

April 14, 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 7:16 p.m., to discuss C.O.R.I. regulations, GPA – Somerville High School, Acceptable Use Policy – Electronic Communication System/Network, and Non-Custodial Parents Rights Access to Student Records.

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, Somerville High School, were also present along with four members of the audience.

III. GPA Calculations - Somerville High School

Mr. Thomas Galligani, Somerville High School Headmaster, presented to school committee members an explanation of the implementation of the current Headmaster's Recommendations for a Weighted Grade Point Average. He advised this implementation will be utilized for calculating GPA for the graduating classes of 2004 and 2005 if the approved (April 26, 1999) policy is kept in place. He provided the lists of courses that were used for calculating GPA and outlined each section. Lengthy discussion followed. Committee members, along with the Superintendent of Schools shared input and ideas, which centered around finding the most clear, concise explanation of how a student's GPA is calculated.

Conversation took place on the subject of amending the current policy using recommendations that will be applied to the GPA for the classes of 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. To the amended policy, two lists would be attached, 1) an authorized list of courses and 2) a grid that will assist students in determining their class rank.

Mr. Galligani also discussed recommendations with regard to establishing a new GPA policy, beginning with the Class of 2006.

MOTION: Ms. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris, to amend the April 26, 1999 Headmaster's Recommendations for a Weighted Grade Point Average policy, for the classes of 2002 through 2005. The motion was approved by voice vote.

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harris, to accept the Grade Point Average recommendations beginning with the class of 2006 as noted in the March 25, 2003 memorandum received from Mr. Thomas Galligani, Somerville High School Headmaster. Discussion followed.

III. GPA Calculations - Somerville High School (cont.)

Clarification was made to recommendation #6, concerning Independent Study courses. The following sentence was added to this recommendation: All Independent Study courses will need approval of the high school Headmaster.

Friendly Amendment: Ms. Bauer made a friendly amendment, to remove recommendation #6 from the policy. Following discussion, Ms. Bauer withdrew the friendly amendment.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

The new GPA policies will be put in the Somerville High School Students Handbook, and the Parent Guardian and Colleague Guides.

IV. Adoption of Criminal Offender Record Information (C.O.R.I.) Regulations

School Committee members reviewed a memorandum received from Ms. Mary Jo Hollender, Legal Counsel, regarding Criminal Offender Record Information for School Volunteers. Chapter 385, entitled An Act Further Protecting Children, was enacted in November 2002 and became effective on February 25, 2003. To implement this new law, a policy has to be developed relative to CORI checks for current and prospective school volunteers. Discussion followed regarding the requirements and procedures the school district would need to follow. One concern the committee discussed was a volunteer having contact with a child when no other CORI-cleared employee of the school district is present. As explained in the memorandum, it is recommended that the policy on CORI checks for volunteers authorize the Superintendent of Schools to determine whether a volunteer has the potential for direct and unmonitored contact with children and, therefore requires CORI clearance, in those cases not specifically foreseen and covered by the policy. Dr. Argenziano went over the information with members, answered questions and addressed any concerns they had.

MOTION: Ms. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to adopt the Criminal Offender Record Information for School Volunteers policy, as recommended by counsel, and when there is a question regarding direct or unmonitored contact with students, the Superintendent of Schools would determine whether a CORI is needed or not. The motion was approved by voice vote.

V. Adoption of Somerville Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy

Dr. Argenziano informed the committee that Ms. Mary Jo Hollender, Legal Counsel, with input from the staff of the Somerville Public Schools Technology Department, developed an Electronic Communication System/Network Acceptable Use Policy for Somerville Public Schools Staff. Dr. Argenziano reviewed the policy with members, as outlined. Discussion followed. One change was made. The wording on page 2, paragraph #6 (Employees should avoid sending documents.....) will read: Employees *shall not send* documents or information containing confidential or sensitive material, such as student record and personnel information, via the system/network, due to concerns relating to the security of such documents or information.

V. Adoption of Somerville Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy (cont.)

MOTION: Ms. Rossetti made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bauer to accept the Electronic Communication System/Network Acceptable Use Policy, as amended.
The motion was approved by voice vote.

VI. Non-Custodial Parent Access to Student Records

No change was made to the Non-Custodial Parents Rights document.

MOTION: Ms. Bauer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Murray, that the committee accepts the Non-Custodial Parents Rights policy that was originally sent by Massachusetts Association of School Committees. The motion was approved by voice vote.

All five policies discussed at this evening's meeting will be printed and added to the Somerville Public Schools Policy Manual.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary