

March 25, 2002

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Finance and Facilities Chairperson, Mary Jo Rossetti, called a Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting of the School Committee to order in the Aldermanic Chambers at city hall at 6:30 p.m., to hear a DPW electrical update presentation @ SHS, for approval of billrolls and a presentation of the FY03 budget.

Ms. Rossetti welcomed everyone in attendance.

**II. ROLL CALL**

School Committee Members Present: Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Taylor, Alderman White, Mr. Rossetti and Mr. Sullivan.

Ms. Murray, Ms. Harris and Mayor Gay were absent.

Also in attendance for the electrical presentation were the DPW Commissioner, David P. Dow, Joseph Voutour, Superintendent of Lights and Lines, Patrick J. McCormick, Chief Information Officer for the city and Mr. Thomas Hedderick, Chief Financial Officer for the city.

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

**III. DPW ELECTRICAL UPDATE PRESENTATION @ SHS**

Mr. Voutour, Superintendent of Lights and Lines, advised the committee that the electrical needs at Somerville High School, relative to safety violations, has been estimated at close to \$600,000. This figure was arrived at by having work done after school hours. If Summer School was moved to another facility and the work was done during the day, the figure would be 30% less. Much discussion followed. Alderman White said that because this work would be considered as a lifetime addition to Somerville High School, it would probably be better to be a bondable item. Much discussion, no action was taken.

**IV. APPROVAL OF BILLROLLS**

Billrolls were approved in the amounts presented this evening, by voice vote.

**V. CLOSE OUT STATUS/KENNEDY AND HEALEY SCHOOLS**

Dr. Argenziano referred to a copy of a letter relative to the close out status of the Kennedy and Healey Schools. The letter stated that the contractor, Granger Corporation, had completed the items listed on the punch list dated May 28, 2001 on or about February 8, 2002. Discussion followed.

**V. CLOSE OUT STATUS/KENNEDY AND HEALEY SCHOOLS (cont.)**

The committee asked that Dr. Argenziano send a letter to the DPW Commissioner requesting the following information: 1) what is the total amount of money held back from the Granger Corporation, 2) will the items that have not been done be taken care of by the DPW for example, benches in the pool locker room area, and 3) as our roofs at both sites continue to leak, what will be done?

**VI. PRESENTATION OF THE FY03 BUDGET**

Dr. Argenziano gave a brief overview of the FY03 budget. When the budget was prepared a 5-1/2% increase was estimated. At the Mayor's request, one million dollars was cut from the FY03 budget and what remains is as follows:

1. A 3-1/2% request that covers salary increases of 3%, plus step increases
2. An Operations budget, which was level-funded
3. The final page of the budget document includes close to \$700,000 in personnel cuts and the remaining \$300,000 requested by the Mayor comes from sped transportation and sped tuition.

Ms. Rossetti advised that there will be a joint meeting of the school committee and the Board of Aldermen Technology Committee next Monday, April 1, 2002, at 6:30 p.m.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano  
Secretary

March 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, Mayor Gay, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Taylor, Alderman White, Ms. Rossetti, and Chairman Sullivan.

Ms. Harris and Ms. Murray were absent.

**III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS**

Citations were presented as follows:

- SHS Senior, Luis Moreira, Boys' Track Team, for winning the New England Championship in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 7.41 seconds, the second fastest time ever in Massachusetts by Ms. Carolyn Taylor.
- SHS Senior, Katherine Rozakis, for setting a new SHS record of 11:37.51 in the Indoor 2-Mile run, finishing 10<sup>th</sup> in the State Finals and, for currently holding the Indoor 1-Mile record with a time of 5:22 by Ms. Mary Jo Rossetti.
- SHS Senior, Jens Stevens, for receiving a *Certificate of Merit* for being named a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program by Ms. Roberta Bauer.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The following minutes were approved for printing by voice vote:

February 25, 2002:

- Regular School Committee Meeting

March 4, 2002:

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole
- Regular School Committee Meeting

March 11, 2002:

- Rules Management Committee of the Whole

**V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Student representative for the 2001-2002 school year, Kerri Connolly, was not present this evening and no report was given.

**VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. Dr. Argenziano introduced the new Principal of the East Somerville Community School, Ms. Thelma E. Davis, who will be replacing retiring Principal John F. O'Meara after many years of service to the Somerville Public Schools. Mr. O'Meara will retire at the end of the school year.
2. Dr. Argenziano also introduced Ms. Patricia O'Connor who will be the Vice Principal of the new Ederly Education Center, but will begin her tenure 10 months before the new building opens. Ms. O'Connor comes from many years at the Winter Hill Community School.

Both Ms. Davis and Ms. O'Connor graciously welcomed their new challenges.

3. Spoke regarding a letter that Somerville and 20 other urban superintendents supported relative to the Antonioni/Larkin Bill on Bilingual education, which is a counter-Bill against the Unz Referendum. Dr. Argenziano stated that the Unz petition is one year and the present law is three years. The Antonioni/Larkin Bill provides two years with some flexibility on local school districts choosing options.
4. Referred to the response from Glenn S. Koocher, MASC Executive Director, regarding the school committee's request March 4<sup>th</sup> regarding MCAS diplomas stating that he has referred the request to MASC's legal counsel. Mary Jo Hollender, school committee legal counsel, is drafting a similar response to the school committee. Brief discussion followed.
5. A copy of the December 2001 MCAS retest results were provided to members.
6. Ms. Rosemary Watson, SHS Scheduling Committee, provided a draft schedule in order to prepare students for the 2002-2003 school year regarding the new high school schedule.
7. A memorandum from Massachusetts 2020, regarding after school programs, advising that Framingham and Worcester were selected for this coming school years as they had the money and Somerville has been placed on a provisional list for September 2003.
8. Memos from Bob Snow, Assistant Superintendent for C/I/A, regarding 2002-2003 Professional Development and the DOE 2003 Technology Benchmark Standards were provided.
9. School Council Minutes from the West Somerville Neighborhood School and the East Somerville Community Schools were provided.
10. Expressed appreciation to Sarah Slive, PIC Coordinator on leave, for helping the UNIDOS Program two days a week, while working towards her Doctorate at Tufts University.

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

11. A Title I Newsletter was provided for members from Ellie Blute, Title I Parent Coordinator.
12. Regarding tonight's Personnel Report, Dr. Argenziano congratulated Ward 5 school committee member Kate Murray and her husband Jim on the birth of their third son on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also, Ms. Moira LaPointe, the daughter of Alice Comack, on the birth of her triplets.
13. Thanked SHS carpentry teacher, Jay Hart, for his years of service as coach of the hockey team. A new hockey coach will be sought.

**VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. ***Personnel Committee of the Whole:*** Ms. Harris (March 5) Ms. Cardoso gave the report in the absence of Ms. Harris.

Subject discussed:

Interview of finalists for the ESCS Principal Position:

- ✓ Susan J. Collins
- ✓ Thelma E. Davis
- ✓ Stephen M. Tuccelli

Dr. Argenziano announced at the beginning of this evening's meeting that the Selection Committee has chosen Ms. Thelma E. Davis as the new Principal of the East Somerville Community School whom he introduced to the committee and the audience.

- B. ***Rules Management Committee of the Whole:*** Ms. Taylor (March 6 postponed to: March 11)

Subject discussed:

- Grade 10 MCAS Statistics

Approved motion from Committee of the Whole:

- (a.) To consult the Somerville School Committee legal counsel regarding granting an alternative diploma and at the same time, request input from the MASC attorney regarding the same issue.

- C. ***Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:*** Ms. Murray (March 13) Ms. Taylor gave the report in Ms. Murray's absence.

Subjects discussed:

1. Approval of String Camp
2. Role Models Program – L. Vitiello
3. SHS Dropout/Suspension Discussion
4. SHS Survey Results – After School Programs
5. Approval of In-Services Courses

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

**C. *Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee* (cont.)**

Approved motions from subcommittee:

- (a.) To send a letter thanking participants in the Role Models Program and to present citations to all Role Model participants at a future school committee meeting.
- (b.) To approve the String Camp

**D. *Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:* Ms. Murray (March 20) Ms. Taylor gave the report in Ms. Murray's absence.**

Subjects discussed:

- 1. CTBS Discussion
- 2. MCAS Discussion
- 3. Federal Education Bill
- 4. Approval of In-Service Courses

Approved motion from subcommittee:

- (a.) To approve the following In-Service Courses:
  - ✓ Somerville Conversations: 2002
  - ✓ Teachers' Voices: Reflecting, Writing and Sharing
  - ✓ Intermediate Conversational Haitian Creole

**E. *Personnel Committee of the Whole:* Ms. Harris (March 21) Ms. Cardoso gave the report in the absence of Ms. Harris.**

Subject discussed:

Interview of finalists for the WSNS Principal Position:

- ✓ Anthony Argyrople
- ✓ Helen Chamides
- ✓ Stephen M. Tuccelli

Ms. Cardoso advised that the superintendent was in the process of offering a contract to Mr. Anthony N. Argyrople and would report back to the school committee.

**F. *Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:* Ms. Rossetti (March 25)**

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ DPW Presentation: Electrical Update @ SHS – D. Dow, J. Voutour, P. McCormick and T. Hedderick
- ✓ Approval of Billrolls
- ✓ Presentation of FY03 Budget
- ✓ Closeout Status Kennedy/Healey Schools

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

F. ***Finance and Facilities Subcommittee*** (cont.)

Approved motion from subcommittee:

To approve the billrolls as presented this evening.

The next meeting of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee will be a joint meeting with the Board of Aldermen Technology Committee on Monday, April 1, 2002 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

**VIII. 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.

Samuel Gomes Azevedo	21 Sargent St., #2	Melrose	02176
Jesula Denis	23 Clement St., #2	Malden	02148
Joel C. Gibbons	120 Washington Avenue	Chelsea	02150
Christopher Abraham Legere	6 Den Quarry Way	Lynn	01904
<b>Carla P. Sousa</b>	<b>15 River Road, #1509</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>02145</b>

B. **Legislative Matters**

Mr. Sullivan asked that any member wishing to go before the Board of Aldermen requesting support of the Antonioni/Larkin Bill on Bilingual education, to please let him know. Ms. Taylor has already expressed this interest.

Mr. Sullivan also referred to a letter from Joseph C. O'Brien, Worcester school committee member, relative to Charter School Reimbursement urging the school committee to write to area legislators asking them to oppose passage of House Bill 4873.

MOTION: Mr. Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, requesting that a letter be sent to district legislators requesting their assistance and support regarding the following two issues that truly affect the Somerville Public Schools:

- (a.) To **oppose** passage of House Bill 4873 as this Bill this will have an impact on Somerville's Chapter 70 funds as difficult financial times approach.
- (b.) To **support** the Antonioni/Larkin Bill on Bilingual education.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mayor Gay**

1. Advised that she attended the Scale/Somerville Family Network breakfast on Thursday morning and congratulated Scale Program Director, Susan Barnard, and Somerville Family Network Coordinator, Maria Madrid. Members of the state delegation, the Board of Aldermen, school committee, parents and the business community attended. Mayor Gay thanked both programs.
2. Advised that the Charter School is re-locating from Highland Avenue to the old St. Mary's School in Cambridge and wondered how these students might impact Somerville's school department's registration numbers. Dr. Argenziano advised that the Charter School Board of Trustees asked Sabis to leave and are no longer part of the Somerville Charter School. Sabis basically owns the Highland Avenue and Clyde Street sites. The Charter School now has only the St. Joseph's site for their K-12 program and they opted to rent St. Mary's in Cambridge. Dr. Argenziano advised that the legislation reads, that wherever Somerville students go to a Charter School, Somerville has to pay for them. Peak enrollment was 485 and is now down to 410, K-12.

**Ms. Harris' Report** (Ms. Cardoso gave the report)

1. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Choice Program and Healey School conducted a very successful grade K-4 dance.
2. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Choice Program and Healey School Kindergarten classes went to Home Depot on a field trip.

**Ms. Cardoso**

1. On March 20<sup>th</sup> Ms. Cardoso attended the SHS PTSA meeting and the Induction Ceremony of the new PTA officers.
2. Congratulated the Vocational Education staff and students for their shop displays at the Vocational Ed. Program Open House.
3. On Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, the *SHS Oldies Night* will take place from 8-12 midnight at the Dilboy Post. Tickets (\$10) will be available at the door.
4. Remembered the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Somerville student Deanna Cremen.

**Alderman White**

1. Reported that the Board of Aldermen approved the bond to provide the funding for drafting of the plans for the specifications for the Lincoln Park Community School.



**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Alderman White** (cont.)

2. Expressed concern over the practice of the school committee bringing forward approved motions from a previous Committee of the Whole meeting where all members are not present binding the entire committee at the next regular school committee meeting. He felt that the full body has to vote on the motion. Alderman White suggested that the Rules Subcommittee re-examine this procedure. Mr. Anthony C. Caliri, school committee Parliamentarian, addressed the issue and advised that he would get a legal opinion on this issue.

**Ms. Rossetti**

1. Advised that the Powder House Community School, beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup> will conduct a "Poetry Paradise" program, an integration of the Arts. On April 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be an exhibition of poems created by PHCS students from 6-8 p.m., and an evening performance of choral singing under the direction of Ruth Daigle from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
2. Congratulated the WSNS students who competed in the statewide middle school Science Olympiad competition held at Tufts University. They placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 20 schools. Ms. Rossetti requested that the team receive Citations at an upcoming school committee meeting.
3. Congratulated the SHS Cheerleaders who competed and placed second consistently throughout the year and requested that they also receive Citations at an upcoming meeting.
4. The Girls Basketball Banquet will take place tomorrow evening, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m., at Good Times Emporium.
5. Advised that on April 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m., there will be a *Suicide & Violence Prevention Forum* sponsored by the city at Somerville High School for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth with several community groups involved. For further information contact Marty Martinez at city hall, ext. 2210.
6. Congratulated Kate and Jim Murray on the birth of their third son, Andrew.

**Ms. Taylor**

1. Advised that she attended the School Age Advisory Council meeting discussing after school care and increased parent involvement. Ms. Taylor gave a brief report.
2. Also advised she received a letter relative to bringing home ownership opportunities to city and school department employees. Ms. Taylor requested that the Human Resources Manager, Anthony C. Caliri, notify school department employees of this information.
3. This Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 – 12 noon at the VNA on Lowell Street issues will be discussed relative to the school department.

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

**Ms. Taylor** (cont.)

4. Advised that she attended the SHS Science Fair this past weekend. Ms. Taylor requested that the winners be presented Citations at a future school committee meeting along with the winners of the National History Day Competition, the Garden Festival winners and the Science Olympiad winners.

**X. COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairman Sullivan announced that the Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole would meet on Thursday, April 11, 2002, at 7 p.m., at the East Somerville Community School Auditorium to discuss Goals and Objectives and Future School Use.

**XI. PERSONNEL**

School Committee members were notified and accepted the following personnel actions of March 25, 2002 as follows. Ms. Cardoso requested that the number of years served also be listed when staff members retire.

**A. Retirements**

1. Ms. Joan Consolmagno, 55 Gaston St., Medford 02155 (Grade 3 Teacher @ WHCS) effective August 25, 2002.
2. Ms. Kathleen Holland, 27 Squire Rd., Winchester, MA 01890-3211 (Foreign Language Teacher) effective June 30, 2002.

**B. Resignations**

1. Mr. John Hart, 1206 Lewis O'Grady Drive, Saugus, MA 01906 (Varsity Hockey Coach) effective March 13, 2002.
2. Ms. Susan Isenberg, 1530 Beacon St., Brookline, MA 02146 (SPED Teacher @ Kennedy School) effective March 7, 2002.

**C. Unpaid Leaves of Absence**

1. Ms. Maria Nonni, 106 Gov. Winthrop Rd. Somerville, 02145 (Lunch Aide) from 2/25/02 to 3/8/02.
2. Ms. Angelica Fiorenza, 64 Grove St., Somerville, MA 02144 (Cafeteria Helper) from 1/2/02 to 2/4/02.
3. Ms. Ann Burgholzer, 284 Summer St., Somerville, MA 02143 (Paraprofessional @ Edgerly) from April 22 to April 26, 2002.
4. Ms. Melissa Giannino, 6 Taunton St., Somerville, MA 02143 (Paraprofessional @ Healey) effective March 1 to June 30, 2002.
5. Ms. Cheryl Smith, 66 Linden Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 (Lead Cafeteria Person @ Kennedy School) from March 22, to April 5, 2002.

**XI. PERSONNEL (cont.)**

**D. Child Care Leave of Absence**

1. Ms. Moira LaPointe, 44 Janebar Circle, Framingham, MA 01701 (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher @ ESCS) for the remainder of the 2001-2002 school year and for the entire 2002-2003 school year.

**E. Paternity Leave of Absence**

1. Mr. Ken Olson, 96 Rogers Ave., Somerville, MA 02144 (English Teacher @ SHS) beginning April 2, 2002.

**F. Administration**

Vice Principal Edgerly Center  
Effective 4/1/02  
New Position

Patricia A. O'Connor  
160 Commandant's Way  
Unit #208  
Chelsea, MA 02150  
Salary Step M+30  
Salary: \$66,751

**Healey School**

Paraprofessional  
Effective 3/11/02  
Vice: M. Giannino (LOA)

Katie Judd  
140 Robbins St.  
Arlington, MA 02474  
Salary: \$12,293

**G. Civil Service**

Kennedy School  
Sr. Building Custodian  
Effective 3/11/02  
From Promotional List

Michael Rogers  
10 Rush St.  
Somerville, MA 02145

**H. Athletics**

Female Varsity Tennis Coach  
Spring Season 2002

Robert Erickson  
78 Newburn Ave.  
Medford, MA 02155  
Salary: \$2,795

Male Varsity Volleyball  
Spring Season 2002

Paige Merritt  
26 Pearl St.  
Somerville, MA 02145  
Salary: \$2,795

**XI. DEATHS**

The superintendent reported with regret the deaths of the following persons. A moment of silence was observed and letters of sympathy will be sent to their families.

1. Dr. Rose C. Traniello on March 14. Dr. Traniello taught as a Foreign Language teacher at the Western Jr. High School from 1941 to 1965 and at SHS from 1965 to 1971. Dr. Traniello was then elected Head of the Foreign Language Department in 1971 and served until her retirement in 1984.
2. Mrs. Ellen Whalen (March 17), mother of Edgerly Education Center secretary, Barbara Synan and, mother-in-law of retired administration secretary, Patricia Whalen.

Deanna Cremen was also remembered this evening.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano  
Secretary