

May 20, 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 Committee Room at city hall at 5:40 p.m., to discuss the FY03 budget and FY02 budget expenditures.

II. ROLL CALL

School Committee Members Present: Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Murray, Mayor Gay, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Harris, Ms. Taylor, Alderman White, Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Sullivan. No one was absent.

Central Administrators: Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration, Mr. Anthony C. Caliri, Human Resources Manager and Dr. Steven F. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services were also present.

City Administrators: Mr. Thomas F. Hedderick, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Edward F. Bean, City Auditor, Mr. William Fowler, Assistant City Auditor, along with approximately seven members of the audience.

III. FY03 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Dr. Argenziano presented the following four alternatives to a spending plan that the Chief Financial Officer, Thomas Hedderick, had assured that the school department would receive 3% each year, over a three-year period, because of the economy's downward spiral, accelerated by September 11, causing the city, state and federal government to cut back. He advised that FY03 was not going to be an easy year in light of all the proposed budget cuts to date with the Mayor recently requesting that the school department further reduce their bottom line in the neighborhood of \$1,770,000. Dr. Argenziano proceeded to go over the following packet of information he handed out to members this evening found on the following pages.

Much discussion followed the superintendent's presentation and Mayor Gay thanked the superintendent and his staff for doing a remarkable job in making the necessary cuts for which she expressed much appreciation.

IV. RECESS

The meeting was recessed at 7:25 p.m., in order to conduct a Public Hearing to determine participation in the School Choice Program for the 2002-03 school year, by voice vote. (Reported out at the beginning of the regular school committee meeting following this Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole meeting on page 129.)

V. RECONVENED

The Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole reconvened at 7:45 p.m., by voice vote.

VI. FY03 BUDGET DISCUSSION (cont.)

▪ Building Use Request:

MOTION: Mr. Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris, to waive the fees for the use of the Eugene C. Brune Field House at SHS for the ElderFair on Saturday, May 18, 2002. The motion was approved by voice vote.

▪ Review of FY2002 Third Quarter Operations Expenditures:

At the end of the third quarter, the School Department encumbered or spent a little over 10.6 million dollars in operations costs. The explanation of the majority of these expenditures was highlighted in this packet of information (on file in the Superintendent's office.)

Discussion took place among members on the packet of information and no actions were taken.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary