

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**May 19, 2003 REGULAR MEETING**

May 19, 2003

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:02 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, and Mayor Gay.

Alderman O'Donovan was absent.

**III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Citations were presented as follows:

- ✓ *The Duhamel Education Initiative: Poster Contest Winners and Most Improved Attendance* School presented by June Pietrantonio, Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, and Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay as follows:

\$100 Savings Bonds:

Ashley Domenici	Grade 5	Brown School
Amy Fraiser	Grade 8	West Somerville Neighborhood School
Erick Flores	Grade 5	Healey School

**City-Wide Award - \$200 Savings Bond**

Erick Flores	Grade 5	Healey School
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School with the highest % of attendance through April 2003:

Healey School - \$1,000 to be used for a special "event" for students.

MOTION: Mr. Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris, to accept the \$1000.00 gift donation to the Healey School to be put into the Healey Student Activities Account.

The motion was accepted by voice vote.

- ✓ Ms. M. Teresa Cardoso, Ward II School Committee Member, presented a citation to *SHS School Committee Representative 2002-2003* – Ms. Kimberly Carvalho.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved as follows by voice vote:

April 28, 2003:

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting

April 28, 2003:

- Regular Meeting

Referring to page 117, item 10, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, Ms. Taylor requested an addition to “lengthy discussion” as follows:

Dr. Jenkins clarified that there are two different types of waivers, one of which does not require a thirty-day waiting period (students over 10 years of age (6-12)).

MOTION: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris, to accept the minutes of April 28, 2003 Regular Meeting, as amended.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

May 5, 2003:

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Regular Meeting

**V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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

Last week, May 19<sup>th</sup>, marked the ending of MCAS testing for the sophomores at SHS. Ms. Carvalho reported all went well and the students will proudly represent Somerville.

The Junior Prom was held this past Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. A good time was had by all!

The Senior Prom is going to be this Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The last day of classes for seniors is Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Class Day is Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and Somerville High School Graduation is June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Carvalho thanked the School Committee and Dr. Argenziano for allowing her to have the experience of being a part of the school from a different perspective. She enjoyed attending the school committee meetings to report on the Somerville High School happenings and events, and enjoyed being able to offer a student’s point of view. Ms. Carvalho stated she is very grateful to have had this learning experience and will carry it with her throughout college and life.

Ms. Carvalho announced that Maya Nitzberg will be the Student Advisory Council Representative for the 2003-2004 school year.

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

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

1. The Somerville School Committee Public Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the East Somerville Community School.  

The Board of Aldermen Public Budget Hearing will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Somerville High School. A copy of the Clerk of Committees notice is provided for all members.
2. A memorandum from Mr. Robert A. Snow, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, regarding Group I and Group II May 28<sup>th</sup> Professional Development meetings, is enclosed for members.
3. The Focus Groups K-8 Parent/Guardian Survey on Educational Needs and Priorities, discussed at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, is enclosed for all members.
4. The Business Partnership(s) Breakfast memorandum prepared by Dr. Steven F. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services is enclosed for members. This invitation to Breakfast is a small way to express our thank you to over the 150 businesses that have supported us over the year.
5. Reported that the elevator at 181 Washington Street, as well as the Police Station, is not operating. Until repaired, meetings will continue to be scheduled outside 181 Washington Street to locations at school buildings.
6. Reminders for next week, May 26<sup>th</sup>:
  - o Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> is the Highlanders Banquet. Approximately 300 people will be in attendance awarding our top athletes with scholarships.
  - o Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> is the Somerville High School Scholarship Night at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.
  - o Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> is the official final day of classes for seniors.
7. Dr. Argenziano thanked Mr. Philip Bassett, Vocational Director, and his staff for an outstanding awards evening last week, May 14<sup>th</sup>. The Superintendent also complimented young Mr. Good, for being the top vocational student of the year, as well as getting a large scholarship to Northeastern University.
8. Also provided to members is an invitation from the Somerville Community Partnerships for Children, to the *Fifth Annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner* to be held on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Good Times Emporium.
9. Dr. Argenziano publicly thanked Ms. Susan Walsh for her work in raising funds throughout the year for our special education students, especially for Ms. Weinstein's classes at the Kennedy School and Ms. Burgess' class at the Powder House Community School. The Superintendent reported that Ms. Walsh raises between \$8,000 - \$10,000. a year.

