

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2023**

On December 18, 2023 the Salem School Committee held its regular School Committee meeting at 7:00 PM using a hybrid model.

Members Present: Mayor Dominick Pangallo, Ms. Mary Manning, Mr. Manny Cruz, Dr. Kristin Pangallo, Ms. Beth Anne Cornell, Ms. Amanda Campbell and Ms. Veronica Miranda

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Stephen Zrike, Deputy Superintendent Kate Carbone, Ms. Elizabeth Pauley, Ms. Ellen Wingard, Dr. Kimberly Talbot, Mr. Marc LeBlanc, and Mr. Zissis Alepakis

Others in Attendance Virtually: Ms. Laura Assade

Call of Meeting to Order

Mayor Pangallo calls the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requests a call of attendance. He explained the Public Participation Policy 6409 and also explained the availability of Spanish interpretation.

Attendance

Mayor Pangallo recognizes the attendance with members absent and joining virtually. Ms. Cornell motions for approval and seconded by Mr. Cruz.

Ms. Campbell	Present
Ms. Cornell	Present
Mr. Cruz	Present
Ms. Manning	Present
Dr. Pangallo	Present
Ms. Miranda	Present
Mayor Pangallo	Present

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pangallo requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Ms. Cornell motions for approval and seconded by Mr. Cruz . A roll call vote is taken.

Mr. Cruz	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Miranda	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes

Mayor Pangallo Yes
Motion Carries 7-0

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Pangallo requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Ms. Cornell motions for approval and seconded by Mr. Cruz . A roll call vote is taken.

Mr. Cruz Yes
Ms. Manning Yes
Ms. Cornell Yes
Ms. Miranda Yes
Ms. Campbell Yes
Dr. Pangallo Yes
Mayor Pangallo Yes
Motion Carries 7-0

Mr. Cruz makes a motion to take School Committee Concerns and Resolutions out of order to recognize that today is School Committee member Dr. Kristin Pangallo's last School Committee meeting. Mayor Pangallo recognizes Dr. Pangallo and presents her with a city seal.

Superintendent Dr. Zrike notes Dr. Pangallo's balanced view and is able to calmly view all perspectives during such trying times. Mr. Cruz, Ms. Campbell, and Ms. Cornell noted a tremendous amount of gratitude to Dr. Pangallo as well.

Dr. Pangallo notes she is very grateful for her experience on the Salem School Committee and is thankful for the support from her family and friends.

Mayor Pangallo notes we will now return to the regular scheduled agenda items listed. ds

Public Comment

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

Student Showcase - Salem Prep High School

Principal Craig Macarelli notes Salem Prep has two students present to review the projects they have completed. The first student presents their quarter one algebra two project and begins showing gratitude to their Principal and math teacher. They present how they multiply binomials and trinomials. Another student chose social justice as their research project and how all education should be equal. They chose this topic specifically due to being able to relate to this topic. They did most of their research online but they decided to make their findings into a detailed poster as well. The research was based on the U.S. stats.

Superintendent Dr. Zrike notes he is asking staff and families for feedback on next year's school year calendar. Dr. Zrike also shares an update on the School Building Committee and now hopes we move to the feasibility phase.

Superintendent's Report

A. ESSER Funding/HVAC Update

Ms. Elizabeth Pauley begins the ESSER Funding update. ESSER is the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. It is a \$15 million one time federal relief between 2021-2024. Funds spent on pandemic safety and recovery. The Salem ESSER funds have supported the following: 60 staff positions, summer programming, technology software licenses and IT support, custodial support and supplies, new elementary curriculum, anti-racism training for staff and other pandemic related costs such as new furniture.

ESSER 1 Spending helped support remote learning tutors, math literacy events, and online support for students. ESSER 11 Spending helped support the anti-racism training as well as the cost for all PPE supplies needed. Right now, we are looking at how to best spend the end of the ESSER funding. The remaining funds are for personnel, non personnel, and remaining funding.

Mr. Zissis Alepakis begins noting the significant HVAC needs. Boiler district wide are old and in need of regular repair/maintenance to keep running. HVAC Controls have failed and are failing. Chillers and cooling needs upgrading and repair, especially at Saltonstall and Collins. HVAC has been part of ESSER from the start. ESSER can be paired with IVAQ funds (grant funding from the state) - expand the funds and timeline. One time funds can upgrade equipment that will support health, safety and comfort in schools. Funds can be leveraged by other funding sources as well such as Salem's Capital Budget, Grants, and MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program.

Mr. Alepakis notes the HVAC Updates and Recommendations. The plan is to replace two boilers and some controls at Bates and Witchcraft. The Bates boilers are 23+ years old and the oldest in the district. Controls districtwide have failed or are failing. There is a 40 week lead time for boilers. Considerations and next steps are that ESSER funds need to be expended promptly, putting together specifications for the HVAC investments to begin soliciting bids in January, and exploring the Accelerated Repair program for other capital needs and will partner with the city to prioritize capital projects.

Mr. Cruz asked about the contingency over the ESSER funds.

Ms. Pauley notes we are holding back some funds from ESSER in case we are over any budget line including special education. We will look for other grants from DESE but what we are proposing are certain repairs and improvements we can complete by the end of September.

Student Representative Report

none

Old Business

none

New Business

none

Finance & Operations Report

none

Subcommittee Reports

A. Policy for first reading

Policy 5416 Use of Physical Restraint (table)

Policy 1101.01 Non-Discrimination (first read)

Policy 4106 Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity (first read)

Ms. Cornell notes she would like to table Policy 5416 Use of Physical Restraint.

Ms. Cornell makes a motion to move Policy 1101.01 Non-Discrimination and Policy 4106 Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity for a first reading. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. Ms. Cornell notes Policy 1101.01 received a recommendation to change housing status to home status. Mr. Cruz offers a friendly amendment to make this an anonymous motion.

Mr. Cruz	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Miranda	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Mayor Pangallo	Yes
Motion Carries 7-0	

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Dr. Pangallo notes getting clean air is very critical and when we think of our strategic goals to keep this in mind. Moving forward to create school environments with clean air. School start times and length of the day as well as recess and lunch should be reviewed. Dr. Pangallo would love to see our school district that did not start any secondary school before 8:30am. We know a later start and more time having recess will show more improvement in a child's curriculum. Dr. Pangallo challenges our district and school committee members as a shared goal with our teachers and staff.

Adjournment

Dr. Pangallo makes a motion to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Cruz.

Ms. Cornell	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Miranda	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Pangallo	Yes
Motion Carries 7-0	

Meeting adjourned at 8:24PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Krista Perry

Executive Administrative Assistant to the School Committee & Superintendent