

June 30, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER

Finance Chairperson, Katrina Murray, called a Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting of the School Committee to order in the committee room at city hall, at 6:35 p.m., to discuss the FY04 final budget.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Harris, Ms. Bauer, Mr. Sullivan (arrived 6:50 p.m.), Ms. Taylor, Mr. Murray, Ms. Rossetti, Alderman O'Donovan and Mayor Gay.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration, and Mr. Anthony C. Caliri, Human Resources Manager were also present, along with approximately eight members of the audience.

III. FY04 Final Budget Discussion

Dr. Argenziano provided to school committee members additions to the Somerville Public Schools Fiscal Year 2004 budget book, by sections, (table of contents, budget analysis, trends, \$46.2M budget: \$8.8M operations and \$37.4M organization). Also provided per Chairman Rossetti's request, was a breakdown by page, of the 230 different personnel transactions that occurred the last two weeks, prepared by Mr. Caliri, giving a breakdown of slots eliminated; people laid off; severance; to be announced; rehired; and retired/resigned/leave of absences, and also the listing of results for the bidding and bumping. Mr. Caliri reviewed the report with members and gave a summary of the total numbers in each category.

Mayor Gay informed the committee of the Governor's veto today of \$1 million to the city of Somerville. The total cut the Governor made was \$23 million from additional assistance to cities and towns across the State and the city of Somerville took a \$1 million cut. Mayor Gay stressed the importance of the veto being overridden in the House but, at this time, is not confident this will happen. Discussion followed. The Mayor emphasized we all have to do our part, pick up the phones and contact our state representatives. If this cut takes place, there will be more layoffs, police, firefighters, and possibly more school personnel.

Ms. Rossetti asked the Mayor if she receives word of the \$986,000.00 being an additional hit to the city, how will the committee be notified as to what steps the Mayor would be taking? The Mayor responded, just receiving the news this afternoon she cannot answer that question at this time. There is nothing left that the city can cut, she can only surmise the only way to deal with this is bodies - police, fire, D.P.W., and schools. Mayor Gay informed the members she would be having a press conference with the Board of Aldermen tomorrow morning, July 1, 2003, and invited the members to attend.

Dr. Argenziano stated from the committee's point of view, if this cut becomes a reality and the school department was forced to do anything, his recommendation would be not laying off more people, he would rather empty a building. Referring to the Edgerly, he would find a spot for the Next Wave and Full Circle Schools. The Superintendent also stated, as the Mayor has, the news of the Governor's veto was received this afternoon, and at this time there are no answers.

Monday, June 30, 2003 – Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting

III. FY04 Final Budget Discussion (cont.)

Dr. Argenziano told Finance Chair, Ms. Murray, presently we have a \$46.2 million budget, \$8.8M in operations, as the committee had asked, and salaries are \$37.4M

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to present the FY04 school department budget to the Board of Aldermen in the amount of \$46,200,000.00

The motion was approved by voice vote.

At 7:00 pm., Ms. Murray announced the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole meeting will stand in recess, and will reconvene at the completion of the school committee meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Aldermen Chambers.

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

June 30, 2003 SPECIAL MEETING

June 30, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Special Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 7:09 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, Alderman O'Donovan, Mayor Gay, Ms. Bauer, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Murray, and Ms. Rossetti.

No one was absent.

Chairman Rossetti announced to members of the community this evening's meeting is a special call of the school committee meeting for two purposes: 1) to receive a report from Finance Chair, Ms. Katrina Murray as it relates to a motion taken earlier in the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting and 2) Chairman Rossetti will be reporting a motion taken in executive session this month, June 2003.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. **Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:** (Ms. Murray) June 30

Subject discussed:

- ✓ FY04 Final Budget

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)

Ms. Murray reported on the following items:

- o update regarding personnel as presented by Mr. Caliri, Human Resources Manager which included a list of potential layoffs and rehires, as well as the bumping and bidding process.
- o important update from the Mayor regarding news received this afternoon concerning the Governors' veto of \$23 million from additional assistance to cities and towns across the State and the city of Somerville taking a \$1 million cut.
- o the FY04 school department budget the school committee will present to the Board of Aldermen.

Note: Ms. Harris left the Board of Aldermen Chambers at the time of voting on the motion listed below.

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Murray, seconded by Ms. Bauer, to approve the line item related to the girls varsity basketball coach in the FY04 \$46,200,000. budget.

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

Ms. Harris returned to the Board of Aldermen Chambers.

Note: Ms. Cardoso left the Board of Aldermen Chambers at the time of voting on the motion listed below.

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Murray, seconded by Ms. Taylor, to approve the line item related to the Kindergarten position at the Lincoln Park Community School in the FY04 \$46,200,000. budget.

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

Ms. Cardoso returned to the Board of Aldermen Chambers.

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Murray, seconded by Ms. Harris, to present a \$46,200,000. budget to the Board of Aldermen as a bottom line for the FY2004 school department budget, less the two line items previously voted.

Following this motion, a thirty minute discussion took place among school committee members, Mayor Gay, and President of the Board of Aldermen, Mr. O'Donovan.

III. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Yes—7—Cardoso, Harris, Bauer, Sullivan, Taylor, Murray, and Rossetti; No—2—Gay and O'Donovan.

B. Report of *Executive Session Meeting*: (Ms. Rossetti) June 5

Ms. Rossetti reported the School Committee of the Whole did have their monthly executive session meeting, this one being reported is June 5, 2003. There were two motions made that evening, they are as follows:

Approved motions from Committee of the Whole:

- 1) To approve a 3% raise for non-union employee, Edward Rossetti.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of Yes—5—Cardoso, Harris, Sullivan, Taylor, and Murray; No—1—Bauer; Present—1—Rossetti; Absent—2—Gay, O'Donovan.

- 2) To approve a 3% raise for all remaining non-union employees.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of: Yes—5—Cardoso, Harris, Sullivan, Taylor, and Murray; No—2—Bauer, Rossetti; Absent—2—Gay, O'Donovan.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. MCAS Resolution

Ms. Bauer provided to members an MCAS resolution and asked for passage of the resolution.

MOTION: Motion made by Ms. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Harris, to approve the MCAS resolution as presented to the school committee this evening.

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

The Superintendent of Schools will send communication to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, informing them of the committee's support of this resolution.

B. Preparation for FY2005 Budget

Mayor Gay would like the school committee members to consider a preparation for budget FY2005. Her recommendation to school committee members is a line item budget in order for everyone to review, and know what the priorities are from early on. Mayor Gay will meet with the Superintendent of Schools to further clarify this request so the committee will be able to discuss this in the fall. Ms. Rossetti requested that when the Superintendent is notified of that session, that the Finance Chair is also notified, in order to report back to the committee the discussion held at that time.

Monday, June 30, 2003 – Special Meeting

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary

Monday, June 30, 2003 – Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting

Finance Chair, Ms. Murray, reconvened the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting of the School Committee in the committee room at city hall, at 7:50 p.m., to complete discussion on the FY04 budget.

III. FY04 Final Budget Discussion (cont.)

In response to Ms. Taylor's question concerning what the plan would be during the summer if work had to be done and how the committee would be informed, Dr. Argenziano responded he would either call the members or notify them in their weekly packet. Continued discussion took place regarding the budget and what has taken place over the last few months and Dr. Argenziano answered questions asked by school committee members. No further actions were taken. The Superintendent let the members know as soon as he hears from the Mayor, regarding the possible \$1 million dollar cut to the city, and if the school department would have to absorb another cut, he would contact Chairman Rossetti, who would then notify Finance Chair, Ms. Murray, in the event a meeting is to be called.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary