

March 10, 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 GPA – Somerville High School, and Sex Offender Notification.

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, 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 four members of the audience.

III. GPA – SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Thomas F. Galligani, Headmaster, Somerville High School outlined for school committee members GPA recommendations for establishing a new GPA policy, beginning with the Class of 2006. The recommendations are as follows:

1. The Somerville High School, Grade Values Chart (provided for school committee and audience members present this evening), will be used to compute GPA.
2. GPA will be calculated for all students and will be given to individual students by guidance counselors upon request.
3. All courses, with the exception of courses designated Pass/Fail in the Program of Studies, will be used to compute GPA.
4. All Special Education courses will be designated as "Skills" courses for the purpose of computing GPA.
5. All courses not designated in the Program of Studies as "Advanced Placement" or "Honors" or "Skills" will be considered "Standard" courses for the purpose of computing GPA.
6. All "Independent Study" courses will be considered "Honors" or "Standard" or "Skills" courses for the purpose of computing GPA.
7. GPA for students who "Transfer" into Somerville High School during their high school career will have their GPA computed after the completion of two semesters (one full school year) within Somerville High School. Courses completed prior to their entrance into Somerville High School will not be used in the computation.

When Mr. Galligani completed his presentation, questions and answers took place between school committee members, high school administrators and the Superintendent of Schools.

III. GPA – SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL (cont.)

Audience members also shared input, ideas and concerns regarding how the GPA calculation is determined.

Ms. Harris had concerns in reference to changing what the present policy is (approved April 1999). She stated tonight's discussion changes it for two classes (2004 and 2005) and then again for a third class (2006). She feels the policy needs to be changed to reflect how it should be implemented for the classes 2004 and 2005. Ms. Bauer expressed it is changing policy but it is not changing implementation. Lengthy discussion followed.

MOTION: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rossetti, that the high school staff write a clear explanation of how GPA is currently computed when it applies to classes of 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 and should be no more than two pages.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Harris made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sullivan to table discussion of recommendations for establishing a new GPA policy, beginning with the Class of 2006, until the next Rules Management Committee meeting.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

IV. SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATION

Dr. Argenziano provided members with a sample copy of a Sex Offender Notification that the Somerville Police Department receives from the Sex Offender Registry Board, a letter from the Police Department explaining the process of posting the notice, what the notification looks like, and a memorandum that is sent to the Principals from Dr. Steven F. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services. Also provided was a listing *Posting Locations by Schools* indicating where the notification is posted in the individual schools. Members shared input regarding the location of the posting. Some were concerned that the flyer would be in the view of younger children and this may frighten them. Dr. Argenziano explained that basically where the notice is posted is left up to the discretion of the individual site and according to the police department notice, the fliers are posted in local city halls, libraries and similar publicly accessible areas. Discussion followed. The Superintendent advised he would notify all Principals to post the Sex Offender Notice information in the school's main office.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning, Dr. Argenziano informed members the next Rules Management Committee Meeting of the Whole is scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Two items on the agenda are C.O.R.I. Requirements and new GPA Policy at Somerville High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary