

**Salem School Committee  
Policy Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 29, 2020**

A meeting of the Policy Subcommittee was held on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 4:45pm in Room 222 at Collins Middle School, 29 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA.

**Members Present:** Ms. Ana Nuncio (Policy Subcommittee Chair), Mr. Manny Cruz

**Members Absent:** Mr. James Fleming

**Others Present:** Ms. Mary Manny (School Committee Vice-Chair), Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy

**Call of Meeting to Order**

Ms. Nuncio called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m.

Ms. Nuncio acknowledged having received a request from Mr. Stephen Kapantais to video tape and live stream the meeting, which she had approved. Mr. Kapantais began filming the meeting with his cell phone camera.

Ms. Conrad provided the members discussed proposed additional revisions to Policy 6409 on Public Participation at School Committee Meetings. The additional revisions were not yet in place when this policy was reviewed for first reading during the January 21<sup>st</sup> Regular School Committee meeting. The additional revisions included changing the word "precis" to "summary" in #1, changing the wording of #4 to be less awkward (from "Any person wishing to speak must identify him or herself" to "Individuals wishing to speak must identify themselves" and also from "interest to which they wish to speak" to "topic they wish to address," and in #6 adding the phrase, "but not required" after the word "writing" and before the word "to."

The members discussed the importance of the summary statement that would be read in that it should reflect the values they hope to promote regarding public participation and decorum. They discussed the importance of preparing a sample summary that could be reviewed and agreed to by the members.

Ms. Nuncio moved to re-refer Policy 6409 to the full Committee for second reading. Mr. Cruz seconded. The motion carried.

Mr. Kapantais and another member of the public also in attendance, a parent, Kathleen Coates, asked to speak on this topic. Chairman Nuncio allowed them to share their views. Both spoke against the idea of eliminating the second public comment period in the meeting agendas citing the value they felt it had for working parents who may not be able to get to a school committee meeting until later or who wanted to comment on an item discussed during a meeting. Subcommittee members shared their views as well as the underlying reasons for why they were seeking this change.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_*Kathleen Smith*\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent of the Salem Public Schools