

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

May 5, 2003 REGULAR MEETING

May 5, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:08 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, Ms. Bauer, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Murray, Ms. Rossetti, Mayor Gay and Alderman O'Donovan.

No one was absent.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

There were no presentations made this evening.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes submitted for approval this evening.

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student representative, Kim Carvalho, was not present this evening.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. Enclosed is a Board of Alderman calendar listing a Public Budget Hearing for May 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. There is a possibility this date may change. The Superintendent will keep members posted.
2. Enclosed is a letter from Mayor Gay in reference to the Homan's Building renovation. The Mayor will be convening a Municipal Real Estate Advisory Committee and is asking one member of the school committee, designated by the Committee Chair, to participate. Ms. Rossetti advised she has chosen Mr. Sullivan to serve on the Municipal Real Estate Advisory Committee.
3. Provided for members is the Summer School and Recreation Programs schedule for the period covering June 30 – August 29, 2003.
4. Enclosed is a memorandum from Mr. Robert A. Snow, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment regarding the 2003-04 Re-certification and Professional Development Information, asking for staff recommendations for 2003-2004 In-service Topics.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

5. The Somerville Public Schools Calendar of Events for May 2003 is enclosed.
6. School Council Minutes for the Brown, Edgerly, Lincoln Park Community School, and Somerville High School are enclosed.
7. Reminders:
 - The 3rd Annual Somerville High School International Festival will be held this Friday, May 9th, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Atrium Field House area.
 - The PTA Dinner Dance is this coming Saturday, May 10th, at the Holiday Inn.
 - A Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, open to the public, is scheduled for next Thursday, May 15th, at the East Somerville Community School at 6:30 p.m. The agenda item is Question 2 Implementation Plan.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. ***Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:*** (Ms. Murray) May 5

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ FY04 Budget

Ms. Murray reported on the presentation given during the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting earlier this evening, by Mr. John McGinn, Chief Financial Officer for the city of Somerville and Mayor Gay.

Ms. Murray reminded the community there will be a Public Budget Hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers at City Hall and also, the next Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Committee Room at City Hall.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business this evening.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Lincoln Park Community School Status Update**

In an ongoing effort to secure state funds for a new Lincoln Park Community School and in an effort to keep all parties apprised of relevant information, Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay provided a letter to all city officials confirming the most recent information regarding the Lincoln Park Community School project and discussed the outline for action plan.

IX. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

Mayor Gay advised school committee members that a vote of the School Committee and the Board of Aldermen is necessary and according to School Building Assistance regulations, she will submit a letter to the Commissioner of Education formalizing our request to exercise the deferred submission option after all necessary votes by the City have been taken. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bauer, in acknowledging the Lincoln Park Community School project:

? the city of Somerville intends to start construction on the project prior to receiving its state grant;

? the city of Somerville has been advised by the Commissioner of Education that it may not receive the state grant within the time period allowed by statute for temporary borrowing; and that

? the city of Somerville is legally authorized to issue long-term bonds for this project prior to receipt of the state grant.

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

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Cardoso

1. This week is Teacher Appreciation Week and Ms. Cardoso thanked all of our teachers in the school system for their hard work, not only this week, but all year long.
2. Wednesday, May 7, 2003 is School Nurse Recognition Day and Ms. Cardoso thanked all of our school nurses, as well, for their hard work all year long.
3. The Annual PTA Council Dinner Dance is Saturday, May 10th at the Holiday Inn, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are still available. If interested, please contact Ms. Maureen Liberatore, City Hall, for tickets.
4. Saturday, May 17th is the annual Citywide spring clean up. Alderman, Maryann Heuston and Ms. Cardoso will be participating in the Ward II clean up which begins in the Lincoln Park Community School schoolyard at 9:00 a.m. Following this event, the entire city will be having a cookout sponsored by the Mayor, which is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Murray

1. Ms. Murray will be hosting a Ward V community meeting to discuss educational issues and the FY04 budget on Tuesday, May 20th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The meeting location is Visiting Nurses Association, 259 Lowell Street.
2. There will be a meeting on Friday, May 9th from 8:00-9:30 p.m. at the Council on Aging Building, 167 Holland Street and Ms. Murray informed the community that the results of the adult health phone survey will be released at that time.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

3. Advised that Somerville Cares About Prevention now falls under the City, Board of Health Department. Mr. Jack Vondras is the Director.
4. This being Teacher Appreciation Week, Ms. Murray acknowledged all teachers and expressed how much they are appreciated.

Ms. Taylor

1. Invited everyone to the *Billboard Awards Night* which is going to be held on is May 21st at 5:30 p.m. at the Healey School. There were four hundred entries to the contest and a lot of artwork will be displayed that evening.
2. Reported that many students will be recognized for their achievements at the *Vocational Awards Night*, which will be held on Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Atrium at the High School.
3. This week is Teacher Appreciation Week and Ms. Taylor thanked all teachers for their hard work and for going that extra mile!
4. Also, Mother's Day will be celebrated on May 11th and Ms. Taylor wished all mother's a Happy Mother's Day.

Mr. Sullivan

1. Wished all his colleagues in Ward I and everyone at home a Happy Mother's Day!

Ms. Bauer

1. Reported that AP Testing has begun at Somerville High School and will continue into next week. Ms. Bauer wished all of the students success on their AP Tests during these weeks.
2. Next week, May 12th, is also MCAS testing and Ms. Bauer wished those students success, as well.
3. This week is Teacher Appreciation Week and Ms. Bauer recognized and thanked our teachers for their work all year.
4. The Elementary Concert Band is on Wednesday, May 7th at Somerville High School at 7:00 p.m.
5. On May 17th the Unidos Program is having a yard sale from 10:00-2:00 at the Butler Drive Building. Ms. Bauer encouraged the community to attend.

Alderman O'Donovan

1. Happy Mother's Day to all!

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Mayor Gay

1. The Citywide clean up is Saturday, May 17th and Mayor Gay is looking forward to everyone helping out and thanked them for their participation is keeping our city looking nice.
2. This being Teacher Appreciation Week, Mayor Gay expressed good wishes and thanked all of our teachers here in the city for their commitment to education.
3. Also congratulated and expressed good wishes to our school nurses, as Nurse Recognition Day is celebrated on May 7th.
4. Wished all mothers in the community a Happy Mother's Day!

Ms. Harris

1. The calendar "Card" fundraiser, mentioned last week, will also be available (2 for \$5.00) at Foss Park on Thursday, May 8th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and at the field entrance to Conway Park on Saturday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
2. The Scholarship Foundation Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 10th. Two scholarships will be awarded this year to two graduating seniors. Anyone interested in purchasing a ticket or making a donation, please see Ms. Harris.
3. Reported that the Junior Prom is Saturday, May 17th and following the prom, there will be a Spirit of Boston Harbor cruise.
4. Announced that the Girls softball team won their second game today.

Ms. Rossetti

1. There will be a Public Budget Hearing on May 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Aldermen's Chambers. Ms. Rossetti encouraged the public to attend, and also requested that notices be sent to all Parents/Guardians.
2. Saturday, May 17th is volunteer clean up day.
3. Mentioned that Ward VII will be constructing a new playground at Clarendon Hill.
4. Reminded the community and urged all to come out for the annual Dee Zuccaro Memorial Road Race, which is on Sunday, May 18th (11:00 a.m. - children and 12:00 noon - adults).
5. On Tuesday, May 6th the Powder House Community School will be having their PTA 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
6. On May 8th at 6:30 p.m., the Powder House Community School Drama Club will be having a *Wizard of Oz* performance.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

7. The West Somerville Neighborhood School Quarterly Awards will be held on Friday morning, May 9th at 8:30 a.m.
8. Congratulated the Somerville High School Science Fair winners who participated in the *2003 Massachusetts State Science Fair* this past weekend at MIT.
Second Place Awards: Amy Darr, Kara Rossetti Tri Vu, David Wolfman, Sylvia Ionescu, and Lia Constiner.
Third Place Award: Maelissa Dias
Honorable Mentions: Savita Goswani, Arwinder Kaur, Kamala Bhattachan, Eni Cani, Kyle Baxter, and Daipan Lee
9. The next two Long Range Planning Committee Meetings are scheduled for Monday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street, 3rd floor conference room and Thursday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the East Somerville Community School – Auditorium.
10. This is Teacher Appreciation Week and Ms. Rossetti recognized and thanked all our teachers for the work they do all year long.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items of communication this evening.

XII. PERSONNEL

Complete report submitted to members. – Received and placed on file.

A. Retirement

1. Arlene Berger, 26 Randy Rd., Framingham, MA 01701, (OT @ Kennedy School) as of June 30, 2003.

B. Reduction in Force

1. Nicole Thompson, 12 Concord Ave., Somerville, MA 02145 (Asst Teacher, Community Schools) as of 3/28/03.
2. Betty Lee Saccoccio, 55 Otis St, Cambridge, MA 02141 (Day Care Specialist, Community Schools) as of 3/7/03.

C. Resignations

1. Holly Russell, 311 Medford St., Somerville, MA 02145 (ECIP Teacher) as of June 30, 2003.

D. Unpaid Leave of Absence

1. Mary Ardizzoni, 2 Park Place, Somerville, MA 02143 (Lunch Aide) from April 10 to April 28, 2003.

XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

2. Linda Russell, 43 Francesca Ave., Somerville, MA 02144 (Cafeteria Worker) from April 11, 2003 to May 12, 2003.
3. Moira LaPointe, 44 Janebar Circle, Framingham, MA 01701 (Teacher @ ESCS) for the 2003/2004 school year.

E. Maternity Leave of Absence

1. Dawnmarie Pannese, 24 Purcell Drive, Billerica, MA 01821 (Art Teacher @ PHCS) effective September 2003 followed by a Child Rearing Leave for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year.

F. Authorizations

Civil Service/Custodial

Transfer

Henry Nalli, 66A Marshall St., Somerville, MA 02145 to First Shift @ WSNS effective 4/21/03.

Joseph Owens, 1370 Broadway, Apt. 11K, Somerville, MA 02144 to Second Shift @ Edgerly effective 4/14/03.

William Fitzgerald, 39 Electric Ave., Somerville, MA 02144 to First Shift @ Healey effective 4/21/03.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Cardoso and Ms. Harris moved a motion to go into executive session at 9:15 p.m., to discuss negotiation strategy.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Rossetti 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