

January 30, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER

Rules Management Committee Chairperson, M. Teresa Cardoso, called a Rules Management Committee of the Whole Meeting of the School Committee to order in the conference room at 181 Washington Street at 7:00 p.m., to discuss Guidelines for Use of School Buildings, GPA – Somerville High School, and Non Custodial Parental Regulations.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Gay and Alderman O'Donovan were absent.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration, Mr. Thomas F. Galligani, Headmaster, Mr. Anthony Ciccariello, Vice Headmaster, Mr. Stephen J. O'Leary, Supervisor of Guidance, Somerville High School, were also present along with six members of the audience.

III. GUIDELINES FOR USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Dr. Argenziano provided to members the Somerville Public Schools *Request for Permit to Use a School Building*, which is the form we are currently using, a request from the Assembly of God in Boston, asking to utilize our facility, and a revised *Guidelines For Use Of Public School Buildings*, which if adopted and approved, would be a policy addendum. Ms. Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration asked that Legal Counsel, Attorney Hollender, revise our current form because of the Supreme Court decision. Ms. Ferrari explained any religious organization can use the facility as long as they do not use it for worship and the new guidelines would determine the legality of honoring this request. Brief discussion followed concerning the policy change for the new guidelines.

MOTION: Mr. Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Taylor, to accept the addendum to the Guidelines For Use Of Public School Buildings.

The motion was accepted by voice vote.

IV. NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT REGULATIONS

Dr. Argenziano provided a four-page Somerville Public Schools policy *Notice To The Custodial Parent and Non-Custodial Parent Rights*. He explained to members under the new Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) regulations, regarding the Parent who does not have custody of the child, this non-custodial parent does have access to the students records, report cards, etc. In reviewing these pages the Superintendent explained that these would be the standardized forms available in our buildings, the first two pages would be the policy, the last two, also part of the policy will be the ones available in our school buildings and the Parent Information Center. Ms. Bauer had concerns regarding pages #1 and 3 as follows: Page one, third paragraph, item #1 "A court order that prohibits the non-custodial parents from having contact with your child"; and page three, end paragraph, letter a) "Entitled to unsupervised visitation with the child". Discussion took place. Dr. Argenziano addressed the questions made by Ms. Bauer and other members.

IV. NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT REGULATIONS (cont.)

MOTION: Mr. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Taylor, to table discussion of the notice to *Non-Custodial Parent Has Requested Student Records* until the committee consults with legal counsel.

The motion was accepted by voice vote.

V. GPA – SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

There was very lengthy discussion at tonight's meeting regarding the Grade Point Average of Somerville High School students. Dr. Argenziano provided to school committee members and the audience a handout that included the following:

- Headmaster's Recommendations for a Weighted Grade Point Average (Approved by the Somerville School Committee on April 26, 1999)
- a response from Headmaster Galligani to a question previously asked, concerning extra credit for AP courses
- two Sample Academic Weighted Program tables used in the 1970's – 1980's
- a new recommended GPA Sample Academic Weighted Program table created by Mr. Snow, Dr. Argenziano, Mr. Galligani, Mr. Ciccariello, and Mr. O'Leary
- the calculation GPA table presently used for the Somerville High School Classes of 2001 and 2002
- a sheet with four GPA options created by John Breslin.

With all this information available for review, very lengthy discussion took place. The conversation included topics concerning the weight for each course; a guarantee that the GPA would be calculated equitably for each student and that the calculation table is readily available upon request.

Dr. Argenziano stressed that in fairness, in the program of studies, every single course should have a weight assigned to it. What the committee members asked of the high school administrators, Mr. Galligani, Mr. Ciccariello, and Mr. O'Leary was to present to them a clear, concise explanation of the 1999 policy, plus the current chart used, a comparison to be made of the GPA calculations using the present system to Breslin's Ideal Option for the class of 2004, and finally, a recommendation as to what the new policy should be for the class of 2006.

The Superintendent asked school committee members if Mr. Galligani and his staff could have the month of February as a time limit to gather all the information necessary to present to the school committee at the next Rules Committee meeting. Ms. Cardoso responded this would be fine and the next Rules Management Committee of the Whole meeting will reconvene in early March 2003.

VI. FUNDING PROPOSALS AND APPLICATIONS

MOTION: Ms. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Murray, to accept the added language of policy item DD *Funding Proposals and Applications* in the Policy Manual as follows:

VI. FUNDING PROPOSALS AND APPLICATIONS (cont.)

"Federal funds will supplement, not supplant, state and local funds that in the absence of these funds would be otherwise spent for activities authorized by the federal program. Maintenance of effort compliance will be maintained according to the state and local provision of a free public education."

The motion was accepted by voice vote.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary