

Salem School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 15, 2017

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:10 p.m. in the School Committee Chambers at Collins Middle School, 29 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA.

**Members Present:** Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Dr. Brendan R. Walsh, Ms. Mary Manning, Mr. James Fleming, Mr. Patrick Schultz, Ms. Kristine Wilson, and Ms. Deborah Amaral

**Members Absent:** None

Others Present: Margarita Ruiz, Superintendent, Kate Carbone, Assistant Superintendent, Margaret Marotta, Assistant Superintendent, Kristin Shaver, Business Manager, Kelley Rice, Chief of Communications and Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Patrick Schultz called the Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting of the Salem School Committee to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Discussion on Salem's Participation in the Inter-District School Choice Program for 2017-18**

Jill Conrad began the discussion, and informed members, on School Choice. Members discussed questions and issues of the Inter-District School Choice this evening. Dr. Walsh asked what is the current principal on cost at Salem High School. Mary Manning asked if they had to answer to the state on cost per pupil. Ms. Conrad said they would find out and provide that information thereafter. Ms. Conrad continued informing members on the School Choice Program. There were questions pertaining to tuition reimbursement per student. Ms. Marotta provided detailed information of how the program works. Mr. Fleming asked of the reasons that may deter students from enrolling. Ms. Conrad said students are welcomed to enroll until the cap of 20 9<sup>th</sup> Graders have been reached. Further applicants would be turned down. Ms. Marotta gave a brief explanation on how this would be processed. Mr. Schultz inquired about felonies on a student record as to whether a student may be accepted, despite their background when there is availability. Ms. Marotta and Ms. Conrad said that records follow after enrollment process has taken place; they would not be aware of the students' record until after they have joined. Ms. Conrad said they can review disciplinary records after they have enrolled a student. Superintendent Ruiz clarified on the parallel to resident students and the School Choice Program students. It is the same process for both. The only difference is that they hold the lottery (because they only have 26 seats for Choice-In). They have 30 students and need to hold the lottery. Students become part of the Salem Public Schools once they are in the School Choice program – whether they reside in Salem or not. Members discussed the topic further.

Ms. Conrad commented that students are randomly selected. They cannot apply any selection criteria to that selection process. Mr. Fleming asked if anyone has ever surveyed the 92 students who went to another school. Ms. Conrad said that they have not done a specific survey targeting those students but that they have done a general survey through the strategic planning process. Discussion also included the choice making process and its document update.

Dr. Walsh and Mayor Driscoll agreed on the Superintendent's recommendation that 20 is the ideal number of enrollment for students to begin with.

Dr. Walsh motioned to approve the Superintendent's Recommendation. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **Discussion on Policy 6406 Voting Method – Tabled from 5/15/2017**

School Committee members discussed Policy 6406 Voting Method. Mayor Driscoll said that mayor changes in policy should require 4 members. Currently, the requirement is 4 votes. She clarified to put in place a rule that says that if we are voting on a matter and someone refuses or abstains that it would be counted as majority. Mr. Fleming suggested they look into their Massachusetts Association of School Committees. Mayor Driscoll said to leave the language as is.

The policy remains tabled.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole (COW) School Committee this evening. Dr. Walsh entertained the motion to adjourn. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Angelica Alayon, Secretary  
Salem School Committee

#### **Meeting Materials**

Superintendent School Choice Memo  
School Choice Draft 5/2011  
Policy 6406 Voting Method