

## **Children's Cabinet 9/12/2023**

**Attendees:** Chris Hosman, Ashley Zsofka, Ellenor Barish, Jason Behrens, Emily Mayernik, Hallory Mogren, Jaime Lederer, Jennifer Mancina, Jeremy Vallesio, Karin Carroll, Kristina Bergquist, Lisa Robinson, Marian B, Greg Nadeau, Nancy Bacci, Ana Nieto, Rosanna Paribello, Lynne Sacks, Rafael Vieira, Ruth Santos, Superintendent Ruben Carmona, Kathleen Bailer, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Sue Yerkes, Kristen Strezo

### **Mayoral Update:**

- New School Superintendent: Ruben Carmona
- New Director of Student Services: Christina
- New OST Director: Jene Riley
- The Winter Hill School has successfully transferred to the Edgerly building under Dr. Carmona's guidance.
- The new budget has a strong focus on out of school time and it is the Mayor's priority in this Cabinet.

### **Superintendent's Update:**

- Wants the Cabinet to continue to "un-silo" the work under collaborative direction and pooled resources.
- Convocation for the start of the school year happened for the first time since September 2019.

### **OST Update: Rosanna Paribello:**

SEE SLIDES [HERE](#).

- "Out of School Time" refers to any time after the school day that ends at 2:30pm. We are focused on providing enrichment child care activities for students in K - 6th grade.
- The OST Coordinator position has been translated to the Manager of Out of School Time Partnerships. Jene Riley, has shifted to focusing on our relationships with community-based providers and working closely with the new Youth Services Director.
- The larger SPS OST programs will continue to run through the rest of the year.
- There is a lot of targeted programming, but a need for non-targeted programming to cover the large waitlist that currently exists for afterschool time.
- The expansion of seats has increased dramatically since pre-pandemic levels (354 in SY20 vs 524 in SY 22).
- Site-level directors have been added to oversee the afternoon and solve scheduling/space/staffing issues immediately.

### **OST Update: Nancy Bacci**

- There is now officially a Youth Services Division.
- New Youth Services Director position creates a structure that works in tandem with the OST Manager to provide wraparound connections.
- Kristina Burgquist is the new Youth Services Director and Dan Harris is the Youth Services Coordinator.

### **Workforce Development Update: Jennifer Mancia**

- Cohesive programming is the biggest goal – a continuum of care that combats barriers to success for every resident.
- Skill-building opportunities for youth including supportive services to enable access
- Fabville Makerspace will be open again, with special hours for youth afterschool.

### **School Committee Concerns:**

- Keshner and Parts and Craft are no longer providing transportation after moving locations.
- El Sistema has additional spots for students, but these students cannot get to the program at East Somerville.
- OST providers still struggle with students with IEPs and 504s.
- The OST providers have been sending letters home with children who have balances on their accounts. Providers have also denied participation in programming and are charging interest to parents who owe for services.

### **Other Support Requests:**

- SEF would like support in the process of payrollling the teens while still providing the funding for their wages. Is there a way to streamline paying teens across community-based partner organizations?
  - The UNITED WAY model may be a good reference point for supporting local non-profits, as there are legal restrictions for the City.

### **Somerville Children's Cabinet Retrospective and Cabinet Re-Structure:**

SEE SLIDES [HERE](#).

- One Somerville Every Child is intended to be an umbrella logo representing the collaborative work of the Cabinet across programming.
- Updates:
  - Development of Youth Services Department
  - New Teen Spaces
- There will be a new Cabinet structure focuses on identifying the most appropriate members and establish a (required) monthly reporting component for departments
- Youth will bi-annually have representation in Cabinet from youth-led advocacy groups, and youth will take the lead on program design.
- We will create a Google Drive dedicated to meeting notes, agendas etc and summarize the monthly reports from Cabinet members to share updates and advocacy opportunities.
- We will introduce a Social Media Campaign with the newly formed HHS Comms department and the Youth Services Division to increase the opportunity for community members to bring concerns to the Cabinet directly.
- We will conduct a stakeholder interview process and identify appropriate KPOs to report in a Data Dashboard representing the Cabinet's work.

### **Other Updates:**

- Teen job opportunity from SOIA: SHS students aged 16+ for 10 hours a week \$20/hour - [Mandarin](#) and [Spanish](#)
- We have created a centralized place where teen jobs are posted from both City and community organizations. This replaces recruitment via only flyers and word of mouth.
  - We need to create an SOP for publicizing employment opportunities for teens and communicating to Somerpromise about posting these jobs on a centralized site.
  - We need to further engage Mass Hire Career Coaches
- Impact of Lack of OST on students: Two students at West Somerville have had to withdraw from Kindergarten because they did not have enough slots for afterschool.
- SFLC Playgroups are running at EPH and Healey Head Start classroom locations.
- EEC has hired an Itinerant Team to provide special education supports to centers. Right now, nine community partners under the CPPI grant and thirteen of the SPS classrooms are being supported with these services.