

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, May 19, 2025 - Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. – City Hall Chambers

**Members present:** Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman, Mr. Green, Mr. Biton, President Pineda Neufeld, Ms. Barish, Dr. Phillips, and Ms. Krepchin **Members Absent:** Mayor Ballantyne

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Krepchin asked Superintendent Carmona to call the roll, the results of which were as follows: PRESENT –7 –Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman, Mr. Green, Mr. Biton, President Pineda Neufeld (*arrived at 7:50 pm*), Ms. Barish, Dr. Phillips, and Ms. Krepchin **ABSENT** –Mayor Ballantyne,

Chair Krepchin asked interpreters to introduce themselves:  
Daniela Caride-Spanish  
Angie Surpris-Haitian Creole

**II. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Chair Krepchin introduce Jackson Love and Alice Hunter and read some remarks that were submitted by their school counselors

**Class of 2025 Valedictorian**

**Jackson Love**

It is an absolute pleasure to announce Jackson Love as the Valedictorian of the Class of 2025. He is one of the most hardworking, humble, and kindhearted students in my caseload who has made the most of his high school experience. Jackson challenged himself academically by enrolling in a predominantly honors curriculum with 13 advanced placement courses. He has scored a 5 in six of his advanced placement courses and has earned a spot in our high honor roll. His 4.97 weighted GPA is a testament of his work ethic, growth mindset, and passion for learning. Jackson is a student-athlete who is a positive role model in our school community. His involvement in soccer and indoor/outdoor track and field teams as an athlete and captain has allowed him to build meaningful relationships with his coaches and peers. He is a student who will take a minute to check in individually with teammates, learning about their personal experiences and hardships, despite language barriers. He is proud to be a five time Greater Boston League All Star. He is also a mentor and faith driven leader to a cohort of 15 6th-8th graders at his family's local church, leading small group activities and facilitating discussions. He is conscious about creating safe spaces for others so that they can grow and build community. Jackson is a trilingual student with fluency in French and Spanish. He has taken all of our course offerings in Spanish and has practiced this language with peers on the soccer field. He is also a self-taught musician who plays guitar, bass, trombone, and piano. Jackson has made a long lasting impression on me because of his humility and meaningful connections with our students. He is always striving for excellence but doesn't lose sight of who he is as an individual. He has committed to attend Yale University to study Political Science. It has been a privilege to have him in my caseload and I know he will continue to make a positive impact in his next educational chapter.

**Class of 2025 Salutatorian**

**Alice Hunter**

As a student, Alice excels in challenging subjects. In courses such as AP Literature, and BC Calculus, Alice has proven their ability to tackle complex material with a sharp intellect and a willingness to grow. Alice's enthusiasm for math, is coupled with a love for art and architecture, which was especially evident in their

Architectural Drawing course. These courses not only pushed Alice to develop advanced skills but also instilled in them a sense of pride in their academic achievements. Beyond the classroom, Alice has been a valuable member of our school community, contributing to a wide array of activities. As a performer, technical crew leader, and director with the Highlander Theatre Company, Alice has taken on pivotal roles that showcase both their creative and organizational strengths. Serving as Membership Officer for the International Thespian Society and as the Lead Stage Manager for All-City Middle School Musical productions, Alice displayed exceptional leadership, managing 100 middle school students and coordinating multiple technical departments. The success of these productions is a testament to their ability to lead large teams, handle high-pressure situations, and ensure that every individual feels valued and supported.

Alice is a rare combination of talent, perseverance, and generosity. I am confident that Alice will continue to make a meaningful impact wherever they go, and I wholeheartedly recommend them for any opportunity they pursue.

Superintendent Dr. Carmona, Chair Krepchin, all took the time to congratulate Jackson and Alice and to offer them well wishes

**III. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Student Representatives were not present

**IV. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT- Out of Order**

Superintendent Dr. Carmona read his report, which was as follows

Good evening, everyone. Tonight’s meeting is a special one—we have the opportunity to recognize and celebrate students who have achieved remarkable accomplishments throughout their high school careers. I’m so proud to be in a District that creates an environment where our students can learn, grow and achieve at the very highest levels.

But before we dive into those celebrations, I want to take a few moments to speak about our proposed FY26 budget, which is also on tonight’s agenda. As many of you know, last week my team and I presented our proposed budget to the Committee and the public. Our proposal represents our best effort to meet student needs, while recognizing the current fiscal constraints and federal uncertainty. Despite rising costs and the threats to longstanding funding sources, we have remained grounded in our core values.

**A. District Report**  
**• Robotic Team**

Dr. Carmona introduce the robotic team with the Impact Award Robotics Team o 9 seniors and 4 juniors

Now, let’s turn our attention to a group of students who have demonstrated innovation, teamwork, and resilience: our Robotics Team. It’s my honor to present the first-ever Impact Awards to members of the Class of 2025- 2026 who have led the SHS Robotics Team through our most successful competition season yet:

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Alison Holzer</i>    | <i>Aneurin Hullah</i>   |
| <i>Bhavroop Kaur</i>    | <i>Gerran Hullah</i>    |
| <i>Hayley Machado</i>   | <i>Jack Granowetter</i> |
| <i>Jacob Soltysiak</i>  | <i>Lex Moulton</i>      |
| <i>Miles Eisenbraun</i> | <i>Rafael Ronen</i>     |
| <i>Sage Millbury</i>    | <i>Sam Ryan</i>         |
| <i>Silas Wickenden</i>  |                         |

Congratulations are also in order for Coach Peters and Jason Behrens for the successful season and for Coach Peters for earning her Doctorate in Education!

And now, for a special treat, our Robotics Team is here to demonstrate their most competitive robot yet. Let's give a warm welcome to the SHS FRC6201 team and their creation, Plunk!

The Robotic Team shared a demonstration of their creation of the Plunk (Presentation below)

## **Comments/ Questions**

Mr. Biton- would love to hear what has been the biggest challenge in making this?

Student- the biggest challenge that team has faced for multiple years is time management and making that we are designing a robot that is simple enough that we can realistically build it and then sticking to that plan

Ms. Barish- Wonder if one of the seniors who has been in the team for few years can talk a little about the growth of the team over time at SHS what contributed to the team success and growth.

Sam- noted that join the team right after the pandemic, the robotic team had hit a break in team consistency because no one had been doing it. When it started on that year it was from scratch there we no older students in the team we went from there to what we have today, which is more than we had last couple of years. There are issues on retaining younger students, we took an aggressive approach to that because so many of us were graduating to be specific we change what we do with students at the beginning of the year because this program gets really intense in the winter time when it's competition season. But it's hard to tell kids just wait until the winter time they want to pick up a sport and get busy. We had all the incoming students build essentially a whole other robot. It's called a Kit bot we had them build so, it's a slightly simpler version of the competition robot with like some instructions and materials along the way for the offseason event. We had the kids come in right from September build their robot and people got to learn that they like doing it and they stuck around.

Dr. Ackman - thank you for being here, especially being so close to graduation. Curious what happens to PLUNK coming June? Do you build a new one every year?

Raph- The best way to possibly describe is we build with spare parts. Electronics are relatively expensive. Those get reused every year we don't have a use for all of like smaller metals bits that we can't cut or reuse. Those who generally stay we have robots from 4 or 5 years ago that are in storage but generally all of the parts that we can reuse we do.

Ms. Pitone - How would you communicate with students who want to get involved

Student- Get involved, commit and start trying it out, attend events, see the work

Mr. Green- how can we as individuals, committee and district, support this group?

Ms. Peters expressed appreciation for the strong support from Dr. Carmona and Dr. Boston Davis and emphasized the importance of continued support, especially for future funding requests. She noted that the team has grown from about 12–18 students in 2022 to nearly double in size. Their mission is to inspire younger students and increase diversity in STEM and robotics. She added that even small actions, like avoiding negative comments about subjects like math, can make a big difference in encouraging student participation across the district.

Chair Krepchin announced that the committee will take a brief break to celebrate the students in attendance.

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Krepchin read the public comment regulations and asked those who had signed up to comment at this time.

Thirty-one members signed up for public comments and submitted written statements in support of a 10% budget increase for the schools.

## **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- April 28, 2025

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, seconded by Mr. Biton, to approve minutes from April 28, 2025.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

## **VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Carmona thanked everyone for coming out tonight and raising their comments and for celebrating the Salutatorian and Valedictorian as well as the Robotics team.

I've spoken a lot about the budget in recent days so tonight I will be brief. I want to be crystal clear about where we stand as a District. Somerville Public Schools stands with our students, staff, and families in advocating for sufficient resources to fund our schools.

- The City has asked us for a 5% budget increase. We've made every effort to align with that request, and have proposed a 5.25% increase, which we believe is the minimum needed to meet essential student needs and maintain educational quality.
- Throughout this process, we've been in regular dialogue with the City Administration, meeting bi-weekly to communicate our needs; whether it's compliance, staffing, or curriculum.
- At the state level, we've engaged with our legislative delegation to advocate for increased PK-12 funding.
- And at the federal level, we have been vocal in defending the critical role of the Department of Education.
- Last week during our budget presentation, we heard directly from many of you. Your comments about special education, staffing, compensation, and facilities underscore how deeply our community cares about our schools, and how important it is that we get this right.
- Please know that we have taken every single comment to heart. We are deeply committed to inclusive education that meets the needs of all of our students.
- Our proposed budget prioritizes DESE compliance, competitive compensation, and carries out the mission and vision of our Strategic Plan.

We're proud of the extensive community engagement that has guided us and remain fully committed to advocating at every level of government for the resources our students deserve. This conversation is about the future of our district, and we look forward to working with the School Committee, City Council, and Administration to finalize a budget that reflects our shared values.

With that, let's shift gears to the rest of the presentations

## **CTE Awards Banquet for Seniors**

Moving on to more student achievements, we recently held our **CTE Awards Banquet** on May 14. Congratulations to the students who won awards and scholarships. And a special acknowledgement to long-term Finance Department employee Mary Kelly, who received the CTE Lifetime Achievement Award.

## **Somerville High School Class of 2025 has several important dates**

The Class of 2025 has an exciting calendar ahead, including:

- National Honor Society Induction Night on May 20
- Prom is on Thursday, May 22
- Somerville Scholarship Night on May 28
- Class Day on May 29
- And Graduation on June 2

Additionally,

- The Full Circle Graduation Ceremony is on June 4
- And our adult education students' SCALE Graduation Ceremony is on June 11

Don't forget to keep your eyes open for wonderful spring concerts. You can find concert dates on our district calendar.

## **Statewide K-12 Graduation Council Listening Session at SHS**

In other news, Somerville High School will host a Statewide K–12 Graduation Council Listening Session on Wednesday, May 28, from 5–7 p.m. This Council is convened by Governor Maura Healey and is working to define graduation requirements from high school in Massachusetts. We encourage students, families, and community members to attend. More information is available on our District calendar.

## **Tonight's Presentations**

To close out tonight's District Report, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jess Boston Davis will share the Quarterly Academic Update. Then our Director of Special Education, Ildefonso Arellano, will be available to discuss the Child Find Law and answer any questions.

With that, I'll now turn it over to Dr. Jess Boston Davis.

### **A. District Report**

#### **• Quarterly Academic Update**

Dr. Boston Davis shared with the committee the quarterly Academic update, which focus on the curriculum rollout that's happening across the district, but this is focusing on grades K-8 the specific focus here is around math and ELA. What curriculum will be implemented next year. In alignment with our SPS Strategic Plan our top academic priority is to adopt and implement high quality evidence-based and culturally responsive curriculum. The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of the progress of the curriculum implementation at our elementary schools planned for next school year. It's important to note that this memo focuses on universal tier one curriculum that will be implemented in Math and ELA so that means curriculum that all students have access to. As you know a district we've embarked on a district-wide curriculum roll out over the past few year. Within the memo you will see a breakdown of curriculum implementation by grade. Professional development support and you'll see additional considerations including community involvement.

