

February 25, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dennis M. Sullivan called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:00 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. Murray, Mayor Gay, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Harris, Ms. Taylor, Alderman White, Ms. Rossetti, and Chairman Sullivan.

No one was absent.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

Citations were presented as follows:

- SHS Cosmetology Teachers Ms. Connie Filosi, Ms. Stella Apostolakos and SHS Cosmetology students by Ms. Taylor.
- Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools and the Somerville Public Schools for participation in the *“Massachusetts Green Schools Pilot Program”* by Mike Foley, DPW Project Manager and Doug Sacra, HMFH, Inc., architect.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved, as amended, for printing by voice vote.

January 28, 2001:

- Regular School Committee Meeting

Ms. Rossetti amended the January 28th minutes as follows: pg. 17 (1st sentence in third paragraph) to read, *Mayor Gay responded that at this point in time, the city does not have \$200,000 to put towards the purchase of technology equipment for Somerville High School. Additional conversation was held pertaining to electrical upgrade.*

February 4, 2002:

- Regular School Committee Meeting

February 11, 2002:

- Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student representative for the 2001-2002 school year, Kerri Connolly, was present this evening and the following report was given:

1. Advised that senior plans are currently being made for the second half of the school year regarding proms, semi-formals, Class Day activities, AP exams, and awaiting college acceptance notices, etc.
2. Congratulated all SHS athletes and wished those going on to further competition the best of luck and thanked all the teams who participated and played so well.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. Reported that he received a letter from the President of the Board of Aldermen, William White, advising that Alderman at Large, Bruce M. Desmond (Ward 3) will be a representative to the school department's Prevention Task Force.
2. School Department Open Positions Update:
 - WSNS Principal Position: advised that there were 21 applications for the WSNS Principal position with 13 candidates being interviewed this week. On March 21st the finalists will be interviewed at a Personnel Committee of the Whole meeting.
 - ESCS Principal Position: the Selection Committee narrowed the applicants and the following three finalists will be interviewed on Tuesday, March 5th: Susan J. Collins, Thelma E. Davis and Stephen M. Tuccelli.
 - Director of Alternative Programs: the Selection Committee provided one finalist and Dr. Argenziano advised that he has interviewed the finalist who is a bilingual speaker and an Assistant Principal in Boston and felt comfortable with the Two-Way Bilingual Program, but was looking for additional input on the CHOICE Program. The candidate will be on-site at the Healey School on February 28th with the permission of the Principal. The school committee could possibly interview the candidate on March 21st along with the WSNS candidates.
 - PHCS Principal Position: Mr. McGreal provided the names of the Interview Selection Team. The position will be advertised in the newspaper for the next two Sundays and will be sent out to all buildings tomorrow. The position is scheduled for an April, Personnel Committee of the Whole meeting.
3. Advised that close to 100 letters were sent out to area legislators and school committees across the state asking for support of a one-year freeze on the income tax decrease. The only response to date was from Jeff Beckwith, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association.
4. Publicly applauded Mike Foley, DPW Project Manager and Doug Sacra, HMFH, Inc., architect for the additional \$600,000 for the new Edgerly Education Center.
5. LPCS and SHS Feasibility Study Updates:
 - LPCS: The LPCS Study has been completed and now we are in Phase II to have the architect complete the design contract document phase. June 1st is the deadline to get on the Department of Education's list.
 - SHS: 28 architects came to a walk-through and ten architects bid on the job. It is now up to the DPW Commissioner and the Mayor to set up a committee to narrow the field.
6. Notification was received from Dr. Jenkins regarding the approval status of Full Circle and Next Wave Alternative Schools, which is an every 10-year cycle.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items (cont.)

7. Mentioned that the Two-Way Portuguese Bilingual Program, as of February 13th, only had seven (7) students of Portuguese speaking parents and three students of English speaking parents and he is recommending that because of insufficient enrollment this program should be put on hold – not disbanded.
8. Referred to a brochure from NESDEC entitled "*Teaching in Changing Times: The Courage to Lead*". The keynote speakers are Margot Stern Strom and Jonathan Kozol. Judith Nierenberg, librarian at the Edgerly Education Center and the Cummings School, is a speaker in *Concurrent Sessions II*. Dr. Argenziano applauded Ms. Nierenberg regarding her involvement.
9. Reminded that there will be an Executive Session meeting on Wednesday, February 27th and the Annual Meeting with PTAs will take place on Thursday, February 28th, at 6:30 p.m.
10. High School Sports Update:
 - o Publicly recognized the Boys' Basketball Team for completion of a 14-6 season. They will be playing against Central Catholic in Lawrence on Wednesday, February 28th at 7 p.m., in Lawrence.
 - o The Girls' Basketball Team successfully entered the tournament with a 10-10 record and will be playing tomorrow evening at 7 p.m., against Malden High School at Malden.
 - o Congratulated the Track Teams specifically, Luis Moreira, for coming in 7th in the country and he is coming up to two very important meets in the next seven days and could possibly go from 7th position to 2nd or 3rd position in the whole country. Luis will be publicly recognized next Monday night as part of the track team, but possibly later on Joelle Martin and Luis Moreira will be specially recognized for their achievements.
11. Proposed that the Executive Session meeting scheduled for March 27th be changed to Wednesday, April 3rd due to the Jewish Holy Day at the request of Ms. Bauer. The school committee concurred.
12. Barbara Rubel, Community Relations, Tufts University, was contacted regarding an upcoming meeting with Tufts and is scheduled for March 7th at 11:30 in the Ray Izzo Highlander Café. Dr. Martha N. Cyr, Tufts Director of Engineering Educational Outreach, will be present to discuss K8 Science/Math Program that will be open to any member available with lunch available.
13. Dr. Argenziano advised that a moment of silence would be held at the end of this meeting to recognize relatives of staff member who have recently passed away.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:* Ms. Murray (Feb. 6)

Subjects discussed:

- Unidos Two-Way Bilingual Program was discussed at length and will continue to be discussed.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Mentioned that the next Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting scheduled for March 6th has been changed to a Rules Subcommittee.
- Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meetings are scheduled for March 13th at 7 p.m., and March 20th at 7 p.m.

B. *Long Range Planning Committee of Whole:* Mr. Sullivan (Feb. 9)

The Annual School Committee Retreat took place at Tufts University on Saturday, February 9, 2002. The meeting began at 8:35 a.m. and adjourned at 12:15 p.m., as Tufts Board of Trustees would be using the cafeteria.

Subjects discussed:

- Mutual Goals and Objectives for 2002-2003
- Analyzing the annual review of the Superintendent of School,
- Streamlining the evaluation tool used
- More opportunity for the Superintendent of Schools to share his goals and objectives earlier in the year
- Roles and Responsibilities of the School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools as per the MASC adopted policy
- Requesting a meeting regarding Capital Improvement Plans with the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor

***Long Range Planning Committee of Whole:* Mr. Sullivan (Feb. 11)**

Subject discussed:

- Future School Space Issues

Approved motion from Committee of the Whole:

That at the present time, the school department keep all programs as they are and address these issues in conjunction with the Capital Improvement Plan.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)

C. Finance and Facilities Subcommittee: Ms. Rossetti (Feb. 25)

Subjects discussed:

- Building Utilization Request:
Discussion took place and no action taken was taken on this request.
- The Superintendent shared a report from Mr. Ciampi relative to building updates on projects that have been completed and projects that are still not completed.
- Prioritization of Capital Improvement List (02):
A lengthy discussion took place. A meeting will take place between the school committee's Finance Committee of the Whole and the Board of Aldermen's Finance Subcommittee on Monday evening, March 4th to discuss the school committee's plans as they relate to Capital Improvements for the school system. Ms. Rossetti encouraged the public to attend this meeting.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Sullivan introduced a member of the audience, Mr. John L. Norris, III, Assistant Branch Manager at the Century Bank, 102 Fellsway West 02145, as the new Business Partner for the Edgerly Education Center. Mr. Norris is a 1993 Somerville High School graduate and will be opening up the world of finance to the students of the Edgerly Education Center.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Taylor, to present Mr. Norris with a Citation for his dedication to our school system at a future school committee meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2002 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.

Amarisa P. Cardoso	104 George Street	Boston	02119
John R. Castro	41 Carruth Street	Dorchester	02124
Angela M. Mazzeo	121 Albion Street	Somerville	02144

B. Out of State Conference Request

Ms. Pamela G. Holmes, Title I Director and Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, requested the use of Kindergarten Enhancement Grant funds to pay the expenses of Mr. Frank Ferraro, Principal of the Edgerly Education Center, Ms. Paula Atwood, Grade 1 Teacher at the Edgerly Education Center and Crista Marchesseault, Tufts University, to attend the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Conference to be held March 6-9, 2002, at the University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida. Approved by voice vote. Ms. Rossetti requested a copy of the itinerary.

Monday, February 25, 2002 – Regular Meeting

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

March 13 & 14, 2002: **Full Circle** Alt. High School (Margaret DePasquale & David Willey), to Loon Mountain, Bristol, N.H. Transportation by school van at a cost of \$15 to students.

March 14 & 15, 2002: **Next Wave** Alt. Jr., High School (Lauren Kelley & David Willey), to Loon Mountain and Pat's Peak, Bristol, N.H. Transportation by school van at a cost of \$15 to students.

X. **ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Murray

1. Reported that the Prevention Task Force met on February 13th at Somerville High School with a great presentation by a representative from the District Attorney's office. Ms. Murray thanked everyone for his or her input and efforts. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will take place on Wednesday, February 27, 2002, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Kennedy School. A larger task force meeting should take place mid-March.
2. Expressed appreciation to Mayor Gay, the DPW and the Superintendent of Schools for supporting the work to be done during April vacation at the Brown School.
3. Announced that the Somerville Family Network will conduct their Annual Multicultural Night on Thursday, February 28th, at 6 p.m., at the Powder House Community School. Refreshments will be served.

Ms. Bauer

1. Reported that she, along with Carolyn Taylor and Teresa Cardoso, attended a symposium on February 13th, entitled "*The Future of Bilingual Education in Massachusetts*". The forum discussed implications of an upcoming ballot question to limit bilingual education. There was a lot of interest in preserving quality education for bilingual students and preserving school system options for how to preserve and enhance quality programs. There are a number of proposals at the state level to do just this. Ms. Bauer stated that the ballot question would totally obliterate Somerville's Two-Way Bilingual Program. This also comes at a time when MCAS is pushing for every student to have a second language.
2. Also reported that State Representative, Patricia Jehlen, is sponsoring a Community Forum on the state budget tomorrow evening, February 26th at 7 p.m. at the Visiting Nurses Association Assisted Living Facility at 259 Lowell Street. Speakers will be Mr. Jim St. George who is a tax and budget analyst for the Tax Equity Alliance of Massachusetts and Mr. Harris Gruman, an organizer of Neighbor to Neighbor.

(continued)

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Ms. Bauer (cont.)

3. Advised that Somerville High School Drama Club will present "*Clawing*" an original play by Drama Club Director and SHS teacher, Mario Barros on Wednesday, February 27th at 7 p.m., in the auditorium. In addition to this play, there will be other theatrical performances by SHS students (and possibly faculty). This play is the high school's entry into the Drama Festival and the regional competition will be held on Saturday, March 2nd beginning at noontime at Brookline High School. They will be competing against about twelve other schools and if they are one of the winners on Saturday, they will go on to further competition.

Ms. Taylor

1. Reported that there was a questionnaire in the Somerville Journal for parents developed by the Library/Media Subcommittee. The on-going task of this committee is to develop long-range plans, which is a pre-requisite for many state grants and to evaluate what the school department is doing in library services for the City of Somerville. The next meeting will be in March to begin to develop a plan, which will then be discussed in an Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee meeting.
2. Reported that on March 6th there will be meeting of the Rules Subcommittee to discuss the Grade 10 MCAS statistics. Ms. Taylor mentioned discussion would include Somerville not requiring passing MCAS in order to graduate from Somerville High School relative to the class of 2003 and that Somerville should set the standards for graduating from SHS.

Alderman White

1. Mentioned that along with Alderman at Large, Bruce M. Desmond, Ward VII Alderman James F. Halloran, will also serve on the Prevention Task Force representing the Board of Aldermen.
2. The request of the school committee that the Board of Aldermen enact a Resolution addressing the tax rollback issue has been forwarded to the BOA Finance Subcommittee and if appropriate, will be adopted by the BOA.
3. In reference to the Bilingual Referendum, Alderman White suggested having the school committee appear before the BOA in order to enact a Resolution indicating the reason why the school committee believes this referendum is ill-advised, which would create some good public relations for the school committee and an opportunity for the BOA to educate themselves regarding this referendum and take a public position on it. Ms. Taylor asked if something in writing presented by the chairperson of the Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee, Ms. Murray, might be advisable? Discussion took place among members and Ms. Cardoso suggested that a member of the school committee could appear before the BOA for an informative session and request their signatures on the original document that the Somerville School Committee signed on at the Symposium as one of the first school committees to do so. Mayor Gay suggested that the school committee send a letter in September to be read at a BOA meeting, before elections, in order for the public to be aware and have input.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Alderman White (cont.)

4. With regard to the communication from the school committee requesting a meeting with the Finance and Capital Planning Committees of the Board of Aldermen with the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole of the school committee, Alderman White said he would discuss this with the Chairman of the Finance, Joseph A. Curtatone.

Ms. Rossetti

1. Wished the Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams good luck on their upcoming games this week.
2. Reported that as well as Joelle Martin breaking the school record, she was informed that Catherine Rosakis, one of the captains of the girls' indoor track team, broke a record in the one-mile run and congratulated her.
3. Also, as well as Luis Moreira setting a new state record and being 7th in the nation, the entire Boys' Track team have become finalists towards state recognition for their companionship with Somerville's special needs students, have made it to the final level and received recognition from the state.
4. Spoke regarding SHS's 150th celebration in the fall and displayed a tee shirt with the new logo. Tee shirts are \$10 and can be purchased by contacting Dr. Elaine McMichael at SHS at ext. 6205.
5. Advised that the West Somerville Neighborhood School will conduct a PTA meeting on Wednesday, February 27th beginning at 6:30 p.m., with a business meeting.
6. Reminded everyone to attend State Representative, Patricia Jehlen's, Community Forum on the state budget tomorrow evening, February 26th at 7 p.m. at the Visiting Nurses Association Assisted Living Facility at 259 Lowell Street.

Ms. Cardoso

1. Advised there will be a SPED PAC meeting on Thursday, February 28th from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Kennedy School entitled "*Parents Basic Rights*".
2. Referred to the Alternative Program Director mentioned earlier by Dr. Argenziano and asked if the candidate had experience? Dr. Argenziano advised that she is a full time Assistant Principal in the Boston Public Schools and is a native of Puerto Rico and understands the Two-Way Bilingual very well. She will spend the entire day on Thursday, February 28th, at the Healey School to learn more about the CHOICE Program.

Monday, February 25, 2002 – Regular Meeting

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Chairman Sullivan

1. Congratulated Ms. Connie Filosi, SHS Cosmetology Teacher and Ms. Stella Apostolakos and SHS Cosmetology students for bringing compassionate services to cancer victims.
2. Advised that tomorrow, Tuesday, the SHS Girls' Basketball Team will be playing Malden and wished them good luck.
3. Also, Joelle Martin, in addition to breaking the all-time point record for SHS, is one of seven female basketball players to be nominated for the McDonald High School All American Game in Madison Sq. Garden in April. Joelle has already signed on with Merrimack College.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications presented this evening.

XII. PERSONNEL

School Committee members were notified and accepted the following personnel actions of February 25, 2002 as follows:

A. Retirement

Ms. Patricia A. Escott, Kindergarten Teacher @ Cummings School, effective June 30, 2002. Dr. Argenziano reported that Ms. Escott was physically not doing well.

B. Authorizations

SHS

SPED Paraprofessional
Eff: 1-23-02
Vice: M. O'Brien (transf.)

Michael Byrne
22 Wesley Street
Somerville, MA 02143

Evaluation Center

SPED Paraprofessional
Effective 2/6/02
Vice: D. Grams (resigned)

Jessica Smith Rohrberg
32 Kent St. #404
Somerville, MA 02143
Salary: \$12,293

SPED Paraprofessional
Effective 1/31/02
Vice: P. Brown (resigned)

Theresa Green
247 Willow Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$12,293

Kennedy

SPED Paraprofessional
Effective 1/31/02
Vice: J. Gulick (trans)

Heidi Pyle
22 Cottage St.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$12,293

XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

B. Authorizations (cont.)

Athletics (Spring Season)

Head Coach - Baseball
Spring Season 2002

Ken Olson
96 Rogers Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$4,072

JV Coach – Baseball
Spring Season 2002

Charles Puopolo
20 James Terrace
Woburn, MA 01801
Salary: \$2,608

Freshman Coach – Baseball
Spring Season 2002

Daniel Harrington
9 Silvey St.
Somerville, MA 02143
Salary: \$2,361

Head Coach – Female Track
Spring Season 2002

Charles O'Rourke
91 Glencoe St.
Brighton, MA 02135
\$4,072

Asst. Coach – Female Track
Spring Season 2002

Yolanda Ortiz
64 Oxford St.
Somerville, MA 02143
Salary: \$2,608

Head Coach – Male Track
Spring Season 2002

David Durnan
13 Kingston St.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$4,072

Asst. Coach – Male Track
Spring Season 2002

Carl Stauffer
29 Green St.
Melrose, MA 02176
Salary: \$2,608

Head Coach – Female Softball
Spring Season 2002

Lorne Murphy
10 Leroy Drive
Burlington, MA 01803
Salary: \$4,072

Freshman – Female Softball
Spring Season 2002

Stephen Swensen
11A Sanborn Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143
Salary: \$2,361

XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

B. **Authorizations** (cont.)

JV Coach – Female Softball
Spring Season 2002

Carrie Laderbauche
10 Pheasant St.
Dracut, MA
Salary: \$2,608

Head Coach – Male Tennis
Spring Season 2002

David Caven
4 Aquavia Rd.
Medford, MA 02155
Salary: \$2,608

XIII. DEATHS

The superintendent reported with regret the deaths of the following persons. Letters will be sent to their families.

1. Mrs. Elizabeth Centrella (Feb. 19), sister of Healey School Vice Principal, Pauline Lampropoulos. A moment of silence was observed and a letter of sympathy will be sent to her family.
2. Mrs. Josephine (Bretta) Galligani (Feb. 20) mother of Paula Atwood, teacher at the Edgerly Education Center and the first school secretary at the Kennedy School.
3. Mrs. Katherine Bent (Feb. 22), mother of Adopt-A-School Business Partner, Thomas Bent.
4. Mr. Francis J. O’Dea (Feb. 20), father of Cathleen O’Dea, administrative assistant in the Mayor’s Office.
5. Mrs. Alice McDaid, (Feb. 23), mother of retired Cummings School Principal, William McDonald.
6. Mrs. Loretta Francis (Feb. 13), mother of retired Lincoln Park Community Teacher, Joseph J. Francis.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary