

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2023**

On April 24, 2023 the Salem School Committee held its regular School Committee meeting at 7:00 PM using a hybrid model.

Members Present: Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy, Ms. Mary Manning, Ms. Amanda Campbell, Ms. Beth Anne Cornell, and Dr. Kristin Pangallo

Members Absent: Mr. Manny Cruz

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Stephen Zrike, Deputy Superintendent Kate Carbone, Assistant Superintendent Elizabeth Pauley, Ms. Ellen Wingard, Mr. Marc LeBlanc, Ms. Linda Farinelli

Call of Meeting to Order

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy calls the meeting to order at 7:06pm and requests a call of attendance. He explained the Public Participation Policy 6409 and also explained the availability of Spanish interpretation.

Attendance

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy recognizes the attendance with members absent and joining virtually.

Ms. Campbell	Present
Ms. Cornell	Present
Ms. Manning	Present
Dr. Pangallo	Present
Mr. Cruz	Not Present
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Present

Approval of Agenda

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Pangallo motions and seconded by Ms. Cornell.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes

Motion carries 5-0

Approval of Consent Agenda

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Manning motions and seconded by Ms. Cornell.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes
Motion carries 5-0	

Public Comment

The School Committee Secretary announced that there were no public comments.

Student Showcase - Early Childhood Center

Ms. White notes her students start their school day by bringing their songs along. Ms. White leads a performance led by students that attend the Early Childhood Center.

Ms. Leanne Smith begins the presentation by noting what a typical day looks like at the Early Childhood Center. There is a welcome, breakfast, morning meeting, story time, and specialist enrichment centers. Every student has a literacy focus lesson and takes part in literacy activities. Another component of literacy is phonics and phonemic awareness. Both of these skills are a big part of the readiness of students beginning to learn how to read. Each day students engage in a math focus lesson and participate in math centers. Students learn about 3 dimensional shapes and patterns and compare heights of towers.

Science is also a part of the daily curriculum. Students are planting and growing right now. Students are also learning about how angles have an effect. Dramatic Play Center is an activity that supports creativity, imagination, self expression and the development of social skills. Students are provided the opportunity to increase their expressive language skills while incorporating new vocabulary. Sensory exploration often involves touching, pouring, and moving actions. This also helps with fine motor skills as well. Specialist enrichment is students traveling to different classrooms consisting of PE, art, music, and science. More than 50% of our ECC students receive services like speech, OT and PT. This year there is a PTO that has started. This has given the ECC to plan a lot of family events.

Superintendent's Report

a. Moms Demand Action Resolution

Dr. Zrike notes he would like to take an agenda item out of order. Ms. Heather Wilks-Jones and Ms. Nicole Ryan begins the presentation. Proposal to the full School Committee to raise awareness about secure firearm storage and MA secure storage laws to reduce preventable gun violence. Ms. Wilks-Jones notes firearms are now the leading cause of death for children and teens in the U.S. Multiple causes and multiple solutions that have many solutions. Raising public awareness about secure firearm storage is one of the solutions. Secure storage practices are codified in our MA State laws. Schools should also proactively raise awareness. Schools care

about and have vested interest in all aspects of student safety. Raising awareness about the life-saving effects of secure firearm storage should be included in student safety. The “ask” to the full committee is to update the Student Handbook, create appropriate communication and legal obligations consistent with MA law. Please adopt a secure storage resolution and notify the school community.

Dr. Pangallo asks if there are resources available on how to secure firearms safely.

The BeSmart program is geared to parents and is a great resource on how to properly store the firearm.

Ms. Manning notes the Salem Fire department may want to partner in as well as the Boys and Girls club down the road.

Ms. Campbell notes to the School Committee secretary that on the next SC agenda this resolution should require action to deliberate and vote on this resolution. There is no subcommittee that needs to review this resolution. It just needs to go on the future School Committee agenda to vote on.

b. Reimagining middle school discussion

Ms. Laura Tavares begins a presentation reimagining the middle school experience. There is work to be done on what students experience during these critical years.

Dr. Zrike notes the feedback from students, parents, and teachers has helped to adjust the need for middle school experiences.

Ms. Chelsea Banks notes the public engagement process. Brainstorm and design input, inclusive engagement, and synthesis and feedback. Student feedback received had been noted by the end of middle school. I hope I will be the best version of myself, not care what other people think, and make an impact on others’ lives. Students have also said that to be ready for high school, I need to pay attention at school, study hard and try my best, and have better confidence. A portrait of a middle school graduate is reviewed. It notes the middle school student is powered by relationships, trust, and a sense of belonging. Identifying skills and mindsets to empower me to navigate my learning, chart my course, and engage with my community, to reach my academic and life potential.

Ms. Banks also notes that the middle school pilot would be expanded to serve both 7th and 8th grades, grow the team to five teachers, and collaborate closely with middle school leadership to ensure all students have access to “tastes” of what we believe is working.

Ms. Laura Taveres notes the next steps are working with educators and students to unpack, define, and prioritize elements of the Portrait at each school. Establishing clear measures to track progress. Map the work from 5th and 6th grade to 8th grade, for example how do we

establish the foundation and build upon it over the course of middle school.

Jenni Espinal, Family Engagement Facilitator at Saltonstall, notes we are continuing to administer the survey to all families. It is important to connect with families and make sure their voices are heard.

Ms. Cornell notes what bridgework you may be thinking about connecting with elementary schools and continuation of empowerment.

Ms. Banks notes there were elementary families as a part of the processes.

Dr. Zrike notes by 4th and 5th grade we begin to see disengagement. There is a lot to be learned from elementary school and students are looking for more independence and see the connection. Students want to have more voice in their experience. Finding the right balance to take steps into being more independent adults.

Ms. Campbell asks about students experiencing multiple languages.

Ms. Banks notes she is collaborating with Mr. Softic to offer multiple languages for students in the pilot.

Dr. Zrike notes, in closing, backing CTE classes here in the middle school for 7th and 8th graders. Also, May 1st is the kickoff of the official building projects. Creation of a building committee and accessing the funds for feasibility study.

Student Representative Report

none

Old Business

none

New Business

- a. Deliberation and vote on approval of Arbor Day tree plantings

Dr. Pangallo makes a motion to approve and Ms. Campbell seconded.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
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Ms. Cornell	Yes
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Ms. Manning	Yes
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Dr. Pangallo	Yes
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Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes
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Motion carries 5-0

- b. Deliberation and vote on approval to declare (7) vision screening machines as surplus and to donate to NH schools

Ms. Campbell makes a motion to approve and Ms. Cornell seconded.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes
Motion carries 5-0	

Finance Report

- a. Teaching & Learning Transfer
- b. Special Education transfer for Transportation Costs

Ms. Pauley notes she has two transfer requests. The first transfer is to buy instructional supplies in FY24. The second transfer is moving out of district line to in district transportation costs.

Ms. Campbell motions to approve both transfers listed on the agenda and Ms. Manning seconded.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes
Motion carries 5-0	

Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policies for third reading:
 - Policy 1700 - School Parent Associations - no substantial changes
 - Policy 1701 - Parent Involvement - for deletion

Ms. Cornell motions Policy 1701 and seconded by Ms. Campbell.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes
Motion carries 5-0	

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Ms. Manning notes the Arbor Day Tree planting begins at 8:15am. The entire 6th grade is involved as well.

Dr. Pangallo notes at the last Curriculum subcommittee meeting we discussed the Math accelerated program and the PreAP program. There are plans to update the full School Committee members at a future meeting.

Dr. Zrike notes next Monday there is no School Committee meeting. The School Committee meeting will be rescheduled to May 4th, 2023 and to also discuss the initial budget.

Ms. Campbell moved to adjourn and Ms. Cornell seconded.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes
Motion carries 5-0	

Adjournment

Motion carries 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Krista Perry

Executive Administrative Assistant to the School Committee & Superintendent