

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2021**

On April 26, 2021 the Salem School Committee held its regular School Committee meeting at 7:00 PM using the Zoom platform.

Members Present: Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Ms. Mary Manning, Ms. Amanda Campbell, Dr. Kristin Pangallo, and Ms. Ana Nuncio

Members Absent: Mr. James Fleming and Mr. Manny Cruz

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Stephen Zrike, Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone, Assistant Superintendent Mary DeLai, Chelsea Banks, Liz Polay-Wettengel, Deb Connerty, and Duncan Mayer. In addition, school building administrators and department heads were present.

Call of Meeting to Order

Mayor Driscoll called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Mayor Driscoll read the new Public Participation Policy 6409 and also explained the request for Spanish interpretation for participation.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve the Regular Agenda. Ms. Manning motioned and Ms. Nuncio seconded. The Mayor called a roll call vote.

Ms. Manning Yes

Dr. Pangallo Yes

Ms. Nuncio Yes

Ms. Campbell Yes

Mayor Driscoll Yes

Motion carries 5-0

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Manning motioned and Ms. Nuncio seconded. The Mayor called a roll call vote.

Ms. Manning Yes

Dr. Pangallo Yes

Ms. Nuncio Yes

Ms. Campbell Yes

Mayor Driscoll Yes

Motion carries 5-0

Public Comment

The School Committee Secretary announced that there were several public comments.

Since the first public comment was made by an anonymous resident, the comment could not be read or entered into the minutes. The School Committee Secretary announced that she would forward the anonymous comment to the members of the School Committee.

Barbara McLernon, 25 Sunset Drive, Peabody, asked for her comment to be read. Good Evening and thank you for your time. I would like to remind everyone of the Salem Teachers Union scholarship drive. We have our May raffle calendars on sale now, you can find an electronic version on our Facebook page, Salem Teachers Union 1258. I would like to thank everyone who donated goods or services to our scholarship drive, as well as our local merchants that donated. Each donation is very greatly appreciated. 100% of each ticket purchased goes directly into the scholarship fund because of the generosity of all of our donors. Lastly, I would like everyone who has purchased raffle tickets, to know how appreciative the STU and our scholarship recipients are. We could not have accomplished this without you. Good Luck! We start drawing winners on Saturday!

Carol Kelly, AFSCME Local 294- School Transportation. Ms. Kelly is the Vice President of AFSCME Local 294. She came before the Committee to speak on behalf of the 22 men and women in the Salem Public Schools Transportation Department and to voice their strong opposition to the outsourcing of the City of Salem's Student Transportation Services. Ms. Kelly explained that they have serious concerns regarding the legitimacy of any perceived savings and the ability of the contractor to provide the level of service that Salem students deserve. Ms. Kelly described several issues that NRT is currently facing with coverage and service. She also pointed out that during COVID-19 pandemic, the AFSCME Transportation employees went above and beyond to serve the students and families of Salem. On behalf of the twenty-two dedicated Salem Transportation Department Employees Local 294 represents, I urge you to reject this shortsighted approach.

Jenni Clock, teacher from NLIS, asked for her comment to be read. My name is Jenni Clock, Teacher at New Liberty Innovation School, member of the Contract Bargaining team. I want to honor the hard work of our team on both sides. The school committee and union members spent hours on Saturday working together to build a contract that Salem Students Deserve. Everyone on the team deserves acknowledgement for the immense number of hours on top of their regular work commitments.

Report from the Student Representative

Duncan Mayer stated that the Student Advisory Group has been looking to plan out the year. They are incorporating different times and meeting options to have as many students participate as possible. He added that members of the SAC are on the student panel interviewing the high school principal candidates. A question was asked if the School Committee has considered stipends for the SAC members for the time they have spent. Both Ms. Campbell and Mr. Cruz have already spoken to Dr. Zrike regarding this but no decision has yet been made.

Report of the Superintendent

a. Student Spotlight

Superintendent Zrike introduced Renee Marshall, SHS English Class teacher. Ms. Marshall explained that 10 grade students were asked to think about a prompt regarding how COVID-19 has changed our world and their world in particular. Ms. Marshall introduced Alessandra Grannis who read her poem to the Committee.

Superintendent Zrike reported that we currently have attending 5 days a week, 68% of students at the high school, 72% at the middle school and 85% at Pre-K-grade 5. Dr. Zrike also announced that the principal finalist's interviews will be conducted this week and in addition, there will be community forums Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for each finalist.

b. Presentation of FY22 Recommended Budget

Superintendent Zrike introduced Assistant Superintendent Mary DeLai, who presented the FY22 Recommended Budget. In addition to Ms. DeLai, Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone and Deb Connerty, Director of Pupil Services presented areas of the proposed budget. Assistant Superintendent DeLai explained that the SPS executive team, department heads, and school building administrators were all also involved in the design and offered feedback throughout the process.

The recommended FY22 budget, \$66,597,919 million, represents an increase of 3.6% from the FY21 budget. It was explained that as part of the strategic plan, 4 priority areas were established.

- Build a robust talent development system for all students
- Strengthen the pre-K to post-secondary experience
- Effectively meet the social/emotional and behavioral needs of all students and create a vision for engaging their families
- Design and implement data-informed systems that ensure equitable use of resources and accountability for outcomes.

The link to the full proposal can be found on the district website:

https://www.salemk12.org/our_district/what_s_new/f_y22_proposed_budget

Assistant Superintendent DeLai announced that there will be a public budget hearing next week on the proposed budget and a vote will take place at the May 17th School Committee meeting. It will then be presented to the City Council on June 2nd.

Old Business

a. Deliberation and vote on Inter-District School Choice Recommendation

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to the Inter-District School Choice Recommendations. Ms. Nuncio made the motion and Ms. Manning seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning Yes

Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Nuncio	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 5-0

b. Deliberation and vote on the district's proposal to substitute the Physical Education and Finance requirements in the Program of Studies for 2020-2021

Dr. Meier explained that for the students in the Class of 2020, participation in either JROTC or a sport at any time in the school career will receive 0.5 credit (1 semester) of PE credit. This would be a one time waiver. In addition, it was proposed that students in the Class of 2020 will be eligible to receive 0.5 credit (1 semester) toward their math requirement for completion of Personal Finance. Dr. Pangallo stated that this was discussed in the Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve the district's proposal to substitute the Physical Education and Finance requirements in the Program of Studies for 2020-2021. Dr. Pangallo made the motion and Ms. Nuncio seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Nuncio	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 5-0

New Business

a. Deliberation and vote to accept the Superintendent's Recommendation for Linda Farinelli as Executive Director of Special Education

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve and accept the Superintendent's recommendation for Linda Farinelli as Executive Director of Special Education. Dr. Pangallo made the motion and Ms. Campbell seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Nuncio	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 5-0

b. Deliberation and vote to give permission to the Farmers Market to use the Bentley parking lot from June 24 to mid/late August

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to give permission to the Farmers Market to use the Bentley parking lot from June 24 to mid/late August. Ms. Campbell made the motion and Ms. Manning seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Nuncio	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 5-0

c. Deliberation and vote on the 2021-2022 Annual School Calendar for Salem High School

d. Deliberation and vote on the 2021-2022 Annual School Calendar for the New Liberty Innovation School

e. Deliberation and vote on the 2021-2022 Annual School Calendar for the Carlton Innovation School

f. Deliberation and vote on the 2021-2022 Annual School Calendar for the Bates School, Bentley Academy, Collins Middle School, Early Childhood Center, Horace Mann Laboratory School, Salem Prep High School, Saltonstall School, and Witchcraft Heights Elementary School

Mayor Driscoll requested an omnibus motion to approve the 2021-2022 Annual School Calendars as listed above. Dr. Pangallo made the motion and Ms. Nuncio seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Nuncio	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 5-0

Finance Report

a. Budget Transfers

Ms. DeLai requested the following Budget Transfer.

FY21 Budget Transfer Request 23 - The Assistant Superintendent's Office requests a transfer from Contract Services to Instructional Supplies to fund the purchase of core instructional materials and early literacy reading book sets in the amount of \$56,348.

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve FY21-23 Budget Transfer in the amount of \$56,348. Ms. Manning made the motion and Dr. Pangallo seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes

Ms. Nuncio Yes
Ms. Campbell Yes
Mayor Driscoll Yes
Motion carries 5-0

Subcommittee Reports

a. Policy Subcommittee

i. Policies for Third Reading 5213 Field Trips and Excursions

Ms. Nuncio made a motion for third reading of policy 5213 Field Trips and Excursions. Mr. Cruz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning Yes
Dr. Pangallo Yes
Ms. Nuncio Yes
Ms. Campbell Yes
Mayor Driscoll Yes
Motion carries 5-0

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Ms. Nuncio requested an update on the School Resource Officers, how they are funded and their roles and responsibilities. Superintendent Zrike responded that he is scheduling a meeting with the new Police Chief to work on the MOU. He will provide an update at a later meeting.

Ms. Manning acknowledged the passing of Ana Hanton, a retired school administrator. Ms. Hanton served as the assistant principal at the Collins Middle School from 1999-2006 and later as the principal of the Nathaniel Bowditch School from 2006-2010.

Adjournment

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Manning motioned and Dr. Pangallo seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning Yes
Dr. Pangallo Yes
Ms. Nuncio Yes
Ms. Campbell Yes
Mayor Driscoll Yes
Motion carries 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy A. Weiss

Executive Assistant to the School Committee & Superintendent

Approved May 3, 2021