

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, December 19, 2022 - Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. – Zoom

**Members present:** Ms. Krepchin, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Barish, Ms. Dion, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Phillips and Mayor Ballantyne.

**Members Absent:** President McLaughlin.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Green asked Superintendent Curley to call the roll, results of which were as follows: PRESENT – 8 – Dr. Phillips, Ms. Krepchin, Mayor Ballantyne (left at 8:37p.m.), Chair Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman and Ms. Dion. ABSENT – 1 - Mr. McLaughlin.

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Gina Miranda - Haitian Creole

Erica DaSilva - Portuguese

Micaela Yang - Spanish

**II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Student Representatives were not present for this meeting.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 21, 2022

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Barish, second by Ms. Krepchin, to approve the School Committee minutes of November 21, 2022.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comments

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS (Out Of Order)**

**A. Ratification of the SEU Unit E-SFLC Liaisons Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Dr. Curley Introduced Francesca Broekman, one of the School Liaisons for the District, who attended the meeting to share a few remarks on behalf of her union. The following statement was submitted to be included in these minutes.

Thank you Chair Green, members of the School Committee, Superintendent Curley, members of our Central Administration, Mayor Ballantyne and members of our City Council. Thank you for recognizing our contract and helping us form a more perfect union. Like everything in the past three years, this has been a journey. And like most of the pandemic it's a journey that everyone involved has never done before. My name is Francesca Broekman and I am speaking for the SFLC Family Liaison team tonight. I was voted to speak for my team because of my experience with public speaking. On our team we all have different strengths and talents and we use them to the greatest advantage. Our team, as you well know, is small but mighty. Many times we have a hard time defining our job and explaining what we do. I believe the simplest description a former principal once said about our job is "You're good people. You do good things!" While true it's not the easiest thing to post in a job description or explain to any of our building admins. The history of the school based Family and Community Liaisons has been over a decade in the making. I would like to recognize MaryLou Carey-Sturniolo, the only liaison who has been here from those humble beginnings. Back then we were working under 10 hours per week and staff and families had no idea who we were or what we did. Now they know who we are and assume we can do anything! The rest of our team joined over the years building on the basic idea that school needs to be a partnership with families if we want our students to succeed. This important tenet is the core value of our team and department, the SFLC. And as we realized the growing levels of need for our families the district responded. A few years ago the SFLC created a five year plan to

expand our team so every liaison position would become full time. In June of 2020 that five year plan became a five day plan as the pandemic fast tracked our plans and all schools had a full time liaison. What followed was an experience that even now is hard to put into words. The past two years have left our families and children vulnerable. It has left staff vulnerable as well. There has been a lot of soul searching as everyone has questioned their jobs and their lifestyles. We have come out the other side with a clearer voice on who we are and what we need to be the best at our jobs. Becoming a union is part of using that voice. We are strong when we advocate for our families. We are even stronger now that we've advocated for ourselves. Thank you for recognizing this and our new SEU Unit E contract.

**MOTION:** Following Ms. Broekman's remarks, there was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Krepchin to authorize Chair Green to sign the SEU Unit E-SFLC Liaisons Collective Bargaining Agreement. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. District Report**

- **District Hiring Process Overview** (Ms. Woods)

Dr. Curley introduced Ms. Woods and Ms. MacDonald, from the District's HR Department, who were present to update the committee on current interim positions and vacant positions that need to be filled for next year.

Ms. Woods shared her presentation and began her update.

She quickly went over several administrative positions for which we need to hire and the potential processes.

**Questions/ Comments**

Dr. Ackman asked if the district would need extra support from an outside consulting company. Ms. Woods reassured Dr. Ackman that Ms. Macdonald was able to pull historical documents from pass searches to help inform the new searches, and they would reach out if help were needed.

Ms. Pitone asked how the community could get involved on these searches. Ms. Woods explained that the plan is to post the positions and share letters with the community on how they could get involved.

- **Weather Preparedness Memo** (Ms. Hernandez Morgan)

Dr. Curley asked Ms. Hernandez Morgan to present the memo on Weather Preparedness.

Ms. Hernandez Morgan reminded folks of the district weather process and protocols and presented the following.

TO: Somerville School Committee  
FROM: Dr. Jeff Curley, Superintendent  
RE: Weather Preparedness

With the winter season upon us, we offer the following reminder of weather-related protocols in our district, and support available to students and families who may need additional assistance at this time.

**School Cancellation or Late Starts due to Snow or Other Inclement Weather: School Cancellation**

A decision to cancel school is not made lightly. Our goal is to keep schools open and students engaged in their learning and social interaction.

[Multiple factors are considered](#) in determining whether to cancel school due to snow or other inclement weather conditions, foremost being the safety of our students, staff, and families. In partnership with many other city departments, we monitor local and regional weather and travel conditions to ensure that we make an informed decision. In some cases, the decision is clear; in many cases, it is not. We make the best decision we can based on the information available at the time.

Once a decision has been made to cancel school, families and staff will be notified via voicemail and email, and through other district and city communications platforms. We make every effort to notify families as early as possible the evening before so that families can adequately plan.

## Late Start

Should the conditions be such that a late start to the school day would allow students and staff to safely get to school, we have established procedures for a [2-hour late start](#). In the event of a late start, we make every effort to notify families via voicemail and email the previous evening by 8:00 p.m.

## **Outdoor Activities**

Outdoor activities will take place as scheduled, unless absolutely necessary. The district will determine whether the temperature and wind-chill are severe enough to cancel outdoor recess. A basic framework for weather decisions is the following:

Below 10 degrees: Indoor Recess

Below 32 degrees: Coat, long pants, gloves/mittens & hats as appropriate

More detail can be found at [Child Care Weather Watch](#). We strongly encourage students to dress in layers and wear appropriate footwear during the winter season.

### **Additional Supports Available**

The winter months can present additional challenges for some of our students and families. Emergency winter clothing is available for any student in need through their school-based Family and Community Liaison, or by contacting Regina Bertholdo or Jennifer Ochoa in the SFLC Basic Needs and Housing Support Office. The [December 2022 SFLC Calendar](#) includes other important resources available to our students and families.

## **Questions/ Comments**

Dr. Ackman asked where winter items could be donated and Ms. Hernandez Morgan said families could take them to the Basic Needs office.

Ms. Pitone asked regarding snow day vs remote days. Ms. Morgan explained that per DESE, remote days are no longer allowed; if there is a snow day, it will be added to the end of the calendar.

Dr. Phillips brought to everyone's attention shoveling for the school turfs like those at AFAS, to ensure they will be shoveled for school use. Dr. Curley responded that the administration is in partnership with DPW to address this long-standing issue. Mr. Mazza added that the plan is to have a central location on each building for students to have more access to the playground during the winter months.

Dr. Phillips asked if the thresholds for indoor line up were the same as for indoor recess. Dr. Curley responded that they should be, but he will make sure Administrators are aware, especially new admin.

- **2023-2024 School Calendar** (Dr. Boston Davis)

Dr. Boston Davis introduced the first draft of the calendar, which was included in the meeting packet and is attached below. She explained that the calendar has been updated and revamped in an attempt to be more inclusive. A second page was added listing appropriate religious and cultural holidays per the district request.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **B. School Committee Superintendent Search Listening Session** ( Mr. Green) Taken Out OF Order

Chair Green explained that there have been 10 public listening sessions to gather feedback from different stakeholders for the Superintendent Search. The listening Session tonight is to capture thoughts from School Committee members. Four Questions were asked and members took turns sharing their thoughts.

**Question 1:** What are the strength of the districts that you would like to see a new superintendent preserve?

- Prioritizing wraparound services and supporting the whole child.
- Developing leadership within the district.
- Collegiality
- The focus on diversity, equity and inclusion as well as the district's thoughtfulness to plan and implement change.

- Keeping Somerville a desirable place to work.
- Continue the open and honest culture, the transparency, and the ability to admit when things are not going well.
- A good listener with a clear vision.
- Good alignment between city council, School Committee and the Mayor's office.
- Partnerships with the city for student supports and great family engagement.
- Appreciation for ongoing work who wants to continue it and complete it.
- Humility.
- Acquisition of Grants

**Questions 2:** What are the areas for improvement and what should they prioritize for action.

- Before and after school care for working families; anything that can be done to increase slots.
- Long range planning, future enrollment as well as school buildings improvements.
- Family Engagement and partnership with the city for strategic planning for out of school time care.
- Communication is always an area that could use improvement to make it more effective.
- More focus on academic supports to be research based and forward thinking.
- More opportunity for creativity and direct real world application of the curriculum.
- To get better at reaching every student where they are academically. Someone who could actualize a plan for a post pandemic district.
- Expand the equity of inclusion of building accessibility for students, parents, and caregivers.
- Engagement of families that we do not always hear from, disenfranchise families and parents whose first language is not English.
- More project based learning.
- Someone who embraces challenges, with strong cultural competency, who holds strong to equity issues.
- Someone who can address operational challenges.
- A vocal and public champion of equity and social justice values.
- Would like to see solutions scheduling wise (i.e. student lunch time)
- Would like to see that any student, who wants to, can come out of SHS with an Associate Degree.
- Continue to push the envelope of diversifying the work force.
- The ability to recognize when you are wrong and change course.

**Question 3-** What are the traits, skills, background experiences and core values that the next superintendent should possess?

- Someone who "gets" Somerville
- Someone who has a passion for urban education and someone who is excited to tackle challenges ahead.
- Someone who has been a teacher recently enough who remembers what it is like to be in a classroom and a union.
- Someone who is able to see other people's point of view and who is able to disagree civilly and who is comfortable being uncomfortable.
- Someone who has experience in public education.
- Someone who is a youth end family person.
- Someone who has experience with the education of immigrant students.
- Someone is comfortable being an outsider and being on the receiving end of outreach.
- Someone who is a great listener.
- Someone who recognizes Somerville as an urban district. Committed to self-improvement who can command the respect of educators and respect them in return.
- Someone who does not need a special event to talk to people in the Mystic Projects, who is well versed in the complexity of ethnic policies in MA. Some who gets that it is up to us to be and show different to attract folks back.
- Someone who is eager to hear other opinions.
- Someone with diverse language skills.
- Someone who is an empathetic person.
- Someone who values and champions investigation analysis and data.
- Someone who is invested in leadership development.

**Question 4:** What qualities could you do without?

- Someone who knows their weaknesses.
- Someone who knows academics but does not need to lead with this.

- If budgeting is the thing that they need to grow on that is okay because both the district have a strong CFO.
- Values vs Skills, values are most important.
- Someone who thinks they have the answers.
- Someone who is a leader of people, someone who has the capacity to build that skill.

#### **Questions suggestions for the screening committee:**

- This is a majority white School Committee and this is not what represents our school communities, at a fundamental level we need to have items in the job description that attracts an outsider, to have a leader of the district who the majority of young people and the district see as role model.
- The idea of asking scenario based questions.
- School-city partnership and continuing to support the work in the children's cabinet.
- Important that the next superintendent believe and be willing to be vocal about social justice issues, be anti-racist and an ally to the LGBTQ community.

Dr. Ackman reminded folks that they could only choose from those who apply, please encourage any good candidates you know to apply.

Dr. Phillips asked what the revised date for the candidate profile is. Dr. Ackman said it would be posted before the holiday break.

#### **VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (Continued)**

**Notes-Superintendent's Update:** *School Committee Mtg – Monday, Dec. 19, 2022*

#### **Winter Recess**

We are three days away from winter break! Just want to remind everyone about this year's Winter Recess schedule, as it is a little different from years past:

- Thursday, December 22nd: Winter Recess begins at noon for students and school-year staff. It will be a regular full work day for 12-month staff. District offices will remain open through the end of the work day.
- Friday, December 23rd: All SPS schools are closed. District offices close at 1:00.
- Monday, December 26th: All SPS schools and offices are closed for the Christmas holiday.
- Tuesday, December 27th through Friday, December 30th: All SPS schools are closed. District offices are open for regularly scheduled hours.
- Monday, January 2nd: All SPS schools and District offices are closed in observance of the New Year's holiday.
- Tuesday, January 3rd: All staff, including school year staff, return to work. It is a professional development day for school year staff. District offices will be open. There is **no school for students on January 3rd.**
- Wednesday, January 4th: Students return to school and classes resume.

#### **COVID At-Home Testing Kits**

COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits were sent home to families last week and are being made available to all staff as well for use before returning from the Winter break. Students and staff are being asked to test before returning to school after the winter break, either the evening before or the morning of. We know that this is a time when there tend to be a lot of gatherings and social events, and we appreciate our families' and staff's continued diligence.

#### **Superintendent Search Update**

The School Committee is continuing to gather input from the community to help inform the profile of the district's next Superintendent. Ten (10) public listening sessions were conducted. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these conversations! We are continuing to gather feedback through a survey available in our four target languages. The application deadline for interested candidates is midnight, January 8, 2023. Additional information, survey links, and a link to the application are available at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/superintendent-search](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/superintendent-search).

#### **Pre-K and K Registration**

Online Pre-K and Kindergarten enrollment for the 2023-24 school year begins on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Registration links will be posted on the Enrollment Office website. The registration deadline for participating in the first batch of school assignments is February 24, 2023. This year, we are notifying families who submit a completed application by the first batch deadline of February 24th a little bit earlier. The Enrollment Office will email first batch

assignments for Preschool and Kindergarten students the week of March 20, 2023. Families who would like in-person support in completing an enrollment application should contact the Enrollment Office at (617) 629-5670 to schedule an appointment. Multilingual assistance is available. Appointments are available M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **Department Shout-Out**

A special shout-out to our amazing Music and Performing Arts Departments. Over the last few weeks, we have been enjoying the incredible work that our student musicians and thespians have done over the past few months. We get to see and enjoy the outcome of many hours of planning and practice over the course of several months. It is always a highlight of this time of the year. A heartfelt thank you to Beverly Mosby, Charlie Jabour, and ALL of the Music and Performing Arts students and staff for your outstanding work!

#### **B. Personnel Report**

- **December 2022**

### **VII. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, second Dion, to approve all the Subcommittees Reports on the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, second by Ms. Krepchin, to approve the November Bill Rolls. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

#### **A. School Committee Meeting for Special Policing: November 30, 2022 (Ms. Barish)**

Special Policing Subcommittee Meeting

November 30, 2022

The meeting was held virtually.

Ellenor Barish called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Subcommittee members Ellenor Barish, Sarah Phillips, Aisha Banda, Anuj Bhardwaj, Dayshawn Simmons were present at the start of the meeting. In addition, Interim Superintendent Curley, Samantha Eligine, Alicia Kersten, Gretchen Brion-Meisels, Jasmine Fernandez, Jessica Boston Davis, Leiran Biton, Sebastian LaGambina, and Susana Hernandez Morgan were in attendance. Andre Green joined the meeting in progress. Nineteen people were in the audience at the start of the meeting.

There were two items on the agenda.

#### **1. Community Feedback Update**

First, Sam Eligene, Director of Data, Assessment, and Accountability presented deeper analysis of data from student focus groups held at the high school in October. She identified key themes: Safety and Security, Anti-bias and Adolescent Training, Role of SRO/CPO, De-escalation Tactics, and Relationships with Students. She also presented five recommendations based on the analysis:

- Provide transparency in SRO/CPO selection process/criteria
- Clarify role of SRO/CPO in schools and in punitive procedures
- Increase SRO/CPO understanding of student experiences with police and associated trauma
- Investigate options to reduce student concerns related to police weapons (i.e. guns, tasers)
- Create connection/community between SRO/CPO and students

Ms. Eligene noted that there seemed to be some degree of disconnect between the social-emotional and mental health supports already in place and what students are aware of. This may be related to the timing of the focus groups - early in the school year. Dr. Brion-Meisels, highlighted the need to prioritize relationship-building in any SPS-SPD partnership.

Next, Leiran Biton, President of the Somerville Council of PTAs presented results from a School Safety survey conducted by the district's PTAs. The survey was circulated online primarily and was available in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and English. There were 464 respondents. Key findings identified by Mr. Biton included:

- Respondents were not representative of the demographic makeup of SPS in terms of ethnic background, language, or income.
- Many respondents seem to have made up their minds on the issue of policing.
- Many respondents felt ill-equipped to respond to some questions.

- Respondents mostly feel their children are safe in school.
- Black and Latinx respondents feel that a police response is warranted in more cases than white respondents do.
- Only the West Somerville Neighborhood School had a majority of respondents wanting an SRO at their school.
- With the exception of the Argenziano School, a majority of respondents from every school wanted Community Police visits at their school.
- At Argenziano, a majority of respondents wanted no police presence at their school beyond emergency response.

## 2. SPS Administration Proposal

Dr. Curley began his presentation with a review of the process and community feedback. High School co-principals shared insight around the challenges of the current situation and the need for clarity of process and established relationships between students/staff and a responding officer. Dr. Curley went on to propose that the district adopt a School Liaison Officer (SLO) model. Under this plan, there would be two specially-trained officers who would support the high school on a part-time basis, focusing on de-escalation, building relationships, and promoting public safety. Dr. Curley outlined how this plan would differ from the SRO model of the past, including: expanded training; more structured interactions with students, staff, and families; a shorter list of matters that warrant police response; and a clear report/complaint process. Finally, Interim Assistant Superintendent Jessica Boston Davis provided a summary of school climate and student support services that have been added or expanded upon in the past two years.

Andre Green requested clarification around the law that requires officers to be armed when on duty.

Questions from subcommittee members led to further details on the proposal put forth by the district. Dr. Curley informed the group that while this proposal is focused on the high school, the MOU would be written to apply to all schools in the district. He also stated that the district would have a role in selecting the officers for the SLO positions. While the details of training for the officers haven't been settled, Dr. Curley did say that "cross-training" for officers and district staff might be an opportunity to build a stronger partnership. Finally, he reiterated that the officers' time in the high school would be much more structured than under the SRO model and clarified that there would be more intentional, opt-in interactions with members of the school community.

There was also some discussion about when deliberation and voting would occur and exactly what would be voted on. Ellenor Barish stated that she hoped deliberation and voting could happen at the December 20 meeting. Andre Green recommended that an additional deliberation meeting be scheduled. Sarah Phillips wondered if this body would be able to select/create an MOU in as little as a couple of weeks. Ellenor Barish said she didn't believe this body was responsible for a complete MOU but that she would refer to notes from last year for guidance.

With no further items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Documents used:

School Liaison Officer PROPOSED - Presentation

Safety Survey Preliminary Results - Nov 15 2022

School Liaison Officer Proposal

SPS Special Policing Subcommittee Update 11-30-22

**B. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction:** December 5, 2022 ( Dr. Phillips)

Report of Educational Programs Subcommittee December 5, 2022, submitted by Sarah Phillips

The Educational Programs Subcommittee met on December 5, 2022, via Zoom. Members present were Sarah Phillips and Sara Dion. Also in attendance were Interim Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jessica Boston-Davis; Director of College and Career Readiness, Melanie Kessler; and Director of Operations and Extended Learning, Jose Mendez/

Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. There were three people in the audience.

There were three items on the agenda:

### 1) Approve Educational Programs Subcommittee Report

Sara Phillips moved to approve the November 2022, Educational Programs Subcommittee report. Sarah Dion seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## 2) SHS Class Rank Proposal

The subcommittee received a report on the SHS Class Rank Proposal. SHS leadership decided to examine the school's class rank policy in order to ensure it is supporting the district's goals of equity, educating the whole child, student mental health, and college/career readiness. The proposal is to not calculate or report class rank beginning with the class of 2025 (current 10<sup>th</sup> graders), and to gather additional qualitative and quantitative data in SY2022-23 to examine the corresponding weighted GPA policy. The proposal aims to reduce student stress and competition; allow students to choose courses based on their interests and needs (rather than just to raise their class rank); and to take the time necessary to evaluate the weighted GPA policy separate from class rank. The proposal does not include a recommendation on whether to continue to have a valedictorian and salutatorian. SHS leadership will collect more data before making this decision for the class of 2025. This proposal is based on extensive data collection and analysis demonstrating that in special education, multilingual learners, and CTE students were particularly disadvantaged by the previous policy. School counselors support the proposal; 100% want to eliminate class rank, as do most parents. Data from 19 college admissions counselors surveyed by SPS said eliminating class rank would not negatively impact a student's application if their school does not calculate/provide rank. Eliminating class rank is also something several neighboring schools have done, including Cambridge Rindge and Latin, Arlington High School, Newton North High School, and Melrose High School. At the end of the presentation, Sara Dion spoke in favor of the proposal, and Sarah Phillips moved to send the class rank proposal to the full School Committee with a recommendation to approve, pending Dr. Curley's review. Sara Dion seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## 3) Enrollment Study Update

Jose Mendez gave an update on the enrollment study. Flo Analytics, the district's contractor is currently finalizing the enrollment forecast and developing a dashboard to help examine projections. In January, the district expects to conduct an internal review of catchment area boundaries and expects to receive an updated dashboard presentation for review. In February, the district will conduct a review of the preliminary forecast. The SPS data team will calculate the expected change in Special Education Enrollment between September and June by level of need for a more accurate assessment of space and staffing needs. A formal presentation to the School Committee will take place in March.

Chair Phillips adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm.

Documents used:

GPA & Rank Proposal 2022.pdf  
SPS Enrollment Forecasting Updates (002).pdf

### **C. School Committee Meeting for Special Policing: December 12, 2022 (Ms. Barish)** **December 12, 2022** **Special Policing Subcommittee**

Ellenor Barish called the meeting to order at 6:02 and introduced the agenda for the meeting. At the start of the meeting, subcommittee members Sarah Phillips, Andre Green, Dayshawn Simmons, Glenda Soto, Anuj Bhardwaj, and Ellenor Barish were present. There were 5 people in the audience.

Superintendent's Chief of Staff Susana Hernandez Morgan was also in attendance. There were four items on the agenda.

#### **1. Plan for December 20th Subcommittee Meeting**

Ellenor Barish asked Andre Green to provide an overview of the basics of Roberts' Rules in anticipation of deliberation and voting at the next meeting. Andre Green did so, including motions, amendments, voting, calling the question, and motions to adjourn.



Ms. Barish then called the roll. Andre Green, Sarah Phillips, Dayshawn Simmons, Les Lartey, Anuj Bhardwaj, Ellenor Barish, Glenda Soto, and Aisha Banda were present. Johanne Thomas was absent. Ms. Barish then invited a motion related to how the group might establish voting order for future meetings.

Sarah Phillips made a motion: I move that we pick names from one hat and numbers from another hat to establish the order in which we will vote. The motion was seconded by Mr. Green and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Phillips picked numbers from one hat and Ms. Barish picked names from another, resulting in the following voting positions.

- 1 - Glenda Soto
- 2 - Sarah Phillips
- 3 - Dayshawn Simmons
- 4 - Andre Green
- 5 - Johanne Thomas
- 6 - Aisha Banda
- 7 - Anuj Bhardwaj
- 8 - Leslie Lartey
- 9 - Ellenor Barish

## **2. Share Additional Resources**

Ms. Barish then let subcommittee members know that she had emailed them an article with national data on SRO programs as requested at an earlier meeting as well as a document with all of the responses to the online comments form through December 12. Those documents were also included in the folder for the meeting. Mr. Green requested that those documents be added to the subcommittee's webpage.

Agenda items 3 and 4 were taken together as the subcommittee reviewed the proposal from the district.

## **3. Determine what additional information is needed**

**4. Review the District's Proposal to Identify Questions and/or Areas for Clarification** Below are the questions subcommittee members asked, condensed and arranged roughly by theme. They have been shared with Interim Superintendent Jeff Curley.

What law says officers must be armed while on duty?

Has the selection process been defined? Are people applying? What is the interview process? How much say does the superintendent have?

Is there an evaluative process for the SLOs? What does that look like? Who is at the helm? What is the superintendent's involvement? Will SLO reviews be made public?

Will there be opportunities for students to provide input in the selection, assessment, and evaluation of SLOs?

Will selection, evaluation, and student voice be included in the MOU?

Will SLOs respond to calls from (Pre)K-(5)8 schools or only from SHS?

Will SPD/district be able to identify what training specifically they will use for conflict resolution, anti-bias, etc? What signifies completion? Who provides that training?

Can you confirm that the intention is that SLOs are not based at a school?

What kind of data are we planning to collect on a SRO/SLO program? What data can we use to assess the impact of the program? Will there be a way to collect data around complaints and complaint referrals? With what frequency will the program be assessed?

There is data we are mandated to report to the state and the federal government? Will we start reporting that data as part of this change?

Is there a process for reporting misconduct? Who is at the helm? Who would take the lead? Are there going to be clear consequences to follow through with that process?

What if anything does the district propose around parental rights?

When would an arrest need to happen on school grounds? Could we have more definitive language than "strong preference for issuing a summons" about what to expect?

What happens when the SLOs aren't available? Is there a process to identify others who have been trained in a certain way? Are there substitute SLOs? What layers of support will be built into the system? What involvement would the SLO have in the follow-up/resolution of the incident if they were not available to respond (a different officer responded)?

With no remaining items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Documents used:  
School Liaison Officer Proposal

**D. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole:** December 14, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)

Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting Dec. 14th, 2022

Via Remote Participation

**Members Present:** Ilana Krepchin, Emily Ackman, and Laura Pitone.

**Also in Attendance:** Director of Finance Fran Gorski, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Operations Chad Mazza

**Audience Members:** There was one audience members

Ilana Krepchin called the meeting to order at 7 pm

There were 5 items on the agenda

### **FY24 Budget Timeline Review and Approval**

This is for Jan - June. Once it is approved, it will be posted on our website. Data will be the big buzzword for the budget this year.

We'll see if there are items we can address in this year's budget.

Level service budget presented at the end of January. This will be the jumping off point. TBD in March - for the meeting with the PTA council. When is the best time for this? Was done in April in the past, and that might be too late.

Question about the joint meeting with the City Council? When should that happen? Who coordinates this?

Motion to approve this timeline by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Mrs. Pitone. Passed unanimously.

### **YTD Budget Update**

As of Dec. 7th, most of it looks to be about where you'd expect it to be. We have spent about 40% of the budget so far. Facilities - PPE is one of the drivers that is making this line item so big. At the beginning of the year, we purchased a lot of covid tests, at a good price, which the district provided to everyone before the thanksgiving break and will be providing before the Christmas break. Costs about \$100,000 for tests for the whole year, for everyone, after each break.

Transportation is always a concern. Gas prices are a factor. We changed homeless transportation to one vendor (NRT). We will review. There is a reimbursement factor from the state.

School Health Services is a new org this year. \$50,000 is related to supplies. We've had to do some contracted services for nursing. It's \$16,000 over budget. Maybe we need to adjust this going forward. If some of these contracted services are related to community schools, then we will transfer some of the budget over to them.

## **ESSER & Circuit Breaker**

Challenges about schools, across the country, spending all the esser funding by Sept. 2024. There may be an extension, but we can't count on that, so we have to plan ahead. What is the best timing for all of this? Staffing and some big-ticket items (some of BAM and embedded counseling) are currently on esser. We should be reaching out to our Federal legislators to advocate for an extension.

Good news - Student Opportunity Act changed the formula for circuit breaker. We are going to receive several hundred thousand dollars more this year.

We need to lock down what we are looking at for out of district placements, given the increase in inflation rate, as allowed by the state.

## **November Bill Rolls**

Temp staffing agency - has to do with a SCALE position that we needed to use an agency to fill. New England transport - 14 passenger activity vehicle for the High School - this is a replacement vehicle for sports and other events.

Eastern Bus - charge related to athletics.

Motion to approve Dr. Ackman, seconded by Mrs. Pitone, passed unanimously.

## **Facilities Update**

The verizon extender has been installed at Winter Hill and reports are that cell service is better than it's ever been. Next thing to tackle is the wifi across the city. Will report on that soon.

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

Submitted by Ilana Krepchin, Chair, Finance and Facilities Subcommittee

Documents used:

Nov 22 Local Bill Rolls

Nov 22 Revolving Bill Rolls

Nov 22 Grants Bill Rolls

Draft Budget Timeline

YTD Expense Report

ESSER Commonwealth article

Ms. Pitone requested an overview of the policing Subcommittee. Ms. Barish encouraged her colleagues to reach out to her in regards of documents and to begin to communicate with community members.

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Somerville Educators Union Resolutions:**

Chair Green announced that the resolutions were in the packet and asked for individual motions to approve them.

- Resolutions to work in partnership with the city to maintain a safe and healthy teaching and learning environments in school buildings and on school grounds. (Ms. Krepchin)

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Dion, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to approve the resolution to help maintain a safe and learning environment in school buildings and on school grounds.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to work towards a carbon neutral SPS. (Mr. Green)
- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to support our families with school-age Children facing possible eviction and pursue policies to prevent such evictions. (Ms. Barish)

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Krepchin, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to approve the resolutions pertaining to a carbon neutral district and the prevention of evictions.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

- Resolution to work in partnership with the city to increase parking availability for staff

around school buildings - particularly those without a dedicated lot and a large staff - and to reduce parking demand by incentivizing alternate modes of transportation. (Ms. Dion)

**MOTION:** there was a motion by Ms. Krepchin, seconded by Ms. Dion, to approve the resolution regarding staff parking availability around schools and incentivizing alternate modes of transportation to reduce staff parking demand.

Dr. Ackman expressed her concern with increasing parking availability for staff because of how this may effect constituent parking; she supports the piece of incentivizing alternate modes of transportation.

Ms. Pitone offered an amendment to remove "parking access for staff around school buildings, particularly at schools without a dedicated parking lot and a large staff" from the be it resolved, which was seconded by Dr. Ackman.

Ms. Barish has seen the struggles teachers face with parking and believes there are some things that could be done beside taking away street parking spots, for example adjusting the street cleaning schedule.

As the author of the resolution Ms. Dion would prefer to keep the statement, the resolution does not say to take parking spots away from constituents but rather work creatively with the city to increase parking availability.

Ms. Pitone also considered adding "minimizing impacting resident parking access" as an alternative to her original amendment.

Dr. Ackman agreed with rescinding the original amendment and seconded Ms. Pitone's alternate amendment.

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to add "while minimizing impacting resident parking access" after the text "without a dedicated parking lot and a large staff".

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

The motion to approve the resolution as amended was called to question by Mr. Green and it was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **C. School Committee Goals** (Ms. Hernandez Morgan)

Tabled.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **D. School Committee Fall Office Hours Report Out** (Ms. Dion)

Ms. Dion read and shared her reports

#### **Fall Office Hours Report-Out**

#### **Superintendent Qualities**

- Good listener
- "Gets" Somerville, not someone who had success far away and thinks they can import their ideas
- Concerns about hiring someone from far away; they can't just look good on paper
- Thinks systematically about how schools interact
- Vocal, visible champion for equity
- Speaks Spanish or Portuguese, or at least has experience working with families who do
- Embrace social justice values
- Committed to family engagement
- Effective communicator and leader
- Believe in science, make data-based decisions
- Set boundaries and delegate responsibilities
- Politically savvy
- Person of color/bilingual/bicultural

- Establish systems and cohesion across the district
- Engages all stakeholders with an open mind
- Deep knowledge and understanding of Special Education
- Experience in immigrant communities
- Invested in the success of the community

## **Curriculum**

- Need to implement a research-based phonics program
- Would like a survey and multiple public community meetings to discuss proposed changes to high school math curriculum; we shouldn't be condensing 5 years of curriculum into 4 years
- Differentiation; child's academic needs not being met in the classroom; math extension packets not working well
- Discussion of the 6-year curriculum development cycle
- "Acceleration" vs. "raising the floor"

## **Pre-K**

- Promotion of ECIP, still word-of-mouth
- Low enrollment at Capuano, high demand for Pre-K at elementary schools
- No weighting of Pre-K lottery with neighborhood or siblings

## **Community Schools/After-School Care**

- Concerns with access and number of seats, especially for children with special needs and young children
- Need to investigate the needs of families and equity of access (i.e. more spots percentage-wise at Brown than at ESCS)
- Time between signup for after school programs and finding out you have a spot is long and difficult to plan for, therefore some people opt out of pre-K if they can afford to
- What are the reasons for the waitlists and limited availability? How can these issues be solved?
- How is staff pay factored into number of seats offered?
- Lack of after-school programming for 3-year-olds
- Want info about new YMCA after-school programs
- Keshner and Parts & Crafts moved to less expensive locations in East Somerville—would the City be open to subsidizing rents to encourage programming in all parts of the city?
- Summer programming should be announced in January; May is too late because families have already made summer plans by then

## **Staffing**

- Continue supporting FTE liaisons
- Crossing Guard FTE
- Hiring and retaining diverse staff
- Interim positions need to be filled or made permanent

## **Student Supports/Services**

- Housing/homelessness and the trauma it can cause→How can we best support these students?
- More supports for schools with disadvantaged kids
- Support for advanced students whose families don't have means
- Do we have enough translators, or do we need more? Are schools told in advance about availability for conferences or other interpretation needs with enough time to find alternatives? Are we tapping into all staff language capacity and compensating to encourage participation?

