

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

March 24, 2003 REGULAR MEETING

March 24, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:03 p.m., with a moment of silence.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Harris, Ms. Bauer, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Murray, Ms. Rossetti, Mayor Gay and Alderman O'Donovan.

No one was absent.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

The Color Guard entered into the Chambers followed by the family of Mr. Daniel W. Foley Jr. A salute to the flag of the United States of America followed. Ward I school committee member, Mr. Dennis Sullivan, advised that Mr. Foley was a life long resident of Ward I, and World War II Veteran who served in the Navy. Mr. Foley recently passed away and this evening, in his memory, a high school diploma will be presented to his family. Mr. Sullivan then invited Mayor of the City of Somerville, Dorothy A. Kelley Gay to the podium. Mayor Gay awarded the honoring diploma, Somerville High School, Class of 1930, to Mr. Foley's family. Accepting the diploma on his grandfather's behalf was grandson Cameron Lynch. Also, Mr. Sullivan, for himself and on behalf of Ward I Alderman, William M. Roche, Jr., presented a flag and case to the Foley family.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved as follows by voice vote:

February 3, 2003:

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting

February 24, 2003:

- Regular Meeting

March 3, 2003

- Regular Meeting

March 5, 2003

- Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2003 Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole Meeting. Discussion on the motion followed. Correction to be made on page 71, as follows:

MOTION: Ms. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to have the Somerville School Committee declare the Conwell School surplus for educational purposes, whereas, it is always difficult to remove buildings from educational use, we do this under budgetary constraints. Therefore, the school department expects to receive a proportional share of the proceeds of the sale.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (cont.)

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of: Yes–6–Cardoso, Harris, Bauer, Sullivan, Taylor, and Rossetti; No–1–Murray; Absent–2–Gay and O'Donovan.

The minutes of March 5, 2003 Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole Meeting will be amended, as requested.

March 10, 2003

- Rules Management Committee of the Whole Meeting

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

This past weekend, Saturday, March 22nd, the Regional Science Fair was held at Somerville High School. Ms. Carvalho congratulated the many students who qualified for the Massachusetts State Science Fair.

Ms. Carvalho was pleased to report that four students from the class of 2003 have been accepted to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.). The students are Kyle Baxter, Sylvia Baptista, Lia Costiner, and Diapan Lee. Ms. Carvalho congratulated these students, and at the same time also wished other members of the senior class the best of luck on receiving their notification letters from the colleges they applied to.

Today, March 24th, Somerville High School received the good news that the S.H.S. cheerleaders who have been in Florida competing in the National Competition placed first in their division. Ms. Carvalho expressed how very proud the high school students are of the cheerleaders.

On behalf of the student body at Somerville High School, Ms. Carvalho congratulated Ward II school committee member, M. Teresa Cardoso, for receiving the *MAPS Person of the Year* award this past weekend, Saturday, March 22, 2003.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. Eleven Somerville High School seniors applied to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) and as Ms. Carvalho mentioned earlier, four students were accepted. Monday, March 31, 2003, the second Bi-Annual Awards Ceremony will be held in the auditorium at Somerville High School and Kyle Baxter, Sylvia Baptista, Lia Costiner, and Diapan Lee will be in attendance at the ceremony. Dr. Argenziano wanted to make special note that for four out of eleven students to be accepted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is an extremely high percent and he congratulated the students.
2. Dr. Argenziano mentioned that in the ten years he has been Superintendent of Schools, we have never had the achievement at the Regional Science Fair that we had this past year; a number of our students did outstanding and Somerville High School placed third this year. Dr. Argenziano commended all of the students who participated in the Science Fair.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

3. The Superintendent also praised the Somerville High School Cheerleaders for placing first in the National Competition.
4. This evening, school committee members received a resolution from the Board of Aldermen, signed by all eleven members and while Ms. Carvalho was in attendance at tonight's meeting Dr. Argenziano read the resolution aloud, as follows:

That this Board of Aldermen does hereby congratulate the entire School Committee, School Administration, teachers and students of the Class of 2003 as you all share in the success of ensuring that Somerville Schools would 'Lead the Way' for the remarkable increase in the MCAS tests with a 98% passing rate. You should all be very proud to be part of this superb success story. We also wish good luck to the remaining five students who need to retake the test, we know you can do it.

5. At the request of the Board of Aldermen, the Superintendent was asked to provide information regarding the school department's IT Equipment Relocation. This memorandum is enclosed for members.
6. Dr. Argenzino informed members that Mr. Galligani received the two-year report from the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) informing him of the vote to accept the Two-Year Progress Report of Somerville High School and to continue the school's accreditation. A copy of this report is provided for committee members.
7. The Superintendent informed the committee that the Vocational Open House will be held on Saturday, April 12th. This is the same day the Mayor is having a tour of the Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center. Dr. Argenziano mentioned this may be an ideal opportunity for members to go out at 10:00 a.m. and be able to do both on the same day - a tour of the Capuano Early Childhood Center and the Vocational Open House which will run until 1:00 p.m.
8. Enclosed for members is a *Book and Materials Order for 2003-04* memorandum sent to K-8 Principals and Curriculum Administrators from Mr. Robert A. Snow, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.
9. Enclosed is an updated Somerville Public Schools Emergency Evacuation Plan. The Superintendent provided the Principals with a number of items in relation to terrorist security and how to prepare themselves, how to prepare their buildings and other material on how to deal with discussions relating to the war in Iraq. Members will receive this information in their weekly packet.
10. There were a total of seventeen candidates who applied for the Winter Hill Community School Principalship. Of those seventeen people, eight met the minimum criteria. The selection committee has met with all eight. Dr. Argenziano informed the committee he has not met with the finalists as of yet. The committee will receive a packet of the candidates on Wednesday and the following week after the Superintendent of Schools interviews the three finalists, members will receive a copy of that group of people.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

11. The Early Childhood Fair will be held at the Healey School on April 5, 2003 from 10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.
12. School council minutes for the Brown, Cummings, Kennedy and Somerville High School are provided for members.
13. On Thursday, April 3rd, the Girls Basketball Team will be honored. The Somerville Pride Lady Highlander Basketball Banquet will be held at Good Times Emporium from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole:* (Ms. Rossetti) Mar. 5

Subject discussed:

- ✓ Space Issues/Follow-Up to NESDEC Report

Approved Motions from Committee of the Whole:

a) Unidos Program

- to move the current Unidos Program to the Powder House Community School, effective September 1, 2003.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Yes–9–Cardoso, Harris, Gay, O'Donovan, Bauer, Sullivan, Taylor, Murray, and Rossetti.

b) Use of the Conwell School Building

- to have the Somerville School Committee declare the Conwell School surplus for educational purposes, whereas, it is always difficult to remove buildings from educational use, we do this under budgetary constraints. Therefore, the school department expects to receive a proportional share of the proceeds of the sale.

Lengthy discussion followed where school committee members shared input and voiced their concerns. Mayor Gay and President of the Board of Aldermen, Sean O'Donovan, answered questions asked by school committee members and addressed the issues of concern.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Yes–8–Cardoso, Harris, Gay, O'Donovan, Bauer, Sullivan, Taylor, and Rossetti; No–1–Murray.

c) Choice Program

- to allow the Choice Program to remain at the Healey School for the 2003-2004 school year with the addition of one more classroom.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)

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.

B. Rules Management Committee of the Whole: (Ms. Cardoso) Mar. 10

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ GPA – Somerville High School
- ✓ Sex Offender Notification

Approved Motions from Committee of the Whole:

a) GPA – Somerville High School

- that the Somerville High School staff write a clear explanation of how GPA is currently computed when it applies to classes of 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 and should be no more than two pages.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Ms. Bauer made a friendly amendment to add the words "*and accurate*" after the word clear, therefore, the motion reads:

that the Somerville High School staff write a clear and accurate explanation of how GPA is currently computed when it applies to classes of 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 and should be no more than two pages.

Ms. Cardoso accepted the friendly amendment. The amended motion was approved by voice vote.

- to table discussion of recommendations for establishing a new GPA policy, beginning with the Class of 2006, until the next Rules Management Committee meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

b) Sex Offender Notification

Ms. Cardoso reported that the Superintendent of Schools notified each school building regarding the location of posting of sex offender notifications, and as requested, provided members with a list of where the notifications are placed in each of our school buildings.

C. Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: (Ms. Bauer) Mar. 12

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ Three-year Math Plan
- ✓ AP Courses
- ✓ Grades 6, 7, 8 Health Survey
- ✓ String Camp Approval

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)

- ✓ Approval of In-Service Courses

- a) Grades 6, 7, 8 Health Survey

Ms. Bauer reported the Health Behavior Survey was developed jointly by the Somerville School Department, Cambridge Health Alliance, and Somerville Board of Health. It is similar to the survey already done at Somerville High School, but age-inappropriate questions have been removed. Parents had been given an opportunity to preview the survey and the plan is to administer the survey to students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 during the week of April 15th.

