



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

Meeting Minutes Dispositions

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

6:30 PM

Virtual

Joint Meeting with the School Committee's Finance and Facilities Subcommittee.

This meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by Chair Gomez Mouakad at 6:48 pm and adjourned at 8:11 pm with a roll call vote of all in favor (Councilor Davis, Councilor Clingan and Chair Gomez Mouakad), none opposed, and none absent.

The meeting started late due to technical issues with Zoom.

Others present: Neha Singh – Mayor’s Office, Laura Pitone – School Committee, Emily Ackman – School Committee, Sara Dion – School Committee, Sean Callahan – Somerville Public Schools, Rich Raiche – IAM, Jill Lathan – DPW, Stephanie Widzowski – Clerk of Committees.

IAM and DPW published a written response to agenda items, which informed the discussion. It is attached to the agenda as “2023-06-28 Joint CC-SC School Building Cmt Response 2023Jun28”.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Beatriz Gomez Mouakad , Vice Chair Jesse Clingan and Lance L. Davis

1. Approval of the Minutes of the School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee Joint Meeting of May 1, 2023. [23-0723](#)

Accepted

Aye: Chairperson Gomez Mouakad, Vice Chair Clingan and Ward Six City Councilor Davis

2. That the Administration expedite the planning, design and construction of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School to ensure the re-opening of said school as soon as possible. [23-0972](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Clingan, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

Recommended to be marked work completed

3. That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management and the Commissioner of Public Works present to this City Council, the building failures that took place in the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and a plan for assessing those failures. [23-0984](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad

Recommended to be marked work completed

4. That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management dedicate full time staff and/or create new position(s) to the planning, design and construction process for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and the Benjamin Brown School and include this position in the FY 2024 budget. [23-0985](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson

Recommended to be marked work completed

5. That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management work with the School Department to create milestones for the academic programming needed for the planning and design of a new school building or for retrofitting an existing school building, and create a parallel collaboration program, meeting weekly or bi-weekly, to move this work forward. [23-0986](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson

Kept in committee

6. That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management explain what Request for Proposals (RFP) will be necessary for consultant services for planning and architectural services for any future school building programming and planning, and expedite those RFPs. [23-0987](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson

Recommended to be marked work completed

7. That the Administration work with the School Department to develop emergency plans for at-risk school relocation including, but not limited to, the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and the Benjamin Brown School. [23-0988](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson

Kept in committee

8. That the Administration create a permanent staff position for a Superintendent of School Buildings within the Department of Public Works to oversee all maintenance, repairs and assessments of school buildings, and include this position in the FY 2024 Budget. [23-0989](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
- Recommended to be marked work completed
9. That the Administration evaluate the need to create permanent staff positions within the Department of Public Works for school buildings that address the highest needs of our school buildings including, but not limited to: mechanical systems, plumbing systems, fire alarm and electrical systems and exterior envelope and structural systems. [23-0990](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
- Recommended to be marked work completed
10. That the Administration include in the FY 2024 budget, \$150,000 for an exterior envelope consultant to assess ongoing leaks in school buildings. [23-0991](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
- Recommended to be marked work completed
11. That the Administration develop a five-year assessment plan for school building systems and structures for all schools over five years old, to ensure proper funding is in place for capital repairs and to ensure the safety and uninterrupted operation of schools. [23-0992](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
- Kept in committee
12. That the Administration publish yearly on the city website, a list of ongoing school repairs and improvements, similar to that posted by Chelsea Public Schools, and provide a yearly report to the City Council of such repairs and improvements before and after completion. [23-0993](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
- Kept in committee

Referenced Documents:

- SBFM - 2023-06-28 Joint CC-SC School Building Cmt Response 2023Jun28

