

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023**

On January 9, 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

Members Absent: Ms. Mary Manning, Ms. Beth Anne Cornell, Mr. James Fleming

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Stephen Zrike, Deputy Superintendent Kate Carbone, Assistant Superintendent Elizabeth Pauley, Linda Farinelli, Liz Polay-Wettengel, Ms. Ellen Wingard, Dr. Ruben Carmona, Carlos Arias Reyes

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.

Ms. Campbell	Present
Ms. Cornell	Not Present
Mr. Cruz	Present
Mr. Fleming	Not Present
Ms. Manning	Not Present
Dr. Pangallo	Present
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Present

Before approval of agenda, Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy notes his colleagues on the City Council voted him in to serve as Acting Mayor for approximately five months. Mayor McCarthy notes his commitment to education and the Salem High School. We are in this together.

Approval of Agenda

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Mr. Cruz. Seconded by Ms. Campbell. Motion carries.

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

Motion carries 4-0

Approval of Consent Agenda

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Mr. Cruz. Seconded by Ms. Campbell. Motion carries.

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

Motion carries 4-0

Public Comments

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

Student Representative Report

Mr. Cruz confirms Student Representative Natalia Feliz passes along her well wishes for a great new year but Ms. Feliz is unable to join the School Committee meeting this evening.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Zrike welcomes Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy to his first School Committee meeting. Dr. Zrike notes he saw a lot of happy students reuniting with their teachers after the extended winter break. Dr. Zrike notes Project 351 Ambassador will join us last. Dr. Zrike notes we are beginning tonight's Superintendent Report with Mr. Andre Fonseca.

Bentley Academy Innovation School dual language enrollment procedure

Mr. Andre Fonseca, Director of Multilingual Learner Education, begins a presentation to discuss changes to the dual language enrollment protocol. Ms. Fonseca notes he will start his presentation by discussing the historical context of the dual language program at Bentley Academy Innovation School. The three linguistic groups are broken down into three groups, Spanish- Speakers, Bilingual Spanish-English Speakers, and English-Speakers. The goal is to have 16 students per group to maintain equitable distribution for 50 students in two classes.

Mr. Fonseca notes historically few Kindergarten students enrolled in Salem Public Schools score a 1 on the WIDA Screener K, meaning few were eligible to enroll in Group A. In 2020 and 2021, we did not even have 16 eligible students in our pool for A. This has led to under-enrollment of

native Spanish language models. The goal is to allow us to enroll more Spanish language models at the beginning of English proficiency levels who are Spanish dominant. The proposed changes will be a lottery to hold seats in either or both language groups should there be more applicants than available seats. Families are no longer required to check an “opt-in” box. March 20, 2023 is the deadline for Bentley Academy Innovation School and April 14, 2023 is the kindergarten lottery process for the Dual Language Program. The benefits of the lottery is to increase native models of Spanish to 50%, immediate results for families, and equity. Implementing the lottery now ensures equity for families of all incomes.

Dr. Pangallo asked if there will be ways for families entering the city later in the Summer to join the dual language program.

Mr. Fonseca confirms any seats that are not filled, those seats are kept open for any families coming to Salem later in the year.

Update on upcoming Kindergarten Expo scheduled for January 19, 2023

Deputy Superintendent Kate Carbone notes we have been working hard to mail out notices to the community. We have a census to make sure that families who have children eligible for our early childhood programs are getting notices. We decided this year to have an expo remotely and it will also allow us to record and post on websites for families who are not able to attend remotely. The program will focus on early education philosophy and the different programs that we have and who is eligible for those programs and how you seek to enroll. There will be members of our Parent Information Center who will go into detail around the registration process because that’s really what parents want to know in regards to documents and deadlines.

Ms. Carbone notes all departments will be on hand - transportation department and food services. After school programming and special education, the principals as well as Superintendent Dr. Zrike. There will also be a virtual walk through of our school website which is very informative as well. Each school later this year will host an event for parents to come and learn specifically about that individual school since we do have school choice. On- site school tours will be available that parents can sign up for. This includes pre-k, kindergarten, and integrated programs.

Before moving on to the last agenda item, Superintendent Dr. Zrike notes three more updates. He notes at the next School Committee meeting held on Tuesday, January 17th there will be enrollment targets. Dr. Zrike also notes the performances this upcoming weekend at Salem High School, January 13-15th. Dr. Zrike also notes we were accepted into the MSBA pipeline for new construction for eligibility into new school construction. This is a very exciting time for Salem Public Schools. Our clock does not start until May 1, 2023 but we will be working on this project beforehand.

Superintendent Dr. Zrike notes the appointment of the position of Director of Nursing and Health Services. Dr. Zrike thanks Dr. Charlene Moske-Weber stated we are grateful for the time she put in during the most challenging of years through the pandemic.

Superintendent Dr. Zrike asks for a motion to vote in the deliberation and vote on approval for the position of Director of Nursing and Health Services.

Ms. Jane Morrissey states she is honored to work for Salem Public Schools. Ms. Morrissey thanks the School Committee for their support and confidence.

Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Mr. Cruz. Seconded by Ms. Campbell. Motion carries.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
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Mr. Cruz	Yes
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Dr. Pangallo	Yes
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Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes
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Motion carries 4-0

Project 351 Ambassador

Mr. Brad Maloon notes Project 351 helps 8th graders across the entire commonwealth to use skills and leadership. Marcella will attend Fanuel Hall on Saturday and they were looking for someone involved, dedicated, and goal orientated. Marcella is an honor student and the lead in the current play. Marcella thanks her teachers for recognizing her. She notes she always tries to hold herself to a high standard.

Dr. Pangallo notes she has seen Marcela's leadership and kindness and thoughtfulness. She also notes how she welcomes new students to Collins Middle School.

Old Business

none

New Business

- a. Deliberation and vote on approval of Superintendent's appointment for the position of Director of Nursing and Health Services

Finance & Operation Update

none

Subcommittee Reports

none

Sub Committee Updates

none

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Mr. Manny Cruz notes the Superintendent's evaluation was pushed back as we had a few members unable to attend this meeting. Members of the public will be available soon.

Adjournment

Motion moved to adjourn. Ms. Campbell motions. Seconded by Dr. Pangallo.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Acting Mayor Robert McCarthy	Yes
Motion carries 4-0	

Meeting adjourned at 7:52p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Krista Perry

Executive Administrative Assistant to School Committee and Superintendent