

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2023**

On February 6, 2023 the Salem School Committee held its regular School Committee meeting at 7:00 PM using a hybrid model.

Members Present In-Person: Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy, Mr. Manny Cruz, Ms. Amanda Campbell, Dr. Kristin Pangallo, Ms. Beth Anne Cornell, Mr. James Fleming, Ms. Mary Manning

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

Call of Meeting to Order

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy calls the meeting to order at 7:02 pm 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.

Motion carries 7-0

Ms. Campbell	Present
Ms. Cornell	Present
Mr. Cruz	Present (arrived at 7:07PM)
Mr. Fleming	Present
Ms. Manning	Present
Dr. Pangallo	Present
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Present

Approval of Agenda

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion made by Mr. Fleming. Seconded by Ms. Manning.

Motion carries 6-0

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Mr. Fleming	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes

Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes

Approval of Consent Agenda

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Ms. Manning. Seconded by Mr. Fleming.
Motion carries 6-0

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

Mr. Fleming notes he would like to take an agenda item out of order which would be the gift donated from William and Mary Furey.

At this time, Mayor McCarthy invites Mary Furey along with the Salem High School Athletic Director as well. Mary Furey graciously donated \$10,000 to the Salem High School wrestling team in memory of her brother William Furey.

Mr. Fleming moves to accept the donation made by Mary Furey. Seconded by Ms. Manning. Roll call was taken.

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

Public Comments

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

Superintendent Dr. Zrike notes he would like to take one more agenda item out of order. Dr. Zrike notes he has the distinct pleasure in honoring a Collins Middle School 8th grader who came across a toddler who was alone and needed assistance during her walk to school. The student was able to act quickly and brought this toddler to a safe place so the child could be reunited with her family. This student received recognition from not only the School Committee but also from the City of Salem Mayor's office and the State House of Representative.

Student Showcase - Horace Mann Laboratory School

Principal Jennifer Windsor notes school is divided into different houses and t-shirts they wear. Houses are a mix of pre-k to 5th grade. The presentation shared will show how they have

worked to increase family engagement and to improve the culture and climate of our building and make fun new activities for students.

Student Owen, 2nd grader, states he likes the houses. Owen states he is able to connect with people you would not normally see. Student Fernando, 2nd grader, notes traditions for school and lots of fun. Each house wears the same color t-shirt. Harold the Husky is also there and introduces new initiatives. Along with Ms. Correll, the schools have a quick assessment such as relationship mapping. Husky Heroes happens when students are rewarded based on showing Horace Mann's core values.

Ms. Arias Reyes explains family events like movie nights. She also notes the past Trunk or Treat and Turkey Trot Events which has been an excellent turn out at the monthly Parent Teacher Committee. Reyes also notes a Family Valentine's Dance this month, a pottery night, and a multicultural night in March. Ms. Arias is still working with families to bring dishes from home in regards to their culture during the Multicultural night. School site councils are available to re-established our school site council and is an opportunity to share information and get feedback from families on our School Improvement Plan.

Ms. Winsor also notes she has been sending out weekly newsletters to the students' families that have information on activities from the past week which also includes lots of photos and important reminders.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Zrike notes he did want to call the attention to Black History week of action. This was driven by staff at Horace Mann Laboratory School. Trying to embed projects across our schools which we want to then showcase throughout the district and throughout the month of February and beyond. Dr. Zrike notes we want to look at the contributions of Black Americans and look at Black excellence across our country.

Dr. Zrike would also like to note that this week is our School Counselors Week. Their devotion towards our schools and students is unparalleled.

Dr. Zrike also notes we are launching a middle school advisory group to help reimagine our middle school space. We have recently asked for teachers, families, and students to be a part of the task force. We are also asking for a group of educators to join us and be a part of a design team to help inform the vision and to make recommendations about how to achieve that vision.

SHS Program of Study

Mr. Glenn Burns begins noting the #I applied. This past Friday we celebrated all Salem High School seniors and the work they have done up until this point. The goal was to make sure the kids had a plan when they leave the high school no matter what their plan was. In a few months, we will be celebrating these seniors with # accepted. Mr. Burns also notes they will help prepare students for interviews and assist to complete recommendation letters so they are competitive for their position they are applying for.

Ms. Meghan Souza, Director of College and Career Counseling, discusses the timeline of the process and the partnership discussions. Ms. Souza notes the formalized course trajectory of existing and new strands. The expansion of Early College offerings and designation with NSCC.

Expansion of Advanced Coursework Offerings and CVTE Perkins Funded Pathway. Programming & Web, cybersecurity, computer science principles, computer science. An expansion of CVTE Perkins Funded Pathways and Graphic design continued. Marine Service Technology and Ed Rising Pathway through EEC and Pharmacy Technician through Med Assisting Increasing accessibility. Ms. Souza also notes aligning the core courses with MASSCORE and increasing high academic expectations of all scholars and current graduation language. Proposed changes and impact - students will still be required to have 26 credits to graduate Dr. Pangallo notes during the Curriculum committee aligning the goals of college readiness. Communication with student families, the difference between units and credits. Ms. Cornell asks how the high school staff tending to students to obtain the right pathway in their freshman and sophomore years. Mr. Burns notes having a voice on the redesign of the middle school and starting the pathways at the middle school level. Mr. Burns wants to expand what a student chooses so they avoid becoming overwhelmed. Mr. Cruz notes the work to integrate the educator pathway and what we are offering at CVTE and offering through Early College. Dr. Pangallo notes having the CTE program, by having those credentials, offers our students a way to work more well compensated positions while attending higher education if they choose to pursue.

Recommended SY 23-24 school calendars

Dr. Zrike notes the SY 23-24 Master Calendar highlights which will be tabled as of right now before finalizing. Some highlights in the revised calendars include, a mini-fall break that includes no school on Halloween and the day before (4 day weekend); moved one before the school year, teacher professional development day to mid-March (March 6th) based on educator feedback; eliminated week long January break, but added an additional buffer day following the New Years holiday.(Jan 3rd)

Dr. Zrike also notes in the future, perhaps we should consider making Good Friday a school day, it has also been suggested to relook at having one Spring break (March) instead of a February and April recess, parent conference timeline, and Bentley is still soliciting input on their calendars as well as Carlton's and New Liberty's proposed calendar.

Dr. Pangallo notes the difference between pre -k and k - start with grades 1-12. Dr. Pangallo notes some hardships for families with our youngest learners. Perhaps we should start working on a calendar more in advance so parents can plan their summers. For families who have students with two different calendars it is extremely challenging and is it really serving our community? Having a more consistent calendar and an extended winter break because of intense covid spike was what was best in the past.

Ms. Cornell notes she did read through the surveys and what it reflects is that there really is no consensus at all and reiterates what our job is, which is to do the very best that we did to do as a committee for the students.

Dr. Zrike notes he is worried about the safety and parents and school bus drivers getting students to and from school safely on that first day.

Student Representative Report

Ms. Natalia Feliz notes there are no updates at this time due to midterms, MCAs testing, and reassessments.

Old Business

none

New Business

Deliberation and vote on approval of \$10,000 donation to Salem High School's wrestling team from William and Mary Furey

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 & Operation Update

a. Request to transfer \$250,000 from Special Education Private Tuition to Homeless Transportation.

Motion made by Ms. Manning. 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

b. Request to transfer \$15,000 from Special Education teacher to the district Translation line.

Motion made by Ms. Manning. Seconded by Dr. Pangallo.

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

Ms. Elizabeth Pauley notes she has two requests for approval. Approval is required for a transfer above \$15,000 or between cost centers. Ms. Pauley is recommending a request to transfer \$250,000 from Special Education Private Tuition to Homeless Transportation. The cost to transport homeless students has continued to increase so this \$250,000 will help us to meet our obligations. The second is to transfer \$15,000 from special education to the district's translation line. Not from a special education teacher.

Ms. Pauley notes the state reimbursement for the homeless transportation.

Dr. Zrike notes we do know the administration has already placed funding to support districts like ours and we do anticipate receiving relief funding to cover.

Mr. Cruz notes a request has been put into housways to see if they can do some form of an analysis for the district to what they might be able to expect out of a potential supplemental appropriation with respect to the transportation issues.

Subcommittee Reports

Policies for first reading:

Policy 6504 - Naming of Schools - Ms. Cornell motions. Seconded by Ms. Manning. Mr. Fleming would like to oppose it.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Mr. Fleming	No
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes

6 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative.

Policy 1506 - School Volunteers - Ms. Cornell motions. Seconded by Ms. Manning. Roll call vote.

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

Policies for third reading:

Policy 5101 - School Age and Attendance - Ms. Cornell motions. Seconded by Ms. Manning. Roll call vote.

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 1502 - Advisory Committee to the School Committee - Ms. Campbell points out the missing letter “E” in ELPAC.

Ms. Cornell motioned to approve. Seconded by Mr. Cruz. Roll call vote.

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 motioned to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Krista Perry

Executive Administrative Assistant to the School Committee and Superintendent