrators and school improvement councils in the goal setting process.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the report and minutes of the meeting of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of December 10, 2013.

**D. *School Committee Caucus for Chair and Vice Chair* : Dec. 16 (Ms. Rossetti)**

## **VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. PERSONNEL REPORT**

Members received a copy of the December Personnel Report in their packets. Details include:

Two resignations for the purpose of retirement - Katherine Cannon and Susan Palter

The Superintendent wished them well and a long happy and healthy retirement.

This brings us to a total of 19 retirements this year.

There are 10 Leaves of Absences for various reasons

There were 3 Inter district transactions

14 new hires are replacements for staff who resigned for various reasons

4 new positions are grant-funded positions

### **B. DISTRICT REPORT**

- The forecast predicts that it will be very cold tomorrow and then snow will fall. School will be in session, but all afternoon and evening activities have been cancelled. We value the day of school. Bad weather should hit around 11 a.m. The Superintendent urged parents, guardians and students to be sure to be dressed extremely warmly. The wind chill is expected to be anywhere from in the single digits to below 5 degrees.  
Mr. Sweeting appreciates closing afterschool activities and asked how parents/guardians will know?  
Mr. Pierantozzi reported that a communication has already been sent via the robo call system.
- Winter break begins at the close of school on December 20<sup>th</sup>. School will be closed on December 23, but offices will be open for the full day and also will be open over vacation
- Mr. Pierantozzi wished everyone happy holidays and a Happy New Year and issued his hope that 2014 will be a terrific year for all of us!

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

1. Science and math—competitiveness—leading state in STEM compared with other states in country.
2. Somerville's Assembly Row is welcoming an exciting new center that is of interest to our students: LEGO LAND.

I'd like to thank Mayor Curtatone for connecting the schools with LEGOLAND Discovery Center opening this spring at Assembly Row.

This promises to be a very successful partnership! We are kicking off a series of "Lego Build" events at each of our elementary schools. Today, this began with a Lego Build event at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School. Tomorrow, Brown then Capuano and Next Wave.

These are fun and interactive events for our students involving kits of 22,000 Lego pieces. Parents are thinking: How MANY pieces and what was that like to clean up??

Through the generosity of LEGOLAND, these kits are being donated to the schools. We'd like to thank LEGOLAND for organizing these exciting programs and for the kit donations as well, of course. Parent

volunteers and school staff were also instrumental in organizing these fun events. If you can attend, please let me know and I'll send you the detailed schedule.

3. Last—regarding the Music Program's holiday concerts— the El Sistema Community in Harmony concert —will not take place tomorrow night and will be rescheduled to Wednesday. Dr. McKay's daughter will be taking part in this concert.

**The Superintendent continued his district report:**

- Check the Somerville Public Schools' website for a complete list of winter concerts—
- Tomorrow, the Superintendent will attend a meeting at the State Board of Education regarding the methodology used to determine district performance. Discussion will include the waiver of AYP and how to identify performance, growth. The hope is that the methodology used will be consistent with the waiver.

Mr. Sweeting asked if this is a matter of regulation and was told that it is.

Ms. Rossetti announced that she will not be joining Mr. Pierantozzi at the Board of Education meeting and thanked the Superintendent for attending on the School Committee's behalf.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual**

The following policies are being presented this evening for second reading, as amended:

AS three policies

- JLCDD – Life Threatening Food Allergies

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to approve File JLCDD – Life Threatening Food Allergies, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

- JLCDD-R – Life Threatening Food Allergies Guidelines

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to approve File JLCDD-R – Life Threatening Food Allergies Guidelines, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

- JICFB – Bullying in Schools

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve File JICFB – Bullying in Schools, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

Thanked writer's for addressing concerns

**B. School Safety and Security Review Committee – update**

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that at members' places is a memo to him from Gerry Leone which provides information regarding the School Safety and Security Review Committee.

The memo was received and placed on file.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Acceptance of Donations**

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a violin, valued at \$200.00, from Darlene Matthews of Somerville, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of a clarinet, valued at \$150.00, from Meghan Sedita of Somerville, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Alderman White, to accept the two donations, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of \$2,000.00 from the Brian Higgins Foundation, to the Somerville Public Schools, to be used towards the purchase of a Smart Board to be installed in the SKIP Program at the Kennedy School.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of two (2) Target gift cards, each in the amount of \$249.99, donated by Nick Benson of the Somerville, MA Target Store, to the Winter Hill Innovation School. These gifts cards will assist with the school's upcoming fashion show. Total value of donation \$499.98.

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

**B. Employment Contract of the Superintendent of Schools**

Ms. Rossetti asked Ms. Rafal to assume the chair so that she could provide a report on the Superintendent's contract.

Ms. Rossetti reported, as a follow up to Mrs. Cardoso's report, that the School Committee met in Executive Session on December 12, 2013 to review Mr. Pierantozzi's employment contract. The School Committee is voting this evening to amend the contract. Official action was taken this evening to amend the contract after negotiation and discussion.


**MOTION:** Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to amend the Superintendent's employment contract dated December 21, 2011, as previously amended on December 19, 2012 and May 29, 2013, as follows:

1. To extend the term of the contract from June 30, 2015 to July 5, 2015;
2. To increase the Superintendent's annual salary commencing January 1, 2014 by 2%, in light of his most recent performance evaluation rating; and
3. To revise the language regarding the Superintendent's vacation benefit to make clear that if his employment is severed before the end of a contract year, his vacation benefit will be pro-rated for that year.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 8 – Sweeting, White, Roix, Bockelman, Cardoso, Curtatone, Rafal and Rossetti and NO – 1- Niedergang.

The contract will be signed at the close of tonight's meeting.

**C. Field Trips**

Jan. 16, 2014		Next Wave/Full Circle students to Pat's Peak, Henniker, NH.
Feb. 13, 2014		Transportation via school van. Cost to students is
Mar. 14, 2014		\$10.00 each per trip.

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

Further discussion under New Business included Alderman White's questions, in keeping with ruling of the Attorney General's Office regarding the Open Meeting Law regarding subcommittees approving their own minutes. Alderman White believes they must be approved in subcommittee. Mr. Pierantozzi will consult our legal counsel for an opinion.

In order to make room for PARC and MCAS, questions were raised regarding internet connectivity and bandwidth. Dr. McKay assured members that we are all set in this regard.

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mrs. Cardoso**

1. Regarding her recent Retirement party— issued thanks to all who participated including the Argenziano School Chorus—thanked students for singing and for their notes. Thanked her husband and daughter and family for their support through the years.
2. Regarding snow storms, there are many icy paths, be careful walking and Mrs. Cardoso encouraged residents to try to keep up with treating areas where students walk.
3. Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year

**Mayor Curtatone**

1. Stated that he has enjoyed working with all three of the departing members for over four decades officially. Looks forward to working with Mr. Niedergang and Ms. Rossetti on the Board of Aldermen and will miss Mrs. Cardoso
2. Tomorrow there will another snow storm. Get out and shovel sidewalks, ramps, hydrants, etc. By the end of the week there should be a thaw, hopefully. Announced that inspectors are out in force and that the DPW is working diligently to clear drop-off areas and passageways, etc. Drive safely, stay warm!
3. Merry Christmas Happy New Year, and offered his wishes for a happy holiday season!

**Ms. Rafal**

1. The Swim Team is more populated this year and beat Medford today! On Wednesday, there is another meet!
2. Looks forward to the many concerts at the various schools.
3. Cautioned everyone to stay safe during storm season!

**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Added his name to those thanking colleagues. Thanked the Chair for her year of service and stated that she did a great job as Chair even with all that was going on in her personal and professional life, she led very well.
2. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

**Mr. Roix**

1. Issued his thanks to departing members for their personal friendship and assistance and for their years of service to the schools, children and families of the city. The School Committee's loss is the Board of Aldermen's gain!

**Mr. Niedergang**

1. Looking forward to watching new members this year.

**Mr. Bockelman**

1. Thanked Ms. Rossetti for her leadership. Add his name to the list of people who appreciate all that has been done by our departing members. It is going to be really different next year. Admires everyone's work ethic, etc. and appreciates all of the hard work!
2. Issued his thanks to the Superintendent and is pleased to have negotiated a good, strong contract which reflects his leadership to the District and City. The Mayor and Superintendent work really well together which helps our success. Thanked Tony for his efforts and Vince and Patti, too!
3. Wished glad tidings to all!

**Alderman White**

1. Wished everyone well and issued his thanks, and then asked, "Where is my soup, Teresa?"

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Thanked—Nomi Davidson and others from the SFLC for their work on the December 11<sup>th</sup> event. There was a terrific outpouring of attendees on a freezing cold night. Many community members attended and most discussion centered around School Improvement Plans and School Councils as well as lots of conversation regarding innovation schools.
2. Issued her thanks to the Somerville Public Schools. It is going to be tough not to be at School Committee meetings.
3. Thanked everyone for their kind remarks.
4. To the residents of Ward 7—thanked her constituents for allowing her to serve; it has been an honor, privilege and pleasure!

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

- James Gilligan, father of Shannon Gilligan, former Elementary Curriculum Coordinator for the Somerville Public Schools

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. via voice vote.

***Mark Niedergang***

- WHEREAS,** *Mark Niedergang has been a faithful member of the School Committee from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2013, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mr. Niedergang has served on all of the standing subcommittees of the School Committee and was Chairman of the Educational Programs and Instruction, Rules Management, Personnel and Finance and Facilities Subcommittees, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mr. Niedergang conscientiously and tenaciously has addressed any issues and concerns relating to the schools, working tirelessly for just and right resolutions, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mr. Niedergang has actively encouraged public input and government transparency, setting an outstanding example for his position, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mr. Niedergang, during his tenure on the School Committee, has demonstrated a genuine interest in all schools in the city, as well as all students, parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators, earning the respect of his colleagues on the School Committee, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That the Somerville School Committee proudly and publicly recognize the dedication and service provided by Mark Niedergang, and wish him continued success in all future endeavors, including as the Ward 5 Alderman, and be it further*
- RESOLVED:** *That these well-earned Resolutions be recorded in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to Mr. Niedergang.*

***M. Teresa Cardoso***

- WHEREAS,** *Teresa Cardoso, a dedicated and caring member of the Somerville School Committee whose mantra has always been to "remember that it's about the kids!", is retiring after serving as the representative of Ward Two for the past 22 years, earning the respect of the entire school community, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mrs. Cardoso served as School Committee Chair in 1995, as well as the Chair of the Finance and Facilities, Rules Management, Personnel, Educational Programs Instruction and Building and Grounds Subcommittees and engaged in an active role in the construction of our six new schools, including the Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park, in Ward 2, and who hired two Superintendents, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mrs. Cardoso, a product of the Somerville Public Schools, became the first Portuguese-American/Bilingual member elected to the School Committee, devoting countless hours not only to her constituents in Ward 2, but to the community at large, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Mrs. Cardoso has earned numerous prestigious awards including the Somerville Council of Parent-Teacher Association Scholarship Honoree for "being a true advocate for the children of Somerville" in 1994, the Person of the Year Award from the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers in 2003, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees in 2006, and,*
- WHEREAS,** *Mrs. Cardoso has played an active role in countless school and community organizations including the Friends of Lincoln Park (co-founder), the Community Action Agency of Somerville (member and president), the Title I Parent Advisory Council, Parent Teachers Association, Ward 2 Democratic Committee, Somerville Human Rights Commission, and many, many more, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That the Somerville School Committee, with immense gratitude, publicly and proudly honor Mrs. Cardoso for her endless contributions to Ward 2, the School Department, the parents, guardians and students of the city, and wish her a happy and healthy retirement with her family, and be it further*
- RESOLVED:** *That these Resolutions be recorded in the minutes of a future School Committee meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to Mrs. Cardoso*

*Mary Jo Rossetti*

- WHEREAS,** *Mary Jo Rossetti, a lifelong resident of Somerville and a proud Somerville High School graduate, has been the devoted and committed Somerville School Committee Representative of Ward Seven for the past 14 years, earning the respect of the entire school community, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Rossetti, who began her career in public service as an officer of the PTAs of the Powder House Community School and Somerville High School and a member and co-chair of three School Councils, before being elected in November 1999 to the Somerville School Committee where she served as Chair in 2003, 2004 and 2013, as well as the Chair of the Finance and Facilities, Rules Management, Personnel, Educational Programs Instruction and Building and Grounds Subcommittees and engaged in an active role in contract negotiations, the hiring of the Superintendent and the building of several new schools, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Rossetti has also served the Massachusetts Association of School Committees as its Metropolitan Chair, Division II Chair, Federal Relations Network Member, Chair of the Statewide Advocacy Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors - becoming President in 2012, as well as being appointed to the Governor's Local Government Advisory Commission, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Rossetti has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues and contemporaries across the state and the country for her work on many educational issues, the most important of which to Ms. Rossetti being the issue of high student mobility and its negative impact on mobile and non-mobile students alike and as well as on data, particularly in urban and large districts, and,*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Rossetti has played an active role in countless school and community organizations including Somerville Youth Soccer, Somerville Girls Basketball, the Title I Parent Advisory Council, Ward 7 Democratic Committee, Somerville High School 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and the Parent Teacher Association by whom she was named as a Somerville Council of Parent-Teacher Association Scholarship Honoree in 2008, and many, many more, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That the Somerville School Committee, with immense gratitude, publicly and proudly honor Ms. Rossetti for her endless contributions to Ward 7, the School Department, the parents, guardians and students of the city, and wish her tremendous success in all future endeavors, including as an at-large member of the Board of Aldermen, and be it further*
- RESOLVED:** *That these Resolutions be recorded in the minutes of tonight's School Committee meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to Ms. Rossetti.*

Somerville Public Schools  
Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to:

**Dave Keating**

*Presented in appreciation of your assistance with the West Somerville Neighborhood School's recycling fundraising efforts. By collecting cartridges to be recycled, the West Somerville has raised more than \$1200 and also kept many cartridges out of our landfills! Thank you not only for your work, but also for your cheerfulness and willingness to help whenever asked! Your efforts are greatly appreciated!*

Somerville School Committee

Mary Jo Rossetti, Chairperson	Christine Rafal, Vice Chairperson
M. Teresa Cardoso	Paul Bockelman
Steven Roix	Mark Niedergang
Adam Sweeting	Joseph Curtatone, Mayor
William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President	
Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent	

December 16, 2013