

May 13, 2002

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dennis M. Sullivan called a school committee public hearing to order in the aldermanic chambers at city hall regarding the Somerville Public Schools *Student Internet Safety Use Policy* at 7:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

Mayor Gay and Alderman White were absent.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools and Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration, were also present along with Joseph A. Mastrocola, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Mr. Timothy Egan, Information Systems & Database Administrator, Mr. Bron Abucewicz, Network Manager, Mr. Patrick J. McCormick, Chief Information Officer for the city, Ms. Kate Ashton, city grant writer and Christina M. Ruccio, Coordinator of the Community-Based Justice Bureau in the office of the Attorney General. Three members of the audience were also present.

**III. PRESENTATION BY MR. JOSEPH A. MASTROCOLA, COORDINATOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

Mr. Mastrocola advised that the Children's Internet Protection Act is a brand new regulation in order to apply for federal funding in technology. Mr. Mastrocola gave the following overview of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) stating that the Act was signed into law on December 21, 2000. Under CIPA, no school or library may receive discounts unless it certifies that it is enforcing a policy of Internet safety that includes the use of filtering or blocking technology. This Internet Safety Policy must protect against access, through computers with Internet access, to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or (in the case of use by minors) harmful to minors. The school or library must also certify that it is enforcing the operation of such filtering or blocking technology during any use of such computers by minors.

Mr. Mastrocola spoke regarding three pertinent requirements of CIPA in which schools must be in compliance in order to receive e-rate monies for support of a variety of technology issues, 1) a Technology Protection Measure that is a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access, 2) an Internet Safety Policy and, 3) Public Notice and Hearing.

Mr. Mastrocola reviewed the Somerville Public Schools *Student Internet Safety Use Policy* with members of the school committee. Discussion took place. Mr. Mastrocola stated that the school committee might need to make the last page of the Policy a sign-off sheet for parents.

Community-Based Justice Bureau Coordinator, Christina Ruccio, addressed the committee stating that the bureau is willing to come and visit schools in conjunction with Project Alliance, Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc., Office of the Middlesex District Attorney, Martha Coakley, of which Somerville is a member. Mr. Mastrocola ended his presentation by thanking Mr. Patrick J. McCormick, Chief Information Officer for the city and Ms. Kate Ashton, city grant writer, who were instrumental in putting this policy together.

**III. PRESENTATION BY MR. JOSEPH A. MASTROCOLA (cont.)**

Dr. Argenziano advised there would be a final copy presented for approval at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> school committee under New Business. The Policy will also be translated into target languages and a copy may also be in the *Dear Parent and Dear Colleague* guides presented in September during the first week of school whereby parents/guardians may sign-off on.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano  
Secretary