

December 16, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dennis Sullivan called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:00 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 Mr. Sullivan.

No one was absent.

III. 2003 CAUCUS FOR CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairperson Sullivan advised that in a caucus held prior to this meeting, under suspension of the rules, the following actions took place:

Ms. Taylor nominated and Ms. Bauer seconded, **Ms. Mary Jo Rossetti** as the **Chairman** of the 2003 School Committee and the nomination was confirmed by voice vote.

Ms. Cardoso nominated and Ms. Rossetti seconded, **Ms. Katrina Murray** as **Vice Chairman** of the 2003 School Committee and the nomination was confirmed by voice vote.

IV. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A. A presentation of a resolution and plaque to retiring member Aldermanic President, William A. White, Jr. was made by Chairperson Sullivan. The Resolution can be found on page 303.

B. A presentation of a gavel and plaque set was made to retiring Chairperson, Dennis M. Sullivan, Ward I, by the new Chairman of the 2003 school committee, Mary Jo Rossetti.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved for printing by voice vote:

November 14, 2002:

- Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole

November 18, 2002:

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole

November 18, 2002:

- Regular Meeting

November 21, 2002

- Personnel Committee of the Whole

November 25, 2002

- Bi-Annual Awards Ceremony

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student representative Kim Carvalho reported on the following items this evening:

This week marks the beginning of the winter break and there is a lot of activity going on at the high school, especially with seniors completing and sending out their college applications. The teachers are preparing for the annual Holiday Show and the students are looking forward to this, but the seniors have mixed feelings, as they realize it will be the last for them to enjoy!

Ms. Carvalho reported that the National Honor Society has proudly raised a large amount of money for *Toys for Tots* and on behalf of the students thanked everyone for their support.

Winter sports are beginning and Ms. Carvalho wished all athletes good luck during the winter season. She looks forward to reporting the success of our teams.

In closing, Ms. Carvalho wished everyone Happy Holidays!

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Before beginning his report the Superintendent read a letter from the DaRosa Family of 9 Merriam Street in Somerville, to members of the school committee and the Somerville community. The family wanted to publicly extend their thanks to those who have sent get well wishes and prayers for Amber Lily and also for the donations made to the Amber Lily DaRosa Fund. The family expressed they greatly appreciate all the love and support received from everyone – friends, family and the community. The outpouring of care, concern and generosity has been truly helpful during this difficult time. In closing, Amy, Victor and Amber DaRosa extended their good wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy holiday season.

Dr. Argenziano spoke on the following items:

1. Dr. Argenziano referred to the 2002-2003 Enrollment Report and mentioned that for the first time, this report places our minority population at 55% and our white population at 45%. The Superintendent provided the report to members for their information, as this is the document that will be used throughout the budget discussions.
2. Dr. Argenziano sent a confidential envelope to members, on Friday, December 13th, which also contained a letter from New England School Development Council (NESDEC), which provided the Superintendent of Schools with six dates they will be visiting our schools. The visitation dates are as follows:
 - December 16, 2002: Edgerly Education Center – a.m., East Somerville Community School – p.m.
 - December 18, 2002: Cummings School – a.m., Healey School, Choice Program – p.m.
 - December 19, 2002: Lincoln Park Community School – a.m., Brown School – p.m.
 - January 2, 2003: Winter Hill Community School – a.m., Kennedy School – p.m.
 - January 3, 2003: Powder House School – a.m., West Somerville Neighborhood School – p.m.
 - January 6, 2003: Two Way Bilingual Program – a.m.

There will be a Community Meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the East Somerville Community School Auditorium, regarding the Long Range Master Plan for School Facilities. Dr. Argenziano informed members that an ad will run twice in the Somerville Journal and once in the Somerville News notifying the public of the January 9th meeting. The comprehensive study will be complete by January 24, 2003 and a final report will be submitted to members.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

3. Provided members with a copy of a letter received from Shenandoah Titus, the Executive Director for Human Rights Commission.
4. Provided all members with a copy of a letter from Thomas Graney, Chairman of the Local Emergency Planning Committee, regarding a request that the school committee develop a *Defend-In-Place Strategy* for the Somerville school system.
5. The Holiday Season Message 2002 sent to all staff, students, and parents was enclosed for all members.
6. A Department of Education release *Local Credential Approved by Board of Education* was provided to members.
7. As requested by Chairman Sullivan, Dr. Argenziano distributed to members a memorandum prepared by Dr. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services, regarding violence prevention. The memorandum provided information on what is being done in our schools to educate staff and students about safety issues both gang-related and other. Dr. Argenziano read aloud the complete report to the committee, members of the audience, and the public, for their information.
8. Provided to members two items from Mr. Snow, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment: 1) The Somerville Public Schools Amended Required Reading Program for Grades 1-6, December 2002 - June 2003; 2) a memorandum sent to building principals regarding the mathematics professional development for Grades 1-3.
9. Enclosed is a memorandum from Pamela Holmes, Title I Director, that was sent to four principals (Powder House Community School, Healey School, Lincoln Park Community School, and Winter Hill Community School) regarding the 10% Allocation for Professional Development.
10. The Superintendent received from the Mayor's office copies of two city ordinances regarding 1) gang loitering within the City of Somerville and 2) gang activity as a public nuisance within the City of Somerville. Copies of both acts are provided for members.
11. In response to a question asked by Ms. Murray about what is going on with the school age council, Dr. Argenziano requested and received from Ms. Susan Gross, Administrator of Community Schools a three-page email with the information, which is provided for members.
12. Submitted to all members was a draft copy of the Superintendent of Schools topic outline of key elements made in the narrative summary of his performance review. Dr. Argenziano highlighted the comments by individual members and suggested this outline could be used as a good starting point when discussion takes place after the first of the year, for developing goals and objectives for 2003.
13. A draft copy of *Our Schools Our Future* is provided for members. The final copy will be enclosed in this week's packet.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

14. School Council minutes are enclosed, as follows:

- Cummings School and Edgerly Education Center for November 2002
- East Somerville Community School for October and November 2002
- West Somerville Neighborhood School for October 2002
- Powder House Community School for September and October 2002
- Lincoln Park Community School for September and October 2002

15. The Somerville High School Winter Sports Schedule 2002-2003 is enclosed.

16. Dr. Argenziano wished everyone a restful and relaxing holiday season.

VIII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. ***Personnel Subcommittee of the Whole:*** Ms. Harris (Dec. 3)

Subject discussed:

- ✓ Annual Review of Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Harris explained the evaluation process of the twenty two page document that school committee members complete in evaluating the performance of the Superintendent of Schools. The document consists of seven different categories and is divided into three sections. Ms. Harris reported that on a scale from one to four, with one being the highest and four being the lowest, the Superintendent scored an overall rating of 1.3, across the board, in all three categories.

B. ***Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole:*** Mr. Sullivan (Dec. 9)

Subject discussed:

- ✓ School Committee meeting with Consultant completing the Comprehensive Study

Mr. Sullivan reported that the school committee met with the consultants from New England School Development Council (NESDEC) who will be conducting the long range master planning for the Somerville Public Schools – Dr. Kennedy, Associate Planning Manager and Dr. Gotgart, Assistant Executive Director. Mr. Sullivan informed the public that the comprehensive study will cost \$24,250.00. A public meeting will be held in order to hear input from the community, on Thursday, January 9, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the East Somerville Community School Auditorium.

C. ***Ed. Programs and Instruction:*** Ms. Murray (Dec. 11)

Subject discussed:

- ✓ High School Program of Studies

Approved motions Subcommittee:

- In the absence of a clear and accurate GPA description, the school committee omits a description of GPA from the Somerville High School 2003-04 program of studies and will distribute a clear GPA policy as a supplement, at a later date.

VIII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)

C. ***Ed. Programs and Instruction:*** Ms. Murray (Dec. 11)

- To approve the Somerville High School Program of Studies for 2003-2004.
- ✓ Cycle II Performance Rating Report

Ms. Murray reported discussion took place regarding the school and district accountability system report – Cycle II Performance Ratings. This discussion was a preview of what will be talked about in the school improvement plans that are scheduled for the end of January.

D. ***Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:*** Ms. Rossetti (Dec. 16)

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ Billrolls

Approved motions Subcommittee:

- To accept and approve the FY2002 Billrolls, as submitted.
- To accept and approve the FY2003 Billrolls, as submitted.
- ✓ End of Year Pupil/Financial Report

Ms. Rossetti reported that a fifty three page *FY02 End of Year Pupil and Financial Report* was provided by Ms. Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration to all school committee members. Discussion took place. No motions were made.

- ✓ Teen Connection – Scope of Services

Ms. Rossetti reported that discussion regarding Teen Connection – scope of services, will be held at a later date in January.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business this evening.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. **SHS Diploma**

Headmaster, Thomas F. Galligani, recommended that the following student, who has successfully completed the requirements for graduation from Somerville High School, be awarded his diploma: Denis McKenna. Approved by voice vote.

XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

1. Ms. Rossetti and Dr. Argenziano met with Tufts University President, Dr. Bacow, on December 5, 2002. Ms. Rossetti reported the group involved had a ninety-minute discussion regarding how Tufts decides their financial package and scholarship awards. It was agreed, by the end of the meeting, that a report will be completed to present to the school committee on what Tufts University will offer to our high school students. Anyone interested in joining Ms. Rossetti at a future meeting, please contact her.
2. Ms. Rossetti reported that on Sunday, December 15th, she attended a session that was organized by Mr. Gerald Knight, Athletic Director. He sent communication to all parents of students who are athletes here in Somerville and there were approximately two hundred students and parents in attendance. Ms. Rossetti expressed her thanks to Mr. Knight for organizing this meeting.
3. The West Somerville Neighborhood School will be having their Holiday Program for parents and friends at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17th.
4. The Powder House Community School will be having their Holiday Fun Concert on Friday, December 20th at 9:15 a.m.
5. Somerville High School's Winter Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.
6. Ms. Rossetti received a call today from Genoa Restaurant staff regarding items they have collected from their employees and customers and would like to donate to the West Somerville Neighborhood School to families of children in need. Ms. Rossetti thanked the gentleman who called her and let him know she would drop by the restaurant this evening and she expressed appreciation for their generosity.
7. Wished a happy and safe holiday to everyone.

Ms. Taylor

1. Starbucks will host the *Books of Hope*, a young authors' program on December 19th. They will also be at the Mystic Activity Center on December 23rd to publish and celebrate these young authors.
2. Wished everyone Happy Holidays!

Ms. Harris

1. Attended, along with some of her colleagues, the annual city wide PTA Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 10th. Ms. Harris mentioned a wonderful time was had by all.
2. Reported that a collection was taken up for the Walnut Street Center in Somerville and there was quite a bit donated, both monetary and many different items.

XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Ms. Harris

3. On Thursday, December 12th, Ms. Harris had the pleasure of attending the football banquet.
4. Reminded everyone that the winter sports season has started - basketball for boys and girls, freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams, hockey, wrestling and boys swimming. The boys swim meets are on Wednesday and Thursday, December 18th and 19th and both meets are at the Kennedy School.
5. Wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Mayor Gay

1. Wished all administration, faculty, students, and viewers across the city a very happy and healthy holiday season. The Mayor's Annual Holiday Party will be held Tuesday, December 17th from 9:30–11:00 a.m. at the Nathan Tufts Field House, Powderhouse Park.
2. On Wednesday, January 1, 2003 at 11:30 a.m., the 227th Anniversary of the raising of the First Flag and the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Prospect Hill Tower will take place on the Prospect Hill Towers. Mayor Gay invited all to come out and enjoy the celebration.
3. Wished everyone a very healthy and safe holiday season.

