

May 30, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Finance and Facilities Chairperson, Mary Jo Rossetti, opened the *Public Hearing* relative to the FY 2003 budget in the Board of Aldermen Chambers at City Hall, at 7:00 p.m., by voice vote.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Murray, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Harris, Ms. Taylor, Alderman White, Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Sullivan.

Mayor Gay was absent.

Also present were Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration, Marie B. Ferrari, Mr. Anthony C. Caliri, Human Resources Manager, Alderman Bruce M. Desmond and 23 members of the audience.

III. FY 2003 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Dr. Argenziano supplied two handouts for the audience:

1. A condensed FY2003 Budget and advised that anyone who wanted a complete 2003 Budget could contact or visit the Finance Office at 181 Washington Street, 2nd floor.

Dr. Argenziano proceeded to review for the audience pages 1, 2 and 3 highlighting the many accomplishments that have been made of which he is extremely proud i.e., Somerville's being ranked #1 in the state for improvement in the MCAS; The Mentoring Program, the networking and instructional technology advances, full day Pre Kindergartens and full day Kindergartens, School, Career, Early Childhood Fairs, and Exhibits, the Two-Way Bilingual Program for which there is now a waiting list.

Dr. Argenziano advised that about a month ago the House and Senate notified cities and towns to prepare for a 10% budget reduction and Somerville reduced its budget by 10% and will recommend a bottom line FY2002 budget total of \$51,930,000. Discussion followed.

2. A 2002-2003 Budget Analyses report was also supplied with potential budget reductions reviewed in the following areas. (Copies are on file in the superintendent's office.) Dr. Argenziano advised that there will be 30 less positions because of resignations, retirements and vacancies, but only 6 to 10 people may lose their job. Discussion took place.
 - Phase I: Administrative Reductions
 - Phase II: Staff Reductions due to insufficient sections K-8
 - Phase II: Staff Reductions due to insufficient sections 9-12
 - Phase III: Non-Teaching Reductions

III. FY 2003 BUDGET DISCUSSION (cont.)

3. The 2002-2003 Projected Enrollment figures as reported by Principals (includes new assignments, transfers, retentions and bilingual exits) May 9, 2002 were also discussed. Dr. Argenziano said that the school district is committed to small class size. He is looking at putting back three staff positions and potentially three paraprofessionals in the K8 section and entertaining putting a second Kindergarten at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

Discussion followed and no actions were taken.

IV. SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

The following persons addressed the school committee with their statements regarding the FY03 budget:

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| 1. | Mr. Jon Johanson | SHS, PTSA |
| 2. | Ms. Katie Kelley | SHS Junior |
| 3. | Mrs. Lauren Song | Family Service/Family Network |
| 4. | Mrs. Patricia Marques | Parent/3 students in Somerville Public Schools |
| 5. | Mr. Paul O'Brien | Cambridge Resident |
| 6. | Mrs. Nancy Grabowski | Parent/2 special needs students |
| 7. | Mr. James Monagle | 89 Ossipee Road, 02144 |

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Finance and Facilities Chairperson, Mary Jo Rossetti, thanked everyone for coming to the public hearing this evening and the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Murray and Ms. Cardoso and approved by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary