

Regina Bertholdo

- WHEREAS,** Regina Bertholdo emigrated from Taquaritinga, Sao Paulo, Brazil to Somerville, MA, on February 16, 1986, after earning her degree in English from Faculdades Integradas Tiberiçá;
- WHEREAS,** Regina Bertholdo's life-long dedication to language access began when she became one of Somerville Hospital's first Portuguese-language interpreters and, in 1992, launched the hospital's inaugural Portuguese prenatal classes;
- WHEREAS,** Regina was instrumental in 1994 in developing the Parent Information Center (PIC), the precursor to the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC), to support families with children from birth and up;
- WHEREAS,** Regina co-founded the Brazilian Women's Group in 1995 to promote political and cultural awareness and helped establish the Patient Interpreter Department at St. Elizabeth Hospital to support multi-lingual families;
- WHEREAS,** in 1999, Regina became Director of the Somerville Family Network, committed to family engagement and also served as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison and coordinator of district-wide interpreter services;
- WHEREAS,** Regina became the Director of the Enrollment Office, transforming the district's enrollment into a centralized, equitable process, making SPS one of the first districts to adopt online registration, while maintaining vital in-person support for multilingual families;
- WHEREAS,** Regina became a founding member of the Somerville Sanctuary City Steering Committee in 2013, and convened the Unaccompanied Minors Network in 2014 to address the specific needs of youth;
- WHEREAS,** Regina has served as a dedicated local leader for over three decades through board memberships with the Somerville Community Corporation and the Massachusetts Alliance for Portuguese Speakers;
- WHEREAS,** Regina has demonstrated throughout her career a tireless commitment to racial and gender equity, dramatically diversifying the Somerville Public Schools workforce;
- WHEREAS,** Regina's vision of family engagement laid the groundwork for the eventual creation of Somerville Public Schools' Multilingual Services Team and the Office of Basic Needs and Housing Support Services, and on the City's side, the Somerville Office of Housing Stability and the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (formerly SomerViva);
- WHEREAS,** Regina has provided concrete pathways to stability and educational success for many students through the creation and innovation of SFLC's Office of Basic Needs and Housing Support Services;
- WHEREAS,** Regina's influence spreads far beyond Somerville through her work with multiple state and regional organizations;
- WHEREAS,** Regina's visionary work is rooted in a profound commitment to eliminating barriers for immigrant populations, forever transforming the lives of thousands of local families through her fierce advocacy, systemic policy changes, and dedicated direct service, leaving a legacy that will uplift generations to come; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Somerville School committee formally recognizes Regina Bertholdo's commitment to the people of Somerville through her transformational and ethical leadership, lifelong advocacy and extraordinary service.
- RESOLVED,** That this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to Regina Bertholdo.

Somerville School Committee

Dr. Emily Ackman Chairperson	Leiran Biton, Vice Chairperson
Lance Davis, City Council President	Elizabeth Eldridge
Laura Pitone	Andre Green
Michele Lippens	Dr. Emma Stellman
Dr. Rubén Carmona, Superintendent	Jake Wilson, Mayor