Ms. Murray

1. Reported there are a couple of concerts coming up on Friday, December 20th: The Kennedy School winter concert for grades PK-8 will be at 9:00 a.m. in the cafetorium. The Winter Hill Community School is having their Improbable Players presentation for Grades 4, 5, and 6, also on December 20th.
2. Mentioned she purchased her Christmas Tree at the tree lot located near Foss Park. The lot was very well staffed. Everyone was very helpful and professional. She encouraged the public to go to the tree lot to buy their Christmas tree. The money helps students of the Full Circle and Next Wave School with their field trips and student activities.
3. On Tuesday, December 17th from 10:00-12:00 at the Somerville Public Library, the Youth Program will sponsor a gang's prevention meeting. The public is invited, but there is limited seating, and Ms. Murray advised an RSVP is requested.
4. Mr. Kenneth Czerwinski, a Brown School parent, who is also an MIT Professor, along with his graduate students, designed and created a science club for students at the Brown School. Ms. Murray reported that ninety six students were served by this after school program. The dedication to this program and to our students was outstanding and Ms. Murray wanted to commend the group for job well done.
5. Wished everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Ms. Cardoso

1. This Friday, December 20th at 9:00 a.m. the Lincoln Park Community School will be having their Holiday Concert.
2. Wished a happy holiday season to her colleagues, school department staff, students, parents, and all the residents of Somerville.

Mr. Sullivan

1. Mentioned he also bought his Christmas Tree at the tree lot located near Foss Park. Mr. Sullivan received great service and everyone was very helpful. The lot is open after school, evenings, and on the weekends.
2. Reported that the Ward I Scholarship Committee met last week and the Ward I Democratic Scholarship, in the amount of \$400.00, was awarded to Frank McPherson, who is now attending UMASS at Amherst. Mr. Sullivan extended his congratulations to Frank McPherson.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items of communication this evening.

XIII. PERSONNEL

School Committee members were notified and accepted the following personnel actions of December 16, 2002 as follows:

A. Resignation

1. Antonio Neto, 10 River Rd., Somerville, MA 02145 (Paraprofessional @ Kennedy School) as of November 20, 2002.
2. Edward Clark, 5 Partridge St., Medway, MA 02053 (Electrical Teacher @ Vocational) as of 1/3/02.

B. Unpaid Leaves of Absence

1. Denise Walsh, 25 Wales Ave., S. Weymouth, MA 02190 (Speech/Language Therapist @ Edgerly) from January 17, 2003 to June 30, 2003 for personal reasons.

C. Maternity Leave of Absence

1. Dina Park-Matsas, 11 Anthony Rd., Tewksbury, MA 01876 (4th grade teacher @ Healey School) beginning April 18, 2003 followed by a Child Rearing Leave until November 1, 2003.

XIII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

D. Authorizations

High School

Business Teacher
Effective 11/6/02
Vice: M. Oliveiri (III)

Charlotte Engvall
242A Linden St.
Waltham, MA 02154
Salary: M+30, Step J = \$60,249
Cert. # 97772 Business K-12

Part-time Utility Aide
Effective 10/30/02
Vice: New Position

Michael Dedrick
500 Salem St. Unit 604
Medford, MA 02155
\$10.06 per hour

East Somerville Community School

Grade 5 Teacher (Long Term Sub)
Effective 11/3/02
Vice: R. Taylor (MLOA)

Martha O'Neil
119 Gloucester St.
Arlington, MA 02174
Salary: B, Step G = \$41,182
Cert. # 78730 Elem K-8

Healey School

Bilingual Paraprofessional
Effective 10/28/02
Vice: New Position

Louis Gineaud
35 Crescent St.
Charlestown, MA 02129
Salary: \$12,663

Kennedy School

Librarian (Long Term Sub)
Effective 11/3/02
Vice: J. Kenney (MLOA)

Sarah Hemendinger
223 Summer St. Apt. 22
Somerville, MA 02143
Salary: B, Step A = \$30,986
Cert. Pending

SPED Paraprofessional
Effective 12/2/02
Vice: W. Vincente (resigned)

Denise O'Donnell
26 High St.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$12,663

Community Schools

Assistant Teacher
Effective 11/4/02
Funding Source: 5128

Gina Addonizio
251 Cushman Ave.
Revere, MA 02151
\$12.75/hr.

ATHLETICS

Basketball – Female Varsity

Head Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$4,194

Brian Harris
9 Melville Rd.
Somerville, MA 02145

XIII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

ATHLETICS

Fr. Assistant Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$2,432

Keith Scalese
11 Golden Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476

JV Assistant Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$2,686

Kathleen Norton
100 Wallace St.
Somerville, MA 02144

Basketball – Male Varsity

Head Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$4,194

Richard Melillo
33 Wicklow Ave.
Medford, MA 02155

JV Assistant Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$2,686

Kenneth Olson
96 Rogers Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144

Freshmen Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$2,432

John O'Keefe
39 Day St.
Somerville, MA 02144

Hockey – Male Varsity

Assistant JV Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$2,686

Joseph Vilaine
24 Hazelwood St.
Hingham, MA 02043

Head Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$4,194

David Liberatore
391 Rice Ave.
Revere, MA 02151

Frosh Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$2,432

Kyle Norris
70 Central St. Apt. 1
Somerville, MA 02143

Swim – Male Varsity

Head Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$3,533

Michael Williams
12 Solar Rd.
Billerica, MA 01821

Track – Female Varsity

Head Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$4,194

Charles O'Rourke
91 Glencoe St.
Brighton, MA 02135

XIII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

ATHLETICS

Asst.Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$2,686

Yolanda Ortiz
2 Mt. Pleasant Ct.
Woburn, MA 01801

Track – Male Varsity

Head Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$4,194

Dave Dickerson
4 Atwood St.
Wakefield, MA 01880

Asst.Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$2,686

Carl Stauffer
29 Green St.
Melrose, MA 02176

Wrestling

Head Coach
Winter 02-03
Salary: \$3,533

James Canzonetta
11 Grant St.
Peabody, MA 01960

Baseball

Head Coach
Spring 03
Salary: \$4,278

Michael Powers
105 Woods Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144

Custodial Bids

Kennedy School – First Shift
Effective 11/29/02
From 2nd shift at ESCS

Mark Mitchell
5 Montgomery Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143

LPCS – Second Shift
Effective 11/25/02
From 2nd shift at Kennedy

Thomas Dale
20 Montrose St.
Somerville, MA 02143

Temp. Full-time Custodians

LPCS – Second Shift
Effective 10/28/02
From Civil Service List

John Moriera
54 Fellsway West #8
Somerville, MA 02145

Kennedy – First Shift
Effective 11/12/02
From Civil Service List

Frederick Castle
47 Edgar Ave.
Somerville, MA 02145

XIII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

Temp. Full-time Custodians

PHCS – First Shift
Effective 11/12/02
From Civil Service List

Dave Williams
58 Fellsway West #1
Somerville, MA 02145

XIV. RESOLUTION

Retiring President of the Board of Aldermen, William A. White, Jr.:

WILLIAM A. WHITE, JR.

- WHEREAS, William A. White, Jr., by authority of his office as President of the Board of Aldermen, diligently served as an ex-officio member of the School Committee from January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002, and
- WHEREAS, Mr. White always has demonstrated a genuine interest in all schools in Somerville, more specifically for the students, parents, and school staff, and constantly sought ways to better the entire educational structure, and
- WHEREAS, He professionally coordinated the many, activities and legislative matters of the Board of Aldermen with those of the School Committee in various areas of education, and has ambitiously addressed any and all problems relating to education, and
- WHEREAS, Mr. White exemplified fair and impartial consideration for the rights and privileges of his associate members of the School Committee, therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the School Committee publicly extend its appreciation and gratitude to Mr. White for his dedication to the School Committee, and wish him continued success as an alderman in Somerville, and be it further
- RESOLVED: That these well-earned resolutions officially be recorded in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and that a framed copy be presented to Mr. White.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Cardoso and Ms. Harris moved a motion to go into executive session at 9:10 p.m., to discuss negotiation strategy, and the motion was approved by a roll call vote of: Yes—9—Cardoso, Murray, Gay, Bauer, Harris, Taylor, White, Rossetti, and Sullivan.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sullivan stated the school committee will be in executive session for the purpose of negotiation strategy. The committee will not return to public session this evening. If there are any votes taken, they will be reported at the next regularly scheduled school committee meeting.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary