

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, January 14, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent: Ms. Bastardi resigned from her position on December 13, 2012.

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, Cardoso, Rossetti, Bockelman, Niedergang, Rafal, White and Curtatone and Vacant – 1 – Ward One. Ms. Dodi was also present.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

- Students have been holding a coat drive to provide warm coats to those in need.
- Last week, the Highlanders had success at the Dartmouth Relays. Andre Rolim finished first in the 800 meter race.
- Students are preparing for a trip to Gaeta, Italy, as part of our student exchange with our Sister City. Students will spend a week in Italy and will also visit Rome as part of this trip.
- Mid-term exams will begin next week and study sessions have begun. The High School will follow a special schedule for Thursday, Friday and Monday.
- The Green Club is looking into becoming a green school.
- There will be a book sale at the High School library. All books will be sold for \$1.00 each.
- The Trivia Team will compete against Lincoln Sudbury High School in the Trivia Bowl which will be televised on WGBH. The students have been meeting and practicing questions. Audience members are encouraged to attend to show support for these students.
- Scholarship information for seniors will be provided at a meeting at the end of the month. There will also be a meeting to provide FAFSA preparation assistance to students and their parents/guardians.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 17, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of December 17, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- January 7, 2013 Organizational Meeting of the School Committee

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the minutes of January 7, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Report of action taken in Executive Session: December 19 (Mr. Bockelman)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

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

Also in attendance: Mr. Pierantozzi, Attorney Mary Jo Hollender, Joseph Tringale and Patti Marques.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 and adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Mr. Bockelman's report is as follows.

The School Committee took action on one item on the agenda – contract negotiations with the Superintendent on his salary and benefits - that I can report out.

The Committee discussed the Superintendent's salary and benefits in light of his recent excellent performance review and in light of the actions taken for other non-union employees with his tenure.

It was voted unanimously to increase the Superintendent's salary by 10% to a total of \$196,702 retroactive to July 1, 2012. No other changes to compensation or benefits were made. The Committee agreed to review the contract no later than June 30, 2013 to discuss any other amendments either party wants to make to the contract.

This salary increase is in keeping with the approach taken to other non-union employees. I should note that the Superintendent had not had a real adjustment in salary since January 1, 2009. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the hard work and leadership that the Superintendent has given to the District and the City and his willingness, along with many other School employees, to accept a furlough of his salary during the difficult financial times the City has come through.

B. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee: January 9 (Ms. Rafal)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

In attendance: Ms. Rafal and Mrs. Cardoso.

Also in attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and two audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 and adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

1. Facilities Update and Capital Improvement Plan
2. Equipment Plan
3. ESCS Update
4. FY13 Expenditure Report
5. FY13 Bill Roll
6. Other

Ms. Rafal's report is as follows:

We took the 3rd agenda item first because it was just so exciting to come into the room decorated with pictures of the types of playground equipment that will surround the new East Somerville Community School! The renovations are expected to be substantially complete by March 28, but they will still be working on the details and punch list until July. The plan is for teachers to be able to move in at the end of August. We received updates of all the various progress both inside and outside of the building; mechanical systems are in progress but there have to be some changes to the electrical work because Underwriter's Laboratory revoked its approval of devices that had been chosen earlier and we can only use current approvals. Flooring, tiles, partitions, painting and outdoor hard-scaping are all being done. Mrs. Cardoso asked how the committees were working and the superintendent said that the committees make recommendations and the Mayor reviews it. He showed us a hefty pile of papers that were bids for the furniture, fixture and equipment committee. The beautiful plans for fields, plantings and playground structures were putting the price about \$200,000 over budget and the Superintendent had begun looking for ways to economize but he reports that the Mayor said to use contingency funds so the school can have as much as possible for the kids of East Somerville.

Then we went back to the first agenda item, facilities update and Capital Improvement Plan. School-by-school requests come in through principals and school councils and PTAs and in school improvement plans. One of the facilities improvements would be to renovate a classroom near the high school's atrium entrance in order to keep SKIP students in the district even after they finish 8th grade at the Kennedy. We reviewed the list and learned that while capital improvements have typically been funded with free cash, the city would like to develop multi-year capital planning. We want to keep in mind a decision about the long-range use of the Edgerly and Cummings schools after ESCS opens.

Then we reviewed equipment requests. A couple of the top-priority items were a new refrigerated food truck and an activity van used for athletic teams and vocational programs to replace the 10-year-old vehicles we have now. We asked if the language lab would be capital or technology and it is not clear how that will be thought of or budgeted right now.

We reviewed the expenditure reports. The budget for the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Assessment is pretty well spent at this point, a great deal of having gone towards the purchase of books for the new Balanced Literacy programs. The other area of concern is Special Ed funding, especially out-of-district tuitions.

Then we reviewed the bill rolls and bring to the school committee a motion to approve the bill rolls dated 1.08.13 for FY13.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the bill rolls for 2013. The motion was approved via voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the report and minutes of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of January 9, 2013. The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

- 29 Members of the Somerville High School Chorus, under the direction of Beverly Mosby, are heading to Washington, D.C. this weekend to perform at the *WorldStrides Heritage Inaugural Music Festival* during the Presidential Inauguration weekend. The group will perform 3 selections on Saturday, January 19, will attend the Inauguration of President Obama, and will visit numerous historic and cultural sites over the weekend.
- The SFLC begins its 2013 workshops this Wednesday, January 16th with a 1-1/2 hour presentation for prospective families on "Learning About the Somerville Public Schools," with an emphasis on Kindergarten. The workshop will be at the Argenziano School from 6:30-8:00pm.
- On Thursday, January 17th, parents/guardians are invited to attend the "Parenting in the Middle School Years" workshop at the Healey School (5 Meacham Street), presented by Dr. Richard Lerner, Director of the Tufts University Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development.
- Kindergarten Registration for 2013 is under way. Visit the new K website, www.somerville.k12.ma.us/kindergarten_for_more_information.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, for some curriculum information. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

1. Early Education Partnership Grant – Alignment Coordinator Suzanne Gibbons began work last week. The Advisory Committee will help to guide her entry planning. This is a two-year grant which will focus on Kindergarten readiness. First priorities include a focus on the pre-school program providers in the City, including meeting with the directors of these programs. There are 39 licensed providers in the City. Dr. McKay will work with Ed. Programs Chair, Mr. Bockelman, to bring Ms. Gibbons to a meeting to discuss this exciting new initiative.
2. English Language Learner updates: There is a new state assessment system that impacts about 20% of our students, those classified as ELLs K-12. That assessment program officially started this week and is known as ACCESS. This system has replaced the MEPA. Dr. McKay sat in on some practice administrations recently. It's very intensive, requiring one on one administration for some of the assessments. We do believe, however, that the new tests will provide a better picture of our progress. If you will recall, our ELL programs here in Somerville showed very good results under MEPA, and we expect that to continue under ACCESS.
3. The second ELL update is regarding training requirements for teachers. As you know, the Federal Department of Justice has been working at the state level to pressure the Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to tighten its expectations regarding teacher training for supporting ELLs in the classroom. At this time, we are in the midst of assigning high priority teachers to complete this very intensive (45 hour) course.
4. Lastly, Dr. McKay and World Language Department Head, Jim Nocito, visited Lexington High School last Friday to see their language lab. The World Language Department has been undergoing several program developments that includes the following:
 - New 7th/8th grade Spanish program
 - Mandarin language being offered for the first time at Somerville High School
 - Planning for an upgraded language lab for the World Language Department at Somerville High School

Alderman White commented that he is happy that foreign language is back at the middle school level.

Ms. Rossetti spoke about RETELL – In her Joint Conference report there was discussion re costs of administering RETELL. Could we have a summation of the cost and what was supplemented?

Mr. Pierantozzi responded that there have been lots of changes since November. DESE sets test requirements.

A Federal grant provides trainers \$12,000 which may be the only money spent. Three cohorts have been determined by DESE. The first cohort has 80 people and the class provides 67.5 pdp's towards recertification.

The Superintendent continued his report:

- 2013 Somerville High School Musical - The 2013 SHS musical production of "The Wizard of Oz" features students from throughout the District this year. Performances are scheduled for January 31st, February 1st and 2nd.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Patricia Durette, Finance Director, for some finance information. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

An update on grants:

1. Community Schools received \$264K for 21st Century programming at the East Somerville and West Somerville for balance of the year and summer.
2. \$30K for Supplemental Support Middle School Leadership for at risk students. This is the mentorship program which began last summer
3. District and School Assistance (DSAC) - \$72K targeted toward Professional Development
4. \$100K from the Cummings Foundation to develop STEM focused clubs
5. Thank you to Susana Hernandez Morgan, Joan White and Uri Harel for their work on these grant proposals
6. Provided an update on the Somerville High School auditorium and kitchen. Ms. Durette has been attending weekly meetings to review the damage and resulting claims. RFPs for auditorium seat replacement or repair is currently out. Demolition will begin once a bid has been secured.
7. Replacement of the sound system will need to be done after a thorough evaluation of the state of the art sound system which was purchased in 2008/09 was determined to be a complete loss. A claim has been placed with the insurance company for this equipment.
8. The FY14 budget process has begun with meetings with principals and administrator. Currently a level-service budget is being developed.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his report:

- Students from Somerville High School have participated in the Harvard Model Congress, but costs for participation has, in the past, limited the number and types of students who could participate. In order to help diversify the participation, the Somerville Rotary Club will provide 12 full scholarships to SHS students regardless of economic ability so that all who wish to participate may do so. Rotary will provide these scholarships on an annual basis. Harvard is also providing special rates for SHS students.
- The SHS Trivia Team advanced as one of the top 16 academic teams in Massachusetts for the second year in a row, and will be competing against Lincoln-Sudbury in a 4-on-4 competition on the WGBH High School Quiz Show later this month. The show will be taped on January 26 at 2:45 p.m. and the program will air March 3 at 6:30 p.m. This year's Somerville team includes senior Zoe Iacovino, juniors Miles Bain and Celine Lessard-Brandt, and sophomore John Iacovino. Junior RJ Bingham and sophomore Graham Lessard-Brandt are this year's alternates. To reserve a seat to the taping, visit www.highschoolquizshow.org. Admission to the taping is free.
- Congratulations to Somerville High School students Max Freitas, Alex Bartlett and John Mulcahy for their winning local entries in the *VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Contest*. Max earned a \$1,500 scholarship for his First Place entry; Alex was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for his Second-Place entry; and John placed Third, earning a \$500 scholarship. Max's essay advanced to the next round, where he placed third. The theme of this year's contest was "Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?" Special thanks to the VFW James Logan Post for their support of our students.
- John and Abigail Adams Scholarship letters are in the process of being sent to the homes of the recipients. This scholarship provides tuition waivers for students who attend Massachusetts Community or four-year colleges.

- College Acceptances and Scholarship Awards:
 - Ruairi Palmer – 4-year Posse Scholarship to Bucknell University
 - Ruth Grossman – Early Acceptance to the University of Pennsylvania
 - Indira Evora – St. Michael's College – Basketball Scholarship

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DRAFT 2013-2014 School Calendar

1. The green calendar, which was originally presented on December 3, includes a professional development day on Election Day (11/5) and school in session on 12/23.
2. The goldenrod calendar has a professional day on 11/5 but no school on 12/23 and the last day of school is one day later - 6/19 with 6/26 as the 185th day, followed by 1 day of professional development.
3. The pink calendar has school on 12/23 and school in session on 11/5 with professional development on 11/8, the Friday of Veteran's Day weekend.

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the goldenrod calendar, but to move the November ½ day from 11/13 to 11/20.

Mr. Sweeting supports this motion. He is in favor of having school on Election Day so that students may witness this civic activity.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Photography Contract

The Superintendent has the ultimate authority on this matter.

In the School Committees Policy approved in January 1996, and amended in December 2009, "Individual schools may arrange, in cooperation with the school's parent organization, student council, designated student committee, or a staff committee, to take individual student and/or class group pictures.

Awarding of the photographic services shall be conducted in accordance with state law." The MASC's sample policy allows staff to make the decision. Since the Superintendent's arrival in 2005, Central Office has determined the photography contract for all schools with the exception of the high school yearbook and senior photos. All other schools' yearbooks use photographs from various people and places.

After polling our principals, it has been determined that principals want central office to continue to make the decision. My decision was based on improved lower costs for our families. Most photographers provide a 20% credit to schools for being hired to do their student photos. That 20% has traditionally been taken off the package price in lieu of credit going directly to the schools. Mr. Pierantozzi feels this is the best way to continue. GESKAS provides the best package to our families.

Discussion ensued including comments by members regarding the previous long-standing agreement with Errico Studios, the location of the GESKAS studio, and questioning the experience of new provider. An explanation of the process was given.

Ms. Rafal thanked the Superintendent for going back to Errico to ask for a better bid. This is the Superintendent's responsibilities and not the City's. The School Committee does not have a say. Mr. Pierantozzi got the best deal for our parents/guardians.

Mr. Niedergang thanked the Superintendent and Ms. Durette for their very thorough betting of this process. It was a difficult choice, but one that benefits students and families.

Ms. Rossetti is grateful to Mr. Pierantozzi for him listening to members' concerns, but thought the second proposal provided by Errico Studios was pretty close to that of GESKAS studio. Ms. Rossetti is opposed to the decision as she feels small businesses in our own City should be patronized, when possible.

Mrs. Cardoso and Alderman White are also disappointed that Errico will not have the contract.

C. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual – Mr. Niedergang

The following policies were presented this evening for second reading, as amended:

- File: BE School Committee Meetings

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve File: BE School Committee Meetings, as amended, and include it in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- File: BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve File: BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee, as amended, and include it in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Alderman White asked about posting of items to the agenda and the procedure/deadline. Any member may request an item be placed on the agenda. This has always been a collegial and consensual process.

Mr. Bockelman explained that there is a policy on the Agenda. Discussion ensued regarding review of policies and the practice long ago of policies coming to the open board first and then being referred to subcommittee for review.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donations

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

- A donation of \$4,000.00 from C.A.S.I.T, Inc. to the Somerville Public Schools World Language Department to be used to purchase a Smart Board for a high school foreign language class.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

PB ? re CASIT donation and whether we were under any obligation to them regarding the donation of the Smart Board.

- A donation of a three guitars, one French horn, one trombone, one viola, 6 clarinets, 3 oboes, 6 flutes and 1 violin, from Asher Cohen of Sudbury, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department. Estimated value \$1,705.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of a Viola de Gamba from Barbara Johansen of Wilmington, North Carolina to the Music Department of the Somerville Public Schools. Value is \$2,000.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of a Bass Viola de Gamba and a Treble Viola de Gamba from Daniel Wolfe of Arlington, MA to the Somerville High School Music Department. Value of both items totals \$6,000.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of a French Horn from Eli Epstein of Brookline, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department. Value is \$500.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of a Yamaha Trumpet, trumpet mutes, and trumpet method books from Diane Sokal of Brookline, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department. Value of all items totals \$450.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of a clarinet from Meghan Sedita of Somerville, MA to the Somerville High School Music Department. Value is \$150.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of a baritone ukulele from Joe Mullens, c/o Performance Music Center of Woburn, MA to the Somerville High School Chorus to be used as a raffle prize. Value is \$120.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of 4 Nook Readers from Chauncey Wood, Kelly and Jon, Rachael Weisz, Matthias J. Crew and other anonymous donors to the Brown School Library. Value is \$399.96.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- An anonymous donation of \$1,000.00 to the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Field Trips (Recommended action: approval)

Feb. 8 – 10, 2013 Somerville High School Junior Statesmen of America to Arlington, VA, to participate in the Northeast Winter Congress. Transportation via chartered bus at a cost to of \$180 to students for lodging. Students will travel with students from other districts and the transportation cost is being covered by the JSA organization.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

June 5-7, 2013 Healey School grade 7/8 students to Washington, DC. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$340.00 per student.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. MASC – Ms. Rossetti

Ms. Rafal assumed that Chair so that Ms. Rossetti could provide her report on her attendance at the MASC's meeting on January 12.

Ms. Rossetti provided a copy of the meeting's agenda and informed members to please contact her with any questions.

Ms. Rossetti also reported on a position statement she provided via email regarding gun safety. This issue will be placed on the February 4th SC Agenda for further discussion.

Ms. Rafal thanked Ms. Rossetti for all her work with MASC and NSBA

Alderman White asked about homeless students in our District. Mr. Pierantozzi informed Alderman White that in our regular reports from the Parent Information Center, homeless rates are included. He also informed Mr. White that the PIC staff provides homeless families with information relative to the many services available and the agencies that are in place to help.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS
Mr. Bockelman

1. The Educational Programs Subcommittee will meet Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. at Central Office. Agenda items include a presentation re: SomerPromise, Program Updates and Innovation School Updates.
2. The Brown School will hold an open house and school tours on January 28th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. There will be a coffee hour followed by tours for all those interested in the Brown School.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Welcome Ms. Rossetti to the Chair and announced that she is doing a great job juggling all that is going on in the District.
2. Thanked all the candidates who have expressed an interest in the Ward 1 seat. It's great to see so many wonderful people becoming involved.
3. Healey School will host the workshop, "Parenting in the Middle School Years" on January 17th from 6:00- 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Rafal

1. Thanked Ms. Rossetti for all of her work with the MASC and reported on the wonderful dinner held in Ms. Rossetti's honor last Friday evening.
2. There will be a fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square to benefit the Healey School on January 15th.
3. Open Houses and Tours of all elementary schools will take place on January 23, 24 and 25th.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Robert E. Invernizzi, father of Krista Invernizzi, paraprofessional at Somerville High School
- Mabel Bennett, mother of Michelle Bennett, teacher in the SKIP Program at the Kennedy School
- Katherine FitzPatrick, mother of Maggi FitzPatrick, teacher at the Brown School.
- Greg Latino, retired teacher from Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Two (2) sets of School Committee minutes for approval.
3. The December 2012 Personnel Report
4. Three (3) different Draft versions of the 2013-2014 School Calendar for review
5. Two (2) School Committee policies for 2nd reading
6. Ten (10) donation acceptance approval forms
7. Two (2) Out of State or Overnight Field Trip requests for approval

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, January 28, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members absent: Ms. Bastardi resigned from her position on December 13, 2012.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal 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. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 –Sweeting, Cardoso, Bockelman, Niedergang, Rafal, White and Curtatone, Absent - 1 Rossetti, and Vacant – 1 – Ward One. Ms. Dodi was not present.

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 14, 2013 Special Meeting for Ward 1 Vacancy

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the January 14, 2013 Special Meeting minutes.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- January 14, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the January 14, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- January 15, 2013 Special Meeting for Ward 1 Vacancy

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the January 15, 2013 Special Meeting minutes.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- January 22, 2013 Public Hearing and Special Meeting for Ward 1 Vacancy

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the January 22, 2013 Public Hearing and Special Meeting minutes, as amended to show the correct final vote for Ward One School Committee (5-3).

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee: January 17 (Mr. Bockelman)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting.

Also in attendance: Ms. Rafal, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay and Anna Fox Doherty.

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

1. SomerPromise: program presentation
2. Program Updates
3. Innovation Updates
4. Other

The Subcommittee met with Ann Fox Doherty, the director of the SomerPromise program. For those who don't know, SomerPromise is modeled on the Harlem Children's Zone and is intended to serve as a bridge among key groups within the city to all share the goal of fostering success in our youth. This includes the public school system, the city, and private agencies – all of whom have something to do with how well our kids do during, before and after school. It is an exciting program that has great promise.

While SomerPromise is destined to become a city-wide program, it is focused right now in its early years at the Healey School and mainly working with residents of the Mystic Housing project. She believes the experience at the Healey will be able to be scaled up very quickly.

The focus so far has been on early literacy and school readiness, out of school learning time (after school and summer), and school/family/community communication.

At the Healey, SomerPromise is working with the Boys and Girls Club of Middlesex County, the leadership of the Healey School, Tufts University, the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS), and others.

Ms. Doherty noted that because the program has many stakeholders, which should ensure its success, this inclusiveness also means progress is relatively slow. She was very optimistic and excited about the amount of work that is happening and that the basic structures for collaboration and measuring success.

If nothing else, SomerPromise has provided a needed space for different agencies to talk to each other, share data openly and efficiently, and to make sure there is no unnecessary overlap in services or programs.

Next, Dr. McKay reviewed the professional development programs that were offered in our schools so far this year.

Dr. McKay also updated the subcommittee on the progress of our Innovation schools. At the Winter Hill Community School, they report that the new social curriculum – Responsive Classroom – is going to be implemented and they are trying to get staff trained on the program now. They are working on scheduling Common Planning Time, something we hear is a priority in many of our schools. And they have broached the idea of school uniforms but will not discuss this topic until the February governing board meeting.

At the High School, there have been several very rich discussions with staff and the proponents of the STEAM academy which is a very exciting and developing concept.

And at the Kennedy School, there have been several meetings but the amount of time the educator evaluation discussions are taking has limited the amount of time the teaching staff has been able to devote to the Innovation School discussions.

Dr. McKay also updated the subcommittee on the Harvard Graduate School of Education finance course reports, the High School S.A.T. status, the Unidos program evaluation follow-up, and the Literacy Plan implementation.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the report and minutes of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of January 17, 2013. The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

B. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that all members received a copy of the January Personnel Report in this week's packet.

There are four new resignations for the purpose of retirement – Sharon Staples, Cathryn Cremens-Basbas, Mary Healey and Steve Swensen. The years of service of these four individuals totals 63 years. The Superintendent wished them health and happiness in their retirement and thanked them for all of their efforts throughout their employment with the Somerville Public Schools.

Also on the Personnel Report were six resignations, five leaves of absence, two inter-district transactions and seven new hires – six of which are replacements for resigning staff members and one new hire – Suzanne Gibbons – our new Early Learning Challenge Grant Alignment Coordinator. This is a fully grant-funded position.

C. DISTRICT REPORT

- Congratulations to the SHS Chorus who, under the direction of Beverly Mosby, earned a Silver Medal at the WorldStrides Heritage Inaugural Music Competition in D.C. during Inauguration weekend. Our Chorus is open to any interested student, regardless of previous experience, and was the only non-auditioned Chorus competing in the event.

- Congratulations to senior Indira Evora for becoming only the fourth female basketball player in Somerville High School history to break the 1,000-point barrier. Indira scored her 1,000th point on January 21st against Winthrop, leading the Highlanders to a 66-55 win over Winthrop that evening. Indira was also highlighted in the Boston Globe as one of the female players of the week.
- Nearly 90 people attended the January 16th SFLC workshop for prospective families on "Learning about the Somerville Public Schools." The presentation featured an emphasis on Kindergarten programs at the SPS. A video presentation of the workshop is available online on our Kindergarten website at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/kindergarten.
- Approximately 65 parents/guardians attended the January 17th SFLC "Parenting in the Middle School Years" workshop at the Healey School presented by Dr. Richard Lerner, Director of the Tufts University Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development.
- Kindergarten Registration for 2013 is under way. We processed approximately 90 completed Kindergarten Applications on Saturday, the first official day of registration. Registration continues this week.
- Tickets for the 2013 SHS musical production of "The Wizard of Oz," featuring students from throughout the District this year, are on sale. Performances will be held at the Somerville Theatre in Davis Square and are scheduled for 7pm on January 31st and February 1st, and 2pm on February 2nd. We encourage you to get tickets in advance as some of the shows are close to selling out. Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketstage.com/SHS.
- Somerville High School continues its downward trend in school drop-out rate for the fifth straight year. SHS recorded a 2011-12 dropout rate of 2.8, down from 3.1 the previous year, and nearly half of the 2005-06 rate.
- School Improvement Planning Presentations continue this week.
 - East Somerville, NW/FC, and Capuano Presentation begin at 6:30pm tomorrow night at the Capuano Early Childhood Center;
 - Kennedy, Brown and West Somerville presentations are on West Somerville Neighborhood School on Wednesday, starting at 6:30pm;
 - Healey and Winter Hill presentations begin at 6:30pm on Thursday, January 31st, at the Winter Hill School.
- Student of the Quarter recognitions begin next week the ESCS ceremony scheduled for Tuesday, February 5th, followed by Next Wave on Wednesday, February 6th.
- Healey School hosts an Information Night tomorrow, January 29th, at 7:00pm at the Healey Library.

Mayor Curtatone departed the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donations

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

- A donation of \$150.00 from Ann Silverman of Somerville, MA to the Somerville Public Schools El Sistema Program.
- A donation of \$100.00 from Mary Andries of Denver, CO to the Somerville Public Schools El Sistema Program.
- A donation of \$500.00 from the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program on behalf of the Baillieul Family of Arlington, MA to the Somerville Public Schools.
- A donation of the following equipment facilitated by the American Dental Association from Dr. Lois Lury of Warwick, RI, to the Dental Assisting Program of Somerville High School's CVTE Program. Total value of equipment donated is approximately \$29,000. Special thanks to Stan Koty and Kevin McDevitt of DPW for the use of a truck and driver to transport this equipment and to Chuck Gerlach and Leo DeSimone for their assistance with the moving. Equipment as follows:
 - a. 1 Dental EZ dual head air compressor (\$5,000)
 - b. 1 Dental EZ dual head vacuum pump (\$5,000)
 - c. 1 Siemens OP 10 panoramic x-ray machine (\$5,000)
 - d. 1 Knight Dental Chair Ensemble (\$14,000)

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

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Congratulated Ms. Rafal on chairing her first meeting.
2. Reported on his attendance at the Intro to the Somerville Public Schools event at the Argenziano School. This event was very well done and Mr. Sweeting thanked the parents involved in organizing this program.
3. Praised the performers at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. The Dance Troupe, El Sistema musicians, the Drum Corp. and others all gave outstanding performances.
4. The Rules Management Subcommittee will meet on Monday, February 4th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall – exact place to be determined.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Mr. Bockelman inquired as to whether the event held at the Argenziano School was video-taped. The event was not taped; however, the PowerPoint presentation is available on the Somerville Public Schools website – www.somerville.k12.ma.us.
2. The Healey School will hold an Open House on Tuesday, January 29, 2013.
3. The Unidos Program at East Somerville Community School will hold an Open House on Wednesday, February 6th at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.
4. Somerville High School will have Open Houses on Thursday and Friday, February 7th and 8th. Information sessions and tours will be part of the event.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of recently deceased family members of school department employees:

- Austin Haley, son of Tricia Bertocchi, employee of the Food Service Department in the Somerville High School Kitchen.
- Marge Corcoran, retired Business Manager in the Somerville Public Schools and sister of Mary Phinney of the Somerville Retirement Board.
- John Young, father of Margaret Young, employee in the kitchen at the Winter Hill Community School.
- Connie L. Restani, sister of Marie Ferrari, former Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Four (4) sets of School Committee minutes for approval.
3. The January 2013 Personnel Report
4. Four (4) donation acceptance approval forms
5. Thirteen (13) thank you letters for recent donations
6. Six (6) condolence letters

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, February 4, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Alderman White and Mayor Curtatone (7:26 p.m.)

Members absent: Ms. Bastardi resigned from her position on December 13, 2012.

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, Cardoso, Bockelman, Niedergang, Rafal, Rossetti, White and Curtatone, Absent - 1 Curtatone, and Vacant – 1 – Ward One. Ms. Dodi was not present.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

B. K12 Social Studies Department Presentation

Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to suspend the rules to take Item V. B, K12 Social Studies Department Presentation, out of order.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Dr. McKay introduced the third of four presentations this year – the K12 Social Studies Department presentation. In March, the final presentation will be made highlighting the Math Department. Dr. McKay reported that tonight's presentation would be led by three primary presenters: Uri Harel, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator; Mark Hurrie, Middle Grades Social Studies Facilitator; and Alicia Kersten, Social Studies Department Head from Somerville High School.

Dr. McKay thanked High School Headmaster, John Oteri, for attending tonight's presentation. Dr. McKay announced that current curriculum standards are now 10 years old and that, statewide, an overview of the curriculum is being done to align them with Common Core Standards and WIDA. Somerville is ahead of the curve with plans to fully integrate Social Studies and Science with ELA and Math next year.

The first presenter was Uri Harel who spoke about Social Studies in the elementary curriculum. Mr. Harel referred to the PowerPoint presentation (included at the end of these minutes) and spoke about K12 alignment of all disciplines. He also spoke about the inclusion of Social Studies in English Language Arts instruction. This includes producing research units on Social Studies topics. Mr. Harel also mentioned some projects being done at the elementary level – A Grade 3 Wax Museum at the Argenziano and Developing Source Books at Brown. He also reported that the Middle Grades Project is in its 3rd year. Projects have included videos and other 21st Century Skills projects. Work continues with Professional Development provided by Facing History.

The next presenter was Mark Hurrie, Assistant Principal at the Kennedy School and the lead person on Middle Grades Social Studies. Mr. Hurrie spoke about cohesion and alignment and reported that teachers came together over the summer and developed a data wall of learning expectations, content expectations with fidelity and how everyone has been working together to develop Social Studies curriculum. Mr. Hurrie spoke about building collaboration and common assessments. The plan is to develop a model and work backwards to the younger grades. Currently, the middle grades work backwards from the High School so that when students reach the high school, they are all equally prepared for the work at the high school level.

The next presenter was Alicia Kersten. Ms. Kersten announced that Mr. Hurrie's work at the middle grade level helps at the high school level. She reported on required courses and electives at Somerville High School and having curriculum guides linked to the Common Core.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:26 p.m.

Ms. Kersten introduced Chris Glynn, a US History teacher at Somerville High. Chris shared information about some of the projects his students have been involved with. One is a media blog – <http://thepoliticalthomas.wordpress.com>; I'm Just a Bill video performance, and more.

Next to speak was Alfredo Rubio, a high school senior, who spoke about how he has learned so much in his Social Studies classes. In particular, he learned about the Electoral College during the recent presidential campaign. Alfredo researched the Electoral College, produced a pamphlet and his work culminated in his voting in November.

Ms. Kersten provided the School Committee with a list of some of the clubs and partnerships the Social Studies Department currently involved with. One of these, the Local History Club, has students involved with recreating local history by dressing in character to give tours, participate in fashion shows, be present at the Annual Flag Raising on January 1st, and also participating in upcoming activities relative to the Anniversary of the Civil War.

Ms. Kersten introduced Cynthia Massillon. Ms. Massillon is new to the Somerville Public Schools and is the advisor to the Harvard Model Congress Club. She has met with students multiple times and will accompany them to the Sheraton Boston from February 21-24, where they will participate in the Harvard Model Congress. Students will act as senators, congressman and governors and will work on developing bills and working to get them passed. It has been rewarding to see how students have learned vocabulary relative to government such as whip, filibuster, caucus and more.

Ms. Kersten finished out the presentation by mentioning other areas of student involvement such as Junior Statesmen of America, Mock Trial, and the VFW Essay Contest and also spoke about several grants the department has been involved with. The future sees more work on the Common Core, WIDA and Civic Engagement as the focus.

Dr. McKay will forward a copy of this evening's PowerPoint to School Committee members tomorrow.

Mr. Bockelman spoke about how his own children were very engaged with Social Studies as students in the Somerville Schools.

Ms. Rafal thanked everyone for coming and reported that children seem to really enjoy Social Studies projects. She also thanked Alfredo for coming and sharing the real life impact his education has had. Ms. Rafal thinks it's wonderful that students have begun clubs at the school.

Mr. Sweeting echoed others remarks and was pleased with the way high-level thinking develops while participating in projects and clubs and also was happy to see a cross-section of kids come together. He has also seen great things at the elementary level.

Alderman White reported that it is commendable to see critical thinking vs. MCAS preparation and asked for examples. Mr. Glynn provided information on a couple of projects students have been involved in.

Ms. Rossetti thanked presenters for all they do for our students.

The School Committee recessed at 7:49 p.m. so that members could thank the presenters.
The School Committee resumed at 7:55 p.m.

Ms. Rossetti announced that, as long as there is no objection, the next item will be the Report of the Finance Director, Pat Durette, who has not been feeling well. Ms. Rossetti would like Ms. Durette to be able to make her report and head home.

Ms. Durette thanked the School Committee for putting her at the head of the line. Her report included the following:

- Two grants – the Title I Carryover in the amount of \$75,190.00 for Supplemental Educational Services at all schools and the DSAC grant in the amount of \$72,434 to be used for Professional Development during the spring and summer.
- Ms. Durette informed members that she left a packet for Finance & Facilities at their seats this evening.

She reported that in this packet is the 1st draft of a level service budget which includes any known changes based on enrollment, salaries, etc. School Improvement Plan Informational needs by school is also included. Ms. Durette hopes to have a budget developed by February 15 for presentation at the March Finance & Facilities meeting.

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 28, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the January 28, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Improvement Plan Presentations: (Ms. Rossetti)

January 24, 2013 – Somerville High School and Argenziano

January 29, 2013 – East Somerville, Next Wave/Full Circle and Capuano

January 30, 2013 – Kennedy, Brown and West Somerville

January 31, 2013 – Healey and Winter Hill

Ms. Rafal assumed that Chair as Ms. Rossetti reported on the School Improvement presentations made over the past week and a half. Ms. Rossetti expressed her gratitude to the Superintendent for allowing the School Committee to continue this process of meeting and reviewing the School Improvement Plans, though, by law, he is not required to. Ms. Rossetti announced a couple of requests from various principals and announced that these requests will be reviewed at Finance & Facilities. Ms. Rossetti also spoke about the presentation by our first Innovation School – the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and praised their efforts regarding Responsive Classroom training and parent outreach. This school is going in a terrific direction and she expects great success from them!

Ms. Rossetti announced that the following motion was approved at the School Committee Meeting of January 31, 2013, where the last two School Improvement Plan presentations were made:

MOTION: To accept the School Improvement Plans, as presented, pending funding.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

- This past weekend, the Somerville High School Drama Club presented a wonderful version of the Wizard of Oz at the Somerville Theater in Davis Square. Congratulations to the producers, directors, actors, musicians and our little elementary school munchkins. Over 2,000 people attended in total. Boston.com is showing photos from the performance on their site.
- The ESCS Advisory Committee met last week. The construction project is on time and on budget. 90% of the exterior and 80% of the mechanicals are complete. Work is currently being done on built-ins, floors and finish work. Plans are now underway for scheduling packing and moving in August. Thank you to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their support.
- Nearly 90 people attended the January 16th SFLC workshop for prospective families on "Learning about the Somerville Public Schools." The presentation featured an emphasis on Kindergarten programs at the SPS. A video presentation of the workshop is available online on our Kindergarten website at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/kindergarten.
- Kindergarten Registration is in full swing. As of the end of the day Friday, we had received 200 completed Kindergarten registration packets, plus an additional 8 received by mail which need additional paperwork. (We had 237 last year at the same time.) Registration continues tomorrow, February 5th, from 8am to 8pm at the Parent Information Center (42 Prescott Street), and at the Head Start on Wednesday from 12-4.
- Literacy Playgroup Registrations for session 2 began today and continue tomorrow morning from 9am to noon. Playgroups are offered for children birth to four years old. To register your child in a Somerville Family Network Literacy Playgroup, call (617) 625-6600 x6990, or register online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups.
- Wednesday, February 6, from 6:30 to 7:30pm, the SFLC is offering a free workshop on nutrition at the Argenziano School. Workshop presenters for Nutrition: My Plate – It's all about Moderation are Tracie Gillespie and Nicole DiBitetto of the UMass Extension Nutrition Education Program.

- Saturday, February 9, the SFLC offers a new program “almost” just for dads. Activity Time for Dads and Kids will be held from 10am to noon at the Argenziano School. It’ll be a fun afternoon of active play. Healthy breakfast foods will be available. Other caregivers are welcome.
- Student of the Quarter recognitions begin this week with the ESCS ceremony scheduled for Tuesday, February 5th, followed by Next Wave on Wednesday, February 6th.
- Somerville High School Open Houses/Tours will be offered Wednesday and Thursday, February 6 and 7. Tours are from 8:15-10am and 12:15-2pm.
- School Parent/Teacher Conferences begin this week. Check the website www.somerville.k12.ma.us for more details.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. MASC Position Paper on School Safety (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti spoke briefly to this issue a couple of meetings ago and asked that the Model School Committee Position Statement on School Safety be placed on the agenda this evening. Members should have received letters regarding this issue from the MASC in US mail. To summarize, this discussion came up at the Board of Director’s level in the wake of the Newtown tragedy. All communities have been undertaking a thorough review of their policies. Several communities asked the MASC to develop this position paper. Two documents were mailed to all MASC members and have also been included in tonight’s School Committee packet. The Berkshire County and Southborough School Districts inspired this document. Ms. Rossetti hopes that colleagues have had a chance to review the documents and will agree to submit this statement to members of US Congress.

Ms. Rossetti opened the matter up for discussion.

Mr. Niedergang supports this position.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to adopt the model position on gun safety and to send communication of such to all legislators both federal and state.

CR read statement Policy (letter) into the minutes:

In our role of responsibility in securing the safety of our school facilities and the protection of our school children,

- *the Somerville School Committee urges the U.S. Congress to adopt legislation to:*
ban the sale and the possession of military-style assault weapons,
ban the sale and possession of high capacity magazines, and
require every gun buyer to pass a criminal background check.

Moreover, we urge the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to support this effort.

Given that we support local school committees to make informed decisions regarding school security and that these decisions should be made at the local level,

- *the Somerville School Committee urges the rejection of the NRA assertion that staffing schools with armed security personnel is the most effective strategy for protecting our children.*

Mayor Curtatone thanked Ms. Rossetti for submitting and is in favor of supporting this endeavor. Even more advocacy is being developed by the Mayors Association. Greater changes to gun laws need to be made. This is the least we can do. Mayor Curtatone recently attended a press conference with Mayor Menino. This is but one step to take and he would like the public to understand that this is the least we can do. What should be done is greater control of the proliferation of weapons in our cities and neighborhoods. Mayor Curtatone appreciates the motion, but believes this is just one incremental step in process.

Mr. Niedergang thanked the Mayor for his advocacy of stronger gun control measures and urged Mayor Curtatone to bring the Mayors’ position to the School Committee for a vote and support.

Mr. Bockelman stated that this statement includes a lot of common sense things that everyone agrees on and this addresses them. More can and should be done. Mr. Bockelman commended New York Mayor Bloomberg’s commercial during the Super Bowl regarding background checks and supports this motion

wholeheartedly. This is the barest minimum that we can do to make sure our children are safe in our schools.

Alderman White also supports all these efforts and provided historical background on the 2nd amendment and the US Supreme Court. It's up to elected officials to sound the alarm to Congress to enact as strong gun control measures as they can enact under the constitution. Alderman White feels this is a good first step and commended the School Committee for taking a leading role on this issue.

After this discussion, the motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rossetti stated that the resolution read into the record by Ms. Rafal is the shortened version and requested that the longer position paper be included in our records (at end of these minutes).

B. NSBA Leadership Conference Report (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti reported on her recent attendance at the National School Board Association's Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. Ms. Rossetti forwarded her notes to members but highlighted a few areas for further consideration: cover sheet for items deserving further attention. Discuss in subcommittee

- *Serving Your Members in Times of Crisis*, for leaders of state associations of school boards, presented by the Executive Director of the Connecticut Boards of Education. Lessons now being thought about: Protection to enable students' achievement to go on, schools need to be welcoming and should not become fortresses, all students must feel valued and cared for and we must still focus on mental health of the kids.
- *Dealing with (Sandy) Superstorm*, presented by the Executive Director of the NJ School Boards Association. Reported on the New Jersey Association's incredible communication during the storm. Within 72 hours, all 586 districts were contacted. The NJSBA assisted with needed donations, via a hot line and resource web page. To date, eight districts are still closed.
- *The Aftermath of Katrina*, presented by the Executive Director of the Mississippi School Boards Association. Report on steps taken following Katrina and lessons learned.
- Sequestration is scheduled to go into effect 3/1/13. .0002% of the budget is dedicated to K12 spending. There is more focus on the fiscal cliff than all else at this time.
- ESEA reauthorization – needs to happen BEFORE our next school year begins.
- *Get Real: Research-Based Parent Engagement (and the active role of School Board Members in this effort)*. A printout of this PowerPoint presentation was provided to all members this evening. Suggestions included focusing on learning at home; parents sign EVERY piece of homework and developing a comprehensive policy of parent involvement. Also, create an awareness campaign – Empowering Parents Conference; Parents Make the Difference Newsletter; Meet the Parents Legislative Night. File BDF – Advisory Committee is in place to assist with this effort. Ms. Rossetti suggests that the School Committee meet to get the ball rolling and asked for opinions.

Mr. Niedergang thanked Ms. Rossetti for bringing this before the School Committee and completely supports the idea of having an advisory committee. There seems to be tremendous interest from the public. Previously marketing and media was used to promote such parent involvement.

Mrs. Cardoso also supports Ms. Rossetti's ideas. Thanked Ms. Rossetti for all she does and asked that ELL's be included in the process.

Mr. Sweeting thanked Ms. Rossetti for her suggestion and wondered the best place to discuss the frameworks, etc. Possibly discuss at Long Range Planning? Before moving forward, it is important that parameters, etc. are clearly defined. It is best to think it through and decide the best way to proceed.

Mr. Bockelman agrees with this sentiment. Define a mission/purpose, number of times to meet, staff support, etc. and a procedure for moving forward. Define expectations, format, etc. and think carefully.

Mr. Pierantozzi thanked Ms. Rossetti and referred to page 2 of the PowerPoint regarding six types of involvement. Somerville is fortunate to have the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative and Nomi and Sarah. We should get them involved in the discussion and have Sarah and Nomi, along with the liaisons and volunteer coordinator, help us focus.

Ms. Rossetti said that she will push the discussion and will schedule a Long Range Planning Meeting within the next month.

Alderman White reminded members that these advisory meetings are subject to the Open Meeting Law.

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

1. Please attend your student's PTA conference. This is a wonderful example of parent involvement.
2. Ms. Rafal is always available to parents electronically; please reach out to her with your questions or concerns.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. PTA at the Argenziano School will be on February 12, from 2:45 – 4:45 p.m.
2. The SPED PAC will hold its meeting on February 7, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Argenziano School Cafeteria. The topic will be "Advise the Advisory".
3. The 11th Annual Higgins Trivia Night will be on March 21 at 6:00 p.m. in Cousens Gym at Tufts University. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Mr. Bockelman

1. The Unidos Program's Open House and Information Session will be this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.
2. Please visit Somerville High School's Open House on this Wednesday and Thursday, even if your kids are not even close to high school age. This is a great way to see all the wonderful things Somerville High has to offer!

Mr. Niedergang

1. Asked for a report from the Superintendent regarding volunteers in our schools. Would like the number of volunteers in our schools as well as a report on the success of our newly established Volunteer Coordinators. Mr. Niedergang would like to know if these new coordinators have impacted the number/quality of the volunteers. When these positions were approved, it was decided that a report would be made in February/March. Within the next two meetings, a report will be in members' packets and, if necessary, placed in subcommittee. Mr. Niedergang asked that the report not be just numbers, but qualitative information, as well. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that he is pleased to work with Sarah Davila, Nomi Davidson and Jennifer Capuano to get this report completed.

Mr. Sweeting

2. The Rules Subcommittee met earlier this evening. The plan is to meet on the first Monday of each month, prior to the Regular Meeting. Mr. Sweeting will provide his subcommittee report at the next meeting.
3. Thanked everyone who participated in the School Improvement Plan presentations and the work done to prepare. This is really hard work and it is great to see what can happen when you bring people together. Terrific Job – thank you!

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Rafal announced that the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room. Ms. Rafal also announced that the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of recently deceased family members of school department employees:

- Mary Elizabeth Garrity, mother of Pat Garrity and Richard Garrity, both retired teachers from Somerville High School.
- Frank Richard "Dick" Soini, husband of Rita Soini, retired Special Education Liaison.

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

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. One (1) set of School Committee minutes for approval.
3. The MASC's letter, the shortened Model Position Statement on Gun Safety, and full Position Paper
4. File BDF: Advisory Committees to the School Committee Policy
5. Three (3) thank you letters for recent donations
6. Four (4) condolence letters
7. Notes and handouts from the NSBA's Leadership Conference provided by Ms. Rossetti

Massachusetts Association of School Committees
One McKinley Square, Suite 200
Boston, MA 02109

Dear School Committee Members:

In the wake of the recent tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, many Massachusetts School Committees have begun thorough reviews of their school and student safety policies that involve the use of dangerous weapons.

Many members have shared their thoughts and a great deal of insightful commentary has been exchanged. Several school committees have asked that MASC develop a model resolution that can be shared with the Congress as the new session begins in Washington and as President Obama plans for the Administration's response to the issue of weapons in schools.

For your consideration, we are forwarding two documents for your review. The first is a model resolution that your school committee might consider as a way to communicate with the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation. We are particularly grateful to the representatives from Berkshire County and Southborough School Committees who inspired the development of this document.

A second document is a position paper on safe schools that we will present to the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation during the national Day on the Hill in Washington sponsored by the National School Boards Association. It is one of several important federal priorities for MASC this year. All of them will be posted on the MASC web site at www.masc.org. You may access the site directly and enroll in the "members only" section by using the passcode "**welcome2MASC.**"

Thank you for your attention and hard work on this important issue. We look forward to working with you on this and all the other issues that are so vital to the education and well-being of our students.

Yours truly,

Mary Jo Rossetti
Somerville School Committee
President, MASC 2013

Model School Committee Position Statement on Gun Safety

In our role of responsibility in securing the safety of our school facilities and the protection of our school children,

- *the _____ School Committee urges the U.S. Congress to adopt legislation to:*

*ban the sale and the possession of military-style assault weapons,
ban the sale and possession of high capacity magazines, and
require every gun buyer to pass a criminal background check.*

Moreover, we urge the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to support this effort.

Given that we support local school committees to make informed decisions regarding school security and that these decisions should be made at the local level,

- *the _____ School Committee urges the rejection of the NRA assertion that staffing schools with armed security personnel is the most effective strategy for protecting our children.*

January 2013

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES**Position Paper****SCHOOL SAFETY****Expanding the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act and Other Strategies to Protect Students,
Including Banning the Sale of Assault Weapons**

Many provisions of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act establish programs to help protect students at all levels. These include grant programs to implement policies and action steps designed to secure facilities and protect children in a variety of ways. In one significant way, these strategies fall short.

The recent tragedy in Connecticut has, once again, demanded that we focus on school safety and, in particular, the protection of students and faculty from the danger posed by firearms and other weapons in schools. We recognize that there is no inherent right for anyone other than an appropriately authorized public safety officer to bring a weapon into a public school, but current law is insufficient to deter this possibility.

It is naïve to believe that state or federal law or district policy prohibiting the possession of a weapon in school will guarantee the safety of the many students and adults who use the buildings and grounds every day. We also recognize that it may be impossible to identify every potentially dangerous student or citizen, but we believe that reasonable and practical national, state and local policies for school safety can reduce the threat of violence and use of weapons, particularly firearms.

We believe that limiting access to weapons to those with a legitimate reason to possess them and to prevent those individuals who pose a danger to others from obtaining weapons is the most effective public policy. We reject the notion that staffing schools with armed security personnel is the most effective strategy, but we maintain that local school committees can make informed decisions about the best ways to protect students based on community standards and practices and oversight of district and municipal government.

We also recognize that public safety includes not only school and law enforcement action, but also the support of the network of public health, social services and family services resources and personnel.

The safety of all students and school personnel requires the coordinated work of educators, counselors, health care providers, public safety officers and community leaders.

We call upon the federal, state and local governments to address school safety and gun violence in the following ways:

1. Pass legislation to ban the sale, possession and use of assault weapons as well as high capacity magazines with appropriate law and incentives at the federal, state and local levels. Establish law and implement regulations to require that all firearms be registered and that all those who possess a firearm shall be licensed to own and carry it by the federal, state or local government.
2. Where authorized, require school districts to establish policies on school safety relative to firearms or other weapons.

School policies on weapons safety shall address:

- Prohibitions on unauthorized weapons in school.
 - Education of all students and school personnel relative to unauthorized weapons and district policies.
 - Implementation of strategies for student and school safety.
 - Deployment of effective and locally appropriate discipline and sanctions for those carrying weapons in school.
 - Professional development for school personnel and students to identify individuals who may be potentially dangerous to others or who may be vulnerable to violence at the hands of others.
3. Retention of public health and mental health professionals to serve as advisors or consultants to district personnel in identifying and addressing student behavioral issues that may result in subsequent detrimental behaviors.
 4. Authorization of gun and weapon-free school zones and establishment of penalties for possession or use of an unauthorized firearm within the zone. The zone shall include the school building, grounds, bus stops and playing fields.
 5. Establishment of a police and community relations protocol to ensure accurate reporting, rapid response, and resource utilization.
 6. Enactment of state and federal criminal sanctions upon anyone in possession of a weapon or firearm in a school, subject to appropriate oversight by the courts.
 7. Provide national aggregation of best practices to help local districts make informed decisions about bullying and other behaviors that may trigger violent reactions through the various strategies in place to help students at risk.
 8. Provision of appropriate behavioral health services to be covered under Medicaid for eligible students who may pose a threat to others.
 9. Inclusion within the appropriate curricula for professional development for school faculty to help identify students who may be at risk for perpetrating acts of violence against others.
 10. Recognition that gun violence is as much a public health issue as a public safety problem and should be incorporated into the curricula for student health and safety education with federal monetary support.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, February 25, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Alderman White (7:02 p.m.) and Mayor Curtatone (7:26 p.m.)

Members absent: Ms. Bastardi resigned from her position on December 13, 2012.

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 – 6 – Sweeting, Cardoso, Bockelman, Niedergang, Rafal, Rossetti, and Absent – 2 - Curtatone and White and Vacant – 1 – Ward One. Ms. Dodi was not present.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not present at tonight's meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 4, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the minutes of February 4, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management Subcommittee: February 4 (Mr. Sweeting)

Board of Aldermen's Committee Room, Somerville City Hall

Present: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang

Also present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Rossetti, Alderman White, Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Scally.

Called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Mr. Sweeting's report included the following: The following policies were put on the agenda following the report of the District Review Team who suggested that Somerville is not making the best use of our subcommittees.

1. File GCF Professional Staff Hiring – this policy was reviewed last fall by the Rules Management Subcommittee and forwarded to the full Committee for a first reading. One member had issues regarding the process for hires that traditionally are under the School Committee's purview. We are currently awaiting advice from our legal counsel and will continue to discuss in subcommittee.
2. File BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee – This policy needed a few minor language changes and some wordsmithing. It is being brought forward later this evening for a first reading, as amended.
3. File BEDB School Committee Agenda – this policy was not yet reviewed. It is on the agenda for the March 4th Rules Management Subcommittee meeting.
4. File BEDB-E School Committee Agenda – this policy was not yet reviewed. It is on the agenda for the March 4th Rules Management Subcommittee meeting.
5. File BEDH Public Participation at School Committee Meetings – this policy was not yet reviewed. It is on the agenda for the March 4th Rules Management Subcommittee meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to present File BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee to the full School Committee for first reading, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the report and minutes of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting of February 4, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote

B. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee: February 6 (Ms. Rafal)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

Present: Mr. Niedergang, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal

Also present: Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Durette, Mr. Pierantozzi and Ms. Scally

Called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Ms. Rafal's report follows:

FY14 Level Service Budget

The Superintendent shared with us an overview of what a Level Service Budget might come to for FY14. Considering changes in per pupil spending due to enrollment, added costs related to a new law, one fewer bus due to the opening of the new ESCS, salary increases, and staff changes, among other factors, the total change over FY13 would be an increase of 2.11% for a projected total of \$54,025,066.

Facilities Update:

- The ESCS is on schedule for substantial completion by the end of March.
- A team of the assistant superintendent, the finance director and the administrators of various programs has been formed to discuss the facilities use for 2013-14, once the ESCS opens up and there is more space at the Edgerly and Cummings. The main financial considerations are how much renovations to each space would cost in order to meet program needs and be compliant with OCR/ADA, as well as whether some programs can move out of the TAB to decrease rent payments.
- Facilities update. The High School Gym has new lights. There is a bid out for repair of the auditorium and kitchen at the high school. It has been a real hardship not to have an auditorium; hopefully it can be fixed by this summer.
- Room 143 is being renovated at the High School to accommodate some of our more profoundly disabled students and enable them to stay in the district.
- Highlights: The Argenziano school's elevator got a new maintenance company who installed a new motherboard so the elevator is now working.
- A swim meet official commended the Kennedy Pool as one of the best maintained they have seen. There is a system that needs to be fixed, but the pool pays for itself.

We saw examples of signs that have been created to promote single entry at every school.

FY13 Expenditure Report

3. We reviewed the expenditure reports. An area of concern, one that is largely outside our control, continues to be the rising costs of out-of district special education tuitions.

FY13 Bill Roll

4. We reviewed the bill rolls. Our only questions this time were points of clarification. Mrs. Cardoso made a motion to approve the bill rolls, which Mr. Niedergang seconded.

SEVIS International Program

5. We received information that last summer the high school had applied to participate in a program whereby non-immigrant students can spend a year studying in the states. Jane Cummings, now a housemaster but formerly the head of the world languages departments is handling this process. By their guidelines, SEVIS has determined they will charge \$20,360 a year for tuition. The high school had suggested establishing tuition at DESE cost. This was supposed to be informational only. I don't know if we need to approve it.

Somerville Child Care Center at SHS

6. We looked at the Somerville Childcare Center's recommended increase in rates. The proposed increases were very slight for children attending from 3 to 5 days a week, but proportionally larger for children attending 2 days a week. The reason is to discourage the 2-day-a-week option because the teachers still have to do the same amount of administrative work for each child. These rates will only impact new families; current families will be grandfathered in. The Center could accommodate more

children. They possibly would like to move to a more affable location, like the Edgerly instead of the high school.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the FY13 Bill Roll.
The motion was approved via voice vote

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the Sevis Tuition at \$20,360 per year.
The motion was approved via voice vote

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve the recommended rates for the Somerville Child Care Center at SHS.
The motion was approved via voice vote

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the report and minutes of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of February 6, 2013.
The motion was approved via voice vote

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that members have a brief Personnel Report included in this week's packet. The report includes one new resignation for the purpose of retirement - that of Evelyn DiChicco, currently teaching at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, but previously served as a long-term teacher at the East Somerville Community School. Ms. DiChicco is retiring after 34 years of service. The Superintendent wished her health, happiness and a long retirement! Mr. Pierantozzi also announced that the report included five leaves of absence for various reasons.

B. DISTRICT REPORT

- The Superintendent welcomed everyone back from the February vacation.
- The ESCS Advisory Committee met this evening. The construction project continues to be on time and on budget. A second video presentation of the progress on the construction process will be airing online this week. Once able, Mr. Pierantozzi will arrange for City officials to have an actual tour of the facilities. Arrangements are currently being made for packing and moving of teachers' classroom supplies, etc. Discussion at tonight's Advisory meeting included the gym logo (a black and gold phoenix) as well as soil for the garden.
- Summer Camp & Activities Fair takes place Monday, March 4th, from 5:30-7pm at the Healey School. Learn about summer camps, recreational and learning opportunities in Somerville and the surrounding community.
- The SFLC presents "Raising and Teaching Bilingual Children" at the Capuano on Wednesday, February 27, from 6-7:30pm. Workshop presenter is Dr. Sarah Davila, District Administrator for ELL and Family and Community Partnerships. Register at the SFLC (x6966) by 2/26.
- On Wednesday, March 6, the SFLC invites community members to share experiences and learn about available resources for "Motivating Your Teen: Strategies for Success." The workshop will include a panel of students, parents, teachers, counselors and community members who will offer ways to motivate teens to succeed in school and beyond. 6-8pm at the Somerville High School Library.

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

English Language Learner Education

- ACCESS testing, new state assessment system just completed last week.
- RETELL – new teacher professional development course being implemented state-wide. Training for instructors hosted here last week and five Somerville Public Schools staffers, led by Sarah Davila, were trained. Our in-district course of 30 teachers starts tomorrow and runs through May. This is a very comprehensive course offering 3 graduate credits. I commend our teachers for jumping in on this training. We first got notice from the DESE in January. The majority of our staff will be trained over the next 3 years.

- AMAO report, comprehensive view of our district's progress with ELLs is out now. This will be brought to our April Ed. Programs meeting.
- Speaking of Ed Programs, this Thursday is the re-scheduled meeting date. The Data Workshop will be taking place this evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.

Spanish

This Thursday, we are starting the second in our series of mini-courses in the Spanish Language for Somerville Public Schools staff. We've already completed one course, for teachers only with an emphasis on functional Spanish, aimed at improving communication with our Spanish-speaking students and families.

The next course is being presented to our support staff (secretaries, paraprofessionals, etc.) and is being taught by our World Language Department Head, Jim Nocito.

Science Fair

March 9 is the Region IV Science Fair, being held at Somerville High School. Community participation is welcome and encouraged at this event, which is held in the field house.

The participants from Somerville High at this fair will emerge from the High School's science fair which takes place this Thursday, February 28.

At next Monday night's School Committee meeting, there will be a curriculum presentation made by the World Language Department.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

- The Somerville High School Multicultural Fair will take place on Friday, March 15. This is always a wonderful event full of ethnic music, dance and food.
- The Food & Nutrition Services Department invites all SPS students to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday on Friday, March 1st, with a tasty breakfast of green eggs and ham (or cereal, fresh fruit, and low fat milk). Breakfast is free every school day for all students.
- SPS Supervisor of Art, Luci Prawdzik, and several of her staff will attend the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Reception for Art Teachers, Administrators, and Arts Advocates, for an afternoon of professional development and celebration on Thursday, February 28 at the Boston Transportation Building. The Reception includes an exhibit of 1,500 pieces of student Art from throughout the Commonwealth, including 23 winning entries from Somerville Public Schools students in grades 7-12. Congratulations to Luci, her staff and students for an outstanding showing at this competition.

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

1. We are currently working on the FY14 budget. Worksheets have been received from most principals and administrators. Currently funding a level service operations budget which includes materials, supplies and services. Ms. Durette has asked for requests for additional services, staff, etc. and also asked for the justification and priority of said requests.
2. The next Finance & Facilities meeting will be held on March 6, at 42 Cross Street.
3. Ms. Durette also reported that she has been looking at potential implications of the March 1 sequestration. The proposed cuts will not impact current grants, but will impact next year's. Ms. Durette expects a 6-8% reduction if the planned cuts do, in fact, happen. This is approximately \$250,000.00 from the Federal Entitlement Grants.
4. Bidding will begin for Special Education transportation services. The current contract expires on June 30. We will begin advertising for bids in March and hold the bid opening sometime in April for a contract that will be effective July 1.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

- At the Board of Aldermen's Legislative Matters Meeting on this Thursday, there will be discussion regarding the use of Styrofoam and a possible reduction/prohibition may be enacted. Ms. Durette and Ms. Mancini will attend this meeting in Mr. Pierantozzi's absence. Data has been collected regarding the use of Styrofoam in the Somerville Public Schools. There has been a decrease in use over the past few years. FYI – at the new East Somerville Community School, there will be no Styrofoam used; permanent trays have been purchased and the new school will have the appropriate washing equipment to clean these trays. The District also stopped using Styrofoam cups years ago. Also, biodegradable trays are being used at the Argenziano School.

- The Annual City Wide Swim Meet at the Kennedy Pool will be held this Saturday, March 2nd, from 12-4pm. Students in Grades 1-8 can sign up to swim for their school by calling x6676, stopping by the Kennedy Pool, asking their school physical education teacher to sign them up, or online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/pool.
- Congratulations to our Somerville High School athletes who are participating MIAA tournament play. The Lady Highlanders are at Andover tonight (2/25), the Boys Hockey team will be playing at Salem State on Tuesday (2/26) vs. Danvers at 7PM, Girls Hockey will be at Arlington Catholic at 7PM Wednesday night (2/27) and the Boys Basketball team will be at Lynn English on Wednesday (2/27) at 7PM. Please note: the fee structure for MIAA games could be different at every venue. Please come prepared to pay up to \$7 for students and \$10 for adults for admission.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

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

- File: BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee

C. Acceptance of Donations

The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of the following donations:

- A donation of \$20,000.00 from Beverly Schwartz of Somerville, MA to the Somerville Public Schools to be used for the Winter Hill Technology/Education Project.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to accept the donation with the most extreme gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of \$39,380.00 from Miriam Schwartz of Somerville, MA to the Somerville Public Schools to be used for the Winter Hill Technology/Education Project.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of \$250.00 to the Somerville Public, donated by Thalia Tringo of Thalia C. Tringo and Associates Real Estate of Somerville, in honor of the Winickoff Family of Brookline, MA, whose home was recently sold in Somerville, to be used to support the Brown School.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman commended Ms. Tringo for her decision to make donations to charities from part of the commission she earns from housing sales and stated that this is a visible way to show community support.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:54 p.m.

D. Somerville Public Schools Calendars

1. 2012-2013 School Year
2. 2013-2014 School Year

Mr. Niedergang asked for this item to be added to the agenda due to the amount of snow days that have been needed this year. Although he is aware that this issue is a subject of collective bargaining with three of our unions, he wanted to share his concerns. It may be too late for the current school year, but Mr. Niedergang suggested that we look anew at the calendar for 2013-2014. He thinks looking at it with fresh eyes is a good idea and announced that he will bring this issue to the next Executive Session.

Mr. Bockelman asked for an update on this year's calendar regarding last day for students and staff. The last day for students is currently June 27 and for staff June 28. If additional snow days are needed, negotiations would need to be held with the STA, SAA and Clerical Unions. There may be one acceptable day, but Saturdays or April Vacation school days would absolutely need to be bargained.

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that he is responsible for canceling school with guidance from the Somerville Police, Somerville Fire, Health Department, Department of Public Works and the Mayor to determine safety.

Mr. Pierantozzi explained his reasoning for canceling for two days in a row on February 11. On February 11, conditions were deemed unsafe and the police, fire and health personnel agreed that it was not prudent to have students and staff attempting to get to school. On February 12, a combination of the warmth of the sun's melting and the unbelievable work of the workers from the Department of Public Works made for conditions improving enough for Mr. Pierantozzi to feel it was safe to open school on February 13. He took into consideration the number of families who drive their students to school and also those who walk. The conditions of sidewalks, crosswalks and roads are all taken into consideration when he is making his decision. He apologized for the inconvenience, but not for keeping the health and safety of everyone at the forefront of his decision.

Discussion ensued among members regarding the Governor's State of Emergency and asking for a waiver for days lost; asking for the MASC and MASS to intervene at the State level; what constitutes a school day (2 ½ days do not).

Mr. Bockelman asked if schools will be open during the special election dates of April 30 and June 25. Mr. Pierantozzi replied that they will be open and police will be on site, as is the case during all elections.

E. Use of School Lots During Snow Emergencies

This item was also added to the agenda at Mr. Niedergang's request. It is the belief of many that the cancellation of school and the issuance of a snow emergency go hand-in-hand because of vehicles being allowed to park in schoolyards and lots. Mr. Niedergang and others believe that it is time to look at parking issues across the City and maybe to have a task force designated to do such.

Mayor Curtatone responded that the issue of parking has been examined and is re-examined on a yearly basis. The parking situation is a matter of public safety. There are not enough places to put vehicles. The best plan is in place. It is not just school lots that are used. Municipal lots are also involved – including the lot at City Hall.

Discussion also ensued regarding teacher travel; road and sidewalk conditions, the width of roads and ability of public safety vehicles to travel on our streets, etc.

Mayor Curtatone stated that perhaps it would help if storm procedures were communicated to the public on a regular basis.

A. Ward One School Committee Seat

Ms. Rossetti announced that she had received the following letter from John Long regarding Mr. Benjamin Echevarria:

Dear Mr. Long;

As you know, I have not been able to serve Ward 1, since the School Committee selected me to fill the Ward 1 vacancy. Unfortunately, the outlook seems to be that I will not be able to fulfill this position for the near future.

The people of Ward 1 need proper representation on the School Committee. I am therefore not accepting the appointment and I ask that you please appoint someone else to represent Ward 1 on the School Committee. The ward and the city need someone who can truly represent this ward, especially in the upcoming budget discussions.

I want to thank you, the Mayor, Alderman White, and the members of the School Committee for my appointment. I regret it has taken so long to make this decision, but I really wanted to serve Ward 1 on the School Committee.

Thank you.

As the School Committee voted to appoint Mr. Echevarria, Ms. Rossetti now opened the issue of the vacancy up for discussion.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to appoint Steven Roix as the Ward 1 School Committee Representative.

Discussion ensued regarding disappointment and sadness at not having Mr. Echevarria working with the Committee; the positive process that was undertaken to fill this vacancy; the feeling that all those that came forward were very capable; etc. Most members were in favor of the motion while one member felt

the process should be that the School Committee vote for one of the two remaining finalists – not just Mr. Roix.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote of YES – 7 – Sweeting, White, Bockelman, Cardoso, Curtatone, Rafal and Rossetti and NO – 1- Niedergang.

Ms. Rossetti will contact Mr. Roix at the end of tonight's meeting and thanked her colleagues and all those who participated in the process.

F. Pre-Kindergarten Program – Smile

Mr. Niedergang spoke about the President's and Governor's support of Universal Preschool and asked that we in Somerville consider the same. Over the last few years, we have had a wait list for PreK and he would like the issue to be sent to the appropriate subcommittee for further discussion.

Ms. Rossetti responded that this topic should be placed in Finance and Facilities, Educational Program and Rules Management and asked members which subcommittee should discuss it first.

Mr. Bockelman asked that, while this is being discussed, consideration also be given to expanding the Unidos Program to the PreK level.

These issues will go to Educational Programs first, followed by Finance and Facilities and then Rules Management, if necessary.

Ms. Rafal assumed the Chair so that Ms. Rossetti could provide her reports.

G. Local Government Advisory Commission Report Feb. 12 (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti reported on her attendance at the LGAC meeting of February 12. Her brief report included the following highlights:

The presentation and discussion of the urgent need to invest in transportation

The presentation and discussion of the Governor's FY14 Recommended Budget – the wish that that economy were growing faster and the fact that the Governor's FY14 budget uses a smaller amount of Rainy Day funds than in FY13, the potential addition of \$25 per student in basic Chapter 70 aid, and an increase to funding for Special Education.

Ms. Rossetti will attend the Ways and Means Committee's Public Hearing on March 14 and will speak on behalf of the MASC. She encourages others to attend and speak out for items they believe need consideration.

H. Visit by Commissioner of Education Feb. 15 (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti reported on the visit by Commissioner Mitchell Chester to the Somerville Public School on February 15. Ms. Rossetti attended the Focus Group held at Somerville High School at 10:30 a.m. that day. Her report included the following highlights:

- Commissioner Chester asking Focus Group participants, "What's on your mind? What are you thinking about?"
- The Commissioner's interaction with students at the Focus Group
- His statement of advocacy on our behalf regarding the financial support needed to address Somerville High School's building issues
- His response to STA President Lawrence's concerns of initiative overload
- Discussion of mobility, including testimony from Ms. Kersten regarding what this issue means to our community.
- Finally, his statement that, "I see a strong commitment on building upon what's good, while advancing what's needed. I can't express enough how impressed I am today."

Mr. Pierantozzi also shared what he observed during his time with the Commissioner. He reported that it was a great day and provided an overview of the day, which began at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School. Six classes were observed at the Winter Hill and Commissioner Chester interacted with students and staff there. Following his visit to the Winter Hill, he toured Somerville High School and visited six classes there – including AP, Honors, ELL, General Ed, and Special Education. Everywhere we visited in both schools we saw students and faculty on task. Committed, creative staff members were interacting with students everywhere we went. Mr. Pierantozzi could not be prouder. It was an outstanding job done by all!

Alderman White reported that he got the sense that the Commissioner was very favorably impressed, judging by his demeanor. Alderman White is pleased to see the School Department's efforts helping to move the City forward.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Two thank you notes in appreciation of recent condolences from the families of Richard Soini and Connie Restani.

II. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**Mr. Bockelman**

1. The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee will meet Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Capuano Early Childhood Center. On the agenda, the Somerville High School schedule and a Data Workshop presented by Paula O'Sullivan, an SPS parent and employee of the DESE. Mr. Bockelman will invite members of the Somerville High School Improvement Council to this meeting as many of them had expressed an interest in having such a data session.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Welcomed Mr. Roix to the School Committee and knows he will be a fine addition!
2. PTA meetings will be held at the Argenziano School on February 27 at 2:45 p.m. and at the Healey School on February 28 at 2:45 p.m.
3. Provided an update on the STEAM Academy Innovation School process and reported that the group had a difficult time figuring things out, but at our last meeting, things crystalized around something positive and the group is now ready to go! Thanked the community members involved in this process.
4. The Rules Management Subcommittee will meet on March 4 at 6:00 at City Hall.

Ms. Rafal

1. Congratulated Dea Dodi for having a novel published in Albania.
2. The Winter Hill PTA will be having a fundraiser at the 99 Restaurant in Somerville on Thursday, February 28.
3. Ms. Rafal will hold office hours on Wednesday morning at the Thurston Spa.

Alderman White

1. Asked what the possible fiscal impact of the sequestration would be. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that approximately \$250,000.00 would be cut and we don't yet know where those cuts will come from. We do know that this will reflect in a reduction in services

III. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Rafal announced that the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room. Ms. Rafal also announced that the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of recently deceased family members of school department employees:

- Diane Marie Trant, recently retired Food Service employee.
- William Mullaney, father of Maureen Foley, Principal Account Clerk at the Evaluation Center.
- Robert Sheehan, father of Carol Murphy, teacher at the Argenziano School.
- Jose Manuel Rivera Parada, father of Ruth Rivera-Quintanilla, Teacher at East Somerville Community School, passed away February 13, 2013 in San Salvador, El Salvador

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. One (1) set of School Committee minutes for approval.
3. The February 2013 Personnel Report
4. A letter from Mr. Ben Echevarria regarding the Ward 1 School Committee seat
5. File BDE: Subcommittees to the School Committee Policy
6. Three (3) donation acceptance forms
7. The 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school calendars
8. Two (2) thank you notes in appreciation of recent condolences
9. Four (4) thank you letters for recent donations
10. Three (3) condolence letters
11. Notes and handouts from the LGAC Meeting and Visit by Commissioner Chester

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, March 4, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Roix, Alderman White and Mayor Curtatone (7:18 p.m.)

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. Ms. Rossetti welcomed Steven Roix to his first School Committee meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to take Item V. B - 7-12 World Language Presentation - out of order.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

Dr. McKay provided a quick introduction of this 3rd in a series of curriculum presentations. Tonight, the focus is on the World Languages Department, led by Jim Nocito. Mr. Nocito will start the presentation (PowerPoint included at the end of these minutes) and introduce other participants as appropriate. Mr. Nocito provided information re: the mission of the department, transition of students from middle to high school Spanish, some statistical information and the vision for the next four years.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:18 p.m.

Speakers included:

Mr. Gino Colontuono, Italian Teacher, who spoke about the C.A.S.IT. Grant, provided a history of the grant and how the funding from the grant allowed Italian classes at the Healey School for middle grade students for a couple of years. Recently, the funds have been used to purchase Smart Boards for language classrooms at Somerville High School. Mr. Colontuono reported on taking the Italian Club to an Opera and to the North End. He also spoke about the Serapo Somerville/Gaeta sister city relationship which was started by Mayor Curtatone and upcoming exchange trip;

Ms. Vanina Brown, Spanish Teacher, who spoke about the middle grade program which focuses on communication and goals for the course; and

Ruth Grossman, a Somerville High School Senior, who spoke about her own experiences with World Language at the High School. Ms. Grossman has taken Spanish all four years, attended a trip to Spain, and has a pen pal in Spain. This year, she is also taking Mandarin, which she loves!

Our student representative, Dea Dodi, also reported on having taken Italian for four years and Mandarin this year. Ms. Dodi announced that language classes at the high school surpass classes she has paid for privately.

Mr. Nocito also spoke about the world language students' participation in the Helping Hands project at Somerville High School where donations are used to provide food and gifts for needy families.

Questions and answers ensued regarding happiness regarding bringing Spanish to the middle grades and why Spanish and not another language (driven by results of parent/guardian survey), a description of the ideal language lab and the associated costs, scheduling of World Languages in the future, and other Sister City relationships with cities in Portugal. School Committee members thanked the staff and student for sharing their experiences.

The School Committee meeting recessed at 7:45 p.m.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:48 p.m.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

- Last night, the Somerville High Trivia Team competed against Lincoln Sudbury High School, but, sadly, will not be progressing to the next round. Congratulations to Zoe, John, Myles and Celine for their great effort!
- The Mediation Team is busily preparing for the Multicultural Fair being held on Friday, March 15.
- Three Somerville High School students have earned awards in the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest - Max Freitas, Alex Bartlett and John Mulcahy.
- The Junior Statesmen of America Club travelled to Washington, DC in February to participate in a conference held in Arlington, VA.
- The free SAT preparation course for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors starts this month on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Scholarship books have been distributed to members of the Senior Class. Applications are due back to the Guidance Office during the week of March 8-15. There are many, many scholarships available.
- The National Honor Induction Ceremony will be held at the Arts in the Armory facility on Highland Ave on April 4th at 6:30 p.m.
- Spring Sports sign-ups are at the end of March.

Ms. Rossetti reminded the audience that the Somerville Scholarship Foundation continues its brick sales. The proceeds go directly to providing scholarships to our graduating seniors. To purchase, contact the SHS Scholarship Foundation or the Somerville High School Main Office.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 25, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mrs. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of February 25, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Educational Programs Subcommittee: March 4 (Mr. Bockelman)
Board of Aldermen's Committee Room, Somerville City Hall

1. Data workshop
2. Somerville High School schedule
3. Other

Everyone welcomed Mr. Steven Roix to his first official meeting as a member of the School Committee with a round of applause from the audience.

We had two items on the agenda:

The first was the Somerville High School schedule, which a team of administrators, teachers, union representatives, and administration representatives are working on to move the current seven day schedule to a five day schedule. There are many reasons for going to a five day schedule, such as making volunteering easier, making it easier for students who go into the field be able to do it on a more regular basis, and allowing students to take classes off campus, if necessary. But, in some ways more importantly, it provides us with an opportunity to see if we could accomplish some other goals.

The group looked at starting school later, based on the research that later starts assists teenagers, including a regular advisory period to help students, to an attempt at building in some common planning time and an X-block type enrichment period.

The proposed schedule will change the start time to 7:55 (from 7:53) and have 55, 60, and 67 minute blocks during the day.

The group is continuing to work regularly and hope to have something finalized by the end of March. The goal would be to implement at the beginning of the next school year. They have more work to do and, of course, there will be discussions between the union and the school department.

We thanked them for their efforts and also for giving us a preview of the direction that they were going.

Next, we had an intense training on the Massachusetts Accountability System. We were fortunate that Assistant Superintendent Vince McKay connected with Paula O'Sullivan for the presentation. Ms. O'Sullivan works at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education District and School Assistance Center. But, tonight, she met with us as a Somerville resident, a mother of three kids – two in the school district – and as a nice person just wanting to help.

She went through the basics of the Massachusetts School and District Accountability System which begins with the Curriculum Frameworks which constitute the Common Core – in short, what every student should be learning. The MCAS test was established to measure how well children, schools, and districts were meeting the demands of the Frameworks.

She described the indicators that are used and how they are calculated. She also discussed how school and district determinations are made.

Then she moved into helping us look at Somerville's data in particular as a way of helping us understand the assessment system. We looked at how we did as a district and what changes to the assessment system will mean in the coming years.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to accept the report and minutes of the Educational Programs Subcommittee Meeting of February 28, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

- The Superintendent welcomed everyone back from the February vacation.
- The ESCS Advisory Committee met this evening. The construction project continues to be on time and on budget. A second video presentation of the progress on the construction process will be airing online this week. Once able, Mr. Pierantozzi will arrange for City officials to have an actual tour of the facilities. Arrangements are currently being made for packing and moving of teachers' classroom supplies, etc. Discussion at tonight's Advisory meeting included the gym logo (a black and gold phoenix) as well as soil for the garden.
- Summer Camp & Activities Fair takes place Monday, March 4th, from 5:30-7pm at the Healey School. Learn about summer camps, recreational and learning opportunities in Somerville and the surrounding community.
- The SFLC presents "Raising and Teaching Bilingual Children" at the Capuano on Wednesday, February 27, from 6-7:30pm. Workshop presenter is Dr. Sarah Davila, District Administrator for ELL and Family and Community Partnerships. Register at the SFLC (x6966) by 2/26.
- On Wednesday, March 6, the SFLC invites community members to share experiences and learn about available resources for "Motivating Your Teen: Strategies for Success." The workshop will include a panel of students, parents, teachers, counselors and community members who will offer ways to motivate teens to succeed in school and beyond. 6-8pm at the Somerville High School Library.
- Thanked the Mayor, President White and the School Committee for allowing expansion of World Languages to the middle grades. The hiring of Mr. Nocito, who was a premier teacher at Lexington High School, was a great one. In addition to his regular daily duties, Mr. Nocito has also been offering professional development to staff, after school. He has already provided instruction in conversational Spanish to teachers to help them have basic communication with parents using key phrases. Next week, a similar class will start for paraprofessionals and clerical staff.
- The Somerville High School Multicultural Fair will take place on Friday, March 15. This is always a wonderful event full of ethnic music, dance and food.
- The Food & Nutrition Services Department invites all SPS students to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday on Friday, March 1st, with a tasty breakfast of green eggs and ham (or cereal, fresh fruit, and low fat milk). Breakfast is free every school day for all students.
- SPS Supervisor of Art, Luci Prawdzik, and several of her staff will attend the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Reception for Art Teachers, Administrators, and Arts Advocates, for an afternoon of professional development and celebration on Thursday, February 28 at the Boston Transportation Building. The Reception includes an exhibit of 1,500 pieces of student Art from throughout the

Commonwealth, including 23 winning entries from Somerville Public Schools students in grades 7-12. Congratulations to Luci, her staff and students for an outstanding showing at this competition.

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

1. Last Wednesday, Ms. Durette attended the Board of Aldermen's Legislative Matters Subcommittee meeting regarding the possible ban on Styrofoam in the City. Ms. Durette provided information regarding the use of Styrofoam in the School Department. All schools, with the exception of the Capuano Early Childhood Center, use Styrofoam trays for breakfast and lunch. Over 800,000 trays are used per school year and an additional 85,000 in the summer. The Capuano School uses 100,000 biodegradable trays. These trays are used because the Capuano is a designated green school. The School Department has two options if the ban is agreed upon. The first is to use biodegradable trays in all schools currently using Styrofoam. The cost of these trays is five cents more per tray than the current trays. This would mean an increase of approximately \$40,000 per year. The second option is to use a combination of biodegradable and washable trays. There would be a \$49,000 start-up cost for the washable trays and additional equipment would be needed to wash the trays, as well as added costs for labor, utilities, etc. The BOA requested additional information and Ms. Durette is working with Lauren Mancini to provide this information.
2. FY14 Budget planning continues regarding operational items. Currently looking at staffing, enrollment, etc.

Ms. Rossetti requested that Ms. Durette prepare a memo for School Committee members detailing the costs of Styrofoam replacement.

Mr. Niedergang asked if Alderman White could provide an update on the matter this evening.

Mr. Niedergang thinks the School Committee should address this issue now.

Alderman White responded that the BOA will meet to discuss further and that Mr. Niedergang should attend that meeting. It is impossible to give a timeline, but they are hoping to act as quickly as possible. The City Solicitor is drafting language now.

Alderman White commented on bulk pricing, preferred vendors, grants, etc. to help defray the costs.

Discussion ensued regarding costs associated with the recycling of trays, costs being covered by the Food Service Revolving Account, the switch to biodegradable cups having already been made and the use of permanent trays at the new East Somerville Community School.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

- El Sistema Somerville and East Somerville Main Streets present the second of 4 free workshops/concerts at the ESCS Auditorium tomorrow, Tuesday, March 5th. Workshop is from 3:30-4:30pm, concert begins at 5:00. Join us for Bach didn't play the piano? featuring Baroque Chamber Works. Featured artist is Marilyn Boenau & Friends.
- The 2013 Massachusetts Region IV Science Fair, sponsored by the Somerville Public Schools, Tufts University, the Rotary Club of Somerville, and DistriGas, will be held at the Somerville High School Field House on Saturday, March 9th. This year's Region IV Fair is chaired by SHS science teacher, Chris Angelli. Winners advance to the State Science Fair, which will be held at MIT in May of 2013.

The Superintendent deferred to Ms. Susana Hernandez-Morgan for a report on recent grant activity:

Recently Awarded:

2 - \$10,000 Innovation School Planning Grants

Somerville STEAM Academy. Lead Innovation School Applicant: Alec Resnic

Funds will be used for Workshops and Community Outreach focusing on the STEAM academy approach (offering a variety of STEAM-focused, hands-on one-day and weekend workshops), and coordinating seminars by College Admissions and Industry partners to speak to the value of the proposed STEAM approach.

Kennedy Innovation School. Lead Innovation School Applicant: Anthony Sharp

Funds will be used to support research and exploration of innovative resources and practices in the following focus area.

- Research-based Instruction (21st Century Urban Academy)
- Social/Emotional Competency (The Whole Child Approach to Education)
- Understanding Different Learning Styles
- Strengthening Parent Involvement and Community Partnerships

Members of the Innovation Planning Committee will be attending conferences and workshops that support the proposed focus areas, and will be conducting site visits to current Innovation Schools to learn from best practices. (Stipends, Substitutes, Travel, Workshop Fees)

\$50,000 for a Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success (CPSS) spring/summer program

Approximately \$16,000 in the spring will be used for planning and recruitment, the remainder for the summer program implementation.

- Designed to provide academic support and guidance to at-risk students transitioning to high school
- CPSS will consist of two summer 3-week sessions (4 hrs./day Monday-Thursday)
- For incoming SHS students with high risk status or newcomers w/o a complete documented educational history
- Anticipate serving approximately 110 students total (55 students/3-week session)
- Participants will receive core instruction in ELA, Math, and Science, along with social competency skills development and a comprehensive guidance program.
- Program Coordinator position will be posted by early next week.

Pursuing:**\$5,000 CHNA (Community Health Network Area) 17 Grant (due 3/15/13)**

Making Proud Choices Year 2: Empowering Middle School Youth

Targets middle school girls at ESCS and the Healey Boys & Girls Club

\$25,000 Summer Food Service Program (due 3/15/13)

To cover outreach expenses to expand the summer meals program for youth. Last year, averaged more than 2,200 meals/day and served a total of approximately 23,000 breakfasts and 55,000 lunches.

\$20,000-\$45,000 USDA Farm to School Program, Planning Grant (due April 24, 2013)

To structure a plan to bring more locally sourced fresh fruits and vegetables into school cafeterias.

- Webinar March 5 to outline grant program details.
- Anticipate working with Shape up Somerville on this opportunity.
- Funded activities may include assessing readiness for development of a farm to school program, identifying obstacles and exploring options for addressing barriers, integrating farm to school concepts in wellness policies, conducting menu audits to determine a reasonable implementation timetable, assessing local/regional product availability, etc.
- No more than 10% can be used toward purchase of product, and such purchase must be for educational purposes (taste tests, promotional use, etc.)

\$100,000-\$750,000 Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant (4/12/13)

Will be finalizing targeted approach within the next 2 weeks

- The Annual City Wide Swim Meet at the Kennedy Pool will be held this Saturday, March 2nd, from 12-4pm. Students in Grades 1-8 can sign up to swim for their school by calling x6676, stopping by the Kennedy Pool, asking their school physical education teacher to sign them up, or online at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/pool.
- Congratulations to our Somerville High School athletes who are participating MIAA tournament play. The Lady Highlanders are at Andover tonight (2/25), the Boys Hockey team will be playing at Salem State on Tuesday (2/26) vs. Danvers at 7PM, Girls Hockey will be at Arlington Catholic at 7PM Wednesday night (2/27) and the Boys Basketball team will be at Lynn English on Wednesday (2/27) at 7PM. Please note: the fee structure for MIAA games could be different at every venue. Please come prepared to pay up to \$7 for students and \$10 for adults for admission.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual** (Mr. Sweeting)

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

File: BDE Subcommittees of the School Committee

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to accept File: BDE Subcommittee of the School Committee, as amended for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote

VII. NEW BUSINESS**A. Field Trip** (Recommended action: approval)

June 11-14, 2012 Next Wave/Full Circle students to Mount Monadnock, NH.

Transportation via school van at a cost of \$5.00 per student.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote

B. Acceptance of Donations

The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of the following donations:

- A donation of two (2) Dell Optiplex GX620 Computers from Tufts University Office of Community Relations to the Somerville Public Schools. The estimated value is \$180.00 each.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of a Dell computer and monitor from Anthony Sharp of Somerville, MA to the Kennedy School, Room 317. The value estimated by donor is \$1500.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- Two donations of \$50.00 and \$150.00 from Jill Guardia of Somerville, MA to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of \$50.00 from Joel Bennett of Somerville, MA to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- A donation of \$5000.00 from the Duhamel Educational Initiative to the Somerville Public Schools to be used for the Bambury Tutoring Program at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Pierantozzi informed the School Committee that, although this funding has been exhausted, this before school program will continue to run until the end of the year using District funds because so many students are benefitting from it.

- A donation of a Shure Wireless Microphone System from Lara Cunningham of Medford, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department. The value estimated by the donor is \$400.00

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

1. Tomorrow, Lt. Governor Murray will make a visit to Somerville High School. Ms. Rafal plans to be in attendance.
2. The Finance & Facilities Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday night. The agenda includes review of MSBA Statements of Interest for Somerville High School, the Winter Hill and Brown Schools, 2013-2014 building use, the FY14 developing budget, expenditures, bill rolls and the establishment of a revolving account for the SEVIS tuitions.

Mayor Curtatone

1. Announced that Senator Elizabeth Warren had visited the City and, as promised during her campaign, is working to engage her constituents. Senator Warren spoke about challenges being face, including the sequestration. Mayor Curtatone thanked Senator Warren for listening. Senator Warren promised to come back to Somerville in the near future.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. The Rotary Readers are back at the Argenziano School.
2. On March 8, there will be a Magic Show at the Argenziano School.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Welcomed Mr. Roix – it's great to see him around the horseshoe. It's a pleasure working with him.
2. The Rules Management Subcommittee met at 6:00 p.m. just prior to this meeting. Mr. Sweeting will give his subcommittee report at the next Regular School Committee meeting.

Mr. Niedergang

1. On Wednesday evening, there will a "Motivating Your Teen: Strategies for Success" workshop presentation will be held at Somerville High School.
2. On Thursday night, the Brown School will host "Building School Connections for Your Children's Success: Positive Parent-Teacher Communication" in the library from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
3. Pi Night at the Kennedy School will be held on March 14th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Contact Molly Donovan.

Ms. Rossetti

1. The School Committee will meet for Long Range Planning on Thursday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Office Conference Room at 42 Cross Street. The agenda is parent/guardian involvement.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Ms. Rafal announced that the School Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of recently deceased family members of school department employees:

- James Hegarty, father of Agnes Gallant, Teacher/Counselor at NW/FC.
- Richard McCann, retired Auto Body teacher from Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. One (1) set of School Committee minutes for approval.
3. File BDE: Subcommittees to the School Committee Policy
4. One (1) Out of State Field Trip form
5. Six (6) donation acceptance forms
6. The World Language PowerPoint Presentation

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, March 11, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

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

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 – 9 – Sweeting, White, Roix, Niedergang, Bockelman, Cardoso, Curtatone, Rafal, and Rossetti. Ms. Dodi was not in attendance.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not present at tonight's meeting.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management Subcommittee: March 4 (Mr. Sweeting)

Mr. Sweeting provided his report from the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting of March 4th, held in the Board of Aldermen's Committee Room, Somerville City Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Members in attendance: Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Roix and Mr. Sweeting

Also in attendance: Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Alderman White and Mr. Pierantozzi.

Although there were four items on the agenda, only the first two were addressed.

1. File GCF Selection Process for Professional Positions – discussion of this policy grew out of the District Review by the DESE, which questioned the hiring/interview process for new employees. The Rules Committee looked, in particular, at the hiring process for administrators considered to be under the hiring authority of the School Committee. These positions include the Director of Special Education, Assistant Superintendent, and Finance Director. Discussion had taken place at an earlier meeting regarding final authority, etc. for these positions. The Committee requested input from their legal counsel on this issue. Legal Counsel rendered the Superintendent the final authority according to Mass General Law, but agreed that the Ed Reform Law gives authority to the School Committee. In order to make the policy agreeable to all, specific language was added to give the School Committee more of a role in the hiring process. The following language was added under Section 3, #4:

"If the position is one that, by law, is subject to appointment by the School Committee, the Superintendent will select one of the finalists, subject to the approval of the School Committee, provided that the School Committee may reject any or all finalists and may reopen the search process to obtain new candidates."

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve File GCF – Selection Process for Professional Positions, as amended, and forward to the full School Committee for first reading.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

2. File BEDB School Committee Agenda – Discussion took place regarding the School Committee's current agenda format, specifically regarding subcommittee agendas and the comparison to the way the Board of Aldermen's agenda is formatted. A decision was made to keep new items presented first in subcommittee provided the agenda item is made public as far in advance as possible. New language was added to assist:
School Committee members are encouraged to submit agenda items for future discussion by the School Committee during a Regular School Committee Meeting under New Business.

File BEDB-E School MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to approve File BEDB – Agenda Format, as amended and forward to the full School Committee for first reading. The motion was approved via voice vote.

The two other items on the agenda were discussed very briefly and no action was taken on these policies.

3. Committee Agenda
4. File BEDH Public Participation at School Committee Meetings

Mr. Sweeting announced that the Wellness Policy will be discussed at the next meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the report and minutes of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting of March 4, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting:

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. and adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Members in attendance: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal

Also in attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Roix, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and Ms. Scally.

1. FY14 Budget Development
2. Building use for 2013-2014
3. Authorization of revolving account for SEVIS tuition
4. FY13 Expenditure Report
5. FY13 Bill Roll
6. Other

We spent about an hour and twenty minutes on the first agenda item budget development for FY 14. We looked at anticipated changes to the level service budget, including among other things, an increase in the amount budgeted for out of district special education placements. In addition to budgeting for the increasing tuitions outside of our control, the budget also provides for increasing and improving the district's own capacity to provide special education services, such as expanding the SKIP program into the high school. The budget will also feature cost reductions. For example, in FY 13 the district had four new administrators and provided coaching to them that can now be reduced.

Some union contracts are still being negotiated so the only costs we can estimate right now are the required steps and lanes increases that we anticipate.

The Director of Finance had compiled a list of requests from all the School Improvement Plans and the PTAs and principals. The Superintendent went through the lists and explained whether or not he would recommend these expenditures along with his rationale. In some cases the recommendation would be to meet to underlying need but not necessarily to the full extent of the request or possibly in a different way than requested.

Coaching might be one such case.

School Committee members asked lots of questions and suggested items they might like to have considered in budget development. Questions came up related to expanding PreK, but those will go to Ed Programs first (this week).

For the second agenda item we talked more about facilities use after ESCS comes online. Some of the first things that have to be decided are whether we want to vacate the TAB for a saving of \$238,000 in rent each year, and whether we would want to use the Edgerly building for the short term or long term because that will determine the level of renovations necessary to comply with Department of Justice and ADA regulations. Some of the programs that could move to the Edgerly might include the PIC, Community Schools, SCALE, EC playgroups, Somerville Day Care Center. There is a problem with leaving the PIC where it is because the building is inaccessible and you need to heat the whole building to heat that office. School Committee members did mention wanting to have the PIC in one of our newer buildings since it is many parents' introduction to our schools.

Also the Mayor has a committee looking at replacing the high school and a report was supposed to come from them Friday.

We bring a motion recommending approval of creating a revolving account to accept any tuitions that might come in from the SEVIS program.

We looked at the expenditure reports. The Superintendent pointed out that our district did very well at spending money this year; only 1% of the budget remains available. He will ask all programs and administrators to adhere to an end-of-April spending deadline. The good news is that the finance department was able to close \$75,000 of Special Ed encumbrances.

Committee members had a couple of questions about the bill rolls which Ms. Durette subsequently answered and we approved those.

We also discussed submitting to the MSBA three statements relating our interest in building a new high school, a new Brown School and renovating the WHCIS. The Superintendent does not think that whether we call it new or renovated will matter much for this year, but the reason for renovating the WHCIS is just that so much money has already been put into improving that building. We brought motions recommending these letters as well as naming the high school as the priority especially since the hurricane did so much additional damage to the auditorium and cafeteria kitchen.

We adjourned at 9:20 pm.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to authorize the establishment of a revolving account for accepting SEVIS tuitions.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, that the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee recommend the MSBA Statement of Interest (SOI) for Somerville High School to the full School Committee for consideration on March 11, 2013.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, that the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee recommend the MSBA Statement of Interest (SOI) for the Winter Hill Community School to the full School Committee for consideration on March 11, 2013.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, that the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee recommend the MSBA Statement of Interest (SOI) for the Brown School to the full School Committee for consideration on March 11, 2013.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, that the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee recommend that the Somerville High School MSBA Statement of Interest be established as a priority and that this recommendation be forwarded to the full School Committee for consideration on March 11, 2013.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to accept the report and minutes of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting of March 6, 2013.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. and adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

In attendance were Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Bockelman, and Mr. Roix.

Also in attendance were Dr. McKay and Dr. Davila. There were also 10 audience members. Ms. Rossetti mentioned that the Brown School was holding a workshop for parents/guardians at the same time as this meeting.

1. Parent/Guardian Involvement

Ms. Rossetti provided her report on the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning. The meeting started with introductions and then was turned over to Dr. Sarah Davila for her presentation

which included a PowerPoint presentation (included at the end of these minutes). Dr. Davila gave an overview of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative and spoke about the previous night's event at Somerville High School which had 32 parents/guardians in attendance. Data shows that for SFLC events since October, a large number of those in attendance were first-time participants.

Dr. Davila then reported on progress made, particular with respect to School Committee Goals 3 and 4. Regarding Goal #3, it has been learned that family support for student learning can be defined in multiple ways – through data, but not just data alone. We have also learned that English Learner and Immigrant families are engaged and invested in their children's education. Since the newly hired community liaisons have only been in place since October, it will be a little while before the true impact of their role in our communities can be determined.

Regarding Goal #4, it was reported that, although the total number of volunteer hours has not increased, there are more targeted volunteer placements made to impact students who are at most risk. Discussion ensued regarding developing family engagement plans, sharing best practices and "Beyond the Bake Sale". Dr. Davila also suggested reframing the planning of the May 2nd Leadership event to more of a top-down model.

Ms. Rossetti feels a School Committee Advisory Committee could help with parent/guardian outreach. There is more to be done in fostering communication using technology, for example. Discussion ensued but no action was taken this evening. Many members felt a mission statement and more planning is needed before establishing an Advisory Committee. The SFLC is sponsoring a Leadership Seminar of May 2nd from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Argenziano School. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Karen Mapp from Harvard's Graduate School of Education and there will also be facilitated workshops. It was suggested that options regarding parent/guardian outreach could be discussed further at the May 2nd event.

Other areas of discussion included:

- Budget considerations
- Effectiveness
- Evaluating programs
- Supporting principals
- Data collection and analysis
- Wait lists for playgroups!
- Non-English speaking parents, particularly at the East Somerville, are delighted with the addition of parent liaisons that can assist them in their native language. ESCS PTA officers Melora Rush and Maria Salerno had nothing but praise for the positive impact their liaison has had on the school community and climate.

Ms. Rossetti shared information and her notes from a national conference she attended earlier this year. Her presentation included the following:

"Get Real – Research Based Parent Engagement"

National Network of Partnership Schools (John Hopkins)

Family University Network F.U.N.

District adopted school action teams for partnerships in Montclair, NJ

MAGNA Award Winner created mobile learning labs from Plano, TX. Ms. Rossetti would like to look into the cost of having these mobile labs available in Somerville.

There was agreement by the School Committee to allow Dr. Davila, Dr. McKay and the other Central Administrative Team to plan for further pursuit of an Advisory Committee at the May 2nd event. It was also discussed whether the School Committee should meet for Long Range Planning prior to the May 2nd event to discuss goals and a mission for the possible Advisory Committee.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of March 7, 2013.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

- The Superintendent began his report by informing the School Committee that he has provided them with a packet of policies regarding attendance, etc. Mr. Pierantozzi explained his reasons

for not cancelling school this past Friday, although most other cities and towns had not school due to the storm. His report included the following:

- Roads and sidewalks were clear during the early morning hours (4:00 a.m.)
- The forecast called for more rain and warmer temperatures than what we actually had
- When weather proved to be worse than predicted, it seemed too late to cancel school. Mr. Pierantozzi normally tries to cancel by 6:00 p.m. the previous day to make it easier for parents/guardians to find alternate care.
- The DPW did a wonderful job during the school day of working to clear the roads, etc. in spite of the late arrival of the storm
- Community Schools' After-School program was kept open until the regular 5:30 p.m. time to accommodate working parents/guardians
- Parents and guardians always have the right to keep their students home if they do not feel they can get their students to school safely
- All students who were absent on March 8th will be noted as having an excused absence.
- Attendance taking on March 8th was done two hours later to give students a longer period of travel time to school without being marked tardy
- Discussion of reasons we do not have delayed openings
- Staff and student absence rates
- A report on upcoming SFLC programming:
 - Choosing an Early Childhood Program: tomorrow, March 12, 6:30-7:30pm at the Argenziano;
 - Playborhood: Tuesday, March 19, 6-8pm at City Hall - presentation by author Mike Lanza and a community discussion on how to make Somerville neighborhoods a great place for children to play outside and connect with other children;
 - Cyber Safety - What Families Need to Know: Wednesday, March 20, 6-7pm at the West Somerville Neighborhood School
- Wednesday, March 13, is the 24th Annual Somerville Schools Track & Field Championships. The event begins at 3pm and will be held at Somerville High School's Brune Fieldhouse Track.

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

- MCAS ELA testing begins on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, right after the Monday holiday. A reminder that students should be in school, on time, and ready to do their best!
- Mass Grad update: SHS is a recipient of a Mass Grad grant, now in our third year, designed to improve the school and district dropout rate. Recently released data from the state Department of Education indicates that we have made significant progress in this area – the Somerville High School's dropout rate is now at its lowest in almost 10 years. And I'd like to recognize the hard work of Mr. Oteri and his team and committee coordinator Marie Foreman.

The Mass Grad grant funds three distinct activities, focused on credit recovery. Credit recovery involves special courses and programs designed to assist students who are short on credits to get caught up, to get back "on track" for graduation.

We take an "all of the above" approach. One credit recovery option is a school – day program, support for a series of math courses.

The other two programs take place outside the school day.

Last Tuesday, representatives from the state Department of Education visited one of these outside of the school day programs taking place at SHS. This program runs after school and provides computer-based coursework for students who need to make up credits toward graduation.

We received very positive feedback from the DESE visitors, and have been invited to apply for a continuation grant based on our excellent progress to date.

- Unidos planning - as you know, we're in the midst of a year-long improvement planning process for Unidos based on the program study conducted by EDC last year. Key to this process has been the direct involvement of our staff, led by key administrators and teacher-leader Betsey Reardon, in the development of recommended program revisions. Unidos is Somerville's two-way immersion program that brings Spanish speaking and English speaking students together in a very exciting and enriching dual language program that's housed at the ESCS.

On Saturday, Unidos teachers along with ESCS principal Holly Hatch attended the Mass. Association of Bilingual Education Conference – Making Connections – Celebrating Dual

Language Education Southern New England Regional Dual Language Conference in
Dorchester, MA.

We are fortunate to have 1st grade teacher Betsey Reardon playing a lead role in this work, moving forward into planning for a summer institute for teachers. Members of the advisory group will be formally reporting on our specific program recommendations in the coming month. Tomorrow's Ed Programs will provide a status report of the work to date with Unidos.

I should mention that for families interested in enrolling their kindergarten students in Unidos, there are still a number of slots available. Please contact the Parent Information Center for more details, or simply elect Unidos on the registration form if you have not already registered your child for the kindergarten class for next September.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

- The Somerville High School Multicultural Fair will be held Friday, March 15 all day at the SHS Fieldhouse.
- On Saturday, March 16, the SHS Center for Career and Technical Education hosts its annual Vocational Fair, from 9am to noon. Stop by for tours of our facilities and an opportunity to meet and visit our students and faculty. Tours are led by SHS students.
- On Friday, March 5, Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray visited Somerville High School and had a whirlwind tour. He arrived at 11:00 and was gone at noon. During that time, he visited eight classrooms. Lt. Governor Murray is the STEM State Chairman and has been visiting schools across the State. He was very impressed with what he saw at Somerville High School. As you remember, on February 15, Commissioner of Education Mitchell D. Chester also visited the District. It is interesting that both of these visitors had the same reaction. Although the building may not be much to look at, physically, incredible things happen inside!
- The East Somerville Community School construction project continues to be on time and on budget.
- 11th Annual Brian Higgins Foundation Trivia Night – Thursday, March 21, 6:00pm @ the Tufts University Cousens Gym.

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

1. All principals and department heads have been informed that the final day for submitting requisitions is April 12. This is the last day of school prior to spring break. By using this date as a cutoff, we can place all orders and have delivery and invoicing complete by the end of the fiscal year (June 30). These administrators are receiving periodic updates regarding expenditures and budget balance.
2. On Friday, Ms. Durette will attend a training at the DESE regarding filing for extraordinary relief via the Special Education Circuit Breaker fund. This fund has been established to provide funding to districts whose Special Education costs, primarily for out of district educational placements, exceeds expected costs. To qualify, district costs must exceed 125% of the previous year's claim, which was over \$4 million. As members know, the Special Education budget has been a topic of discussion at our finance meetings. Ms. Durette will provide information to members about what she learns.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

- The 37th Annual Region IV Science Fair was held last Saturday in the Somerville High School Field House. The top five winners will go on to compete at the state level. The first and second place winners will compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona. Somerville has been the host of this fair since its inception. Mr. Pierantozzi thanked all the sponsors and organizers of the fair.
- The Duhamel Education Initiative will hold its 16th Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the parish hall of the First Congregational Church, 89 College Avenue. Members of the School Committee will prepare and serve the breakfast. Please support this worthy cause and bring a friend!

Ms. Rafal commented that she wished Lt. Governor Murray's visit could have been longer so that he could have seen more of the wonderful things happening at the High School. Also, she asked Dr. McKay if the

Unidos report specifies School Committee involvement. Dr. McKay replied that this remains to be seen as, thus far, the focus has been on curriculum and programmatic issues.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **2013-2014 School Calendar**

Mr. Bockelman reported that an error was found on the previously approved 2013-2014 school calendar. The calendar requires two changes – adding a no school day on April 18th (Good Friday) and the resulting change of the last day of school to June 20th as the 180th and June 27th as the 185th day. All else remains the same.

Discussion ensued regarding school vacation weeks, school on Election Day, collective bargaining, holding school on December 23, 2013 and the potential budgetary costs of opening buildings for one day. Regarding December 23rd, it is likely that many people would not send students on 12/23 as many will probably travel to their holiday destination on the prior weekend.

MOTION: Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the calendar, as amended.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS**A. MSBA Statement of Interest** (Recommended action: approval)

Massachusetts School Building Authority Statements of Interest for non-emergency renovations to Somerville Public School Buildings:

A brief description of the process regarding submission of these SOI's, followed by Ms. Rossetti reading the Statements of Interest forwarded from the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee for the following schools:

- **Somerville High School**

The School Committee of Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 10, 2013, for the Somerville High School located at 81 Highland Avenue which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future (5.) Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility. (7). Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements (5) the building has reached its life expectancy related to heating ancillary systems and electrical systems and other related components of the building. (7) Science lab space is not adequate, vocational space is not adequate for Barbering and HVAC and Special education program space is inadequate. Physical Therapy and Occupational therapy areas not conducive to learning, and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The School Committee has designated Somerville High School as their priority school.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the SOI as presented.

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

- **Winter Hill Community School**

The School Committee of Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 10, 2013, for the Winter Hill

Community School located at 115 Sycamore Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future (7). Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements (7) The current conditions provide intermittent, but regular interruptions of the normal school day in regards to the typical delivery of curriculum. While the lack of soundproofing does not prohibit the district from providing the required programming, staff must be cognizant of the noise level in activities being presented during the school day. This could have a limiting effect on the type of activities offered, and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the SOI as presented.

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

- **Brown School**

The School Committee of Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 10, 2013, for the Brown School located at 201 Willow Avenue which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future (7). Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements (7) The Brown School is not able to offer art, music, physical education, or science in specialized learning environments. State Requirements for these programs are for dedicated classrooms consistent with MSBA guidelines, and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the SOI as presented.

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

Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Pierantozzi will sign the documents and forward to the Mayor for discussion by the Board of Aldermen and Mayor's signature upon BOA approval.

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

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

File: GCF – Selection Process for Professional Positions

File: BEDB – Agenda Format

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

May 24-25, 2013 Somerville High School Orchestra to New York City for a public performance. Transportation via bus at a cost of approximately \$50.00 per student.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- **D. Acceptance of Donation**

The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of a donation of two (2) Toshiba TDP-T100 projectors (\$75 each), A Dell 3200MP projector (\$75), an In Focus LP335

projector (\$75) and PC Works speakers (\$10) from Kristin Poch or Arrowstreet, Inc. of Somerville, to the Somerville Public Schools. The total estimated value of all items is \$310.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. Future Agenda Item

Mr. Niedergang requested, in keeping with our new agenda format policy, if the issue of establishing an Advisory Committee on Marketing and Outreach could please be placed on the next Long Range Planning agenda.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bockelman

1. The Ed. Programs Subcommittee will meet tomorrow evening. On the agenda: Early Education Alignment Grant information, Universal PreK, and Innovation and Program updates.
2. Mr. Bockelman serves as the School Committee representative for the Somerville High School renovation/rebuilding committee. No meetings have been held to date, but he will provide a report once meetings begin. Mr. Niedergang asked why there had been no meetings and the reason was that the committee was waiting for the MSBA SOI to be developed before moving forward.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Thanked the grade 6 class at the Argenziano School for inviting her to read to their class. They were a wonderful audience and asked great questions. Thanked teacher Linda Manzelli for her invitation. Mrs. Cardoso was impressed by students' interest and articulation.

Ms. Rafal

1. Asked Mr. Bockelman if PreK discussion at Ed. Programs would include discussion of expanding PreK to the Unidos Program. Mr. Bockelman responded that preliminary discussion will take place and will include Unidos.

Mr. Roix

1. Thanked his colleagues for their support as he gets up to speed.
2. Thanked the ESCS PTA for their help in catching him up on activities, etc.
3. Announced that there will be a fundraiser for the Capuano Early Childhood Center on April 2nd at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Pi Night will be held at the Kennedy School on March 14th.
2. Announced a Brown School talent show being held on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Tufts' University's Cohen Auditorium.

Mr. Sweeting

1. The Healey School Community Council will meet Tuesday night at 5:30 p.m.
2. Commented on his attendance at the Region IV Science Fair last Saturday. He was impressed to see Tufts' President Monaco at the Fair. Every year, there are great projects!

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Three (3) Massachusetts School Building Authority Statements of Interest for Somerville High, Winter Hill and the Brown Schools
3. File GCF – Selection Process for Professional Positions
4. File BEDB – School Committee Agenda
5. One (1) Out of State Field Trip form
6. One (1) Donation Acceptance form
7. Six (6) thank you letters for recent donations
8. Six (6) condolence letters

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, April 1, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Roix, Mr. Niedergang Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, and Mayor Curtatone (7:43 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 – 9 – Sweeting, White, Roix, Niedergang, Bockelman, Cardoso, Curtatone, Rafal, and Rossetti. Ms. Dodi was not in attendance.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A. Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Awards

- Ms. Zoe Iacovino – The Superintendent introduced and gave background info about Zoe including her outstanding academic record and involvement with the tennis team, school newspaper, science fair, dance, and piano as well as her community service activities which include study buddies and helping at her church.
- Ms. Ruth Grossman – Mr. Pierantozzi introduced and gave background information on Ruth and touted her many academic and extracurricular achievements including music, community service, DARTS, Spanish and National Honor Societies, etc.

Before the recess, President White commented on enjoying this presentation as a former salutatorian. The School Committee took a two minute recess @ 7:11 p.m.
The School Committee Meeting resumed at 7:18 p.m.

Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to take items 8B Field Trip to Spain and Portugal and item 6 B K12 Math Presentation out of order.
The motion was approved via voice vote

Field trip to Spain and Portugal

April 17-25, 2014 SHS Foreign Language Students to Spain/Portugal via air and bus at a cost of \$2837 per student.

Mr. Pierantozzi recommends and asked Jim Nocito to present information regarding this trip. Mr. Nocito and Ms. Becca Bowen, a Spanish teacher from Somerville High School and the trip leader were present at the meeting to answer any questions about the trip that will take place during the 2014 April vacation week. Students will leave on the Thursday before the vacation but no school will be missed because Good Friday starts the school vacation. The trip is nine days in total. Mr. Nocito challenged himself and his teachers to find scholarships for students not able to pay the entire trip cost and the travel company has provided \$7500.00 in scholarships which means three students will only need to pay \$300 in total. The travel company will also take a daily picture of students and post it on their website so that parents may see their students along the way. The cost listed includes everything other than lunch and spending money needed which is estimated at \$300.

The trip is planned to accommodate a maximum of 30 students with 5 chaperones total and other fundraising efforts will be held to help defray costs further.

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

A. K12 Math Presentation—Dr. McKay thanked the guests and introduced Uri Harel to start the presentation. Mr. Harel announced that it is an honor to be here in front of School Committee again to make this presentation. The PowerPoint was displayed and reviewed (included at end of these minutes) and included the following:

- Hands on experience – rigorous problem solving

- Discussing mathematical ideas
- Pacing guides, common assessments
- Investigations-consistency in use of program—addressing a wide range of learners
- Year one of middle grades math program more engagement more problem solving
- NumberWorlds for struggling students-to fill in the gaps
- Lots of professional development and coaching
- Planning for all students with rich experiences
- Addressing needs of higher level students
- X-Block differentiation
- Math projects
- Examples of algebra now in Somerville
- Mobility project grades 4 & 8 students from Healey
- Art projects
- Future—professional development, Edwin, consistency and strong preparation for Somerville High School

Marie Foreman presented information regarding the Math curriculum at the high school level. With Ms. Foreman are Justine Hebert and Tricia Murphy, teachers from Somerville High.

Ms. Foreman continued with the PowerPoint presentation and highlighted the following: slide 11

- Aligning District goals and common core
- Data growth (4 years) Student Growth Percentile
- Common core standards impact—more than set of content standards—skills for 21st century
- Perseverance to solve problems
- In the classroom—collaboration

Ms. Murphy

- spoke about the common core and more emphasis on peer to peer learning
- Much greater critical thinking—problem of the week—students persevere and push to solve
- How to get from one step to another
- Rotate to various stations—roles, jobs, etc.
- MCAS prep—new pacing guides
- Differentiated instruction and support
- School wide focus on literacy

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:43 p.m.

Ms. Hébert

- Reading for math meaning
- Math computation is not difficult—that is small part of question being asked—must be able to read text and answer the question and explain their answer
- Write to clarify understanding—organization of thought, precise and accurate language
- Practice in pairs and teams
- Speak for accurate communication
- Very difficult for 14 year olds to practice speaking and listening, etc.

Ms. Foreman—

- New graduation requirements regarding math requirement—study higher level math—4 years of math required including algebra 2
- Vocational students can earn their 4th year of math through their trade
- Credit recovery initiative – about 3 years old – model for other schools
- Statistics given on slide 22
- Reduced drop out and increased graduation rate
- Future—mortgage, cell phone plans etc.
- Thank you

Following the presentation, School Committee members commended the Math Curriculum Team and a question and answer session took place. Much great discussion ensued regarding SAT scores, AP tests, data, ELL considerations, the Common Core, common assessments and more.

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ms. Dodi was not present at this evening's meeting.**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- March 4, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of March 4, 2013. The motion was approved via voice vote.

- March 11, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to approve the minutes of March 4, 2013. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mrs. Cardoso departed the meeting at 8:19 p.m. as she was not feeling well.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**A. Educational Programs Subcommittee: March 12** (Mr. Bockelman)

Mr. Bockelman provided his report on the Ed. Programs Meeting of March 12th which included the following:

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

Present: Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Roix

Also present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Nomi Davidson, Dr. Sarah Davila and 5 audience members.

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

1. Early Education: progress report regarding Alignment grant
2. Universal Pre-School: Preliminary discussion of expansion options
3. Innovation and program improvement updates (including Unidos)

Early Education: progress report regarding alignment grant

Suzanne Gibbons who was hired to coordinate the Early Education Alignment Grant from the Department of Early Education and Care gave an introduction and update on the grant activities.

The grant supports the School District and community based early education providers to better integrate their activities to ensure a streamlined educational experience for children and families with the ultimate goal being improved student achievement outcomes.

They are doing this by sharing information, collaborating on activities, sharing professional development activities, aligning curricula, streamlining data collection, and basically working together as a team. It is a lot of coordination but all providers have been eager to cooperate.

She started her job in January and spent time meeting with childcare programs and Head Start, and numerous others. She is working to coordinate a professional training on the assessment tool that the Somerville Public Schools use, so that all day care providers are using the same measuring stick when assessing their students.

She is also spearheading an initiative to bring pre-k teachers together with kindergarten teachers in the district to share best practices, experiences and make deeper connections. This is a very exciting initiative and should yield many positive outcomes.

She is also looking at early literacy, which is receiving special emphasis, and connecting the early education community with many of the resources that are already in place in the City, such as the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative.

Universal pre-school: preliminary discussion of expansion options

Next we had our first, preliminary discussion on Universal Pre-School. The Superintendent presented the enrollment numbers for the SMILE and ECIP programs and identified the demand and cost (about \$100,000 per classroom) for early childhood education. We also discussed the practical considerations of whether there was room to expand a city-based initiative.

We discussed the possibility of expanding the Unidos program into pre-K but the Superintendent noted that Unidos had very few students on the list for kindergarten.

It seemed the Subcommittee was most comfortable with a targeted expansion of the SMILE program, but no proposals or actions were actually discussed or reviewed.

Innovation and program improvement updates

Lastly, Vince McKay updated the Subcommittee on the Winter Hill Innovation School – training staff on the new social curriculum they want to use (Responsive Classroom); governing committee continues to meet regularly; and other activities at the school.

The Kennedy School is rebuilding its innovation committee. With all the new initiatives such as teacher evaluation being implemented, it has been challenging to involve teachers in the process. But, since they received their grant from the state, the hope there will be renewed interest in the committee.

The STEAM Academy also received a grant from the state and there were numerous questions and discussions about how that money gets expended.

And the Unidos program has developed a teacher study group led by an experienced teacher to delve into research and share experiences with others teachers in Unidos. They expect a new model for Unidos to be developed by this group by early April and reviewed by the School Administrators. The idea is to realign the way subjects are taught in English and in Spanish.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the report and minutes of the Educational Programs Subcommittee Meeting of March 12, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

- The Superintendent began his report by reading a White House Press Release:

On Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 1:30 PM ET, First Lady Michelle Obama will join school children from across the country to plant the White House Kitchen Garden for the fifth year in a row. Mrs. Obama planted a vegetable garden on the South Lawn to initiate a national conversation around the health and wellbeing of our nation – a conversation that evolved into her Let's Move! initiative to solve the problem of childhood obesity within a generation. This year, Mrs. Obama invited children from schools that have made exceptional improvements to school lunches through implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, in addition to Harriet Tubman and Bancroft Elementary Schools in Washington, DC which have been active participants in the White House Kitchen Garden.

Children from the following schools will help plan this year's garden:

Arthur D. Healey School, Somerville Public Schools – Somerville, MA

Somerville Public Schools has had great success with the new, healthy school meals and is promoting healthy eating and snacking at school and at home. The district has a Farm to School program for K-12 that includes food education events like "corn shucking day" when kids learn about the food they're eating in school meals. At Healey, the school's parents, teachers, the Mayor, and school administrators support the continued efforts to integrate nutrition education into after-school programming. The school serves healthy breakfasts and snacks, its lunch program has a salad bar and kids participate in taste tests as new healthy recipes are created. The Healey Garden, started in 2004, hosts celebratory gardening days and gardening activities throughout the year.

- **Developmental screenings** for 3- and 4-year-old children not currently enrolled in the SPS will be offered Wednesday morning, April 3rd. Screening is by appointment only. Parents/guardians with concerns about their child's cognitive, speech/language, motor or social skills should contact Mary Eisner at x6824, or the Special Education office at x6800 to schedule an appointment.
- The SFLC invites you to learn how to share information about your child and what to ask teachers at PTA conferences. **"Preparing to Meet your Child's Teacher"** – Wed., April 3rd, 8:30-9:30am at the Argenziano.
- Wednesday evening, 6-8pm, the Brown School PTA is sponsoring **"Parenting in a Time of Climate Change – What can we do for our kids and our community?"** The workshop will be held at the First Church of Somerville (89 College Avenue, near Davis Square).

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

1. A visit to a two-way bilingual school in Framingham to observe their practices in conjunction with the Unidos Program Evaluation. Preliminary recommendations will be made at our next Ed. Programs meeting.
2. Reported that 15-20% of our students attend Bunker Hill Community College each year. We are proud of our connections there. Discussions are currently underway regarding cross registration of our students at Bunker Hill as well as working on our goal of improving academic readiness for all students.

Questions were asked regarding graduation rates of our students from Bunker Hill. This data has been recently requested by Dr. McKay and he will share with the School Committee when he receives it. Emphasis has been placed on retention rate from semester one to semester two but he will request the additional information. It is important to remember that many community college students do not attend consecutively, but, instead take classes as they are monetarily able to and also take courses as their schedule allows. This impacts the graduation rate in that students do not routinely graduate in two years.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

- **Bullying – A Community Training** takes place Thurs., April 4, 6:30-8pm at the Healey School. Join us for an important workshop and discussion hosted by the Somerville Public Schools and the PTA Council, and presented by Ariana Coniglio of the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth.
- The SFLC invites all dads and their children ages birth to 6 years old to **Activity Time for Dads and Kids** from 10am to noon on Saturday, April 6th at the Argenziano School. Other caregivers are welcome. For more information, call x6966. No advance registration is necessary.
- Learn how to **"Reach Your Financial Goals"** at a workshop sponsored by the SFLC Monday, April 8th, 6-7pm at the Edgerly. Register by April 4th for a free dinner (5pm), book and childcare. (x6966)

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

1. The bid for Special Education Transportation Services is currently out. Packets were sent to 10 requesting vendors. The pre bidders' conference will be held on April 4 at Central Office and all interest bidders are invited to attend. The Bid opening is April 18.
2. Ms. Durette informed the members earlier in the month the year that she would be attending a training at the DESE regarding the Circuit Breaker Fund and steps to take to apply for reimbursement including eligibility requirements. Since Somerville met the threshold where costs have increased 125% over the FY12 claim, we were eligible to file, which Ms. Durette did last Thursday. This makes us eligible for some additional reimbursement, but the amount is not yet known.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

- Representatives from Boston College, including BC mascot Baldwin, will visit **The Winter Hill Community Innovation School** tomorrow, April 2nd, as part of the school's commitment to helping students be college ready. On Friday, WHCIS 8th graders will visit Tufts University.
- **The Medford Elks Dictionary Distribution Event** was rescheduled again due to weather, and will be held Friday, April 5 at 1:30pm in the Argenziano Library. This is the Medford Elks kickoff event for its generous donation of dictionaries to all Somerville Public Schools third-grade students and staff.
- Also on Friday, April 5th at the WSNS, the **Tufts University Traveling Treasure Trunk** children's theatre troupe will visit the school for a special show for students in SMILE – Grade 2.
- Somerville High School hosts a School Improvement Council meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- On Thursday, April 11, 7-9pm, Somerville High School hosts an **"After the Acceptance Seminar"** by the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority to help students understand and select the best financing options for them as they prepare for their next educational journey. This is the first time this event is being held.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. 2013-2014 School Calendar**

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, as no surprise to anyone, we have had six emergency days – two for Superstorm Sandy and four for snow – during this school year. This being said, the last day of school for students is now June 28, 2013. Mr. Pierantozzi asked the School Committee to approve this calendar change.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation regarding the last day of school.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Pierantozzi also requested that the following changes to third and fourth quarters be approved:

The last day for 3rd quarter changed from April 10 to April 12

The first day for 4th quarter changed from April 11 to April 22

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the 3rd quarter extension.

The motion was approved via voice vote

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

The following policies are being presented for second reading, as amended:

File: GCF – Selection Process for Professional Positions

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve File GCF - Selection Process for Professional Positions, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

File: BEDB – Agenda Format

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve File BEDB - Agenda Format, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS**A. Somerville High School Graduate (recommended action: approval)**

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

- Vinicius Cafer

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the diploma.

The motion was approved via voice vote

B. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)**April 4, 2013**

Five (5) Grade Five Students from across the District to Washington, DC to visit the White House and meet Mrs. Obama. Transportation via air and van at no cost to the students.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

May 4-5, 2013

Somerville High School Boys Ultimate Frisbee Team to Amherst, *overnight* to compete in the Amherst Invitational. Transportation via school van/parent car at a cost of \$10.00 per student.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

May 17-19, 2013

Somerville High School Ultimate Frisbee Team to St. Johnsbury, VT to participate in a competition. Transportation via school van/rental van/private car at no cost to students.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

May 17-18, 2013

Somerville High School Band to Philadelphia, PA and Jackson, NJ to perform and visit museum. Transportation via coach bus at a cost of \$40.00 per student.

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

C. Acceptance of Donations (Recommended action: approval)

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

- The donation of an Ibanez Electric Guitar valued at \$350.00 and a Guitar Amp valued at \$50.00 from Jason Mazzotta of Somerville, MA to the Somerville High School Music Department.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The donation of a full-sized accordion valued at \$350.00, a half-sized accordion valued at \$150.00 and sheet music from Jerry Carvalho of Somerville, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

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

- The donation of a Buffet Wooden Clarinet valued at \$300.00, a Buffet B12 Student Clarinet valued at \$150.00 and a Vito Student Clarinet valued at \$50.00 from Kathy and Burns Woodward of Waban, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The donation of a Student Clarinet valued at \$200.00 from Judith Dente of Somerville, MA to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

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

D. MASC Board of Directors' Meeting Report (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rossetti provided her report from her attendance at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees' Board of Directors Meeting of March 13, 2013. Highlights of her report included the following:

- Senator Jehlen's Proposed Legislation on Accountability
- Jeff Wulfson from the DESE's report on State Action on Mobile and Transient Students
- Reports from the various State Division Chairs
- Day on the Hill
- FY14 Budget – including a statement from the MASC for the Joint Committees on Ways and Means
- Sequestration and its impact on programs and services

As always, Ms. Rossetti informed members that they are welcome to speak with her for more information about actions taken at this meeting.

IX. COMMUNICATION

Ms. Rossetti reported that members had received thank you notes from Ms. Ruth Quintanilla and Ms. Agnes Gallant expressing appreciation of remembrance of family members at recent meetings.

A letter from Dr. Jacquelyn Clark of Shore Collaborative regarding Somerville's membership.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**Mr. Sweeting**

1. This Thursday at 5:30 p.m. the Healey Community Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Healey School Library to discuss the grade 5/6 structure.
2. The Argenziano Community Concert and Arts Fundraiser will take place this coming Sunday beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Roix

1. The Capuano PTA will hold a fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square tomorrow night.
2. Somerville High School's National Honor Induction Ceremony takes place this Thursday evening at the Armory. One inductee, Edwin Cruz, will be absent as he attends the Massachusetts Vocational Awards Ceremony as Somerville's honoree.
3. The East Somerville Community School will hold a roundtable discussion at 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 4th, regarding School Climate and Bullying Prevention
4. Enjoyed reading the Kennedy School's latest newsletter articles about Pi Night and also enjoyed the 7th and 8th grade poets' poems. Mr. Roix commented that these poems are really, really good and extends his compliments to the authors.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Mr. Niedergang attended and volunteered at Pi Night at the Kennedy School. About 300 people were present with many activities for students. The Middle Grade students in attendance were well-behaved, interested and engaged. Mr. Niedergang enjoyed volunteering as there were many fun things to do as well as pizza and other pies!
2. On Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m., the Brown School will be hosting "Parenting in a Time of Climate Change – What can we do for our kids and our community?" at the First Church on College Avenue.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Announced that he will share his notes from his attendance at the Child and Youth Study Team Meeting which was led by Stephanie Hirsch. Mr. Bockelman will present the information regarding the schools soon.

Ms. Rafal

1. Reported on the Multicultural Fair and the wonderful job students did representing many various countries. Students could choose to work on any country, not just their country of origin.
2. The Friends of Healey School will hold a fundraiser at Porter Square Books for the Healey School on Saturday, April 6th. 20% of the proceeds from sales will be donated to the Healey.
3. On Saturday, Ms. Rafal will attend the MASC's class on Parliamentary Procedure this coming Saturday.
4. The School Committee will meet for Finance and Facilities on Wednesday, April 3rd.

Ms. Rossetti

1. Ms. Rossetti announced that, given Mrs. Cardoso having to leave the meeting due to illness, she will read her items:
 - On April 6, the Argenziano PTA will hold an 80s Night. Tickets may be purchased in advance by contacting a PTA officer.
 - Sunday
 - On Thursday, April 11, the AFA will hold a Family Math Night at
 - The PTA's 39th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance will be held on May 3, at Anthony's in Malden. Proceeds from the Ad Book will be used to provide scholarships to Somerville High School students.
 - This past weekend marked the 18th anniversary of Deanna Cremin's murder. Family and friends held a walk to remember Deanna and to bring this terrible crime to the forefront once again in the hopes that new information may be brought forward to help solve this case. Please remember Deanna and her family during this painful anniversary.
2. Ms. Rossetti reminded audience members that the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation is still selling commemorative bricks which will be placed outside of the High School Atrium. The cost is \$100 per brick with all proceeds going directly to scholarships.
3. Ms. Rossetti reported on her attendance at the CVTE Open House and commended staff on the booklet provided to all attendees explaining the various programs. Efforts were made to reach out to our 7th and 8th grade students to showcase the wonderful opportunities available to them through this program. The wonderful Open House included a breakfast prepared by Culinary Arts students, visits to shops and wonderful give-away items of chimes, cutting boards and more

which were made by students. Ms. Rossetti have hats off to the CTE Program and their wonderful promotion of their programs.

4. The West Somerville Neighborhood School's monthly coffee is being held on April 5th.
5. The West Somerville Neighborhood School's Spelling Bee will be held on April 24th at the Dante Club and team sign-ups are now being accepted. The team registration fee is \$100. Ms. Rossetti will be on a School Committee Team with Mr. Sweeting and asked if another member wishes to join them.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of March 4 and March 11, 2013 for approval
3. A copy of a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative that was presented at the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning on March 7, 2013
4. The 2013-2014 Somerville Public Schools Calendar
5. File GCF – Selection Process for Professional Positions
6. File BEDB – School Committee Agenda
7. A request for a Somerville High School Diploma for one student
8. Five (5) Out of State/Overnight Field Trip forms
9. Four (4) Donation Acceptance forms
10. Two thank you notes from staff members regarding condolences for their families members who have recently passed
11. A letter from Shore Collaborative
12. Two (2) thank you letters for recent donations

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, April 22, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Roix, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. White, Mayor Curtatone (8:02 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:14 p.m., with a moment of silence, remembering the victims of the Boston Bombing 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, Rossetti and Absent – 1 –Curtatone.

II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Ms. Indira Evora – Ms. Rossetti invited Ms. Evora to the podium, reading her resolution for an outstanding four year basketball career. Ms. Evora thanked her team and coach. Ms. Rossetti apologized to the Coach for not asking him up to the podium also.
- Mr. Andre Rolim – Ms Rossetti invited Mr. Rolim and Coach Dickerson to the podium, reading Mr. Rolim's resolution for an outstanding indoor track season. Mr. Rolim thanked his parents, Coach D and his teammates for all of their support. "I'm only 19 and a few days ago, another 19 year old chose a different path". Coach Dickerson stated Andre is quite a kid, quite an athlete.
- Somerville High School Chorus – Ms. Rossetti asked Ms. Mosby and Mr. Saunders to the podium. Ms. Rafael read the citation presented to The Somerville High School Chorus. Ms. Mosby thanked the School Committee on behalf of the Chorus stating it was a real honor being asked to Washington DC. "The Chorus represented Somerville very well." Ms. Rafal mentioned that Somerville was the only district represented who does not have try-outs for their chorus. Ms. Mosby invited every member of the Chorus to the podium presenting them each with a copy of the citation. The Chorus then sang two songs.
- Somerville High School Girls' Basketball Team – Ms. Rossetti invited Coach O'Halloran and his staff to the podium. Mr. Sweeting read the citation presented to The Somerville High School Girls' Basketball Team for being named Greater Boston League Champions. Coach O'Halloran thanked the School Committee and City saying it was an honor to be here. Coach O'Halloran introduced his Assistant Coaches, Alicia Querusio and Elizabeth Davis. Shelia Healey was unable to attend. Coach O'Halloran thanked Nicole Viele, parents and the community for their support. Every player was introduced, receiving a copy of the citation.
- Somerville High School Boys' Hockey Team – Ms. Rossetti invited Mr. Roix and Coach Allen to the podium. Mr. Roix read the citation presented to The Somerville High School Boys' Hockey Team for being named Greater Boston League Champions. Coach Allen thanked his Assistant Coaches, Nicole Viele and the biggest thanks to our Trainer, Michelle. The players were introduced, each receiving a copy of the citation.

Ms. Rossetti said on behalf of the School Committee, "This is what it's all about. We have so much to celebrate here in Somerville."

Ms. Rossetti called for a recess.

The School committee Meeting resumed at 8:02 p.m.

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

IV. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES -

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

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

In attendance: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Roix, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rafal. Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and about 5 audience members.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. and adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

1. We looked first at projected class sections for elementary grades. Right now it looks like there will be a net gain of elementary classes, but there could be a few more than that. At the time of the report we had 373 confirmed kindergarten registrants but also 50 current pre-schoolers, whose plans were unknown, so we could potentially have about 420 kindergartners next academic year. A high percentage of registrants were assigned to their first choice school, with almost all getting their first or second.

The Superintendent said Somerville has enviable class sizes for an urban district. He has asked the high school to plan on keeping the same number of FTE staff.

We then looked at budget projection number 3, this one with proposed program improvements or expansions, including: a data analyst in the central office, four full year interns from Tufts to work in our early grades, increased substitute budget to allow for team instructional planning and the addition of an administrator in charge of Unidos Curriculum, Instructional Design and Strategy, which we discussed at length.

2. Cost projections we considered for budget development:

a. Universal Pre-K. Each pre-K classroom costs about \$103,000 dollars. We would have neither the space nor the funds to offer universal pre-K. Nor would this necessarily be good for the community, as there are numerous pre-school providers. But we might be able to strategically add two more pre-K classrooms.

b. Playgroups are really school experiences for families that support children's emerging pre-literacy skills. They cost very little, only about \$2,025 each and we would need 7 more to accommodate the current waitlist, for an expected total addition of \$14,175.00

c. The Superintendent provided us with the cost of BU Mobile Science Lab that visits the high school, looking at how much it would cost to hire this lab for each school for a week or a month. But we do not know if BU would be able to accommodate such a request and it also turns out that this was not what the requesting School Committee member had in mind. So this topic will be revisited and probably there will not be time to develop it this coming fiscal year.

d. We revisited the idea of more early grades paraprofessionals as brought up last year. That would cost us \$175,000 in salaries and could cost the city up to \$235,000 in health insurance depending on the plans the employees chose.

e. In a response to a School Committee member's prior request, we also received results from a survey of substitute teacher pay scales in 18 surrounding communities, and it looked like Somerville pays substitutes reasonably.

f. We looked at the cost of adding Grade 6 Spanish. This would probably be about \$107,750.00 if students continue to be eligible in the same way. I just want to note that this proposal has not been looked at in Ed Programs so we are not sure how it would work.

g. We also looked at the cost of offering an Early Childhood English Language Learning summer program. Having four teachers plus paraprofessionals, it would probably cost about \$17,040.00.

3. We looked at the budget timeline and chose some dates for extra meetings and for the public hearing on the Superintendent's budget. We decided to communicate with the City about the date on which we would like to hold our vote. Spring is a very busy time of year. The dates we first picked conflicted with some other school business. So the new dates are: tonight we met at 6pm; our next meeting will also be of the whole on May 7 at 7pm; the public hearing will be at SHS library on May 28 or May 29 at 7pm and the subsequent meetings of the whole for finance will be May 30 and June 5 at 7pm.

4. We looked at the expenditure report. Not much had changed since March. Schools were given a deadline of April 12 for their last purchases on this fiscal year. We have been able to help offset some of the negative balance with some unexpected efficiencies and with extra circuit breaker money that Ms. Durette reported applying for last month.

5. We reviewed the bill rolls and approved them.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities of April 3, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. *Educational Programs Subcommittee* - April 9 (Mr. Bockelman)

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

In attendance: Mr. Bockelman and Mr. Roix. Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi, Ms. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Dr. McKay, Ms. Davila and approximately 20 other people.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

1. Our first item on the agenda was a presentation on the progress of the Unidos Program.

Teacher Betsey Reardon said they continually returned to the major goals of the program which are to maintain high levels of academic achievement, advance bilingualism and biliteracy and the promote multicultural competency.

She said the report prepared by EDC recommended that the Unidos program strike a better balance between Spanish and English, that the District and teachers articulate the curriculum to all stakeholders, that they do a better job of differentiating the curriculum for the students, that the District align its policies with the specialized needs of the Unidos program, and that more emphasis be placed on Unidos as a dual language strand in a school and make better connections with local dual-language resources.

Progress has been made on all fronts, Ms. Reardon and Dr. Hatch reported. Concrete examples include the development of a Unidos Summer Institute, the new program model that does a better job of balancing English and Spanish, and introducing accountable talk into the Spanish language based classrooms.

In fact, Betsey's presentation identified real progress made in each of the recommended areas.

The next steps include the School Committee reviewing the budget request for a Unidos instructional coordinator and eight other items.

2. We next engaged in a fascinating discussion about universal pre-K including the impact of different pre-school experiences on kindergarten readiness measured as early literacy skills and the impact of income on Kindergarten readiness and the lasting impact of pre-school measured as reading score on MAP as a third grader. In short, we learned that: quality pre-school makes a difference; it matters especially for students of students whose parents and guardians have less education and fewer financial resources. Income matters.

We looked at the existing enrollment in Smile and learned that nearly half of the Smile program was made up of free-and reduced lunch and half were not eligible which led to a larger discussion about who the District should target with this relatively scarce commodity.

More to come on this discussion.

3. Lastly, we heard updates on summer professional development, academic coaching, and innovation school planning.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the minutes of the Educational Programs Subcommittee of April 9, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. *REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT*

Mr. Pierantozzi welcomed everyone back from April vacation, especially after a horrendous week. He thanked all the first responders, volunteers and everyday citizens who quickly responded to this tragedy. He noted that Rick Saunders sang a solo at Krystle Campbell's funeral today in Medford, a victim of the Boston Marathon Bombing. Mr. Pierantozzi also said we need to reach out to Sean Collier's family. Sean was known by many of us. It was a senseless act and every day needs to be cherished. (Sean was a MIT Police Officer, from Somerville, another victim of the bombing.)

Mayor Curtatone asked for a moment of silence after the meeting for Sean Collier. The Mayor attended Sean's wake and said it was an honor to attend. Sean's dream was to be a Somerville Police Officer and he was to be sworn in as one in just a few weeks. Sean was a fine young man, a quality man.

Alderman White stated that this young man gave his life in order to capture bombers. He was on patrol, ambushed. Sean's family is so grateful to the City of Somerville.

A. PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Pierantozzi reported on the monthly Personnel Report. Update on report: Cindy Guan has rescinded her resignation for the 2012-2013 school year. Cindy will be staying at SHS.

B. DISTRICT REPORT

On April 4th, five students from the Healey School participated in a lifetime event when they assisted First Lady Michelle Obama in the annual planting of the White House Kitchen Garden. Thank you to the First Lady for providing our students with the opportunity to be part of a truly incredible event. Ariana Docanto, Brian Chan, Gabriela Lopez, Sarah Sweeting and Lana Popovic represented the Healey School and all of Somerville with pride and distinction. A sincere thank you also to the many volunteers and community partners including Groundwork Somerville, Shape Up Somerville, UMass Extension and of course, the SPS Food & Nutrition Services Department for their work with our students in promoting good nutrition. Congratulations to them!

The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative is hosting the following workshops this week:

Tuesday, at the Capuano, Parents/Guardians of young children are invited to join us for a Raising a Reader workshop to learn more about how interactive reading helps build the brain. - Wednesday, at the Argenziano, Sprout & Company presents "Listening to Learners – the Having of Wonderful Ideas", a workshop about how to listen to your child's conception of the world.

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

Dr. McKay stated that this is the year for educator evaluation changes, statewide and district wide. This is a restart in the way we do business in terms of how we support our professional educators.

1. Most significant change will be implemented for the first time over the next week. This is a new way of encouraging professional dialog about our practice – This affects every one of us as educators. This professional dialog is being supported by a collection of evidence (data, documentation, etc) to show we've made progress reaching the goals we've set for ourselves. It's like a portfolio type of process.
2. This is our season for recruitment. It's always a challenge to get the best and the brightest. We have a new recruiting tool that we're rolling out this week, Schoolspring, for both advertising and internal management.
3. We're also rolling out our internship program. This highlights our emphasis on developing our talent internally. We have one intern at WSNS and four more next year:

A) Tufts Early Childhood Program

B) 3rd year with Lesley University's Urban Initiative ELL Program

- The Superintendent reported that there was an increase in the Intermural budget, thank you.
Tomorrow starts the intermural basketball for middles grades, boys and girls. The fans and parents will be getting a handout about Sportsponsorship.
- There is a new program, Somerville Public Schools' Introduction to Competitive Swimming for anyone in Grades 3 to 8. The first class is April 29th for two weeks.
- Thank you to Nicole Viele, our intermural co-ordinator for all the work you have done.
- The 184th day of school has been negotiated with the STA and SAA. The final draft is in process for the activities for these last few days.

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

1. The audit firm has completed their financial report and Ms. Durette is pleased to announce that there were no findings of non-compliance with the audit.
 2. The Finance Department is prepping for the end of the year. They asked everyone to send in their requisitions for the end of year and the Finance Office is now reviewing and processing these requests.
- Mr. Pierantozzi announced several upcoming events:
 - PTA Conferences are coming up this week: NW/FC, Argenziano, SHS, WSNS, Kennedy, ESCS at Cummings.
 - The Superintendent Awards for the 3rd quarter begin this week.
 - The Winter Hill Community School is hosting a Family Math Night on April 25th.
 - Also on April 25th will be the SHS Spring Concert, this year being held in the Field House because we cannot use the auditorium.
 - April 26th, East Somerville is hosting a Math Games and Parent Workshop for students in Grades 2-4.
 - Our website has all of our events and information.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Mr. Sweeting)

This policy, EFD, the Wellness Policy for PK-12 was discussed and voted upon at the early April meeting of the Rules Committee Meeting. This is now being presented the full School Committee as amended for a 1st reading.

B. Field Trips

April 27-28, 2013

SHS Junior Statesmen of America Debate Club to Connecticut. Transportation via JSA Coach Bus. Cost per student is \$115.00

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

May 10 – 12, 2013

SHS Boys Track to White Plains, NY. Transportation via school vehicle. No cost to students.

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

June 9 – 13, 2013

Kennedy School students to the University of Maryland. Transportation via coach bus. Cost per student is \$495.00 (district funded).

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

June 11, 2013

Next Wave students to Canobie Lake Park. Transportation via school van. Cost per student is \$10.00.

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

June 13 – 16, 2013

SHS Boys Track to Greensboro, NC. Transportation via private vehicle. No cost to students.

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

C. Acceptance of Donations

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, the following donation:

- The donation of \$100.00 from Shawn and Lisa Szturma of Somerville, MA to be used for the Brown School's Grade Six Nature's Classroom trip.

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

The motion was approved by voice vote.

D. Local Government Advisory Commission – April 9 (Ms. Rossetti)

This was a lengthy meeting, most of it discussing Chapter 90 funding. Education is on next month's agenda.

E. NSBA Annual Conference Report – April 12-15 (Ms. Rossetti)

This conference was held in San Diego. Ms. Rossetti attended several workshops, one very moving. Ms. Rossetti encouraged the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to participate in the 9/12 Generation Project, a 2 day service-learning initiative for students in grades 6-12. Another workshop Ms. Rossetti attended was the Innovative Differentiation for the Diverse Early Learner. Students at one school in Indiana, Grades K-2, were given iPads. These iPads help teachers monitor individual student performances. Test scores changed dramatically with these iPads. Ms. Rossetti thanked the School Committee for giving her the opportunity to be out of town, attending this Conference.

Following her report, Ms. Rossetti informed members that she is serving on PHCS Reuse Committee at the Mayor's request. This committee was formed to look at bids for the sale of the building. The Mayor stated this is a process that we will follow, whether it's a building, parking lot, etc.

Ms. Rafal mentioned that due to several emails she has received, she would like a workshop for the public to help parents understand how school finances work...how much each school cost, how much do we spend and where does the money come from? Ms. Rossetti reminded everyone of the community forum on May 2nd at the Argenziano School regarding parent involvement with our Parent Information Center and suggested that maybe the following forum could address Ms. Rafal's idea.

Mr. Bockelman announced that the Mayor has asked him to be on the SHS Building Task Force. This committee will discuss the building of a new school or the renovation to the present SHS building.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rossetti reported that members had received a thank you note from Agnes Gallant on the remembrance of her late father.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Niedergang

1. Wednesday, April 24th, the 6th graders from the Brown School will be having a fundraiser at Flatbread, for Nature's Classroom
2. Kennedy School's PTA is on April 29th.

Mr. Roix

1. Congratulations to the East Somerville Community School's PTA for receiving the Intercultural City Award.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Stated that he cannot add anymore words about last week's event. He commends the City of Somerville's response. The Memorial on Thursday was very powerful. Thank you to the Mayor and all involved for bringing our city together.
2. Saturday will be the Annual Clean Up Day.
3. Encouraged all parents to attend PTA meetings. Great stuff happening and it starts at home.
4. Postponed Rules Management meeting on May 6th. Will reschedule.

Mr. Rafal

1. To the East Somerville Community School's PTA...congratulations!
2. Is compassion part of our curriculum? Maybe this is something we can look into.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Thank you Mayor for the vigil. "It was needed."
2. A lot is going on, Brown School is having a fundraiser at Flatbread, Tuesday night Teen Empowerment, Wednesday SHS PTA, Friday is Scale's Breakfast, Saturday we'll be in Davis Square cleaning up, next week Kennedy PTA, Vocational Banquet, PTA Dinner Dance is coming up and May 2nd is Resistat Meeting.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Argenziano's PTA is tomorrow night.
2. For Ward 2 Day of Service, there are several meeting places. Teresa will be at the Argenziano School.
3. Wednesday will be the Ward 2 Resistat Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Argenziano School
4. May 3rd will be the 38th Annual PTA Dinner/Dance.
5. Teresa announced that she is not seeking re-election. Although she has enjoyed her time on this board, it's time to dedicate more time to her family.

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:

- Kathleen Connors, daughter of Dorothy Connors, retired Home Economics Teacher at SHS
- Theresa Haley, former employee at SCALE
- Robert Emens, father of Terri Emens, School Nurse at SHS
- Rose Nikolla, mother of Donna Driscoll, ELA Coach at AFA and ESCS
- Leonora Solano, mother of Patricia Solano, Teacher at AFA
- Catherine Ciampa, sister of Marie Ferrari, former Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Rossetti added:

- Sean Collier

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. Personnel Report for March 2013
3. File EFD: Wellness Policy for PK-12
4. Five (5) Out of State/Overnight Field Trip forms
5. One (1) Donation Acceptance form
6. A thank you notes from a staff member regarding condolences for their family member who have recently passed
7. A list of School Committee meetings for the remainder of the school year
8. Three (3) condolence letters

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
School Committee

Indira Evora

- WHEREAS,** *Indira Evora recently completed an outstanding four-year basketball career at Somerville High School, establishing a S.H.S. scoring record with 1262 points, becoming the second leading scorer in Somerville High School history, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Indira was a four-year starter on the Girls' Varsity Basketball Team, member of the 2013 Greater Boston League Champions, four-year Greater Boston League All Star and Greater Boston League Most Valuable Player in 2012 and 2013, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Indira has been described by her coaches and school administrators as an incredibly quick player and prolific scorer as well as a consummate student, outstanding teammate and great role model, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Indira is a standout student at Somerville High School who is an honor student, member of the National Honor Society and an active volunteer as a youth basketball coach and referee, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Indira will take the next step in her educational and athletic career by studying and playing at St. Michael's College in Vermont after signing a National Letter of Intent during the early signing period, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That the Somerville School Committee publicly praise Indira Evora for her outstanding efforts at Somerville High School and wish her continued success as a collegiate athlete at St. Michael's College, 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 Indira Evora.*

Mary Jo Rossetti, Chairperson
Adam Sweeting
M. Teresa Cardoso
Paul Bockelman
Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent

Somerville School Committee
Christine Rafal, Vice Chairperson
Steven Roix
Mark Niedergang
William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President
Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

April 22, 2013

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
School Committee

Andre Rolim

- WHEREAS,** *Somerville High School senior Andre Rolim recently concluded an outstanding indoor track season, after which the talented athlete was named the 2012 Indoor Track Runner of the Year by the Boston Globe, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Andre's other accomplishments include being a four-time MIAA Division I State Champion, a three-time MIAA All-State Champion, a two-time New England Champion and State Record holder for 600 meters, and*
- WHEREAS,** *During the 2012-2013 Indoor Season, Andre was ranked fifth in the Nation for the 600 meter run, is the Eastern Mass 800 meter Spring 2012 Champion, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Andre is also a member of Somerville High School's Greater Boston League 2012 Boys Soccer Team, and a GBL All Star in Soccer in 2011 and 2012, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Andre's coaches have described him as a hard-working and well-respected member of the Track and Soccer Teams whose leadership makes others want to do better, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That the Somerville School Committee publicly praise Andre Rolim for his outstanding contributions to the Somerville High School track program, recognized by his coach David Dickerson, his teammates and the citizens of Somerville, 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 Andre Rolim.*

Mary Jo Rossetti, Chairperson	Somerville School Committee
Adam Sweeting	Christine Rafal, Vice Chairperson
M. Teresa Cardoso	Steven Roix
Paul Bockelman	Mark Niedergang
Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent	William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President
	Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

April 22, 2013

Somerville School Committee Official Citation

Presented to

The Somerville High School Girls' Basketball Team

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted
this Certificate of Outstanding Achievement for being named Greater
Boston League Champions with an overall record of 14-7-0.*

*Congratulations on a great season and thank you for your
sportsmanship and tremendous team spirit! You make Somerville
proud!*

Somerville School Committee

Mary Jo Rossetti, Chairperson

Christine Rafal, Vice Chairperson

M. Teresa Cardoso

Steven Roix

Adam Sweeting

Paul Bockelman

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

Mark Niedergang

William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

April 22, 2013

Somerville School Committee Official Citation

Presented to

The Somerville High School Boys' Hockey Team

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted
this Certificate of Outstanding Achievement for being named Greater
Boston League Champions with an overall record of 10-7-4.*

*Congratulations on a great season and thank you for your
sportsmanship and tremendous team spirit! You make Somerville
proud!*

Somerville School Committee

Mary Jo Rossetti, Chairperson

Christine Rafal, Vice Chairperson

M. Teresa Cardoso

Steven Roix

Adam Sweeting

Paul Bockelman

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

Mark Niedergang

William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

April 22, 2013

Somerville School Committee Official Citation

Presented to

The Somerville High School Chorus

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted
this Certificate of Outstanding Achievement for being awarded the Silver
Medal at the World Strides Heritage Inaugural Competition in
Washington, DC. Congratulations for this magnificent honor and thank
you for putting Somerville in the spotlight in such a positive way! We are
proud of your achievement and happy that you were able to share in
such an important part of history by being present at the inauguration of
President Obama.*

Somerville School Committee

Mary Jo Rossetti, Chairperson

Christine Rafal, Vice Chairperson

M. Teresa Cardoso

Steven Roix

Adam Sweeting

Paul Bockelman

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

Mark Niedergang

William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

April 22, 2013

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, May 6, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Roix, Mr. Niedergang Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, and Mayor Curtatone (7:50 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 7:10 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 – Sweeting, White, Roix, Niedergang, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rafal, and Rossetti and ABSENT – 1 - Curtatone.

Following the roll call, Mr. Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Alderman White, asking that an item of communication be taken out of order. This communication from STA was received after the agenda for tonight's meeting was posted.

The item of Communication was acknowledged at the beginning of the meeting, but will be discussed at a future time. This is not for discussion this evening as it is not posted as specified by the Open Meeting Law.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 1, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of April 1, 2013
The motion was approved via voice vote

- April 22, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the minutes of April 22, 2013
The motion was approved via voice vote

III. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Dea Dodi, provided the following report on goings on at Somerville High School:

- Starting her report on a victorious note – The Boys Ultimate Frisbee Team has been crowned Division 2 Champions
- AP testing began today and continues throughout the week
- The Senior Prom is this Friday and is being held at the Renaissance Hotel in Boston
- Class Day is May 31 – senior class accomplishments, achievements, and post high school plans will be highlighted at this traditional annual event
- Senior Spirit Week is next week and will include Pajama Day, Twin Day, Back in the Day Day, College T-shirt Day, and Highlander Pride Day
- The GSA will hold a Funky Gay Tea Party to raise awareness of the GSA and promote equality
- Scholarship Award Night will be held on May 15 at Somerville High School

Ms. Rossetti reminded audience members that the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation Brick Sale is ongoing. Buy a personalized brick to be installed outside the atrium and all proceeds go directly to scholarships for our students.

- Dea announced that this is her second to last meeting and that, at the next meeting, she will bring the new student representative, Marcello Brociner, and introduce him to the Committee.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities: April 22 (Ms. Rafal)

A Finance and Facilities Meeting was held on April 22, 2013 in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

In attendance were Teresa Cardoso, Mark Niedergang, Mary Jo Rossetti, Paul Bockelman, Steve Roix, Adam Sweeting, and Christine Rafal. Also Tony Pierantozzi and Pat Durette and at first 1 audience member but I think 2 more came in at different times during the meeting.

We received lots of plans and papers related to FY14 budget development, including the preliminary staffing plan and a comparison of budget to actual spending over the past 3 years that helps demonstrate the needs for the recommendations in the proposed budget, and then detailed sheets of the proposed operations budget for FY14. We all thanked the Superintendent and Ms. Durette for the very good work that all these budget documents represented.

While one school committee member had a question about some items related to the high school allocations, we spent the vast majority of the time discussing the shortest document of all, the 2-page summary of FY2014 Budget Projection #4.

And while a school committee member had a question about funding for El Sistema, we then spent about 45 minutes discussing just two items on this document: these were the recommendations inherent in the proposed budgeting of one redirect teacher for the East Somerville Community School and a half-time instructional coordinator for the Unidos Program.

Some School Committee members pointed out that the East Somerville Community School's School Improvement Plan had requested, as a principal's requests, that the ESCS retain the two redirect teachers that have been serving in the Cummings and the Edgerly building, and that a full-time Instructional Coordinator for Unidos be hired.

One School Committee member suggested that our obligation is to seriously consider requests from School Improvement Plans but not necessarily to grant them, using requests for more coaching as a common example.

So I am going to outline the various perspectives put forth to show that both these requests have been seriously considered, and also because we had all received many communications regarding these two items.

The Superintendent has recommended only one redirect teacher once the ESCS occupies their new building. While some ESCS parents and staff have observed both redirect teachers being very busy all the time, the Superintendent has explained that some of this is due to the distribution of work caused by having the principal and vice principal separated over multiple buildings. Once all staff is together again, work roles should consolidate and re-align. One School Committee member expressed a feeling that the Superintendent has seemed in the past to be a good manager whose recommendations about staffing seem to work out. Other considerations included that one larger building should offer the district some efficiencies, like when a school needs one principal whether it has 300 or 600 students, and that equity across schools would be an issue. A redirect teacher is not strictly required in a school and some of our smaller schools don't even have one and it would not seem very equitable to give one school two. A School Committee member then asked if it would be feasible to keep two redirect teachers just for the next year as everyone settles into the new building, but the Superintendent said this is the time that makes sense and it would be even harder to go to just one in FY15.

Then we had some discussion about the funding for the Unidos Instructional Coordinator. School Committee members raised points about the recent Unidos evaluation having recommended a full-time position for this role, although there was a reminder that it had just been said the Superintendent has historically seemed to show good judgment in staffing and administration is not necessarily the background of the evaluator. Still, a School Committee member said we could think of this as sort of "The Year of Unidos" as the program re-aligns with best practices based on the evaluation and moves into the new building. The Superintendent said that this position has been put out to bid twice and the search committee has not been satisfied with any of the small number of applicants so he feels there might be a dearth of qualified candidates in the local region and he was thinking perhaps of having this role carried out by a teacher or team who have already been working on implementing the recommendations. A School Committee member suggested that maybe the lack of bids could be due to the pay being too low. The Superintendent said he might revise upward the number for funding the Unidos Instructional Coordinator and we asked what that figure might be. He said the figure he usually uses for a teacher who has not yet been hired is \$66,000.

By then it was almost time to start the regular School Committee meeting. We decided to adjourn rather than recess because we would be having another meeting in just two weeks, which is now tomorrow.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities of April 22, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

May and June are the busiest times of the year so this will be a rather lengthy report.

- The Superintendent announced that he sent an email to All K12 staff at 1:20 p.m. today with the following text:

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you to all the faculty members who make the SPS such a supportive school district for our students and their families. Our teachers provide welcoming, high quality learning experiences for our students and positively influence their lives and their futures every day. Teaching children and young adults is a challenging, yet wonderfully rewarding vocation. One that really makes a difference in our world!! Thank you for all that you have done, are doing and will do in the future.

Wednesday is School Nurse Recognition Day. Our school nurses meet the needs of our students, and staff every day!! Our school nurses address immediate health needs and also provide onsite care. School nurses are responsible for managing comprehensive health services and serve on many important committees. Our school nurses are an invaluable member of our team!!

Please join me in expressing appreciation to our faculty members and school nurses for all they do!!

Upcoming events:

- The first annual World Language Awards Night will be held Wednesday, May 8, 6:30 to 8:00pm at the Kennedy School.
- SHS Senior Prom - May 10, 2013 (Marriott Renaissance Hotel, Boston).
- The Somerville High School Scholarship Awards Night will be held Wednesday, May 15, 6:30pm at the Holiday Inn Somerville.
- Highlander Awards Night is May 21 at the Holiday Inn in Somerville.
- Next Wave/Full Circle 40th Anniversary is May 22 at Next Wave/Full Circle
- Class Day is May 31 in the Field House
- Somerville High School graduation is June 3 at Dilboy Stadium
- Full Circle graduation is June 12 at the Dante Club
- Next Wave graduation is June 19 at the Lions Club
- Scale graduation is June 26 at Tufts' Granoff Center

Mr. Bockelman asked a question regarding inclement weather at graduation and wondered if there had been discussion regarding alternative site scheduling as it is an inconvenience to attendees when the ceremony is not on original date.

Alderman White inquired about the number of graduating students in this year's graduation class. Mr. Pierantozzi replied that there will be no official number until after final exams but, right now, there are around 310 students

The last couple of years were in the high 200s.

We will get numbers prior to the budget presentation, including future plans, to report to the Board of Aldermen (last 3-5 years)

We will have demographic information regarding the Class of 2012 at the Ed Programs meeting next week.

- Last week's SFLC Family and Community Engagement Leadership Seminar was a tremendous success. 106 people representing every school and numerous school and community stakeholder groups were in attendance at an energizing and inspiring 3-hour workshop at the Argenziano School. Our next step is to build on the energy gained at this leadership conference and focus parent engagement efforts on parent-teacher communication and innovative approaches to Parent-Teacher Conferences. We look forward to working with all of you as *together* we

continue to develop a national model of parent/guardian and community engagement that supports and enhances student success.

- The All-City Chamber String Ensemble will be held Thursday, May 9, at the Somerville High School Library. We invite you to join us at 6:30 pm for a wonderful evening of chamber music.
- The 2013 MVSA Scholar Luncheon will be held at Lenzi's Restaurant in Dracut on May 15 at 11:45am. Somerville High School Students – Valedictorian Zoe Iacovino, Salutatorian Ruth Grossman and Vocational Student of the Year Edwin Cruz will be representing Somerville.

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

Some Race to the Top Information

- There is a new instructional platform – EDWIN – which is a system that combines all student assessment data into a convenient window for teacher use. Somerville has been selected as a pilot site to test the system. This is a powerful tool for our teachers to use. Somerville's leadership and implementation plan was selected as a model plan and will be used in all training materials statewide. Thanks to our team - Chad Mazza, Jodi Remington, and Uri Harel.
- Educator evaluation—today was the final administrative team training session which impacts all professional educators including the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. 40 hours of training have been put in to make a significant difference in the city. Mr. Pierantozzi wholeheartedly believes in this new system. Teachers are significant and important partners in this effort.

Quick announcements

- Advanced Placement testing began today at Somerville High School. A more comprehensive report will be produced, but the number of students being tested is up
- Preliminary Advanced Placement class enrollment numbers for next year are also up for next year.
- MCAS math at SHS is next week – alert parents to testing schedule for grade 10
- World Language Awards Night is Wednesday at the Kennedy School. We are proud of middle grades program Spanish which was reintroduced this year.
- On May 15, Terrence Roberts of the Little Rock 9 will speak at Somerville High School. The audience will be students from grades 7 and 8, and select classes from the high school early civil rights movement time to be announced

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

- A 'Night of Song' featuring the SHS Choral and Guitar Ensembles will be held Thursday, May 16 at 6:30pm at the SHS Atrium.
- Kindergarten – 400 students The Welcome to Kindergarten workshop for all parents/guardians with incoming Kindergarten students will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Argenziano School on Thursday, May 16.
- The following week, incoming Kindergarten students and their parents/ guardians will have an opportunity to meet their new Kindergarten teacher, visit their classroom and become familiar with their new school.

Alderman White inquired about the percentage of students who have attended the Somerville Public Schools since K or grade 1 and graduate from our District. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that we will look into this as it requires manual data. Mr. Pierantozzi also informed Alderman White that, 2 years ago, an analysis of PreK-grade 5 was conducted. At that time 51% of students who entered in Kindergarten were still in our school at grade 5.

Our annual mobility has been 10-17% over the last five years but has dropped. We are more stable than we were 5 years ago and it is difficult to know why—maybe the economy - New Englanders have moved less frequently...this is good data to have

Alderman White has Asked OSPCD for the 2000 census data.

Mr. Pierantozzi informed Alderman White that Ms. Rossetti, Chelsea Superintendent Mary Bourque and he have been working on this mobility issue for many years.

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

- On April 18th the bid opening for Special Education transportation contract services for students both in and out of district was held. Only one bid was submitted and the contract award was given to SP&R of Dracut, MA who has been the vendor for the past two years.

The increase in the new contract vs. the previous contract is \$10 per day per vehicle = \$1800 per vehicle yearly. The number of vehicles is dependent upon the number of students and how they are grouped

Mr. Bockelman asked about the percentage of the increase and Ms. Durette responded that it works out to be less than a 5% increase and the costs are fixed for 3 years.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Alderman White asked if Ms. Durette knows why there was only one bid? Any outreach? Ms. Durette assured the Committee that the bid was advertised in accordance with the requirements of advertised goods and services. At the Pre-bidders' meeting, we had six vendors show interest.

Alderman White asked if it was possible to contact the pre-bidders to find out why they did not bid and whether the contract amount was compared to surrounding communities for consistency.

Cambridge also uses S, P & R

Ms. Durette reported that she has looked back at bids from three years ago and pricing this time is still considered very competitive.

Ms. Rossetti asked about the survey of parents by the SPED PAC of transportation system users and had a positive response from

There were a small number of concerns (not major) Debbie Connell met with S, P & R representatives to go over these concerns.

- The School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities will take place tomorrow evening at Cross Street.
- The Public Budget Hearing will be held on May 29th at 7:00 in the Somerville High School Library and the School Committee will meet for Executive Session on May 28th.

Mr. Niedergang asked if documents for tomorrow night's finance meeting have been posted on web.

Mr. Niedergang also requested that the Volunteer Program Report be considered during budget process—look at before it's too late. This item is on the Ed. Programs agenda for next week.

Ms. Rossetti announced that posting of Finance items is still being discussed.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

- ESCS Edgerly – May 8, 6-8pm. ESCS is hosting "ESCS @ Edgerly Museum Night" featuring galleries of artwork from students in Grades 1-4, student-guided museum tours and healthy snacks.
- West Somerville Neighborhood School is hosting Pictionary Night for students in Grades 4-5 and their families on May 10 from 6-8pm.
- West Somerville Neighborhood School is also hosting a Grade 6-8 Dance on May 10 from 6:30-8:30pm.
- The WHCIS Family Math Night for students in Grades K-2 and their families will be held on Thursday, May 16, from 5:30-7:30pm.
- I am pleased to inform you that the Somerville Technology Plan has been approved through June 30, 2014.
- The Somerville High School Class of 2013 invites the Class of 1963 to join them on Class Day, May 31st, for an incredible tradition that brings together graduating seniors and SHS graduates from 50 years earlier in 'passing the legacy' to incoming SHS seniors and freshmen. The ceremony begins at 9am. A luncheon will immediately follow the ceremony. Interested graduates of the Class of 1963 are asked to RSVP as soon as possible and no later than May 17 by calling the SHS main office (x6100) to be part of this wonderful event. Participation in the ceremony is limited to the first 50 respondents.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Mr. Sweeting)

The following policies are being presented for second reading, as amended: File: EFD – Wellness Policy for PK-12

Mr. Sweeting explained the process utilized to review and update policies.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to include the File EFD – Wellness Policy for PK-12, as amended, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

Alderman White questioned whether under Roman Number VII the information collected would be kept

confidential and whether the policy should specify the confidentiality?

Mr. Pierantozzi replied that confidentiality is a critical element and that the student record information is not public unless released by signature of the parent/guardian. This is covered under that law. Local regulations are superseded by state and federal law. There has never been any solicitation. The communication is sent directly to the home via US Mail.

These documents are kept confidential to fullest extent of the law—gut instinct for consideration

MOTION: Alderman White made an amendment to the motion, seconded by Ms. Rafal, to add confidentiality language to the policy and bring the policy back at the next for second reading and approval. Mr. Sweeting is happy with making this clarification.

The amended motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to table the motion until our next meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 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:

Kellyann Marie Correia	14 Leland Street	Somerville	02143
Giovanni Rodrigo Fonseca	115 Vince Street	Saugus	01906
Edwin E. Reyes Garcia	32 Francis Street	Everett	02149

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the SCALE ADP diplomas. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

June 9, 2013 Somerville High School Outdoors Club to Rye, NH for Summer Sessions Surf Camp. Transportation via school mini-bus. Cost per student is \$60.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote

C. Acceptance of Donations (Recommended action: approval)

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

- The donation of \$1000.00 from the National Coalition for Educational and Cultural Programs given to the Somerville Public Schools for use for the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative/Somerville Family Network Literacy Playgroups.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The donation of three (3) 40-inch flat screen monitors to the Somerville Public Schools by Tufts University Community Relations to be used the Winter Hill Community School and the Technology Department. Value as determined by donor is \$1,000.00 each.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rafal as a follow-up to the SFLC event's focus on family engagement asked about scheduling a meeting for Long Range Planning and if any thought has been given to a date?

Ms. Rafal would like to discuss the topic of family engagement at LRP.

Ms. Rossetti proposed Tuesday, June 18th for the Long Range Planning meeting and asked members to please check their calendars and send her an email if that date will or will not work.

Agenda will include this and middle grade

Ms. Marques will email members with a reminder.

Mr. Niedergang reported that the Ward 5 ResiStat is that night, but the meeting should not be

rescheduled because of this. He will make a quick visit to the ResiStat meeting and come to Long Range.

Ms. Rossetti reported that the Powder House Community School Re-use Committee held a meeting last Friday to look at bids that came in for demolition and land use, etc. A second meeting is being scheduled very soon to interview some of the interested parties.

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**Mr. Sweeting**

1. Mr. Sweeting took this time to extend his thanks for the following:
 - a) SFLC for a terrific event last week. Well attended and quite informative and the level of engagement was outstanding
 - b) The Cleanup in Ward 3 and city wide on April 27th was great and it was good to see so many participating.
2. There will be a fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square on May 14th to benefit the Somerville High School Orchestra
3. The Save Our Homes walk will be held on 5/19 beginning at 2pm at the High School
4. The Open Studios event this past weekend was a wonderful way to celebrate our community
5. Our next community-building event will be centered around music with Porch Fest happening on May 18th.

Mr. Roix

1. Announced the start of the East Somerville Main Streets Tuesday night events campaign with a kick off tomorrow night in conjunction with El Sistema

Mr. Niedergang

1. Read a short article from a magazine *The Sun* submitted by a teacher from Rowley, MA – Dennis Donahue which spoke of the challenges for students and teachers. Mr. Niedergang stated that, although this teacher is not from Somerville, the sentiments are fairly global.

Ms. Rafal

1. This is a great time of year and the awards for our CVTE students showcased the great stuff that is going on in our schools.
2. Ms. Rafal is excited about the first World Language Awards later this week.
3. Ms. Rafal will be holding Office Hours on Friday morning and is cohosting with the Welcome Project. Thanks to the great weather, the Office Hours will be held at the picnic table in her back yard from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Thanked the Ward 2 helpers for helping with the cleanup. Mrs. Cardoso lost some of her student helpers due to MCAS tutoring, but thanked all that helped!
2. The Vocational Education Awards Banquet last Wednesday was a wonderful evening!
3. Reported on her attendance at the PTA Dinner Dance last Friday and announced the honorees - Carol Perris, Sophia Carafotes, Jill Charney, Joanne Re Dunn and Kaitlin Souza and student scholarship recipients - Felicia Beaton, Bobby Cassidy, Andre Fernandes, Tory Govan, and Andrew Silva. This year, the scholarship recipients were invited to the Dinner Dance to receive their awards and it was a great idea! Next year will be the 40th Anniversary of the PTA Dinner Dance.
4. Happy Mother's Day

Mr. Bockelman

1. Reiterated the importance of the Ultimate Frisbee winning their division. This is the first tournament win and a big accomplishment for our kids. Most participating teams are not from urban districts – Congratulations!
2. The Somerville High School Building Committee took a tour of the building to see the current condition
3. Next Tuesday there will be an Ed Programs meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Central Office.
4. Congratulations to the East Somerville Community School PTA for receiving the Intercultural City Award from the Welcome Project. Mr. Bockelman read the following quote from ESCS PTA President Melora Rush:

Our school community comes from many places, we speak many languages, we represent a wide variety of skills and passions. We are working together to cherish that diversity and to become a stronger group of people advocating for the academic, social and emotional education of our children.

We have gone from a small group of involved parents, to a group of parents, grandparents, guardians, uncles and aunts who represent the diversity of East Somerville. Together with our Principal, Dr. Holly Hatch, our PTA hosts monthly roundtable discussions, held mornings as well as evenings to accommodate working parents. Attendance at these discussions has grown from 5-6 people to more than 20 people coming both morning and night meetings. The changes are not just visible, but audible - our meetings are run in the dominant language of the participants - in our case in Spanish, with English translation.

We are grateful that an extremely talented, outgoing woman has joined our team as Secretary - Maria Salmeron! She has single handedly brought many of the attendees to our meetings.

Congratulations to the East Somerville Community School PTA!

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

- Patricia McGovern, mother of Maureen McGovern, secretary at SCALE and mother-in-law of Cheryl McGovern, secretary at the Kennedy School.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of April 1 and April 22, 2013 for approval
3. Policy EFD – Wellness Policy for PK-12
4. A request from SCALE for ADP Diplomas for three (3) students
5. One (1) Out of State/Overnight Field Trip form
6. Two (2) Donation Acceptance forms
7. Five (5) condolence letters
8. A letter from the Somerville Teachers Association
9. One (1) thank you letter for a recent donation

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, May 20, 2013 – Regular Meeting

7:42 p.m. - Aldermanic Chambers - City Hall

Members present: Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Roix, Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. White, Mayor Curtatone (8:02 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 7:42 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.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

- Ms. Dea Dodi – Student Representative to the School Committee

Ms. Rossetti invited Dea to stand with her at the while Ms. Rossetti congratulated Ms. Dodi for having served as our student representative with great distinction. Ms. Rossetti announced that we will miss you greatly and will celebrate with you. We wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank you and read this resolution into record of tonight's meeting (included at the end of these minutes).

Ms. Dodi said that it is a bittersweet feeling to have this as her last meeting. She remembered how, at her first meeting, she was reporting on the senior prom of the class of 2010 and now she is reporting on her senior prom. The years fly by so quickly.

Ms. Dodi introduced Marcelo Brocinor who will be the student representative for the 2013-2-14 school year and Marcelo thanked his fellow students for choosing him as the representative; he looks forward to serving during the next school year.

- Mr. Richard Cheney – Eastern Massachusetts Interscholastic Swim Coaches Academy Hall of Fame –

Ms. Rafal stepped to the dais and invited Mr. Richard Cheney to join her as she presented him with a resolution from the School Committee. Mr. Cheney runs our beautiful pool and does a great job. There is a long list of reasons to honor Mr. Cheney including his management of our pool facilities, involvement in coaching and his recent induction into the Swim Coaches Hall of Fame.– (text of resolution included at the end of these minutes). Mr. Cheney thanked the School Committee for this honor and announced that he looks forward to future new ideas and new techniques. Mr. Cheney is thankful to the School Committee for allowing him to continue to do such great work!

The School Committee recessed at 7:55 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:59 p.m.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 6, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the minutes of May 6, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – In her excitement at receiving her resolution from the School Committee and introducing her replacement, Ms. Dodi left the meeting without presenting her report. We wish her great luck in the future!

VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities: May 7 (Ms. Rafal)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

Present: Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, and Mr. Roix

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Also present: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and eight audience members
Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. and adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

1. FY14 Budget Development
2. FY Bill rolls
3. Other

We reviewed lots of documents related to building the FY 14 budget.

We saw that due to enrollments, the number of elementary class sections will increase by three.

We asked some questions about various line items. We found out for example that the \$25,000 being budgeted for moving refers only to moving expenses separate from those involved in moving into the ESCS, which are part of the building project. But there are several possible moves resulting from freeing up space.

We asked about the \$28,000 still being budgeted for a mobile science lab, since it wasn't clear whether it was actually what the School Committee had in mind, or whether the administration's interpretation of the request could happen, but the Superintendent is still working on whether getting more mobile science lab time is possible and if it is not, he still offered a couple other meaningful ways to use the money to enrich science learning.

We talked about the increases to the Special Education budget lines as corrective, making the budget more closely reflect actual expenses. School Committee members asked about the 4th quarter circuit breaker payments and whether these are for the current year or if they are being handled as a reserve. The administration hopes to be able to spend it when needed either in FY 13 or FY 14.

The extra \$50,000 for psychological services also makes that line item more reflective of actual spending.

The topic of Room 143 in the high school came up. This is the room that the administration proposed renovating in order to serve medically involved students who have typically been placed out of the district when they age out of the SKIP program at the Kennedy. The board of aldermen had approved \$180,000 for the renovation but they have not yet determined if the city would pay for the nurse the program would need. It is not clear that the room is going to be renovated in time to open for September. A School Committee member asked what is the hold-up about the renovation and mentioned that if they were a parent of one of these children they would not feel very good about committing the child to a program they could not see.

We saw that the amount budgeted for the Unidos Instructional Coordinator had increased enough to allow for a full-time position. We had some back and forth on some of the same arguments that had already been put forth regarding one or two redirect teachers for ESCS. Each party seemed to want the last word. Some new information did emerge, such as the ESCS has fewer office referrals than two other large schools (about half as many as one of those), and that Multi-tiered systems of support seem to be working at ESCS.

A School Committee member asked if there was anything in the budget that would reflect attention to the NEASC recommendations for the high school, in particular the recommendation for each student to be known through all four years by an adult other than a guidance counselor. The main response to this is through the possible high school schedule change that would allow for an advisory and x block period. This schedule change is not final and would need to be collectively bargained.

We talked for a few minutes about the various adults that already support students and families at the high school including a general education adjustment counselor and the Welcome Center among others. School Committee members also expressed interest in more college application supports as well as more help in financially affording college.

A School Committee member asked about coaching requests for the Brown School. The Superintendent said that the Assistant Superintendent is identifying some of the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment budget for coaching at the Brown.

A School Committee member asked when the budget documents would be available for the public to review before the public hearing and the Superintendent offered May 21, to allow for a week. Of course all the documents given out at finance meetings up until now are already public.

Ms. Rossetti moved to approve the bill rolls, seconded by Mr. Bockelman and the motion passed.

We adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Our next finance meeting is the public hearing at the High School Library at 7pm May 28.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman to accept the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Finance & Facilities of May 7, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Educational Programs Subcommittee: May 14 (Mr. Bockelman)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

Present: Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Roix, Mr. Sweeting

Also present: Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Dr. McKay, Jennifer Capuano, Susana Morgan and 11 audience members.

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

We had a very full agenda and made our way through the many important items thoroughly and with dispatch.

Volunteer Program: We first heard a report from Jen Capuano in her capacity as the coordinator for the public school volunteer program. She said the development of a city-wide, organized volunteer program was designed to recruit, train, place monitor, and retain qualified volunteers to support student learning. With funding in this year's budget, we designated placement coordinators in each school, set up a database to manage the volunteers, and did some training.

Since this is just the first year of the program, we have not seen the acceleration we had anticipated and members had questions about whether the structure of having teachers as coordinators was the right model.

We continue to believe there is an untapped resource that can be utilized to help our students...we just have to make it easier for people to volunteer. While we were excited to see the program get setup and develop, we were disappointed that there was a 40% decrease in volunteers from the previous year.

English Language Learner program report:

Next, Sara Davila walked us through the complex results of testing on our English Language Learners using the State achievement report as our guide. This presentation was highly technical and I will not attempt to summarize it here. The written material is public and it would be useful to place it on the District's website. In short, our English language learners continue to make incremental progress in both learning academic English and learning the subject matter in English. We exceeded the District's target in some areas, and missed our goals in others.

Dr. Davila identified the goals for the various programs that included specific growth goals on English learner achievement. She also noted that additional program supports for student transitions were being developed including a new ELL student welcoming liaison, cross departmental collaboration at Somerville High School, and a family friendly guide to all of the programs we offer.

NEASC: We then reviewed the recently letter from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) which accredited Somerville High School and identified areas that we needed to work on to maintain accreditation. This was an interim report and we focused much of our attention on the need to implement the new advisory structure so that every student has an advisor in addition to their guidance officer. This effort is in the midst of collective bargaining talks with the Somerville Teachers Association.

We concluded the evening with updates on

- Tutoring – After school tutoring serves 284 students for 25 hours each which provided significant gains in their test scores. In the elementary schools, we also utilized the new X-block for extensive tutoring working with 98 students in 5 schools. Once again, the results are promising. Mr. Uri Harel, the Title I Director recommended that we expand these programs.
- Coaching – Quantitative results from tutoring are not providing the strong data we would need to expand coaching in our schools. The staff still thinks coaching is valuable and has changed the culture of our schools from a top-down approach to a collegial community of learners. We had extensive discussion about the use of a different model at the Brown School which many feel does not provide the support the Brown School teachers' need.

- Unidos program support – depending on the results of the budget, the superintendent stated that he was in support of a full time, pilot program in Unidos that would provide a development specialist in Unidos for next year. This is a new position that could be filled by an existing teacher, an outside applicant, or be a shared position.
- Healey School demographics – I had asked for an analysis of the student demographics at the Healey in light of the recent unification. We were told that the percentage of low-income students had increased by 7%. Data on Kindergarten selection was not very clear and we need further clarification on those numbers and what they mean.
- Innovation schools – as the meeting grew long, we had updates on the various innovation school initiatives.

We adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to accept the report and minutes of the Educational Programs Subcommittee Meeting of May 14, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at 8:06 p.m. during Mr. Bockelman's report

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDEN

A. PERSONNEL REPORT –

School Committee members received a two- page Personnel Report in this week's packet and Mr. Pierantozzi drew attention to the resignations for the purpose of retirement. There are three new additions since the last report – Gyslaine Nelson, Kate Bunker-Neto, and Paula Metivier. The total years of service for these three employees are 74 years. Mr. Pierantozzi announced that they will be missed, but wished them many years of health and happiness.

Also included in the Personnel Report were four resignations, two sections of leaves of absence – one for this year and the other for next year; two intra-district transactions and six new hires. The employee listed on the last line is not a new employee, but rather, is a replacement in community schools and the position is self-funded so there is no budget impact.

B. DISTRICT REPORT –

- Mr. Pierantozzi reported on a partnership with the Board of Health regarding the oral health of our students. For this school year, the data is as follows: the number of students who received oral health screenings = 759; number of referrals = 43; number of completed referrals = 36; number of student who had sealants applied in school = 640; number of students who had fluoride varnish (not rinse) applied = 759.
- More than \$150,000 in local scholarship funds was awarded to graduating seniors at the SHS Scholarship Awards Night last Wednesday, along with 20 *Class of 2014* Book Awards. Congratulations to all award recipients.
- The Somerville High School Highlander Awards Night will be held tomorrow evening (Tuesday, May 21st), at 7pm at the SHS Field House.
- Kindergarten Transition Day is Wednesday, 9-11 am. Incoming Kindergarten students and their parents/guardians will have an opportunity to meet their teacher, visit their classroom, and become familiar with their new school.
- The Next Wave/Full Circle 40th Anniversary Celebration takes place Wednesday evening, May 22nd, at 7pm at the Edgerly building.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay for his report on curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report is as follows:

- Today marks the official end of the major MCAS testing period. This is a very satisfying time for our principals, doing the final counts on their test materials and sending off the completed boxes on the UPS truck.
I'd like to acknowledge and thank our educators – many of whom are in the room this evening – for their efforts to prepare our students for the MCAS. Visiting all the schools in the past few weeks, I got to see firsthand the testing environment – very organized, very purposeful.
- Last Friday, I attended at Department of Elementary and Secondary Education conference involving a new licensure requirement for educators in MA who teach English language learners called RETELL. Since this is such a far-reaching initiative, the DESE asked both district leadership and teacher leadership to attend.
Sarah Davila, ELL Director and STA president Jackie Lawrence were with me.

As a district in the top ten state wide with ELLs in our classrooms, this is a big deal for us. This is why we've been in the leadership, running the RETELL pilot course this spring and providing several of the instructors from our ranks.

There have been some state level implementation glitches in this process – it's safe to say. While everyone agrees on the goals of retell,

There was a healthy commentary, especially from the teachers present, about the process and the short implementation timeline.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued with his district report

- On Thursday, May 23rd, the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative presents the "Let's Eat: Feed Your Family on a Budget" workshop, 6-7pm at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
- Spring String Fling is Thursday, May 23rd at the SHS Field House. Concert begins at 7pm and features string musicians from around the District.
Last week's chorus presentation was outstanding - under direction of music staff and Beverly Mosby. Two new guitar ensembles wonderful performance will be shown on channel 15
- The El Sistema Benefit Concert will be held Tuesday, May 28 at the Somerville Theater. Doors open at 6:30pm. The concert begins at 7pm.

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director, Patricia Durette, for her report on budgetary/finance issues. Ms. Durette's report is as follows:

- Ms. Durette had one quick announcement –the District has been awarded \$218,326 in circuit breaker extraordinary relief. Ms. Durette explained that to qualify, actual costs must exceed budgeted costs by at least 25%. After submitting an application, Somerville was notified that they did qualify. Funds must be spent in this fiscal year and be used to offset Special Education deficits.

Ms. Rossetti asked about restoration to certain 9c cuts and whether this issue will this be discussed at next Finance meeting. Ms. Rossetti would like this information to be discussed on May 30th.

Ms. Rafal asked about the status of repairs to the auditorium and whether School Committee members could get periodic updates? Mr. Pierantozzi responded that we do have a schedule from Mr. Bandini and that there will be a meeting this week. The delays in starting the repairs have been based on insurance issues. Mr. Pierantozzi gave a history of the problem and explained the process going forward. There is a meeting this Thursday. The next step is planning and investigation by HUB (environmental) and we are still looking at an extensive period of time that auditorium and kitchen will not be available. Mayor Curtatone explained that there are step by step processes according to law and there will likely be a total gut rehab. The issue is not being held up at the city level. The Mayor cautioned that we should not plan on anything being scheduled in the high school auditorium between now and the end of the calendar year. The Scope of Services will go out in mid-July. All events should be planned for elsewhere. Work will likely take place sometime between January and June 2014. The goal is to get things going well before the winter.

This issue will become a standing item on the Finance agenda (update on progress on auditorium).

School Committee members would also like to see the results of environmental testing.

This September, we will gladly open the East Somerville Community School and, we will once again have use of the auditorium, which will be held for city and school events only until the High School auditorium is available. Space in the East Somerville's Auditorium is limited to up to 375 people. Work at the High School is a complex construction project. Anyone who has been in the cafeteria knows what has happened to get the place operational. The kitchen is a harder issue than the auditorium. Reports will continue monthly.

Mr. Bockelman asked about having construction of the kitchen being done during the school day and the potential noise level issues. This will be a topic for a meeting once the general contractor, etc. are chosen. This will be a major meeting which will include discussion of legal limits on decibels we can create in an occupied area. Is it possible to have demolition done over the summer when fewer students are there? The sequence of events must be part of a unit. Demolition likely won't start until October. There are obligations we must follow as part of the process.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his district report:

- The School Committee Budget Hearing is Tuesday, May 28, 7pm at the Somerville High School Library.

- The Somerville Family Network End-of-Year Picnic will be held Thursday, May 30, 5:30-7pm at the Argenziano School. Families with children aged birth to 5 years old are invited to bring dinner for their family and enjoy activities and music for young children.

Mr. Pierantozzi ran through graduation dates (other than eighth grade exercises):

- Class Day will be held on May 31st in the Somerville High School Field House
- Somerville High School's Graduation is scheduled for Monday, June 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at Dilboy Stadium with a rain date of Tuesday, June 4th
- Full Circle's Graduation is being held on Wednesday, June 12th at 5:00 p.m. at the Dante Club
- Next Wave's Graduation is being held on Wednesday, June 19th at 5:00 p.m. at the Lion's Club
- Scale's Graduation is being held on Wednesday, June 26th at Tufts University's Grannoff Center at 7:00 p.m.
- Mr. Pierantozzi reminded the audience that there is no school on Monday - Memorial Day – and announced that a ConnectEd reminder phone call will be made to parents/guardians.
- Mr. Niedergang asked when the budget documents would be ready for posting on the website and asked when they would be posted. Mr. Pierantozzi replied that they would be posted tomorrow.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Mr. Sweeting)

The following policies are being presented for second reading, as amended:

File: EFD – Wellness Policy for PK-12

Mr. Sweeting took a minute to explain policy development whereby policies are reviewed first at a Rules Management Subcommittee meeting and then brought to the full committee for approval. At our last meeting, an additional minor language change was requested for File EFD. The edited version of this policy is in our packets this evening for second reading and inclusion in our policy manual.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to approve File EFD – Wellness Policy, as amended and to include the file in the Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Alderman White thanked Mr. Sweeting and the Committee for the language change.

Ms. Rafal reported that many parents found errors in the height/weight, etc. reported in the letters they received. The physical exam and Body Mass Index (BMI) is part of the Shape Up Somerville program and Mr. Pierantozzi will make a recommendation to the team relative to assuring accuracy in the data. Problem with doctor's data is that it is not necessarily current. This matter will be referred to the Director of the Board of Health for answers. We will try to eliminate all errors in the future.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| June 10, 2013 | West Somerville Neighborhood School Grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park in Windham, NH. Transportation via Chartered Bus. Cost per student is TBD. |
| June 25, 2013 | Kennedy School Grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park in Windham, NH. Transportation via Chartered Bus. Cost per student is \$25.00. |
| June 26, 2013 | Healey School Grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park in Windham, NH. Transportation via Chartered Bus. Cost per student is \$35.00. |
| June 26, 2013 | Argenziano School Grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park in Windham, NH. Transportation via Chartered Bus. Cost per student is \$25.00. |

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang to read the field trips and approve them all.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Bockelman asked about the policy for approving field trips like this. What is the philosophy? In general field trips should be aligned to an aspect of the curriculum, but one trip for the oldest

grade in the school to a place that is more of a fun, celebratory place is acceptable, as were these trips to Canobie Lake Park. We will not, however, extend approval of these trips to lower grades.

B. Local Government Advisory Commission of May 14th (Ms. Rossetti)

Ms. Rafal to chair so Ms. Rossetti could present her report.

Notes to all members over weekend and highlights tonight

Ms. Rossetti's report included the following highlights:

- Update on FY13 Revenues and State Economy
- Impact of Federal Sequestration
- Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds
- Chapter 90 Funding and Transportation Finance Reform
- Medical Marijuana Regulations regarding dispensaries and zoning, particularly around schools

Ms. Rafal is following up on a request from the Winter Hill Community School PTA regarding street sweeping on Thurston Street. Can we address this? Mr. Pierantozzi has spoken to the Mayor's staff and vendors have been alerted to avoid trash pickup or street sweeping until 8:30 a.m.

- X. COMMUNICATIONS** – Thank you note from Patricia Solano on the remembrance of her late mother at a recent School Committee Meeting.

XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Cardoso

1. This Friday at 9:15 a.m., the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park will hold a Memorial Day observance and student concert

Mr. Sweeting

1. Apologized that he will have to miss the Next Wave/Full Circle Celebration later this week due to a work-related event.
2. Commended the athletic department regarding Felix DeBona's signing a letter of intent to play soccer at Boston University on a full scholarship next year.
3. Mayor and arts council on 3rd PorchFest – matches open studios for enthusiasm
4. Rules management will meet at 7:30 – cameras in our schools. May be some changes

Mr. Roix

1. Congrats to NW/FC for great celebration. Great school that has helped many of our students over past 40 years
2. Wednesday, kindergarten transition looking forward to attending that event.

Mr. Niedergang

1. Acknowledge presence of some of our teachers
2. PorchFest was phenomenal with many talented musicians playing on porches, driveways, backyards. Music pure happiness and joy

Mr. Bockelman

1. Commend mayor – PorchFest is awesome
So many things going on Somerville community chorus started by Somerville Public Schools teachers and now includes a range of people from teens to seniors fun concert
Not many places that rival what Somerville has going on every weekend
Energy in city thanks to mayor's work

Ms. Rafal

1. Commended all involved in the Music Department's Evening of Song – teacher appreciation – teachers volunteer and support fantastic staff whole community supports our students
2. Scholarship night was wonderful

Alderman White

1. Alderman White asked about the Security Camera Policy – the background on the policy as well as the potential changes and what brought about the discussion.
Mayor Curtatone responded that the revisiting of the policy originally came from the Newtown tragedy and he is glad this review is going to take place. The current policy is focused on Somerville High School regarding interior cameras, but, now the new East Somerville Community School will also have interior cameras and a process must be determined for viewing data, as well as making provisions so that the Somerville Police

Department will have new viewing capability that was not in place when policy was originally designed. It is important to have procedures in place when the school opens in September. Alderman White thanked Mr. Sweeting for the explanation – well scheduled.

Mr. Niedergang shared with Alderman White that, in 2009, the School Committee engaged in very thorough discussions regarding the process, etc.

Ms. Rossetti

1. Commended Mr. Nocito regarding world language (1st annual) at Kennedy School. Ms. Rossetti, Mrs. Cardoso, Ms. Rafal, and the Mayor all attended and it was standing room only; it was really a tremendous job and Ms. Rossetti took this time to publicly commend Mr. Nocito and his staff.
To everyone's surprise, the President of the Junior Class presented an award to World Language Department staff, in appreciation of their tremendous work with students.
2. Reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Parade on Sunday

Mrs. Cardoso reminded the audience that the Duhamel Walk to Support Somerville Public Schools will be held in early June and starts in Davis Square.

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

- Sylvia Brewster, mother of Lisa Brewster Cook, English Teacher at Somerville High School and wife of Ed Brewster, Retired Vocational Teacher from Somerville High School.
- James Murphy, father of Maryann Coulombe, Administrative Assistant, Superintendent's Office.
- Nicodemo Giurleo, father of AnnMarie Cameron, teacher at the Capuano Early Childhood Center and also the father of Lisa Massie, PTA Vice President at the Winter Hill Community School.
- Margie MacDonnell, mother of Eileen MacDonnell, teacher at the Healey School.
- John Joseph Kelley, father of Jennifer Kelley, Paraprofessional at the Capuano Early Childhood Center and former husband of Mary Kelley, Account Clerk in the Finance Office.
- Jane Lynch, retired secretary from the Guidance Department of Somerville High School and mother of Debbie Lynch, retired teacher from the Capuano Center.
- Janet Pacino, mother of Deborah Pacino, teacher at the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. via voice vote.

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
School Committee

Dea Dodi

- WHEREAS,** *Dea Dodi has demonstrated outstanding leadership and achievement as a student at Somerville High School, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Dodi, by election of the Somerville High School Student Council, served as the Student Representative to the Somerville School Committee from September 2010 through May 2013, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Dodi, a member of the Somerville High School Class of 2013, has been a member of the Junior Statesman of America for four years holding several leadership roles throughout New England, and founded the first Junior Statesmen of American Chapter in Europe during the Summer of 2011, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Dodi has been involved in the Somerville Community Service Club, the Somerville Green Club, the Math Team, Philosophy Club, Tennis Team, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Dodi is a published author of novel, The Story of Her and was the first student to be accepted as an intern in the Prime Ministry of Albania, Department of Communication, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Ms. Dodi's many awards and recognitions include: Founder of the Club for Global Advancement and Awareness of Women, Student Representative to the Massachusetts Board of Education, Editor-in-Chief of the Highlander Highlights Newspaper, and recipient of the Dartmouth College Book Award, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to her.*

Somerville School Committee

<i>Mary Jo Rossetti, Chairperson</i>	<i>Christine T. Rafal, Vice Chairperson</i>
<i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i>	<i>Steven Roix</i>
<i>Mark Niedergang</i>	<i>Paul Bockelman</i>
<i>Joseph Curtatone, Mayor</i>	<i>Adam Sweeting</i>
<i>William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President</i>	
<i>Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools</i>	

May 20, 2013

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts
School Committee**

Richard Cheney

- WHEREAS,** *Richard Cheney began his coaching career in 1987 as an assistant coach of Medford High School's Co-Ed Swim Team, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Richard Cheney served as the head coach of the Winchester High School Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving Teams between 1988-2006, with the Boys' Team being crowned League Champions in 1988 and 1989 and had teams that consistently placed in the top 10 in the State, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Richard Cheney was awarded the Eastern Massachusetts Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Meritorious Service Award in 2001, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Richard Cheney oversaw the construction and opening of the Kennedy Pool, which was commissioned in March, 2000 and opened in July, 2000 and has served as the Pool's Director since its opening, has also worked with the City of Somerville as a consultant on the management of the Dilboy Pool for the past two years, and,*
- WHEREAS,** *Since 2009, under Mr. Cheney's direction, the Kennedy Pool has hosted the Eastern Massachusetts YMCA Swimming Championships and the Qualifying Meet for the Massachusetts Special Olympics and,*
- WHEREAS,** *Richard Cheney has served as the Assistant Coach of the Somerville High School Swim Team since 2010, works with Special Needs Swimmers, oversees the Somerville Public Schools Learn to Swim Program for students in grade 4 - soon to include grade 3, co-sponsors a competitive swim program for students in grades 3-8, and*
- WHEREAS,** *Richard Cheney was inducted into the Eastern Massachusetts Interscholastic Swim Coaches Academy Hall of Fame on April 11, 2013, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED:** *That these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to Mr. Cheney*

Somerville School Committee

Mary Jo Rossetti, Chairperson

M. Teresa Cardoso

Mark Niedergang

Joseph Curtatone, Mayor

William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President

Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools

Christine T. Rafal, Vice Chairperson

Steven Roix

Paul Bockelman

Adam Sweeting

May 20, 2013

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, June 10, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Bockelman, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Ms. Rafal, Mr. Roix, Mr. Sweeting,

I. CALL TO ORDER

- II.** Vice Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Library of Somerville High School at 7:00 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 6 –Sweeting, Roix, Niedergang, Bockelman, Cardoso, and Rafal, and Absent – 3 – Rossetti, White and Curtatone.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 20, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the minutes of May 20, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote

IV. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our new Student Representative, Marcelo Brociner, presented his first report on happenings at Somerville High School. His report included the following:

- Class Day- Accomplishments of our seniors were acknowledged and many of our students are continuing on to great schools and programs. Thank you to Mr. Oteri for his organization of this event in our Field House.
- Graduation was held on June 4th at Dilboy Stadium and hundreds of family members were in attendance. The event saw many wonderful speeches and highlighted the talent of our band and chorus.
- Tile Mosaic – A new mosaic, made by high school students, is now on display outside the auditorium. This 20 X 4 foot mosaic depicts the prefect representation of our city and school demographics.
- Senior Andre Rolim earned his first All-State outdoor championship this past weekend. Also, today, it was announced that the Boston Globe has named Andre as the Athlete of the Year. Andre is the most decorated athlete in Somerville High School's history. On a related note, the relay team which includes Andre Rolim, and three juniors – Nigel Baugh, Matt George and Marcelo – will travel to North Carolina to compete at the New Balance National Championship.
- The Annual Gay Funky Tea Party was held on June 7th in the atrium as a way to promote increased awareness and tolerance for our diverse populations.
- Class Elections will be held very soon. Posters and flyers are being displayed and distributed and speeches are being broadcast over the Somerville High School internal television network.
- Student activism is increasing to include attempting to make changes in policies. The first campaign is to facilitate changes in lunch prices and the nutritional value of the offerings. Currently 300 signatures have been collected on a petition to work on these changes.
- A campaign for students and faculty of promoting underlying signs of respect is being undertaken by the Creative Council of the High School. Meetings, posters and broadcasts related to this campaign are in process.

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting: May 23 (Mr. Sweeting)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

Present: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Roix

Also present: Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Pierantozzi, Deputy Chief Upton and Chief Pasquarello

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

The listing of items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Mr. Sweeting provided his report on the Rules Management Subcommittee meeting of May 23. There was only one item on the agenda for this meeting – Review of File ECA – Use of Security Cameras in Schools. Mr. Sweeting provided background on the development of the policy in 2009 and reported that, following the tragic events in Newtown, CT, School Committee members decided to revisit the policy. Chief Pasquarello and Deputy Chief Upton of the Somerville Police Department attended the meeting to give feedback from the standpoint of emergency personnel. Some of the amendments to the policy include language on access/viewing rights of the cameras and recordings in the case of an emergency. The new, draft policy reflects the new language and has been reviewed by our legal counsel. This policy will be brought forward for first reading, as amended, under New Business later this evening.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the report and minutes of the Rules Management Subcommittee meeting of May 23, 2013.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Somerville Public Schools FY14 Budget Hearing: May 28 (Ms. Rafal)

Somerville High School Library, 81 Highland Avenue

Present: Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, and Mr. Roix

Also present: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette and 50 audience members

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. and adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

1. FY14 Budget

Ms. Rafal's report on the Budget Hearing is as follows:

On May 28 at the Somerville High School Library we held a public hearing related to the FY14 budget. The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.

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

Also present were: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, Dr. McKay and about 50 audience members.

The Superintendent presented his recommended budget. Then we heard comments and questions from 13 members of the public. They spoke on three main topics:

Five people spoke expressing appreciation for the addition of a full-time instructional coordinator for Unidos but at the same time requesting that the ESCS retain two redirect teachers even in the new building next academic year.

On this topic, immediately before the meeting started, an ESCS PTA member gave each School Committee member a packet of letters from ESCS parents. 9 of these were printouts of emails most members had received earlier. 18 of them were form letters, in either English or Spanish to make it easier for parents (and at least one non-parent taxpayer) to sign. Also one person signed two of the letters in the pack. Four of the letters in the packet were from folks who spoke at the hearing. So overall, 16 signatures on form letters did constitute new input.

Five people spoke requesting resources to strengthen the high school guidance department's resources for college planning for students. One of these also expressed interest in continued commitment to early childhood education.

Two parents had questions about how special education placements are decided, particularly regarding in-district or out-of-district. The Superintendent offered to answer these questions in fuller detail through an appointment with those parents or by attending a meeting of the SpEdPAC.

We adjourned at 8:38 pm.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Niedergang, to accept the report and minutes of the Somerville Public Schools FY14 Budget Hearing of May 28, 2013.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Report of Special Meeting for Executive Session: May 29 (Ms. Rossetti)

This item was tabled until the meeting of June 24, 2013.

The School Committee voted unanimously to extend the employment contract of the Superintendent of Schools from an expiration date of June 30, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

MOTION: To release the Executive Session Minutes of 2010, 2011, and 2012, subject to the appropriate redaction.

D. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities: May 30 (Ms. Rafal)

Central Office Conference Room, 42 Cross Street

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

Also present: Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Durette, Dr. McKay and approximately 9 audience members.

Called to order at 7:05 p.m. and adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

1. FY2014 Budget
2. Facilities Update
3. Other

Ms. Rafal's report from the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities is as follows:
We met May 30, 2013 at 42 Cross St to discuss the Superintendent's Budget.

In attendance were Alderman White, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Roix, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Sweeting, Ms. Rossetti, Ms. Rafal, Ms. Durette, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, and about 9 audience members.

We convened the meeting at 7:05.

We discussed facilities first.

The ESCS is still substantially on budget and will open on time. The retaining wall had failed inspection but it now rebuilt.

We asked a few questions and we asked for a field trip to tour it!

We asked about the smell in the high school. It is new. It is related to a drain in the basement, not to damage from the hurricane. The process to get it repaired has started.

We began talking about the Superintendent's budget.

Mark Niedergang made a motion, seconded by Adam Sweeting, to add \$15,000 for a budget line to student guidance for college and career readiness.

Paul Bockelman proposed an amendment to \$30,000. Mary Jo Rossetti seconded. The amendment passed unanimously.

After some discussion the original motion was reworded by consensus to a motion to add \$30,000 to the budget to study and improve post-secondary education advising in the Somerville Public Schools. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Steve Roix made a motion to add \$44,692 to the budget in order to fund a second redirect teacher at East Somerville Community School, seconded by Mary Jo Rossetti. There was much discussion back and forth again, including a recap of the reasons it was not recommended and arguments that had been put forth by communications from the public at the public hearing and through emails and letters. Some members felt their decision was 51%/49%. Overall, equity issues and questions of the policy relating to use of redirect teachers as well as an expectation to revisit the decision on the position next year persist, but the point of view of not risking what might be a fragile success prevailed. The motion passed (5 Yesses; 3 NOs).

We discussed at length what might make the volunteer program better. Adam Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mark Niedergang, to add \$8,000 for clerical support for the volunteer program. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Rossetti asked about McKinney Vento funds and the reversal of 9C cuts. The Superintendent said this budget was built on the premise that the House budget would hold. Mrs. Rossetti asked why McKinney Vento funds go to the City even though transportation for homeless students is a school department budget expense. Mr. Bean had joined the audience. He and the Superintendent said it is the

law. Mrs. Rossetti would like to discuss this in the future.

We asked what is happening with the new Special Education room at the high school. The Superintendent said it might not be ready immediately in September so they are looking at temporary spaces until it is ready. Some parents are very positive about having their children go to the high school. Others prefer to send their child out of district, especially since they cannot see this program yet.

Paul Bockelman moved to vote to approve the School Committee budget of \$56,590,504, seconded by Adam Sweeting. 8 Yesses.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to accept the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of May 30, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. DISTRICT REPORT

- In a follow-up to our Budget Hearing, Mr. Pierantozzi announced that he has made arrangements to be present at the June 27th Special Education Parent Advisory Council meeting.
- Thanked the Board of Aldermen and municipal staff for their support during the budget presentation. In response to questions asked during the presentation, Mr. Pierantozzi has sent an email with the answers, one of which asked for the number of students at each school and the other asking about student mobility.
- Congratulations to the Somerville High School Graduating Class of 2013. The Superintendent wished the students continued success in their chosen path and their future endeavors.
- Full Circle High School graduation ceremonies will be held at the Dante Club on Wednesday, June 12, at 5pm.
- Approximately 300 Somerville Public Schools incoming Kindergarten students and their parents/guardians will celebrate the beginning of a wonderful educational journey with a visit to the Boston Children's Museum on Friday, June 14, for the evening's first showing of "DW Counts Down to Kindergarten" play at 5:30pm.
- The All-City District Track Meet is scheduled for Friday, June 14, 6pm at Dilboy Stadium.
- The Winter Hill Community Innovation School hosts the 5th Annual Afterschool Multicultural Fair on Friday, June 14, from 4-6pm at the WHCIS John Russell Memorial Cafetorium.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay for his report on curriculum issues. Dr. McKay's report is as follows:

- Hiring Season is upon us. Thank you to the principals and department heads for planning for next year.

Mentor Leaders met on Thursday, June 6. We have a team of six teachers who support this effort, planning the induction (first year support) and mentoring.

Our New Teacher Orientation is set for late August.

- Exhibitions season, with our project-based learning emphasis – Middle Grades Projects. One of the first events I attended last week was the Winter Hill Community School Science Fair. Middle Grades students did a terrific job presenting their projects with a variety of interesting topics. All of the projects posed research questions, which I thought was a great direction to take. Some of the topic questions:
Does the type of fertilized impact plant growth?
What factors affect soccer ball kicking accuracy?
Congratulations to the Winter Hill 7th and 8th graders!
- Finally, as you know, we have a long-standing collaboration with the Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI). DEI has been very active in the community for many years, particularly through the small grants program that supports teacher ideas for student support. This morning, the Superintendent and I sat with members of the DEI Board to review grant applications. Recommendations were made toward about \$5,000 worth of grants. Teachers will be receiving their award letters this week and will be invited to the June 24th School Committee Meeting, which gives us a chance to recognize and thank our community partners, Duhamel Education Initiative.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued with his district report

- SCALE Graduation and Awards Night is Wednesday, June 26, 7pm at the Tufts University Granoff Music Center.
- On June 1, Andre Rolim captured the Massachusetts All-State Championship title in the 800 meters with a winning time of 1:53.53. This weekend, Andre competes at the National Scholastic Championship Meet June 14-16 at the North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro.
- Several groups will be taking educational field trips in the next few weeks, including a trip to Nature's Classroom today through Wednesday by Brown School Grade 6 students, a visit to the Old Mass. State House Museum tomorrow for WHCIS Grade 3 students, and a trip to the NEU Marine Science Center for ESCS Grade 7 students next week, among others.
- Eighth Grade "Moving On" Ceremonies, Dances and Banquets will take place in the next few weeks. Please check the District website calendar for dates and times.

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director, Patricia Durette, for her report on budgetary/finance issues. Ms. Durette's report is as follows:

Ms. Durette gave a brief update on a couple of recent grant awards:

1. \$7,400.00 for the Summer Academic Support Program at Full Circle High School
2. \$95,745.00 Vocational Equipment Grant to be used for dental equipment for the new Dental Assisting Program
3. \$5,000.00 for the Middle School Making Proud Choices Program

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his district report:

- Mr. Pierantozzi thanked the Track Parent Advisory Council for their extraordinary support of our students and staff. Their fundraising have offset the expenses that families and students would otherwise have had to pay out of pocket for our student athletes' trips to compete out of state.
- The Superintendent thanked all of our booster clubs and the Mayor for their support of our students.
- Somerville High School Fall Sports Sign-up is Wednesday, June 12, 2:45 to 4:00pm in the SHS Atrium.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Mr. Sweeting)

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

File: ECA – Us of Security Cameras on School Property

Questions ensued regarding viewing access, particularly by the Department of Public Works (DPW) administration. The DPW needs to have access as they are responsible for all city buildings and need to access footage/live feeds in the case of an alarm or an emergency.

B. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

June 26, 2013 East Somerville Community School Grade 8 students to Canobie Lake Park in Windham, NH. Transportation via Chartered Bus. Cost per student is \$20.

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

C. Acceptance of Donations

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of approximately twenty-two feet of Lightolier Brand track lighting for the new trophy case at Somerville High School donated by Thomas Bent Electric of Somerville, MA. Value of the donation is \$3,000.00

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

The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of \$100.00 donated by Rosemarie W. Day of Somerville, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools Music Department.

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

D. Declaration of Surplus Items

Recommendation: To authorize the Superintendent to identify unusable, out of date textbooks, books and other unusable materials, which have been determined to have no value, and to declare such items as surplus (pursuant to MGL 30B) and to determine the appropriate disposition of such items.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to declare the items as surplus. The motion was approved via voice vote

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – The following items of correspondence were communicated at this meeting:

- Thank you note from the Ciampa Family on the remembrance of their late mother at a recent School Committee Meeting.
- An email from Melora Rush offering an expression of gratitude on behalf of the East Somerville Community School PTA.
- Thank you note from the family of Janet Pacino on the remembrance of their late mother at a recent School Committee Meeting

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Sweeting

1. Welcomed Marcelo, who lives around the corner from Mr. Sweeting.
2. Announced that the Winter Hill Community Innovation School will hold a Flag Day Ceremony on Friday at 8:30 a.m.
3. Announced that the Healey School will hold a Talent Show on Friday evening.

Mr. Roix

1. Asked if a report on the After School and Community School Program may be placed on a future Educational Programs agenda. Mr. Bockelman will add it in to an agenda in the fall.
2. Announced the El Sistema Fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza on Tuesday evening from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
3. Congratulated all of our graduates – from Somerville High School and Full Circle. Full Circle's Graduation Ceremonies will take place on Wednesday evening.

Mr. Bockelman

1. The Educational Programs Subcommittee will meet tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street. The agenda includes
2. The Somerville High School Building Task Force Advisory Committee took a field trip on Friday to Quincy High School to view their new comprehensive high school. Although Mr. Bockelman loves our high school building, this school was incredibly impressive. One of the architects for the Quincy High building is a Somerville parent, Alex Pitkin.
3. Congratulations to Andre Rolim – he is remarkable! It is great to see students who have excelled at our schools carry that success over to the next level.
4. Somerville High School's graduation was great. It is always powerful to see the students one-by-one! Congratulations to Somerville High staff for a great event!

Mrs. Cardoso

1. Mrs. Cardoso was also impressed by graduation.
2. Reported on a series of fundraisers conducted at the Argenziano School following the bombings at the Boston Marathon and to show their support of the Boston Strong movement:
 - a) Teachers gave up their Teacher Appreciation luncheon and, instead, asked that the \$210.00 that would have been the cost of food, etc. be donated.
 - b) First graders raised \$570.00
 - c) Families and staff raised \$405.00
 - d) Grade 7 and 8 students held a walk around Lincoln Park on a ½ day Wednesday and raised \$1,062.00. In all, \$2,250.00 was raised for the One Fund.

Announced her pride in the value of education of girls demonstrated at the Argenziano School through their showing of the documentary, "Girl Rising"

Upcoming events at the Argenziano:

- Spring Concert

- 8th Grade Immigration Museum
- Middle School Project presentations
- Talent Showcase

Ms. Rafal

1. Welcomed Marcelo to the School Committee. He is a multi-faceted young man. Ms. Rafal announced that Marcelo is also a creative film maker!
2. Ms. Rafal will attend the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on Friday

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

- Marjorie Bertocchi, retired employee of our Food Service Department. Marjorie is also the mother of Patricia Bertocchi, an employee in our Food Service Department at Somerville High School.
- Bridget DePasquale, mother of Margaret DePasquale, Principal of Next Wave/Full Circle.
- Bonnie Driscoll, wife of Bill Driscoll, retired Principal from the Healey School.
- Monte Basbas, father-in-law of Kate Cremens-Basbas, Physical Education Teacher at the Healey School.
- Bernadette Holbrook, sister of Carolyn Richards, Department Head for Guidance and Testing at Somerville High School.
- Michael Messina, father of Patricia Messina, paraprofessional at the Kennedy School.
- Ida Portanova, mother of Sheila Fahey, retired teacher from the Brown School and Winter Hill Community School.
- Doris and John Quinlan, mother and father of Mary Jo Rossetti, School Committee Chair

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. via voice vote.

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Monday, June 24, 2013 – Regular Meeting

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

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

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 – Sweeting, White, Roix, Niedergang, Bockelman, Cardoso, Rafal, and Rossetti and ABSENT – 1 - Curtatone.

IV. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

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

Annette Bassett	Barbara Marder
Annmarie Boudreau	Paula Metivier
Beth Britz	Joan Murphy
Kate Bunker-Neto	Gyslaine Nelson
Joseph Burke	Cheryl Petrola
Nancy Cavanaugh	Susan Riley
Jean Charles	Sharon Staples
Joelita Cleveland	Stephen Swensen
Diane DePalma	Celia Taylor
Evelyn DiChicco	Irene Thompson
Christine Hauray-Gilbert	Barbara Tumelty
Mary Healey	

Ms. Rafal assumed the Chair so that Ms. Rossetti could make presentations to our retirees. Ms. Rossetti announced that she wished to congratulate, applaud and extend her personal gratitude to our retirees. She expressed a tremendous amount of gratitude for all they have done in and out of the classrooms. Tipped her hat to all of the teachers and told them enjoy themselves, take vacation visit, and volunteer! Ms. Rossetti read the first citation - that of Joelita Cleveland - into the record and made presentations to Ms. Cleveland, Cheryl Petrola, Evelyn DiChicco, and Gyslaine Nelson. Mrs. Cardoso stepped to the dais and made presentations to Annette Bassett, Annmarie Boudreau, Kate Bunker Neto, Joseph Burke and Paula Metivier. Mr. Sweeting made presentations to Jean Charles, Christine Hauray-Gilbert, Irene Thompson, Barbara Marder and, lastly, Celia Taylor, whose citation included recognition of her service on the Somerville School Committee.

The School Committee recessed at 7:18 p.m. to congratulate our retirees.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 7:40 p.m.

• **Duhamel Education Initiative grant awardees**

Ms. Rossetti invited Mr. Larry Sciraco, the President of the Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI) to give a history of the organization and to make presentations to this year's DEI grant awardees. Mr. Sciraco gave a history of the Duhamel group and their desire to keep Paul Duhamel's memory alive. Volunteering to help our staff to help our students is one of the main missions of the organization. Mr. Sciraco introduced several DEI board members—Alba, Doris, Janice, Christine and June and announced that he is honored that they have trusted and chosen him to lead them. In 1996, after the passing of their friend and colleague, Paul Duhamel, who was a clergyman, community activist and member of the School Committee, a champion of the disenfranchised and a kind and gentle man, seven friends founded the DEI in his honor. The DEI holds three fundraising events: the spring pancake breakfast (which the School Committee helps with), the June DEI Walk to support the Somerville Public Schools and the fall supper, usually in late September, Early October and usually assisted by the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Sciraco announced that together we can help our children shine into the future and that investing in our children's education is the wisest investment. For more information, please visit the DEI's website at www.duhomeeducationinitiative.org

With the Superintendent's assistance, Mr. Sciraco made the following presentations and gave a brief overview of what each project entailed and the amount of the grant award:

- ✓ Suzanne A. Morris, Somerville High School, *Grade 9 Improvement Luncheon, Somerville High School*
- ✓ Roxanne Scrima and Sharon Sotiros, Kennedy School, *Family Involvement Reading Program*
- ✓ Linda Wiegenfeld and Liliana Skero, East Somerville Community School, *We are the World*
- ✓ Kirsten Spence and Erin Van Vliet, Argenziano School at Lincoln Park, *Pennies for Peers across a Spectrum of Ages*
- ✓ Siri Striar and Anne Herzberg, Somerville High School, *Healthy Snacks for After School Homework Projects*
- ✓ Scott March, Kennedy School, *Heroes, Mentors and Careers in the Real World*
- ✓ Susan Schmidt, Somerville High School, *Home and Language Support for ELL students program*
- ✓ Susanna Reichart, Capuano Early Childhood Center, *Raising a Reader*
- ✓ Alicia Kersten, Somerville High School, *Living History Speaker Program*
- ✓ Laura Borrelli, Somerville High School, *BrainPOP Educational Software with SMARTboards Program*

The School Committee recessed at 8:06 p.m. to thank members of the DEI and congratulate grant recipients.

The School Committee meeting resumed at 8:13 p.m.

- **Next Wave/Full Circle's 40th Anniversary Citation**

This item is information only; the citation was presented at Next Wave/Full Circle's 40th Anniversary Celebration on May 22, 2013. Ms. Rossetti read the citation into the record (included at end of minutes).

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 10, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to approve the minutes of June 10, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative Marcelo Brociner reported on the following:

This is a very positive report with a lot of success to share.

- At the National Track and Field Championships, the Somerville High Relay Team placed 12/32.
- Andre Rolim placed 9th out of the whole country and beat his own personal best.
- Class elections were promoted on television and the campaigns were very successful. There was a very good turnout during all 3 lunches and the Student Council posted results by the end of the day.
- English MCAS scores are looking very good according to Mr. Oteri and tutoring seems to be paying off.
- Provided an update on the Student Council's petition on school lunches which secured over 300 signatures. The Student Council members are meeting this week with Director of Food and Nutrition Services Lauren Mancini to discuss improvements.
- Metal Fab students built wrought iron gates for the Community Growing Center. Each gate weighs 150 lbs. and the students did a great job. Check the gates out the next time you pass the Growing Center!
- A summer jobs assembly for recreation workers was held in the Atrium, and packets of information were distributed - work starts next week.
- This is the last week of school and the year flew by. Finals will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and all of these days are half days.
- Announced that, after this week, he has truly learned that a school made of brick feels like an oven!
- Students are studying hard for finals.
- Marcelo is looking forward to serving on the School Committee this coming school year and thanked members for being so welcoming!

VII. REPORTS AND MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Report of Special Meeting for Executive Session: May 29 (Ms. Rossetti)
This item was moved to new business

B. Rules Management Subcommittee: June 10 (Mr. Sweeting)
Somerville High School Library, 81 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA
In attendance: Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Niedergang, Mr. Roix
Also in attendance: Mrs. Rafal, Mrs. Cardoso, Mr. Bockelman and Mr. Pierantozzi
Called to order at 6:02 p.m. and adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

1. Posting of School Committee meeting information

Mr. Sweeting provided the following report on the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting:
A brief meeting was held on June 10 in the Somerville High School Library prior to the Regular School Committee meeting.

There was one item on the agenda - Posting of School Committee information. The item was on the agenda due to confusion on our website regarding the availability of documents.

Copies of handouts are available at meetings and the School Committee wants to make sure to have a consistent practice of how to share meeting information with the public. It was agreed to maintain the policy of making paper copies available at meetings and to institute a practice whereby members of the public who were unable to attend a meeting and wish the handouts can request them by writing/emailing Patti Marques.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the report and minutes of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting of June 10, 2013.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting: June 11 (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, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay, and 15 audience members, including Leo DeSimone, Tom Bent, Paul Denaro, Katie Talmo, Connie Filosi and Danny Silva.
Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

1. CVTE Advisory Committee report -
2. Early Learning report from Children and Youth Study Team
3. Informational Items
4. Administrative Updates
5. Other

Mr. Bockelman provided his report on the Ed Programs meeting of June 11, 2013:

Many items were on the agenda, but there were three major items. The first of these items was a report on the CVTA program at Somerville High School. Mr. Leo DeSimone, Director of the CVTE Program, provided an overview of progress that has been made over the past few years since he has taken over the program. Mr. Tom Bent, an Advisory Committee member, provided information on each of the programs.

Mr. DeSimone presented a couple of challenges within the program. The first challenge is the limits on internships due to the high school schedule. Hopefully, with discussions being done regarding the current schedule and possible changes to it, this will assist students in the CVTE Program with getting more internships in the future.

Also presented this evening was a list of needs in the program. Mr. Bockelman stated that, given that this report was made in June and the budget had already been set, for future reference, the CVTE Program should make future presentations at the January Ed. Programs meeting so that needs will be expressed earlier in the budget process.

This was a very impressive presentation and Mr. Bockelman provided a few highlights:

- Edwin Cruz, Automotive Technology, CVTE Student of the Year
- 100% of students OSHA Certified
- 100% of students in Carpentry Shop have jobs
- 12/14 Cosmetology students have licenses and all have jobs.

- Tufts University has been a tremendous partner in this program, especially in Culinary Arts. Tufts has been hiring our culinary students for part-time positions while they are in high school and has hired many for full-time positions following graduation.
- Every program has an advisory committee.
- Dental Assisting is our new program beginning next year and 10 students have already registered for the program.
- The STAND Program to increase diversity in nursing and their partnership with Bunker Hill Community School.
- Information Technology Program is starting a new CISCO Academy and the majority of students have been placed.
- 100% of students in the Electrical Program have jobs
- Painting and Decorating will be phased out after next year due to low enrollment

Requests coming out of this meeting – The CVTE Director will provide the School Committee with the number of students in each program and the Program presentation will be made in January going forward so that needs may be reflected in the budget process.

Mr. Bockelman also provided a report on the Children and Youth Study Team. He and Ms. Rafal sit on this committee and Mr. Bockelman reported that a focus of the group has been Early Childhood Education. Since SPS staff are already doing so much around Early Childhood, it was agreed that the committee would revisit this topic later in the fall after work with the Early Education Alignment Grant has been done. The meeting included rich and interesting discussion.

Lastly, Dr. McKay provided updates on a few programs, including the Unidos Program.

PB/TC MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the report and minutes of the Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of June 11, 2013.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. *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)

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

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

Also in attendance: Pierantozzi, McKay, Morgan, Davila and five (5) audience members

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

MOTION: To approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning of June 18, 2013.

The report was tabled until the School Committee meeting at the end of August.

VIII.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. PERSONNEL REPORT –

FYI—the total number of years for the retiring staff listed above reflects 641 years of experience

— three of our retirees - Mr. Burke, Ms. DePalma and Ms. Nelson served 40 years each

We wish them health, happiness, longevity and lots of fun!

There are 15 resignations listed and we are looking for 40-45 teachers/staff, overall, across the District.

As an update on the one administrative position—Assistant Principal at Somerville High School – seven (7) interviews will be conducted tomorrow.

There have already been 8 staff hired and many more are in process.

There are 13 Leaves of Absence for this year and five (5) for next year.

There are two (2) completed new hires.

Mr. Pierantozzi highlighted Betsy Reardon and her new Unidos leadership position.

B. DISTRICT REPORT

- School ends on Friday at noon and is a half-day. A phone call reminder was made to all parents/guardians. June 28th is the last calendar day on which school can possibly be held.
-
- We are anticipating the largest summer school enrollment in recent history.
- Students continue to be focused – project based learning, field trips, field days—proud of all Attendance is still very good—even though we have had very hot days
- Congratulations to SHS graduate Andre Rolim for earning the Boston Globe's Will McDonough Male Athlete of the Year award on Sunday. Andre adds this latest well-deserved honor to an extensive list of accomplishments as a Highlander track & field athlete. Aside from his superb athletic skills, what most defines Andre is his humility and his exceptional work ethic. We wish him much continued success as an athlete, as a leader, and as an incredible individual.
- Congratulations to SHS students Marisa and Naomi Rafal. Marisa and Naomi are among a group of 65 students from Boston Children's Chorus who departed Saturday for a 2-week cultural exchange tour to Vietnam and Cambodia. The trip is in celebration of the BCC's 10-year anniversary, and also marks the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Students will be performing at a number of venues during their Southeast Asia Tour.
- Students from the Winter Hill Middle Grades Chorus will perform the National Anthem at the Boston Red Sox Game vs. Colorado Rockies this Wednesday, June 26, under the direction of their music teacher, Kristin Stier. Game start time is 4:05pm and will be broadcast on NESN.

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

Classroom visits to view middle grades projects – a full year's worth of work

Dr. McKay gave a shout out to the Healey 7th grade for their high level of research and community service.

End of year events—

1. Big bump in enrollment in honors level freshmen classes in World Language.
2. The El Sistema Music Program has also grown—51 students this year - 45 will move forward. There is a very high retention rate which shows the intensity of their commitment, etc. 20 applications have been received from current 2nd graders and we are looking at about 80 students for next year. A public announcement regarding the process has been made and a mailing to students' homes has been done. Applications are due by July 1. Call Diane Cine or email for more information.

Mr. Sweeting asked if there has been any discussion of expanding to other schools. Dr. McKay replied that we think we can support the introduction of some wind instruments possibly mid-year, next year and eventually create free standing groups at other schools.

3. Personnel—met with mentor support group and there may be 60 new hires for next year. August 28th is the welcome breakfast for new staff at the Argenziano School.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

For the 7th year in a row, the audit of our financial records has been completed without findings—Susana works very quietly with Pat and Joe who take care of business very well. The Superintendent appreciates the combined and individual efforts of those who work with such skill and attention to detail!

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

- Thank you for the kind words. Ms. Durette will share with Joe and Susana.
- Quickly announced the awarding of \$60,000 in Foundation Reserve funds—pothole account—which is one time money that DESE awards as a result of February applications to be used to offset the costs of residential student placements. This money can be used at the discretion of the receiving district.
- Thursday, at the Board of Aldermen meeting, there was a vote to appropriate funds for some capital equipment that included the following:
 - \$11,000 for a salad bar at Kennedy school
 - \$70,000 for cardio equipment at SHS (new room)
- Finance Office staff are finishing contracts with vendors

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District report:

- SCALE Graduation and Awards Night is this Wednesday, June 26, 7pm at the Tufts University Granoff Music Center.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual (Mr. Sweeting)

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

File: ECA – Use of Security Cameras on School Property

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to include the File ECA – Use of Security Cameras on School Property, as amended, in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

Discussion ensued and a suggestion was made to approve the policy as is, but to revisit it in September at a Rules Management meeting.

After discussion, the motion was approved via voice vote.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. 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:

Tyler Scott Anderson	13 Cottage Avenue	Somerville	02144
Seamus R. Desmond	220A Summer Street	Somerville	02143
Abraham Farrakhan Faldor	22 Melvin Street	Somerville	02145
Charles Henry Houghton	41 Hancock Street	Somerville	02144
Karoline Cardoso Loureiro	75 Walnut Street, #1	Somerville	02145
Michael Andrade	950 Mass. Avenue, #615	Cambridge	02139
Warren M. Bears	47 Summer Street	Medford	02155
Liliana Rocha Lopes	80 Newbury Avenue	Quincy	02171
Maria N. Martinez	618 Washington Avenue	Revere	02151
Julio Alberto Perez	416 Meridian Street	East Boston	02128
Mauricio Rivera	163 Bloomingdale Street	Chelsea	02150
Marc Anthony Ryan	14 Gooch Street	Melrose	02176
Miriam M. Ticas	40 Grove Street	Belmont	02478
William Joseph Vera	28 Chatham Road	Everett	02149
James Louis Wilson	290 Mystic Street	Arlington	02474

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the ADP Graduates. The motion was approved via voice vote.

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

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

- Pay bills on school department accounts for which commitments have been made by bid or purchase order before the close of schools, said bills to be ratified by the committee at the first meeting in September.
- Expend from FY2014 Salaries Account funds for payment of salaries of personnel under all federal grants beginning in September.
- Use Salaries Account and School Operations Account funds to pay encumbrances and salaries for summer programs.
- Authorize and/or reauthorize school department revolving accounts. To accept all monies received by the School Committee in connection with the conduct of said revolving accounts according to the purposes of the program or programs from which receipts in each account were derived.
- Accept all state and federal grant monies awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Early Education and Care and to authorize the establishment of separate grant accounts that may be expended by the School Committee without further appropriation for the purposes designated in each grant proposal.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso to waive the reading and approve the authorization.

The motion was approved via voice vote

C. Participation in National School Lunch and Breakfast Program

The Superintendent of Schools recommending that the School Committee vote to participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services for the 2013-2014 school year, as in previous years.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Alderman White, to approve the participation in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Student Accident Insurance - (Received and placed on file)

The Superintendent advising that the contract for Student Accident Insurance for the 2013-14 school year has been renewed with Moran Insurance Agency, 23 Spruce St., Suite B, Malden, MA 02148 at the following rates:

Plan A – STUDENT INSURANCE

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

Plan B - ALL-SPORTS, SHOP AND LAB COVERAGE

Premium:	Gold Plan	\$5,549.00
Catastrophic Cash Benefit		\$ 860.00

E. Field Trip (Recommended action: approval)

Aug. 23-26, 2013

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

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

F. Approval of Donations (recommended action: approval)

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of three (3) sets of golf clubs with bags, from Mary Colette White of Somerville, MA to the Somerville High School Golf Team. Estimated value unknown.

MOTION: Alderman White made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to approve the donation, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommending the acceptance, with gratitude, of various lab glassware and specimen collection materials from Andrew Shapero and Professor John Durant of Medford, MA, to the Somerville Public Schools middle and high school science programs. Estimated value is \$500.00.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

A. Report of Special Meeting for Executive Session: May 29 (Ms. Rossetti)

The School Committee voted unanimously to extend the employment contract of the Superintendent of Schools from an expiration date of June 30, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Ms. Rossetti thanked and congratulated the Superintendent and offered her sincere professional appreciation.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cardoso, to release the Executive Session Minutes of 2010, 2011, and 2012, subject to the appropriate redaction.
The motion was approved via voice vote

- XI. COMMUNICATIONS** – The following items of communication were shared with the School Committee this evening:
- An email from Patricia Messina thanking the School Committee for remembering her late father at a recent meeting.
 - A thank you note from the family of James Patrick Murphy for remembering him at a recent School Committee meeting.
 - A thank you note from William Driscoll thanking the School Committee for remembering his late wife at a recent meeting.
 - A thank you note from Carolyn Richards thanking the School Committee for remembering her late sister at a recent meeting.

XII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Rafal

1. Enjoyed the Winter Hill's Moving Up Ceremony.
2. WHCS Chorus to Red Sox was thanks to the efforts of John Welch and the school's music teacher – great to have Winter Hill name recognized in such a positive way—congratulations to all!
3. Community Building Event on September 7th - save the date!
4. Wished everyone a nice break and safe summer.

Cardoso

1. Thanked everyone for a wonderful school year.
2. Have a happy and safe summer!

Sweeting

1. Tomorrow is the election day for Senate

Roix

1. Learned a lot of positive things about the district
2. Impressed that we are not just a "drill and kill" district
3. Shout out to our music programs— the ESCS spring concert held on Friday morning was fantastic and Mr. Roix thoroughly enjoyed it!
4. Kindergarten trip to Children's Museum was great—t-shirts, etc. It was a great way to get the children thinking about September. Congratulations to the organizers.
5. Congratulations to the East Somerville Community School PTA!

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Walter E. Lang, father of Anne Sutherland, teacher at the Healey School.
- Salvatore DiChiappari, father of Frank DiChiappari, retired District Administrator for Student Services.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. Agenda
2. School Committee Minutes of June 10, 2013 for approval
3. The June 2013 Personnel Report
4. Policy ECA – Use of Security Cameras on School Property
5. A request from SCALE for ADP Diplomas for 15 students
6. One (1) Out of State/Overnight Field Trip form
7. Two (2) Donation Acceptance forms
8. Four (4) thank you letters in appreciation for remembering a late family member at a recent meeting.
9. Two (2) thank you letters for recent donations
10. Eight (8) condolence letters
11. Citations for retiring staff members with 10 or more years of service.

***Somerville School Committee
Official Citation***

This certifies that

Retiree

*Has earned special recognition and is hereby granted
this Certificate of Award for years of Dedicated Service
to the Students of the Somerville Public Schools.*

Somerville School Committee

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

June 24, 2013

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
School Committee

Full Circle and Next Wave School

- WHEREAS, Whereas Full Circle High School and Next Wave School began serving Somerville students in the 1972 – 1973 school year, and*
- WHEREAS, Whereas Full Circle and Next Wave have provided a safe and supported learning environment for Somerville students whose needs were not met in a traditional classroom setting, and*
- WHEREAS, Whereas the Somerville School Committee voted to integrate Full Circle and Next Wave into the Somerville School Department in 1986, and*
- WHEREAS, Whereas Full Circle and Next Wave combine the clinical concepts of a therapeutic community with the educational concepts of individualized and specialized integrated learning experiences, to effect academic, social, and personal successes for many students in a community based program, and*
- WHEREAS, Whereas Full Circle and Next Wave students have successfully gone on to higher education, to careers in today's job market, as well as to the military, therefore be it*
- RESOLVED: That the School Committee recognizes the 40th Anniversary of the Next Wave/Full Circle School, that these Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to the Principal for display in the School.*

Somerville School Committee

<i>Mary Jo Rossetti, Chairperson</i>	<i>Christine T. Rafal, Vice Chairperson</i>
<i>M. Teresa Cardoso</i>	<i>Steven Roix</i>
<i>Mark Niedergang</i>	<i>Paul Bockelman</i>
<i>Joseph Curtatone, Mayor</i>	<i>Adam Sweeting</i>
<i>William A. White, Jr., Aldermanic President</i>	
<i>Anthony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools</i>	

May 22, 2013