In Summary for next year in grades six through eight, we will be fully implemented of our fisk tank curriculum in ELA and continue to use and full implementation of illustratetive mathematics. In grades three through five in year one of our new implementation of our new ELA curriculum that is currently being selected and we will have a recommendation from that selection team by May 30th. In math this current year was year one of mathematics so next year will be continued used of the mathematics curriculum and in grades K through two we will have some early adopters of the newly selected ELA curriculum and in math it will be year one of full implementation of mathematics.

## Comments/ Questions

Dr. Ackman- For the new ELA curriculum will there be a professional development during the summer for the teachers?

Dr. Boston Davis - Reference to page 3 of the memo, here is a high-level overview: There will be optional, compensated professional development over the summer, similar to the optional PD previously offered for Fishtank. An additional PD session will be held in August for teachers who are unable to attend the summer sessions.

Department meetings will take place throughout the school year, with those for grades 3–5 specifically focused on the new ELA curriculum. Common planning time will also be used for collaboration, planning, reviewing student work protocols, and assessing student progress.

Professional development for administrators has already begun and will continue for those who supervise Unit A SEU members. This PD will focus on the new ELA curriculum, similar to the support provided for both Fishtank and Luster Mathematics during the school year.

Ms. Pitone- thank you for sharing this memo wanted to highlight that in this memo there is a reference to dyslexia action plan which is something new and that is something that has definitely been needed . Can you speak to that briefly?

Dr. Boston Davis- We were able to participate in the Massachusetts Dyslexia Institute. Kathleen Seward, along with a number of educators, took part in this professional development, which included several meetings throughout the year and culminated in the creation of a Dyslexia Action Plan. Much of the work focused on establishing clear, consistent, evidence-based and research-based Tier 1 curriculum and assessment practices—that was a major component of the institute. The Dyslexia Action Plan is linked on the SPS website. We're happy to collaborate with Kathleen and can bring it to the Committee if you would like a full memo or overview.

Mr. Biton- Looking forward to reading the action plan. At the end of the memo, there's a section about community engagement. How will we continue to leverage parent nights at our schools to support that process? Is there a plan for that? Many of this curriculum are not only new to teachers but also for parents, and supporting continued learning at home is a critical piece of this work.

Dr. Boston Davis- Yes, we will continue. There are two separate types of parent engagement nights. The first is at the district level. If you look at page 4 of the memo, Paula O'Sullivan and the math coaches led two informational sessions—two in person and one on Zoom. They will do this again next year, specifically for grades K through 2.

Dr. Phillips- has a question about the preamble of the superintendence report and refer her question to Council President Pineda Neufeld, I see that tomorrow the City Council Finance Committee is going to take up an order from you that the city adopt chapter 329 of the ach of 1987 and I wondering if you can explain to all of us what tha means and what needs to happen for it to take effect.

Ms. Pineda Neufeld - I will do the best I can, so a little context the city council as folks here know has very little power around budgetary allocation other than cutting the budget the exception to that is around accepting a budget from the school committee that differs than the mayor's proposed budget. in order for us to retain the power to be able to accept a different budget from the school committee from the schools we need to go back to this state law and accept it as a council. There was a time

Mr. Green- to be clear come Wednesday, we could literally double the budget and the mayor could unilaterally still submit a budget number she wanted and that council would have to vote on as status quote. If we were to pass this law or resolution can the Mayor refuse to sign it can we overturn that veto?

Judy - no, we need a mayoral signature on it and is not an ordinance that we could override a veto.

Ms. Pitone- curious if the Mayor has given any indication whether or not they would be amenable to this idea or whether not.

Judy-This is a question to the Mayor herself

The conversation ensued on the city adopting of chapter 329

- **Child Find Law**

Dr. Carmona reminded the committee that three meetings ago, he presented on the Child Find law, and the committee had some questions. That is why Special Education Director Ildefonso Arellano is available tonight to answer those questions.

Mr. Biton- Wondering since we heard about the community screenings combined with the efforts during the school year can you speak to on a percentage basis or numbers about how many students are identified by the district as opposed to those requested evaluations requested by parents

Mr. Arellano- In terms of how many student have been identified i can definitely go back and get you that information for this school year. The process is still going on. Therefore we don't have a final number. I can give a rough sense of last year in terms of how many parents referrals versus school referrals were given. Prek-8 - including high school, Capuano is a little different it has three referral sources, Parents, the school and EI referrals that sometime can be somewhat Skewed if you are looking at those numbers. Last year approximately 202 students were referred for testing about 56% of those came rm the school and another 44% came from parents this is Pre-8 including the high school. At the Capuano we had 101 referrals 36 came from parents 6 come from the schools and about 59 from EI referrals. We still sifting through some of the data so we can get information in terms of out of the parent referrals.

Ms. Pitone- Curious on how our staffing model incorporates that type of time in addition to their case load. How do we incorporate the time that our educators 30 hours a week is not just back to back case loads.

Mr. Arellano -Our teachers are doing an amazing job supporting our students. You are connected and

aware that, in addition to their regular services, unexpected situations come up on a daily basis. One of the key takeaways from what I'm hearing is that we've been able to identify when these situations occur and how they are impacting students' access to services.

Dr. Ackman - You spoke on this memo about child find for Privately enrolled children. I'm wondering if you could speak to my understanding is that at least 250 students in Somerville attend charter schools. What is it about our special education staff? the district still responsible for any sped support for those students as well. For the Privately enrolled students what are those demands on our staff time, also can you let us know about Somerville residents in charter schools as well.

Mr. Arellano- in terms of the charter schools we don't provide to the students. We don't conduct child find activities to Charter Schools they are a public entity. So therefore, they have their own child find processes similar to ours and they are responsible for the Special education services there. We are in collaboration with them because we know that students are returning to the district with an IEP than we become responsible for them. IN terms of Private School student under the law we are responsible for child find so they are part of our screening and we provide consultation with them three time a year or more.

## **B. Personnel Report**

- May 2025

Superintendent Dr. Carmona announced the retiree and thanked them for their years of service.

## **VIII. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **A. School Committee Meeting for the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting for April 28, 2025 (Ms. Barish)**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting for April 28, 2025

Rules Management Subcommittee  
April 28, 2025  
City Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm. Andre Green, Amara Anosike, and Ms. Mallon were present. There were two people in the audience.

There were five items on the agenda.

#### **1. Approve Notes from March Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting**

Andre Green moved to approve the notes from the March meeting of the Rules Management Subcommittee with Ellenor Barish seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2. Policy Manual Review - Sections A-D**

Ms. Barish shared that she had communicated changes to Ms. Mallon based on legal team's recommendations for - AC, AC-R, ACAB, and ACAB-R. MASC does not have a reference policy for ACAB-R. The rest are nearly identical to the MASC model policies.



Ms. Mallon will add them back into section A.

There were no new questions or comments on Sections B and C.

Section D - Ms. Mallon has flagged policies to run by administration. There are City ordinances and Charter elements that impact these policies.

DA - We may want to incorporate bits from the Superintendent's Strategic Plan. Flagged for review by SPS administration.

DB - MASC's version from 2022 is more expansive. Our version has a reference to the Somerville City Charter but no specific language from there. Check the charter for any language we want to bring over regarding subcommittees, hearings, timelines, etc. Flagged for review by SPS administration.

DBC - Budget Deadlines and Schedules

MASC updated the reference policy in 2022. Ours was last updated in 2017. MASC's updates include language about the public hearing, Mr. Green noted that we could include the joint meeting with City Council in this policy. Flagged for review to ensure alignment with City Charter.

DBD - Budget Planning

MASC's reference policy is more cohesive and includes general statements. Superintendent begins the process and has overall responsibility for developing the budget. Administration should check aspirational language in the middle of the policy for alignment with the strategic plan; priority is the educational wellbeing of students.

DBE/F - Dissemination of Budget Recommendations and Reviews

This language is from 1978! It refers to the tentative budget and outlines when budget documents are published. This is more procedural than most policies. Ms. Mallon asked attendees to confirm that it reflects current practice. Ms. Mallon suggested that the unique language could be moved to DBC rather than existing in a unique and separate policy. Mr. Green and Ms. Barish requested that it be moved as suggested.

DBG - Budget Adoption Procedures

MASC updated the reference policy in 2022. Ed Reform of 1993 is referenced through MGL. SPS version is shorter but MASC is more current.

DBJ - Budget Transfer Authority

The City Charter may dictate that our processes happen differently. The MASC version is up to date but not specific to Somerville's titles, etc. Ms. Mallon asked who approves cost center transfers for Somerville? Mr. Green explained that Somerville School Committee has historically given superintendents great latitude in mid-year budget shifts. Ms. Mallon suggested that the best practice is to follow MGL cost centers guidelines to determine what belongs in which cost center. Mr. Green was not aware that SC was legally required to approve all mid-year cost center transfers. Ms. Mallon recommended that we talk to the CFO, review the charter, confirm current practice, and revise the policy accordingly. Legally, School Committee would have to vote on transfers at the Full Committee level unless otherwise specified in the City Charter.

DD - Funding Proposals and Applications/Grant Proposals and Special Projects

This includes things coming from the PTA. Ms. Mallon asked us to look at the 2022 MASC version which includes the CFR from the feds uniform administrative requirement. She flagged this for the SPS administration to review.

DEC - Federal Funds Supplement Not Supplant Policy. Ms. Mallon recommends adding this to our policy

manual; it is not currently included.

#### DGA - Authorized Signatures

Our version is very short and describes a common procedure, but that procedure is not aligned with practice. Neither is the procedure outlined in the MASC version. Our Finance and Facilities Subcommittee approves bill rolls, authorizing payment through the City Treasurer. Municipal treasurer serves as the district treasurer. Some edits will be necessary.

#### DH - Bonded Employees and Officers

Ms. Mallon recommends Somerville's version with additional MGL references and language changes: dispersing rather than dispensing; district rather than system. Updates also cross-reference Student Activity Funds policy.

#### DI - Fiscal Reporting and Accounting

MASC version references the Uniform Massachusetts Accounting System - required for districts/municipalities. Flagged for review by administration.

#### DIE - Audits

MASC much longer. Includes language from 2022 and outlines requirements related to: Student Activity Account, Federal Grant Audit, General Accounting Standards Board 34, End of Year Financial Compliance Report.

Not every district is subject to the same thresholds; make sure this is accurate.

School Committee may ask for an audit of accounts at its discretion.

#### DJ - Purchasing

MASC updated this policy in 2023 with changes to procurement standards.

Run by CFO/administration to ensure that the language works. Ms. Anosike wants to include all of the people involved in the process in the review.

#### DJA - Purchasing Authority

Somerville matches MASC. No changes needed.

#### DJB-E - Purchasing Procedures

Because this is procedural, we don't need it. Okay to remove it.

#### DJE - Procurement Requirements

MASC revised language in 2023 when thresholds changed.

"Chief purchasing officer" may not be the right title. Ms. Mallon recommends that we start with the MASC version and make changes as needed after review by administration.

#### DJG - Vendor Relations

Content is covered in DJA and DJE; we can remove this policy.

#### DK - Payment Procedures

Ms. Mallon recommends MASC updates to Somerville's version. Ms. Mallon noted that Somerville uses the term "bill rolls" (not warrants). The reference at the bottom has been updated.

#### DKA - Payrolls

The process outlined here is not current practice: payroll warrants countersigned by chair/vice chair. We need to update the policy with language that reflects current practice.

DKC - Expense Reimbursement

This is Somerville's version with some MASC updates: added points 2 and 3 and changed system to district.

DKD - Payment of Bills

Not current practice. Flagged for review and revision.

Ms. Mallon will send changes over and we will get feedback from the Administration for our next Rules Subcommittee meeting.

The Subcommittee discussed options of bringing the sections we have reviewed to the Full Committee this spring vs. in the fall and agreed to consult with the Chair.

Looking forward, Ms. Mallon told us that sections F, H, and L are short sections and are usually covered in one meeting. I and J are the big sections. That leaves E, G, and K.

Items 3-5 were tabled.

3. Policy KHC - Distribution of Notices

4. Policy IJNDB - Network Acceptable Use Policy for Staff

5. Policy JCA - Controlled Choice Student Assignment

The final item on the agenda was Planning for Possible District-Wide Student Cell Phone Use Policy. The Administration will plan to bring a proposal to the full committee at an upcoming meeting, then to Rules for further discussion. The timing is tight if the Administration wants to have a policy passed this spring. We can have a special meeting of School Committee or of Rules Subcommittee if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.

## **B. School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: May 14, 2025 (Dr. Phillips)**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr Phillips, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole for May 14, 2025

Report of The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee, May 14, 2025, submitted by Sarah Phillips

The Finance and Facilities Subcommittee met on May 14, 2025. Members present were Ilana Krepchin, Sarah Phillips, Andre Green, Ellenor Barish, Laura Pitone, Leiran Biton. Also in attendance was Interim Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Pat Durette, Superintendent Rubén Carmona, and Assistant Superintendent Jessica Boston-Davis, and Interim CFO, Bobby Beretta.

Mayor Ballantyne joined at 7:19pm.

Sarah Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm. There were 77 attendees in the audience and three items on the agenda:

- 1) April Bill Rolls

There was a discussion of the April bill rolls. There is nothing unusual in the April expenses.

There was a motion by Andre Green, seconded by Ilana Krepchin, to approve the April bill rolls. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Expenditure Report through 4/30/2025

The district is running this report daily in order to track efficiency dollars. Everything is on track. There are a few accounts with large balances where we will be pulling efficiency dollars– e.g., the Administration account. Next month, you'll notice that the facilities budget will not have a surplus. In out of school time, we reduced supply funds and shifted a position. The special education budget is not overspent, although it looks that way on this report. There are still a few requisitions that are not reflected. Overall, we are in good shape. There was a question about our administrative budget moving forward. It has been reduced by the surplus in FY26. There was a request for more information about the out-of-school time budget in the general fund and how we use those funds.

3) FY26 Budget

Superintendent Carmona and Mayor Ballantyne offered framing remarks. The School Committee

reminded itself that the 5.25% budget proposed is effectively closer to a 6% budget based on the funds shifted to revolving accounts and places where the city added additional funds. The School Committee also discussed the Superintendent's budget proposed on May 7, 2025. There was a request for the number of students not receiving legally mandated services and what percentage of required hours were not provided this year. Ildefonso spoke of two specific needs that will be made up through compensatory services but will confirm there are no other cases. There was a request for information and plans related to expanding co-teaching and improving our inclusion model. Ildefonso submitted a draft proposal to the Superintendent regarding enhancing the district's inclusive practices. The idea is to hire a consultant for next year, collect teacher and parent input, make recommendations, and possibly pilot some models. There have also been a few adjustments in the budget process as well. A few positions were re-purposed to reduce the evaluation caseload. There was a question about how funding could speed up the implementation of this inclusion plan. There was also a question about interventionists, resource room teachers, and having more dedicated evaluators. Rubén pointed out the core issue is where are we having gaps in special education. Jessica pointed out that interventionists may not be special educators or special education services. Interventionists fall under the Asst. Superintendent of Instruction. We do not have many math interventionists. If we were thinking beyond a level-service budget, we would want more of those positions. There was a follow up about the 13 reading teachers/reading interventionists. They are the same position. There are four math interventionists. There are 4.5 literacy coaches and 3 math coaches. In addition, the district has been trying to add coaching in other areas– e.g., the 0.5 middle grades coaching model piloted this year and coaches at the high school and in the early education and equity departments.. The specialist positions are district-wide, although they may operationally focus on one school. We use data to determine how to allocate specialists. There was a request for the district to develop a three or four year plan to roll out a more robust intervention and coaching model, particularly for math. There was a question about unmet CTE funding requests. Rubén is hoping to fulfill as many as they can through

efficiency dollars, and Katjana is also willing to work with the district to address CTE equipment maintenance. In addition, we will spend efficiency dollars on computers, equipment for new classrooms, ADA renovations for a student, and a few other repairs/additions. There was a question about the staffing plan and wondering about expanded programming/duties with an enormous increase on the last page. Pat will review and circle back. There was a question about the SEEK Director position and whether we really need to be prioritizing it. There was not a SEEK Director position last year because there was a misconception that the program was too small for a director and could be served by the special education department coordinator. That was a mistake because that program houses our most vulnerable students who need constant supervision, support, and there is a great deal of administrative work to be done. The program has always had a Director, that's what's in the contract and the number of days needed for summer services is included in the SAA contract. There was a question about why renovations are needed at the high school to provide access to a student in CTE that are coming out of school department and not city funds. Rubén pointed out that most changes to CTE shops that are done to improve instruction are done through the school department budget. There was a request for a list of the last things cut out of the budget and the roll up of everything that was asked for that we have been able to cover creatively through efficiency dollars. Rubén talked about the need for additional funds to strengthen our MTSS system.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Documents Used:

Ytd\_Budget\_Report\_April.pdf

Pending Approved Positions 5.7.25.pdf

APRIL 2025 BILL ROLL.pdf

FY26 budget for 5.7.25.pdf

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. SHORE Educational Collaborative Report**

**B. Report out of SC Coordinated Office Hours**

**C. March & April Bill Rolls**

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Dr. Phillips, to approve the March and April Bill Rolls  
The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**D. Transfer of Funds** (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent respectfully requests that the School Committee approve the transfer of funds from the Salary account to the Special Education account in the amount of \$200,000.

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Mr. Green, to authorize the transfer of funds from the Salary account to the Special Education account in the amount of \$200,000

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**E. Field Trip:** (Recommended action: Approval )

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Biton, to approve for June 9, 2025 50 Students from Healey School will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH as an end of year celebration. Travel via school bus, student cost \$25, June 16, 2025\* (*Date change original date June 13th*) 47 Students from Argenziano School will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH as an end of year celebration. Travel via school bus, student cost \$29

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**F. FY25 SCALE Diploma Request** (Recommended action: approval)

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Mr. Green, seconded by to approve the FY25 SCALE Diploma request for Elsa Melissa Vasquez Perez, Somerville, MA, Angel Saavedra Segura Somerville, MA, Wilson Reyes Lopez Somerville, MA, Akila Do Nacimiento Somerville, MA, Carlos Garcia Lainez Somerville, MA, Lourdes Guevara Guevara Somerville, MA, Jeymi Lopez Lopez Somerville, MA, Rainel Villavicencios Somerville, MA

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**G. Acceptance of FY25 Grants Funds** (Recommended action: approval) **Tabled**

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

Private

Tuft Grant \$3,000- MLE Dept for SPELL Field Trips

**X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. MSBA Update**

**XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**XII. CONDOLENCES**

No condolences

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

**Related documents:**

Agenda

[Robotic Team](#)

[Child Find Law](#)

[Quarterly Academic Update](#)

Submitted by: E Garcia

**Attach Documents Starting on the next page**

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL**  
**REGULAR MEETING – MAY 19, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the School Committee will be conducted via hybrid 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.

To **watch** this Regular School Committee meeting live from home please visit the following link:  
[somervillema.gov/GovTVLive](https://somervillema.gov/GovTVLive)

To **listen** live to the simultaneous interpretation of this meeting in **Spanish, Portuguese or Haitian Creole**, or to participate in Public Comment, please join this Zoom Webinar and choose your desired language by clicking the interpretation globe on the Zoom:

[https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_EB-AFq7pR0SMIOvsJOWNEg](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EB-AFq7pR0SMIOvsJOWNEg)

Meeting ID: 869 0362 0322

Password: SPSSC24

**Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2023 - 2025**

In order to address the root causes of systemic inequity in our schools, the Somerville School Committee and SPS commit to the following goals, knowing that these can only be achieved through ensuring meaningful partnerships with Somerville families, district staff, city government, and community partners. Our goals attempt to address deep-rooted systemic barriers that have prevented us from achieving our district vision of equity and excellence and ensure 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.

1. Whole Child Teaching and Learning... we will:

- prepare students to demonstrate strong literacy and mathematics foundation by grade 3, grade 6, and grade 10
- provide all students with integrated classroom lessons from a high quality social-emotional learning curriculum that helps students value and develop their ability to build relationships with other students, to be self aware and socially aware, to self regulate, and to make responsible decisions
- expand access to real-world learning experiences through students' participation in Early College, Advanced Placement courses, CTE, and/or other learning experiences that help students build critical 21st century skills, meeting with their college and career counselor in their junior and senior year, and students graduating with a defined post-secondary plan.

2. Equitable Access to Programming... we will conduct a district enrollment study to understand the prospective future population of the district and create and begin implementing a strategy for school building development, school assignment, and programming that aligns with the district's equity policy, and which is based on results of the enrollment study and the projected 10+ year plan for school facilities.

3. Workforce Diversity... we will increase the percentage of support staff of color, teachers and counselors of color, and administrators of color by 6% per group compared to SY22 rates through evaluating and strengthening all elements of our personnel system – recruitment, processes, training, retention, development, advancement, and staff data collection systems on which we base and measure our improvement efforts.

4. Equitable Resource Allocation... we will design, evaluate, and partially or fully implement student-based budgeting by 2025, or identify alternative mechanisms to more equitably allocate district resources.

**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. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

### **A. Massachusetts Association of Schools Superintendent Award**

- Valedictorian - Jackson Love
- Salutatorian- Alice Hunter

## **III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

## **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- April 28, 2025

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT – In person or via Zoom**

To participate in Public Comment remotely please use the following Zoom link:

[https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_EB-AFq7pR0SMl0vsJ0WNEg](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EB-AFq7pR0SMl0vsJ0WNEg)

Meeting ID: 869 0362 0322

Password: SPSSC24

## **VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

### **A. District Report**

- Robotic Team
- Child Find Law
- Quarterly Academic Update

### **B. Personnel Report**

- May 2025

## **VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **A. School Committee Meeting for the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting: April 28, 2025** (Ms. Barish)

**MOTION:** To accept the report of the Rules Management Subcommittee Meeting for April 28, 2025

### **B. School Committee Meeting for the Finance and Facilities Meeting of the Whole: May 14, 2025** (Dr. Phillips)

**MOTION:** To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for the Finance and Facilities Meeting of May 14, 2025.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. SHORE Educational Collaborative Report**

### **B. Report out of SC Coordinated Office Hours**

### **C. March & April Bill Rolls** (Vote)

### **D. Transfer of Funds** (vote)

**MOTION:** The Superintendent respectfully requests that the School Committee approves the transfer of funds from Salary account T9921105-511101 to the Special Education account \$6196992- 530100 in the amount of \$200,000.

