



School Committee Meeting Materials

**Regular School
Committee Meeting
Additional Materials**

May 1, 2017

7:00pm

To: Salem School Committee

From: Margarita Ruiz

Date: May 16, 2016

Re: School Choice

The purpose for this memo is to outline my recommendation regarding Salem Public Schools becoming a School Choice district for the 2016-2017 school year.

The vote to become a Choice District was tabled during the School Committee, which was held on May 2nd. Before I state my recommendation, I would like to add a series of important facts that will be important for us to consider in the decision to become a Choice District.

- School Committee can determine choice for any grade level, school, cap on enrollment, etc. based on the district's capacity or interests. Becoming a Choice District could pose a very interesting option for increasing our declining enrollment, especially at the high school.
- Currently DESE has not had a situation where a district with an intra-district student assignment policy becomes a receiving choice district. Salem Public Schools would have to do an in-depth analysis of how this would work if we included elementary students in terms of alignment to our student assignment policy.
- The fundamental principle that is enforced by law is that students enrolling from out of district must have the same access to programs and offerings/educational opportunities as resident students. That said, there may be some limitations with respect to Vocational programs. When we contacted DESE we learned that recent regulation changes suggested that districts with Vocational programs would need to serve home students first before serving others. Another issue might be in terms of having students do their "exploratory" in their home district. This is also new requirement in the new Vocational regulation, which would have an impact in our ability to receive students for the Vocational program at SHS.
- A key decision point would be whether or not we'd set a cap on enrollment of out of district students or just be open. If open (no cap) we would just enroll students in the same way that we do all Salem Students whenever they would apply (at any point in the year). If we set a cap, we would take in applications, hold onto them until the date we would set a lottery. Let's say the cap was 50 students, if more than 50 students apply we'd hold a lottery and register those who got in via lottery. If less than 50 applied we'd just enroll all of them and continue enrolling throughout the year until we reached the cap.

- We could limit choice to just Salem High School and pursue any out of district tuition-based students for New Liberty per the Innovation Plan as it is written. We could have two separate avenues of bringing in students from other districts, at the high school level, if that were pursued in that manner.

The question of becoming a Choice District can offer Salem Public Schools an opportunity to increase our enrollment, to strengthen our programs, and to be very strategic in our approach. However, considering out of district choice for the elementary and middle school grades would require a deep analysis of how an out of district choice program would impact our internal choice student assignment policy.

Considering our high school grades for out of district choice could help our declining enrollment at the high school, but the question regarding the new Vocational education regulations and their impact on choice students would need to be deeply explored. We are launching our strategic planning process, of which the future of high school education is one of the areas that will be discussed and planned for as part of the process. Becoming a Choice District in the high school grades is a question that would be important to consider as we discuss the future of high school education in Salem Public Schools.

I am very open to considering Salem Public Schools as a Choice District as long as we have the opportunity to research and analyze the implications for our high school, and possibly, our elementary and middle grades for the year following the SY 16-17. Therefore, I am recommending that Salem Public Schools do not become a Choice District in the school year 2016-2107 with a strong commitment to research and consider Salem Public Schools becoming a Choice District in whatever capacity we determine makes sense for our needs, for the school year 2017-2018.

Salem Public Schools
FY17 Contracted Services Expenditures

Description	Amount
Achievement Network	128,000.00
AESOP	9,359.20
ALICE Training	11,450.00
Aspen Implementation/Support	20,542.00
Athletic Officials	31,720.00
Athletics - Contract Transportation	8,490.00
Bowditch - Learning A Z	879.60
Bowditch - Liveschool Inc	2,475.00
Bowditch - Project Adventure	1,000.00
Bowditch - YMCA	30,000.00
Carlton - The Farm School	980.00
Collins - Transportation	325.00
DARE Program	3,500.00
Eagle Tribune - School Committee Meeting Posting	163.80
ELL - Ellevation	7,650.00
ELL - Summer Program	10,050.00
ELL - Supplies	29,471.86
ELL - Transportation	220.00
ELL - WIDA Products	3,346.01
Fingerprint Reimbursement	160.00
Health Master, Inc.	10,500.00
Horace Mann Parking	3,600.00
Insurance	539.00
Interim Business Manager	15,823.25
Medical Consultant (Doctor)	10,000.00
NLIS - Explore Learning	875.00
NLIS - Field Trip	460.00
NLIS - Graphic Design	3,856.60
NLIS - MBTA	750.00
NLIS - Parking	500.00
NLIS - Professional Development	80.00
NLIS - Professional Puppet	675.00
NLIS - RAD Systems	75.00
NLIS - Software Support	70.00
NLIS - Transportation	400.00
NLIS - Website Support	342.00
North Shore Medical (BLS Instructor)	50.00
Postage Lease	4,737.80
PPS - Confidence Connection	450.00
PPS - ESPED.com	91,236.00
PPS - Field Trip	350.00
PPS - Focus Training, Inc.	2,500.00
PPS - Landmark School	93,000.00
PPS - Legal Services	60,000.00
PPS - May Institute	20,475.00
PPS - McLean Hospital	4,385.00
PPS - Melmark New England	15,000.00
PPS - New England Center for Children	14,000.00
PPS - PESI Healthcare	297.00
PPS - Professional Development	5,500.00
PPS - Shaugnessy Kaplan	120.00
PPS - Tutoring	16,000.00

Mr. James M. Fleming
Ms. Deborah Amaral
Ms. Mary A. Manning



Mr. Patrick Schultz
Dr. Brendan R. Walsh
Ms. Kristine Wilson

Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Chair

May 2, 2017

At the Regular Salem School Committee meeting held Monday, May 1, 2017 the School Committee approved the following budget transfers FY17-17, FY17-18, FY17-19, and FY17-20 recommended by the School Business Administrator, Kristin Shaver. She explained that Central Office has requested that the fund be transferred in order to align the funds with the intended expense as follows:

Account Description/Use	Account Number	Amount To	Amount From
Horace Mann Laboratory School			
Textbooks	13570621-5511		\$1,500
Instructional Supplies	13570621-5514	\$1,500	

Dr. Walsh moved to approve the Horace Mann Laboratory School budget transfer request. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Pupil Personnel Services Department			
Equipment	13640161-5860		\$2,000
Office Supplies	13640161-5421	\$2,000	

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the Pupil Personnel Services Department budget transfer request. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Teaching and Learning Department			
Stipends	13990160-5150		\$34,000
Instructional Supplies	13570141-5421	\$34,000	

Ms. Amaral moved to approve the Teaching and Learning Department budget transfer request. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Buildings and Grounds Department			
Electricity	13530121-5211		\$20,000
Gas	13530151-5215		\$100,000
Building Maintenance	13530121-5241	\$120,000	

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the Buildings and Grounds Department budget transfer request. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted by:

Angelica Alayon, Secretary to the
Salem School Committee