Approved Motion from Subcommittee:

- to endorse the Health Behavior Survey for grades 6, 7, and 8.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- b) Advanced Placement Courses

Ms. Bauer reported that Mr. Stephen O'Leary, Supervisor of Guidance, and the Curriculum Coordinators were present at the Education Programs and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting and explained the current courses and tests. Somerville pays \$71. per student per test. This year we are expected to administer 183 tests at a cost of approximately \$13,000.00. Most students take the test at the recommendation of the teachers; students can petition if not recommended. The success rate, as measured by scores of 3 or more on a scale of 1 to 5, has been very good.

- c) Three Year Math Plan

The Three Year Math Plan was presented by Mr. Larry Iamello, Pre-K to 12 Mathematics Coordinator. He outlined the focus on five areas that were discussed that evening as follows:

1. New series (coordinate math council; review materials, meet with vendors)
2. Coordination and supervision (mentoring, materials, classroom visits)
3. Policy formulation (for curriculum implementation, strengthen existing courses, reading strategies used in mathematics instruction)
4. Statewide testing (MCAS, No Child Left Behind, tutoring for at-risk students)
5. Professional development (differentiated instruction for multiple intelligences, new software)

Ms. Bauer reported that the overall goal was more problem solving and higher-order math skills. She informed the members that Mr. Iamello stressed the importance of new math series and more time spent on math instruction in order to have more students study algebra earlier and improve MCAS scores.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)

d) String Camp Approval

Approved Motion from Subcommittee:

- to approve the String Camp.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

e) Approval of In-Service Courses

Approved Motion from Subcommittee:

- to approve the following in-service courses:
 - Schoolhouse Safety in the Millennium
 - Learning Recorder

The motion was approved by voice vote.

D. *Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:* (Ms. Bauer) Mar. 19

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ Bilingual Services (Question 2, Unidos, Immersion)
- ✓ Discussion of Services by Directors of English, Social Studies and Science
- ✓ Approval of In-Service Courses

a) Bilingual Services (Question 2, Unidos, Immersion)

A presentation was given by Mr. Luigi Palazzo, Coordinator of Bilingual Services, accompanied by several teachers. Ms. Bauer reported that Mr. Palazzo attended a meeting with Commissioner Driscoll and other bilingual administrators. Another meeting, to be held at the end of the month, will give further guidelines in developing immersion programs. The Department of Education has asked for proposals for implementation of new bilingual education law; Somerville will be sending its plan. Currently, Somerville has three different bilingual programs: 1) TBE 2) Language Immersion for low-incidence speakers (also know as ESL) 3) Two-Way (Unidos). New law requires immersion for all. Requirements for students under 10 years old to get waivers from immersion to TBE are 1) One-month in immersion program 2) Written (250 word) statement from Principal 3) Parent visit to school to request waiver 4) Signature of Superintendent of Schools.

b) Discussion of Services by Directors of English, Social Studies and Science

Present at the Education Programs and Instruction Subcommittee that evening were Curriculum Coordinators Mr. Robert Siggins, Science; Mr. Joseph Burke, Social Studies; and Mr. Frank Russell, English Language Arts. Ms. Bauer reported all are working on professional development, getting resources, technology acquisition, use and training, becoming more familiar with faculty and curriculum, obstacles and strengths in younger grades, building more communication among middle school and high school teachers (via

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)

joint Professional Development. Ms. Bauer explained English and Mathematics are getting most attention because of MCAS and History and Science are receiving less time in K-5 because of the emphasis on MCAS skills. There are attempts to increase integration of Science and Social Studies into reading and other instruction. Science and Social Studies are also preparing for MCAS tests which are currently being developed and tested but will “count” in about three years.

c) Approval of In-Service Courses:

There were no In-Service Courses submitted for approval.

E. *Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:* (Ms. Murray) Mar. 24

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ Child Molestation Insurance Coverage
- ✓ FY04 Budget Presentation

Approved Motion from Committee of the Whole:

a) Child Molestation Insurance Coverage

- that the school department no longer requires individual vendors to obtain child molestation insurance.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

b) FY04 Budget Presentation

Ms. Murray reported on the FY04 budget that was presented by the School Department earlier this evening at the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting. She advised that the committee is looking very closely at the budget and lengthy discussion took place as to where cuts could possibly be made. Ms. Murray also mentioned that a total of thirty six teachers have confirmed wanting to participate in the severance plan.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business this evening.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussing war with children

In addition to what the Superintendent of Schools reported regarding what is being done to discuss war with children, Ms. Bauer informed the public of websites available and gave the detailed information to the Superintendent of Schools.

IX. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

B. Field Trips – Approved by voice vote.

April 4, 2003: Ms. Riordan, Mr. Roscoe, Mr. Barros, Ms. Ranfa, Gr.10, Somerville High School, ,to New York City, NY. Transportation by bus, \$7.00 cost to students.

May 1 & 2, 2003: Ms. Ranucci, Ms. Beachell, SHS Orchestra group, to Concord, NH and Burlington, VT. Transportation by bus, \$20.00 cost to students.

The Superintendent advised that the field trip listed below has been cancelled.

May 29, 2003 Ms. Murphy, Mr. Bebbe, Gr. 6, West Somerville Neighborhood School, to New York City, NY. Transportation by coach bus, \$20.00 cost to students.

C. FY2003 SCALE/ADP Graduates – Approved by voice vote.

Ms. Susan L. Barnard, SCALE Supervisor, recommending that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas:

Margarida Lima	73 Perkins Street	Somerville	02145
Michael Vocas	24C North Street	Somerville	02144
Mohamed A. Yakine	9 Fairmount Street, #3	Everett	02149

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mayor Gay

1. Informed the committee members there will be a tour of the Michael E. Capuano Early Education Center on Saturday, April 12, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
2. Reminded the public a community meeting will be held at the West Somerville Neighborhood School on Tuesday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m.
3. Mayor Gay offered well wishes and support to our troops in Iraq. She stated there are many city employees serving in the war; members of the Police, Fire, Traffic and Parking Departments, Public Works Department, some of our Teachers , as well as the many citizens from our city. Mayor Gay asked the community to remember everyone as she wished them well and to keep safe.

Alderman O'Donovan

1. Congratulated the high school students and staff as well as the school department for a successful Science Fair, and also the cheerleaders for placing first in their division at the National Invitational Competition.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

2. Expressed that we all reach out to the Somerville families whose children or loved ones are fighting for our country and support them 100%.

Ms. Bauer

1. Congratulated the students who were accepted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brandeis University, the Commonwealth School at UMass and any other current and future acceptances.
2. Mentioned that on March 20th there were approximately 25-30 students at Somerville High School who participated in a walkout, joining with college students from MIT and Harvard to protest military action in Iraq. Ms. Bauer remarked she was very impressed with how the students and building masters handled the whole situation. Everyone was extremely respectful. Students accepted rules calmly when reminded of them and agreed to take any consequences for their actions. The situation was handled very well and Ms. Bauer commented she was very proud of all our students and staff.
3. On Friday, March 28th from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. there will be a *Walkable Community Workshop* held at the Somerville Family Center, 366 Somerville Avenue, Union Square. This is one of eight regional workshops run by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Ms. Bauer read a brief description from the MPO website and informed people they could register at walkable@ctps.org or (617)973-7100. Relevance: parents are concerned about getting children to school.
4. Ms. Bauer informed the community she is co-sponsoring, with SomerVision, a Community Meeting on Education. It will be held on Thursday, April 3^d from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the Somerville Public Library on Highland Avenue.

Ms. Taylor

1. Informed the community that the Somerville Music Department's String Program will be performing with the Little Symphony of Cambridge on Saturday, March 29th. In advance Ms. Taylor congratulated those students performing with the Symphony Orchestra and thanked Director of Strings, Ms. Rita Ranucci.
2. Wished to acknowledge and thanked the Somerville High School Administrators and Staff who contributed most to our success on the December 2002, MCAS Retest. They are:

Frank Russell, ELA Curriculum Coordinator
ELA MCAS Prep Instructors: Lisa Brewster, Rachel Rooney, Elizabeth Troiani

Celoni Espinola, TBE Lead Teacher
ESL 2 and 3 Teachers: Maureen Leonard, Linda O'Connell, Pat Davenport, Anthony Cardillo, Chris Hauray, Marjorie Kirstein

Larry Iamello, Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator
Math MCAS Prep Instructors, Richard Johnston, Joseph Mingle, Harry Regis

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Phillip Bassett, Vocational Education Director

Robert Puopolo, MCAS Tutor for Vocational Students

Student Success Plan Coordinators: Rachel Rooney (ELA), Joseph Mingle (Math)

Candyce Dostert, Grant Writer

Mary Ripley, Coordinator of the MCAS After-School Tutorial Program

MCAS After-School Tutors

Stephen O'Leary, Supervisor of Guidance and Testing

The Counselor Educators who proctored the ELA and Math Junior Retests

Robert A. Snow, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Following Ms. Taylor's acknowledgements, Superintendent Argenziano reported that there are five seniors eligible to graduate at Full Circle High School and announced that four out of the five students achieved a score higher than 220 and passed the MCAS.

Ms. Murray

1. Reported there are several students who participated in National History Day at the Kennedy School going on to compete for State Honors at Brockton High School on April 5th. These students will be recognized at the Bi-Annual Awards Ceremony on March 31st. Ms. Murray thanked Kennedy School Principal, Mr. Pabian and all the teachers who participated in this program.
2. The Early Childhood Fair will be held from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at the Healey School on Saturday, April 5th. Ms. Murray informed the public that registration will be held for preschool that day as well as two other days the following week. A lottery will take place on June 2, 2003 for Pre-School and on April 2, 2003 for Kindergarten, at 2:00 p.m., at the Parent Information Center. For further information, you may contact the Parent Information Center at (617)625-6600, x 6961.

Ms. Cardoso

1. Reported that the Brian Higgins Trivia Night held on March 6th was a huge success. Ms. Cardoso expressed her congratulations to Ms. Rossetti and Ms. Harris for placing second. She also thanked Debbie and Steven Higgins for doing a great job!
2. The Special Education Advisory Council will be having a workshop this Thursday, March 27th from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Kennedy School. The workshop is Easter Seals School to Works Services, presented by the Federation for Children with Special Needs.
3. Reminded everyone that this weekend is the eighth anniversary of Deanna Cremins' death. Unfortunately this tragedy is still unsolved and Ms. Cardoso asked that the community remember the Cremins Family and to keep them in their thoughts and prayers.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Ms. Harris

1. Mentioned she recently visited the vocational department at Somerville High School, and being very impressed with what she saw, gave a brief report on all the wonderful things the students are working on in this department. There will be an open house held on Saturday, April 12th, and Ms. Harris encouraged the community to stop by to visit the exhibits and shops on display. She also informed the public there will be an 9:00 a.m. Breakfast provided by Culinary Arts and tickets are \$3.00, at the door.
2. Ms. Harris informed school committee members and the Superintendent of Schools that she heard today, of a fifth student, who has also been accepted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her name is Sanjana Dhir.

Ms. Rossetti

1. Congratulated Debbie and Steven Higgins for a very successful Trivia Night held on March 6th at Good Times Billiards. Ms. Rossetti informed the community that the money raised will go towards a scholarship to be awarded to a Somerville High School regular education graduate who is seeking to pursue his or her career in special education.
2. Congratulated the participants of the West Somerville Neighborhood School Science Olympiad. Ms. Rossetti reported that the *A Team* placed 6th and the *B Team* placed 4th.
3. Invited school committee members interested in joining her for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees *Day on Beacon Hill* on April 14th. Ms. Rossetti asked that interested members let her know at the close of this evening's meeting, as she will be sending in the registration tomorrow morning, March 25th. She also reminded the community to return the petitions that were delivered throughout different spots in the city. These will be brought to the legislators at Beacon Hill on behalf of the entire Somerville School Committee.
4. On Thursday, April 3rd the varsity girls basketball team will be celebrating their accomplishments for the season. A banquet will held at Good Times Emporium, 6:00 p.m., open to the public. There is a donation of \$12.00 for adults, which includes dinner.
5. The Mayor will be hosting a Ward 7 Community Meeting tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
6. The Bi-Annual Awards Ceremony will be held Monday, March 31st, in the auditorium at Somerville High School.
7. Somerville High School will be hosting the College Fair on Wednesday, April 2nd from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Eugene C. Brune Field House.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

In memory of Somerville High School faculty member, Joan Gallagher, who recently passed away, Ms. Taylor read aloud a collection of memories she received from Patricia Garrity, Somerville High School Librarian.

Reminiscence of Joan Gallagher

Speaking in front of large groups is not my forte so this is what I would have said a week ago today at Joan's memorial service.

Everyone remarks on Joan's commitment, on her dogged determination to raise the status of school libraries in Somerville and across the state of Massachusetts.

Joan Gallagher was my supervisor in Somerville for the last three years. Let me just say this. Living with that dogged determination was not easy! Everyday I arrive at school around 7:30 am. Instead of the usual, "Good Morning" my first words to Joan were, "Can I at least take my coat off first?" When she started putting an early morning muffin on my desk along with the six things to do before 9:00 o'clock things got better.

Joan's mind raced so fast she rarely finished a sentence. Sometimes she would switch topics in the middle; it was as though I had a senior moment and had missed 2 or 3 minutes of our discussion. As I got to know her style I could say, "Slow down, *now* what are you talking about?" In the middle of one bright idea she got another bright idea and she hardly realized that they both poured out together. Joan lived her life in fast forward. Still outside of work she knew how to take a moment and appreciate life. Her photography showed us that.

Such a fine woman. In a way, I envy all the people who knew Joan for a long time, but, through work and friendship, I shared her journey for these last few years in Somerville. What an exhilarating experience! It was clear Joan believed in the impact that a library has on the well rounded development of our children and everything she did reaffirmed that belief.

And more, with gently tenacity Joan moved all of us to be our own best selves.

God welcome home her fiery Irish spirit...
Pat Garrity

XII. PERSONNEL

School Committee members were notified and accepted the following personnel actions of March 24, 2003 as follows:

A. **Maternity Leave of Absence**

1. Caterina Angelou, 324 Cambridge St., Winchester, MA 01890, (English Teacher @ SHS) beginning 3/10/03.

B. **Family Medical Leave of Absence**

1. Maria Carvalho, 89 Albion St., Somerville, MA 02144 (Utility Aide @ Edgerly) from 5/5/03 to 5/30/03.

XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

C. Unpaid Leave of Absence

1. Denise O'Donnell, 26 High St., Somerville, MA 02144 (Cafeteria Helper) from 3/2/03 to 6/30/03.
2. Ann Ragucci, 30 Gordon St., Somerville, MA 02144, (Lead Cafeteria Worker) from 3/10/03 to 3/14/04.
3. Lisa Splaine, 144 Exchange Ave., Medford, MA 02155 (Cafeteria Helper) from 2/10/03 to 6/30/03

D. Career Exploration Leave of Absence

1. Kelly Demers, 6 Jerome St., Somerville, MA 02143 (6th grade Teacher currently on leave @ ESCS) for the 2003-2004 school year.

E. Resignation

1. Evelyn Rodrigues, 487 Beech St., Revere, MA 02151, (Paraprofessional @ SKIP, Kennedy School) as of 3/28/03.

F. Authorizations

Community Schools

Lead Teacher
Effective 2/10/03
Funding Source: 5128

Michael Horowitz
42 Clarendon Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144

Civil Service

Provisional Building Custodian
Effective 2/25/03
Vice: W. Fennessey (Retirement)

John Moreira
54 Fellsway West #8
Somerville, MA 02145

Bidding Results

First Shift ESCS
Effective 2/18/03

Joseph Consolo
23 Wisconsin Ave.
Somerville, MA 02145

Second Shift Floater
Effective 2/18/03

Paul White
9 Curtis St.
Somerville, MA 02144

XIII. MOMENT OF SILENCE

The superintendent reported with regret the death of the following persons. A moment of silence was observed and letters of sympathy will be sent to their families.

1. Marjorie E. Oteri, (March 3), mother of John Oteri, teacher at Somerville High School.
2. Marion A. Pabian, (February 5), mother of J. Michael Pabian, Jr., Principal and Patricia Pabian, Teacher at the Kennedy School.
3. John J. Farren, (March 9), brother of Margaret (Peggy) Dwyer, Speech Therapist at the Healey School.
4. Joan C. Gallagher, (March 7), Director of Library/Media, Somerville Public Schools.
5. Katherine (Kay) Flynn, Cafeteria Employee, Somerville Public Schools, (March 11).
6. Rachelle A. Doucette, student at Somerville High School [Junior], (March 17).
7. Cosmo J. Fedele, (March 15), brother of Anthony Fedele, former SHS Headmaster.
8. Helen C. Ryan (March 19), mother-in-law of Rosemary Ryan, Paraprofessional at Somerville High School.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary