

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, August 25, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Roix, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Normand, and Ms. Rafal

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of 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 – 8 – Sweeting, White, Roix, Pitone, Bockelman, Futrell, Rafal, and Normand and ABSENT – 1 – Curtatone.

I. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Joshua Ojo, is away on vacation with his family this week, but will join us at our next meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 23, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the minutes of June 23, 2014. The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

- A. School Committee Meeting for Personnel:** July 28 and August 21, 2014 (Mr. Bockelman)

Mr. Bockelman provided the following Status Report on the Superintendent Search:

On March 17th, Superintendent Pierantozzi announced that he was resigning for the purpose of retirement on July 5, 2015. While we all knew this could come, the blunt reality hit us deeply. Tony has led – and continues to lead – the District for a decade and many of our successes are due directly to his leadership and fiscal acumen.

The Chair appointed me to lead the School Committee in one of our most important tasks, and I'm honored she asked me to take this on.

We have met as the Superintendent Search Committee six times since Tony's announcement, and we are thankful he has given us the time to find a replacement in a very difficult market.

Here is what we have decided in our meetings. We realized that this is the most important job in the District and engaging the services of a highly qualified consultant was critical to our success. We prepared an RFP and received four proposals to conduct the search. As a committee, we met with each of the firms and voted unanimously on June 26th to hire the firm of Hazard, Young, and Attea & Associates out of Chicago. This firm is familiar with Somerville having conducted the search that found Tony and the City has used the firm as well. The cost of the search as proposed by the consultant is \$27,500.

We met with the firm on July 28th and reviewed the following:

- The search process
- Confidentiality
- Community engagement
- Background checks
- Calendar
- An online survey
- Meeting with interested groups
- How to narrow the field – Preliminary Screening Subcommittee (4-3)
- Getting the word out

Now that the new school year is upon us, we are ready to launch the search.

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.

Over the next several weeks, we will be sharing information about the search and how every community member can weigh in. We see this as THE most important part of the process. We want to know what YOU think would make for a great superintendent. What is your vision of the District? What are our strengths and weaknesses? And, do you know anyone who we can call to see if they are interested in the job!

The most important document driving the search will be the Leadership Profile. The consultant will be preparing this profile after meeting with every member of the School Committee individually and meeting with numerous constituent groups and listening to comments at two public meetings – one of which will be conducted in Spanish with English translation.

These meetings will occur at various times during the day on Monday and Tuesday, September 15 and 16.

This will be a nation-wide search because our students and our district deserve the absolute best, most talented and committed leader to take us to the next stage. We are confident we will attract great candidates because of the excellent fundamentals established by Tony and our great educational leaders. We have the support from the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, which is no small feature when trying to attract strong candidates.

We are poised and ready to continue to make giant strides. This will be someone's dream job.

We anticipate that the final candidates – we assume there will be three, but don't want to restrict ourselves – will be interviewed in public and have the opportunity to spend a day interacting with members of our community.

In many ways, this is about match-making...finding the right fit for both parties. We have to want them; they have to want us.

I want to make a note about confidentiality. Many strong candidates may have jobs that they are perfectly satisfied in. They may not become candidates if their names were made public. We know this – and our consultant knows this – from experience. We, as a committee, will be trying to balance the need for confidentiality early in the process with the need for public transparency about the process and in the final stages of the process. We ask for your trust that this is the right way to proceed and will work overtime to make sure we tell you everything we can.

While we have adopted an aggressive schedule for ourselves with the goal being to complete the bulk of the decision making by the end of the year, we fully recognize that searches take time and our goal is to have a new superintendent ready to go by the end of February. We believe this is an aggressive schedule but one that we can hit.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the minutes of the Personnel Committee regarding the Superintendent Search for the following dates:

- May 27
- June 17
- June 26
- July 28
- August 21

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The minutes of the June 10, 2014 were approved at a previous meeting.

MOTION: To accept the report of the Chair of the Personnel Committee for the Superintendent Search for the meeting of July 28 and August 21, 2014.

- B. Special Meetings for Executive Session:** June 25 and August 25 (Ms. Rafal)
- Amendment to the contract of the Superintendent of Schools

- C. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction:** June 26 (Mr. Bockelman)

Members present: Paul Bockelman, Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone, Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, Steve Roix

Others present:, Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Sarah Davila, Regina Bertholdo, Ann Hertzberg and about six other staff and members of the public

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

English Language Learners Report

Sarah Davila and her colleagues presented a very detailed report on English Language Learners and the results of the most recent ACCESS test which stands for Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State is a large-scale English language proficiency assessment given to Kindergarten through 12th graders who have been identified as English language learners (ELLs). It is given annually in WIDA Consortium member states to monitor students' progress in acquiring academic English.

The Somerville Public School district provides a wide-range of services for English language learners including multiple levels of a sheltered English Immersion program including integrated and special education classes. In addition, the District monitors those students who become proficient in English for two years.

Some key points include the fact that 51% of our students have a first language that is not English and that there are 54 languages spoken as a first language. Another key point is that there are multiple immigration pathways and students of all ages and abilities reach our District almost daily.

Dr. Davila identified the performance of our ELL students on the MCAS as a real strength of the District with writing being a particular strength.

She identified growth in English proficiency in the early grades as a concern and the challenge presented by the 140 students who are dually identified as English language learners and special education students.

Dr. Davila and her staff concluded by stating that their overarching framework is that "What's good for English learners is good for ALL students." Specifically, her team will continue the ELL program and professional development for leveled and tiered instruction and will continue to align the ELL programs to District goals.

PARCC/MCAS Discussion

Assistant Superintendent Vince McKay presented the latest information and handouts distributed in advance of the meeting. He said that the next generation of performance tests will look a lot like PARCC. The advantages of switching from MCAS to PARCC were that switching now would get the District ahead of the curve of the eventual change, that the state has offered to "hold harmless" districts that change over, and that the District's experience with the field test was positive.

Superintendent Pierantozzi added that PARCC requires a 21st century skillset and higher order think and that a great preponderance of our principals and key administrators preferred PARCC over MCAS.

Mr. Bockelman and other members expressed concern that PARCC was still not calibrated to MCAS so that results from the new PARCC test might not be usable for comparing to previous years. There was concern as to whether the District had the capacity to ramp up with the technology needed to implement the test District-wide and that the State had not inspired confidence in the halting way it had rolled out the preliminary test. Lastly, there was great concern with a 50%-75% increase in testing time for our students.

After further discussion, and comments from the Superintendent supporting MCAS for another year, Ms. Normand moved to continue with MCAS for the 2014-2015 academic year. Ms. Pitone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes

Ms. Pitone moved to approve the minutes of the following meetings: March 11, 2014, April 8, 2014, and May 13, 2014 (attached). Ms. Normand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

High School Diploma

Ms. Normand move to approve a high school diploma for Adimilson Cabral. Ms. Pitone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MASC Resolution

Mr. Sweeting moved the following:

Whereas it is the duty of the School Committee to set policies for the education of the children of our community; and

Whereas, as reported by MASS Executive Director Tom Scott, based on information available on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website, between 1996 and 2008 (13 years), there was a total of 4,065 documents (312 on average per year) that required action by local school districts in response to externally imposed mandates and regulations, yet that number increased drastically to a total of 5,382 documents (an average of 1,077 per year) between 2009-13.

Whereas educators in our community are having difficulty carrying out their responsibilities due to this rising tide of state mandates, including most recently a state teacher evaluation system, "district-determined measures," and PARCC field testing, requiring educators to respond first to bureaucratic requirements rather than classroom instruction;

Therefore, we call on the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to refrain from adding new test mandates and other initiatives and to revisit the mandates already imposed on districts with a view to reducing interference with classroom instruction, thus allowing educators to focus on teaching and learning.

Ms. Rafal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Program Updates

Dr. McKay presented updates on the middle grades program and noted that students coming out of the 8th grade Spanish classes were being placed in 2nd year honors classes at Somerville High School.

He reported that the District is working with the Somerville Teachers Association on developing a one-year extension to the evaluation process as they continue to work toward a quality local solution.

Dr. McKay is very optimistic about the new hires in the guidance department with the college and career counselor coming from Stepping Stone. He said they were narrowing the field for a person to direct the kindergarten readiness efforts.

And, lastly, he noted that the SPS-Head Start collaboration at the Healey School was off to a great start, with the program the student recruited for this unique program being high risk/high need students who were not participating in the SMILE program. And that the new agreement with Tufts University would support two interns to work in this area.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to accept the report of the Chair of the Educational Programs Committee for the meeting of June 26, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Education Programs and Instruction of June 26, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mr. Futrell asked if the minutes could, however, reflect that his absence at this meeting was due to a prior professional work commitment and this change has been made.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Personnel Report

Mr. Pierantozzi reviewed the Personnel Report that was included in members' packets. The report included the following:

Six (6) resignations for the purpose of retirement – Nancy Trane, Principal Clerk at Scale after 25 years; Stephen Cronin, Physical Education Teacher from the Winter Hill after 15 years; Maureen O'Connor-Lis, Grade 1 teacher at the Kennedy School after 20 years; Timothy O'Keefe, Supervisor of Physical Education & Health after 37 years; Claire Guy, Grade 2 teacher from the East Somerville after 44 years and Joyce DeAcetis, Grade 6 teacher from the Winter Hill. The total years of service for these six staff members totals 182 year with an average of 30.33 years of service. The Superintendent wished them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Also on the report were 39 resignations, eight (8) leaves of absence, 21 intra-district transactions and 46 new hires.

Today and tomorrow were Administrative Leadership Days. Wednesday and Thursday are set aside for new staff orientation. There have been 214 personnel transactions during this hiring season. Mr. Pierantozzi issued his thanks to Mariana MacDonald and Carleen MacNeill for their hard work and also to all of the administrators, hiring agents, teachers, parents/guardians, etc. who have served on the many hiring teams. We are in good shape to start the school year!

B. District Report

The Superintendent provided his report on happenings around the District:

- Lots of things are happening in our buildings with various construction projects. The main project is at Somerville High School with renovations being made to the kitchen and auditorium to correct damage done by Superstorm Sandy. Both of these areas are expected to be completed by the start

of school. Room 143 at Somerville High School, which is a new state-of-the art special education classroom for our medically fragile students, is delayed by about a week.

The Brown School has also undergone a significant amount of renovation this summer.

- The new Field Trip Handbook is just about ready to be rolled out with final edits being made now and the hope is to have the book in the hands of the principals, etc. within the next several days. This handbook is aligned with the recommendations of the School Safety and Security Review Committee. Field Trip applications have been edited and a timeline has been developed to guide the approval process.
- The Rules Management Subcommittee will review the DRAFT Social Networking Policy at the next meeting. This DRAFT was developed with the Joint Study Committee and has been included in the Parent/Guardian and Colleague Guides so that the guidelines are clear to everyone from the start of the year. Amendments can still be made but the global concepts need to be public early rather than waiting to publicize the policy.

Mr. Sweeting asked if the Superintendent would explain the Joint Study Committee to the audience. This committee, formed as part of the Somerville Teachers Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, is comprised of STA, Unit A members and Somerville Public Schools Administrators, and met multiple times to develop this policy. There are also Joint Study Committees for the school calendar, high school schedule, and evaluation process.

Mr. Roix asked if this document is public and was told that it is.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vince McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for a brief report on curriculum-related matters. Dr. McKay's report included the following:

This week concludes the back to school preparations as we look to Opening Day on September 3rd.

The buildings are looking good, and ready for the students.

An incredible amount Hiring has been done, an incredibly thorough and intensive process that assures a great teacher in every classroom.

But for my Department, in curriculum and instruction, these final weeks in the run up to the opening of school are all about preparing the teachers and getting the materials place.

We are committed to having first class, up to date materials for all Somerville students. We thank the Committee for their ongoing budgetary support for these critical instructional needs.

These include both traditional text sources as well as electronic media. This summer, to cite a few examples, over 200 new History texts were purchased for the high school while an almost equal number of computers we replaced. This is in keeping with the School's replacement cycle of instructional technology. So those are several some examples of the materials that have been updated this summer.

Just as my office is diligent in keeping our instructional stuff up to date, the skills and talents of our teaching professionals are always being advanced. And this summer has seen a huge numbers of teachers involved in workshops and institutes here in Somerville. These past two weeks, I've walked the hallway on the third floor of Healey

And once again, I am very proud to say that with very few exceptions, all of these programs have been led by our own staff members, our own locally-grown talent.

We have our curriculum materials ready, we have the teaching professionals ready.... The only thing missing? The students! We can't wait to welcome to our classrooms next Wednesday - opening day

The Superintendent continued his District Report:

- First day of school for students in grades 1-12 is Wednesday, September 3rd (half day). The first day of school for Pre-K and K students is Monday, September 8th. First day for staff is Tuesday, September 2nd.
- First day of school for students in grades 1-12 is Wednesday, September 3rd (half day). The first day of school for Pre-K and K students is Monday, September 8th. First day for staff is Tuesday, September 2nd.
- We continue to be amazed and humbled by the incredible support of our community partners.
 - **United Stationers Inc. Charitable Foundation** donated a backpack filled with school supplies for every student at ESCS. We also want to acknowledge the volunteer support of

Tufts FOCUS students, who helped with the distribution of the backpacks on Friday.

(Aldermen at Large and former School Committee member Mary Jo Rossetti facilitated this connection)

- Students in grades K-6 at the Winter Hill, Argenziano and Healey Schools will also be receiving backpacks filled with school supplies, courtesy of **Cradles to Crayons** and their backpack program sponsor, **Genzyme**. That's a donation of 1,200 backpacks again this year. Winter Hill School will host a Backpack Distribution Event on Friday, September 5th at 9am.
- The **Tufts Graduate Student Council** held a school supplies drive for SPS students. They will be dropping off their donation at our Central Office this Thursday at 1pm. Items will be distributed to schools/ programs throughout the District for those students with the greatest need. *(Mr. Bockelman facilitated this donation)*

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

- The summer is one of the busiest times of year for the Finance Office with staff reviewing orders with administrators and subsequently placing the orders for the start of the year. All contracts are also in place.
- The staff is working to close all prior year state and federal grants, as well.
- Grant applications have been submitted for Title I, Title 2 and IDEA grants
- Entitlement allocations are similar to last year, which is a good thing.
- The Special Education Department Circuit Breaker claim report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was filed in the beginning of July (on schedule). The reimbursement determined as a result of this filing has not yet been determined.

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his District Report:

- We look forward to a fantastic year in our schools. New/expanded initiatives:
 - SHS Guidance Department re-organization to strengthen college and career readiness for all students
 - Introduce new offering in AP Statistics
 - Focus on Early Childhood Alignment (partially grant-funded):
 - New SPS/Head Start classroom partnership at Healey School
 - Aligned professional learning opportunities
 - Expand Tufts Partnership Intern Program – STELLAR
 - Launch Somerville Early Childhood Hub website next month
 - Summer Science Academy for early childhood professionals
 - Early Education Director and Early Childhood coaching
 - Continue support and expansion of SMILE classrooms and ELA/Math playgroup activities in our schools
 - Pilot Breakfast in the Classroom at the Winter Hill
 - Kick off the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP grant), including introduction of new evidence-based curriculum (SPARK)
 - Continue Farm to School Program
- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that the MCAS results are currently embargoed, but he assured members and the audience that they will not be disappointed with this year's results!

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual

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

1. File IJOA – Field Trips

The following policy is being presented this evening for second reading for adoption:

2. File IJNDB-R – Acceptable Use of Personal Electronic Devices

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve policy IJOA – Field Trips, as revised, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

MOTION: Mr. White made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to amend the policy to include more specific language regarding field trips to the policy.

The motion to approve the policy with this amendment was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve policy IJNDB-R – Acceptable Use of Personal Electronic Devices, for adoption and inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual. The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2014 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:

Jammy M. Alphonse	25 Canal Lane, #2512	Somerville	02145
Alan Kephart	67 Dexter Street	Medford	02155
Alex Anthony Taylor	10 Bartlett Street	Everett	02149

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

B. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$42.00 from John and Jenny Pipkin of Somerville, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$310.00 (raised at Porch Fest) from Jennifer Dorsen of Somerville, MA, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

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

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Futrell

1. Reminded members that he would like to see the School Committee undergo a self-evaluation. Ms. Rafal assured Mr. Futrell that this item would be placed on a future agenda for the appropriate subcommittee.

Ms. Pitone

1. Restated that the input sessions for the new Superintendent will be on September 15 and 16 and that people should be on the lookout for more information.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Francis "Frank" Collins, husband of Susan Collins, retired principal from the Capuano Early Childhood Center.
- David Durnan, retired Guidance Counselor and Track Coach from Somerville High School and husband of Barbara Stasiak, retired teacher from the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park.
- Mary Whelan, mother of Mary Ann Ryan, paraprofessional at the Capuano Early Childhood Center.
- Alice W. Heffernan, Retired Teacher from the Cummings School
- Rose Sacramone, mother-in-law of Tony Vecchiarello, teacher in the CVTE Program of Somerville High School.

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

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Agenda
Minutes of June 23, 2014
July & August 2014 Personnel Report
Two (2) Policies for approval
Request for three (3) Scale ADP diplomas
Two (2) donation acceptance forms
Two (2) condolence letters
Five (5) thank you letters for recent donations

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, September 8, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Roix, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Normand, Ms. Rafal and Mayor Curtatone (7:41 p.m.)

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:08 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 – 8 –Sweeting, White, Roix, Pitone, Bockelman, Futrell, Rafal, and Normand and ABSENT – 1 – Curtatone.

Ms. Rafal announced that, unless there were any objections, we would take Item VI. A., Introduction of New Administrators, out of order.

I. Introduction of New Administrators

- Kenya Avant-Ransome, Educational Data Analyst
- Sarah Forrey-Pettit, Assistant Principal, Healey School
- Allison Franke, Assistant Principal, Capuano Early Childhood Center
- Mark Hurrie, Principal, Kennedy School
- Melanie Kessler, Career and College Readiness Director
- Caitlin Kelly, PEP Grant Coordinator
- Lisa Kuh, Director of Early Education
- Steven Marshall, Assistant Principal, Kennedy School
- Julia Monroe, Assistant Principal, Winter Hill Community Innovation School
- Traci Small, Department Head for Guidance & Testing
- Christine Trevisone, Assistant Director of Special Education

The Superintendent introduced the new administrators, who were seated in the audience and asked them to wave as their names were called. After all of the administrators were announced, Ms. Rafal called for a recess at 7:10 p.m. so that members could meet the guests, personally.

The meeting reconvened at 7:22 p.m.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our new student representative, Joshua Ojo, provided his report on happenings around Somerville High School. Joshua's report included the following:

- He is honored to be here and will serve to the best of his ability
- He had a quick tour of the renovated auditorium and it is looking amazing. Thanked members for getting this done!
- The Club Fair is this Wednesday and virtually offers something for everyone.
- The Football Team won its first game last weekend, 21-6. This is the first time in years this has happened and everyone is very happy.
- Also, the cafeteria at the high school is looking great with wonderful food!

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August 25, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the minutes of August 25, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting: Sept. 3 (Mr. Sweeting)

Members present: Adam Sweeting (chair), Dan Futrell, and Laura Pitone.

Other School Committee members in attendance: Carrie Normand, Paul Bockelman, Christine Rafal, Steve 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 in attendance: Finance Director Pat Durette, Director of the Center for Vocational and Technical Education Leo DeSimone, and Dorothy Scally from the Somerville Teachers Association. The meeting took place in the conference room of School Department headquarters at 42 Cross Street and was called to order at 6:30 pm.

We had five items on the agenda. Items were taken out of order and are listed here in the order they were discussed.

1) Surplus equipment and materials.

Ms. Durette presented a list of science textbooks declared as surplus by Karen Woods, the High School Science Department Head.

Mr. Futrell made a motion to declare the textbooks listed in Ms. Woods' letter as surplus material, seconded by Mr. Sweeting. The motion passed 2-0.

Next, Ms. Durette presented information concerning the Universal Measuring System, which had been used in the CVTE Auto Body Shop at the High School. Mr. DeSimone answered questions about its former use. Now that the program has been phased out the school no longer needs the equipment.

Mr. Futrell made a motion to declare the Universal Measuring System as surplus material, seconded by Mr. Sweeting. The motion passed 2-0.

2) FY 2016 Budget Timeline. Ms. Durette presented the subcommittee a proposed timeline for developing the School Department budget for FY 2016. Members agreed with the general outline but suggested that a target date of late April 2015 for posting budget documents on the School Department website.

Mr. Futrell made a motion to approve the Proposed Budget Time Line, with the addition of a target of electronically posting budget documents by the end of April 2015. Seconded by Ms. Pitone. The motion passed 3-0.

3) FY 2015 Expenditure Report. Ms. Durette reviewed with committee members the August 30, 2014 Expenditure Report.

4) FY 2014 Bill Rolls. Committee members reviewed the latest bill rolls with Ms. Durette. The Finance Director answered questions from members about the timing and process of paying bills.

Ms. Pitone made a motion to approve the FY 2014 Bill Rolls, seconded by Mr. Futrell. The motion passed 3-0.

5) Facilities Update. Ms. Durette reviewed the list of maintenance and construction projects undertaken at our schools during the summer vacation. Among the highlights were the completion of renovation work in the high school auditorium and kitchen, both of which were damaged during Hurricane Sandy.

During the meeting of September 8, Mr. Sweeting asked Mr. Pierantozzi if he would please provide a facilities report so that the viewing public and members would have the most up-to-date information. The Superintendent provided the following information:

By the end of the week, the bigger facilities project should be complete. These projects include:

Brown School - updates/changes at there are all done.

Somerville High School Cafeteria – the main cafeteria is back to its original condition. The Cowboy Café and the other small dining room have had their floors refinished and both rooms look beautiful.

Somerville High School Kitchen – this area is in the finishing stages. Electrical work was being done today along with installation of equipment. Final inspections are scheduled for Thursday. Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, although the kitchen is not yet operational at the high school, he has demanded that students have all of the food choices they would have if it was operational. Even though the food is currently being prepared at the Winter Hill kitchen, the offerings to the high school students have been expanded to include the full menu options they will have when the high school kitchen reopens, hopefully, next week!

Somerville High School Auditorium – the auditorium is unbelievably beautiful, including a wonderful "S" emblem that was covered over during a renovation in 1972. It has now been made beautiful again and is a major part of the beauty of the auditorium. Unfortunately, the red curtain arrived damaged and we are waiting for a new one. The seats are blue so the high school colors are beautifully displayed in the room. Some small items are left to be finished up – sound system, electrical, and clean up, but we expect the auditorium to be fully useable soon!

Somerville High School Room 143 – Plumbing is done as are lights and other electrical. The floor needs one more coat of wax and then the furniture and other equipment can be moved in. The room has hospital quality air and filtrations and the room is designed so that IEP and other meetings can take place right in the room.

Mr. Sweeting commented that it will be so nice when we are back to whole with two great auditoriums!

With no further business, the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to declare science textbooks as surplus.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to declare the CVTE Universal Measuring system as surplus.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the FY16 Budget Timeline.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the FY14 bill rolls.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the Chair of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee for the meeting of September 3, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Mayor Curtatone arrived at the September 8th Regular Meeting at 7:41 p.m.

B. School Committee Meeting for Personnel: Sept. 3 (Mr. Bockelman)

Mr. Bockelman provided his report from the School Committee Meeting for Personnel of September 3, 2014.

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. in the Conference Room at 42 Cross Street.

Members in attendance were Ms. Rafal, Ms. Normand, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Roix, Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Futrell and Mr. Bockelman.

Also in attendance were Mr. Pierantozzi, Ms. Morgan and Ms. Scally (STA)

Mr. Bockelman's report included the following:

The search for a new Superintendent has been launched. The School Committee is looking for input from as many stakeholders as possible and is making an extensive outreach effort. Three consultants from Hazard, Young and Attea will be in the District on September 15 and 16 to conduct focus groups with as many people as possible. An online survey has also been developed by the consulting firm and is on the Somerville Public Schools website in our four target languages. Mr. Bockelman encourages everyone to complete the brief survey and also expressed hope that parents/guardians and community members would attend one of the three scheduled community meetings during the evenings of September 15 and 16 and first thing in the morning on the 16th.

Individual School Committee members will be hosting ward-based meetings with their constituents in less formal settings and the list of those meeting dates will be publicized once it becomes final.

Following these Focus Groups, the consulting firm will collate the information they have gathered from their interviews and the online survey and provide the School Committee with a report on the characteristics they have determined to be desirable in a candidate. This information will also be helpful to the consultants as they field questions from potential candidates regarding the Somerville Public Schools and the community at large.

The School Committee will meet on October 2 at 6:30 p.m. to finalize the leadership profile and the recruitment process will officially start. There have already been a good deal of potential candidates identified and we have been told that this is a very desirable place to work. Our salary is competitive in a highly competitive market and people have a strong, positive opinion about Somerville. The search will be conducted nation-wide in an effort to get the best candidates possible.

A preliminary screening committee will be comprised of three community and four School Committee members. Those candidates chosen by the screening committee will be contacted for an interview. All

names and other information about candidates will remain confidential until the point that a candidate becomes a finalist at which time his or her name and credentials will be made public.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to accept the report of the Chair of the Personnel Committee for the Superintendent Search for the meeting of September 3, 2014. The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Personnel Report

It is unusual to have a Personnel Report for this meeting since we had a report at our last meeting, but, because of all the personnel transactions over the past couple of months, we added a report for this evening. Mr. Pierantozzi's report included the following:

- You have already met the 11 new administrators; we are thrilled to have them join our ranks.
- There are no new resignations for the purpose of retirement.
- There are 14 new resignations - added to the 39 previous brings the total to 53
- There are 3 new Leaves of Absence for a total of 11
- Intra-district Transactions – 22 new for a total of 42
- 68 new hires for a total of 112
- There are 154 people in new positions

As the economy strengthens, movement increases.

It has been a good hiring season. We have only three positions still outstanding as of today.

Mr. Sweeting asked - of teachers hired during the last 3 years in Somerville — how many, give or take 5-10 people, are in 1st, 2nd or 3rd year of teaching. A rough estimate of the percentage would be helpful. Mr. Pierantozzi responded that there are about 40% of our staff who are in their 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year. Some veteran staff members were also hired and some are new to us, but have other experience from another district. Under the new Educator Evaluation system, a teacher who transfers buildings is treated as a new staff member.

Please be assured that the educational system has not been weakened by all of these personnel transactions. Once the embargo on the release of MCAS scores is lifted, you will see strong results. Mayor Curtatone announced that with the reforms were made a couple of years ago including strategic investments these positive test scores have not occurred by accident and he commends everyone for this.

A question was also asked about what the SPARK curriculum coordinator is responsible for. This is the PEP grant curriculum instruction piece. The Superintendent does not know what the acronym SPARK stands for, but will email members when he knows.

A question was asked regarding the diversity of our staff and Mr. Pierantozzi responded that he will provide a report on the demographic makeup of our staff for the last 3 years.

There was also a question regarding our exit interviews and whether there is anything members should be aware of as far as reasons for leaving, etc. Are there any themes as to why people are leaving?

Mr. Pierantozzi reported that, globally, he has not heard of an exit interview where the staff member left due to dissatisfaction. The reasons most often given were moving, another job closer to home (new house), going back to school, and relocating due to partner's employment. When asked, "Would you recommend the Somerville Public Schools as a place to work?" the answer, universally, was yes.

B. District Report

Mr. Pierantozzi provided the following information as part of his District Report:

- Fantastic start to the school year. Students getting settled into their school routines quickly. Appreciate the community's support in getting the year off to a great start.
- Representatives from Cradles to Crayons and Genzyme, this year's sponsor of Cradles to Crayons' Backpack program, were at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School last Friday morning for the annual backpack distribution event. Thanks again to C2C for their generous donation of 1,200 backpacks for K-6 students at the Winter Hill, Argenziano and Healey schools. And a special thanks to Mayor Curtatone and School Committee Chair Rafal for their participation in this event.
- Earlier, we had the Stationers Union to East Somerville Community School donated 700 with tufts students help with distributed

1950 backpacks to our students
2 lessons – people care about them and it's important to give, not just receive.
Thanks to donors for great beginning

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, for his report on curriculum-related matters. Dr. McKay's report included the following: For the past several years, SPS has seen strong gains in student achievement especially with regard to MCAS Student Growth (SGP); in 2013, SPS was the leading urban school district in Massachusetts, something we all are very proud of. While the District recognizes and celebrates this significant accomplishment, and we believe 2014 builds on that momentum, Somerville continues its emphasis on the education of the "whole child" - as reflected in the School Committee goals.

With that goal in mind, you will recall that we put out a Request for Proposals this summer for an educational data expert to help us develop a more holistic view of its school improvement efforts -- measures that goes "beyond MCAS." To achieve this goal, we asked for proposals that would provide us with a multi-faceted school quality "yardstick" that takes into account a variety of indicators of school quality – including standardized test scores and student growth percentile, or SGP.

The Somerville Schools have recently taken a step forward with this goal, having a signed contract with a group led by Dr. Jack Schneider of Holy Cross College. Dr. Schneider is well known locally for developing the "Dream Schools" finder that was published in the Boston Globe last year. We will be working with Dr. Schneider over the school year to provide a comprehensive tool that we will use to measure and track school quality. The Consultant will work collaboratively with the district leadership to develop and refine this tool over the course of this school year.

Speaking of MCAS, the public release of last spring's data is about a week away. I will be preparing a comprehensive report for presentation at October's Educational Programs subcommittee meeting. Parents of student in grades 4 – 11 can expect to receive the parent reports in the mail before the end of the month.

I'd like to recognize and thank the Duhamel Education Initiative for their fine work in the community, fund-raising to support school programs. As you know, DEI supports the Small Grants Program, awards made each spring. DEI also supports a targeted grants program aimed at select district goals. Pleased to announce two recently awarded grants for these goals.

1. Extending the successful morning tutorial program, providing academic support at AFA. Focus on ELLs, from the primary grades
2. Purchase of books for take-home kits for our new SPS-Head Start pre-K classroom at the Healey School.

DEI Pasta Supper 6:00 pm on September 27, First Congregational Church. Students from Full Circle High School will be there to present their experiences.

Ed Programs Tuesday Sept 9. On the agenda are the introduction of Lisa Kuh, our new Director of Early Education and also PARCC discussion.

Josh Ojo commented that, at Somerville High School, there is a sort of MCAS competition as students want to do as well as, or better than, their predecessors.

The Superintendent continued his District report:

- Open Houses throughout the District are coming up in the next few weeks. Check the online Calendar of Events for times.

Due to your support, the School Safety and Security Committee was established and, as part of their final report, the Committee asked for a field trip procedural manual to be developed and Mr. Pierantozzi is happy to announce that the manual has been produced and was rolled out at the Administrative Team meeting at 3:30 this afternoon. Members have been given the full version of the manual and, for those who may not like to read 21 pages, we have developed a five (5) page condensed version.

We will be rolling these manuals out to the PTA's, School Councils, on the website, intranet, in the Connections newsletters, and anywhere else we can possibly publicize them.

Consistent forms and documents are used throughout both publications.

Mr. Roix issued his thanks for providing in a timely manner.

He also offered his appreciation for the backpacks, complimented the administration for the smooth opening and commented that he even saw the Superintendent directing traffic on opening day outside of the East Somerville! He appreciates all of everyone's great work!

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

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

Joashenel Joachin

Alex Bartlett

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the Somerville High School graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

- The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$100.00 from Rosie Flanagan of Houston, TX to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools in memory of Zeno Wasserman.
- The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$1,200.00 given anonymously, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

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

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Sweeting

1. Commended the implementation of the new Naviance Guidance program being used for college and career readiness. This is a great planning tool and will definitely make the application process much easier for our students. Students are excited and it is easy to use.
2. Announced that he will not be available to attend the public meetings related to the Superintendent Search as he will be out of town for a business trip.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Reminded the audience of the following open houses:
 - Brown School – Thursday, Sept. 18th
 - Kennedy School – Tuesday, Sept. 23rd
 - Somerville High School – Wednesday, Sept. 17th
2. Announced that Tufts Community Day will be held on October 5, 2014 and is a great event.
3. The Brown School Community Card fundraiser is underway. Cards are \$10.00 each and provide the purchaser with great discounts to various businesses throughout the City.

Ms. Normand

1. Welcomed our PreK and Kindergarten families and students!
2. West Somerville's open house will be held on Monday, Sept. 15th

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Agenda

Minutes of August 25, 2014

September 2014 Personnel Report

Request for one (1) Somerville High School diploma

Two (2) donation acceptance forms

Four (4) condolence letters

Two (2) thank you letters for recent donations

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, September 22, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Roix, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Normand, and Ms. Rafal.

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:09 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 – 8 – Sweeting, White, Roix, Pitone, Bockelman, Futrell, Rafal, and Normand and ABSENT – 1 – Curtatone.

I. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Joshua Ojo, reported on happenings at Somerville High School. His report included the following:

- Honored to be here and looking forward to serving on the committee
- Cafeteria is open and working. Students love the food and the fresh, hot, breakfast!
- MCAS – scores have been received and 92% of the class scored proficient or advanced and the seniors applauded the juniors for beating them with their scores. Some juniors are now helping sophomores get ready for testing.
- The attendance, tardiness war competition by house has begun. An assembly was held and the house with the best attendance and tardiness record per quarter gets a point. The house with the most points wins. Josh doesn't know what they will win but right now Ms. Cummings' house is winning.
- The Student Council is discussing lunches and whether seniors who are doing well both academically and with attendance, conduct, etc. would be allowed to get lunch outside of school – trustworthy National Honor kinds of students—still under discussion.
- The auditorium is finishing up and we will use it for our next assembly
- Clubs are starting. There are currently 50 kids signed up for the Outdoors Club – very popular!

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 8, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the minutes of September 8, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting: Sept. 9 (Mr. Roix)

The Rules Management Subcommittee met on September 9, 2014 at the central office conference room at 42 Cross St.

In attendance were Steve Roix, Carrie Normand and Dan Futrell; Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi and School Committee members Paul Bockelman, Christine Rafal, Laura Pitone also two members of the public.

Meeting convened at 6:03PM.

Discussed draft policy file IJNDD Social Networking Policy of the Somerville Public Schools

New policy specific to social networking – would not affect the separate Network Acceptable Use Policy

This policy was presented to us by the superintendent and is in fact based on a memorandum which is currently in use – created by a joint study commission produced during collective bargaining.

Motion: to approve file: IJNDD - Social Networking Policy of the Somerville Public Schools and forward to the full School Committee for consideration.

☐ Motion by C. Normand, Second by S. Roix; Motion passed 2-0

Discussed proposed revision to file: JH – Student Absences and Excuses

Revision coded by the MASC in response to changes to state laws; specifically to make policy in compliance with Chapter 222 of the acts of 2012

Motion: to approve file: JH – Student Absences and Excuses, as amended, and forward to the full School Committee for consideration.

Motion by D. Futrell, Second by C. Normand; Motion passed 3-0

Discussed proposed revision to file: JIC – Student Discipline

Revision coded by the MASC in response to changes to state laws; specifically to make policy in compliance with Chapter 222 of the acts of 2012

Motion: to approve file: JIC (formerly JK) - Student Discipline, as amended, and forward to the full School Committee for consideration.

☐ Motion by C. Normand, Second by D. Futrell; Motion passed 3-0

Discussed proposed revision to file: JII - Student Complaints and Grievances

Revision coded by the MASC in response to changes to state laws; specifically to make policy in compliance with Chapter 222 of the acts of 2012

Motion: to approve file: JII - Student Complaints and Grievances, as amended, and forward to the full School Committee for consideration.

☐ Motion by D. Futrell, Second by C. Normand; Motion passed 3-0

Discussed proposed revision to file: JK - Student Conduct

Revision coded by the MASC in response to changes to state laws; specifically to make policy in compliance with Chapter 222 of the acts of 2012

Formerly (would replace) file JIC

Due to time constraints (Educational Programs subcommittee immediately following in same location), we did not complete our discussion and did not make a motion specific to this item. We will revisit at our next subcommittee meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 7:00PM

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the Chair of the Rules Management Subcommittee for the meeting of September 9, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting: Sept. 9 (Mr. Bockelman)

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on September 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room at 42 Cross Street.

Members present: Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone, and Paul Bockelman

Others present: Christine Rafal, Steve Roix, Dan Futrell, Adam Sweeting

Staff present: Vince McKay, Tony Pierantozzi, Susana Hernandez Morgan, Lisa Kuh

Other present: one member in the audience

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

1. Director of Early Education: Lisa Kuh

Assistant Superintendent McKay introduced Lisa Kuh who is the District's new Director of Early Education. Dr. Kuh previously had been an assistant professor at the University of New Hampshire in the Family Studies Department. And, before that, was the Head Teacher and Lecturer at the Tufts University Eliot-Pearson school. Significantly, Lisa has been an early childhood educator in a variety of classroom settings.

She said she was thrilled to be part of the Somerville School District and was looking forward to participating in all aspects of the community. She saw her overall goal as ensuring that students are ready for school AND that schools are ready for children.

Members of the committee welcomed Dr. Kuh warmly and offered their support in her work.

2. Spring 2014 MCAS Release Planning

Dr. McKay said the plan for releasing the spring MCAS results was still not nailed down but that he anticipated that the results would be released within the next two weeks.

3. PARCC/MCAS Discussion

The members of the Subcommittee discussed the decision to stay with MCAS and not move to PARCC. Mr. Bockelman asked all present if anyone wanted to take the initiative to move to PARCC, since there was still time for the School Committee to change its mind but everyone was satisfied with the decision to stay with MCAS.

4. Brown School Grade Six

Superintendent Pierantozzi summarized the work that had been done at the Brown School this summer. The changes included recarpeting the basement classroom, retiling two classrooms, relocating the counselor/educator to a small room adjacent to the library, and relocating the principal and secretary's offices to create additional meeting space. A divider had been installed on the 2nd floor landing with a divider – permanent dividers are on order – that provides another flexible space for special work with students.

The Superintendent said these were all good fixes that helps the building manage its space issues, but none were long-term solutions. After discussion, it was agreed that the principal would initiate the discussion with the community through the PTA and the School Council. The goal was to start this discussion this fall. Superintendent Pierantozzi said the space issues were not easily resolved and that relocating students from the building or making major structural renovations seemed to be the best alternatives. He noted that the principal had sent a letter to the home of every 6th grader informing them of the process for selecting a school for the 7th and 8th grades.

5. Updates

Dr. McKay updated the committee on summer professional development and other issues.

At time, 9:10 p.m. Ms. Pitone moved to adjourn. Ms. Normand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the Chair of the Educational Programs Subcommittee for the Superintendent Search for the meeting of September 9, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

STA, Unit B Paraprofessionals

The Somerville School Committee and the STA Unit B Paraprofessionals recently agreed to a collective bargaining agreement that extends through 2016. The School Committee values the hard work done by our paraprofessionals and is pleased to have reached this agreement. Somerville Teachers Association President, Jackie Lawrence, was in attendance and she and Ms. Rafal signed the agreement. Ms. Lawrence thanked the School Committee on behalf of the paraprofessionals and is pleased with this three year agreement.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**A. Personnel Report – Demographic Data**

In members' packets is a report from the Superintendent to the School Committee dated 9/17/14. It includes a download of demographic information from the School Spring system with a breakout of demographics of staff who applied for positions and who chose to report their demographic information.

The second report is a line by line report of individuals who were hired this year who participated in self-reporting. The report shows 17 minorities were hired or 15% of our staff.

The last report is a historical report. The EEO-5 Report is filed every two years and will be filed this year. It shows the progression of the percentage of staff members who have been determined to be minorities has increased at each filing period.

The District is still working hard to recruit highly qualified, minority candidates.

B. District Report

On last Friday the Spring MCAS scores were "unembargoed".

At the next Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting, we will dive in and give a tremendous view of the data.

2014 MCAS results - highlights include:

- *In Top 15% of ALL MA Districts for combined ELA (59) and Math (60) Growth*

- *Top Urban District in Growth; next closest urban district ranked 117 in combined SGP scores, compared to SPS ranking of 58.*
- *Every school's percentile ranking (as compared to other MA schools serving the same grade levels) improved over last year.*
- *West Somerville Neighborhood School joins SHS and Kennedy as Level 1 Schools.*
- *Winter Hill Community Innovation School moved up from a Level 3 to a Level 2 school.*
- *Increase in percentage of students District-wide scoring Advanced in ELA and Math*
- *Outstanding progress in Science:*
 - *16% of students scored in the Advanced range, a 4% improvement over 2013 (17% of MA students scored Advanced in Science)*
 - *29% of Grade 10 students scored Advanced in Science*

The Superintendent also spoke about the following with regard to MCAS:

- Percentile ranking
- Accountability
- How subgroups determine ranking
- Data Points
- Almost 3rd urban district to be level 2 as a district
- District ranking is determined by the accountability level of its lowest school
- Level 1 – Somerville High, West Somerville, Kennedy
- Level 2 – Argenziano, Brown, East Somerville, Winter Hill Community Innovation School
- Level 3 – Healey (scores influenced by performance of certain subgroups)
- We are in the top 15% of the state - 58th/392 districts
- We are also in continuous improvement mode and will be focusing over the next 8 months for continued improvement by aligning curriculum, providing targeted assistance, and working on continuous improvement with the goal to have everyone be at level 1.
- Thanked students, parents/guardians, staff, Board of Aldermen, School Committee, and the Mayor for all of the support and hard work.
- Somerville is demonstrating achievement and focus on the whole child via music, art, sports intramurals and so much more!

Mr. White asked where this information can be found on the website and requested that as much positive information about this be placed on the front page of the website as possible so parents will be able to see it easily.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment on curriculum related matters.

The 2014 MCAS results reflect two important aspects of our schools.

The first is the focus and dedication of our teachers; they are responsible for the continuing story of Somerville's incredible gains in MCAS. Thank our teachers for this because it's what happens in the classroom - day after day – that is making the difference.

Secondly, the results show that Somerville's long-term school improvement strategy, a strategy stresses critical thinking skills FOR ALL STUDENTS, is working.

How do we know it's working?

Somerville's student growth District-wide is the story of our success, as you heard the Superintendent say.

We owe all of our students a year's worth of growth. That's what a 50 translates into, a year's worth of growth – on par with others across the state. But if we're going to move our students ahead, to meet our MORAL commitment to our kids, we know that we need to do better than 50 – AND WE HAVE DONE THAT.

Our mission, our everyday work, is about educating every student -- regardless of where they start academically. We find out – quickly – what they know and what we need to do to move them ahead.

To meet our commitment to all students, teaching critical thinking skills means all students move ahead. And we have done THAT.

What evidence do we have?? One key indicator.....

In virtually every test, at every grade, we saw an increase in the number of students scoring Advanced.

The number of students District-wide scoring Advanced in ELA and Math improved.

In Science, 16% of Somerville students scored in the Advanced range, an improvement of 4 percentage points over 2013 and just one percentage point shy of the state average.

Since 2011, the percentage of students scoring Advanced has increased from 8% to 15% in ELA, 14% to 22% in Math, and 7% to 16% in Science.

While the increase in students scoring proficient or advanced shows that Somerville Schools are not only lifting up students—we're helping them excel, so that ALL of our students are ready for success in their adult lives as full, participating members of our community.

So again, I'd like to thank our teachers and all of our instructional leaders for their commitment and work to putting SPS on this track for excellence. I look forward to sharing this data, in some detail, at October's Ed Programs meeting.

The Superintendent continued his district report.

- Somerville High School Post High School Night: Wednesday, 9/24, 7pm @ the SHS Library. For seniors and their parents/guardians to learn more about resources to help them navigate the post-secondary process, post-high school options, student/family roles and responsibilities, Naviance and the Common Application, and Financial Aid overview
- Highlander Café opens Wednesday, September 24th. Will be open for lunch on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Commissioner Chester's Visit to our District on Friday, September 26th.
- DEI's Annual Fundraising Supper is Saturday, September 27th at 6pm. Check the DEI website (www.duhameleducationinitiative.org) for details. Somerville Aldermen will be cooking and serving that evening.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Massachusetts School Building Authority Somerville High School Study Enrollment Certification

In members' packets is lots of paperwork, including a Study Enrollment Certification which verifies that MSBA is going forward with the high school project if the Board of Aldermen approves the feasibility and schematic design. The number of students at SHS = 1590 students according to this enrollment study. This number could change and, if it does, many discussions, meetings, and phone conferences will take place between the city and the MSBA.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to authorize the chair to sign the enrollment certification form.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Discussion ensued regarding how the enrollment figure was determined, capacity, current enrollment trends and next steps.

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

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for graduation from Somerville High School, be granted her diploma:

- Gloria Sandoval

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the Somerville High School diploma.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

Oct. 5, 2014

Somerville High School Outdoors Club to Cannon Mountain, NH. Transportation via school mini-buses with no cost to students.

Oct. 17, 2014

Full Circle/Next Wave students to Mount Monadnock, NH. Transportation via school van with a cost of \$5.00 per student.

Oct. 27, 2014

Somerville High School Cosmetology students to Providence, RI to attend the annual Cosmetology Convention. Transportation via bus with a cost of \$20.00 per student.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

D. Somerville Public School Policy Manual

The following policies were submitted this evening by Mr. Roix for first reading:

- File: IJNDD – Social Networking Policy of the Somerville Public Schools
- File: JH – Student Absences and Excuses, as amended
- File: JIC (formerly JK) – Student Discipline, as amended
- File: JII – Student Complaints and Grievances, as amended

E. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

1. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of 13 iPads from Eric & Linda Saulnier of Somerville, MA to the Somerville Public Schools to be distributed to classrooms at the Capuano Early Childhood Center and elsewhere as determined by the Administration. Value is \$5187.00
2. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$100 from Rosie and Mike Flannigan of Houston, TX to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools in honor of Zeno Wasserman, grandfather.
3. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of various school supplies donated by the Tufts Graduate School Council. These school supplies will be distributed throughout the District to students in need. Value of donation is \$200.
4. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$400.00 from Kevin Bacon of Somerville, MA to the John F. Kennedy School.
5. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$1,000.00 from Antonin and Susan Tutter of Somerville, MA through the Novartis Credit Card program, to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.
6. The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of a \$5,000.00 grant from Biogen Idec Foundation of Cambridge, MA to the Winter Hill Community Innovation School for use in their Science program.

Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to accept the donations, with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone

1. Applications for the Math Fund's Scrap Heap Showdown are due on October 17 and the showdown will take place on 10/26.
2. Announced that, in addition to a monetary donation, Shaw's also donated ice cream for the Kennedy School's Ice Cream Sundae Night.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Kennedy School Open House tomorrow
2. Tufts Community Day is October 5th.
3. Search process update –
 - Three consultants were in the District for two 2 full days and Met with 20 sets of stakeholder groups encompassing a full range of areas – staff, community, parents, etc.
 - During this time, there were also three public meetings held - one in the morning, and two in the evening, with one of the evening meetings being conducted in Spanish.
 - There was also an online survey developed and posted on the District's website, which is still open for input. So far, there have been 320 responses received.
 - School Committee members have also been holding individual meetings. The dates and locations of these meetings can be found on the website.

- The next step is that consultants will take the information gathered from the meetings and surveys and construct a leadership profile which will be reviewed with the School Committee on October 2nd.
- It will be tight for the consultants to get the profile to us, but we will probably get the draft on the Tuesday prior to our next meeting.
- Hopefully we can vote on the profile on October 2nd so recruitment can begin.
- Everyone should know that there will be more opportunities for involvement in the future. The Screening Committee has been chosen and includes three community members. The Interview Committee is still to be determined.

Mr. Sweeting

1. Asked members to repost their upcoming meetings relative to the Superintendent Search.

Ms. Pitone read the remaining meeting dates and times aloud for the viewing audience.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Agenda

Minutes of September 8, 2014

Personnel Demographic Reports

Copies of four (4) policies being presented for first reading

MSBA Enrollment Certification Form and accompanying documents

Request for one (1) Somerville High School diploma

Three (3) field trip approval request forms

Six (6) donation acceptance forms

A copy of a letter from Commissioner Mitchell D. Chester

A copy of the Duhamel Education Initiative's Flyer re: their Fall Fundraiser

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, October 6, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White (7:07 p.m.), Mr. Roix, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Normand, Mayor Curtatone (7:56 p.m.) and Ms. Rafal.

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:02 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Ms. Rafal asked for a roll call, the results of which are as follows: - Present – 7 – Sweeting, Roix, Pitone, Bockelman, Futrell, Rafal, and Normand and ABSENT – 2 – White and Curtatone.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Call to order with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Joshua Ojo was absent this evening due to death of grandmother

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 22, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the minutes of September 22, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee Meeting: Oct. 1 (Mr. Sweeting)

Finance and Facilities Subcommittee meeting: October 1, 2014, 42 Cross Street

Subcommittee members in attendance: Adam Sweeting (Chair); Dan Futrell; Laura Pitone. Other members of the School Committee present: Paul Bockelman, Christine Rafal, Carrie Normand, and Steve Roix.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Pierantozzi; Finance Director Durette; and Dorothy Scally from the Somerville Teachers Association.

Mr. Sweeting called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

There were seven items on the agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes for September 3, 2014 meeting of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee.

Motion: Mr. Futrell made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Pitone. The motion passed unanimously by 3-0 voice vote.

2) Review of School Revolving Accounts. Ms. Durette reviewed the 28 revolving accounts overseen by the Finance Office. Ms. Durette answered questions from School Committee members

3) Facilities Update. The Subcommittee reviewed a September 23 letter from Kathleen Seward, the principal of the Brown School. The letter outlined the numerous maintenance job performed at the school during the summer months. The letter also outlines issues concerning space use and overcrowding at the Brown. School Committee members discussed a timeline for making decisions regarding classroom space at the Brown.

Superintendent Pierantozzi updated the School Committee on all repair works and ongoing maintenance at other schools.

4) Review of School Grant Accounts. Ms. Durette reviewed all state, federal, and private grants within the Somerville Public Schools. She also outlined the process by which the School Department researches and applies for grants.

5) FY 2015 Expenditure Report – Ms. Durette reviewed FY 2015 Expenditure Report of September 30, 2014.

6) FY 2014 and FY 2015 Bill Rolls –

Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone to accept the FY 2014 Bill Rolls. The motion passed unanimously by 3-0 voice vote.

Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell to accept the FY 2015 Bill Rolls. The motion passed unanimously by 3-0 voice vote.

7) Other

Ms. Durette brought to the School Committee's attention at request by the Food Services Department to declare a 1999 Chevy Truck as surplus material.

Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone to declare the truck as surplus material. The motion passed by 3-0 voice vote.

Mr. Sweeting suggested that he would like to re-open discussions concerning a proposed Somerville Schools Foundation at the next meeting of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the FY2014 bill roll. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the FY2015 bill roll. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to declare as surplus a 1999 Chevy Truck, VIN # 1GBJ7H1COXJ102799, formerly being used by our Food Service Department. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the report and minutes of the Chair of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee for the meeting of October 1, 2014. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. School Committee Meeting for Personnel – Superintendent Search: Oct. 2 (Mr. Bockelman)

A meeting of the School Committee Meeting for Personnel regarding the Superintendent Search was held in the Central Office Conference Room at 42 Cross Street on October 2, 2014.

Members present: Paul Bockelman (chair), Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, Dan Futrell, Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone, Steve Roix, William White, Joseph Curtatone

Staff present: Assistant Superintendent Vince McKay, Susana Hernandez Morgan

Others present: John Connolly

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Minutes

Mr. Sweeting moved to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2014 meeting as presented. Ms. Normand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Public Meetings – Updates from School Committee members

Each member of the School Committee reported on the constituent/information meetings they held throughout the city. A total of nine meetings were held in addition to the meetings conducted by the Consultant. Each of the nine sessions attracted numerous people – parents, teachers, and interested members of the public – and the themes expressed were similar.

3. Leadership Profile

Mr. Connolly presented the Leadership Profile developed by his firm. He and his colleagues were very impressed with the positive comments expressed by so many of those interviewed. He said it was as positive response as he had seen in his forty searches.

The report was a summary of the comments that were gathered during the consultants' two days in the City and the results of the online survey.

Members of the Committee expressed concern that this document would be released and seen as summarizing the situation in the School District. Members noted specific instances where the comments in the report were not accurate.

After discussion, it was agreed that members would pass along their comments on the report to Mr. Bockelman by Thursday, October 9th. Also, Mr. Futrell and Ms. Pitone agreed to work on a short piece that would summarize the District and the opportunities and challenges that a new superintendent would face. They agreed that a version of their work would be prepared by Thursday, October 16th.

4. Schedule

Mr. Connolly and Mr. Bockelman reviewed a proposed schedule for the rest of the search process with a goal of a decision by the School Committee by the end of the calendar year. Mr. White asked if the Subcommittee interviews could be taped and shared with the entire School Committee. Mr. Connolly believed that would be either or both a violation of the open meeting law and the promise of confidentiality given to candidates at that stage of the process.

5. Interview Questions

Members agreed that they would submit to Mr. Bockelman suggested questions to be posed by the Subcommittee meeting by Monday, October 20th and Mr. Bockelman will summarize the questions and submit them to Mr. Connolly by Friday, October 25th.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Superintendent Search Committee will be on November 12th at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Personnel for the Superintendent Search of October 2, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- NO SCHOOL on Friday, October 10th due to a scheduled PD day. Monday, October 13th is Columbus Day; all schools and district offices will be closed on Monday.
- The Somerville High School Auditorium renovation is being finalized with cleanup tomorrow. The room will be used for events on Wednesday and Friday and we are working with the Mayor's Office on a grand reopening celebration. Thanked the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, School Committee, students and staff for support and patience over the past couple of years.
- The Somerville High School Kitchen is in full swing. A few more parts are on order, but the kitchen is fully functional.
- Room 143 at Somerville High School needs one more inspection, which is taking place over the next day or so, then the room will be cleaned and set up with furniture and equipment with the expectation that students may start attending in about a week.
- "Supporting Literacy" Volunteer Training on Wednesday, October 8th, 6-8pm at the Argenziano School.

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

SHS Students Earn National Merit Scholarship Program Recognition

Congratulations to Somerville High School seniors Graham Lessard-Brandt, Maxwell Freitas and Julian Layton for earning National Merit Scholarship Program recognition. Max and Julian were named Commended Students for placing among the top 5% of more than 1.5 million students who took the 2013 PSAT. Graham was recently named a Semifinalist in the competition, even more selective, and now

has the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level, which would allow him to vie for a National Merit Scholarship and the Merit Scholar title. Congratulations to all 3 students, and good luck to Graham.

Wednesday October 15 is PSAT testing day at Somerville High School. That morning, all 600 10th and 11th graders at SHS as well as 6 students from Full Circle High School will take the PSAT. The district offers this exam to 10th and 11th graders as part of our college and career readiness commitment WHY? Because it prepares them for success on the SAT and AP as well as helping them create a college and career plan. On average, students who take the PSAT score over 100 points higher on the SATs. When students receive their scores in December, they will have access to a program called My College Quick Start, which is a personalized website based on their scores and their interests (they take a survey on the PSAT about their career and college interests). They can learn more about careers they might want to pursue, colleges that match their interests. Students will explore this website in depth in their Advisory classes this winter as a kickoff to the official start of their college and career planning program.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING MEETINGS:

School-based planning meetings, intensive data review leading to recommendations for the school-based teams can best support their improvement efforts. By mid-year, these recommendations will feed into the school improvement plans, presented to you and the community, a strategic plan aimed at targeting their school's resources to the best way, to improve student learning.

School Councils, too, are key players in this process. The annual School Council orientation and informational meeting takes place this Thursday, October 9 at 6:30pm, SHS Library.

Early Education – as part of our new Early Education Director Dr. Lisa Kuh, she and I have been visiting early childhood classrooms across the district at West Somerville, Winter Hill, Kennedy and Capuano and of course, the Healey – HeadStart Pre-K.

October 10 – full day of learning for our professional staff. Comprehensive agenda

Corn Shucking at ESCS was a lot of fun, as always, and the corn, which was served at lunch, was delicious!

The Superintendent continued his District Report:

- Mr. Pierantozzi took the early shift at the East Somerville for corn shucking. The corn was delicious and locally grown.
- The Superintendent has received notification from DESE that our MCAS scores and ranking are now official. Somerville is the #1 ranked urban district. We are also in the top 8% of the state. Congratulations to our teachers, administrators and students! This accomplishment was reached by following an aligned curriculum, not by drilling and teaching to the test.
- On Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m., at the Kennedy School, there will be a presentation made by the Director and Assistant Director of Special Education on Positive Behavior Intervention Supports for children with Special Needs.
- On Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the East Somerville Community School, there will be a training session for people interested in becoming an interpreter for the District.

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

- The District has received notification that the Circuit Breaker reimbursement being awarded this year is \$2,067,716.00 and that this money will be used to offset the FY16 budget. This represents a 72% reimbursement rate. This fund was established to offset expenses associated with the high costs of providing services of our special needs students whose needs cannot be met within the District.
- In related news, the Finance Office will be audited this year by the DESE with regard to the Circuit Breaker Fund. Auditors will look at students' IEPs and related services to examine claims, etc.
- We have also been informed that the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System (MTRS) will be performing an audit with regard to employee census data.

Mr. Sweeting asked about how these audits are scheduled – are they on a regular cycle or random? Ms. Durette responded that it is a little of both. Some audits are done via cycle and others are not.

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that we are lucky with regard to our audits because our Finance Department is always "audit ready".

The Superintendent continued his District report:

- Update on the Coordinated Program Review (CPR). The visiting team will be in the District on January 28 and 29 to meet with staff from the Special Education and ELL Department. They will do their full District visit on March 10, 11, 12 and 13.
- The Somerville High School College Fair will take place on October 22nd in the Field House from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All students and families are welcome – not just high school aged – and, thus far, there are over 60 college representatives registered to attend.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public School Policy Manual

The following policies were submitted this evening for ***second*** reading:

- File: IJNDD – Social Networking Policy of the Somerville Public Schools

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve File IJNDD, Social Networking Policy of the Somerville Public Schools, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- File: JH – Student Absences and Excuses, as amended

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve File JH, Student Absences and Excuses, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- File: JIC (formerly JK) – Student Discipline, as amended

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve File JIC, Student Discipline, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- File: JII – Student Complaints and Grievances, as amended

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve File JII, Student Complaints and Grievances, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

- The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of \$3,500.00 from the Duhamel Education Initiative of Somerville, MA. These funds will be used to purchase books to establish a lending library for students/families to support the Healey School's Head Start PK Class.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of \$7,500.00 from Lawrence Coolidge, on behalf of the Mifflin Memorial Fund of Boston, MA to the El Sistema Program's "Musicians with a Mission" program of the Somerville Public Schools.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of \$3,000.00 from Joyce Kulhawik, of Foxboro, MA, on behalf of the Marilyn Rodman Theatre for Kids, to the El Sistema Program's "Commission Project" program of the Somerville Public Schools.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Field Trips (recommended action: approval)**Oct. 10-11, 2014**

Somerville High School Cross Country runners to Manhattan College, NY to compete. Transportation via mini buses. Cost to students is limited to money for their own meals.

Nov. 5-7, 2014

Brown School Grade 6 students to Groton, MA, overnight, to attend Nature's Classroom. Transportation via bus. Cost to students is \$80.00.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion seconded by Mr. Roix to waive the reading of the field trips and approve.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Shore Collaborative

Members voted on amended articles to the agreement with Shore Collaborative.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the amended articles to the agreement with Shore Collaborative.

Discussion ensued regarding tuition costs for Shore Programs, non-profit status, weighted voting, etc.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Part of this agreement establishes a seat on Shore's Board of Directors for a member of the Somerville School Committee. Ms. Rafal asked members to inform her of their interest.

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

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

- Xintao Liang
- Jose Rodriguez
- Thinlay Thinlay
- Lucas Villanueva

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the Somerville High School graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. Voting Delegate - MASC/MASS Joint Conference, November 5-7, 2014

School Committee Vote: Members of the School Committee elected an official voting delegate and alternate for the November, 2014 Annual Business Meeting of the MASC.

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to elect Mr. Futrell as the voting delegate at the MASC Conference.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to elect Ms. Pitone as the alternate delegate at the MASC Conference.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

F. MASC/MASS Joint Conference Resolutions

At our next meeting on October 20th, members will vote on the following resolutions being forwarded by MASC's Resolutions Committee for consideration:

- Resolution 1: Greater Transparency and Accountability for Out of District Placement Costs
- Resolution 2: Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts
- Resolution 3: Charter School Reform
- Resolution 4: Fingerprinting
- Resolution 5: Reinstitution of Earmarking
- Resolution 6: Unfunded Mandates and New Testing
- Resolution 7: Assessment System in Massachusetts

G. Domestic Violence

Alderman White inquired as to how we address the issue of domestic violence with our students. This includes students who have been victims themselves as well as those who see this in the home, etc.?

What are the mechanisms for intervention? Are there curricula in place to discuss violence?

Mr. Pierantozzi responded that all staff are mandated reporters and that any kind of violence is reported to the state via phone and in writing. Also, every year, all staff members participate in an online training regarding Mandated Reporting.

Along these lines, students at Somerville High School will take part in an assembly regarding Rachel's Challenge. Rachel's Challenge includes a series of student empowering, educator motivating programs and strategies called the Awaken the Learner Five-step School Improvement Process that equips students and adults to create and sustain safe, caring and supportive learning environments essential for academic achievement. The programs are based on the writings and life of 17 year-old Rachel Scott who was the first student killed at Columbine High School in 1999. Rachel left a legacy of reaching out to those who were different, who were picked on by others, or who were new at her school.

Alderman White requested written analysis with numbers - including information on those who were victims and those who witnessed home violence with follow up by us.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Normand

1. West Somerville Neighborhood School is selling discount cards to be used at local businesses. These are available now. Contact the PTA for more information.

Bockelman

1. The City is relocating polling places into more schools and there are pluses and minuses to that. Students are displaced when school is in session during elections, especially the Brown School. We had asked for a safety plan for every polling place and he isn't sure if a report was every received. Concerns are high and there are no easy solutions to finding good polling places, but would ask us to have the Elections Commission revisit the Brown School and try to find an alternate place.

Mayor Curtatone responded that the City is examining the whole Elections Department and shared that there are major access issues across the City which limits buildings that can be used for elections. Students from the Kennedy School of Government are assisting with this project and major changes may be made in the future. Evaluation is ongoing now. Security is always an issue but particularly in today's day and age.

2. The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meets on Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. On the agenda are MCAS results and overviews of guidance and technology (coding),

Futrell

1. The Argenziano is starting a new newsletter system and sending out twice a month.
2. They have also developed a Volunteer Survey which will be going out soon.
3. On Wednesday, there will be a Volunteer Training Night led by Literacy Coach Alex Hersey.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Bernard O'Neil, husband of Martha O'Neill, paraprofessional at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School. Mr. O'Neil is also the brother of Mariann Ferraro, retired teacher from the Healey School and brother-in-law of Frank Ferraro, retired principal from the Somerville Public Schools.
- Mary Carafotes, retired music teacher serving the City of Somerville at the High School for 32 years and also the mother of Sophia Carafotes and Victoria Macrokanis, both teachers at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
- Mary Hanson, retired Food Service worker for the Somerville Public Schools and mother of Glenn Hanson, Utility Aide at Somerville High School.
- Mary Otuka Opara, grandmother of Joshua Ojo, Student Representative to the School Committee.

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

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Agenda

Minutes of September 22, 2014

Policies for second reading and vote

Three (3) donation acceptance forms

Two (2) field trip forms

A packet of information from Shore Collaborative

A request for diplomas for four (4) Somerville High School students

Two (2) thank you letters for donations

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, October 20, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Roix, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Normand, Mayor Curtatone (7:57 p.m.) and Ms. Rafal.

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of 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 – 8 – Sweeting, Roix, Pitone, Bockelman, Futrell, Rafal, White and Normand and ABSENT – 1 – Curtatone.

I. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our student representative, Joshua Ojo, provided his report on happenings at Somerville High School. Joshua's report included the following:

- Two weeks ago, students were finally able to attend an event in the newly renovated auditorium. "Rachel's Challenge" is a program which helps equip students and adults to create and sustain safe, caring and supportive learning environments essential for academic achievement. The programs are based on the writings and life of 17 year-old Rachel Scott who was the first student killed at Columbine High School in 1999.
- Students are looking forward to the Homecoming football game on Friday night and dance on Saturday night. Students are currently voting for a king and queen as well as a court of three other males and three other females.
- The College Fair is scheduled for Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. in the field house. There are approximately 90 colleges sending representatives. Students from all grade levels and their families are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- There is a group of students at the high school who have become self-proclaimed student petitioners. Mr. Ojo gave the School Committee the heads up regarding a couple of issues this group is currently focusing on:
 - A change to the format of the Multi-cultural Fair from a full-day to lunch-time only with dances and performances taking place outside of the school day.
 - Food portion sizes in the cafeteria. Students do not feel they are receiving enough food at lunch.

Mr. Ojo realizes the portion size is controlled at the federal level, but wants the School Committee to be aware of the dissatisfaction of the students.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the minutes of October 6, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting: Oct. 6 (Mr. Roix)

The Rules Management Subcommittee met on October 6, 2014 at the City Hall Conference room at 93 Highland Ave.

In attendance were Steve Roix, Dan Futrell and Carrie Normand; Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi and School Committee members, Christine Rafal, Laura Pitone also two members of the public. Meeting convened at 6:03PM.

- Discussed draft policy File ADDA Background Checks and file ADDA-R DCJIS Model CORI policy
We deliberated the recommended policy update on background checks for educators that was written by the MASC - in response to a change in state law that brings Massachusetts - as the final state- to adopt a federal program which checks school employees fingerprints against the FBI's criminal history

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.

database and which will reveal any criminal convictions that happen anywhere in United States, not just in Massachusetts. Of course this still retains the Massachusetts CORI background checks which shows any and all court actions, but only in Massachusetts.

The revised policies file ADDA and ADDA-R reflect the update to the law, and I believe the fingerprinting for employees has begun or is imminent. The motion in the Rules Management Subcommittee included a recommendation of rescinding files ADDA-E1, ADDA-E2, and ADDA-E3 which become obsolete with the adoption of the amended files ADDA and ADDA-R.

Motion: to forward file ADDA Background Checks and file ADDA-R DCJIS Model CORI policy , as amended, and recommend to rescind policies ADDA-E1, ADDA-E2 and ADDA-E3 the full School Committee for consideration.

Motion by C. Normand, Second by D. Futrell; Motion passed 3-0

- Discussed file JICFB Bullying Policy with respect to the changes passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor just this past April to the Massachusetts Bullying Law of 2010.
We just received the update to the administrative document called the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, which is referred to in the Bullying Policy and mandated by the Bullying Law. That was updated to be compliant and consistent with the law, and we deliberated changes to make our Policy document consistent, on a broad policy level.
we added a paragraph to the reporting and responding section both to reflect the spirit of the changes to the law - which specifically make mention to bullying incidents involving vulnerable populations including but not limited to LGBT youth and youth in LGBT families.
Also we added a specific reference in the policy to the DESE Problem Resolution System, as the system identified by the department as the receptacle for mandatory annual incident reporting involving bullying, as required by the law.

Motion: to forward file JICFB Bullying Policy, as amended, to the full School Committee for consideration.

Motion by D. Futrell, Second by C. Normand; Motion passed 3-0

- Discussed file JK (formerly JIC) Student Conduct
Revision coded by the MASC in response to changes to state laws; specifically to make policy in compliance with Chapter 222 of the acts of 2012
Formerly (would replace) file JIC Student Discipline -

Motion: to approve file: JK Student Conduct, as amended, and forward to the full School Committee for consideration.

Motion by C. Normand, Second by D. Futrell; Motion passed 3-0

Adjourned at 6:50 PM.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the report of the Chair of the Rules Management Subcommittee for the meeting of October 6, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting: Oct. 14 (Mr. Bockelman)

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met on October 14, 2014 in the Conference Room at 42 Cross Street.

Members present: Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone, and Paul Bockelman

Others present: Steve Roix and Dan Futrell

Staff present: Vince McKay, Tony Pierantozzi, Kenya Avant-Ransome, Charlie LaFauci, Melanie Kessler, Traci Small, Uri Harel

Other present: Six members in the audience

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

1. MCAS 2014: Assistant Superintendent Vince McKay reviewed the District's recent MCAS score results. He introduced the School District's new data Analyst Kenya Avant-Ransome who presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation of the score results. She noted that the significant upward performance trends continue. In fact, (see notes). Uri Harel then addressed the "why", "what" and "how" questions. Why now? What factors influenced the change? How did you do it? Mr. Harel said that,

from his examination of the data and his involvement in the classroom, it was his opinion, and Dr. McKay agreed that the following were key factors in making these improvements: (a) Fidelity to the curriculum – the District chose some very challenging programs to implement and that decision has paid off, although it took a little bit of time; (b) our teaching staff is getting better and smarter at planning their lessons which influences their effectiveness as teachers. This was supported by the District's investment in a team of coaches that helped individual teachers work on things that they, themselves, identified as needing improvement. (c) the third factor was that teachers are implementing a higher student talk ratio which means students are actively engaging in the curriculum in the classrooms, a move away from the teacher in the front of the classroom "pouring" knowledge into students' brains. (d) the fourth factor was the increased and more intelligent use of formative assessments. These are targeted tests given with some frequency that provide near immediate feedback to the teacher so that she or he can see what is working and where students are not grasping key subject matter. The introduction of X Block and tutoring also has had an impact because once a weakness is identified, the time and resources are there to help the student learn the material. (e) And, lastly, teachers have embraced tips and strategies to explicitly improve their teaching

2. Career and College Readiness: The Director of Career and College Readiness, Melanie Kessler, provided an overview of the K-12 initiative. This is her first year on the job. She described the new college and career guidance activities she was introducing, including the recent purchase of the Naviance software by the District. She will be working to educate colleges about the Somerville "brand". High quality colleges are seeking talented, diverse students and we have them! She emphasized that Access does not equal Success. That merely getting students into college is not enough. They have to be prepared and actually succeed in attaining their college degree. She described a process that starts in Kindergarten, continues through the elementary schools, and culminates at graduation from high school and beyond. She and Traci Small provided details on the post-secondary status of the 2014 graduates from Somerville High School. She reported that the SHS class of 2014 received acceptances at 138 post-secondary institutions in 17 different states as well as D.C. and Canada. Over one-half of the 4-year college bound students were on free or reduced lunch and over one-half spoken a language other than English as their primary language. Graduates received over \$3 million in financial aid including 3 Posse scholarships which equates to nearly a quarter million dollars each, 2 Doris York scholarship for the same value, 1 Gates Millennium scholarship which, in addition to the quarter million dollars qualifies the student to receive additional funding for graduate school, 78 John and Abigail Adams scholarships and over \$200,000 provided by the Somerville Community and especially the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation. She also reported on the SAT and AP test results.
3. Technology Brief: Library-Media Supervisor Charlie LaFauci presented an update or scan of the technology developments in the District including new technology initiatives supported by his department. He summarized the hardware being introduced, the very successful Hour of Code that was implemented in every school last year – and plans to expand this effort this year with the assistance of numerous volunteers from the technology field. And he demonstrated Google Classroom, which has been made available to all teachers. He said every student in the District has a Google Drive account that will, with training, become an indispensable tool in his or her learning in the coming years. There was also discussion about the value of assisted technologies that devices like the iPad provide.
4. Updates
Dr. McKay updated the committee on the Beyond MCAS research study being led by Holy Cross professor and Somerville resident Dr. Jack Schneider, the STAR assessment tests that are replacing the MAPS tests, the Code for America fellowship announcement, and an update on the Winter Hill Innovation Community School and other issues.

At time, 9:30 p.m. Ms. Pitone moved to adjourn. Ms. Normand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the report of the Chair of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee for October 14, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Personnel Report

Members have received a Personnel Report in this week's packet. The report includes the following:

- 9 retirements of which 3 are new:
 - ✓ Carla Lincoln after 23 years as a cook for our Food Service Department
 - ✓ John "Jay" Hart after 29 years in the CVTE Department of Somerville High School
 - ✓ Jane Cohen after 25.5 years in the Art Department

These three retirements represent 79 years total service to the Somerville Public Schools. We will miss these staff members, but wish them years of health and happiness.

- 6 resignations
- 13 Leaves of Absence
- 3 Intra-district transactions and
- 47 new hires

Mr. Pierantozzi also provided a report on a statistical review of the hiring season:

- 33 resignations (retirements)
- 23 LOAS
- 45 intra district
- 158 new hires

Mr. Pierantozzi commended the Human Resources Department staff for their work. He also thanked all who served on the many hiring teams.

As requested, the data from the exit surveys was sent to members. Departing staff members may complete a form either online or via a paper hard copy. Although we got low returns, the 20 people who did complete the survey provided favorable remarks and, overall, we are pleased with the report.

We have hired a very large amount of new people and, as of today, we have achieved total success with completing the hiring process, with the exception of some very recent resignations and some part-time Community Schools staff still needing to be hired.

Discussion ensued regarding how the number of hires this year compares with recent past years. This year's number is a little higher than last, but not by an outrageous amount.

B. District Report

Mr. Pierantozzi thanked Mr. Ojo for mentioning the College Fair during his report. The College Fair event is open to all students, not just high school aged students. The College and Career Readiness Director is a K12 position, not just high school. The plan is to start with high school, then middle grades, then intermediate, then primary so all students are being prepared for college and/or careers. The goal is to prepare all of our students. We no longer speak of if a student goes to college, we say when!

The Superintendent reported on the new background checks currently being required in Massachusetts. We now have two concurrent systems, CORI, which is state wide and is done electronically and provides a fast 24 hour turnaround. It, essentially does an electronic search of court records so if a person ever even appeared in court, a record would be returned. It does not just provide conviction information. Fingerprinting is very different. CORI is free, but fingerprinting is \$55 for licensed educators and \$35 for all non-licensed staff. Fingerprinting is being rolled out by the State and started in September 2013. By 2016, all staff need to be fingerprinted. This process runs a check against the FBI registry (convictions only). As members probably saw in an email –in the next few weeks (10/22-11/18) a fingerprinting company (vendor) is scheduled to be on site at each program/school for convenience of staff. Pre-registration/payment is needed and theoretically all staff could be fingerprinted by 11/18. All results are confidential with only the Superintendent and Human Resources Administrator getting results.

Discussion ensued about privacy, storage and destruction of these records.

Ms. Durette is not in attendance this evening because she was ill today and did not report to work.

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

Google Classroom: Access issue.... Teachers do make the traditional paper access available to any students who might not have computer access outside of school. Also, our extended library hours program allows after school access to the library computers.

But we're very excited about the potential for Google classroom... Our IT Dept. has been ahead of the curve on this, with Google tools in use for the past 2-3 years, so we were ready to jump this summer when the new features were added this past summer. As you heard Mr. Ojo mention, more and more teachers are embracing this as a central teaching tool. Seems especially effective in supporting the writing process, allowing better/faster feedback for students to improve their written product. We

have provided teachers some professional development in this area.... We're running a weekly session right now, and will continue to promote this.

COLLEGE FAIR: Wednesday October 22 6:30pm in the SHS Field House – there will be 75 colleges in attendance.

We have all types of post-secondary options - 2 year private colleges, community colleges, 4 year state colleges, 4 year private colleges, and a few military branches.

We'll also be offering dinner before the fair to all of the college reps. This meeting time gives our guidance staff a chance to network and talk with them. It's also an opportunity for the colleges to get to know our school and the amazing students we graduate.

This came up at the CRR presentation at the Ed Pgms subcommittee last week, Mr. Bockelman mentioned this in his report..... College representatives tell us that every high school's graduates have a certain qualities in common, a set of skills as well as other personal qualities that set them apart. You might even call it a Somerville High "brand."

Our CCR / Guidance team thinks about this a lot, making sure these schools understand the qualities that make our students special.

We're also giving the college reps a magnet with a picture of SHS for them to have.

The counselors will be running a Counselor Corner in the field house to help students and families navigate the fair.

All students in grades 9-12 have received invitations, but everyone is invited.

Students/families attending will receive a nice canvas bags with the SHS logo on it to put all of the brochures and papers they collect.

One of the those long-running annual STEM events takes place this weekend, the Scrapheap Showdown sponsored by our friends at the Somerville Mathematics Fund takes place this Sunday, Oct 26. Noon at the Gantcher Center at Tufts. It's a "build" event, where students are presented with a challenge or problem. Each team gets the same raw material and the afternoon to create their solution as a team. Judging doesn't begin until 5pm!

We have 8 three-person teams from Somerville High participating, and it should be great fun.

This event is also a fund-raiser for the Math Fund. Information on donations to the Fund can be found at somervillemathematicsfund.org

Thanks to Erica Voolich and the Fund for organizing the Showdown, as well as the grants program that provides so much support for our students, teachers and building an appreciation for mathematics in Somerville!

Joshua Ojo reported that, regarding Google Classroom, students are really happy using it for homework, extra help online, etc. Also, for those students who do not have computer access at home, they can access the program using their smart phones, which many students do have, as well as use the High School library or receive the information in hard copy format.

The Superintendent continued his District Report:

- Informed members that they were sent a copy of the Halloween safety memo last week.

Mayor Curtatone arrived @ 7:57 p.m.

- Reported on the importance of returning phone calls, in particular his return of a call approximately four (4) years ago to the Los Angeles based nephew of a member of the Class of 1937 – Mr. Lupi. Mr. Lupi expressed a desire to leave 10% of his estate to Somerville High School, upon his passing. Four years ago, Mr. Lupi was still alive and well and planning his estate. Upon conversing with Mr. Lupi's nephew, Mr. Pierantozzi contacted Joe Favaloro of the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation and thus began an exchange of paperwork. A couple of years ago, Mr. Lupi passed away, and now the process to receive disbursement has begun. Four years ago, five (5) administrators were called by Mr. Lupi's nephew and Mr. Pierantozzi was the only one who called back. Because of that phone call, we will receive 50% of disbursement, rather than 10%. As of right now, Mr. Lupi's estate is valued at \$1,116,000.00. We will receive over \$500,000 to allow us to provide scholarships in Mr. Lupi's name in perpetuity. The Superintendent thanked the Scholarship

Foundation's Board of Directors for following up. The paperwork was intensive but it is incredible to think we will be getting that kind of money from someone who, after graduation went on to serve in World War 2 and then went on to college and then settled in California but was left with incredible memories of Somerville High School and Somerville. There is still one piece of Mr. Lupi's property that has not yet been sold so the value of his estate will increase. The moral of this story is that if students do the work and put in the effort, we will help you attend college. The Superintendent encouraged Mr. Ojo to go back to the student body and relay this story to them.

- We have completed our seventh full week of school and November 7th is the end of the first quarter.
- Election Day is November 4th and there is no school for students, only Professional Development for staff that day

Ms. Rafal reminded members that she is waiting for someone to volunteer to be the SHORE Collaborative representative. If no one volunteers, someone will have to be appointed!

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public School Policy Manual

The following policies were submitted this evening for first reading, as amended:

- File: ADDA – Background Checks
- File: ADDA-R – DCJIS Model CORI Policy
- File: JICFB – Bullying Policy
- File: JK – Student Conduct (formerly JIC)

B. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

- The Superintendent recommended the acceptance, with gratitude, of \$150.00 from Christopher Beagan of Medford, MA to the El Sistema Program of the Somerville Public Schools.

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

C. Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

April 14, 2015

Somerville High School Science League to Cape Elizabeth, Maine to compete in a Science League event. Transportation via bus 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.

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

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for graduation from Somerville High School, be granted his diploma:

- Raequan West

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the high school diploma. The motion was approved via voice vote.

E. MASC/MASS Joint Conference Resolutions

Members discussed the following resolutions forwarded by MASC's Resolutions Committee for consideration:

- Resolution 1: Greater Transparency and Accountability for Out of District Placement Costs
- Resolution 2: Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts
- Resolution 3: Charter School Reform
- Resolution 4: Fingerprinting
- Resolution 5: Reinstitution of Earmarking
- Resolution 6: Unfunded Mandates and New Testing
- Resolution 7: Assessment System in Massachusetts

Ms. Rafal read the text of first resolution and asked how members wished to advise the voting delegate on this issue.

Mr. Sweeting stated that he trusts the delegates to make informed decisions and vote their conscience and suggested that we trust them to make good decisions for all resolutions. Members agreed with Mr. Sweeting and no further action was needed.

Ms. Rafal asked if there were any other items of new business.

Mr. Sweeting responded that he has a scheduling issue with respect to the November Finance & Facilities Subcommittee meeting. He suggested that this meeting be held on November 10th, prior to the Educational Programs and Instruction Meeting that night and members agreed.

Mr. Bockelman provided an update on the Superintendent Search.

He has received comments from some people regarding the report from Hazzard, Young and Attea (HYA) which members agreed should be cleaned up/edited and sent back to HYA.

The brochure type document is being developed and members were to send their comments to Mr. Futrell by last week.

Also, members have been asked to review the document that has the potential questions for interviews and to inform Mr. Bockelman of question preferences. These preferences were due back to Mr. Bockelman today and he asked that, if members have some, get them to Mr. Bockelman as soon as possible so that questions can be prioritized for the interview committee.

Mr. Futrell provided an update on the brochure being developed to provide key information to potential candidates. The first draft is ready and bullet points have been shared with members. These bullet points are to be used to filter candidates and there are some wording matters on the goal points.

Edits have been sent back from everyone here, including questions, and Mr. Futrell and Ms. Pitone have worked with the Mayor's staff and Superintendent's staff on the development of a narrative to include along with the data. He is aiming for a 10 bullet point list to be included with narratives/stories about the City and District and hopes to line them up to develop the story we want to tell.

Mr. Futrell will send the latest draft out to members and stated he feels it is reasonable to have the brochure done by end of the week.

Discussion took place regarding possibly meeting to review/deliberate. Mayor Curtatone suggested that the School Committee authorize the representatives to make the changes as they see fit.

The Superintendent added that this would essentially authorize a non-quorum subset of the Committee and cautioned that there may have already been some serial sharing of information via email correspondence.

Mr. Bockelman responded that there was no deliberating done, only individual comments between individual members.

It was decided that a meeting was not need and Mr. Sweeting requested that Mr. Futrell and Ms. Pitone be authorized to continue to develop the brochure.

VI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Sweeting

Mr. Sweeting reported that he has a scheduling issue with respect to the November Finance & Facilities Subcommittee meeting due to the MASS/MASC Conference that begins on that day. He suggested that this meeting be held on November 10th, prior to the Educational Programs and Instruction Meeting that night and members agreed.

The December Finance & Facilities meeting will also be piggybacked with Ed Programs due to the scheduling of events/meetings regarding the Superintendent Search.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Stanley Ankiewicz, father of John Ankiewicz, Technology Specialist for the Somerville Public Schools
- Clara Russell, retired Lunch Attendant at the Winter Hill Community School and wife of the late John Russell, retired Principal from the Winter Hill Community School and other schools of the Somerville Public Schools.
- Tina Pagliarulo, retired Somerville Public Schools Food Service employee and mother of Claire Goodwin, retired Somerville Public Schools secretary.
- William Livingston, father of Kathy DeYoung, secretary in the Highland House at Somerville High School.

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

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Agenda

Minutes of October 6, 2014

October 2014 Personnel Report

Policies for first reading

One (1) donation acceptance forms

One (1) field trip form

A request for a diploma for one (1) Somerville High School students

A copy of the MASC resolutions being voted on at the November meeting

Six (6) condolence letters

A copy of the signature page sent to Shore Collaborative regarding the recent vote on their latest agreement

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, November 3, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White (7:15 p.m.), Mr. Roix, Ms. Pitone (7:05 p.m.), Mr. Bockelman, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Normand, Mayor Curtatone (7:50 p.m.) and Ms. Rafal.

Members absent:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of 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 – 6 –Sweeting, Roix, Bockelman, Futrell, Rafal, Normand and ABSENT – 3 – Curtatone, White and Pitone.

I. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Joshua Ojo, was unable to attend this evening's meeting, but shared his report with the School Committee. Ms. Normand read the report to members and the viewing audience:

- First off I want to jump right into the pool, and say that with the student body finding out there has been no changes to "Multicultural Fair" as of now, they are highly thankful to the school committee for giving concrete information on the fact that no changes to multicultural fair have occurred. And the SHS student body believe, that if any changes are to occur, they should be addressed within the Culture Committee
- Secondly many students have been asking and would like to know, where the funds for our "Assemblies" come from? And they wanted to see if a Student/Teacher/Administrator Committee could be set up, so students of SHS could help decide what we do for assemblies and who we have come in for our assemblies.
- Halloween at SHS was nothing shy of amazing, the Seniors were really creative with their costumes, many of which made here own instead of buying. We had Mystic "From XMEN, The joker in a nurse suit, Mr. Dua in a female dress" it was really amazing, and this year the seniors kept themselves in order, no ruckus or running around the schools, so it was god to see such a great group of seniors that can have fun but also keep it all in order when it's time to.
- On a more positive note, Classes of 2015, 2016, and 2017 have begun ordering their class shirts, and the classes have begun rallying up their armies, chanting their class numbers throughout the halls, and preparing for the greatest glory of all: "Pep Rally Wars", in which all classes go to the Auditorium/Gym and they shout and chant their class numbers, claiming themselves better than the others.

Ms. Pitone arrived at 7:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 20, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2014 Regular Meeting.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. School Committee Meeting for Personnel – Superintendent's Evaluation: Oct. 27 (Ms. Rafal)

Called to order at 6:36 p.m. on October 27, 2014 at 42 Cross St

Members present: Adam Sweeting, Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone, Steven Roix, and Christine Rafal. Paul Bockelman arrived at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Others present: Tony Pierantozzi and a reporter from Somerville Journal.

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.

We discussed the process for the annual evaluation of the Superintendent, including his own practice of eliciting anonymous feedback from administrators and cabinet members and central office staff.

We looked at the rubrics the state provides, and to which we add sheets for the SC goals.

We provided DESE instructions on how to interpret the rubrics and the descriptors of each performance level.

We received a packet of last year's evaluation materials as examples.

We looked at a proposed timeline for carrying out the evaluation, and we passed to accept it with one amendment which was to put the meeting of the Special Committee for the evaluation of the Superintendent on the same day just an hour before the December 17 Executive Session. So the evaluation meeting will be at 6:30 and executive session will be at 7:30 that evening.

So we bring the motion to accept the timeline as amended.

We adjourned at 7:10.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the timeline for the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, as amended.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Personnel for October 27, 2014.
The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning: Oct. 27 (Ms. Rafal)

Called to order at 7:30 on October 27 at 42 Cross St

Members present: Adam Sweeting, Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone, Steven Roix, Christine Rafal, and Paul Bockelman.

Others present: Tony Pierantozzi, Pat Durette, Susana Hernandez Morgan and a reporter from Somerville Journal (in and out due to unfortunate events across the street that needed reporting).

This meeting was intended as a meta-meeting. After the topics related to space issues and educational equity had gone through both Ed Programs and Finance and Facilities, a School Committee member asked if we could have a Long Range Planning meeting not necessarily to solve them, but to develop a plan or an approach for how to go about addressing the concerns and needs.

The good problem the district is having is that more students are staying in the district longer, and more students are entering our schools each year: grades 3 and younger are each about 100 students larger than the classes in front of them. There are also a couple of cohorts with sort of bump or dip in their numbers compared to the other grades.

It is hard to predict what the future will look like in terms of space needs, both due to normal unpredictable factors and due to not knowing exactly what the feasibility study for a new high school will yield.

The business director Ms. Durette and the Superintendent looked classroom needs for five years out based on what we know now. They used an average class size of 23 students. I noted at the meeting that this is still a small class size, compared to national contexts where some education professors talk about 28 students as a good number and 24 as a small number. The Superintendent did point out that 23 students across the board would not happen in reality because we try to give families their first or at least second choice, and there are other considerations placing students such as needing special programs etc. But the district should theoretically have enough seats for the projected number of students until 2018-2019. But that would mean maxing out all the spaces in the district as a classroom.

By school year 2019-2020, the projections would show a need for three more classrooms. Since we don't really know what the district will look like and what the high school will look like by

then, we turned our attention to a more immediate space concern, which has been raised by a principal a couple of times and is what prompted looking across the district for space.

This immediate space concern is at the Brown School, where the principal has raised concerns about educational equity for students at the Brown. She thanked the Superintendent and the city for ongoing care and improvements to the building, especially some creative solutions to provide privacy for students receiving services like speech and language etc. But to give a couple of examples: bad weather or testing can throw off the carefully balanced space allocations and impede delivery of physical education or instrument lessons.

We have looked at this in several subcommittees now and members expressed varying concerns. One reason it went into Long Range is to look at how alleviating some of the space pressures at the Brown might impact any receiving schools. To be fair and to be clear, there is some feeling among the School Committee and Central Administration that one good option would be to make the Brown a K-5 school which would place 6th graders in schools where 6th graders are with other middle-grades students, 6th through 8th grade, and also create some efficiency for Spanish instruction.

But the consensus was to ask the principal and the Superintendent to raise the educational equity and space concerns with the Brown community to get their input.

We did not make any motion on this topic.

As far as planning for Long Range planning and/or under "other" some of the other topics SC members expressed interest in addressing in the future, like probably after we complete the Superintendent search, relate to Goals 4 and 2. Promoting a culture of Innovation and improving Student Achievement. Specifically, members asked for updates regarding Innovation planning at the Kennedy School and for STEAM Academy as well as mentioning that we will need to decide on reauthorizing WHCIS. And even though it went into effect a year before Innovation Schools came on the scene, members expressed interest in also hearing how well implementation of the Healey School's new model is going. For the WHCIS and the Healey we suggested that these might be good topics to hear about during School Improvement Plan presentations, and to have incorporated in School Improvement Plans.

Specifics about Goal 2: improving student achievement included revisiting the request to compare the current state of Middle Grades programming to the evaluation recommendations that had been received in 2007. Early in 2014 this was referred to Ed Programs. It will get to Ed Programs at some point soon. Another student achievement request was about evaluating the Special Education Department which the Superintendent suggested could begin in the spring after the coordinated program review finishes, and this would be the end of the new director's first year. He said an RFP for an evaluator can be presented at Ed Programs in January.

We adjourned at 9:10.

MOTION: Ms. Rafal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Long Range Planning for October 27, 2014. The motion was approved via voice vote.

Alderman White arrived at 7:15 p.m.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Report

- The El Sistema Harvest Concert was held on October 21st in the East Somerville Community School Auditorium.
- Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) STARS Residencies grant award of \$5,000 to the SPS Visual Arts Department and Arthur D. Healey School. Students will work with artist David Fichter to create a mosaic mural for display on the outside of the school building. The culminating event and unveiling is anticipated to take place sometime in June 2015.
- Statewide Farmers' Markets Tours 2014: Somerville Farm to School Project Director Karyn Novakowski and Food & Nutrition Services Director Lauren Mancini will be participating at the Statewide Farmers' Markets Tour at Davis Square this Wednesday at noon. Karyn will be giving a demonstration of what happens during apple tastes tests in our schools. "A Tale of

Two Apples" taste tests are happening throughout our District, with taste tests scheduled at a different school during lunch on Mondays through Dec. 1st.

The Superintendent deferred to Assistant Superintendent Vince McKay for his report on curriculum related matters. Dr. McKay's report included the following:
Professional Development Day tomorrow: This is a very important day for us, resources and the commitment it represents to the professional learning of nearly 500 educators here in the city. So I look at the schedule of planned activities very intently, because it's a key indicator of how we're doing as a team.

I am super-proud of our work planned for tomorrow. I will share a copy of that with you tomorrow.

Code for America: initial planning meeting last week, coders to be on site in February. I will present a more formal update in the month ahead as the details of the project are developed.

Whole Child – one of the MANY ways we support this in a meaningful way. We teach swimming skills to our students. MIT requires a swimming test as a condition for graduation, so we're in good company teaching swimming to our 3rd graders.
Pool visit last Friday – Grade 3 students from the AFA. Split between the swimmers – in the deep end – and the non-swimmers on the shallow end.
Shout out to our pool Director Richard Cheney and his team and the great work they do.

The Superintendent continued his district report:

- Parent/Guardian Conferences begin the week of November 17th. Check the website Calendar of Events for your schools' date and time.
- Wednesday, November 5th: SFLC Workshop - Parents & Teachers as Partners. 6:30-7:30pm at the WHCIS. Discuss communicating with your child's teacher about setting learning goals and how to support student success at home. Presenter – Meghan Bouchard, SFLC Program Liaison.
- Saturday, November 15th: Early Childhood Fair – Family Literacy Celebration. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this great annual event. 10a.m. to noon at the Healey School Gymnasium.

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director Pat Durette for her report on finance-related issues. Ms. Durette's report included the following:

Last week, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) performed an audit of the SCALE Adult Basic Education grant. Two days were spent reviewing all financial and other documents and we have received verbal notification that everything was in excellent order. Congratulations to Janice Philpot and the SCALE staff.

The FY14 Title I Audit will be included in this year's city audits. Lists of financial documents and other programmatic information, including a needs assessment are being sent to Powers and Sullivan.

In the last two weeks, two grant applications have been submitted to the DESE – a Safe and Supportive Schools grant for \$10,000 which will be used for behavioral health and an Early Childhood Special Education grant for \$8,550 which will be target for use for families of 3-5 year olds on IEPs for Early Intervention and increasing parent involvement. Ms. Durette thanked Susana Hernandez Morgan for her work on these grants.

The Superintendent continued his district report:

- Mr. Pierantozzi issued his thanks to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their financial support regarding the Somerville High School Kitchen and Auditorium reconstruction and to the School Committee for their support through the entire process. The grand reopening of the Somerville High School Centennial Auditorium will be held on Monday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m.
- On November 19th, the Somerville High School Construction Project will be put before the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Board of Directors where they will vote to approve our Feasibility Agreement (Phase 2). As you know, the Board of Aldermen has already approved the funding for the study. At this time, we will be approved for at least 72% reimbursement for the project and this percentage will very likely increase with time. Mr. Pierantozzi predicts that our reimbursement rate will be in the neighborhood of 80%.

- The Somerville High School CVTE Advisory Board met on October 28th and the group has grown so much that there are now approximately 100 members and they are outgrowing the space in the Highlander Café where they normally meet.
- Speaking of the Highlander Café, please consider having lunch there on any Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The café has new staff, a new décor and wonderful food at an unbelievable price!
- Lastly, there is no school tomorrow, Tuesday, November 4th – there will be professional development for staff, but, due to Election Day, there is no school for students.
- There is also no school on Tuesday, November 11th in recognition of Veterans Day. All Schools and offices will be closed.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public School Policy Manual

The following policies are being submitted this evening for SECOND reading and approval, as amended:

- File: ADDA – Background Checks

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to approve File ADDA, Background Checks, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- File: ADDA-R – DCJIS Model CORI Policy

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve File ADDA-R, DCJIS Model CORI Policy, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- File: JICFB – Bullying Policy

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve File JICFB, Bullying Policy, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

- File: JK – Student Conduct (formerly JIC)

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve File JK, Student Conduct, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to strike policies ADDA-E1, ADDA-E2 and ADDA-E3 from the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for graduation from Somerville High School, be granted his diploma:

- Uvesh Khalifa

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the Somerville High School graduate.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent requests the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of one (1) Pro-Ex Panini Maker, valued at \$1,000, from Tufts University to be used in the CTE Program at Somerville High School.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent requests the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of \$200.00 from Derrick Jackson of Cambridge, MA to the East Somerville Community School. These funds are to be used to purchase Spanish language books, DVDs and computer games.

MOTION: MR. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the donation with gratitude.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

Nov. 23-26, 2014

Somerville High School CTE students to Marlborough, MA, overnight, to participate in the Skills USA Leadership Training. Transportation via CTE bus. Cost per student is \$245.00.

Prior to taking a vote for approval, Mr. Pierantozzi informed members that the cost of the field trip is being covered by funds in the CTE budget.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Notes and handouts provided by Ms. Rossetti from her attendance at the NSBA Northeast Region Leadership Conference

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Futrell

1. The Argenziano PTA will hold bake sales at the school and police stations as fundraisers on Election Day.
2. Tomorrow night, they will also have a fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square.

Mr. Bockelman

An update was provided on the search for a new Superintendent. The update included the following information:

Where we are:

So, here is where we are as of the beginning of November. Our consulting firm – Hazard, Young and Attea – has advertised the position (see link here:

<http://www.topschooljobs.org/jobs/11443-95254/Superintendent-Somerville-Pu>) and is out recruiting candidates who might be a good fit for Somerville. This includes reviewing applications from people who have read the ad and applied, recruiting viable candidates, and meeting with some folks who might not realize that they would be great candidates.

What's next?

The School Committee has established an advisory committee that will conduct the first round of interviews. This first round of interviews – of about five candidates – will be done in Executive Session as permitted by law. School Committee member Adam Sweeting from Ward 3 will chair the interview process. He will be joined by School Committee members Carrie Normand from Ward 7, Laura Pitone from Ward 5, and Steve Roix from Ward 1. We have also invited three members of the public to participate. These members are: Ms. Nelia Braga, a teacher at Somerville High School and mother of two; Ms. Rupinder Kaur, a recent graduate from Somerville High School and currently a student at Wentworth Institute of Technology; and Ms. Lupe Ojeda, a parent of children in the district and a board member and parent leader at The Welcome Project.

These seven will interview the candidates and then narrow the list down to three finalists. This list of three will be presented to the full School Committee. Once the three names are presented, they become public.

We have reserved three days in December (December 2, 3, and 4) for full day visits from the candidates (one candidate each day). These full day visits will include an opportunity to meet with the public and a public interview with the full School Committee.

How can YOU be involved?

We will be seeking your thoughts and opinions before the School Committee makes a final decision. But it will be on a tight timeframe because we are trying to balance the desire for public input with the reality of how professional recruitment needs to occur.

Once we announce the names, you will have the opportunity to meet and observe the candidates. So mark your calendars for December 2, 3, and 4. (We haven't settled on times yet,

but will let you know as soon as we do.) The public interviews will also be televised on local cable television.

After you have seen all three candidates, we will be seeking your thoughts and impressions from December 4th through December 8th. We hope to vote on a final candidate on December 8th.

We recognize that it is a quick turnaround, but it is imperative that the School Committee move quickly to decide on our best candidate and get that person under contract.

Ms. Sweeting

1. Following up on the Election Day announcement, Mr. Sweeting encouraged everyone to get out and vote. All of the issues on the ballot affect Somerville.
2. Ward 3 has a change in polling place locations. People that used to vote in the Cummings School will now vote in the atrium of Somerville High School.
3. Reported on hosting 8th graders from the Healey School at an event at Boston University where Dr. Sweeting is a professor. Students met with the Dean, learned what courses are needed to get into college, learned the difference between a college and a university and went to see a pumpkin drop presentation that was made by the Physics Department. The kids were terrific and Mr. Sweeting is hoping to enlist community-based people who are also working in higher education to expand this program and for a network to share the wealth to more of our young people.
4. The Finance & Facilities Subcommittee will meet on November 10th at Cross Street. Although this should be a short meeting, discussion will take place regarding the Somerville Education Foundation and whether or not this is a good time to think about pursuing this idea or not.

Ms. Normand

1. Ward 7 voting has moved from the Teele Square Fire Station to the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
2. On Friday, the West Somerville School will celebrate their recent Level One MCAS status with a Leader of the Pack celebration.
3. Gave a shout out to the organizers of the College Fair for a great event.

Mr. Roix

1. Mr. Roix announced that people from precinct 2 and 3, who used to vote at the fire station or East Branch Library, will now vote at the East Somerville Community School.
2. Please consider supporting the Capuano and East Somerville PTAs when you vote tomorrow.

Ms. Rafal

1. Announced that some people who used to vote at the fire station will now vote at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Christe Christo, father of Christine Thompson, secretary in the Special Education Evaluation Center and grandfather of Caroline Thompson, paraprofessional at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School.
- Paul Tighe, retired teacher and counselor from the Somerville Public Schools and also the uncle of Catherine Tighe, academic coach at the Capuano and Healey.
- Daniel Frechette, husband of Margo Frechette, retired teacher from the Winter Hill and Powder House Schools.
- Mr. Carlos "Charlie" Medeiros, husband of Dolores Medeiros, Food Service employee at the Brown School.
- Mary Bean, mother of Ed Bean, Auditor and Director of Finance for the City of Somerville.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Agenda
Minutes of October 20, 2014
Two (2) donation acceptance forms
One (1) field trip form
A request for a diploma for one (1) Somerville High School students
Four (4) condolence letters
Four (4) donation thank you letters
Notes and handouts from the NSBA Northeast Leadership Conference

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, November 17, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Roix, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand, Mayor Curtatone (7:50 p.m.) and Ms. Rafal.

Members absent: Mr. Futrell

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of 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, Roix, Bockelman, Pitone, Rafal, Normand and ABSENT – 2 – Curtatone and Futrell. Ms. Rafal announced that Mr. Futrell was sorry to miss the meeting but he was in New York for his day job.

I. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Joshua Ojo, provided his report on happenings around Somerville High School:

- At a recent School Council meeting, members discussed the Freshmen experience including how they are doing; will their counselor be the same for all 4 years? It was suggested that half-way through the year that CTE students meet with their house counselor rather than just vocational counselor, etc. so that they have a relationship with that counselor should they not remain in the CTE program.
- Pep Rally hype – students are excited and anxious to show their school and class pride, etc. Recently, there was an issue where some students wanted the contests– pie eating, one legged race, etc. opened up to the entire school body. Members of the senior class were against this. The Somerville High School petitioners were off and running to make it a senior based thing and, in the end, the decision was made to keep it seniors only.
- Mr. Oteri thought it would be a good idea to start an assembly committee to help to develop a list of speakers and for high school students and staff a vote to give students and teachers a voice. Students from each grade will be part of the committee and will start with ideas for next year. Assemblies have been up and down- some great speakers and then some not so great.
- Multicultural Fair update – students have been afraid that the fair would not be happening at all, but, Mr. Oteri let us know that the Fair would take place on Friday instead of Wednesday and take place at lunch, not during English class, so that everyone gets a chance to see it. Lunch starts at 10:00. At 1:15 – all students will attend the grand show of performances. It was also suggested that we invite the community to come after school to see the grand performance show.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 3, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes

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

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Rules Management Subcommittee: Nov. 3 (Mr. Roix)

The Rules Management Subcommittee met at 6 PM on November 3, 2014 in the aldermanic chambers at Somerville City Hall.

In attendance were Steve Roix, Dan Futrell, Carrie Normand, as well as Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi and school committee chair Christine Rafal.

In our ongoing effort to keep our Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual up-to-date and in compliance with our district policies and practices we had several items on the agenda.

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.

First was File CM the School District Annual Report and this is a file that calls for the administration to give the School Committee a report annually. Of course our Superintendent gives it much more often - he'll give it at every regular meeting and - we will, in fact, receive one this evening I'm sure - so this policy is just not relevant. We already exceed the requirements of this policy and there's really no point to it so who we voted to strike it from the policy manual.

Second on the agenda was an update to File EBC –which is the Evacuation Policy which essentially lists the evacuation sites in the event of an emergency at one of our schools or facilities. This is part of the Somerville Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The policy lists the primary site and the secondary site for each school. This was just an update to reflect that the East Somerville School has reopened in its original location and we were striking references to separate evacuation sites or the Edgerly and Cummings buildings. So we voted to revise that policy accordingly and forward to the full School Committee for consideration.

Next was File EBCE which is the "No School Announcement" Policy for snow days and other unscheduled cancellations of school that has essentially been superseded by our Emergency Closing Policy; which is, in fact, the one that is actually followed in practice so we voted to remove this policy EBCE from the Policy Manual.

Next up was File IGBF - Student Teacher Assistance Teams. Again, this was merely an update to an existing policy to reflect administrative practice and what is actually done now given changes to laws and current best practices. So, after a brief discussion and explanation from the Superintendent, we voted to forward this revised policy to the full School Committee for consideration and that's file IGBF Student Teacher Assistance Teams.

Next was File JJIF–R which is the Student Activities Fund Management Policy. This is actually a new policy - while JIF covers Student Activity Accounts and this was coded by MASC and is specific to the management of funds raised by a specific graduation year class. It was unanimously forwarded to the full School Committee for your consideration this evening.

Last but not least was an update to File KCD which is Public Gifts to the Schools. This again was updated to be up to speed with our current practices and details the role of the Superintendent in receiving gifts/donations on behalf of the School Committee and just makes it a little bit more specific. This is with respect to the gifts/donations that we vote to receive at every regular meeting, and, in fact, the policy as revised would reflect what is currently done and would, of course, provide a little bit more specific guidance to future Superintendents as far as the expectations of the School Committee with respect to donations and gifts given to the school district.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to strike File: CM School District Annual Report.

Discussion ensued regarding the policy and the report.

Following discussion, the motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to strike File: EBCE "No School" Announcements.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair of the Rules Management Subcommittee for the meeting of November 3, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee: Nov. 10 (Mr. Sweeting)

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met in the conference room of 42 Cross Street on Monday, November 10. Subcommittee members in attendance were Adam Sweeting (Chair), Laura Pitone, and Dan Futrell. Other members of the School Committee in attendance were Carrie Normand, Christine Rafal, Paul Bockelman, and Steve Roix.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Pierantozzi and Finance Director Durette. We had one member of the public in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

We had six items on the agenda:

1) Minutes of the October Finance meeting. Those minutes were tabled and will be presented at the December meeting of the Finance subcommittee.

2) Somerville Education Enrichment Fund. Mr. Sweeting had asked the Finance Director to re-present documents related to a possible Somerville Education Fund. The School Committee had discussed this possibility in 2010, but put it on hold at the time as we were also trying to launch the SomerPromise initiative at that time. Discussion followed, with the general consensus being that such a Fund requires someone to take the initiative.

The Superintendent indicated that we might explore the possibility of contacting Partners Health to see if they might be interested in supporting such a fund as they prepare to move into new offices in Assembly Square. No action was taken but we left the door open for continued discussion.

3) Capital Requests. The Finance Director presented a list of six mid-year capital requests to be submitted to the City for consideration. These items are of mid-range costs that need to be addressed promptly and are generally below the cost threshold of the normal process for prioritizing capital requests.

This conversation also included a report on the exterior of the Brown School prepared by Arne Franzen, the Director of Parks and Open Space in the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning. Mr. Franzen had been asked to draft possible additions and/or renovations to the exterior to make the building more attractive and usable by students and staff. The subcommittee reviewed and discussed the report.

Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to send the six items on the capital request list plus a seventh item for a landscape design survey for the Brown School that would not exceed \$50,000. The motion passed 3-0 on a voice vote.

4) Facilities update. The Superintendent updated the subcommittee on repairs and new uses for some of the spaces within the Somerville Public Schools.

5) FY 2015 Expenditure Report. The subcommittee reviewed the monthly expenditure report prepared by the Finance Director.

6) FY 2015 Bill Rolls. The subcommittee reviewed bill rolls dated November 10, 2014.

Ms. Pitone made a motion to approve the FY 2015 bill rolls, seconded by Mr. Futrell. The motion passed by voice vote, 3-0

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to send to the City's Finance Department the six items on the Capital Requests list, plus a seventh, for a landscape design survey of the Brown School not to exceed \$50,000.00.

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to amend the motion to read, to cost approximately \$50,000, rather than not to exceed \$50,000, as was discussed in subcommittee. Mr. Sweeting agreed with the amended motion. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the FY2015 bill rolls. The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair of Finance & Facilities Subcommittee for the meeting of November 10, 2014. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. School Committee Meeting for Personnel: Nov. 12 (Mr. Bockelman)

Members present: Paul Bockelman (chair), Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, Dan Futrell, Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone, Steve Roix

Staff present: Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Pat Durette, Susana Hernandez Morgan

Others present: John Connolly, Steve Delott, Gary Burton, Nelia Braga, Lupe Ojeda, Rupinder Kaur

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Introductions

Mr. Bockelman called the meeting to order and members of the School Committee introduced themselves, as did the three non-School Committee members of the Advisory Committee conducting the Preliminary Interviews: Ms. Nelia Braga, a teacher at Somerville High School and mother of two; Ms. Rupinder Kaur, a recent graduate from Somerville High School and currently a student at Wentworth Institute of Technology; and Ms. Lupe Ojeda, a parent of children in the district and a board member and parent leader at The Welcome Project. Mr. Bockelman thanked everyone for their commitment of time and energy to the process. Messrs. Bockelman and Connolly emphasized the importance of maintaining confidentiality in the process out of respect for the candidates.

2. Update

Mr. Connolly updated the School Committee on the status of applications. He said there were about 50 applications, which included cold applications from people who saw the ad and submitted the required material plus those who had been recruited by the consulting firm. He said it was a very strong pool and, as agreed, he reviewed all applicants with Mr. Sweeting. He said there was a range of candidates from experienced superintendents to stars-to-be. He reviewed the upcoming schedule which included two all-day interview sessions on November 18th and 19th followed by the narrowing of the preliminary slate to a final slate of three finalists, whose names will become public.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Superintendent Search Committee will be on November 19th at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roix, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Personnel for November 12, 2014. The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**A. Personnel Report**

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that in members' packets this week was a Personnel Report for the month of November. The report included the following:

3 resignations for the purpose of retirement:

- Donna Perry, Capuano School Counselor Educator, after 31 years of service
- Denise Walsh, Capuano School Speech Pathologist, after 20 years of service
- Maryann Ryan, Capuano School Paraprofessional, after 28 years of service

There were also eight resignations, four leaves of absence for a variety of personal reasons, and 13 new hires, some of which are new door monitors for the Community Schools program.

B. District Report

Just prior to this meeting, the grand reopening of Somerville High School auditorium was celebrated. Thanks to the orchestra select group and chorus and their leaders, Ms. Beverly Mosby, Ms. Joanne Sadler and Mr. David Palombo for providing the musical component.

Mr. Pierantozzi had the pleasure of introducing the following speakers:

Mayor Curtatone - who offered wonderful words and thanks to the community and School Committee for their support of the project and the Board of Aldermen for the financial support for the renovations.

Headmaster John Oteri - who commented on the wonderful ways the auditorium positively impacts our students and, though it is 142 years old, is a fully functional auditorium—old but new and very classy.

Mr. Pierantozzi is impressed every time he goes into the auditorium. Although it's in a high school, it's really a community resource that seats 1100 people and now has a new sound system and new lighting. It's been a long 25 months since Superstorm Sandy peeled the roof off the High School and it's wonderful to have it back online

Joshua Ojo commented that the seniors are so happy to have the auditorium back for class day etc. and that members of all the classes are excited and happy that it is available again!

- The Superintendent reported on the Code for America process - 3 individuals who work for Code for America will be in our District and will be involved in data mining and software production. This project fits beautifully into our Early Childhood initiative as well as into other areas. People are in house at Cummings and these individuals will be on site around February. FYI – the Cummings is now a district office space. The Code for America staff members will be working with Somerville at no cost to the School District.
Mayor Curtatone added that many other communities are interested in Somerville and are curious about our futuristic city. We will mine data and utilize the results to teach the whole child. This data platform could be a national model whereby technology will be used to do social good.
Lots of people are paying attention to Somerville's use of technology to develop policy, etc. We have commitments from the Boston Foundation and others to cover our costs. Mayor Curtatone gave a shout out to Denise Taylor from the Office of Communications for her work on this!
- Early Childhood Fair – Family Literacy Celebration
This annual literacy celebration continues to grow each year. An estimated 400 people attended this year's event, held Saturday at the Healey School. More than 30 providers -- including childcare programs, community agencies, and program providers – offered a variety of hands-on activities that kept children and parents/guardians engaged.
- Launch of SomervilleHub.org: The Somerville Early Education Steering Committee is proud to announce the launch of a new early childhood resource for Somerville families and providers. The SomervilleHub website (www.somervillehub.org) is a product of the first of 2 Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grants that we have been awarded, and is intended to be a one-stop resource for families with young children and to support the great early Childhood work happening in our community.

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director Pat Durette for some finance-related matters:

Grants—

- An Early Childhood Sped grant which targets 3-5 year olds for \$8550 for early intervention literacy playgroups
- A \$5,000 Stars grant from the Mass Cultural Group to the West Somerville and also Healey received a similar \$5,000 grant and the funds will be used to design and install mosaics at the entrances at each school.
- A Mass Grad Grant approved for year five and funds have been used to develop a credit recovery program to assist students who are at risk of not graduating. Currently programs are available two afternoons and evenings for credit recovery.

Ms. Durette thanked Ms. Hernandez Morgan for her hard work on writing the grants

Mr. Pierantozzi continued his report

- Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) STARS Residencies grant award of \$5,000 to the SPS Visual Arts Department and the West Somerville Neighborhood School. Students will work with artist David Fichter to create mosaic murals for display on columns outside of the school building. (Healey STARS Residency award was announced at the last SC meeting)
- Thank you to the Medford Elks for their annual donation of dictionaries to our District. This year, Medford Elks, an outstanding long-time community partner, will be donating more than 450 dictionaries – one for every third grade student and teacher in the Somerville Public Schools. The annual donation was launched with a Dictionary Distribution event held at the Argenziano School this afternoon. Thank you for your continuing support!
- Tuesday, November 18th: Strategies to Prevent Bullying of Students with Disabilities. Workshop presenters will be Johanne Pino, MA Advocates for Special Needs and Harry Goulart, MAC's Young Adult Leader Fellow. Workshop is from 6:30-8:30pm tomorrow at the Kennedy School Library.
- The SFLC is going back to monthly brochures due to the large number of events they hold.

The Superintendent deferred to Dr. Vincent McKay, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for his report on curriculum-related matters:

I have dates to share with you this evening, please save the dates of January 20 and 22, 27 and 29 for the School Improvement Plan presentations.

A few important points about the school improvement presentations....

First, these presentations are the product of a lot work! Under my revised planning process, that work is going is in full swing at this time, Data Analyst Kenya Avant and I are in our second round of school-based meetings.

Second, I'd like to tell you that the Improvement Council members are very much looking forward to appearing in front of you. This is their chance to basically tell their story - their challenges, their successes and their progress on the path of continuous improvement.

This is a major focus of mine at this time, and I think you know that I deeply believe in this process. Focus on student learning, answer the basic question: How are our resources aligned to do the most for our students?

Look at student achievement as well as the learning community and culture of the school.

We've empowered the schools to make these recommendations, represents a fundamental belief in the power of school-based planning –

My job is a coach and facilitator, to support of these leaders, our principals, their instructional leadership teams and the parents and other community members who make up our school improvement councils.

Like the coach of a star team, I really look forward to leading the school improvement teams as we charge onto the field – the SIP presentations, in late January.

Ed Programs preview -

- UMass grant
- School Improvement Plan prep and dates
- Data on School Committee Goal 2
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey results

The Superintendent continued his report:

- Student of the Quarter Awards:
 - Wednesday, 11/19/2014 at East Somerville Community School
 - Thursday, 11/20/2014 at the Argenziano School
- Parent/Guardian Conferences continue this week and next week. Check the website Calendar of Events for your schools' date and time.
- On Friday, there will be a Middle Grades Leadership Development Day
- Thanksgiving Recess:
 - Wednesday, November 26th – Half Day for all students. All District Offices will close at 1:00 p.m. on that day.
 - Thursday and Friday, November 27th and 28th – THANKSGIVING RECESS. All Schools and District offices are closed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Contract with School Committee Legal Counsel

Ms. Rafal announced that at the Executive Session Meeting of October 29, 2014, the School Committee voted to continue their contract with Hollender and Carey, LLC for legal counsel and labor relations services commencing on September 1, 2014 and continuing through August 31, 2017.

B. Contract of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to reappoint Dr. Vincent P. McKay as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for a period of three years, commencing July 1, 2015 and to enter into a three-year contract of employment

with him on the terms set forth in the draft reviewed by the School Committee in Executive Session on October 29, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

Ms. Rafal and Dr. McKay signed the contract and the School Committee expressed their happiness at Dr. McKay's extension.

C. Somerville Public School Policy Manual

Mr. Roix announced that the following policies were being submitted this evening for first reading and approval, as amended:

File: EBC-R Evacuation Sites

File: IGBF Student Teacher Assistance Teams (STAT)

File: KCD Public Gifts to Schools

The following policy was submitted this evening for first reading and adoption:

File: JJF-R Student Activities Fund Management

D. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent requests the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of an anonymous donation of \$1,000 to the El Sistema Program.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent requests the acceptance, with gratitude, of the donation of \$300.00 from John Donahue and the Arbella Insurance Foundation of Boston, MA to the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park. These funds are to be used to provide transportation for the grade 5 students to attend the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent requests the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Beveridge Family Foundation to the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park. These funds are to be used to purchase leveled books that teachers may borrow to use with small groups.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

A thank you note from the family of the late Mary A. Hanson for remembering their mother at a recent School Committee meeting. The note was received and placed on file.

VII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone

1. Announced two (2) events at Kennedy:

- On Wednesday, there will be a Harvest Fest from 2:45-5:45 p.m.
- On December 9, there will be a fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square

Flatbread has been hosting activities for all schools and they have been incredible partners to all of our schools and programs.

Mr. Bockelman

1. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meets on Thursday
Somerville Hub website is great and he suggested making more copies of the info cards available for ResiStat meetings. The Ward 6 ResiStat meeting will be held on Thursday and conflicts with Ed programs but he will try to do both. ResiStat starts at 6:00 and the Superintendent search update will be discussed at ResiStat also.

Mr. Sweeting

1. At the Ward 3 ResiStat Mr. Sweeting spoke about the search. Mr. Bockelman has done a great job of moving us through the process. This week we take a vital step – candidates to advisory committee for confidential interviews and three finalists' names will be forwarded to

the full School Committee by Thanksgiving. Ms. Sweeting is chairing the interview team and will be joined by Ms. Pitone, Ms. Normand, Mr. Roix and three community members – a very good team and he is confident they will find great prospects!

Discussion ensued regarding the date when evaluations are due to Mr. Futrell – November 28th is the date. Please send forms directly to Mr. Futrell and Ms. Rafal and they will work on the Superintendent's evaluation document on November 30th.

Members thanked Ms. Rafal for encouraging them to attend the MASC conference where Ms. Rossetti was honored during the dinner. It was a great learning experience and rewarding to hear how well Somerville is regarded. Mary Jo is doing fantastic things and her work is much appreciated!

Ms. Rafal

1. Thanked the public for funding members' attendance at the conference. There were five attendees and all tried to attend different workshops. We all learned much from workshops we attended. Noted that the National School Board Administration has been coming to Mass for 8 years and that Somerville is part of multiple MASC Divisions – vocational, urban, metro Boston

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Robert Savage, father of Kristi Savage, Physical Education Teacher at the Argenziano School @ Lincoln Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Agenda
Minutes of November 3, 2014
The November 2014 Personnel Report
Policies for first reading
Three (3) donation acceptance forms
A thank you note from the family of the late Mary Hanson
Five (5) condolence letters
Two (2) donation thank you letters

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, December 1, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White (7:15 p.m.), Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone, Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand and Ms. Rafal.

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:11 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, Roix, Bockelman, Pitone, Rafal, Normand and ABSENT – 2 – Curtatone and Futrell. Ms. Rafal announced that Mr. Futrell was sorry to miss the meeting but he was in New York for his day job.

I. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our student representative, Mr. Ojo, was not in attendance this evening.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 17, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes

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

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

- A. *Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee:*** Nov. 20 (Mr. Bockelman)

Members present: Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone, and Paul Bockelman

Others present: Steve Roix and Dan Futrell

Staff present: Vince McKay, Tony Pierantozzi, John Oteri, Sara Davila, and about six members of the Somerville High School staff

Others present: Six members in the audience
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Somerville High School Program of Studies:

Headmaster John Oteri and Curriculum Committee Chair Sibby Lagambina presented an overview of the changes they plan to make to the Somerville High School curriculum. Department heads and staff from the Art Department, Social Studies Department, and English Language Learner Department were present for the presentation.

Changes were presented in the Art Department, World Languages, Science, English Language Learners, Social Studies, Physical Education, and Music. These changes began to be discussed in September and the Curriculum Committee voted to advance these changes in mid-October. Most of the changes did not represent extensive alterations to the curriculum but, rather, sought to unify the nomenclature, provide better alignment of courses, and take advantage of cross-registration being offered by the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

Mr. Pierantozzi noted that approval for these changes did not guarantee that they would happen as there was a financial component to many of the changes in terms of staffing. But the Subcommittee was approving the education initiative of the proposals.

After discussion, Ms. Pitone moved to approve the Somerville High School curriculum proposals as presented subject to funding. Ms. Normand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Somerville School Committee student achievement annual goals benchmarks:

Dr. McKay presented a memo from Kenya Avant-Ransome, the District's data person. As requested by members of the School Committee, the goals adopted by the Committee identified general goals, but did not identify the data sets to be used to determine if the goal had been achieved or not.

The Subcommittee reviewed the memorandum and, after discussion, agreed to continue the discussion with other members of the School Committee.

3. Youth Risk Behavior Survey data:

The Subcommittee then reviewed the data released recently from the 2013-2014 Somerville High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey that was administered to all students in grades 9-12.

The details of the report were extensive but the summary is that key indicators show that Somerville continues to stay steady or improve in most of the risk categories including smoking cigarettes, alcohol use, marijuana use, fighting and bullying, depression, and sexual intercourse.

The full report with all data sets was included in our packet prior to the meeting.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9th at 7:00 p.m. at 42 Cross Street.

At 8:50 p.m. Ms. Normand moved to adjourn. Mr. Bockelman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting, to accept the Somerville High School curriculum proposals, subject to funding.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to accept the report of the Chair of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee for the meeting of November 20, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. School Committee Meeting for Personnel: Nov. 24 (Mr. Bockelman)

Members present: Paul Bockelman (chair), Christine Rafal, Adam Sweeting, Dan Futrell, Carrie Normand, Steve Roix, Mayor Curtatone, Alderman White

Staff present: Tony Pierantozzi, Vince McKay, Susana Hernandez Morgan

Others present: John Connolly, Steve Delott, Nelia Braga, Lupe Ojeda, and about three members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

1. Superintendent Search Process

Mr. Bockelman recognized Mr. Sweeting who headed up the team that did the first round of confidential interviews with the slate of semi-finalists. Mr. Sweeting thanked the staff of The Parenting Journey for hosting the interviews.

Mr. Sweeting said that the group had settled on three finalists that were all very strong and each could be superintendent of Somerville's schools. He said it was a great process and was pleased with the workings of the interview team, which included four members of the School Committee and three members of the public.

He specifically acknowledged the commitment of time and thought given to the interviews by the team and specifically thanked the other three members of the School Committee who participated: Carrie Normand, Laura Pitone, and Steve Roix.

Mr. Bockelman then recognized Ms. Rafal who introduced the community members who served on the interview team: Ms. Nelia Braga a teacher at Somerville High School, parent of students and a graduate of Somerville High School; Ms. Lupe Ojeda, a parent of three Somerville public school students and Vice President of The Welcome Project; and Ms. Rupinder Kaur, a graduate of Somerville High School who is currently a student at Wentworth Institute of Technology. Ms. Rafal then presented those present with a token of the School Committee's appreciation.

Mr. Bockelman noted that their participation was not to end here...but that the full School Committee would be depending on their observations and judgments as the Committee works to decide on the next Superintendent.

Mr. Bockelman then recognized Mayor Curtatone who thanked the team and said that he was very excited to meet the finalists and he, too, appreciated the work that had gone into this long, arduous task.

2. Announcement of the Finalists

Mr. Bockelman recognized Mr. John Connolly of Hazard, Young and Attea who provided a background on the process. Mr. Connolly said the School Committee had been working on this process since July. In addition to the numerous meetings with the School Committee, he and two of his colleagues had conducted two days of focus groups in September, meeting with 133 individuals and evaluating 364 responses to the online survey. From this information, he developed the leadership profile that drove the type of candidate his firm was recruiting and who was applying.

He said his firm had evaluated over 60 candidates for the Superintendent and spent additional time on 16 candidates who seemed to fit the profile developed in conjunction with the School Committee. He said every candidate that interviewed with the interview team was capable of serving as Superintendent of Schools in Somerville. He then announced the finalists in order of their visits to the District:

Dr. Kriner Cash will visit Somerville and be interviewed on December 2, 2014.

Dr. Cash is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. He attended Princeton University, Stanford University, and UMass Amherst. His employment experience includes the following:

Mass College of Liberal Arts, Howard University, Cincinnati Schools, Martha's Vineyard Superintendent, Miami Dade Florida Administrator for Accountability/Assessment where the District was awarded the Broad Prize in Urban Education while he was there, and the Superintendent of Schools in Memphis Tennessee.

Ms. Mary Skipper will visit Somerville and be interviewed on December 3, 2014.

Ms. Skipper comes from Arlington, Massachusetts and attended Tufts University for undergraduate and graduate degrees. She also has a master's from Columbia University and expects to have her doctorate in 2016 in Urban Education. Currently, Ms. Skipper serves as an Assistant Superintendent in the Boston Public Schools. Interestingly, she worked at Johnnie's Foodmaster for 10 years in her youth and also worked for three years at Tech Boston Academy. Ms. Skipper served as the Chief Educational Officer in Boston from 2008-2012. In 2013, she became the Assistant Superintendent in charge of Boston's High Schools.

Dr. Fred McDowell will visit Somerville and be interviewed on December 4, 2014.

Mr. McDowell is a graduate of North Carolina State University and has a doctorate from Northeastern University. He started his career in business then became a teacher. He taught from 2002-2006 in North Carolina and served as Assistant Principal in Hillsboro, North Carolina, Principal of Madison Park High School in Boston for 2 years, and Headmaster of Brighton High School for 2 years. He is currently Instructional Superintendent in Denver, Colorado from 2012-2014 for 15 area schools.

3. Next Meeting

Mr. Bockelman thanked all for their great work and reported that the three candidates would be in Somerville on December 2, 3, and 4. Community involvement at this stage of the process was extremely important and he encouraged all members of the community to study the three candidates and convey their opinions to members of the School Committee.

The next meeting of the Superintendent Search Committee will be on December 1, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the report and minutes of the School Committee Meeting for Personnel for November 24, 2014. The motion was approved via voice vote.

IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**A. District Report**

- Mr. Pierantozzi announced that November 1st and November 15th were two big Early Decision, Early Action and Restricted Early Action deadlines for students applying to colleges. Students should start hearing about those decisions in mid-December. About 20-30 students submitted applications for early action/decision this year. Included in that number are a few Posse finalists, who should also be hearing in December. Another big deadline was today which is a priority deadline for some institutional scholarships at colleges.
- Welcome to our new Student Resource Office at Somerville High School. After over 10 years, Mike Kennelly has moved on from his position at the High School and has been promoted to sergeant. We will miss him, but wish him the best in his new position. Officer Ozzy Martinez, a 2003 graduate of Somerville High School and seven year veteran of the Somerville Police Department has become the newest member of the Somerville High School family by becoming the new School Resource Officer there – welcome!
- Parent/Guardian Conferences continue this week. Check the website Calendar of Events for your schools' date and time.
 - Tuesday, 12/2/2014 – Brown School (6-7:30pm)
 - Wednesday, 12/3/2014 – Capuano (6-7:30pm)
 - Thursday, 12/4/2014 – West Somerville (6-7:30pm)
- Student of the Quarter Awards:
 - Wednesday, 12/3/2014 at Healey School
 - Thursday, 12/4/2014 at West Somerville Neighborhood School
 - Tuesday, 12/9/2014 at the Brown School

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

- State level leadership in Early Childhood data-based decisions making
- The Early Childhood Hub web page and the level of community building going on with the Early Childhood community – including CASS, our non-Somerville Public Schools providers, and recreational activity providers. Our Early Childhood Program also has a Pinterest page.
- His attendance, with Ms. Durette and Kenya Avant-Ransome at a StatNet meeting, hosted by UMass' Collins Center. The Somerville group attended, but also presented at the event.

The Superintendent continued his district report:

- It's Winter Concert time in our District. Check the website Calendar of Events for a listing of School concerts. Upcoming District concerts include:
 - Thursday, 12/11/2014 – All-City Middle School Winter Concert @ 7:00pm – Centennial Auditorium at Somerville High School
 - Monday, 12/15/2014 – 3rd Annual Community in Harmony Concert @ 7:00pm – ESCS Auditorium
- Upcoming SFLC and Other Workshops:
 - Wednesday, 12/3/2014 at Cummings Building – The Effect of Toys & Media on Young Children (*marketed to playgroups*) – 6:30-8pm
 - Monday, 12/8/2014 at Kennedy School Library – Special Education Basic Rights Workshop - begins at 6:30pm
 - Wednesday, 12/10/2014 at ESCS – Learning about the Somerville Public Schools. An overview of curriculum and day-to-day life in classrooms throughout the City, with a focus on K to inform prospective SPS families. – 6:30-8pm
 - SFLC Parent Chat in the playgroup space at the Cummings (1st in a series). For parents/guardians and their young children. 1-2pm

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

- Ms. Durette has begun the process of reviewing the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) for updating. She will be meeting the principals and other administrators to review areas of safety, maintenance and facilities and update the status on the current CIP. Completed items will be removed from the list. Generally, these reviews are conducted during the

months of January and February as part of the budget preparation process. Capital equipment includes copiers, vehicles, CVTE and Food Service equipment.

The Superintendent finished his district report:

- December Break:
 - Winter Recess begins Wednesday, December 24th. Students return to school on Monday, January 5th.
 - District Offices will be closed December 24th and 25th, and January 1st. All District offices will close at 1:00pm on December 31st.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Somerville Public School Policy Manual

The following policies were submitted this evening for second reading and approval, as amended:

File: EBC-R Evacuation Sites

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve File EBC-R, Evacuation Sites, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

File: IGBF Student Teacher Assistance Teams (STAT)

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve File IGBF, Student Teacher Assistant Teams (STAT), as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

File: KCD Public Gifts to Schools

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve File KCD, Public Gifts to Schools, as amended, for inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The following policy is being submitted this evening for second reading and adoption:

File: JJIF-R Student Activities Fund Management

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve File JJIF-R, Student Activities Fund Management, for adoption and inclusion in the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. 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:

- Kleffen's Moise

MOTION: Mr. Futrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to approve the Somerville High School diploma.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. FY2014 SCALE/ADP Graduates – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas and read the names of the Somerville residents:

Bryanna Nigro	160 Orchard Street	Watertown	02472
Stephen Jones	72 West Wyoming Ave, Apt. #3	Melrose	02176

MOTION: Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bockelman, to approve the SCALE/ADP graduates.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Field Trip (recommended action: approval)

Mar. 31 – Apr. 2, 2015

Winter Hill Community Innovation School Grade 5 to
Nature's Classroom in Groton, MA, overnight.
Transportation via bus. Cost per student is \$189.00.

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

D. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent requests the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of four (4) BBCOR Baseball Bats, valued at \$1199.96 and 15 baseball slider shorts, valued at \$825.00 from Michael Wright of Quincy, MA to the Somerville High School Baseball Team.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

A thank you note from the family of the late Mary Bean for remembering their mother at a recent School Committee meeting. The note was received and placed on file.

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Pitone

1. The Kennedy School will hold a fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Davis Square on December 9th starting at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Normand

1. Lots going on at the West Somerville:
 - A Scholastic Book Fair on Wednesday and Thursday, including in the evening during parent/teacher conferences.
 - Vendor Fair on Friday night from 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- Christmas tree lot at Foss Park from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Rena Vergnani, mother of Elaine McMichael, retired Art Supervisor from the Somerville Public Schools
- Lillian Bove, sister of Ellie Blute, retired Title I Parent Coordinator
- Andrew "Andy" Rosing, Counselor at Full Circle/Next Wave
- Dorothea Macero, wife of Daniel Macero, retired Assistant Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools. Mrs. Macero was also the sister of the late Philomena Lombardi, who was also retired from the Somerville Public Schools

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. via voice vote.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Agenda
Minutes of November 17, 2014
Policies for second reading and approval
One (1) donation acceptance form
One (1) Somerville High School diploma approval
Two (2) SCALE ADP approvals
One (1) out of state field trip approval
A thank you note from the family of the late Mary Bean
One (1) condolence letter
Two (2) donation thank you letters

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, December 15, 2014 – Regular Meeting

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

Members present: Mr. Sweeting, Alderman White, Mr. Roix, Mr. Futrell, Ms. Pitone (7:02 p.m.), Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Normand and Ms. Rafal.

Members absent: Mayor Curtatone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Rafal called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers of City Hall at 7:11 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, Roix, Bockelman, Futrell, Rafal, Normand and ABSENT – 2 – Curtatone and Pitone.

Ms. Rafal asked that we suspend the rules and take Item

II. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Student Representative, Joshua Ojo, provided the following report on happenings around Somerville High School:

- Mr. Ojo apologized for not being at the last meeting
- Josh reported on a couple of student protests at SHS. Protests were to show that students care and are against police brutality. Protests took place after school, at a school-wide assembly and included the act of "dying", where people lay on the ground as if they are dead. Our student body is socially active and all events were done without drama or violence. Many staff members also took part.
- Regarding the search for a new Superintendent, Mr. Ojo is happy with the choice of Ms. Skipper. He reported that many students were surprised and saddened to hear the Mr. Pierantozzi is retiring. He is the "big boss" and many students were also surprised by Mr. Pierantozzi's age. Thank you cards for the Superintendent's service are being circulated around the high school and will be forwarded to Mr. Pierantozzi.

Mr. Sweeting thanked Mr. Ojo and his colleagues for their work on the protests.

Mr. Sweeting also thanked Mr. Ojo for his part in the student portion of the three days of visits by the finalists. All of the candidates were very impressed with the students. Mr. Sweeting also thanked Joshua for submitting written comments to the School Committee expressing his thoughts on the three finalists.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

Presentations to the following members for their service to the School Committee:

- Board of Aldermen President William A. White, Jr.

Mr. Sweeting assumed the Chair so that Ms. Rafal could present a plaque to Alderman White to honor his year of service to the School Committee.

Ms. Rafal and Alderman White both stepped to the podium and Ms. Rafal thanked Mr. White for his attendance, support, and thoughtfulness throughout the year with regard to School Committee matters.

Mr. White announced that in order to keep continuity, he will remain as the President of the Board of Aldermen and representative to the School Committee for 2015. This is very helpful as he already know the issues, etc. Having been a part of the search for a new Superintendent, he has a good feeling about the future of the Somerville Public Schools and the continuation of the great work of Tony Pierantozzi.

- School Committee Chair Christine T. Rafal

Mr. Bockelman assumed the Chair so that Mr. Sweeting could present a plaque to Christine Rafal to honor her year of service as Chair of the School Committee.

Mr. Sweeting and Ms. Rafal stepped to the podium and Mr. Sweeting issued thanks on behalf of himself and his colleagues for a wonderful and historic year of service. The School Committee was lucky to have Ms. Rafal as Chair during 2014 to guide the many different processes – including welcoming several new members, organizing a retreat for members to reflect and set goals and, of course, the search for the new Superintendent.

Ms. Rafal thanked Mr. Sweeting and the other members for an extraordinary year and looked forward to continuing great things in the coming year!

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 1, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes

V. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *School Committee Meeting for Personnel:* Dec. 2, 3, 4, 8 (Mr. Bockelman)

Mr. Bockelman reported that he wished for his report to be tabled until the next meeting to give him time to prepare more thorough minutes and notes.

B. *Finance & Facilities Subcommittee:* Dec. 9 (Mr. Sweeting)

Subcommittee members in attendance: Adam Sweeting (Chair); Laura Pitone. Other members of the School Committee present: Carrie Normand.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Pierantozzi; Assistant Superintendent McKay, and Finance Director Durette

Mr. Sweeting called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.
There were seven items on the agenda.

1) Approval of Minutes for October 1, 2014 and November 10, 2014 meetings of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee.

Motion: Ms. Pitone made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting, seconded by Mr. Sweeting. The motion passed unanimously by 2-0 voice vote.

Motion: Ms. Pitone made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2014 meeting, seconded by Mr. Sweeting. The motion passed unanimously by a 2-0 voice vote.

2) Review of December 2, 2014 letter from Brown School Principal Kathleen Seward to Superintendent Pierantozzi regarding plans for a meeting of the Brown School community regarding space issues at the Brown. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 7, 2015. At this meeting, members of the Brown community will be invited to share ideas about ways to address classroom space issues at the school. Members of the subcommittee agreed to wait until after that meeting before taking further action.

3) Facilities Update. The Superintendent updated the subcommittee on various repairs and routine maintenance at the schools. He drew particular attention to minor water damage at the District headquarters caused by heavy rainfall of December 8 and December 9.

4) FY 2015 Expenditure Report – Ms. Durette reviewed FY 2015 Expenditure Report of December 9, 2014.

5) FY Bill Rolls 2015, November 30, 2014.

Ms. Pitone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sweeting to accept the FY 2015 Bill Rolls. The motion passed unanimously by 2-0 voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pitone, to approve the FY2015 bill rolls.

The motion was approved via voice.

MOTION: Mr. Sweeting made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to accept the report of the Chair of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee for the meeting of December 9, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. Educational Programs & Instruction Subcommittee: Dec. 9 (Mr. Bockelman)

The Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee met immediately following the Finance meeting on December 9th.

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

Members present were Mr. Bockelman, Ms. Pitone and Ms. Normand.

Also in attendance were Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Pierantozzi, Dr. McKay and Assistant Director of Special Education Christine Trevisone.

Highlight from this meeting included the following:

Discussion of the RFP for a consultant to conduct a Study of the Special Education Department. Due to Special Education Director Mary DiGuardia being ill, Ms. Trevisone was present to represent the department and answer any questions. Discussion included a chance for self-reflection, the goals and details of the RFP and the timeline for completion.

Lots of data was presented and a discussion of the data that would be used to analyze the School Committee's goals was given a preliminary look, but would be reviewed more in depth at a later date. Accountability data was also presented relative to Somerville High School.

Lastly, a draft version of a schedule of presentations to the School Committee by the various departments and programs over the next two years was reviewed. Dr. McKay will discuss with the new Chair of Ed Programs and confirm the schedule after that discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Ms. Normand.

MOTION: Mr. Bockelman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Normand, to accept the report of the Chair of the Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee for the meeting of December 9, 2014.

The motion was approved via voice vote.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Personnel Report

Mr. Pierantozzi announced that members have the December Personnel Report in their packets this week. Included in that report are:

- No new resignations for the purpose of retirement
- Eight (8) resignations for various reasons - three cafeteria employees; one athletic coach, two Community Schools employees and one paraprofessional
- There are five employees on leaves of absence
- Three intra-district transfers

The Superintendent explained that former Director of Special Education, Deborah Connell, has been hired to work on a part-time, hourly basis to assist with the Coordinated Program Review being conducted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Ms. Connell will basically serve as an escort and facilitator during the process.

The new hires are all replacements for staff who have left the District. The new Community Schools employee at the Brown and Mr. Pierantozzi reminded members that funds for these salaries are from receipts and not local money and the number of employees is based upon enrollment in the program.

B. District Report

Mr. Pierantozzi provided his District Report which included the following:

The Superintendent reported on a visit, today, by five educators from the Columbus, OH School Department. Columbus has an enrollment of over 59,000 students. One of the visitors, Tina Huang, was a graduate of Dr. Fullerton's program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and actually worked on a project for the Somerville Public Schools while she was a student there. Tina is now a Data Specialist for the Columbus School District. The team visited the East Somerville Community School, Central Office and the Capuano Early Childhood Center. They are most interested in learning how to start an Early Childhood Program and were fascinated by the newly introduced program at the Healey School.

- Hour of Code Event – Congratulations to the Library/Media staff for an outstanding week of "Hour of Code" activities at our schools. Nearly every student in the District participated in at

least one hour of code this past week, joining more than 75 million students world-wide this year, who are learning the basics of computer science.

Special thanks to Shawn Szturma and Charlie LaFauci for coordinating this week-long activity. On Wednesday, the Mayor and I had an opportunity to learn how to code, working with East Somerville Neighborhood School students. More than 100 volunteers were part of this District-wide effort.

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

1. Day of Code – as the superintendent reported, last Wednesday was Somerville's day of code. All of our schools participated.

You may be curious about follow up activities:

These include discussions about several middle school offerings that can be integrated into our 7th and 8th grade curriculum. We are also discussing expanding computer science offerings at Somerville High School. Several of the non-profit partners who attended the Day of Code last week will be available to assist continued program development. This is very exciting work, one which we believe serves a wide range of students at SHS, preparing them for further study and, perhaps, exciting careers in the IT field.

Coding is for everyone is our message. Role for CVTE in this program.

Related matter: I've provided some updates recently on our progress in planning for the arrival of the Code for America Fellows in February.

Code for America believes government can work for the people, by the people in the 21st century.

We build open source technology and organize a network of people dedicated to making government services simple, effective, and easy to use.

Here's how:

- We encourage and empower residents to take an active role in their community.
- We facilitate collaboration between government staff and foster forward-thinking approaches to solving city problems.
- We support civic-minded entrepreneurs and startups

2. Somerville/State Code for America Project Planning Meeting took place today in Boston

Today's meeting was led by the mayor's liaison to the entire project, Stephanie Hirsch. State Innovation office

Early Education Planning Committee: Presentation set for Educational Program subcommittee meeting in January.

We look forward to hosting the Fellows beginning in February, and will present the project ideas. Funding will come from a number of sources, including the state Innovation office. Some City contribution will likely be necessary, and the Supt and I may need to present before President White and the board of aldermen next month.

3. Early Education Update

BOARD OF ED AND BOARD OF EARLY ED MEET: The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Early Education and Care hold a joint board meeting where they plan to discuss early literacy. Massachusetts learned this week that the federal government has granted the state \$15 million to expand early education in five cities. ([Monday, 5 to 7 p.m.](#), Medford High School auditorium, [489 Winthrop St.](#), Medford)

One additional item: Memo dated Feb. 6, 2014, to SC reporting on SomerReady, Somerville's early education report. The steering committee is meeting this week the next step of the Planning Grid found on the last page. Note that all of the first year activities and goals have been met!

The Superintendent continued his district report:

- Full house at the "Learning About the Somerville Public Schools" workshop last Wednesday at the ESCS Library. Parents/Guardians of prospective students had an opportunity to get an overview of 'a day in the life' of a SPS student, with a focus on Kindergarten.

- January 21, 22, 23 – Open Houses at all SPS Elementary Schools, 8:30am to 1:30pm; K Registration begins January 24th, 10am-2pm at the PIC.
- College and Career Night for 10th and 11th grade students and families – January 28, 6:30-8:30pm at Somerville High School
- January 8, 6:30-8pm: Parent/Guardian Leadership Institute -Emerging and existing parent/guardian leaders are invited to share best practices and learn together about family engagement work in our schools.
- January 8, 9am-noon, Cummings Bldg.: Help Me Grow offers resources and strategies for families on how to be their child's first teacher

The Superintendent deferred to Finance Director Patricia Durette for some finance-related news: On December 1, Ms. Durette and Mr. Tringale filed the FY14 End of Year Report with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This report includes information on appropriations, local funding, grant funding, funds expended by the City of Somerville relative to school operations such as utilities, custodial services, retirement and other benefits, etc. The information is used by the DESE to generate various statistical reports for their internal use. The audit of this report is being scheduled and will likely take place in March.

The Superintendent finished his district report:

- Winter Concerts are in full swing throughout the District. Check the website Calendar of Events for a listing of upcoming concerts, including:
 - Thursday, 12/18/2014 – SHS Winter Concert, 7:00pm @ SHS Auditorium
- December Break:
 - Winter Recess Dec. 24th through Jan. 2nd. Students return Jan. 5th.
 - District Offices will be closed December 24th and 25th, and January 1st. All District offices will close at 1:00pm on December 31st.
- Mr. Pierantozzi wished everyone Happy Holidays and a wonderful 2015!

Dr. McKay reported that, at members' seats was a memo from him regarding the Early Childhood Study and report that was done last year.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2014 SCALE/ADP Graduate – (Recommended Action: Approval)

The Superintendent of Schools recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted his diplomas:

Cody Hilton 4 Hillside Road North Reading 01864

MOTION: Mr. Roix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Futrell, to approve the ADP graduate. The motion was approved via voice vote.

B. Acceptance of Donations (recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent requested the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of \$1,000.00 from Tracy Domitrz of Boston, MA to the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent requested the acceptance, with gratitude, of 150 used books, valued at \$400.00 from Bailee Star of Temple Shir Tikvah of Winchester, MA to the East Somerville Community School for use in their classroom libraries.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

The Superintendent requested the acceptance, with extreme gratitude, of 100 12" x 12" carpet squares, valued at \$1,000 from Mary Foley of Scituate, MA. These carpet squares will be distributed to various early childhood classrooms in the Somerville Public Schools and in other center or family based programs in the City of Somerville.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote.

C. 2015-2016 School Calendar

Members were given a copy of the draft 2015-16 school calendar in their packets for review. Discussion ensued and no action was taken this evening.

D. Results of Caucus for 2015 School Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Rafal announced the results of the 2015 School Committee Caucus, which was held immediately prior to this meeting. Mr. Adam Sweeting will be Chair and Ms. Carrie Normand will be Vice Chair. Congratulations to our new leaders!

E. Field Trips (recommended action: approval)

Jan. 9-10, 2015	Somerville High School boys and girls track athletes to Dartmouth, NH to participate in the Dartmouth Relays. Transportation via minibus at no cost to students.
Jan. 15, 2015	Next Wave/Full Circle students to Pat's Peak, Henneker, NH. Transportation via school van. Cost per student is \$25.00.
Jan. 17, 2015	Somerville High School boys and girls track athletes to Providence, RI to attend the East Coast International Track Meet. Transportation via minibus at no cost to students.
Feb. 11, 2015	Next Wave/Full Circle students to Pat's Peak, Henneker, NH. Transportation via school van. Cost per student is \$25.00.
Mar. 13-15, 2015	Somerville High School boys and girls track athletes to New York, NY to attend the National Scholastic Championship Meet. Transportation via minibus at no cost to students.
June 3-5, 2015	Healey School grade 4 students to Red Gate Farm, Ashfield, MA, overnight. Transportation via bus at a cost of \$230.00 per student.

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

The motion was approved via voice vote

VIII. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Sweeting

1. Thanked Ms. Rafal now that she has reached the end of her term as Chair.

Ms. Pitone

1. Reminded members and the audience that the Next Wave/Full Circle Tree Lot is open weekdays from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and from 10:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. on weekends through December 22nd.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

- Charles Gregory, father of Charlene Caton, Somerville Food and Nutrition Services Employee and President of the Cafeteria Workers Union.
- Rae-Linda "Rae" Vozella, beloved sister of Barbara Vozella, teacher at the East Somerville Community School.

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

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- Agenda
- Minutes of December 1, 2014
- Three (3) donation acceptance forms
- One (1) SCALE ADP approval
- Draft 2015-2016 School Calendar for review
- Six (6) out of state field trip approvals
- Four (4) condolence letters
- One (1) donation thank you letter