

January 13, 2003

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti 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. Harris, Mayor Gay, Ms. Bauer, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Murray and Ms. Rossetti.

Alderman O'Donovan was absent.

**III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

There were no presentations made this evening.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The following minutes were approved for printing by voice vote:

December 2, 2002:

- Regular School Committee Meeting

December 3, 2002:

- Personnel Committee of the Whole Meeting

December 16, 2002:

- Regular School Committee Meeting

**V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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

Midterms begin next week, January 20<sup>th</sup>, marking the half-year point and seniors are anxiously preparing for the end of the school year. The Guidance Department hosted a very helpful financial aid night last week, January 6<sup>th</sup>, providing students and parents with forms and information on financial assistance and scholarships.

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Somerville High School is hosting a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent night at 7:00 p.m. Tours and information will be provided for the parents of prospective Somerville High students. This is a very helpful event for both students and parents and the high school is looking forward to a good turnout.

Traditionally the high school seniors have a Pajama Day where they wear pajamas to school. This year they have decided to expand on the idea and include dancing. Ms. Carvalho informed everyone that at the end of February the seniors look forward to hosting the first Pajama Jam.

Ms. Carvalho reported on safety being a major issue at Somerville High School and how the students are focused on keeping the school a safe environment. She along with the other officers, have developed the idea of creating a forum where various students from different clubs

**V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (cont.)**

and organizations will meet twice per quarter to discuss issues they feel are important. The first meeting will be held the beginning of March with support and guidance of the High School Headmaster, Mr. Galligani and Student Council Advisor, Mr. O'Teri.

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. All members received fifty school committee pamphlets listing the subcommittee assignments; if additional copies are needed, please contact the Superintendent's office. The pamphlets are available in all school buildings, as well as in the Mayor's office entryway.
2. Provided is a copy of the school manual for the 2002-03 school year as well as the January – May 2002 school committee minutes.
3. Dr. Argenziano informed the public that this coming Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, an Ed. Programs and Instruction Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held at the East Somerville Community School at 7:00 p.m., with the Unidos/Bi-lingual PAC. Translators in all languages will be present.
4. Provided for members was the Cycle II Performance Ratings for all schools, as well as the district summary information.
5. Enclosed is a second response to the committee's letter of the No Child Left Behind Act, previously sent, concerning the budget crisis. The committee previously had a response from Congressman Capuano, this one enclosed is from Mr. Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.
6. Provided is the Preliminary FY03 Charter Pupils and Tuition listing from the Office of School Finance, Massachusetts Department of Education. As earlier reported in the finance and facilities subcommittee meeting, the Superintendent explained the Commissioner of Education listed the thirteen approved Charter Schools for open solicitation of comment. The Sabis School in Somerville was not on that list. The Mohonk Charter School in Boston, a regional charter school made up of nine communities of which we are one, is one of the approved sites. That is the charter school that Dr. David Singer is responsible for. Dr. Argenziano along with Ms. Alice Comack and Ms. Linda Vitiello, will be meeting with Dr. Singer next week. If members have any comments, please contact the Superintendent before the meeting takes place.
7. Enclosed is a memorandum regarding the scheduling of four Lincoln Park Community School community meetings set up by Mayor Gay, Alderman Heuston and Ms. Teresa Cardoso, representing Ward II. The dates are: Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday March 10, all at 7:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Park Community School.
8. Enclosed for members is an email received from Michael Gilbert, Massachusetts Association of School Committees, regarding the Governor signing the orientation bill for school committee members. Dr. Argenziano suggested the committee member who represents the school committee with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, check to see if the requirements have been met.

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

9. Enclosed for members is a list of approved supplemental education service providers as part of the No Child Left Behind Act, Cycle II. There are only four that are listed, and a copy of the information, received from Department of Education, is provided.
10. This past Wednesday, January 8th, bus tours were provided for parents of Kindergarten children who were projected to come in to our Kindergarten. A memorandum from Ms. Pamela G. Holmes, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education/Title I is provided for members.
11. Dr. Argenziano referred to a previous article in the Boston Globe listing the highest rate of children in poverty in cities and towns in Massachusetts. Holyoke was listed as the highest; Somerville's rate was at 18%. A copy of the breakdown is provided for members.
12. As previously mentioned, this coming Wednesday evening, January 15th, there is a meeting with our Bilingual PAC. This same night there will also be a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student and high school curriculum orientation night from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at Somerville High School, hosted by Mr. Steven O'Leary, Coordinator of Guidance and Testing.
13. The School Council minutes for the Brown School and the Healey School are provided for members.
14. The Title I Newsletter, Winter 2002, is also enclosed.
15. Informed members at their places this evening was an envelope containing three handouts on the severance plan.

**VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:*** Ms. Murray (Jan. 13)

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ Building Use – Eugene C. Brune Field House at Somerville High School. The Somerville High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad is requesting use of the Field House for the purpose of a fundraiser.
- ✓ Teen Connection – Scope of Services  
Ms. Murray reported the committee reviewed the contract for Teen Connection Services, the newly built teen connection services site located outside the high school at 81 Highland Avenue.

Approved motions Subcommittee:

- To approve the use of the Eugene C. Brune Field House at Somerville High School on Sunday, February 2, 2003 for the Somerville High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad fundraiser

**VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)**

**A. *Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:***

- To waive all fees for the use of the Eugene C. Brune Field House at Somerville High School on Sunday, February 2, 2003 for the Somerville High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad fundraiser

MOTION: Ms. Murray made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to approve the ten-year contract for the Teen Connection Services at 81 Highland Avenue, located at outside the high school.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of: Yes–8–Cardoso, Harris, Gay, Bauer, Sullivan, Taylor, Murray and Rossetti; Absent–1–O'Donovan.

Ms. Murray stated for clarification of the ten-year period, the contract will run from January 2003 through January 2013.

Lastly, as requested by Ms. Murray, Mayor Dorothy A. Kelly Gay gave an update regarding the discussion held during the subcommittee meeting as it relates to our financial picture and also to the meeting this morning with Lt. Governor, Kerry Healey. Mayor Gay spoke concerning the five percent cuts in budget cycle 2003, this existing budget, and how it impacts all cities across the Commonwealth. For us, this reduction translates into six million dollars this fiscal year. She explained that 72% of our budget is our salaries and 38.5% (10% of which is local aid) are going to be affected. Mayor Gay stated unbearable cuts that we are looking at are forty five police officers, forty five fire fighters, and as far as teachers go, for every million dollars, there will be twenty five teachers let go. We cannot withstand these reductions, as we will not have any departments left. Mayor Gay stressed to the public how important is to contact your state representatives as well as other state representatives throughout the Commonwealth and voice your opinion concerning the budget cuts.

**B. *Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole:* Ms. Rossetti (Jan. 9)**

Subject discussed:

- ✓ Phase II Meeting with New England School Development Council (NESDEC)

Ms. Rossetti reported the committee met with New England School Development Council (NESDEC) who provided the Somerville School Committee and the community with their mid point report on their comprehensive study of the school district. Dr. Kennedy gave a power point presentation of the Somerville Public Schools, K – 8 Long Range Facilities Planning. Also, Dr. Hines and Ms. Kelley each gave a report outlining the elementary school facilities for each elementary school they visited. A final report will be received by January 24, 2003. Ms. Rossetti also reminded the public that the next Long Range Planning Committee Meeting will be held at 181 Washington Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference

**VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)**

**B. *Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole***

room, on January 21<sup>st</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The school principals will be presenting their school improvement plans on those two evenings.

December 16, 2002 Executive Session Meeting

Ms. Rossetti also reported there was an executive session meeting on December 16, 2002, and at that time, Chairman Sullivan stated he would let it be known of any motions made that evening. Ms. Rossetti advised that the committee did review the Superintendent of Schools salary. As a result of the discussion that evening, reflecting Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Argenziano's positive performance evaluation by this very committee, and with all members present, there was a motion passed unanimously which grants Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, a bonus of \$1,500.00 and a base salary increase of 3%, effective January 1, 2003.

Ms. Harris then reported on the process and outcome of the three Personnel Committee Meetings of the Whole that took place on November 13, November 21, and December 3, 2002. The purpose of these meetings was for the annual review of the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION: Ms. Harris made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to extend the Superintendent of Schools contract for two more years and give him the vote of trust he so deserves.

Lengthy discussion followed. School committee members exchanged comments and voiced their concerns regarding the issue of extending the Superintendent of Schools contract. Some members were very much in agreement with doing so, and others not so agreeable. Ms. Bauer suggested the committee give the citizens of Somerville the chance to voice their opinions to each of the school committee members about how they would like the committee to vote regarding the extension of the Superintendent of Schools contract.

MOTION: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Murray, to refer discussion of extending the Superintendent of Schools contract to a future meeting of the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting.

At Ms. Cardoso's request, the school committee recessed at 8:46 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:52 p.m.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Ms. Murray offered a friendly amendment to the subsidiary motion to refer this discussion, not to Personnel, but to Executive Session. Ms. Bauer accepted the friendly amendment to instead move discussion to an executive session meeting.

**Monday, January 13, 2003 – Regular Meeting**

MOTION: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Murray, to move discussion of the extension of the Superintendent of Schools contract to a future executive session.

The motion failed to carry by a roll call vote of: Yes–3–Bauer, Taylor and Murray; No–5–Cardoso, Harris, Gay, Sullivan and Rossetti; Absent–1–O'Donovan.

MOTION: Ms. Harris made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to extend the Superintendent of Schools contract for Somerville Public Schools for two years to 2006.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of: Yes–5–Cardoso, Harris, Gay, Sullivan and Rossetti; No-3-Bauer, Taylor and Murray; Absent–1–O'Donovan.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business this evening.

The School Committee recessed at 9:18 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

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

**Jan. 16, 2003:** Ms. DePasquale, Mr. Blackmer, Full Circle High School, to Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH. Transportation by school van, \$15.00 cost to students.

**Jan. 17, 2003:** Ms. Kelly, Ms. Robichaux, Mr. Ciampa, Next Wave Alternative Jr. High School, to Pat's Peak, Henneker, NH. Transportation by school van, \$10.00 cost to students.

**Feb. 13, 2003:** Ms. Bishop, Mr. Dempsey, Full Circle High School, to Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH. Transportation by school van, \$15.00 cost to students.

**Feb. 17, 2003:** Ms. Beaton, Ms. Gallant, Next Wave Alternative Jr. High School, to Pat's Peak, Henneker, NH. Transportation by school van, \$10.00 cost to students.

B. **SHS Diploma** – (Recommended Action: Approval)

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: John Savage. Approved by voice vote.

C. **Bi-Annual Awards Ceremony**

Dr. Argenziano reminded members the second Awards Ceremony was previously scheduled for Monday evening, February 10, 2003. However, Mayor Gay, Alderman

**IX. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)**

Heuston and Ms. Cardoso have recently scheduled a Lincoln Park Community School community meeting for that same night. Dr. Argenziano advised he would reschedule the second Awards Ceremony for a date in March 2003.

**X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ms. Murray**

1. The Winter Hill Community School will be having their Parent Open House on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 p.m.
2. There will be a community forum held at St. Ann's Church on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The topic is Keeping Teens Safe in Risky Times. The snow date is the following week, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Murray encouraged the public to attend and also welcomed teens to be present. Ms. Murray informed the public that the Long Range Planning Committee meeting (school improvement plans to be presented), originally scheduled for this night, was moved to January 23, 2003.
3. Reminded the community that the School Fair is Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Somerville High School Atrium from 10:00-2:00. Schools will be open prior to that for people to visit.

**Ms. Taylor**

1. Commended the Early Childhood staff who organized the January 8, 2003 bus tours. Pre-School teachers of the city met at the Powder House Community School Kindergarten and went on two different tours, visiting every site.
2. The Somerville High School Guidance Department will be hosting a community forum on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The topic is Outreach.
3. The Duhamel Pancake Breakfast will be held February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the College Avenue Methodist Church. This event raises money to support functions of the Somerville Public Schools.

**Mayor Gay**

1. Somerville's first *Martin Luther King Celebration* will be held on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at East Somerville Community School from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Guest speakers will be: newly elected Senator, Jarrett Barrios, Senior Class President, Melinda Barbosa, and Shenandoah Titus, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission. Mayor Gay invited all in the community to attend this celebration.

**Ms. Bauer**

1. Mentioned that interpreters will be available at the Community Forum to be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at St. Ann's Church, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

**Ms. Bauer**

2. On Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> Somerville High School will be having their annual Talent Night at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.
3. Cummings School PTA and Science Fair will be on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:45-4:45 p.m.
4. Ms. Bauer welcomed the new School Committee Chairperson, Ms. Mary Jo Rossetti.

**Ms. Harris**

1. On Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Johnson will be running a workshop promoting peace and justice called *Teens Against Gang Violence*. Three workshops will take place for Grades 6, 7, and 8. This is a joint effort by the school, the Choice program and the PTA. Ms. Harris thanked all three groups for coming together to sponsor this activity. The times of the one hour workshops are: 10:00-11:00 a.m., 11:10-12:10 and then an informal meeting will be held with teachers and Dr. Johnson from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
2. Ms. Harris also welcomed the committee's new chairperson, Ms. Rossetti and thanked her for a job well done.
3. On January 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a workshop concerning what happens post the Choice Program which currently runs Grades K- 6 at the Healey School. The workshop will be in the Library at 7:00 p.m.
4. On January 21, there will be a Choice information night at the Healey School Library at 7:00 p.m.
5. The Healey School/Choice Program will be having an Open House on January 21, 22 and 23. Classrooms will be open. Ms. Harris encouraged parents to visit.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Notified members that the Title I meeting originally scheduled with the school committee for January 21, 2003 has been rescheduled to Tuesday, February 11, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.
2. Mayor Gay is having meetings every month at each Ward and Ward II's meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Lincoln Park Community School at 7:00 p.m. The first part of the meeting will be on the reconstruction of the Lincoln Park Community School at its existing site.

**XI. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Superintendent reported that Melinda Barbosa, Senior Class President and also leader of our Girls Basketball Team, was awarded a four year scholarship, all expenses paid to Bryn Mawr College. Dr. Argenziano publicly congratulated Melinda for a job well done!

**XII. PERSONNEL**

School Committee members were notified and accepted the following personnel actions of January 13, 2003 as follows:

**A. RETIREMENT**

1. Janet Rosenblatt, 2 Hawthorne Place, #17P, Boston, MA 02214, Speech Language Pathologist, at the ESCS effective June 30, 2003. (34 years)

**RETIREMENT RESCINDED**

1. Elizabeth Gordon, 244 Paines Creek, Brewster, MA as of June 30, 2003.

**B. RESIGNATION**

1. Maria Madrid, 85 Chandler St., Somerville, MA 02144 (Title One Assistant) effective December 20, 2002.
2. Elizabeth Martin, 8 Belmont St., Somerville, MA 02143 , Utility Aide @ SHS as of December 20, 2002.
3. Paul Martin, 8 Belmont St, Somerville, MA 02143 , Utility Aide @ SHS as of December 20, 2002.
4. Isabel C. Viera, 180 Cedar St., Somerville, MA 02144 (TBE Para @ PHCS) as of December 20, 2002.
5. Maria Ortiz, 150 Nicholas St., Everett, MA 02149 (Part-time Clerical Aide @ Scale) effective November 14, 2002.
6. Ashley Englander, Part-time ESOL Teacher @ Scale, effective November 30, 2003.

**CHANGE**

1. Dina Park-Matsas, 11 Anthony Rd., Tewksbury, MA 01876 , requesting to change Maternity Leave of Absence Return Date from November 1, 2003 to September 3, 2003.

**C. ADOPTIVE LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

1. Kathleen Daly Canty Hern, 92 Church St., W. Roxbury, MA 02132 , 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher@ WSNS requesting a paid adoptive leave of absence for 10 days beginning December 16, 2002 followed by a FMLA, and continued by a Child Care Leave of Absence for the remainder of the 2002-2003 school year.

**XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)**

**D. Authorizations**

**SHS**

Mathematics Teacher  
Effective 1/2/03  
Vice: A. Pera (Dismissed)

Yoon Ha Lee  
39 Montgomery St.  
Cambridge, MA 02140  
Salary: M, Step 1 = \$34,021  
\*Waiver

**KENNEDY**

Special Education Para  
Effective 12/16/02  
Vice: C. Smith (re-assigned)

Alexander Sperry  
36 Columbus Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02143  
Salary: \$12,663

Re-Assignment

Special Education Para  
Effective 12/16/02  
Vice: A. Neto (resigned)

Cheryl Smith  
43 Everett St.  
Everett, MA 02149  
Salary: \$12,663

**PHCS**

TBE Para  
Effective 1/6/03  
Vice: Vieira (resigned)

Marcia Carvalho  
5 Jordan Terrace  
Malden, MA 02148  
Salary: \$12,663

**SCALE**

Part-time ESOL  
Effective 10/1/02  
Vice: V. Hael (trans)

Cherie Tregre  
43 Statford St.  
W. Roxbury, MA 02132  
Salary: B. Step 1 = \$23. per hour

Part-time LD Liaison  
Effective 11/26/02  
Vice: New Position

Erin M. O'Brien  
26 Lincoln St.  
Medford, MA 02155  
Salary: M. Step 1 = \$24.03 p/hr.

Part-time Front Office  
Effective 12/2/02  
Vice: M. Ortiz (resigned)

Elsa Funes  
85 Olive St., #1  
Revere, MA 02151

**XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)**

**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

Assistant Teacher  
Effective 12/2/02  
Funding Source: 5128

Steven Paul Folkins  
19 Alpine St. Apt. 2  
Somerville, MA 02144  
Salary: \$13.50 per hour

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano  
Secretary