Ms. Cardoso requested that Ms. Walsh be invited to a future school committee Awards Ceremony recognition night.

**VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. *Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:* (Ms. Bauer) May 7**

✓ Department Presentations

Ms. Bauer reported on the following department presentations:

? Community Schools Program

Presentation by Ms. Susan Gross, Administrator

? SCALE

Presentation by Ms. Susan Barnard, Supervisor of Adult and Continuing Education

? Health

Presentation by Ms. Carol Gilberti, Department Head

? Art/Music

Presentation by Dr. Elaine McMichael, Supervisor

✓ Approval of In-Service Courses

Approved motion from Subcommittee:

- To approve the following two In-service Courses:
  - Technology Tools for Teachers, Part 1
  - Prevention and Management of Oppositional and Aggressive Behavior in Children

The motion was approved by voice vote.

The next Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 at the Highlander Café. The topic that evening will be about MCAS success.

**B. *Long Range Planning Committee of Whole:* (Ms. Rossetti) May 12**

✓ Early Childhood Focus Group reports

Ms. Rossetti reported on the *Early Childhood Focus Groups Report* power point presentation, summary of March 2003, given by Ms. Sarah Slive Davila, which outlined the following topics: Objectives, Outreach Strategies, Participation, Summary of Needs, Development of K-8 Survey, Areas of Concern, and Recommendations. The results of the study were received this Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The K-8 age group children and their families are also being surveyed. When all reports are handed in, a Long Range Planning Committee Meeting will be scheduled in June, to review these two reports.

✓ Somerville Public Schools Plan for Implementing Question 2

Approved motion(s) from Committee of the Whole:

- to accept the plan and implementation of Question 2 with the understanding that we will have an appropriate proactive method of having waivers available to

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

parents, and accessibility of explanation of such, including some evening hours; and to exclude from Section V, on page 6, items A and B as follows: *A. All sheltered immersion classes will be considered Standard Courses for the purpose of computing GPA and B. Students enrolled in double-block English Literacy Skills classes will be entitled to enroll in a World Language course consistent with second language experiences, and will receive credit for this course in lieu of a Fine Arts requirement toward graduation, if necessary.*

The motion was approved by voice vote.

✓ 2003 Goals from School Committee

The Somerville School Committee members presented the following goals and objectives for the 2003-2004 school year:

- ? FY04 Budget Implementation
- ? Complete plans on Lincoln Park Community School
- ? Reorganize Guidance Department at Somerville High School
- ? Continue MCAS Scores Improvement
- ? Keep small schools open
- ? Establish mathematics series with professional development
- ? Elicit volunteers at all school sites
- ? Establish middle school model on paper

C. ***Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:*** (Ms. Murray) May 13

Subject discussed:

✓ FY04 Budget

Ms. Murray informed the public that Representatives Patricia Jehlen, Timothy Toomey and Jarrett Barrios were in attendance for the Finance and Facilities Meeting held on May 13<sup>th</sup>. She reported on the budget issues and different levels of cuts that were discussed and also gave a brief overview of the budget projections as presented by the Superintendent of Schools.

D. ***Rules Management Committee of the Whole:*** (Ms. Sullivan) May 15

Subject discussed:

✓ Question 2 Implementation Plan

Approved motion(s) from Committee of the Whole:

- to approve Section V. (Necessary Considerations for 9-12 EL Classes) Item A on page six of the Question II Implementation Plan, as follows: "All sheltered

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

immersion classes will be considered Standard Courses for the purpose of computing GPA.”

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- to approve Section V. (Necessary Considerations for 9-12 EL Classes) Item B on page six of the Question II Implementation Plan, as follows: “Students enrolled in double-block English Literacy Skills classes, who are scheduled to graduate in 2004, will be entitled to enroll in a World Language course consistent with second language experiences, and will receive credit for this course in lieu of a Fine Arts requirement toward graduation, if necessary.”

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**E. *Long Range Planning Committee of Whole:* (Ms. Rossetti) May 15**

Subject discussed:

- ✓ Question 2 Implementation Plan

Ms. Rossetti reported on the power point presentation of Somerville Public Schools Plan for Implementing Question 2, given by Dr. Steven F. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services. The Question 2 Implementation Plan document was available in all languages and translators were also present that evening to assist the public.

Ms. Rossetti reported one question raised, related to the waiver process, was age 10 vs. a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student. Per Ms. Rossetti's request for clarification, Dr. Jenkins reported he did make contact on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, with a representative from the Department of Education. The contact person felt there was leeway to look at grade if it was educationally sound, however, the final response Dr. Jenkins received was the Department of Education would refer this question to legal counsel and report back to him this week, with their understanding of the law whether or not a system can look at grade or has to be specific and go by the first day of the student turning ten years of age.

**F. *Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:* (Ms. Murray) May 19**

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ Billrolls

Approved motions from Committee of the Whole:

- a) To approve the FY02 Billrolls

The motion was approved by voice vote.

- b) To approve the FY03 Billrolls

The motion was approved by voice vote.

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

✓ FY04 Budget Discussion

Ms. Murray reported on the overview of the FY04 budget, as presented by Mayor Gay. Because of the fiscal crisis we are faced with and the fact that the city is at an \$11.8 million short fall at this point in time, the Mayor suggested to the Superintendent of Schools that the bottom line figure for the school department budget will be \$46.2 million.

Ms. Murray advised that after listening to the Mayor's presentation and the Superintendent's response, the committee decided not to vote on a bottom line figure at the Finance Meeting this evening. Further discussion will take place at the next Finance and Facilities Committee meeting scheduled for June 2, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. There will also be two additional evenings set aside for discussion, if necessary. The dates are June 3 and June 4, 2003. The Somerville School Committee Public Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the East Somerville Community School.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Floor Amendment 142; Re: Charter Schools**

Dr. Argenziano informed members that Amendment 142 has been presented by Representative Bradley from Hingham. What this amendment refers to is removing the cap from Charter Schools. Presently, the cap for us is no more than 9% and anything over that the Department of Education pays. Dr. Argenziano called Representative Bradley's office and the information received is that this amendment only affects three communities and Somerville is not one of the communities. As a follow up, the Superintendent also called Senator Shannon's office to verify the information. Floor Amendment 142 has no affect on Somerville.

**B. School Committee Finance and Facilities Committee Meetings**

Ms. Rossetti expressed it is necessary to have members of the community in attendance at the Finance and Facilities Committee Meetings. As the public is aware, we are in a financial crisis and there are going to be a lot of cuts in the school department organization. Ms. Rossetti stressed she would like the public at these meetings to hear the discussion, so when the final budget is reported, which is going to be devastating, the community will better understand what the committee members have been going through. She encouraged the audience listening to this evening's meeting to notice the agenda for when and where the Finance Meetings are scheduled.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

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

**May 23, 2003:** Next Wave Alt. Jr. High School to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H. Transportation by school van at a cost of \$10 per student.

**June 4, 2003:** Brown School, Grades 4, 5 & 6 to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H. Transportation by bus at no cost to students.

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

**Field Trips –**

- June 10, 2003:** Kennedy School, Grade 7/8 students, to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H. Transportation by bus at a cost of \$13.00 per student.
- June 15-19, 2003:** Kennedy School, four students, to University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Transportation by bus at no cost to students.
- June 16, 2003:** Winter Hill Community School, Grade 7 students, to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H. Transportation by bus at a cost of \$20.00 per student.
- June 17, 2003:** Winter Hill Community School, Grade 8 students, to Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H. Transportation by bus at a cost of \$20.00 per student.

**B. FY2003 SCALE/ADP Graduates – Approved by voice vote.**

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

Theodore Michael Brinkert	77 East Main Street	W. Yarmouth	02673
Jeffrey A. Mentus, Jr.	15 Gallant Road	Peabody	01960
Christine Oliver	1466 Eastern Avenue	Malden	02148

**C. Summer Administrative Workshop**

In response to Ms. Rossetti's question regarding whether or not the Summer Administrative Workshop is in place of the Leadership Institute, Dr. Argenziano advised that Administration will not be posting the Leadership Institute this year. Fitchburg State is not able to come up with the funding. The summer administrative workshop is held for the Principals. They are required to work 205 days, of which three days are working with Administration, and usually takes place the third week in August.

**D. Individual Student Success Plans (ISSPs)**

Mr. Robert A. Snow, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, responded to Ms. Rossetti's question regarding Individual Student Success Plans (ISSPs) to be discussed at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Meeting. She asked if it would be possible to receive a report from each school of the number of students who had their individual student success plans in place this past year, how many have succeeded and no longer need those plans and what numbers are being projected for the next school year. Mr. Snow advised he would provide information on the individual student success plans this fall, once the MCAS scores are received.

**X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Thanked the Vocational Department, staff and students, for a wonderful Vocational Awards Night celebration last Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, and also congratulated those students who received awards.
2. The Title I PAC Meeting will be held tomorrow night, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Winter Hill Community School, at 7:00 p.m.
3. Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., the Mayor is having her Ward II community meeting at the Lincoln Park Community School. The first half hour of the meeting will be discussion on the reconstruction project of the Lincoln Park Community School. The project is scheduled to go on line, hopefully to be submitted for August 29<sup>th</sup>. Notices of the meeting will be distributed to the community.
4. The Mayor asked Ms. Cardoso to remind the public that this Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Memorial Day Parade leaving from City Hall at 1:00 p.m., ending at Clarendon Hill, where there will be a ceremony at the Veteran's Cemetery.
5. The Lincoln Park Community School students will have their annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the school at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
6. Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay is going to be honored tomorrow evening, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Hotel Sonesta. She is celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being a citizen of the United States.  
Ms. Cardoso requested a citation from the School Committee be presented to the Mayor recognizing her twenty-five years as a citizen of the United States and achievements to public service during those years.
7. Thanked the students who came out Saturday morning, May 17<sup>th</sup> and participated in the Lincoln Park Community School Clean Up. Their help was greatly appreciated. The youngsters are: Cameron Lynch, Richie Ribeiro, Aline Pimentel, Neha Mistri, Rupinderpal Kaur, Jaspreet Kaur, Ben Katz, Kirk Duran, Jeffrey Dwyer, Nyomee Fernande, Lois Contreras, Mark Davis, Raj Mistri and Mr. Harvey, Teacher.

**Ms. Harris**

1. Congratulated the Vocational Department for a wonderful banquet last Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, and also congratulated all the students who received scholarships.
2. The Family of Rachelle Doucette Fundraiser will be held tomorrow evening, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Mystic Learning Center.
3. Recognized and congratulated the Crew Team members, who on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, placed first in the novice division in the Massachusetts Public High School Crew Championship Regatta. The winning time was 5:19:03. Ms. Harris also acknowledged Allan Gehant and Gracio Garcia, Co-Directors of the Gentle Giant Rowing Club and Coach Sebastian Lapha. Ms. Harris requested they attend the June 2<sup>nd</sup> School Committee meeting in order to receive citations. Ms. Harris also congratulated the girls for competing in the race.

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

**Ms. Taylor**

1. Requested to also have the girls Crew Team, along with the boys, attend the June 2<sup>nd</sup> School Committee meeting in order to receive citations for their participation in the Massachusetts Public High School Crew Championship Regatta.
2. Kennedy School is sponsoring a road race to raise money for children to attend summer camp. This event will take place on June 8<sup>th</sup> for a Camp called the *Miles Fun Run*. For further information, the contact person at the Kennedy School is Ms. Kristen Fudge, x6600.
3. The awards for the Somerville Cares About Prevention Poster Contest will be held on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Healey School.
4. Reported that SCALE students are having a photo exhibit which will be opening on June 3<sup>d</sup> from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 167 Holland Street.
5. The Powder House Community School is having a *Literacy Barbeque* in the courtyard Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Ms. Murray**

1. Encouraged people to attend the Somerville Cares About Prevention Wards night this Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Healey School, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
2. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, children's' singer, Rick Sherrette came to the East Somerville Community School and performed for a very large audience. While he is in town he will be giving two performances, one during the day for PreKindergarten, Kindergarten, and first graders and one performance in the evening. Ms. Murray thanked Rick Sherrette and also Ms. Pamela Holmes, Early Childhood Supervisor and her staff for a very nice time.
3. Reminded the public she will be hosting a Ward V meeting tomorrow evening, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Encouraged the community to come by. The location is at the Visiting Nurses Association, 259 Lowell Street, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Thanked Tufts University, a National Organization called Kaboom, and the Somerville Housing and Community Development who this past Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> along with Alderman Trane and herself helped to construct a brand new playground in West Somerville. Ms. Rossetti reported over two hundred volunteers were there and this was a huge outpouring of tremendous community service project. The new playground is located at the Clarendon Hill Apartments, along the curve of Powder House Blvd. and North Street.
2. Thanked and commended the Vocational Department Staff for the wonderful evening of celebration on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

3. Announced that Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> was another successful Dee Zuccaro Road Race. The profits will benefit the funding needed to continue with our *Learn To Swim Program* at the Kennedy School pool. The YMCA provides transportation for all of our students to be transported from their schools in Somerville to the Kennedy School, for swim instruction. This year, Mr. Bill Murphy, Director of the YMCA, undertook the role of spearheading the race and Ms. Rossetti congratulated and thanked him for all he has done.
4. The Highlanders Banquet is Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Rossetti urged everyone to come out and congratulate the students. This event is at 6:30 p.m. at Good Times Emporium. There will be a buffet dinner and awards presented to all the high school athletes. Tickets can be obtained by contacting Mr. Gerry Knight, x6161; they are not sold at the door.
5. Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m., scholarships will be awarded to our graduating seniors, courtesy of the High School Scholarship Foundation, and other community members and organizations who expressed interest in supporting our students' education.
6. The West Somerville Neighborhood School Technology Committee will be having another Las Vegas Night fundraiser, on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, at 8:00 p.m. at Good Times Emporium.

**XI. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no items of communication this evening.

**XII. PERSONNEL**

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

**A. Unpaid Leave of Absence**

1. Maryann Ryan, 15 Minnesota Ave., Somerville, MA 02145, Edgerly from June 2 to June 6, 2003
2. Juliet Harbarger, 102 Independence Ave., Quincy, MA 02169, SPED/Behavior Specialist for the 2003/2004 school year.

**B. Appointments**

**Administration**

**Principals 2003 Summer Session**

High School  
Elementary School

Mary Ripley, 18 Lincoln St., Stoneham, MA 02180  
Barbara O'Brien, 44 Dexter St., Waltham, MA 02453

**Bilingual Office**

Portuguese PAC Coordinator  
Effective May 5, 2003  
Vice: DosSantos (resigned)

Edgar Furtado  
301 Lowell St.  
Somerville, MA 02145

**XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)**

C. **Authorizations**

**Civil Service/Custodial**

1. Michael Bowler, 18 Cutter St., Somerville, MA 02145 to first shift @ WSNS effective 5/5/03
2. Henry Nalli, 66A Marshall St., Somerville, MA 02145 has recinded his bid for first shift WSNS effective May 5, 2003 (He will remain on the second shift at SHS)

**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. Joseph L. Moccia, (May 6), father of Joseph Moccia, teacher at Somerville High School.
2. Rita T. Chiappini, (May 15), mother of Linda Yarasitis, Secretary, Department of Special Education.
3. Catherine L. Burgess, (May 16), mother of Carol Burgess, teacher at Powder House Community School.
4. Margherita Caruso, (May 18), mother of Joseph Caruso, retired Math Department Head, Somerville High School.
5. Paul Flynn, Jr., (May 19), son of Gayle Flynn, Secretary, Department of Special Education.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano  
Secretary