

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2023**

On April 3, 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, Mr. James Fleming, Ms. Amanda Campbell, Ms. Beth Anne Cornell, Dr. Kristin Pangallo, Mr. Manny Cruz

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Stephen Zrike, Deputy Superintendent Kate Carbone, Assistant Superintendent Elizabeth Pauley, Ms. Ellen Wingard, Marc LeBlanc, Dr. Ruben Carmona, Ms. Liz Polay-Wettengel

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
Mr. Cruz	Present
Mr. Fleming	Present
Ms. Manning	Present
Dr. Pangallo	Present
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Present

Mr. Cruz moves to take the agenda out of order this evening for the celebration of the retirement of our dear colleague and friend, Mr. James Fleming. Seconded by Ms. Cornell.

Mr. Cruz notes he would like to extend his thanks to Mr. Fleming.

Mayor McCarthy and Mr. Cruz recognized Senator Joan Lovely joining the School Committee meeting. Senator Lovely gives thanks to Mr. Fleming and comendes his decades of public service to the grateful Salem community. Senator Lovely also presents Mr. Fleming with a citation from the Senate.

Mr. Cruz presents Mr. Fleming a citation from the House of Representatives. Mayor McCarthy also presents Mr. Fleming with a City of Salem seal.

Superintendent Dr. Zrike presents a gift including school swag to Mr. Fleming as well.

Ms. Manning notes her appreciation and expertise that was received from Mr. Fleming through the years. Ms. Manning would also like to acknowledge Jim's sister, Sally, who provided support and interest through the system.

Ms. Beth Kontos, President of the American Federation of Teachers and Salem High School social studies teacher, states Mr. Fleming had lots of advice and through the years always agreed to do what was best for the students.

Mr. Cruz makes a motion for a three minute recess. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion.

Approval of Agenda

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Fleming motioned and Dr. Pangallo seconded.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Mr. Fleming	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes
Motion carries 7-0	

Approval of Consent Agenda

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Fleming moved and was seconded by Mr. Cruz.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Mr. Fleming	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes
Motion carries 7-0	

Public Comment

Ms. Ann Berman, 1401 Cranebrook Way Peabody, notes she is here tonight to talk about Mental Health. There are counselors in every school and now we are able to offer services through cartwheel throughout our district. However the needs of our educators are not being met. We have dealt with loss over the past few years, trauma around school violence, and not doing enough for our kids. Educators are left with little or no support. Educators are expected to show up and teach. We need to find a way to get services for our educators. The GIC health insurance only offers three visits a year for mental health services for our educators. Therapy is hard to find for everyone. Educators are desperate for help but cannot find it. This is happening far too

often. Please find support for our educators and if you are aware someone is in crisis, please give them some grace so they know you care.

Student Showcase - Witchcraft Heights Elementary School

Principal Susan Carmona notes the student voice project led by Mr. Michael Collins. A group of extraordinary students presents in an attempt to give them a student voice. This is an opportunity for each student to tell their story. The 14 students included in the brotherhood are Jayden, Kenny, Alvin, Kyler, Jhariel, Yariel, Ericksander, Noah, JJ, Peter, Joseph, Josh, Jamo, and Ryan. Mr. Collins notes restorative justice circles, personal stories shared, journals, contract of expectations, collaboration to agree on a topic, and a lot of organized chaotic discussions. One topic discussed was why school shootings happen, what type of person does this, and what can we do to prevent this? Next step was to distribute a survey to grades 4 and 5 students. Reviewed and discussed the NPR article School Shooters: Understanding their path to violence. It is our hope that through this Student Voice project we have provided students with an inclusionary platform to express their thoughts and feelings about some very difficult topics. We hope to continue these conversations and discoveries to give students the equity and voice they deserve.

Superintendent's Report

Presentation on School Choice Participation for SY 23-24

Superintendent Dr. Zrike notes we will be workin with the City to help migrant families and offer the support they need. Dr. Zrike will not be recommending any changes for the School Choice Participation for SY 23-24. The only minor change is to New Liberty. Reduce 5 students instead of 15 students for New Liberty. November 1st will be the deadline for applying for school choice. Dr. Zrike's recommendation is to continue to participate in School Choice with the guidance he provided in the memo.

Dr. Pangallo asks about the New Liberty change?

Dr. Zrike notes New Liberty just does not have the space for 15 students so 5 will be the restrictions. We also plan to advertise for School Choice .

Recommendation for the Executive Director of Special Education Position

Superintendent Dr. Zrike notes his recommendation for the new Executive Director of Special Education position with a copy of resume and contract for Mrs. Jennifer Doucette-Ly. Ms. Doucette-Ly founded the successful food and clothing pantry at Salem High School. She has also facilitated book drives at Salem High School and Bates School. She did distinguish herself through the interview process.

Presentation on Arbor Day Tree Planting

Ms. Darleen Melis presents on the Arbor Day Tree planting. Celebrating Arbor Day at Collins

Middle School with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Salem Tree Commission. Arbor Day means tree in latin. Since 1182, schools have celebrated Arbor Day by planting trees on school grounds. Trees benefit our community, environment, and us by providing shade, cooling our city through evaporation and transpiration. It also provides habitat for local wildlife and slows storm waters. Five trees will be planted along the parking lot at the Broad Street playground.

Mr. Cruz notes that the Arbor day tree planting is not listed on the agenda as an action item so we would have to take this up for deliberation and vote at the next School Committee meeting.

Dr. Zrike notes we wanted the opportunity to see and hear the presentation for the School Committee to review and then at the next meeting we will vote.

Ms. Manning notes she would like to encourage and include an action plan for watering the trees in the future.

Student Representative Report

Ms. Natalia Feliz notes last week the student representatives met with Superintendent Dr. Zrike to discuss how we wanted to incorporate Collins Middle School into what we do. We are trying to schedule a half day to meet with Collins and Saltonstall. We want to push for middle schoolers to be ready for high school. We want to mentor and guide them.

Mr. Cruz notes the School Committee secretary can work with the student representative to send out a doodle poll to help organize a date and time that would work for the students as well as the School Committee members.

Old Business

none

New Business

- a. Deliberation and vote on approval to reduce the 4 hr. minimum rental fees to 2 hrs. for men's amateur soccer league

Mr. Fleming notes that this matter be moved to the Building and Grounds subcommittee to further discussion and to talk with the representatives. Mr. Fleming makes a motion and Ms. Manning seconded.

- b. Deliberation and vote on approval for the Executive Director of Special Education Position

Ms. Manning moves to approve and seconded by Mr. Fleming. A roll call vote is taken.

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

Motion carries 7-0

- c. Vote to support the superintendent's recommendation for school choice participation

Mr. Fleming makes a motion and is seconded by Dr. Pangallo. A roll call is taken.

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

Motion carries 7-0

Finance Report

Ms. Elizabeth Pauley confirms there is no finance report this evening.

Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policies for second reading:
 Policy 1700 - School Parent Associations - no substantial changes
 Ms. Cornell makes a motion and Mr. Cruz seconded.

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

Motion carries 7-0

Policy 1701 - Parent Involvement - for deletion

Ms. Cornell makes a motion and Ms. Manning seconded.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes

Mr. Cruz	Yes
Mr. Fleming	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes

Motion carries 7-0

b. Policies for third reading:

Policy 5602 - Hall of Fame
 Policy 1507.01 - Public Complaints
 Policy 1507.02 - Public Complaints - for deletion
 Policy 1507.03 - Public Complaints - for deletion
 Policy 1505 - Parent Information Center - for deletion

Ms. Cornell makes a motion to take all five policies up for third reading together instead of individually. Ms. Cornell moves to approve and Mr. Cruz seconded.

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

Motion carries 7-0

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

none

Adjournment

Mr. Fleming notes at this time we would like to move into Executive Session and to inform the public we will be discussing collaborative bargaining and we will not be returning to open session. Mr. Fleming makes this motion and seconded by Mr. Cruz.

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

Motion carries 7-0

Motion carries 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Krista Perry

Executive Administrative Assistant to the School Committee & Superintendent