

Dear Mayor Ballantyne and City Councilors,

We are educators and staff members at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School. Our school serves students from prekindergarten through eighth grade, and houses two specialized district programs: a substantially-separate program for students with autism, and the middle school Sheltered English Immersion program for newcomer students. We love our students and school community, and we are writing to advocate for some desperately-needed and long-overdue infrastructure changes to our building.

Since last Monday, our school has been dealing with excessive heat, with **classrooms on all floors regularly exceeding 87°**, and it continues to negatively affect students and their ability to focus and self-regulate. We have tried to be innovative and flexible: teaching outside or in hallways where it's cooler, and even using frozen fruit from breakfast as ice packs for students. Nevertheless, these inadequate conditions for learning are testing our students' resilience and patience, and we see dysregulated behaviors from students across grade levels and programs. We have heard the process of turning on the air conditioning system for Winter Hill, unlike other schools, is labor- and time-intensive, and will hopefully be completed by the end of this week.

We also emphasize that the sweltering temperatures is just one symptom of a much larger problem: the building's general state of disrepair. Additional aspects of our students' learning conditions include leaking pipes and ceilings, unusable bathrooms, falling ceiling tiles in the library and classrooms, cardboard partitions as "walls", rodents, inconsistent internet, and more. Students experience this daily, and are well aware that other schools in the city are not like this.

At this moment, we believe the needs are two-fold. First, in the short term, **we ask the city to prioritize the work order for DPW to activate the air conditioning**, so we can resume typical classroom instruction for the remainder of the year. Second, in the long run, we recognize that upgrades or repair work is futile for a building in such poor condition, and so we need a new school building. By that, we don't mean we need talk of a new building or a verbal commitment for one; **we need a clear capital improvement plan for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School by August 31, 2022**, which is the students' first day of school this fall.

We appreciate that our school principal Courtney Gosselin has done everything in her power to advocate on behalf of the students and staff at the Winter Hill School, especially with regards to building repairs. We intend for our letter to amplify her ongoing efforts and to assert publicly that her calls for maintenance work are backed unanimously by us. We also acknowledge that SPS district leaders have regularly been at Winter Hill to try to help, but this seems to be a city issue.

Within the last few weeks, we have seen the mayor of Boston announce an unprecedented investment in carbon-neutral infrastructure for Boston Public Schools. Somerville has that same opportunity and responsibility, starting with our school building, and the resources to do so. We look forward to hearing from you.

In solidarity,

Signature

Position

Sara Zallone

2nd Grade Teacher

Catherine Keefe
~~Ly Ly~~

1st Grade Teacher
1st Grade teacher

Maura Mitchell

Special Education
Teacher

Kelley Dickson

Special Education
Teacher

Luje Arafalony

6th grade teacher

Frances Carino

4th grade teacher

Linda M. Walsh

4th grade Teacher

Ann Payton

5th grade Teacher

~~Michelle~~

5th grade Teacher

M. K.

Sp. Ed.

Pauna Waller

special ed.

Julia Kirk
Melissa J. Ives

ESL Specialist
sp. Ed.

Maureen Cronin

Gr. 2 teacher

| Name | Position | signature |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Katharine Weigl | 7/8 Teacher | Katharine Weigl |
| Jasmine Belatreche | 7/8 Teacher | Belatreche |
| Euan McAlear | 7/8 TEACHER | Euan McAlear |
| Manuela Garcia | 5/6 SEI Para | Manuela Garcia |
| Benjamin Senechal | PE teacher | Benjamin Senechal |
| April Luna | 6th Math+Science Teacher | April Luna |
| Matthew Collins | 6th ELA & SS TEACHER | Matthew Collins |
| Gwyneth Davisi | Kindergarten | Gwyneth Davisi |
| Min Bell | Kindergarten | Min Bell |
| Estheria Triarhou | Paraprofessional AIM | Estheria Triarhou |
| Shannan Legan | School Nurse | Shannan Legan |
| Leidy Weaver | 5/6 SLIFE | Leidy Weaver |
| Brenda Buckland | DoS | Brenda Buckland |
| KEREN CLARK | COUNCILOR | KEREN CLARK |
| Robert, Nerly | Para | Robert, Nerly |
| tara stead | Counselor Educator | tara stead |
| Nancy McWeeny | Secretary | Nancy McWeeny |
| Jennifer Miller | Redirect | Jennifer Miller |
| Darlene Jackson | Drama teacher | Darlene Jackson |
| Kristin Stier | MUSIC teacher | Kristin Stier |
| Gloria Salazar | ESL Teacher | Gloria Salazar |
| Janie Kocjan | 5th/6th grade SEI | Janie Kocjan |
| Joanne Tadder | AIM PARA | Joanne M. Tadder |
| Julie Scafidi | 7/8 math teacher | Julie Scafidi |
| Megan Brady | 7/8 Social Studies | Megan Brady |
| Tara Murphy Beady | 7/8 SEI Science | Tara Murphy Beady |
| Isabella Justin | 7/8 ELA | Isabella Justin |
| Jacqueline Bernowitz | SMILE PreK teacher | Jacqueline Bernowitz |
| Kristen Clark | SMILE preK | Kristen Clark |

Julie Sahlas
Caroline DiPaolo
Holly Robert
Nicole Eisenhaure
Keremy Landry
Kristen Baccelli

Lexi Herzog
Kashima Riley

Debra Dixon
Sean McKenna

Meredith Rothstein
Jan Buckwalter

Audrea Ralun
Margaret Zager

11/11/11

Katie Dougherty
Al Goldbers
John Willett

Brittany McEwen
Mallory Crane

Amanda Singleton
Megan Brown

Classroom Teacher
Classroom Teacher
Classroom Teacher
Classroom Teacher
Classroom Teacher
paraprofessional

paraprofessional

Library Teacher
paraprofessional

~~MLA~~ teacher

Literacy Coach

Math Coach

Reading Specialist

11/11/11

speech lang pathologist
Speech language pathologist

ELL Specialist

AIM 1st grade

AIM 1st grade

AIM 4-7

AIM 6-8