

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2021**

On May 6, 2021 the Policy Subcommittee held its regular meeting using the Zoom on-line meeting platform.

In Attendance: Ms. Ana Nuncio and Mr. Manny Cruz

Ex Officio Members Present: Mary Manning

Members Absent: Mr. James Fleming

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Stephen Zrike, and Dr. Jill Conrad

Call of Meeting to Order

Ms. Nuncio called the meeting to order at 8:40 am.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Nuncio made a motion to approve the minutes of April 29, 2021. Mr. Cruz seconded. A roll call vote was made.

Mr. Cruz Yes

Ms. Nuncio Yes

Motion carries 2-0

5102.01 Enrollment of Non-Resident Students/School Choice

Dr. Conrad shared the language for the Enrollment of Non-Resident Students/School Choice. She explained that both Dr. Zrike and legal counsel have reviewed this and their changes were added to the policy. The subcommittee reviewed the changes that were added and approved the policy for referral to the full committee.

Ms. Nuncio made a motion for the Policy Subcommittee to approve Policy 5102.01 Enrollment of Non-Resident Students/School Choice and refer to the full committee for first reading. Mr. Cruz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was made.

Mr. Cruz Yes

Ms. Nuncio Yes

Motion carries 2-0

5101 School Age and Attendance

Dr. Conrad shared the updated language for the policy which included changes by both Dr. Zrike and legal counsel. This language combined the traditional attendance policy with a new language that focuses on chronic absenteeism. The subcommittee discussed being more explicit on the definition of excused absences versus unexcused. There was also clarification on when medical documentation would be required. Dr. Zrike noted that the current policy of requiring a doctor's note gets difficult to enforce. Mr. Cruz suggested that they remove the paragraph and adjust the advisory to clarify the expectations. Dr.

Conrad stated that DESE released an advisory that clarified truancy and habitual truancy. Language to our policy was changed to comply. Dr. Conrad also reminded the subcommittee that the language regarding chronic absenteeism came from the Holyoke policy and they had two separate policies that were combined into one. There was discussion regarding notification to families if the student has missed more than 5 days and the concern that at that point it is too late. Dr. Zrike explained that they are currently interviewing for the Supervisor of Attendance. He also added that the State will be issuing new guidance for remote learning for next year. Ms. Nuncio requested that this policy be sent to legal counsel.

Ms. Nuncio made a motion for the Policy Subcommittee to approve Policy 5101 School Age and Attendance and refer to the full committee for first reading. Mr. Cruz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was made.

Mr. Cruz Yes

Ms. Nuncio Yes

Motion carries 2-0

Ms. Manning asked a question regarding a proxy vote for Mr. Cruz, who will be taking paternity leave. Mr. Cruz offered to speak to the Mayor and ask for her recommendation.

The Subcommittee made a decision to meet again on Tuesday, May 18th at 8:30 am.

Ms. Nuncio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 am. Mr. Cruz seconded. A roll call vote was made.

Mr. Cruz Yes

Ms. Nuncio Yes

Motion carries 2-0

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy A. Weiss

Executive Assistant to the School Committee

Approved May 18, 2021