

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

September 16, 2002 REGULAR MEETING

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dennis Sullivan called a Regular Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:05 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Harris, Ms. Murray, Ms. Rossetti, and Ms. Taylor, Alderman White and Mayor Gay.

No one was absent.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

There were no presentations made this evening.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes submitted for this evening's meeting.

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student representative Kim Carvalho reported on the following items this evening:

Congratulated the Somerville High School football team in their victory over the Watertown Red Raiders with a final score of 48-32. Ms. Carvalho also congratulated Mike Neal for his career high of 312 yards with 4 touchdowns.

Announced that on Saturday, September 21st the Senior Class of 2003 will be having a car wash in front of the high school on the concourse from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 and the city of Somerville's support in their fundraiser would be greatly appreciated.

On Sunday, September 22nd, at the 3rd annual *Spice of Life Festival* in Union Square, students will be selling ads for their yearbook. Prices start at \$10.00 and Ms. Carvalho welcomed everyone to join in at Union Square, support Somerville High School, and celebrate in Somerville's diversity.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. Dr. Argenziano announced two important items in reference to Somerville High School. They are:
 - a. Dropout rate was reduced 1.6% to 3.3%. This is the first time in over a decade that Somerville High School is below the state average.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

- b. Somerville High School MCAS scores for failing seniors were number one in the state for the greatest increase. Presently, 10% of Somerville High School seniors still need to pass the English portion of the MCAS exam and 13% of Somerville High School seniors still need to pass the mathematics portion of the MCAS exam.

Dr. Argenziano stood, with school committee members and the audience following, to give a standing ovation to our high school staff and students. The Superintendent, again, thanked everyone for a job well done.

2. Provided the school committee approved motions from January through June 2002 as well as the official minutes from August to December 2001.
3. A copy of the Reading Intervention Program (RIP) report for January – June 2002 was enclosed.
4. Provided a copy of the Massachusetts Board of Education *Board in Brief* and advised members to take note on the last page as it pertains to the Lincoln Park Community School. On page 4 of 4, under the School Building Assistance section, it states *The Board voted to approve 19 School Building Assistance grants based on the FY03 budget. The Board also approved the SBA cost waivers that have been requested for the Somerville Lincoln Park Community School and the Beverly Centerville Elementary School.* Dr. Argenziano advised that the Department of Education now has an official record, that the project is a 22.8 million dollar project, not a 19.8 million dollar project.
5. A copy of the *General Safety Concerns* letter sent out to all Parents and Guardians was provided to members.
6. Congratulated the Healey School for being our third school included in the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
7. Provided in this week's packet was a memorandum regarding a position for a part-time Title I Family Liaison for each school, approximately six hours per week for 30 weeks. Dr. Argenziano mentioned this would be a nice opportunity for parents to take advantage of.
8. Also provided to members was the Bilingual Education Law.
9. Provided to members was a copy of the Technology Professional Development – Cycle I.
10. The school council minutes from the West Somerville Neighborhood School for the month of September were provided to members.
11. A notice announcing the annual Union Square *Spice of Life Festival* was provided. This takes place on Sunday, September 22nd from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.
12. The Calendar of Events for September and the Somerville Community Schools Program Winter 2002 Catalog is enclosed in this week's packet.

VI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

- 13. Dr. Argenziano advised that he faxed to all the school buildings information he received this afternoon regarding the Walnut Street Bridge being closed to pedestrian traffic on Tuesday afternoon, September 17th.
- 14. Announced that 80 points was scored at our first football game of 48-32 and expressed his congratulations to the football team. Dr. Argenziano also congratulated the soccer, volleyball, swim, and golf teams. Everyone has gotten off to a great start.
- 15. Advised members that he has a deadline (48 hours) to submit delegates to the MASC Convention in Worcester - a delegate and an alternative delegate. If any school committee member would like to attend the convention, which is being held on Wednesday, October 30th, please let Dr. Argenziano know.

VII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *Finance and Facilities Subcommittee:* Ms. Rossetti (Sept. 16)

Subject discussed:

- ✓ No Child Left Behind / Financial Discussion

Ms. Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration gave an update regarding the No Child Left Behind Act; it's implications and what it will mean for our school system for the upcoming year.

- ✓ Approval of Billrolls (FY2002)

Approved motion from subcommittee:

To approve the fiscal year 2002 billrolls, as follows:

Operations Acct., 2002 Approp., Sept. 16	\$ 1,275,245.09
Special Ed. Acct., 2002 Approp., Sept. 16	339,683.27
Athletic Revolving Acct., 2002 Approp., Sept. 16	1,480.11
Auto Body Revolving Acct., 2002 Approp., Sept. 16	713.50
Auto Repair Revolving Acct., 2002 Approp., Sept. 16	6,624.16
Culinary Arts Revolving Acct., 2002 Approp., Sept. 16	6,545.68
DECA School Store Revolving Acct., 2002 Approp., Sept. 16	1,680.00
Night School Acct., 2002 Approp., Sept. 16	523.74
Graphic Arts Revolving Acct., 2002 Approp., Sept. 16	3,352.35
Foodservice Revolving Acct., 2001 Approp., Sept. 16	320,468.41

- ✓ Technology Technical Upgrade (SHS)

This past Thursday evening the Board of Alderman approved bonding for the technology technical upgrading at Somerville High School. The project will begin in October and will take approximately twelve weeks.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for this evening's meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business for this evening's meeting.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Murray

1. On Wednesday, September 18th the Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee will be meeting at 7:00 p.m.
2. On September 17th, the Brown School is having their PTA Spaghetti Supper at 6:00 p.m. at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.
3. There will be a PTA Welcome Back Tea at the Kennedy School on Wednesday, September 18th from 8:00-9:00 a.m.
4. At the last Steering Committee meeting on Friday, September 13th, the new name for Somerville Cares About Prevention was unveiled. The next meeting, under the new name - SCAP, will take place on September 26th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Somerville Public Library.

Mayor Gay

1. Expressed her congratulations to the teachers, students, and parents on the wonderful MCAS results.
2. Also congratulated all of the sports teams, as they are doing very well.
3. Thanked the people of Somerville, the school committee and the children who participated in the remembrance vigil and dedication memorial that took place last Wednesday evening in Davis Square in remembrance of September 11th national tragedy.
4. Reminded everyone that tomorrow, September 17th is Election Day, and asked that people in the city remember to get out and vote.

Ms. Bauer

1. Also reminded everyone to go out and vote on Election Day and to also keep in mind that in doing so you will be setting a good example for our children. A lot of the elementary schools use Election Day as a fundraiser and many have bake sales, so please visit the schools and support their fundraiser.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Ms. Bauer

2. The Cummings School will be holding a book Fair from September 17th through the 20th and on Thursday morning there will be a Kindergarten Tea.
3. At the Cummings School on September 17th, there will be an Instrumental Demonstration (Gr. 5 – 8) at 8:30 a.m. This is a wonderful program to get students interested in playing an instrument. Demonstrations will be held in other elementary schools, as well, during the next week.

Ms. Taylor

1. Reported that discussion at the Somerville Cares About Prevention (SCAP) meeting held last week took place regarding updates over events that have happened for the past couple of months since no meetings were held. There is a parent group, which consists of a small forum of high school parents who have gotten together to distribute and share information about prevention.
2. Announced that the Hockey Tournament organized by high school students was a great success. It was very well run and 400 students took part in this two-day tournament. Ms. Taylor requested that citations be presented at a future school committee meeting, to the three organizing students: Paul McGlashing, Brian Liberatore, and Del Correira.

Ms. Rossetti

1. Reminded parents of the West Somerville Neighborhood School that the Open House is this Wednesday evening, September 18th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
2. Encouraged parents and as many people who can, to attend the Long Range Planning Committee Meeting that is scheduled on Monday, September 23rd, at 7:00 in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers at City Hall.
3. On Thursday, September 26th, the Powder House Community School will be having their PTA from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
4. Mentioned that tickets are still being sold for Somerville High School 150th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Dance. Anyone who is interested may contact Mrs. Ferrari at 617-625-6600, x6010.
5. Reminded the public to exercise their right to go out and vote tomorrow, September 17th Election Day.
6. Encouraged attendance at the Somerville High School football game to be played on Friday night, September 27th.

X. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Ms. Cardoso

1. The first Title I PAC meeting is on Tuesday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Winter Hill Community School in Mrs. Blute's office.
2. On Sunday, September 22nd from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. the third annual Spice of Life Festival will be held. Events include multicultural music and dance, marching bands, craft centers and community outreach tables and much more. The rain date is Sunday, September 29th. The final planning meeting is this Wednesday at the Lincoln Park Community School at 6:00 p.m.
3. On September 19th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Park Community School, a public meeting to discuss the Union Square master plan will be held. Ms. Cardoso encouraged everyone to please attend this very important meeting.
4. The Lincoln Park Community School PTA will have their welcome back social hour for Parents this Friday, September 20th, at 8:00 a.m.
5. Announced that Ward 2 Alderman, Maryann Heuston, has asked Ms. Cardoso to co-host with her on September 30th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., a Ward 2 community meeting. It will be held at the Lincoln Park Community School.

Mr. Sullivan

1. East Somerville Community School PTA Open House will be held on September 23rd from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
2. On September 25th the Edgerly Education Center will have their Open House from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
3. The Jeff Curley Memorial Run will take place at 10:00 a.m. on September 29th. For information you may log on to www.jeffcurley.org. This is a great day for children and all the proceeds go to child safety programs. Mr. Sullivan encouraged everyone to attend.
4. Tomorrow, September 17th is Election Day. This is a very important election and Mr. Sullivan asked that the public please get out and vote.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Argenziano reminded members at the last meeting it was asked to have next week's Long Range Planning of the Whole meeting at the East Somerville Community School. That evening is the school's Open House from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The Board of Alderman's Chambers was available so we will be having the Long Range Planning of the Whole meeting at this location (BOA Chambers) on September 23rd.

XII. PERSONNEL

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

A. Resignations:

1. Amy Boyden, 10 Appleton St., Somerville, MA 02144 (Lead Teacher @ SACC) as of 9/13/02.

SHS

SPED Paraprofessional
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: M. Caprigno (ill)

Peter Mirabile
22 Burnside St.
Medford, MA 02155
Salary: \$12,294

Library Paraprofessional
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: C. Torre (retired)

Donna Alibrandi
224 Willow Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$12,294

LPCS

Portuguese Bilingual Teacher
Effective 9/3/02
Vice: Vasconcellos (Resigned)
* Waiver
Salary: B, Step B = \$32,151

Tania Furtado
301 Lowell St. #32
Somerville, MA 02145

Civil Service

Evaluation Center

Head Clerk
Effective 9/3/02
Promoted from Principal Clerk

Denise DiVasta
10 Cedar St.
Somerville, MA 02143
Salary: \$39,245

Community Schools

Lead Teacher
Effective 9/4/02
Funding Source: 5128

Lauren K. Meehan
26 Cutter Ave. #1
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$15. per hour

Asst. Teacher
Effective 8/27/02
Funding Source: 5128

Ernise Destin
16 Newbury St. #2
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$12.25 per hour

XII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

Lead Teacher Effective 8/27/02 Funding Source: 5128	Cathleen Jamal-Eddine 166 Riverside Ave. Medford, MA 02155 Salary: \$15 per hour
Lead Teacher Effective 8/19/02 Funding Source: 5128	Theresa L. Rodrigues 11 Grant St. Somerville, MA 02145 Salary: \$15 per hour
Asst. Teacher Effective 8/19/02 Funding Source: 5128	Cynthia Finn 166 Riverside Ave. Medford, MA 02155 Salary: \$12.25 per hour
Asst. Teacher Effective 8/27/02 Funding Source: 5128	Leslianne Garziano 4 Elko St. Apt. 7 Brighton, MA 02135 Salary: \$12.25 per hour

XIII. MOMENT OF SILENCE

The superintendent reported with regret the death of the following person. A moment of silence was observed and a letter of sympathy will be sent to the family.

1. Jean M. Boudreau, (Sept. 12), mother-in-law of William Driscoll, Healey School Principal.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Rossetti and Ms. Taylor moved a motion to go into executive session at 8:44 p.m., to discuss an item of possible litigation and the motion was approved by a roll call vote of: Yes—8—Sullivan, Cardoso, Bauer, Harris, Murray, Rossetti, Ms. Taylor, and Alderman White; Absent—1—Gay.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was reconvened from executive session at 9:05 p.m. Chairman Sullivan announced that no votes were taken in executive session. The meeting was immediately adjourned, by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary