

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

June 3, 2002 FINANCE AND FACILITIES OF THE WHOLE MEETING

June 3, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Finance and Facilities Chairperson, Mary Jo Rossetti, called a Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers at city hall at 6:40 p.m. to discuss 1) approval of billrolls 2) summer work projects/building updates and 3) the FY03 budget.

II. ROLL CALL

School Committee Members Present: Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Murray, Mayor Gay, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Harris, Ms. Taylor, Alderman White, Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Sullivan.

No one was absent.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration and Dr. Steven F. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services were also present along with eight (8) members of the audience.

III. APPROVAL OF BILLROLLS

After discussion:

MOTION: Ms. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris, to approve the Billrolls as presented this evening and the motion was approved by voice vote.

IV. BUILDING UPDATES/SUMMER WORK PROJECTS – MR. ROBERT A. CIAMPI

A. Fire at East Somerville Community School on Sunday, June 2, 2002:

Mr. Ciampi handed out a memo regarding the above fire in room 112 and reviewed it with the school committee members. The room will be closed for the remainder of the school year. Discussion, no actions taken.

B. A list of summer maintenance items were also handed out to members and discussion took place. Discussion, no actions taken.

C. Discussion took place regarding *complete and incomplete* work orders also submitted to members this evening. Discussion, no actions taken.

V. FY03 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Dr. Argenziano handed out the following items to members:

- A. SHS enrollment figures requested by Ms. Cardoso. Ms. Cardoso actually wanted the classroom figures as opposed to the expected enrollment totals for September 2002. Dr. Argenziano advised that they are not ready and will be provided sometime in May.
- B. Three job descriptions: Adjustment Counselor, Elementary Guidance Counselor and the Redirect Program Teacher/Facilitator requested by Ms. Murray.
- C. The final draft of the Capital Improvement Plan:

Capital Improvement Plan: Dr. Argenziano advised that if the committee approves the Capital Improvement Plan this evening he would send the Chief Financial Officer, Thomas Hedderick, a letter from him as Secretary with the approved Capital Improvement Plan so that the school department would be included in the city's Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

MOTION: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris to accept the May 31, 2002 draft of the Capital Improvement Plan and the motion was approved by voice vote.

- D. FY03 Budget Discussion:

Lengthy discussion took place on voting on the bottom line of the budget found under New Business this evening in the amount of \$51,930,000.

MOTION: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris, to recess the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole meeting, open the regular meeting and recess after giving out Citations and Resolutions. The motion was defeated by voice vote.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary

June 3, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dennis M. Sullivan called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:10 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.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

Citations were presented as follows:

- ✓ National History Day District Competition Winner's Citations were presented by Mr. Pabian, Principal of the West Somerville Neighborhood School and Ms. Kate Murray, Ward V school committee person:

Sam Davidson-Weiss	1 st Place Individual Performance – <i>The Modern Proletariat</i>
Tiel Reardon	2 nd Place Individual Performance – <i>19th Century Prison Reformer</i>
Alexander Zebrose	2 nd Place Group Media – <i>British India's Disintegration</i>
Himanshu Dubey	2 nd Place Group Media – <i>British India's Disintegration</i>
Christina Taylor	1 st Place Group Exhibit – <i>Title IX Opens the Door for Women in Sports</i>
Diana Foster	1 st Place Group Exhibit – <i>Leveling the Playing Field: Title IX Opens the Door for Women in Sports</i>
Filomena DiVeccia	1 st Place Group Exhibit – <i>Leveling the Playing Field: Title IX Opens the Door for Women in Sports</i>

- ✓ Vocational Student of the Year Award: Laura Houlihan presented by CAD teacher, Perry Navleris.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following Minutes were approved for printing by voice vote:

May 6, 2002:

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole
Ms. Rossetti amended the above minutes (pg. 97) to reflect that she requested a letter be sent to the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen requesting the status of the \$200,000 reimbursement that the school department has been waiting for.
- Regular School Committee Meeting

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (cont.)

May 13, 2002:

- Public Hearing – Student Internet Safety Use Policy

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:
Ms. Rossetti amended the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole minutes (pg. 112) to note that the FY03 budget was slated to be discussed that evening, but the school committee decided not to discuss the budget as they were awaiting a reply to a recent communication to Mr. Thomas Hedderick, Chief Financial Officer for the city.

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student representative for the 2002-2003 school year, Kim Carvahlo, was not present this evening and no report was given.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. Update regarding upcoming meetings:
 - June 4th: PTA will be honoring scholarship recipients
 - June 5th: Annual Bilingual PAC meeting @ ESCS at 6 pm.
 - June 6th: Highlander Athletic Banquet
 - June 7th: Class Day at 10 a.m.
 - June 10th: SHS Graduation at Tufts University Field
 - June 11th: SHS Graduation Rain Date
 - June 12th: 150th SHS Celebration Planning Meeting
 - June 13th: Rules Management Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - June 17th: Tentative – Personnel Committee of the Whole for finalists for the Varsity Hockey Coach position and the Math Coordinator position
 - June 19th: Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting re the 5-Year Library Plan Presentation (Joan Gallagher, Director of Library/Media, is in the hospital for surgery and will be out for 6-8 weeks). This meeting to be postponed until the fall.

It was also decided to move the Personnel Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled above for June 17th to Wednesday, June 19th and interview the finalists for the Varsity Hockey Coach position and the Coordinator of Mathematics K-12.

2. Regarding the Vice Principalship at Lincoln Park Community School, there were 36 applicants and 12 of these met all the requirements and will be interviewed. Within a two-week period, recommendations will be forthcoming from the Interview Committee and the Principal.

3. Thanked Mr. Stephen J. O'Leary, Supervisor of Guidance & Testing, and his staff for conducting an excellent Scholarship Night last week in the Auditorium.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items (cont.)

4. A copy of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce *Monday Morning Fax* was submitted to members that Dr. Argenziano alluded to at a meeting last week that a generation ago Somerville was ranked in the top 10% in the state for school-age children and now is ranked 346 out of 351 communities.
5. *The Student Internet Safety Use Policy* will be voted on later this evening under New Business.
6. Ms. Joan C. Gallagher, Director of library/Media Services, submitted a copy of their Annual Report to all buildings.
7. Ms. Carole Gilberti submitted some conclusions in her *Prevention Works Curriculum Report* as it relates to the existing CASPAR curriculum and the STAR curriculum.
8. School Council Minutes from the Cummings, Healey and West Somerville Neighborhood Schools were submitted.
9. Reported that SHS Summer School is now back at Somerville High School.
10. A Title I *2002 Summer Program Calendar* was also submitted.
11. A *June Calendar of Events* was provided.
12. Reported that in the lobby of city hall are photos produced by special education students at Somerville High School. Dr. Argenziano congratulated the students and Chuck Gerlach, Graphic Arts Department, Elaine McMichael, Supervisor of Art/Music, Dianne Devito, SPED Department and Grace Kennedy and Laurie Foley, SHS Health Careers Department for the photo voice presentation.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. ***Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:*** Ms. Rossetti (May 29)

Subject discussed:

FY03 Budget:

- Re: Post Staff Reductions - reported that it is hoped that the Kindergarten Enhancement Grant funding will become available allowing the second strand to be put back at the WSNS which will be integrated into regular education and special education. This grant will also allow \$12,000 per Kindergarten throughout the city for a total grant amount of \$216,000.
- The Superintendent stated his goal was to put back into the budget three positions from Kindergarten through Grade 8 that were proposed for reductions as well as three positions at the Grade 9-12 level.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. **Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:** (cont.)

FY03 Budget (cont.)

- Ms. Rossetti reported that a communication was received this evening from state Representative Patricia Jehlen regarding the latest information regarding the present funding situation.
- Received copies of budgets of other large departments throughout the city for the past four years in order to compare the school department's budget with theirs. Lengthy discussion took place and Alderman White informed the committee of the Board of Aldermen's role as it relates to the school department's budget. As President of the Board of Aldermen, he said he will allow all departments in the city to present their budgets before he makes any decisions regarding the bottom line figure.
- Alderman White stated that under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 32, a 2/3 vote of the BOA could increase the bottom line number for the school committee if the school committee itself submits this increased amount. For example, if the school committee passes a budget more than the Mayor was recommending, when the Mayor submits her budget to the BOA she's not bound by the amount the school committee's votes on. Discussion followed. Ms. Rossetti asked Alderman White to research this for clarification and report back to her so that the information may be shared with the entire committee.

B. **Public Hearing FY03 Budget:** Ms. Rossetti (May 30)

Ms. Rossetti advised that in addition to the school committee and central administration 25 community people were present.

- Dr. Argenziano presented an overview of the Somerville Public School system as well as reviewing post staff reductions due to budget constraints. He reminded the committee that if they were to vote to approve this evening's recommended bottom line there would be 30-35 fewer positions next year. He spoke of recent conversations with Rep. Jehlen and Senator Charles Shannon, which included positive votes in the Ways and Means as it relates to funding for MCAS preparation and that *"everyone will be at or above the 2001 and 2002 budget"*. Members of the audience then addressed the committee with their comments and concerns.

No motions were taken.

C. **Finance and Facilities Committee of Whole:** Ms. Rossetti (June 3)

Subjects discussed:

- Approval of Billrolls
- Summer Work Projects/Bldg. Updates – R. Ciampi
- Building Use Request – cancelled.
- FY03 Budget Discussion

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

C. ***Finance and Facilities Committee of Whole:*** (cont.)

1. Approval of Billrolls:

Ms. Rossetti reported that the school committee approved the purchase of 156 computers as well as one complete Apple Computer Bundle Wireless Mobile Lab, which displays the commitment that the school committee has to upgrade and fund technology and Title I was very helpful in this endeavor.

Approved Motion:

Billrolls were approved by voice vote.

2. Summer Work Projects and Building Updates – Mr. Robert A. Ciampi, Facilities, Personnel & Property Services Director

Mr. Ciampi reported on the following items:

- Mr. Ciampi handed out a memo regarding a fire in room 112 at the ESCS and reviewed it with the school committee members. The room will be closed for the remainder of the school year. Discussion, no actions taken.
- A list of summer maintenance items was also handed out to members and discussion took place. Discussion, no actions taken.
- Discussion took place regarding *complete and incomplete* work orders also submitted to members this evening. Discussion, no actions taken.

3. Capital Improvement Plan:

Dr. Argenziano advised that if the committee approves the Capital Improvement Plan this evening he would send the Chief Financial Officer, Thomas Hedderick, a letter from him as Secretary with the approved Capital Improvement Plan so that the school department would be included in the city's Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

MOTION: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris to accept the May 31, 2002 draft of the Capital Improvement Plan and the motion was approved by voice vote.

4. FY03 Budget Discussion:

Lengthy discussion took place on voting on the bottom line of the budget found under New Business this evening in the amount of \$51,930,000.

MOTION: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris, to recess the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole meeting, open the regular meeting and recess after giving out Citations and Resolutions. The motion was defeated by voice vote.

No other actions were taken.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Foodservice Department:

1. Participation in National School Lunch & Breakfast Program

The superintendent recommended that the school committee vote to participate in the National School Lunch & Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services. Approved by voice vote.

2. Statement of Intent to Participate in Direct Certification -

The superintendent notified that the Somerville School Department would be participating in Direct Certification for the 2002-03 school year, as in previous years. Approved by voice vote.

B. Student Accident Insurance

The superintendent advised that the contract for Student Accident Insurance for the 2002-03 school year has been renewed with Moran Insurance Agency, 23 Spruce St., Suite B, Malden, MA 02148 at the following rates. Approved by voice vote.

Plan A - BASIC

Premium: School Time \$ 7.50

Premium: 24-Hour Coverage \$ 49.00

Plan B - ALL-SPORTS COVERAGE

Premium: All-Sports Coverage \$ 5,285.00 - Gold Plan

Plan C - SHOP AND LAB.

Premium: SHOP \$ Included In Plan B

Premium: LAB. \$ Included In Plan B

C. FY03 Budget Approval

The superintendent recommended the bottom line figure for the FY03 Budget at \$51,930,000.

A very lengthy debate followed. Discussion took place regarding the use of Medicaid Reimbursement and changing the bottom line of the budget to include adding some positions back especially Adjustment Counselor position. It was again stated that the bottom line figure voted this evening does not bind the Mayor. Discussion then took place regarding making the bottom line \$52,000,000 million dollars. The Superintendent advised that he would somehow find the \$70,000 needed.

The superintendent recommended the bottom line figure for the FY03 Budget at \$52,000,000.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

C. **FY03 Budget Approval** (cont.)

MOTION: Ms. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bauer, that the school committee accept the superintendent's recommendation and add \$70,000 to the Medicaid Reimbursement amount to fund the School Adjustment Counselor and the FY03 bottom line would be \$52,000,000. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of: Yes—5—Murray, Gay, Bauer, Taylor and White; Present—2—Cardoso and Harris; No—2—Rossetti and Sullivan.

D. **Somerville Public Schools/Student Internet Safety Use Policy**

The superintendent recommended approval of the Somerville Public Schools *Student Internet Safety Use Policy*. Approved by voice vote.

