

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023**

On January 17, 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

Members Present Virtually : Ms. Mary Manning (joined meeting at 7:20pm)

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, Ms. Linda Farinelli

Call of Meeting to Order

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy calls the meeting to order at 7:03 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
Mr. Fleming	Present
Ms. Manning	Present Virtually (logged in at 7:20pm)
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 Mr. Cruz.

Motion carries 7-0

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Mr. Cruz	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 Mr. Fleming. Seconded by Ms. Cornell. Motion carries.

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

Public Comments

Mr. Ben Chertok, would publicly like to thank our School Committee members, who have supported all of the music and drama students so far this year. He would also like to highlight two upcoming performances. February 14th, 4th graders performance, as well as February 16th, hosting a fundraiser event for students going to Carnegie Hall.

Student Showcase

Principal Jamaal Camah begins the design labs at New Liberty Innovation School for the Student Showcase presentation. Mr. Camah notes given that we are a small school with limited resources and inequitable access to electives and special programs, they have created our own series of courses for NLIS students. One of the solutions is to create design labs with a series of SEAM elective courses including DIY Stem, cooking art, music, collaborative challengers, medical assistant, and first early college speech class.

Student, Belinda Maradiaga, notes the process of making a doll that her grandmother used to create. Her grandmother was her inspiration.

Mr. Camah notes that one of our students would like to share a letter he wrote to the School Committee regarding ongoing issues with parking at the New Liberty Innovation School.

Mayor McCarthy notes he would like to organize with Mr. Camah has time to bring this student into his office to further discuss resolving the parking issue and payment for students. Mayor McCarthy does ask students if he can try and gauge how many parking passes he will need based on who drives to this school.

Mr. Cruz asks if any other topics have emerged and would be of interest to the students. Mr. Camah notes field trips have been requested as well as community building.

Ms. Cornell asks Mr. Camah what other obstacles is he facing with getting students out of the building to participate in community building projects?

Mr. Camah notes transportation is the number one issue. Some of our students are enrolled in the CTE program at Salem High School, however transportation from New Liberty to Salem High School is problematic. We really want to focus on teaching students skills and how they can use these skills later on in life.

Superintendent's Report

Posting timeline for Executive Director Special Education position

Superintendent Dr. Zrike notes the Superintendent's Evaluation will be an agenda item to be discussed at the next scheduled School Committee meeting.

Dr. Zrike notes the posting timeline for the Executive Director Special Education position. Ms. Linda Farinelli has decided to pursue other opportunities. We are appreciative for her leadership and her time with Salem Public Schools. Dr. Zrike notes we are looking for School Committee members to be a part of the hiring committee.

Deputy Superintendent Kate Carbone notes we are moving forward with the hiring process as of January 30, 2023. Hopefully, depending on inclement weather, we will have a finalist by the end of March. The posting went live on January 17, 2023. There will be an orientation meeting, review applications, and conduct interviews in person. The goal of the screening team is to forward pros and cons of each candidate to the Superintendent.

Student Mental Health Supports update

Ms. Ellen Wingard notes we are thrilled to formally announce our partnership with Cartwheel Care and Brookline Center. Cartwheel provides 100 students to access mental health services. Joe English and Dr. Juliana Chen joined us virtually to further discuss Cartwheel Care. Cartwheel Care is a trusted mental health partner to school districts across Massachusetts. Cartwheel is 100% telehealth. This allows rapid access to families, flexible schedules, covered by insurance, and works with all students from grades 3-12. Having a diverse work team to make students feel comfortable. An example of the care journey for a student consists of the referral consisting of the school referral from a teacher or school counselor for a child in need. Cartwheel reaches out to the family within two days to schedule the first assessment appointment via telehealth. Personalized care is provided weekly for 2-4 months and the child psychiatrist can support the child with medication when indicated. Ongoing support is as needed. Cartwheel will work with the family to assess long term care for the student.

Ms. Julian Chen shares in addition there is parent guidance with a licensed therapist, case consultations for school staff, and ongoing partnership to strengthen the Multi- tiered system of support. Ms. Wingard shares that there have been 23 referrals within five days. Ms. Wingard notes Cartwheel has already reached out to families. Rapid access to care and language availability is really key. This is a big partnership for Salem and for our families.

Mr. Fleming asks how the child gets into this program.

Ms. Wingard notes through City Connect coordinator and a teacher referral or school adjustment counselors.

Ms. Cornell asks how we have messaged this to families and parents.

Ms. Wingard notes tonight's meeting is our formal launch. The school will be working with Liz Polay-Wettengal as well as the City connected councilors.

Dr. Chen notes if a student is not deemed for Cartwheels services, there are other professionals through Cartwheel to assist these students.

2023-2024 Enrollment Targets for Student Assignment

Dr. Zrike notes the targets for each individual school for the upcoming school year. Dr. Zrike notes increasing the boundaries and going above the 60/40%. Dr. Zrike notes the good news is the majority of our schools fell within 5% of the average for lower income students.

Dr. Zrike would like to point out to the School Committee that our low income enrollment in Pre-K is significantly lower than that in kindergarten and the rest of the district. It is something to think about for many of our lower income families, the schedule may be a challenge for pre-k. We have opened up childcare which has helped but this is something we did to consider. The extended child care and schedule year round is a factor for families in the program.

Dr. Pangallo asks about the percentage.

Dr. Zrike notes we were not as concerned in fluctuations and the 50/50% would give us the chance to make slight adjustments. This is something we could consider.

Ms. Campbell notes one thing to keep in mind is to consider the impact of the assignment policy and keep track of data regarding students who are fully bilingual and heritage speakers may get denied to dual language programs. Ms. Campbell notes for Carlton, what is the route cause and what isn't working for Carlton specifically.

Ms. Cornell notes there needs to be a conversation based on incoming cohorts and if it can help the Carlton situation. Do we want cohorts of children to have a diverse experience? Ms. Cornell notes school choice can be problematic.

Superintendent Dr. Zrike notes every school has openings except for Carlton. The schools that have openings, parents have a choice. Unless we start reserving spots, kids can move into Salem and the charter schools have waiting lists.

Mayor McCarthy notes if you implement the policy then the lower grades are gonna be tweaked in the different direction that is not quite district- wide.

Dr. Pangallo asks if we have data on the enrollment over the course of the school year for Carlton. To see if that initial placement in September, evens out or if we have to hold additional placement at Carlton.

Mr. Cruz notes there is a policy regarding a series of engagements regarding the school choice policy. We had put in a new target of having this conversation to update the policy for the new target window.

Student Representative Report

none

Old Business

none

New Business

none

Finance & Operation Update

none

Subcommittee Reports

Policies for second reading:

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

Policy 5101 - School Age and Attendance

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

Motion carries 7-0

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

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

none

Adjournment

Motion moved to adjourned. Mr. Fleming motions. Ms. Cornell seconded.

Motion carries 7-0

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Krista Perry

Executive Administrative Assistant to the School Committee and Superintendent