### **E. Field Trip:** (Recommended action: Approval)

**June 9, 2025**

50 Students from Healey School will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH as an end of year celebration. Travel via school bus, student cost \$25

**June 16, 2025\*** *Date change*  
*Original date (June 13<sup>th</sup>)*

47 Students from Argenziano School will visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH as an end of year celebration. Travel via school bus, student cost \$29

**F. FY25 SCALE Diploma Request** (Recommended action: approval)

<i>Elsa Melissa Vasquez Perez</i>	<i>Somerville, MA</i>
<i>Angel Saavedra Segura</i>	<i>Somerville, MA</i>
<i>Wilson Reyes Lopez</i>	<i>Somerville, MA</i>
<i>Akila Do Nascimento</i>	<i>Somerville, MA</i>
<i>Carlos Garcia Lainez</i>	<i>Somerville, MA</i>
<i>Lourdes Guevara Guevara</i>	<i>Somerville, MA</i>
<i>Jeymi Lopez Lopez</i>	<i>Somerville, MA</i>
<i>Rainel Villavicencios</i>	<i>Somerville, MA</i>

**G. Acceptance of FY25 Grants 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**

**Tuft Grant \$3,000-** MLE Dept for SPELL Field Trips

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. MSBA Update**

**X. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**XI. CONDOLENCE**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**For Simultaneous Interpretation in Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole See below:**

**Español - Para Interpretación**

Para **ver** la Reunión Regular del Comité Escolar el 5 de mayo a las 7:00, en vivo desde casa, visite el siguiente enlace y elija **GovTV**: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Para **escuchar en vivo la interpretación simultánea de la Reunión Regular en español, portugués o criollo haitiano**, únase a este Zoom y elija el idioma que desee haciendo clic al globo de interpretación:

[https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg)

Identificación de la reunión: 869 0362 0322

Contraseña: SPSC24

**Português - Para Interpretação**

Para **assistir** à Reunião Regular do Comitê Escolar 5 de mai às 7:00, ao vivo de casa, visite o seguinte link e selecione **GovTV**: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Para **ouvir ao vivo a tradução simultânea da Assembleia Ordinária em espanhol, português ou crioulo haitiano**, entre neste Zoom e escolha o idioma desejado clicando no balão de interpretação:

[https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg)

ID da reunião: 869 0362 0322

Senha: SPSC24

### **Kreyòl ayisyen - Pou entèpretasyon**

Pou **gade** reyinyon regilye Komite Lekòl la 5 Me a 7:00, an dirèk nan kay la, vizite lyen sa a epi chwazi **GovTV**:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/communications-and-community-engagement/somerville-city-tv>

Pou **w tande entèpretasyon similtane Reyinyon Regilye a an panyòl, pòtigè oswa kreyòl ayisyen an**, rantre nan Zoom sa a epi chwazi lang ou vle a lè w klike sou balon entèpretasyon an:

[https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EB-AFq7pR0SMI0vsJ0WNEg)

Reyinyon ID: 869 0362 0322

Modpas: SPSSC24

## **Public Comments**

***Jenna DiNovis***

Members of the Somerville School Committee,

Good evening, my name is Jenna DiNovis, and I'm a Ward 5 resident and an educator for the past 13 years at East. I am speaking again tonight in support of prioritizing Somerville Public Schools in the budget. That means a 10% increase. Our students deserve fully funded schools and nothing less.

Two days ago, Mayor Ballantyne posted to social media about a recently settled historic contract for Somerville's municipal workers. In that post, also referenced by Julia and Kayla tonight, the Mayor boasted, "The contract we signed provided one of Somerville's largest unions with increased wages... We support our Unions so they may better support Somerville." I'm here to remind the School Committee that I, and countless others in this room, have elected each of you to hold the Mayor to her word and to ensure that she delivers on her promises in the name of our children. Failure to support Somerville's educators ultimately harms our students. It should go without saying that *our children do not ever deserve to be collateral*.

In the April 4th City eNewsletter, the Mayor bragged about a new paid family medical leave benefit for city workers, "part of a broader effort to advance worker equity and improve workplace conditions in Somerville. Alongside other recent efforts like wage equity studies and new union contracts, the program aims to attract and retain skilled employees while ensuring a healthy, stable workforce." What about the city's veteran educators who will see fewer take-home dollars amidst rising healthcare premiums next year? If SY25-26 opens under a level-service budget, many of our most experienced educators will imminently depart for nearby districts that pay better, and follow through on upholding their values by putting their money where their mouth is.

On March 31st, in a press release about "Week of the Young Child," the Mayor stated, "We believe every child deserves the strongest possible start, which only happens when an entire community works together... Week of the Young Child is a joyful reminder of what we can accomplish when families, educators, and city and community partners come together to support our youngest residents." Well, here we are: families, educators, and community partners, waiting on the City, the only holdout, in the way of fully funding our schools. The people of Somerville have made it abundantly clear that education should be our City's top priority, and that we know that Somerville has the money to fully fund our schools.

In this moment, we need you, the School Committee, to step up and be courageous. Please, gather the courage to tell the Mayor that a level-service budget is not an option for our kids. Please, find the courage to demand of the Mayor that our City spends some of its \$33M in free cash to create a true special education inclusion model that supports all students. Less than two weeks ago, I found the courage to publicly share my mental health struggles alongside many of my colleagues who shared their troubling stories about what it's like to work in our underfunded schools. Now, I'm imploring all of you to dig deep and find that same kind of courage. We know you can do it; we know that together we can fully fund our schools.

Respectfully,

Jenna DiNovis (she/her/ella)  
31 Aberdeen Rd #2  
jennadinovis@gmail.com

***Caitlin Smith Rapoport***

Good evening, my name is Caitlin Smith Rapoport, and I am a parent of a child at the Capuano School and a community member. I am speaking tonight in support of prioritizing Somerville Public Schools in the budget. That means a 10% increase. Our students and staff deserve fully funded schools.

In particular, I would like to tell you why supporting student learning and competitive wages are so important to myself and our community. I am an educator myself, schooled entirely in the Massachusetts public education system, as has my husband. We send our child to public school because we believe that here, in this state, in this city- we can give every child a first rate education. The children are literally our collective future, in this city and beyond. In the face of an administration who plans to gut public education, we collectively are the last stand for our kids. For kids of every demographic to receive quality, equitable schooling, so they can reach their potential. The only way we do that is to fully fund our schools. Our schools are clearly under-resourced: not enough specialists to meet the needs of students with IEPs, not enough teachers, or support staff, and not competitive enough salaries to retain great teachers and attract new talent in our ever increasingly expensive district.

This is the time for big action, not incremental change. We need robust funding for our schools. Act now- invest fully in our children.

I hope you will join our efforts and support the SEU's vision for quality education in Somerville Public Schools, it is what our students deserve.

Sincerely-

--

Caitlin Smith Rapoport  
(she/her/hers)

***Colette Berard***

As a long-term Somerville resident, as well as a MA public school teacher, I want to make clear that Mayor Ballantyne's proposal of level funding for Somerville Public Schools is not just inadequate - it's an insult to public school educators and our allies. It's an insult to the residents of Somerville. Many of us have chosen to live in Somerville because we believe it is a city which reflects progressive values, including investment in robust public services. Due to the Chapter 70 inflation glitch, Somerville students are not receiving the full funding promised under the Student Opportunity Act. The School Committee's stated commitment to providing equity to all students cannot be achieved through level funding. A recent study by SmartAsset, using the MIT living wage calculator, determined that an income of \$125,000 was necessary for a single person to live in the Boston area. Currently, I am on the verge of being priced out of Somerville, and I make nearly 3 times as much as the highest paid paraprofessional in Somerville. Budgets are reflections of values and priorities. Stop telling students and teachers you appreciate us - and start showing us through your budget commitments.

Colette Berard  
178 Powderhouse Boulevard  
Somerville, MA 02144

## ***Illona Yuhaev***

Good evening Erika,

I signed up to speak in today's meeting but in case I can't, I wanted to say a few words here about the importance of investing in education. I can say a lot about current issues in the SPS. I suspect and hope that many parents and educators are reaching out to public officials about that right now. I figured I'll share a slightly different perspective, one of what it looks like when the system works.

I was born in Azerbaijan right before the end of the Soviet Union. I had an exceptional public school education. I moved to Israel as a child and there, my best teachers were also former Soviet expats who were the product of that education system. They came into the profession in a nation that respected them above all.

The reason soviet education was so successful was that the USSR invested in educators and in schools. In preschool I slept in an actual bed during nap time. I had warm meals cooked on premise. My teachers in grade school had master's degrees and enjoyed good salaries and wonderful benefits. For a time, teachers were paid more than any other professional. Many young people flocked into the profession because it was well compensated and well regarded. What a concept!

As a result, Math and Reading performance in the eastern block surpassed those in the west for decades.

In the US I find that any political position can be rationalized. I've seen studies that claim that smaller class sizes don't improve education. That is just false. Yes, investing in education works. Investing in children works. We must. Please listen to these teachers, to the union, and set our students up for success. We pay a lot of taxes and we want that money invested in our future. At the moment our students are underperforming in test scores, are bored in classrooms, are unmotivated and we know why.

Respectfully,  
Illona Yukhayev Ward 1

## ***Crystal Huff***

My name is Crystal Huff, I use they/them pronouns, and I live in Ward 5.

I am unable to have children, so I don't have kids in the Somerville schools.

I still think it is vital that we spend our municipal resources on important community functions in Somerville, whether or not I directly benefit from them myself.

I want our school budget to be increased. I want our housing budget to be increased. I want our food security resources budget to be increased.

I ask that the city pay the tons of money required to fix our school buildings, pay our teachers more, hire more teachers and paraprofessionals, and pay more for school resources.

I dream of the day that I stop seeing teachers ask for pencils and paper on Buy Nothing groups on Facebook. We could live in that city. I'd like to see us fund the schools sufficiently, such that we reach that goal.

Best,

Crystal M. Huff

Editor of [Recognize Fascism](#)  
[Gardening Collective](#) Coordinator, [Mutual Aid Medford And Somerville \("MAMAS"\)](#)

-- I use they/them pronouns. --



## **SOMERVILLE EDUCATORS UNION**

Dayshawn Simmons, President  
5/19/25 SPS School Committee Public Comment

My name is Dayshawn Simmons. I am a Ward 7 resident, a middle school history educator and I am the very proud president of the Somerville Educators Union. It's unfortunate that after hearing from members of the community and just over 40% of SEU members at our May 7 rally the Mayor still hasn't moved to provide more money for schools next year.

We are frequently seeing the mayor on social media praise herself for being great at collective bargaining and how she's provided historic raises to various city departments. As a union, the SEU is proud to see union workers across the city earn their due - everyone from SMEU, fire, etc. No one should be forced to earn less than a living wage to work in this City. Which begs the question - why is it acceptable to this mayor to have our family liaisons and paraprofessionals, who are often women of color, earn less than they deserve? The mayor should be ashamed of herself. This is complacency at its finest.

We've heard quite a bit about the investments previously made to the school district and I want to be clear - it's not that we are not thankful. That's just what you're supposed to do when in the mayor's position. You invest in our kids, you invest in our future, you invest in our community. You don't run and hide behind a triple-A bond



## SOMERVILLE EDUCATORS UNION

Dayshawn Simmons, President  
5/19/25 SPS School Committee Public Comment

credit rating. No one will remember the person that held onto the money when they could have been saving education instead.

I am urging this elected body to do everything within their power to win the budget our students deserve. That means, you may need to vote for a budget larger than what the mayor has allocated. That's okay - we would applaud you standing up for your students, staff and caregivers. It doesn't matter that we don't really know what happens if you do that. It just matters that you tried everything, it absolutely matters that you try everything you can to invest in your schools.