



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## City Council School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee

### Meeting Minutes

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**Tuesday, September 8, 2026**

**6:00 PM**

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This meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by Chair Link at 6:00pm and adjourned at 7:45pm on a roll call vote of 2 in favor (Councilors Sait and Link), 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Councilor Scott).

Others present: Eric Weisman – Commissioner of Public Works, Rich Raiche – Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, Danielle Barry – Facilities Safety and Transportation Coordinator in Somerville Public Schools, Laura Piton – School Committee Member, Liz Eldridge – School Committee Member, Leiran Biton – School Committee Chair, Madalyn Letellier - Assistant City Clerk, Legislative Services.

#### Roll Call

|                 |                                                                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait and City Councilor At Large Jon Link |
| <b>Absent:</b>  | Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott                    |

1. Committee Minutes  
(ID # [26-0941](#))

Approval of the Minutes of the School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee Meeting of May 21, 2026.

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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b><u>ACCEPTED</u></b>                                         |
| <b>AYE:</b>    | Ward Five City Councilor Sait and City Councilor At Large Link |
| <b>ABSENT:</b> | Ward Two City Councilor Scott                                  |

2. Order  
(ID # [26-0839](#))

By Councilor Link and Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update to this Council on improvements made to custodial staffing at the East Somerville Community School.

Commissioner Weisman shared the city is still waiting on a final contract but is expected to be completed soon. The initial posting of the swing custodian role had no interest internally and the position is posted to the public to be filled, staffing is being accommodated by changing shifts of other staff to fulfill the custodial needs. School Committee Member Eldridge asked about the shift schedule for coverage. Commissioner Weisman clarified that the role is advertised for 10:30AM-6:00PM.

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| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b><u>RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK<br/>COMPLETED</u></b> |
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3. Order  
(ID # [26-0841](#))
- By Councilor Link and Councilor McLaughlin
- That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on the improvements made to the temperature in the Edgerly Education Center Cafetorium and kitchen following the installation of the air conditioning unit.
- Commissioner Weisman shared the unit was placed in the cafetorium and was able to cool both areas. The unit was removed to do the floors over the summer and has since been replaced. The temperature in the cafetorium has gotten positive feedback and deemed a success. In response to Chair Link the temperature is set at 72 but remains at a steady 74 due to logistics in the building and staff are exploring options to keep certain doors closed and keep the area cooler. In response to School Committee Member Pitone Coordinator Barry echoed the positive feedback received from staff and students.
- RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**
4. Resolution  
(ID # [26-1022](#))
- By Councilor Hardt
- Recognizing and expressing appreciation to the Department of Public Works, the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, and the Inspectional Services Department for their work in addressing rodent issues at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
- Committee members spoke in praise to the work being done to address rodent issues and acknowledged it is ongoing and will continue to be monitored.
- RESULT: RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK COMPLETED**
5. Order  
(ID # [26-0710](#))
- By Councilor Davis
- That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management update this Council and the School Committee about safety improvements to security cameras, enclosed schoolyard fencing, balconies, and other infrastructure at the Argenziano School.
- Commissioner Weisman was able to state the fences went up and have been sufficient. Director Raiche shared that no additional interventions would happen on the balcony as there were no solutions that did not drastically change the appearance of the building. Additionally, the condition as it stands is compliant with the Massachusetts Building Code and is present in other schools throughout the city. Coordinator Barry, without speaking on behalf of the school administrators, shared her impression is to go with what capital projects has recommended and will continue to monitor and gauge satisfaction across the district.
- RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**
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6. Resolution  
(ID # [26-0241](#))
- By Councilor Link and Councilor Mbah
- That the Administration provide the Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance with regular updates on the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process for the Winter Hill and Brown Schools.

Director Raiche updated the committee that the first review of the submitted report from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is underway. It has been placed in the official sub-committee for review and will be on the agenda by the end of September. The submission for the building and education plan will be reviewed at that time, and the goal is to come out of the sub-committee with a vote and get before the full body by late fall. In response to Councilor Sait a decision about geo-thermal will be final by February. Conversation continued around the cost efficiency of geo-thermal and the logistics of implementing such technology at the site. Director Raiche also touched upon the capital costs during the evaluation stage and information is continued being gathered at this specific site.

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

7. Resolution  
(ID # [26-0063](#))
- By Councilor Link and Councilor Wheeler
- That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Engineering explore the feasibility of establishing a teen center at the Cummings School, accessible via School Street, considering current building uses and provide this Council with an analysis on space availability, operational considerations, community impacts, and potential next steps.

**AMENDMENT:** That the ~~Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Engineering~~ explore the feasibility of establishing a teen center at the Cummings School, accessible via School Street, considering current building uses and provide this Council with an analysis on space availability, operational considerations, community impacts, and potential next steps.

Director Raiche laid out several extensive repairs needed to the structure and to the electrical systems. There are numerous accessibility and code issues that mean the building does not meet compliance. The costs estimate to occupy the building for any use, office space, swing space, or a teen center, are very high. Capital Projects is currently undergoing a city wide evaluation, and a firmer answer will be given in November when the Capital Improvement Plan is submitted to the Council. In response to School Committee Member Piton Director Raiche stated his opinion on reuse, reconstruction, or rehabilitation for the building is likely unfeasible at this time.

**RESULT: RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK COMPLETED**

Referenced Documents:

- SBFM 2026-09-08 Memo Cummings Reno (with 26-0063)