

**Monday, May 20, 2002 – Massachusetts Choice Public Hearing**

May 20, 2002

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**A public hearing** was held regarding the Massachusetts CHOICE Program. Chairman Dennis M. Sullivan opened the hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, read the definition of the School Choice Program as follows: *A certain number of children will be entitled to attend a public school in a town where they do not reside, if the school committee of the receiving town does not formally withdraw from its obligation to open its schools up to non-resident students. Students will be chosen at random if there are not enough spaces available at the receiving school, commencing in September 2002.*"

As there were no speakers from the audience, the Somerville School Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Bauer and Ms. Cardoso to withdraw from its obligation to admit non-resident students during the 2002-03 school year on a unanimous roll call vote of: Yes—9-0; Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Murray, Mayor Gay, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Harris, Ms. Taylor, Alderman White, Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Sullivan.

**II. ADJOURNED**

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:40 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano  
Secretary

**Monday, May 20, 2002 – Regular Meeting**

May 20, 2002

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dennis M. Sullivan called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:05 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present were Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Murray, Mayor Gay, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Harris, Ms. Taylor, Alderman White, Ms. Rossetti, and Chairman Sullivan.

No one was absent. Chairman Sullivan acknowledged the presence of former Alderman and State Senator Sal Albano.

**III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Citations/Resolutions were presented as follows:

- ✓ *The Friends of Paul Duhamel*: Poster Contest Winners and *Most Improved Attendance* School presented by June Pietrantonio and Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, as follows:

\$100 Savings Bonds:

Katelyn Mattos	Grade 6	West Somerville Neighborhood
Amy Hill	Grade 7	Cummings
Kelly Chen	Grade 1	Brown
Noah Wilson	Grade 3	Kennedy
Gleverson Silva	Grade 5 - ESL	Lincoln Park Community
Charlene Xiaolimi	Grade 6 - ESL	Powder House Community

City-Wide Award - \$200 Savings Bond

Charlene Xiaolimi	Grade 6 – ESL	Powder House Community
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School with the highest % of attendance through April 5, 2002:

East Somerville Community School - \$1,000 to be used for a special “event” for students.

- ✓ SHS Jr. Varsity Cheerleaders: Tiffany Brathwaite Captain, Amanda Santos Captain, Leesia Lawton, Ashley Butler, Stephanie Beauvois, Clotilde Arevalo, Sabrina Limage, Raquelle Miranda, Melissa O’Hearn and Lourdes Gomes.
- ✓ SHS Varsity Cheerleaders: Jessica Lawton Captain, Kristen Ardolino Captain, Natarsha Fisher, Michelle Medeiros, Kim Auciello, Darci Cangiamila, Erica DiTucci, Gina Bailey, Kim Sheppard, Tanya Soares, Kristie Crowley, Sophia Gavrielidis, Renae Lister, Melissa Martin, Tiffanie Calisto, Laura Abrantes, Azah Che, Katie Lynch, Jackie Martin and Nicole Furtado.
- ✓ Joelle Martin, SHS Girls Basketball Team – Presented by Chairman Sullivan - Resolution found on page 136.
- ✓ Luis Moreira, SHS Track Team – Presented by Carolyn Taylor – Resolution found on page 137.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The following Minutes were approved for printing by voice vote:

April 29, 2002:

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole

**V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Student representative for the 2002-2003 school year, Kim Carvalho, was present and reported on the following items:

1. Thanked the students at Somerville High School for electing her as the new student representative for the 2002-2003 school year.
2. The Class of 2003 expressed gratitude to Mayor Gay for her generosity regarding the SHS Junior Prom, which was a huge success this past Friday.

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. Advised that a Public Hearing on the FY03 budget would take place on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 p.m., in the Board of Aldermen Chambers at City Hall.
2. Reported that electrical work will not be done at the high school until after August 4<sup>th</sup> and Summer School may now take place at the high school and not the Winter Hill Community School.
3. Dr. Argenziano reviewed the Preliminary FY02 Charter School Tuition Rate and the School District Financial Comparison – FY01 Preliminary Per Pupil Expenditures provided to members in their packets.
4. Advised that there will be a meeting regarding the new Lincoln Park Community School in the Board of Aldermen Chambers @ City Hall on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> not at the LPCS. There will also be a discussion at the BOA meeting on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding \$22.7 million for a new school with 90% reimbursement.
5. Referred to a copy of a letter from Anne Phelps, Agent for the Somerville Conservation Commission as it pertains to the rebuilding of the Lincoln Park Community School.
6. Also referred to a copy of a press release from the Department of Education regarding a Supreme Judicial Court unanimous ruling that it is within the authority of the Board of Education to require teachers of Mathematics to take a content assessment test when more than 30% of the students in their school fail the MCAS Math test.
7. Advised that Mr. Robert A. Snow, Assistant Superintendent for C/I/A, purchased reading series books for grades K-5 for regular, bilingual and special education students in the amount of \$610,000 plus shipping, which is an excellent price. Dr. Argenziano publicly thanked Bob, Yvonne Gunzburger, Supervisor of Reading, Pamela Holmes, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education/Title I and their staff.
8. Also mentioned that this Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Kennedy School beginning at 9 a.m. with the September 11<sup>th</sup> Verizon cellphone operator.

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)**

9. Referred to a memo from Dr. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services, advising that all parents have received their first choice of school, there is one student on the wait list for Choice Kindergarten and ten (1) student on the wait list for the Unidos Kindergarten.
  
10. Updates:
  - The Coordinator of Math position received 13 applicants with four meeting the necessary criteria and will be interviewed the week of June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Personnel of the Whole meeting.
  - The Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting has been postponed from Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and re-scheduled to Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Annual SHS Scholarship Night will take place on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the auditorium.

**VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:* Ms. Murray (May 8)**

Subjects discussed:

- **CTBS Survey:** Mr. Snow will talk with all Principals about cutting down CTBS to just Reading and Math instead of totally eliminating the test altogether.
- **No Child Left Behind** Federal Education Bill Discussion – focus areas and funding changes

Discussion. No motions made.

**B. *Finance and Facilities Committee of Whole:* Ms. Rossetti (May 13)**

Subjects discussed:

- Prioritization of Capital Improvements
- FY03 Budget Discussion

Discussion. No actions taken.

**C. *Finance and Facilities Committee of Whole:* Ms. Rossetti (May 20)**

Subjects discussed:

- FY03 Budget
- FY02 Budget Expenditures

(for complete notes see previous pages (118-128))

Approved Motion from Committee of the Whole:

- Building Use Request:  
To waive the fees for the use of the Eugene C. Brune Field House at SHS for the ElderFair on Saturday, May 18, 2002. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Ms. Rossetti announced the following meetings relative to the FY03 Budget:

- Finance and Facilities of the Whole, Wed., May 29, 2002 @ 5:30 p.m., @ 181 Washington St., Superintendent's Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.
- A Public Hearing on the FY03 Budget in the Board of Aldermen Chambers on Thursday, May 30, 2002, beginning at 7 p.m.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business for this evening's meeting.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. MCAS As A Graduation Requirement**

In relation to MCAS as a graduation requirement, Ms. Taylor reported that school committee legal counsel advised the school committee to continue to lobby the Department of Education.

**MOTION:** Ms. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to request the Massachusetts Board of Education to delay implementation of the use of MCAS as a graduation requirement and to promote the continuation of local graduation requirements until students have the chance to fully experience the State Standards and Frameworks. The motion was approved by voice vote.

**B. Staff Exit Interviews**

**MOTION:** Ms. Murray made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, that in light of the FY03 budget reductions of staff members, that discussion of Exit Interviews, as an optional tool when necessary, continues in the fall. The motion was approved by voice vote.

**C. Field Trips – Approved by voice vote.**

- May 24, 2002:** Next Wave Alt. Jr. High School to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H. Transportation by school vans at a cost of \$10 per student.
- May 30, 31, 2002:** Full Circle Alt. High School to Eastham, MA (camping trip). Transportation by school van at a cost of \$10 per student.
- June 6, 7, 2002:** Next Wave Alt. Jr. High School to Eastham, MA (camping trip). Transportation by school van at a cost of \$10 per student.
- June 9-13, 2002:** Kennedy School, Grades 7 & 8, to the University of Maryland to compete in National History Day Competition. Transportation by bus at no cost to students.
- June 14, 2002:** Kennedy School, Grades 5 & 6, to Salem, N.H. Transportation by bus at no cost to students.
- June 14, 2002:** Kennedy School, Grades 7 & 8, SPED, to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H. Transportation by bus at a cost of \$15 per student.

**X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Congratulated Kim Carvalho, the newly elected Student Representative to the School Committee for the 2002-2003 school year.
2. Commended the recent dedication of a temporary room at the Lincoln Park Community School in memory of teacher, Mary E. Moitoza. The plaque will be placed in the library of the new school when it is built.
3. Mentioned that the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance of the Somerville Council of Parent-Teacher Associations on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at Anthony's in Malden was a huge success. Ms. Cardoso thanked the committee.
4. Requested that the superintendent send a letter to the appropriate city office requesting that all faded crosswalks be re-painted and thanked the Traffic & Parking Department for replacing a sign that had fallen down in the Ward II area.
5. Advised that on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, the LPCS will conduct their annual Memorial Day Celebration at the school beginning at 9 a.m.
6. In the Mayor's absence, Ms. Cardoso reminded everyone that Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, the annual Memorial Day Parade would take place.

**Ms. Murray**

1. Advised that the Kennedy School will conduct a Memorial Day Ceremony on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be performing their "Tribute to American Heroes." Lisa Jefferson, the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Verizon airphone operator, will be the featured speaker. Ms. Murray encouraged everyone to attend.
2. Advised that the popular singer, Rick Charette, will perform at the ESCS on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11 a.m.
3. Congratulated the Vocational Student of the Year, Laura Houlihan, the vocational department and the students for a great event.

**Ms. Bauer**

1. Reported that on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> she attended a Forum *Visioning Somerville* sponsored by the Somerville Community Health Agenda Planning Team. Over 100 community members throughout the city attended, talking about public health, health education, parent involvement and education in general. Interesting discussion centered on what makes a healthy and vibrant community.
2. On Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, she also attended a Forum on MCAS in Boston sponsored by *The Alliance for High Standards, No High Stakes.* Ms. Bauer advised that school committee representatives from several communities, CARE and other educational interest groups were also in attendance. Two points regarding the upcoming gubernatorial race 1) Democratic platform plank – anti MCAS and 2) next Governor appoints the Department of Education Commissioners who serve 5-year terms.

**X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)**

**Ms. Bauer** (cont.)

3. Advised that Sunday was the opening of the exhibit of SHS memorabilia highlighting the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Somerville High School at the Somerville Museum. Ms. Bauer encouraged everyone to see it.

**Ms. Taylor**

Reported that she had spoken to Alderman Provost, Chairman of the BOA Legislative Matters Committee, and was advised that the Board of Aldermen will consider supporting the school committee and the *No Child Left Behind* campaign to support choice and bilingual education at their Thursday meeting.

**Alderman White**

Stated that he welcomed the school committee's debate over the FY03 budget. Alderman White spoke briefly regarding the per pupil expenditure stating that Somerville is between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> top-spending community in Massachusetts spending more than Brookline, Amherst, Lexington, Concord, Winchester, etc. Somerville also has maintained small class size as well he said. Alderman White spoke regarding final figures of the ten-year census advising that Somerville has lost a number of criteria regarding the ability to receive federal grant money i.e., income averages, cutbacks at the state level, the tremendous increase in real estate etc., and stated that the state will be looking at Somerville much differently in the future. Alderman White encouraged the committee and the school department to work to get new, young parents involved in the school system. Ms. Rossetti also echoed Alderman White's comments.

Ms. Murray also agreed and also suggested that dialogue continue in the fall with possibly a public hearing.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Advised that at the recent PTA Council meeting discussion took place regarding volunteerism and that a big push will take place between August and December to increase the number of volunteers.
2. Reported that on May 9<sup>th</sup>, she attended the superintendent's monthly meeting with Tufts University along with Carolyn Taylor, a representative from the office of Housing and Community Development, Barbara Rubel, Tufts Community Relations Director, the Director of Financial Services and the Director of Admissions. The meeting went well and centered on what Somerville feels is not happening and should be happening as it relates to SHS graduates i.e. scholarships, full tuition and free rides to Tufts University. Ms. Rossetti that she spoke with the Mayor's office and they will send a communication to Tufts University. The superintendent will be hosting further discussion with the Mayor with the new President of Tufts and hopefully, the Board of Directors as well.
3. Advised that she attend the vocational ceremony and commended the Vocational Student of the Year, Laura Houlihan.

**X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)**

**Ms. Rossetti** (cont.)

4. Also commended the PTA Dinner Dance Committee on a very successful event. Six seniors will receive \$1,000 scholarships this year.
5. Reported that the Dee Zuccaro Road Race was a huge success on Sunday. Ms. Rossetti thanked her colleagues Dennis Sullivan and Kate Murray for running. Chairman Sullivan received a 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy in his Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. This road race benefits the YMCA's Swim Program in conjunction with the school department's swim program.
6. Congratulated the following WSNS students and teacher who competed this weekend in the Massachusetts Middle School State Science Fair held at the Beachmont Middle School in Revere, Ma: Sonia Booth, for 1<sup>st</sup> place, Juna Jovani, 2<sup>nd</sup> place and teacher, Kenneth Bruno.

**Chairman Sullivan**

Advised that a Community Meeting will take place in Ward I in conjunction with Alderman Roche, the Mayor's Office and the Somerville Police Department at the ESCS auditorium on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m., regarding gang activity. Thanked Alderman Roche for creating and distributing the flyers throughout Ward I.

**XI. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications for this evening's meeting.

**XII. PERSONNEL**

There was no Personnel Report submitted for this evening's meeting.

**XIII. RESOLUTIONS**

The following resolutions were presented earlier in this evening's meeting:

**JOELLE MARTIN**  
S. H. S. GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM  
2001-2002

WHEREAS, Joelle Martin recently completed an outstanding four-year basketball career at Somerville High School, establishing a new S.H.S. career scoring record with 1,280 points, surpassing Stacey Dell'Anno's 1995 mark of 1,159 points, and the 1950 record of 1,154 points by Ron Perry, and

WHEREAS, Joelle, a recent All-Scholastic selection, became only the third player in Somerville High School history to score more than 1,000 points in a career, and

**XIII. RESOLUTIONS (cont.)**

**JOELLE MARTIN (cont.)**

WHEREAS, She was a major factor in leading the Lady Highlander quintet to a successful tournament performance despite Somerville High's qualifying record of 10-10, and a 14<sup>th</sup> and bottom seed in the Division I North playoffs, and

WHEREAS, The Lady Highlanders, who were forced to win one of the final two games in the AT & T Broadband Tournament to qualify for the post-season dance, opened with a 58-42 thumping of Greater Boston League champion Malden High, and followed with a thrilling 58-55 upset win over Acton-Boxboro High before succumbing to eventual tourney champion Cambridge Rindge and Latin, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee publicly praise Joelle Martin for her four years of dedication and hard work for the S.H.S. basketball program and her coach, Brian Harris, and be it further

RESOLVED: That these Resolutions be recorded in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to Joelle Martin.

**LUIS MOREIRA**

SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK TEAM  
2001-2002

WHEREAS, Somerville High senior Luis Moreira recently concluded an outstanding indoor track season, leading the Highlanders to a winning 5-2-1 record while achieving numerous personal honors and records, and

WHEREAS, The talented athlete recently captured the New England championship in the 55-meter hurdles, clocking a time of 7.41 seconds, his fastest time ever, establishing a new Somerville High School record, and

WHEREAS, Moreira, an All-Scholastic selection, finished first in the hurdles in the Greater Boston League All-Star Meet (7.63 seconds), took the Class A State Meet title (7.47), and was the winner in the All-State competition (7.55) before adding a fourth prestigious title with his victory in the New England Track & Field Championships, and

**XIII. RESOLUTIONS (cont.)**

**LUIS MOREIRA (cont.)**

WHEREAS, He earned a sixth place in the National Scholastic Invitational Track Meet on March 10 in New York City, finishing the 60-meter hurdles (five meters longer) with a time of 8.19 seconds, completing one of the most successful hurdle seasons in S.H.S. history, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee publicly and proudly honor Luis Moreira tonight for his outstanding contributions to the S.H.S. track program, his coach David Dickerson, his teammates, and the citizens of Somerville, and be it further

RESOLVED: That these well-earned Resolutions be entered into the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a formal copy be presented to Luis Moreira.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano  
Secretary