

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**October 6, 2003 REGULAR MEETING**

October 6, 2003

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:05 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, Alderman O'Donovan, Ms. Bauer, Mr. Sullivan Ms. Taylor, Ms. Murray and Ms. Rossetti.

Ms. Harris and Mayor Gay were absent.

**III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

There were no presentations made this evening.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved as follows by voice vote:

September 8, 2003:

- Regular Meeting

September 15, 2003:

- Regular Meeting

**V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Student representative Maya Nitzberg reported on the following items this evening:

- o Update on clubs at the high school -

Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)

Up to thirty students and some teachers attended the Gay Straight Alliance meeting on September 22, 2003. The GSA is a group of students interested in making sure that the school is safe for everyone. Ms. Nitzberg reported that President, Nora Allen-Wiles stated, "we are so organized this year, already tons of events are planned and we have double the members. This Saturday is *Coming Out Day*, and we already have an event planned for Friday in school." The entire group is very excited to make a difference in the school as well as in the community.

Teens Against Dating Abuse (TADA)

This group was formed last year and has already had a great start. TADA primarily started in order to inform students in the high school about dating violence, and things done to support girls and boys who have been affected by unhealthy relationships. At

**V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (cont.)**

the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting there was a record high of approximately twenty five members. Previous to the meeting, members visited all Health classes informing students about the club and to also recruit members who were interested in making a change at Somerville High School.

- o The junior and sophomore classes will be holding their primary and final elections for class officer this week, October 6<sup>th</sup> and next week, October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- o Somerville High School PTA will be held at the high school on Wednesday, October 8, 2003 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- o Ms. Nitzberg reported she will be discussing with some school staff and students their opinions, relating to their perspective of the new program (English Immersion Program) for bilingual students at the high school.

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. A blue folder placed at members seats this evening contains information relating to the Personnel Committee of the Whole Meeting held last Wednesday evening, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Included is 1) a listing of dates for the process of the annual performance evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools and 2) a complete set of spread sheets and school enrollment tallies effective October 1, 2003. Dr. Argenziano reported that there are 159 Smile students in eight sections, there are 419 Kindergarten students, and there is a total enrollment of 5,735 students. For the first time in twenty years, this is the lowest enrollment at Somerville High School with 1,680 students. The Superintendent acknowledged, and will also mention under new business, that three of the five high school students who received the Certificate of Competency have passed the May MCAS exam.
2. Provided to members is the official notice confirming approval by the Massachusetts Department of Education for the Lincoln Park Community School. Dr. Argenziano informed the committee we were provided with an amount of \$21,168,598. for a new Lincoln Park with a projected enrollment of 600. Preliminary plans were dated August 6, 2003 and there is now a 2010 potential building date.
3. Provided all members with a copy of the dedication booklet for the Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center, scheduled for Sunday, October 26, 2003 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. There will be twenty people from our community receiving the special dedication honor.
4. Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum from Frank Russell, Coordinator of English, regarding the Spring 2003 Retest Breakdowns. This is for members information.
5. A copy of the competency determination update report received from the Department of Education is enclosed.

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

6. Provided members with a copy of an article from the Harvard Education Letter - *Preschool Yields High Returns, But Not all States Are Investing*, which members may find extremely interesting. The Superintendent applauded the committee for supporting school administration in having full day Pre-Kindergarten because in the future, we will be receiving an economic investment back.
7. Enclosed is a copy of the *Somerville Council of Parents & Teachers*, provided by Leah Arredondo. This information is a breakdown of total year and total building 2003-2004 PTA dates and a listing of PTA members in each individual building.
8. Provided by Ellie Blute is a green folder with information on the Title I Program, the Exchange Newsletter and information re: The Nuts & Bolts of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).
9. The Superintendent thanked Mary Joan McLarney, Director of Food Services and Tasha Sevland, Assistant Director, for putting together the Somerville Foodservice Catering Menu. A copy is enclosed for each member.
10. Enclosed is the October 2003 Calendar of Events.
11. Dr. Argenziano mentioned that the After School Spotlight - *Lights On After School* celebration is this Thursday, October 9, 2003. We are planning on having our lights on and the Superintendent encouraged the community to do whatever they can to support this program, which is observed nationwide fostering after school programs.
12. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Guardian information night will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school Library.
13. In preparation for the next meeting, Dr. Argenziano informed the committee he has met with the ESL teachers at the high school, and some Principals at the elementary level. He gave a brief update regarding the information discussed at the meeting concerning an additional ESL person and a second SEIP person. The Superintendent informed the members he will be asking the committee's support for two additional staff members for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the school year, which is approximately \$34,000. - \$36,000. per person. Dr. Argenziano will have this formal request, for two additional staff members at a cost of approximately \$70,000 - \$75,000., in writing to the School Committee and Board of Alderman at the next meeting of October 20, 2003.

**VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. ***Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** (Ms. Bauer) Sept. 17

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ MCAS – May / Summer Retest Results and Scheduling of Services

Ms. Bauer informed the community that a report was given on the May/Summer retest results and scheduling of services by Mr. Francis Russell, Coordinator of English. All

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

juniors and seniors who have not yet passed both required sections of MCAS have enrolled in the appropriate MCAS preparation classes (approximately 65 juniors and approximately 30 seniors).

Several students who have not yet passed are in the "high failure" range, i.e. scores of 216 or 218. Some students failed because they were absent when some parts of the test were administered. Available Services – In addition to MCAS Prep courses during the regular school day: - Saturday help using River deep software  
- Summer programs for incoming freshmen and sophomores.

There was discussion of strengthening the math program in K-8. All K-8 schools should now have implemented a block schedule to ensure that sufficient time is devoted to both English Language Arts and Mathematics. School Committee requested that block schedules from each elementary school be included in a weekly packet in October.

✓ Title I/Early Childhood Services

Ms. Bauer reported that the new Capuano Early Childhood Center is beautiful and functioning very well. Kindergarten began on September 8<sup>th</sup>. SMILE began on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The Early Childhood Intervention Program also had a few openings. Teachers are very pleased with the new reading program and report that students are learning to read sooner.

✓ Approval of In-Service Courses

Approved motion from Subcommittee:

- To approve the following In-service Course:
  - Youth Substance Abuse – Understanding the Issues, Knowing How to Help.

**B. *Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole:* (Ms. Rossetti) Sept. 29**

Subjects discussed:

✓ Future direction of the Somerville Public Schools

Ms. Rossetti reported on the items discussed during the evening, as follows:

- Somerville Public Schools Kindergarten – Grade Eight Parent/Guardian Survey on Educational Needs and Priorities Report
- Power point presentation on *Somerville-4-Schools* given by Greg Nadeau, a parent who was involved with the focus group on the Early Childhood report

Ms. Rossetti announced the next Long Range Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Monday, October 27, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at 181 Washington Street, 3<sup>d</sup> floor conference room.

✓ Goals and Objectives 2003 - Superintendent of Schools / School Committee

- Finalization of the committee's goals and objectives for the Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Rossetti read aloud the goals and informed the public they were

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

divided into two categories – 1) short term goals through December 2003 and 2) long term goals through June 2004.

C. ***Personnel Committee of the Whole:*** (Mr. Sullivan, Vice Chair) Oct. 1

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ 2003-2004 School Organization

Approved motion from Committee of the Whole:

- to accept the FY2003-2004 Organization, as presented.

- ✓ Evaluation Instrument for Superintendent of Schools

The Committee established a list of short and long term goals for the 2003-2004 school year. Mr. Sullivan reported that the committee also accepted and voted on a new performance evaluation tool for the Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Sullivan announced the following items/dates scheduled regarding the process of the annual performance evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools:

Monday, October 6, 2003: School Committee receives total packet of information regarding the performance evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools.

Friday, November 7, 2003: School Committee members return completed evaluation of Superintendent of Schools to Charlene Harris, Chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee.

Wednesday, November 19, 2003: Personnel Committee of the Whole to discuss the annual review of the Superintendent of Schools.

Wednesday, December 3, 2003: Executive Session of the Somerville School Committee to discuss the annual review and compensation of the Superintendent of Schools.

After Mr. Sullivan completed his report, Ms. Rossetti referred back to the motion that was reported out by Mr. Sullivan. Discussion included the employees of the school system and Ms. Cardoso should not have seconded the motion. At this time, Ms. Cardoso left the Chambers, and Mr. Sullivan withdrew the motion. There were no objections from the committee; the motion was withdrawn.

MOTION: Mr. Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Taylor, to accept the FY2003-2004 Organization, as presented. The motion was accepted by voice vote.

Ms. Cardoso re-entered the Chambers.

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

**D. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:** (Ms. Murray) Oct. 6

Subjects discussed:

✓ Be Safe Schools Project

- Ms. Murray discussed a grant that was put together between the Somerville Schools and the Somerville Police Department in light of the occurrences of September 11, 2001. She gave a report on the documentation that was presented on each school building operated by the school department.
- Municipal Real Estate Advisory Committee meetings - discussion on all of the buildings in the city and their value as well as all of the city owned property.

Approved motion from Subcommittee:

- To write a letter to the Mayor asking for an update of the sale of the Conwell School, which the School Committee released to the city six months ago.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

At 8:32 p.m., School Committee Chair, Ms. Rossetti, announced the meeting will break for a brief recess.

Ms. Rossetti reconvened the School Committee Meeting at 8:35 p.m., to continue discussion.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Murray stated there was one other item discussed during the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Meeting and apologized for neglecting to report it. The issue discussed involved the Pop Warner Cheerleaders using the buildings for six upcoming cheerleading practices. Ms. Murray reported that the Superintendent will talk to the parties involved as to what the committee discussed earlier in the Finance and Facilities Meeting.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FY2003 SCALE/ADP Graduates**

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. Approved by voice vote.

|                            |                          |                   |              |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Jennifer Anna Moura</b> | <b>98 Holland Street</b> | <b>Somerville</b> | <b>02144</b> |
| Rachael Lynne Akerley      | 226 Walnut Street        | Lynn              | 01905        |
| Alexander James Chetwynd   | 28 Beach Street          | Marlboro          | 01752        |
| Yves Wilner Jean           | 54 Rumford Avenue, #1F   | Waltham           | 02453        |
| Rachel M. Lester           | 5 Chipman Street         | Medford           | 02155        |
| Wally Jacques-Simon        | 51 Lightguard Drive      | Medford           | 02155        |

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

**B. SHS Summer School Graduates**

Mr. Thomas F. Galligani, SHS Headmaster, recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed summer school and have earned the required credits, be granted a SHS diploma. Approved by voice vote.

Kristie Crowley  
Lisa Melanson  
Christina Melo  
Maressa Nascimento  
Doowensky Nazaire

Marlene Noel  
Julian Ortiz  
Kashima Riley  
Kevin Rosa  
Rafiqul Talukder

**C. SHS Graduates (passed MCAS)**

Mr. Thomas F. Galligani, SHS Headmaster, recommended that the following students, who have successfully passed MCAS and have earned the required credits, be granted a SHS diploma. Approved by voice vote.

Alicia Adjetey  
Katia Almonor  
Gina Consolo

Dr. Argenziano extended his congratulations to these students who successfully, not only received a Certificate of Completion, but passed the MCAS and now have their Somerville High School diploma.

**D. Field Trip – Approved by voice vote.**

**Oct. 7-10, 2003** Healey School, Grades 3-6, to Camp Fullen, Wakefield, R.I.  
Transportation by bus at a cost of \$175.00 per student.

**E. School Budget - Format**

Ms. Murray referred to discussion that took place at the last Long Range Planning Committee Meeting concerning the format of the Somerville Public Schools FY2004 budget and the possibility of reformatting the budget for the next fiscal cycle. Ms. Murray referred this item for discussion to an upcoming Finance and Facilities Meeting.

**X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ms. Bauer**

1. The Somerville High School Culinary Arts Program is now taking pie orders for Thanksgiving. There are eight different varieties offered. Ms. Bauer mentioned the pies are delicious and encouraged the community to order their holiday pies from the Culinary Arts Department.
2. Shape up Somerville is sponsoring National Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. Title I Prizeola will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 at the Winter Hill Community School from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. This is the only fundraiser Title I has all year and the proceeds are to benefit the Raymond J. Izzo Achievement Awards.

**Ms. Murray**

1. The Brown School PTA card (fundraiser) is now available. The cost is \$10.00 and there are many great discounts to different places offered. If interested, please contact the Brown School PTA.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Somerville High School PTA will be held on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
2. The Teen Connection Center will be having an Open House on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
3. The West Somerville Neighborhood School:
  - o Title I Coffee Hour for parents of children will be held on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.
  - o The PTA will be having their first Family Night - country line dancing, on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
  - o Meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. regarding the Science Olympiad Program. Coaches are needed! Ms. Rossetti strongly encouraged parents of students to attend this meeting, as important information will be discussed.
4. The annual *Back to Basics Girls Basketball Clinic*, courtesy of the Recreation Department, begins October 7<sup>th</sup> and ends October 22<sup>nd</sup> (evenings: Tuesday 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.). This is an opportunity for girls in Grades 5 – 8, free of charge, to spend two evenings a week at Somerville High School Field House to learn some skills about basketball and have some fun!

**XI. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no items of communication this evening.

**XII. PERSONNEL**

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

School Committee members were notified and accepted the following personnel actions of October 6, 2003 as follows:

**XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)**

**A. Retirements**

1. William J. Driscoll, 166 Duncan Drive, N. Andover, MA 01845 (Principal/Healey School) effective June 30, 2004. (35 years)
2. Marilyn Hagerty, 40 Morrison Ave., Somerville, MA 02144 (Principal/Brown School) effective June 30, 2004. (38 years)
3. Diane Sullivan, 27 Pilgrim Rd., Belmont, MA 02478 (Foreign Language Teacher @ SHS) effective June 30, 2004. (37 years)
4. Denise Reilly, 3 Marshall St., N. Reading, MA 01864 (Gr. 3 Teacher @ Kennedy School) effective June 30, 2004. (39 years)

Dr. Argenziano publicly recognized and thanked the above four people for their years of service to the young people of Somerville.

Also, reported at the last meeting, Richard Melillo has resigned as the Head Boys Basketball Coach after working with our young people for over a decade. Dr. Argenziano expressed his thanks to Mr. Melillo for his years of service.

**B. Resignations**

1. Edgar Furtado, 301 Lowell St., #2, Somerville, MA 02145 (Portuguese PAC Coordinator) effective September 9, 2003.
2. Richard Melillo, 33 Wicklow Ave., Medford, MA 02155 (Head Coach, Basketball) effective September 4, 2003.

**C. Unpaid Leave of Absence**

1. Mary T. Moreira, 8 Houghton St., Somerville, MA 02143 (Para @ Capuano Center) from 10/6 to 10/13/03 for personal reasons.
2. Celia Gougen, 140 Park St., Stoneham, MA 02180 (Cafeteria Helper) from 9/8/03 to 10/20/03 for personal reasons.
3. Cheryl Smith, 19 Machado Hill Rd., Center Barnstead, NH 03225 (Cafeteria Lead Helper) from 9/2/03 to 12/1/03.
4. Dianna Roberts, 13 Cameron Ave., Somerville, MA 02144 (Cafeteria Helper) from 9/3/03 to 12/1/04

**D. Paternity Leave of Absence**

1. David Ginivisian, 48 Creeley Rd., Belmont, MA 02478 (Culinary Arts, SHS) on or about October 10, 2003 for 10 days.

**XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)**

**E. Maternity Leave of Absence**

1. Dorothy Scally, 43 Hancock St., Everett, MA 02149 (SPED Inclusion Teacher) from December 19, 2003 to January 26, 2004.

**F. Authorizations**

**HEALEY**

Music Teacher  
Effective 9/16/03  
Vice: Beachell (resigned)

Pamela Lowry  
35 Raymond St.  
Allston, MA 02134  
MA Cert Pending  
Virginia – Music K-12  
Salary: M, Step A = \$34,701

**WHCS**

SPED Paraprofessional  
Effective 9/15/03  
Vice: C. Noviello (resigned)

Ali Azra  
97R Franklin St.  
Somerville, MA 02145  
Salary: \$13,299

**Scale**

Part-time ESOL Teacher/Counselor  
Effective 9/8/03

Alexandra Benitez  
91 Prescott St.  
Medford, MA 02155  
Salary: B, Step 2 \$23.69/hr.

Part-time ABE Teacher  
Effective 9/8/03

Amy E. DeNucci  
90 Orchard St.  
Somerville, MA 02144  
Salary: B, Step 1 \$23.69/hr.

Part-time ESOL Teacher  
Effective 9/8/03

Nada Jecmenica  
104 Walnut St.  
Watertown, MA 02472  
Salary: M, Step 1 \$25.49/hr

Part-time Teacher/ASE Dept.  
Effective 9/8/03

Ari Marcovski  
10 Wendell St. #5  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Salary: M, Step 1 \$25.49/hr

Part-time Reading/Writing Teacher  
Effective 9/8/03

Denise Roussel  
14 Benjamin Rd.  
Lexington, MA 02421  
Salary: M, Step 1 = \$25.49

**XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Part-time ESOL Teacher<br>Effective 9/11/03 | David Bauckham<br>48 Irving St.<br>Medford, MA 02155<br>Salary: M, Step 1 \$25.49/hr |
|---|--|

**Civil Service - Bidding Results**

Clerical

Evaluation Center Senior Clerk 2  
Effective 9/22/03  
Vice: G. Flynn (retired)

Maureen Foley  
19 Laurel Terrace  
Somerville, MA 02143  
Fr. Senior 1 @ Eval. Center

SHS – Senior Clerk 2  
Effective 9/15/03  
Vice: N. Polcaro (retired)

Mary Cerrato  
294 Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02143  
Fr. Senior 1 @ SHS

SHS – Senior Clerk 1  
Effective TBA  
Vice: M. Cerrato (trans)

Marie Connolly  
84 Pearson Rd.  
Somerville, MA  
Fr. Senior 1 @ Brown

Custodial

WSNS – Sr. Bldg. Custodian  
Effective 9/18/03  
Open Position

Russell Campbell  
8 Cady St.  
Billerica, MA

Floater – First Shift  
Effective 9/10/03

Robert Anderson  
24 Bligh St.  
Ayer, MA

Cummings – First Shift  
Effective 9/22/03

Jody Connelly  
17 Concord Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02143

Provisional Appointments

SHS – 2<sup>nd</sup> shift  
Effective 9/11/03  
Vice: D. Weisnewski (retired)

James Hodgdon  
1366 Broadway, #4C  
Somerville, MA 02144  
Salary: \$34,154

SHS – 3<sup>rd</sup> shift  
Effective 9/2/03  
Vice: R. Papaluca (deceased)

Damon Vieira  
14 Bolton St.  
Somerville, MA 02143  
Salary: \$35,086.

Change from Temp. Status to Provisional

Fred Castle, 47 Edgar Ave., Somerville, MA 02145  
John Moreira, 54 Fellsway West, Apt. B, Somerville, MA 02145

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano  
Secretary