## **Facilities**

- Facilities at WHCIS and Brown need maintenance
- Understanding that WHCIS replacement will take years, but desire to get it started now, we need a plan
- Water fountains not working at WHCIS?

- Review and plan for communications in the event of an emergency, including updating families of status of out of school time programming
- Needs to be a focus on accessibility of all school buildings for people with disabilities

### **Policing**

- Fear that strong organized parent group with anti-police view is a vocal minority
- Will survey results be made public?
- Fear of violence in the community and see community policing as part of the solution
- Glad to see more mental health supports, but this may not be a full solution
- Collaboration across both district and schools when engaging with families
- In favor of limiting the role of police in schools, especially concerned about police being brought in to break up fights
- Parents should be notified every time police are called
- Shared research on negative impacts of school policing
- Any police in schools should have trauma-informed training
- Transparency of the relationship between SPD and SPS

### **Transportation**

- Likes neighborhood schools, doesn't want to bus kids all over the city
- New MBTA bus schedule doesn't facilitate transport to SHS
- Reconsider school assignment zones and process
- City and private construction projects can impact transportation to and from schools, more coordination between the District and the City on this

### **Website**

- Unclear who does what on district website, families are uncertain who to go to for specific issues
- Not all contact info is available on SPS website, and Aspen isn't reliable
- Need more photos of staff and SC on SPS website because this makes them feel more approachable
- Consider a re-design?

### **Pandemic**

- The district needs to be doing more to address pandemic-related learning loss, and communicate better about what they are doing; people want to see a plan

### **School Day/Calendar**

- Later start time for SHS, more before and after school care
- Longer school day but add more recess/lunch/downtime for students and teachers
- No Good Friday off

**E. School Committee Meeting Calendar** - in the packet for informational purposes.

**F. FY23 SCAPLE /ADP Diploma Request ( Recommended action: Approval)**

Iderlande Claude Somerville, MA

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to approved FY2023 SCALE/ADP Diploma request for Iderlande Claude of Somerville, MA.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**G. Field Trips** (Recommended action: approval)

**January 13, 2023 – January 14, 2023**

16 Students from SHS Boys and Girls Indoor Track will visit Dartmouth College in Hanover NH. Travel via school mini bus, student cost \$0.

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to approve field trips for January 14, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**H. Acceptance of FY23 Grant Funds** (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent Recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of the

**Private:**

- Somerville Education Foundation Innovation in Education Grant Program: "Multicultural Voices Centered in the Language Classroom Professional Development." \$2,000.00
- Somerville Education Foundation Innovation in Education Grant Program: "SHS Interdisciplinary Public Art Installation." \$1,400.00

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Ms. Krepchin, to accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below: The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Barish noticed School Committee meeting schedule in the packet – Chair Green said it is in the packet for members to review if there are any questions bring them to Ms. Santiago’s attention.

Chair Green announced that at an earlier caucus he was reappointed as Chair and Ms. Krepchin as Vice Chair.

**XI. CONDOLENCES**

The Somerville School Committee extends its deepest condolences to the families of the following:

Carla A. (Willey) Lincoln, Retired Cook for the Food Service Department at Winter Hill Community Innovation School

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

**Related documents:**

Agenda

2023-2024 School Calendar

Somerville Educators Union Resolutions:

Submitted by: E. Garcia

**ATTACH DOCUMENTS STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE**

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 19, 2022  
ZOOM WEBINAR– 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the School Committee will be conducted via remote participation.

We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

**Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to preregister or on the date and time of this meeting to view it live:** [https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZMsQspO1SSCIsQXOKcunug](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMsQspO1SSCIsQXOKcunug)

**Webinar ID:** 847 5813 4927

**Password:** SPSSC22

**Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2019 - 2022**

Through the following long-range goals, we commit to addressing deep-rooted systemic barriers that have prevented us from achieving our district vision of equity and excellence and ensuring that all students, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the supports and resources they need to achieve educational success in our district now and in the future. By 2022, we will ...:

...increase the percentage of support staff of color by 6 percentage points, teachers and counselors of color by 5 percentage points, and administrators of color by 4 percentage points through evaluating and strengthening all elements of our human capital system.

... 1) conduct a district enrollment study to understand the prospective future population of the district and 2) craft a vision for school assignment and programming aligned with the district's equity policy.

... design, evaluate, and partially or fully implement student-based budgeting to ensure that every student has equitable access to rich learning opportunities that help them thrive.

... design a robust system of aligned developmental academic and social-emotional benchmarks which will be used to inform practices, policies, and resource allocation.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**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. SCHOOL COMMITTEE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 21, 2022

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. District Report**

- District Hiring Process Overview (Ms. Woods)
- Weather Preparedness Memo (Ms. Hernandez Morgan)
- 2023-2024 School Calendar (Dr. Boston Davis)

**B. Personnel Report**

- December 2022

**VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. School Committee Meeting for Special Policing:** November 30, 2022 (Ms. Barish)



MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Special Policing of November 30, 2022.

**B. School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction:** December 5, 2022 (Dr. Phillips)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of December 5, 2022.

**C. School Committee Meeting for Special Policing:** December 12, 2022 (Ms. Barish)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Special Policing of December 12, 2022.

**D. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities:** December 14, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of December 14, 2022.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Somerville Educators Union Resolutions:

- Resolutions to Help Maintain a Safe and Healthy Teaching and Learning Environment. (Ms. Krepchin)
- Resolution Towards Becoming a Carbon Neutral District. (Mr. Green)
- Resolution Regarding Staff Parking Availability Around Schools and Incentivizing Alternate Modes of Transportation to Reduce Staff Parking Demand. (Ms. Dion)
- Resolution to Partner with the City to Pursue Policies Preventing Evictions. (Ms. Barish)

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Ratification of The SEU Unit E - SFLC Liaisons Collective Bargaining Agreement

**B. School Committee Goals** (Ms. Hernandez Morgan)

**C. School Committee Superintendent Search Listening Session** (Chair Green)

**D. School Committee Fall Office Hours Report Out** (Ms. Dion)

**E. School Committee Meeting Calendar**

**F. FY23 SCALE/ ADP Diploma Request** (Recommended action: approval)

*Iderlande Claude                  Somerville, MA*

**G. Field Trips** (Recommended action: approval)

**January 13, 2023 – January 14, 2023**

16 Students from SHS Boys and Girls Indoor Track will visit Dartmouth College in Hanover NH. Travel via school mini bus, student cost \$0.

**H. Acceptance of FY23 Grant Funds** (Recommended action: approval)

MOTION: To accept all federal entitlement and continuation grants and all state continuation grants awarded to the Somerville Public Schools listed below:

#### ***Private:***

- Somerville Education Foundation Innovation in Education Grant Program: "Multicultural Voices Centered in the Language Classroom Professional Development." \$2,000.00
- Somerville Education Foundation Innovation in Education Grant Program: "SHS Interdisciplinary Public Art Installation." \$1,400.00

## IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

## X. CONDOLENCES

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

The items listed 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.

# 2023-2024 School Calendar

First Day of School Grades 1-12: August 30

First Day of School for Pre-K and K: September 6

Last Day of School : June 13

**AUGUST '23 (2 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

21—1st day for Administrator Prof. Dev.  
28—1st day for Educator Prof. Dev.  
29—Educator Professional Development  
30—1st day for students 1 - 12 (1/2 day)

**SEPTEMBER '23 (19 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1—No School (Offices Open)  
4—No School - Labor Day  
6—1st day for K and Pre-K students  
15-17—Rosh Hashanah\*  
25—Yom Kippur\*

**OCTOBER '23 (21 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

9 - No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day

**NOVEMBER '23 (18 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

8—No School - Election Day (Offices Open)  
10—No School - Veterans Day  
12—Diwali  
22—Begin Thanksgiving Recess at noon

**1st Quarter 8/30—11/3**

**DECEMBER '23 (16 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

7-15—Hanukkah\*  
22—Begin Winter Recess at noon  
(Includes Christmas - 12/25 and Kwanzaa - 12/26)

**JANUARY '24 (20 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

1—No School - New Year's Day  
2—No School - Prof. Dev. for Staff  
3—Classes Resume  
6—Three Kings Day/ Día De Los Reyes  
15—No School - Martin Luther King Day

**2nd Quarter 11/6—01/23**

**FEBRUARY '24 (16 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	1	2

10—Lunar New Year  
19-23—February Vacation  
(includes Presidents' Day)

**MARCH '24 (21 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

3/10-4/9—Ramadan\*  
25—Holi  
29—No School - Good Friday  
31—Easter

**APRIL '24 (16 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

3/10-4/9—Ramadan\*  
10—Eid al-Fitr\*  
15-19—April Vacation (includes Patriots Day)  
22-30—Passover\*

**3rd Quarter 01/24—04/02**

**MAY '24 (22 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

27—No School - Memorial Day  
31—Class Day (Tentative)

**JUNE '24 (9 days)**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

3—Graduation Day (Tentative)  
13—Last day of school (180 days)  
19—Juneteenth (Offices Closed)  
20—185th day  
**4th Quarter 04/03—06/13**

**Prof. Dev. For Educators**

- Half-Day for ALL Students PK—12
- ★ Special Dates for Seniors
- Half-Days

**Major Religious & Cultural Holidays**

Dates underlined under each month represent the district's major religious and cultural holidays. All holidays starred (\*) begin at sundown the previous day. Somerville Public Schools staff members will do their best to refrain from scheduling one-time events, field trips, athletic competitions, auditions, tests, quizzes for these days. Long-term assignments will not be due on the day of or the day after one of these holidays.

For more information or for questions, please contact Katherine Santiago - [ksantiago@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:ksantiago@k12.somerville.ma.us)

Draft For 12-19-2022

### Major Religious & Cultural Holidays

Somerville Public Schools is proud to be a rich and diverse community. Although schools are not closed in observance of all religious and cultural holidays, the Somerville Public Schools respect and acknowledge the holidays that our families, students, and staff observe. The list below includes many of the holidays observed. Students who miss school because of an excused absence for a religious observance, should not be expected to complete homework, assignments, study for test, or do any other schoolwork on the holiday. Prior to an excused absence, schools and teachers should be informed.

Name of Holiday	Religion/ Culture	Dates
Rosh Hashanah*	Jewish	September 15-17
Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	September 19
Yom Kippur*	Jewish	September 25
Mawlid Al-Nabi (Sunni)	Islamic	September 26-27
Mawlid Al-Nabi (Shi'a)	Islamic	September 27
Sukkot*	Jewish	Sep. 29—Oct. 6
Shemini Atzeret*	Jewish	October 6-8
Simchat Torah*	Jewish	October 7-8
Navaratri	Hindu	October 15-24
Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í	October 16
Birth of the Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	October 17
All Saints Day	Western Christian	November 1
All Souls Day	Christian	November 2
Diwali	Hindu	November 12
St. Nicholas Day	Christian	December 6
Bodhi Day	Buddhist	December 8
Hanukkah*	Jewish	December 7-15
Yule	Christian	Dec. 21—Jan. 1
Christmas	Christian	December 25
Kwanzaa	African American	December 26
Epiphany	Christian	January 6
Three Kings Days/ Dia de los Reyes	Christian	January 6
Feast of the Nativity	Orthodox Christian	January 7
Guru Gobindh Singh Birthday	Sikh	January 17
Lunar New Year	Chinese Chunje, Vietnamese Têt, Korean Seollal & Tibetan Losar	February 10
Ash Wednesday	Christian	February 14
Nirvana Day	Buddhist	February 15
Ayyám-i-Há	Bahá'í	Feb. 24—Mar. 1
Ramadan Begins*	Muslim	March 10
St. Patrick's Day	Irish Heritage	March 17
Naw-Rúz	Bahá'í	March 19-20
Purim*	Jewish	March 23-24
Palm Sunday	Christian	March 24
Holi	Hindu	March 25
Easter	Christian	March 31
Ramadan Ends*	Muslim	April 9
Eid al-Fitr*	Islamic	April 10
Vaisakhi	Sikh	April 13
Passover*	Jewish	April 22-30
Hanuman Jayanti	Hindu	April 23
National Day of Prayer	USA—Interfaith	May 2
Ascension Day	Christian	May 9
Yom Ha'atzmaut	Jewish	May 12-13
Buddha Day	Buddhism	May 15
Haitian Flag Day	Haitian Heritage	May 18
Pentecost	Christian	May 19
Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	May 28
Shavuot	Jewish	June 11-13
Ascension Day	Eastern Orthodox Christian	June 13
Pentecost	Easter Orthodox Christian	June 24

## **Resolution to Help Maintain Safe and Healthy Teaching and Learning Environments**

WHEREAS, the conditions for teaching and learning, including the physical conditions of our school buildings and school grounds, are critical in creating a safe and healthy climate conducive to creativity and innovation; and

WHEREAS, significant financial investments were made by the City of Somerville to improve air quality and air flow in school buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, additional investments have been made and further investments are planned by the City of Somerville to improve schoolyards to enhance the outdoor environment at several of our schools; and

WHEREAS, safe and healthy physical school environments help students and staff feel safer, more valued, and result in improved student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, safe and healthy physical school environments can create a greater sense of pride and ownership, leading to a stronger and more connected school community; and

WHEREAS, Somerville Public Schools works in partnership with the Somerville Department of Public Works (DPW) in the daily maintenance of our school buildings and grounds; and

WHEREAS, Somerville Public Schools works in partnership with the various divisions of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) on school-related projects designed to support safe and healthy teaching and learning environments in our school buildings, school grounds, and access to schools; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to providing school buildings and grounds that are well-maintained and designed to support rich and creative teaching and learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, we believe that maintaining safe and healthy teaching and learning environments is essential to achieving our vision of “developing the whole child – the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential of all students – by providing them with the skills, opportunities, and resources that will nurture innovative ideas, foster pride in diversity, inspire students to become lifelong learners and empower them to enrich their communities”;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Somerville School Committee commits to work in partnership with the City of Somerville to ensure that adequate investments are made to provide safe and healthy teaching and learning environments that support innovative and creative pedagogical practices, foster a sense of pride in our school buildings and grounds, provide opportunities for rich learning within and beyond the classroom walls, and help to build a sense of community.

## **Resolution Towards Becoming a Carbon Neutral District**

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to providing safe and healthy teaching and learning environments; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and supporting and promoting sustainable practices within their school buildings and school grounds that will lead to healthier school environments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville's Climate Forward Plan, first introduced in 2018, established a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville has made great progress in advancing its Climate Forward Plan, including but not limited to establishing net-zero and resilient new building standards, supporting a rapid transition to electric vehicles by purchasing and installing new EV charging stations and permitting additional new EV charging stations across the city, expanding bicycle infrastructure, installing Blue Bike stations, and piloting staff incentives for Blue Bikes as an alternative mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville set a SomerVision2040 goal of 80% decrease in carbon emissions from 2014 levels with related indicators including the percent of buildings' energy use coming from sustainable sources and the share of buildings with solar panels; and

WHEREAS, the new Somerville High School building is a LEED-4 certified building and includes several energy-efficient features such as windows that harvest daylight, a solar panel array that operates year-round, a wind turbine, a green roof that filters rainwater, efficient mechanical systems, LED lighting with smart sensor controls that are integrated within the building systems, bike storage access to encourage alternative modes of transportation, and preferred parking/easy access to a charging station for electric and battery-powered vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville also recently installed a solar array panel at the East Somerville Community School that operates year-round; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools works with a number of other city departments to ensure that all efforts are made to reduce carbon emissions in and around our schools through sustainable efforts, "no idling" signage, energy-efficient equipment purchases and building improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville School Committee has also resolved to work in partnership with the city to facilitate parking access for staff around school buildings and to reduce parking demand by incentivizing alternate modes of transportation;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Somerville School Committee commits to work in partnership with the city towards becoming a carbon neutral district.

## **Resolution Regarding Staff Parking Availability Around Schools and Incentivizing Alternate Modes of Transportation to Reduce Staff Parking Demand**

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to ensuring a welcoming and supportive educational environment for our staff, which includes facilitating access to respective workplaces; and

WHEREAS, many Somerville Public Schools faculty and staff live in suburban communities and have to drive to work; and

WHEREAS, in the urgency to get to school on time, school staff sometimes have to park in an area not designated for school parking and face significant parking ticket expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools also recognizes the challenges of parking availability in a densely populated urban city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville has set a goal of 75% of Work Commutes via Non-Car Mode in perpetuity by 2040 as part of its [Somerville Vision 2040 Mobility Plan](#); and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools works in partnership with the Somerville Mobility and other divisions of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) to creatively address parking and mobility challenges and work toward the Somerville Vision 2040 Mobility plan goal; and

WHEREAS, the long-awaited and much-anticipated MBTA Green Line Extension, which includes an extended branch from Lechmere Station in Cambridge to Medford Station, along with a new Green Line branch from Lechmere to Union Square in Somerville, expands public transportation access throughout Somerville with six new additional T stations (Union Square, East Somerville, Gilman Square, Magoun Square, Ball Square, and College Avenue); and

WHEREAS, the new MBTA Green Line Extension is scheduled to officially open on December 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville is continuing to invest in transportation infrastructure improvements and enhancements that include expansion of bike lanes throughout the city and designated bus lanes to support alternative modes of transportation;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Somerville School Committee commits to work in partnership with the city to facilitate parking access for staff around school buildings, particularly at schools without a dedicated parking lot and a large staff, and to reduce parking demand by incentivizing alternate modes of transportation.

## **Resolution to Partner with City to Pursue Policies Preventing Evictions**

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to ensuring that the conditions for learning are such that all students are able to fully access the curriculum and thrive academically and social-emotionally; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is also dedicated to removing or mitigating barriers that may impact a students' ability to feel safe, supported, and ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, research has found that stable housing is foundational to children's wellbeing and is also critical to a child's development; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that an estimated 1 in 7 children living in cities within the United States are evicted by the time they turn 15; and

WHEREAS, housing displacement is known to have a significant negative impact on students' educational outcomes, their health, and their future earnings; and

WHEREAS, studies have also found an association between housing instability and increased criminal justice involvement of adults of families facing eviction; and

WHEREAS, housing is the single largest expenditure for most families, and the greatest determinant of a family's financial stability; and

WHEREAS, rising housing costs in Somerville and the region have led to displacement of families unable to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the subsequent economic downturn has led to an increase in the number of families unable to make their rent or mortgage payments, leading to further displacement of families; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville has set a goal of achieving 20% of "affordable forever" housing stock as part of its SomerVision 2040 plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville demonstrated exceptional leadership in establishing and extending an eviction moratorium during the COVID-19 pandemic, and introducing new municipal housing assistance programs to help keep families in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Office of Housing Stability's mission is "to prevent the involuntary displacement of Somerville residents who are in the process of eviction or at other risk of losing their housing; to rehouse the homeless and those needing to relocate; and to enact policies to combat displacement and enhance tenants' rights"; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools, as part of its mission, is dedicated to maintaining a safe environment that nurtures the curiosity, dignity and self-worth of each individual;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Somerville School Committee commits to work in partnership with the City of Somerville and appropriate city departments and community agencies to support Somerville Public Schools families with school-age children facing possible eviction, and pursue policies to prevent such evictions.