

March 11, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Rules Management Chairperson, Carolyn Taylor, called a Rules Management Committee of the Whole Meeting of the School Committee to order in the conference room at 181 Washington Street at 7:03 p.m., to discuss the Grade 10 MCAS Statistics.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Absent were Mayor Gay, Alderman White and Ms. Harris.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Robert A. Snow, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Mr. Thomas F. Galligani, Headmaster, S.H.S., Mr. Francis E. Russell, English Department Head, S.H.S., Mr. Joseph Caruso, Mathematics Department Head, S.H.S., Ms. Rachel Rooney, Ms. Mary Ripley, Ms. Kate Bunker-Neto, S.H.S. teachers were also present along with approximately nineteen members of the audience.

III. GRADE 10 MCAS STATISTICS

Discussion took place regarding the MCAS statistics, test scores and retest.

Members of the audience who addressed the school committee were:

- o Mr. Alan Price, Cambridge School Committee
- o Mr. Roger Rice, META, Ward 1 resident
- o Ms. Jackie King, Cambridge and Statewide CARE Coalition
- o Ms. Claryce Evans, Mr. Danny LeBlanc, Ms. Paula Bowie, CARE Coalition
- o Ms. Kate McCarthy, P.H.C.S. Teacher
- o Ms. Mary Ripley, S.H.S. Teacher
- o Ms. Kate Bunker Neto, SHS (TBE)
- o Ms. Ruth Bork, Ward 6 resident

Discussion centered around what the necessary requirements are in order for a student to receive his/her high school diploma and also the possibility of having a two-tier diploma. If a student completed the academic requirements and passed the MCAS test, he/she would receive a high school diploma. If a student completed the academic requirements and did not pass the MCAS test, he/she would receive a local diploma showing academic achievement.

Input, questions and answers took place between audience members, school committee members and the school administrators. Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Robert A. Snow, Assistant Superintendent for C/I/A answered the questions of concerns that were brought up during discussion.

MOTION: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to send a letter of support from the Somerville school committee members to other school committee representatives, regarding retaining the rights of individual school districts to set graduation requirements.

III. GRADE 10 MCAS STATISTICS (cont.)

Discussion followed. Ms. Bauer withdrew her motion.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to consult Somerville School Committee legal counsel regarding granting a local diploma. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Discussion followed with regard to consulting outside counsel in addition to our own legal counsel. Ms. Rossetti stated she would like to ask the opinion of Ms. Mary Jo Hollender before pursuing this matter outside of Somerville with any other legal counsel. Ms. Rossetti said she would like to consult with our own lawyer first because she is not comfortable sending any communication out to anyone until a decision is made among the members themselves.

Motion: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Murray, that in addition to consulting our own attorney, the school committee consults the MASC attorney regarding the possibility of a single versus two-tier diploma. The motion was approved by voice vote with the exception of Ms. Rossetti, who voted opposed.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary