

Salem Public Schools – Salem School Committee
POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2023

On February 27, 2023 the Policy Subcommittee held its regular meeting in person at 29 Highland Ave., Rm. 227, Salem, MA.

Members In Attendance: Ms. Beth Anne Cornell, Ms. Mary Manning, Mr. Manny Cruz

Others in Attendance: Dr. Stephen Zrike

Call of Meeting to Order

Ms. Cornell called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.

Mr. Cruz	Present
Ms. Manning	Present
Ms. Cornell	Present

Discuss the JROTC marksmanship range

Ms. Cornell notes we have to suggest a restart otherwise the JROTC unit will be put on probation. Ms. Cornell notes that Mr. Glenn Burns had already confirmed with Lt. Col Thomas Grace and SgtMaj John Sumner that the Policy subcommittee does not want the range in the original space.

Ms. Cornell does not want anyone to think that the Policy subcommittee members are dictating where the range goes. Ms. Cornell confirms it would be the Superintendent's call on where the range is located.

Superintendent Dr. Zrike agrees with Ms. Cornell also noted he would not like a sign up stating where the range is located.

Ms. Manning notes again it really should be the Superintendent's call on where the range location is set for the JROTC marksmanship range.

Ms. Cornell at this time shares with the rest of the Policy subcommittee members the proposed statement she has created to be shared with the rest of the School Committee members. Ms. Cornell shares this statement as follow:

"It is the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee that the Superintendent authorize the JROTC to continue its operation of an air rifle marksmanship range at Salem High School, as mandated by the Marine Corps. While we recognize the inherent tension between in-school marksmanship training and the continued stress and fear caused by gun violence in schools, this program is a mandatory fixture in the JROTC curriculum. Failure to support any one element of the Marine Corps JROTC program will result in probationary measures taken against the Salem High School unit, which the School Committee has already voted to support.

As a policy subcommittee, we have done our due diligence, researching Marine JROTC standards, meeting with instructors Lt. Col. Thomas Grace and Sgt Maj John W. Sumner, and touring the Salem High School facilities. We have considered the option of moving the program off-site, but logistical and transportation obstacles make this onerous for students and staff. Additionally, we have determined that the marksmanship range and program does not violate any School Committee policy, city ordinance, or state law.

We have met with the Superintendent to communicate our concerns regarding the placement of the range, which he will communicate with his team at the high school when identifying space.

Before the range is operational, a Marine Corps representative will evaluate the space to ensure that it complies with all Marine Corps mandated safety specifications. All marksmanship training will take place outside of school hours, and JROTC unit leaders Grace and Sumner will provide annual reports to the School Committee regarding this and other unit activities.

The Policy Subcommittee will revisit this issue should state or city regulations regarding air rifles be amended in the future.”

Mr. Cruz notes the due diligence has occurred from the Policy subcommittee and now it is time for the Superintendent to make a decision on where the location should be. Mr. Cruz notes a space that causes the least amount of disruption from the program. The directive is really to the Superintendent. Mr. Cruz also notes Ms. Cornell can submit this proposed statement to the School Committee secretary to be added to the meeting minutes for record.

Dr. Zrike notes there is no violation of a district policy. Dr. Zrike notes from a Curriculum standpoint, it is our decision.

Mr. Cruz also would like Ms. Cornell to note that the city does not have ordinance either.

Ms. Manning also notes should the City Council take any further action with this matter, we will be revisiting.

Dr. Zrike notes the details should be communicated to the families. Principal Burns should be communicating this with families through the Salem High School newsletter.

Mr. Cruz motions to adjourn. Ms. Cornell seconded.

Ms. Manning	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes

The meeting adjourns at 6:37pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Krista Perry

Executive Assistant to the School Committee & Superintendent