

April 7, 2003

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Finance Chairperson, Katrina Murray, 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 the FY04 budget and for an update on school facilities by Mr. Robert Ciampi.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present were Ms. Cardoso (arrived 6:40 p.m.), Ms. Harris, Ms. Bauer, Mr. Sullivan (arrived 6:42 p.m.), 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. Anthony C. Caliri, Human Resources Manager, and Dr. Steven F. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services were also present, along with approximately eight members of the audience.

**III. Update on School Facilities – Mr. Robert Ciampi**

Mr. Ciampi provided information sheets relative to work orders for the 2002–2003 school year to members of the school committee. There were three lists, 1) work orders that are incomplete, 2) work orders that have been reported but are delayed due to the current budget constraints of the Department of Public Works, and 3) work orders that are complete. The committee reviewed the information and Mr. Ciampi answered questions asked by the members.

In response to Ms. Harris' question whether or not the school principals receive the work order lists before the school committee members do, Mr. Ciampi explained he gives an update to the committee first and then the information is sent to the Principals. Discussion followed. The process will change. The work orders listing the job status will go to the Principals first and then Mr. Ciampi will report back to the committee with an update, possibly with feedback from the Principals.

**IV. FY04 Budget Discussion**

Before discussing the budget, Dr. Argenziano informed members he received an email from Mr. David Driscoll, Commissioner of Education, regarding FY03 Applications for School Building Capital Construction Grants. He distributed and reviewed each page of the document with members. As explained in the document, the school buildings assistance program has received sixty three applications for capital construction grants and there are more than 300 projects already on the waiting list. Of these 300 projects presented to the Department of Education, twenty eight communities have been listed as receiving preliminary approval, of which Somerville is one. These cities had the most pressing projects and were considered approvable and fundable. Dr. Argenziano informed members that the deadline for the paperwork to be submitted has been extended to August 29, 2003 instead of June 1, 2003, for the listed twenty eight communities. As stated in the letter, if a completed application is submitted and all current program requirements are met by that date, the project will receive final approval and will be placed on the waiting list. Dr. Argenziano emphasized the importance of acting on the Lincoln Park Community School project by August 29<sup>th</sup>, if not, and the Governor's moratorium takes effect, then the project will not be done. He stated this is a final opportunity, and as already

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mentioned, only the twenty eight communities listed will be guaranteed funding. Discussion followed and the Superintendent answered questions asked by committee members.

FY04 Budget Discussion

Ms. Murray asked the Superintendent if there was an update regarding the FY04 budget. Dr. Argenziano responded there is no update at this time because as the committee is aware, a bottom line budget figure has not been received. At the last Finance and Facilities Committee meeting, the administration presented to the school committee a level funded budget at \$50,200,000. Ms. Murray discussed the possibility of the committee making an official request to the city requesting a higher amount for the bottom line figure. Discussion followed. Members shared their views and concerns. Dr. Argenziano let the members know that, tentatively for April 23<sup>rd</sup> or April 24<sup>th</sup>, the city should be receiving information from the joint Senate and House on a figure. If this happens, it is possible there will be more information to report at the next Finance and Facilities Committee meeting the last week in April. Ms. Taylor requested the Superintendent prepare an organization with cuts already factored in, and what is needed to run the school system. She would like to get the organization out to the public so the committee can show people what kind of reductions they've been talking about in terms of staff. Dr. Argenziano will prepare a draft of an organization at \$50,200,000. for the committee to look at during the April 28<sup>th</sup> Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. It will list the reductions that Administration is making in their teaching staff, paraprofessionals, bilingual and special education administration.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano  
Secretary