

September 29, 2003

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Rossetti called a Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole Meeting of the School Committee to order in the superintendent's conference room at 181 Washington Street at 7:03 p.m., to discuss the future direction of Somerville Public Schools and Goals and Objectives 2003 - Superintendent of Schools/School Committee.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present were Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Harris, Ms. Bauer, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Murray and Ms. Rossetti.

Mayor Gay and Alderman O'Donovan were absent.

Also present were Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration, Dr. Steven F. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services, Mr. Robert A. Snow, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and approximately thirty five members of the audience.

**III. Future Direction of Somerville Public Schools**

A draft copy of the Somerville Public Schools Kindergarten – Grade Eight Parent/Guardian Survey on Educational Needs and Priorities Report, prepared by Sarah Slive Davila, was provided to school committee members and members of the audience. Ms. Rossetti welcomed the community and informed them we were here to discuss and share input regarding the future direction of the Somerville Public Schools. She advised that the committee had asked last year to have surveys completed by the community regarding what it is the parents and guardians of our students like about what is being done in Somerville and also what ideas the community might bring to the school committee's attention for their consideration in adding them to the future long range plans. Ms. Rossetti briefly summarized the information of the meeting that took place in May 2003, where Ms. Slive Davila presented the results of the report of the Early Childhood Focus Group. At the end of that meeting, it was decided to table any decisions until the results of the K-8 Parent/Guardian Surveys were complete. Discussion followed on the subject of the draft K-8 survey report and committee members as well as members of the audience shared their thoughts, concerns and ideas. Ms. Slive Davila and school administrators responded to questions asked by school committee members and the community. Ms. Rossetti thanked Ms. Slive Davila for her report and informed the community that the committee will be scheduling another Long Range Planning Committee meeting approximately one month from now, to further discuss the future direction of the Somerville Public Schools. The meeting date will be announced at the next regular school committee meeting.

Ms. Rossetti introduced Greg Nadeau, a parent who was involved with the focus group on the Early Childhood report. He was in attendance this evening to present to members of the school committee and school administrators a power point presentation on *Somerville-4-Schools*. Discussion on the ten page presentation included:

- o An on-line discussion between pre-school and school parents
- o Charts and graphs that included information on MCAS ratings

**III. Future Direction of Somerville Public Schools (cont.)**

- o Issues discussed -
  - Does Somerville need to do better?
  - How would we measure success?
  - What else do we need to measure?
  - Why don't more students enroll in our schools?
  - What data do we need?
  - What data do we have?

Following the presentation, discussion took place. Community members shared their thoughts and ideas with the committee and school administrators. Mr. Nadeau expressed four items the parents would like the school committee to address is 1) the format of the budget, 2) interpreting MCAS results, 3) other indicators to measure our schools and 4) communicating with the community.

In closing, Mr. Nadeau thanked the school committee for their time and stated that he and other parents look forward to help increase the positive perception about the Somerville schools and the quality of our schools.

**IV. Goals and Objectives 2003 - Superintendent of Schools/School Committee**

At a previous Long Range Planning Committee Meeting of the Whole, School Committee members discussed and created a list of goals and objectives for the 2003-2004 school year. Ms. Rossetti explained to members and also to the audience, that the plan this evening is to narrow down the previous thirteen items put together to approximately four or five goals. During discussion, members decided to keep most of the items and split them into two categories – 1) short term goals through December 2003 and 2) long term goals through June 2004. It was noted that it is appropriate for some goals to be included in each category. Also, Ms. Murray suggested the addition of another goal not previously on the list, which is to improve information available about the Somerville Public Schools. Members shared input regarding this item and it was decided to make this addition to the list. Ms. Murray suggested gathering and putting in a three ring binder, what the Superintendent of Schools/School Committee has done, i.e. the accomplishments of the Somerville Public Schools and make this information available to the public. The Master List - Goals/Objectives for the Superintendent of Schools and School Committee is as follows:

Short Term Goals through December 2003

- FY04 Budget – Efficient use of Funds
- Complete plans on Lincoln Park Community School to SBAB
- Continue MCAS Scores Improvement
- Keep small schools open
- Establish Mathematics series with Professional Development
- Review Safety and Security plan for Somerville Public Schools

Long Term Goals through June 2004

- Reorganize Guidance Department at Somerville High School
- Continue MCAS Scores Improvement

**IV. Goals and Objectives 2003 - Superintendent of Schools/School Committee**

Long Term Goals through June 2004 (cont.)

- Keep small schools open
- Establish Middle School Model on paper
- Continue to Diversify Staff
- Coordinate School and City Technology
- Review Safety and Security plan for Somerville Public Schools
- Improve Public Relations of Somerville Public Schools
- Open Lines of Communication between School Committee and Board of Aldermen

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano  
Secretary