E. **Resolution regarding MCAS**

Chairman Sullivan advised that the Public Schools of Brookline is looking for school districts to adopt the following *Resolution For The 2002 MASC Delegate Assembly* as follows:

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Education Reform Law calls for the use of a comprehensive assessment system, not a single test, for determining academic competency;

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test does not adequately support different styles of learning, communication or student performance and WHEREAS making a single standardized test a requirement for graduation or grade promotion is not educationally justified;

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees has expressed its continued opposition to the use of the MCAS test as a graduation requirement, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has put forth a policy that would deny high school diplomas to students who fail the MCAS test regardless of their other academic achievements and competencies,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Massachusetts Association of School Committees reaffirms its commitment to education reform and its opposition to the use of the MCAS test as a graduation requirement, and

That the Massachusetts Association of School Committees asserts the right of local school committees to grant high school diplomas to all students who meet their school districts' requirements for graduation and who have demonstrated competency in a common core of skills measured by a variety of assessment instruments.

MOTION: Chairman Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Taylor, to sign onto the above Resolution and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Monday, June 3, 2002 – Regular Meeting

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

- June 13, 2002:** Healey School, Grades 7/8, to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H. Transportation by bus at a cost of \$25 per student.
- June 13, 2002:** East Somerville Community School, Grade 8, to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H. Transportation by bus at a cost of \$15 per student.
- June 15, 2002:** Winter Hill Community School, Grades 5-8, to Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, N.Y. Transportation by coach bus at a cost of \$20 per student.

IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Due to the late hour, members did not give their reports this evening.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

No communications were received for this evening's meeting.

XI. PERSONNEL

School Committee members were notified and accepted the following personnel actions of June 3, 2002 as follows:

A. **Resignations**

1. Ms. Emmanuella Victor, 139C Alewife Brook Pkwy, Apt. 36, Somerville, MA 02144 (Clerical Aide @ Scale) effective 6/30/02
2. Mr. Michael Byrne, 22 Wesley St., Somerville, MA 02145 (Paraprofessional @ SHS) effective May 14, 2002.
3. Ms. Coleen Flynn, 161 Pearl St., Somerville, MA 02145 (Paraprofessional @ Edgerly) effective June 18, 2002.
4. Ms. Sarah Slive DaVila, 174 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA 02139 (Director of Parent Information Center) effective June 30, 2002.
5. Ms. Ami Schiess, 65 Garrison Ave., Somerville, MA 02144 (Foreign Language Teacher) effective 6/30/02.
6. Mr. Eugene Vann, 124 Hamilton St., Cambridge, MA 02139 (Science Teacher @ SHS) effective June 30, 2002.
7. Ms. Julie Downey, 26 Myrtle St., Malden, MA 02148 (Education Coordinator @ Community Schools) effective May 3, 2002.
8. Mr. Mark Tajima, 1 Thingville Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138 (Paraprofessional @ Full Circle) effective June 30, 2002.

B. **Maternity Leaves of Absence**

1. Ms. Delores Theolien, 140 Central Ave., Hyde Park, MA 02136 (Bilingual Dept.) from September 3, 2002 to October 11, 2002 followed by a Child Rearing Leave from October 14, 2002 to January 2, 2003.
2. Ms. Adda Santos-Smith, 70 Robinwood Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (Bilingual Teacher @ SHS) from September 3, 2002 to October 11, 2002.

XI. PERSONNEL (cont.)

C. Unpaid Leaves of Absence

1. Ms. Joan Prisby Berry, 12 Brown St., Ipswich, MA 01938 (Smile Teacher @ Edgerly) on February 13 and 14, the 24th through the 28th, and March 3^d through the 5th for a total of 10 days.
2. Ms. Miriam Donovan, 275 Upham St., Melrose, MA 02176 (Grade 1 Teacher @ ESCS) for the 2002-2003 school year.
3. Ms. Judith Calvey, 10 Stickney Ave., Somerville, MA 02145 (Paraprofessional) from September 25, 2002 to October 6, 2002.

D. Authorizations

Cummings School

2ND Shift Custodial Bid
effective May 20, 2002

Anthony Anguilo, Sr.
11 Cutter St.
Somerville, MA 02145

Scale

Part-time ESOL Teacher
Effective 4/1/02
Vice: Faye Bergman (LOA)

Ashley Englander
18 Dartmouth St.
Somerville, MA 02145
Salary: \$22.33 per hour

Community Schools

Senior Counselor – Summer Camp
Effective May 16, 2002
Funding Source: 5127

Michael McCarthy
55 Calumet St. #3
Roxbury, MA 02120
Salary: \$9.27 per hour

XII. DEATH

The superintendent reported with regret the death of Mrs. Helen Beattie, Mother of Mary Ann Wall, Secretary at Somerville High School. A moment of silence was observed and a letter of sympathy will be sent to her family.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary