

Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 5, 2016

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Chambers at Collins Middle School, 29 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA.

Members Present, Dr. Brendan Walsh, Deborah Amaral, Ms. Mary Manning, Patrick Schultz, Kristine Wilson.

Members Absent: Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Mr. James Fleming

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

Call to Order

Dr. Walsh called the Regular Meeting of the Salem School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Wilson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2016 Regular School Committee meeting as amended. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Action Items

Deliberation and Vote on the Bentley Academy Accountability Plan

Marlena Alfonso, Principal of Bentley Academy Charter School, gave a brief highlight of the Bentley Accountability Plan, a plan that will be submitted to the Department of Education, and answered questions from School Committee members. A copy of that plan was included in the evening's packet.

Discussion

Ms. Wilson sought clarification as she is on the board. She asked if she needs to recuse herself. Dr. Walsh voted in favor of the accountability plan, Ms. Wilson recused.

Ms. Amaral motioned to approve the Bentley Accountability Plan. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Superintendent Report – Margarita Ruiz

Superintendent Margarita Ruiz reported that she attended the Tri M International Music Honor Society for middle/junior high school students where 25 Seniors and juniors from the Salem High School were recognized for their academic and musical achievements, were rewarded for their accomplishments and service activities, and to inspire other students to excel at music and leadership. The district's strong music program begins in our elementary schools is one of the key programs that make our district unique and valued by students interested in college and careers in the arts.

The Carlton Innovation School has been invited to apply for the 2017 Pozen Prize for Innovative Schools sponsored by the Boston Foundation.

The Pozen Prize is intended to recognize and award innovative school models and practices that boost students' achievement. Carlton is one of only five schools in Greater Boston invited to apply this year! If selected, Carlton will receive an \$80,000 prize. Congratulations to everyone at Carlton for this prestigious recognition!

Progress on District-Wide Initiatives Strategic Planning – Citywide Conversation – Superintendent Margarita Ruiz thanked all of the parents, teachers, students, business and civic leaders who attended the first Citywide Conversation on the district's strategic plan. Their ideas and feedback is vital to helping to craft a strategic plan that is reflective of the community we serve as a whole and includes a shared vision of all community stakeholders. Ms. Ruiz took a minute to present a high-level overview of the remainder of the strategic planning process. You'll notice that we are extending the timeline for the process largely to allow for thorough engagement of the community – something that is critical to the success of the plan. We've separated out the two work streams of plan development and community engagement in this slide, but it should be noted that the two work streams are tightly linked and each will feed into the other. On the plan development side, Work Team meetings for each of the six levers will be continuing through January and February, with a focus on data gathering, conducting site visits and synthesizing their work and findings including the ideas and feedback from the first Citywide Conversation into a set of recommended strategies and tactics.

The Steering Committee will be meeting in January to discuss the mission, vision, and values of SPS, with an additional meeting in February to review the Work Team recommendations and likely a meeting in March/April as well to review the first draft of the plan. A first draft will be complete in March, just prior to the second Citywide Conversation. The second draft will be ready in April, and the plan will go to the School Committee for ratification in May.

On the community engagement side, there will be a community conversation (much like the November Citywide Conversation but conducted primarily in Spanish) sponsored by the Latino Leadership Coalition in January, as well as a second Citywide Conversation in March. We will also obtain input from the community in a variety of the other ways such as a community survey, focus groups, etc. As she mentioned, the

output from all of these community touch points will be integrated into the plan. We are currently synthesizing the materials from last week's Citywide Conversation, and we plan to report back to the community after the winter break.

Finally, we are planning to build a page on the Salem Public School website that will be devoted to the Strategic Planning Process.

The Kindergarten Info and Expo night is scheduled for January 10th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Kate Carbone will provide a bit more on this fun and informative showcase on our schools. This Friday, we will be issuing our new standards-based report cards to children in grades K-8. Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone reported on the Kindergarten Information night.

Standards Based Report Cards

Ms. Ruiz reported that this Friday, we will be issuing our new standards-based report cards to children in grades K-8. She had asked Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone to provide more information about this important change.

Ms. Ruiz looks forward to see the hundreds of people throughout Greater Salem who support our students at the annual Salem's Children Charity event that will held on Tuesday, December 13th at 5 p.m. at Victoria Station.

On behalf of the scholars, she thanked everyone who attended, provide auction items and volunteer at this event that generates vital resources for students in need.

Presentations and Reports

Marlena Alfonzo, Head of School for the Bentley Academy Charter School, made a presentation to the School Committee on the Bentley School Accountability Plan

Finance Report

a. Approval of Warrants

November 3, 2016 in the amount of \$277,243.78

November 23, 2016 in the amount of \$394,999.67

December 1, 2016 in the amount of \$371,213.13

Dr. Walsh moved to approve the warrants as stated. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

b. Budget Transfer Requests FY17

There were no Budget Transfer Request this evening.

Subcommittee Reports

Policy Subcommittee

- a. Deliberation and Vote on the Second Reading of the Recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee on the revisions to the following policies in the 6000 policy series:

Ms. Amaral requested that the policies remain tabled as the Assistant City Solicitor is reviewing them.

- b. Ms. Amaral moved to approve the third and final reading of the following policy revisions recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

1103	Distribution of Notices
1105	Media Relations/News Releases
1301	Gifts and Contributions to Schools
1302	Gifts to Students
1305	Gifts to School Personnel – Recommend Deletion
1404	Department of Transitional Assistance
1507.01	Public Complaints
1507.02	Public Complaints About School Personnel
1800	Political Activities of Teachers – Recommend Deletion
1800	Adult Education Policy – re-numbered from 1900 to 1800

- c. Deliberation and Vote on the First Reading of the Recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee on revisions to the following policies in the 2000 policy series

2102	Administration
2105	Evaluation of Superintendent
2107	Policy Decisions in Absence of Policy Subcommittee
2108	Publication of School Committee Rules and Regulations
2111	Annual Report – Delete
2201	Business Manager Compensation
2203	Secretary to School Committee
2400	Code of Ethics Administrators

Dr. Walsh moved approval of the first reading of the policies listed. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Amaral reported that the Policy Subcommittee has completed its review of the 1000 policy series and will be presenting some policies for revision and will be starting

the review of the 2000 policy series. The next meeting of the Policy Subcommittee will be on January 5, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

There were no concerns or resolutions from the School Committee

Questions and Comments from the Audience

There were no questions or comments from the audience

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the School Committee this evening.

Ms. Manning moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Angelica Alayon, Secretary
Salem School Committee

Meeting Materials and Reports

School Committee Agenda December 5, 2016
School Committee Minutes November 21, 2016
1000 and 2000 Policy Revisions Recommended
Bentley Accountability Report