

October 7, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Finance 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 6:35 p.m., to discuss Healey/Kennedy School Closeouts by Mr. Dow and Mr. Jones; Edgerly Education Center Update by Mr. Foley and Mr. Sacra.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Mr. Sullivan (arrived 6:50 p.m.), Ms. Bauer, Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Harris (arrived 6:50 p.m.), Ms. Murray, Ms. Rossetti, and Ms. Taylor.

Mayor Gay and Alderman White were absent.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration, Mr. Anthony C. Caliri, Human Resources Manager, Dr. Steven F. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services were also present, along with Mr. David Dow, Commissioner, Department of Public Works, Mr. Tom Jones, Project Manager, Department of Public Works, Mr. Michael Foley, Project Manager, Department of Public Works, Mr. Doug Sacra, Architect, HMFH Architects, Inc., and four members of the audience.

III. EDGERLY EDUCATION CENTER UPDATE – MR. MICHAEL FOLEY/MR. DOUG SACRA

Mr. Foley, Project Manager introduced himself and Mr. Doug Sacra, Architect from HMFH Architects, Inc. A handout was provided to members and Mr. Foley gave a detailed presentation regarding the general progress on the Edgerly School project. Items discussed included the schedule for substantial completion, move in, and school opening date. Mr. Foley informed members that the Edgerly School has received a grant for \$30,000.00 from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to develop environmental curriculum. He also talked about the existing Glen Park having a significant community arts program and plans are to continue this and integrate it into the new school. Mr. Foley also provided members with an update regarding the funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades. In closing, Mr. Foley announced the committee has chosen, officially, the new name of the school building, which will be the Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center. The project completion date is projected for June 30, 2003 and the dedication of the school will be in September 2003. Ms. Rossetti thanked Mr. Foley and Mr. Sacra for coming this evening and for the presentation given.

IV. HEALEY/KENNEDY SCHOOL CLOSEOUTS – MR. DAVID DOW/MR. TOM JONES

Mr. Jones gave an update regarding the Healey and Kennedy School closeouts and items on the punch list complete and incomplete since the last meeting of March 25, 2002. He reported on where the schools stood as far as being turned over to the school system in the city. The department is still working with the contractors on different items remaining on the punch list that still have yet to be completed. Once the items remaining on the punch list are resolved, the schools have to go through an auditing process. When the audit is complete the buildings will become the school system's and the projection for that happening is between eighteen months and two years, for the Kennedy and Healey Schools. Discussion followed and Mr. Dow and Mr. Jones answered questions asked by school committee members. Mr. Jones informed members

IV. HEALEY/KENNEDY SCHOOL CLOSEOUTS (cont.)

he would be sending a letter to the committee shortly, with the listing of completed and incomplete items. Ms. Rossetti thanked the two men for their report this evening.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

October 7, 2002 REGULAR MEETING

October 7, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dennis 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, Ms. Murray, Mayor Gay, Ms. Bauer, Ms. Harris, Ms. Taylor, Alderman White, Ms. Rossetti and Mr. Sullivan.

No one was absent.

III. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

There were no presentations made this evening.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved as follows by voice vote:

September 9, 2002:

- Regular Meeting

September 16, 2002:

- Regular Meeting

September 23, 2002:

- Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student representative Kim Carvalho reported on many pleasant events from the high school this evening. She was proud to announce that the Senior Class was very successful in raising close to \$800.00. from the car wash they had last month. On October 1, 2002, the Somerville High School Varsity Swimming Team defeated Boston Latin. In this victory, there were numerous new Somerville High School records set by Elizabeth Kennedy, Jenelle Sullivan, Katie Harris and Meghan McCauley and Ms. Carvalho extended congratulations to them. Junior Class elections will be held on October 8, 2002 and Ms. Carvalho wished all the candidates good luck when making their speeches and also on the election results. She mentioned this weekend, October 11, 2002 is the 150th Anniversary Celebration of Somerville High School and she and the students are very proud of this. The Somerville Highlanders Homecoming game will be on Saturday, October 12th at 1:30 p.m. at Hormel Stadium in Medford. Also on Saturday, in the evening, the Senior Class will be holding the First Annual Homecoming Dance. The students are every excited to bring this tradition to Somerville High School and hope it is carried on after they graduate.

VI. MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES

MOTION: Mayor Gay made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to suspend the rules from the regular order of business and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Mayor Gay addressed the school committee members and the public concerning an incident that took place on Friday evening, a few weeks ago in Davis Square, which turned out to be a hate crime. She stated unfortunately this issue has been a little bit blown out of proportion to the fact that the Mayor and her staff did nothing about this situation. She stated that she did receive a letter from a Somerville High School student concerning the incidents that took place. She advised, contrary to the comments made, the situation was addressed. She contacted Mr. Galligani and a forum was held at the high school with Somerville Police and Somerville High School Administrators. One of the concerns was that students did not have a teacher, counselor, or an adult they could go to if needed, to speak to about the situation. Lengthy discussion followed with input from school committee members, Ms. Carvalho, Student Representative, Ms. Carrie Pitz, Gay and Lesbian Liaison and Mr. Shenandoah Titus, Human Rights Director.

MOTION: Mayor Gay made a motion, seconded by Alderman White, to have the Superintendent instruct Mr. Thomas F. Galligani, SHS Headmaster to call for an assembly as soon as possible to discuss the policy with students as it relates to hate crime and the motion was approved by voice vote.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Before giving his report Dr. Argenziano also spoke on the subject of the hate crime incident. He expressed that in society in general, there is endemic feeling from kindergarten through adulthood of bullying, taunting, and harassment. This is an issue not only in Somerville, but all over the country. We have zero tolerance on smoking, on drugs, on taunting, on bullying and people violate that. This is not only young people, but also adults. Dr. Argenziano has done a tremendous amount of research on the subject and it is getting worse. Children feel unsafe; no child should feel unsafe, no matter what the age. This is a serious issue and he stated he understands the seriousness of it. The Superintendent advised that one assembly is not going to change a person's feelings. What needs to be done is one on one, two on one sessions and when a child feels taunted or harassed there has to be a person they feel comfortable going to in order to discuss the situation. He expressed that every child has a right to an education and every human being has a right to be treated with dignity and kindness and we will deal with the situation best we can. In closing, Dr. Argenziano asked if there was anyone in the room who felt they would like to help out to please let him know, as we would gladly accept their help.

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. The next Long Range Planning Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2002 in the East Somerville Community School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
2. Provided members with a copy of the Somerville Public Schools July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002 Annual Highlights which is presented in the annual report.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

3. Also enclosed is a copy of the Massachusetts Department of Education Certificate of Achievement proposed for students who do not pass MCAS. Dr. Argenziano advised that this is the open period for public comment. He explained to members that a child who does not pass the MCAS, but takes the GED during the day and passes, this is accepted and in essence, the student would be able to attend UMass Boston.
4. A letter received from Senator Shannon with his response regarding the restoration of funding to the Teachers As Scholars Program is enclosed.
5. A letter from the Department of Education regarding academic support services was provided. Somerville has received \$86,500. for grades 4-8 and \$163,500. for grades 9-12 on MCAS assistance.
6. A draft copy of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Two-Year Progress Report was provided. The finished copy will be provided in this coming week's packet.
7. Also enclosed is the Somerville High School Student/Teacher Ratio form.
8. A letter from Tufts University on the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development that was done on fifth grade Somerville students is provided.
9. Grant Award Notification of \$745,000.00 equal to three consecutive years is enclosed. The bulk of this is for CASPAR Services to our schools.
10. The Somerville Public Schools Calendar Items for the month of October 2002; the annual Halloween letter, and the Family Network Calendar Items are all enclosed.
11. The three-year Agreement between the Somerville School Committee and the Somerville Teachers Association is provided.
12. The Somerville High School *Post High School Planning Guide* put together by the Guidance Office, is enclosed.
13. The month of October is the National Lights-On After-School Month that promotes a public awareness about the importance of after-school programming. Dr. Argenziano informed members he received a resolution honoring National Lights-On After-School Month from Susan Gross, Community Schools Director. It was asked that the school committee vote on and have the Chairperson sign this resolution to be sent to area legislatures as well as the Department of Education to support after-school activities and to make everyone aware that funding is needed.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Murray, to support National Lights-On After-School and that communication be forwarded and the motion was approved by voice vote.
14. Congratulated Ms. Elaine O'Meara on being a recent recipient of a technology grant in the amount of \$5,000.00. and thanked her for her contribution to the Kennedy School.

VIII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *Ed. Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:* Ms. Murray (Sept. 18)

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ Health Survey Results (01-02)
- ✓ 5-Year Library Plan – Presentation
- ✓ MCAS – Gr. 3 Scores
- ✓ Approval of In-Service Courses

Approved motions from subcommittee:

- To accept the Youth Risk Behavior Health Survey (9-12) and to authorize it's distribution.
- To approve the 5-Year Library Plan
- To approve all fifteen (15) In-Service Courses submitted.

B. *Long Range Planning Committee of the Whole:* Mr. Sullivan (Sept. 23)

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ Space Issues for 2003-04
- ✓ Conwell School Discussion

C. *Rules Committee of the Whole:* Ms. Taylor (Sept. 30)

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ Controlled Choice Plan/Pre-School-8
- ✓ No Child Left Behind Act
- ✓ Kindergarten Age Start-Up
- ✓ S.C. Vote on Budget (family members employed by school department)

D. *Personnel Committee of the Whole:* Ms. Harris (Oct. 2)

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ 2002-03 Organization of Staff
- ✓ Breakdown of Minority Hires

E. *Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:* Ms. Rossetti (Oct. 7)

Subjects discussed:

- ✓ Edgerly Education Center Update – Presentation given by Mr. Michael Foley and Mr. Doug Sacra
- ✓ Healey/Kennedy Closeouts – Report given by Mr. David Dow and Mr. Tom Jones

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Edgerly School Parking

Mr. Sullivan reported that teachers at the Edgerly School do not have enough parking. This is a problem that was brought up approximately a year and a half ago when Mr. Sullivan visited the issue, but to no avail. The situation is acute around street cleaning days on Bonair and Otis Streets and teachers are receiving parking violations. He informed school committee members and the public that a meeting is scheduled on October 16, 2002 with Mr. William Lyons, Traffic and Parking Director, Aldermen William Roche and Thomas Taylor, and hopefully the situation will be remedied at that time.

X. 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.

Melissa Rose Buckley	11 Hancock Street	Malden	02148
Cynthia M. Cao	11 Franklin Avenue, #1	Chelsea	02150
Maria L. Castellanos	84 Arlington Avenue	Revere	02150
Rohn A. Cinelli	11 Safford Street	Lynn	01950
Michael Joseph Guinto	2 Elmwood Street, #2	Everett	02149
David Thomas Harris	182 ½ River Street	Waltham	02453
Chris Chika Johns	34 Main Street	Malden	02148
Garret Jerome Nichols	91 Greenwood Avenue	Wakefield	01880
Sananh Singhavong	143 Fourth Avenue	Woonsocket, RI	02895
Sergio Antonio Sol-Robertson	60 Babcock Street	Brookline	02146
Matthew Joseph Squarzoni	23 Parlin Street	Everett	02149

B. SHS Diplomas

Headmaster, Thomas F. Galligani, recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from Somerville High School, be awarded their diplomas. Approved by voice vote.

Kimberly Auciello	Guillermo Cuevas	Dori Tamika Payne
Fritzner Bellevue	Chris Doucette	Josianne Pierre
Adzele Benoit	Bruno Duarte	Janelle Ryan
Vladimer Benoit	Matthew Koury	Pierre Simon
Mirvelyne Bernard	Mark Nixon	Krystal Sousa
Justin Canavan	Flavio Oliveira	Salvador Vaquerano
Manuel Chavez	Melanie Oliveira	Klodian Vlasasi

X. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

C. Citations

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Taylor, to invite the following two people to the November 25, 2002 School Committee meeting to receive citations and the motion was approved by voice vote.

1. Somerville High School Senior, Alexander Huth – Congratulations for recently being named a National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist.
2. Ms. Delia Marshall – for her years of volunteer service at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

D. Massachusetts International Charter School

Ms. Rossetti asked the Superintendent of Schools if he knew when we should expect to hear if the State Board of Education will grant a Charter to Somerville. Dr. Argenziano responded we should hear within the next ninety days. He explained the regulations state you cannot have an International Charter with a population of over 30,000 students and the last time he checked, Somerville did have more than 30,000 students. Because it was in existence for five years the Board changed the regulation for the existing Charter School. It is possible we will hear from the State Board by the latest February or March. Under the regulations, the Board of Education has to notify the communities involved, which there are nine, so all nine Superintendents will be notified.

E. Two-Year Progress Report/New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Ms. Rossetti referred to a draft copy of the NEASC Two-Year Progress report, dated September 26, 2002 that members have received. She asked the Superintendent if Mr. Galligani has submitted a final copy of the two-year report and the Superintendent advised that the final copy, which is a much larger copy, will be in this week's packet.

F. Unz Referendum/Proposition 2

Ms. Taylor informed members she would like to propose that the school committee send a letter to all parents in the Somerville Public Schools informing them of the school committee's opposition to Proposition 2, the Unz anti-bilingual amendment.

MOTION: Ms. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mayor Gay, that the school committee sends a letter to all parents advocating that they are against voting for Proposition 2 on the November 5, 2002 ballot and the motion was approved by voice vote.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Mr. White suggested a friendly amendment to the above motion that before sending the letter, the committee checks with legal counsel as far as how the committee uses school committee funds to try to influence the outcome of the referendum question and the amended motion was approved by voice vote.

X. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

G. Comprehensive Study of School Buildings

Mayor Gay spoke about the fiscal crisis we are going to be faced with this year. This fiscal crisis will affect us in all aspects of city government, especially the schools. She stated, as it pertains to the school system, there are rumors out there that schools are going to be closed. The Mayor feels we should gather a lot of facts and figures prior to making any decisions about the direction we are heading concerning our school system. She suggested having a comprehensive study done of our school buildings and our enrollment projections for the coming year, as major decisions have to be made in the near future.

MOTION: Mayor Gay made a motion, seconded by Ms. Murray, to have a comprehensive assessment of our school buildings and the projected enrollment and our program availability for the coming year and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Lengthy discussion followed. All school committee members gave their input on the subject and voiced their concerns. Some concerns about having an independent, comprehensive study done were: the cost - where the money would come from; if it would be done in a timely fashion; and also if it would interfere with the reconstruction of the Lincoln Park Community School being complete by the deadline in order to receive the 90% reimbursement. Dr. Argenziano answered the many questions that came up concerning the Lincoln Park Community School. Also discussed was the possibility of having the comprehensive study done on all the school buildings, excluding the Lincoln Park Community School. Dr. Argenziano advised that if we are talking about the whole school system, the bid process alone will take us into November, early December and the needs assessment on the Lincoln Park Community School has to be turned in to the state by December 1, 2002. A Long Range Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2002, and the discussion will be on future space and future budget issues, including downsizing some of our facilities, collapsing rental properties, and downsizing our staff while still maintaining a decent class size. The Superintendent informed members that he would present his recommendations that evening.

MOTION: Ms. Cardoso made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, to table discussion of the comprehensive assessment study of our school buildings and the projected enrollment and our program availability for the coming year until the October 23, 2002 Long Range Planning Committee meeting and the motion was approved by voice vote.

XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Rossetti

1. Reminded the public that this coming weekend is the High School's 150th Celebration weekend.
2. Thanked the Kiwanis organization for their recent community service at the Winter Hill Community School and their Bike Safety Day for the community. Also thanked Mrs. Hilliard and the Somerville High School Girls Basketball Team for their time and effort.

XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Ms. Rossetti

3. PTA Full Council meeting, open to all PTA Parents/Guardians and Staff will take place on October 8, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Healey School Library. The topic is Internet Safety.
4. Somerville High School PTSA meeting and teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2002 at 6:30 p.m.
5. The Powder House Community School Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Cardoso

1. Somerville Title I Program Annual Prizeola will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. at the Winter Hill Community School Cafeteria. This Prizeola is to benefit the Ray Izzo Scholarship Fund. For tickets contact Ms. Blute.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items of communication this evening.

XIII. PERSONNEL

School Committee members were notified and accepted the following personnel actions of October 7, 2002 as follows:

A. Retirement

1. Carol Caruso, 16 Bradford Rd., Woburn, MA 01801 (2nd grade Teacher @ ESCS) as of June 30, 2003, (39 Years)
2. Paul Murray, 60 Squire Rd., Winchester, MA 01890 (Building Master @ SHS) as of June 30, 2003, (38 years)

B. Resignation

1. Kenneth Olson, 96 Rogers Ave., Somerville, MA 02144 (Head Baseball Coach) as of September 6, 2002.
2. John Banks, 28 Meyer St., Roslindale, MA 02131 (Paraprofessional @ Evaluation Center) as of September 27, 2002.

C. Maternity Leave of Absence

1. Jacquelyn Donnelly Lawrence, 19 Kelsey Rd., Natick, MA 01760 (ECIP Teacher @ ESCS) beginning January 13, 2003.
2. Linda Pereira, 326 Washington St., Somerville, MA 02143 (Paraprofessional @ LPCS) beginning October 5, 2003 followed by a Family Medical Leave.

XIII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

D. Unpaid Leave of Absence

1. Concetta Grande, 50 Putnam St., Somerville, MA 02145 (Lunch Aide) from September 30 to November 15, 2002.

E. Authorizations

Evaluation Center

SPED Paraprofessional
Effective 9/30/02
Vice: Bailey-Dotson (resigned)

Pamela J. Skindzid-Reyes
48 Bradley St.
Somerville, MA 02145
Salary: \$12,294

ECIP – Edgerly

SPED Paraprofessional
Effective 9/13/02
Vice: New Position (Grant Funded)

Jane E. Ritchie
41 Marshall St.
Somerville, MA 02145
Salary: \$12,294

WHCS

SPED Paraprofessional
Effective 9/12/02
Vice: J. Gould (retired)

Meaghan Ripley
18 Lincoln St.
Stoneham, MA 02180
Salary: \$12,294

Community Schools

Assistant Teacher
Effective 8/21/02
Funding Source: 5128

Greg Anthony Cocca
306 Revere St.
Winthrop, MA 02152
Salary: \$13.50 per hour

Open Door Coordinator
Effective 9/3/02
Funding Source: 2631

Fernanda L. O'Brien
9 Bailey Rd.
Somerville, MA 02145
Salary: \$12.00 per hour

Open Door Instructor
Effective 9/3/02
Funding Source: 2631

Janna M. Perez
46 Marshall St.
Somerville, MA 02145
Salary: \$9.31 per hour

Open Door Instructor
Effective 9/23/02
Funding Source: 2631

Heidi M. Pyle
22 Cottage Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$9.31 per hour

XIII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

Lead Teacher SACC Program Effective 9/4/02 Funding Source: 5128	Karen A. Torres 104 Woodstock St. #3 Somerville, MA 02144 Salary: \$15.00 per hour
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Asst. Teacher SACC Program Effective 9/4/02 Funding Source: 5128	Ekaterina Maher 10 Agassil St., #25 Cambridge, MA 02140 Salary: \$13.50 per hour
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Scale

Part-time Clerical Aide Effective 8/5/02 Vice: C. Williams (resigned)	Pauline Iacopucci 9 Rush St. Somerville, MA 02145 Salary: \$9.23 per hour
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Part-time ESOL Teacher Effective 9/19/02 Vice: A. Basualdo (resigned)	Daniel Doherty 272 Broadway Arlington, MA 02474 Salary: \$24.75 per hour
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Family Network

Playgroup Facilitator Effective 9/30/02 Vice: Arrescurrenaga	Renee Lee 4 Leigh St. Arlington, MA 02474 Salary: \$10,200
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Playgroup Facilitator Effective 9/30/02 Vice: Arrescurrenaga	Nayi Padilla 32 Cutter Ave. Somerville, MA 02144 Salary: \$10,200
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Civil Service (Trans. from Arlington)

Jr. Bldg. Custodian Effective 9/9/02 Vice: Owens (transfer)	Joseph Consolo 23 Wisconsin Ave. Somerville, MA 02145 Salary: \$34,155
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Jr. Bldg. Custodian Effective 9/9/02 Vice: Cole (retired)	William Fitzgerald 39 Electric Ave. Somerville, MA 02145 Salary: \$34,155
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XIII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

Food Services

Provisional Principal Acct. Clerk
Effective 9/25/02
Vice: New Position

Mary G. Kakobyan
102 Willow Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$35,625

Evaluation Center

Senior Clerk 1 (from Civil Service List)
Effective 10/1/02
Vice: Anna Aiello (promoted)

Christine Thompson
74 Ossipee Rd.
Somerville, MA 02144
Salary: \$26,855

The Superintendent acknowledged two staff members who are retiring: Ms. Carol Caruso, with 39 years of service and Mr. Paul Murray, with 38 years of service. Dr. Argenziano thanked them for their service with the Somerville Public Schools and wished them both well in their retirements.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary