



# CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

## CLERK OF COMMITTEES

June 12, 2012

### REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Maryann M. Heuston	Chair	Absent	
William A. White Jr.	Vice Chair	Present	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Robert C. Trane	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	
Thomas F. Taylor	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
William M. Roche	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Tony Lafuente	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Sean T. O'Donovan	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
Tony Pierantozzi	Supt. of Schools	Present	
Paul Bockelman	School Committee Chair	Present	
M. Teresa Cardoso	School Committee Ward 2	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	School Committee Ward 7	Present	
Christine Rafal	School Committee Ward 4	Present	
Adam Sweeting	School Committee Ward 3	Present	
Joseph Curtatone	Mayor	Present	
Anna Doherty	Director, SomerPromise	Present	
Maria Carpenter	Library Director	Present	
James Halloran	Recreation Superintendent	Present	
Ed Bean	Finance Director	Present	
Mark Niedergang	School Committee Ward 5	Present	

The following Aldermen were recused from all discussions of the departments below, as noted:

Alderman Roche	Police, Constituent Services, DPW - Sanitation
Alderman Heuston	DPW - Administration
Alderman Taylor	Animal Control
Alderman O'Donovan	Fire, Capital Planning
Alderman Trane	School Department
Alderman Desmond:	Information Technology
Alderman Sullivan	Traffic and Parking

### FY-13 City Budget

The budget requests for the following departments were reviewed at this meeting:

- **School Department** (see below)
- **SomerPromise**
- **Libraries**
- **Recreation**
- **Enterprise Funds**

The following requests were made by the committee:

- a written statement from the City Solicitor stating that it is legal and proper for the city to be involved with funding positions in SomerPromise, Ald. White)
- job descriptions for the new positions being requested in the Recreation Department

### **School Department**

Much of this meeting was spent discussing the School Department's budget request. Superintendent Pierantozzi provided an overview of the department's operation and told the members that the School Department's goals are aligned with the city's goals of promoting innovation and leveraging city resources. The department's funds are being spent on direct services by professional educators. The FY-13 budget request is \$3,550,835 more than that of FY-12, with \$1.8 million of that amount being used to maintain services. Funding for various tutoring programs is also being increased and a total of 14.6 FTE is being added to the department, as follows:

- 4 full time teachers,
- 3 para-professionals,
- 1 full time ELL support position,
- 2 para-professional for Special Education,
- 1 re-direct teacher at the Kennedy School,
- 2 part time utility aids at the Kennedy School,
- 1 full time technology specialist,
- 1 full time Capital Planning position,
- 2 part time utility aids at Somerville High School,
- 1 assistant golf coach,
- 1 Athletics and Health Coordinator

The total student enrollment for FY-12 is 4,940 with 71% of that number being elementary school students. Students not having English as a first language comprise 51% of the total enrollment and 67% of the city's student population come from low income families. The projected enrollment for FY-13 is 5047, which represents a 2% increase over FY-12. Superintendent Pierantozzi also noted that the city's drop-out rate decreased by 2% during FY-12 and that Somerville High School was selected as a Verizon Thinkfinity School, a distinction given to only 6 schools in the country. Plans for FY-13 include a Middle School foreign language program, a Parent/Guardian Outreach initiative, Middle School

Interscholastic Sports Programs, after school tutoring, and El Sistema at the East Somerville Community School.