

Salem School Committee  
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 29, 2018

A Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, October 29, 2018 at 6:05 p.m. in the School Committee Chambers at Collins Middle School, 29 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA.

**Members Present:** Ms. Mary Manning, Mr. James Fleming, Ms. Kristine Wilson, Ms. Ana Nuncio, Mr. Manny Cruz, Ms. Amanda Campbell, and Mayor Kimberley Driscoll

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Margarita Ruiz, Superintendent, Kate Carbone, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Kristin Shaver, Business Manager, Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy, Kelley Rice, Chief of Communications, Salem School leaders, Jose Munoz, Interim Principal, Bates Elementary, Marlena Afonso, Principal, Bentley Academy Charter School, Bethann Jellison, Principal, Carlton Innovation School, Dr. Ruben Carmona, Principal, Horace Mann Laboratory School, Leanne Smith, Principal, Witchcraft Heights Elementary School, Michael Lister, Principal, Saltonstall K-8 School, Matt Condon, Interim Principal, Collins Middle School, Jennifer DeStefano, Principal, Salem High School, Jennifer Winsor, Principal, New Liberty Innovation School, Brian Edmunds, Director/Head of School, Salem Prep High School, and Nancy Charest, Director/Head of School, Salem Early Childhood Center

### **Introduction**

Mayor Driscoll explained they are going to try a different format this evening for the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting. The meeting was put together with an opportunity to get to know some of the newer principals and understand how things are going. A set of discussion questions is on each table. Mayor Driscoll continued that School Committee members would alternate between tables and the Superintendent would serve as a timekeeper with the goal to get through the discussion questions. Ms. Driscoll said she would love feedback from School Committee members, at the end of the meeting, on the format and what they think of the approach to try and gain more understanding about what is happening on a daily basis, without need for PowerPoint presentations.

Superintendent Ruiz explained that all School Committee members have an emailed copy of a 2018 School-Level MCAS and Accountability (K-8 Schools) packet and talked about the logistics. The packet contains the accountability report documentation for each of the Salem Schools. Superintendent Ruiz continued that the discussion questions on each table provides the school leaders an opportunity to talk to Salem School Committee members about the start of this school year and of the integration of new students and staff into the schools. Discussion should focus on one highlight, challenge, and a piece of advice school leaders would like to share with School Committee members as to how to best support the work in the Salem Schools.

### **Review and Discussion of 2018-School Level MCAS and Accountability Data**

Mayor Driscoll added that the data packet this evening is not for them to tease out its details as that calls for a meeting, with the district, in the future for further discussion and input. Ms. Driscoll clarified the data this evening is designed for the purpose of having a background. This



evening's goal is to get to know a little more about how this year started off, what are some opportunities/strengths, and challenges, and how can they, as a district School Committee support those efforts.

### **Conclusion**

School Committee members spent 20 minutes, at each table, with school leaders, and had further discussion after all rotations were complete. The K-8 school leaders identified their strengths, challenges, and recommended supports. Some of the strengths that were shared included having a strong school culture, cohesive staff, success with welcoming new students and staff and availability of such as having coaches to support teacher practice. Some of the challenges that were shared included the need to strengthen Tier I instruction, increased bilingual supports, and more technology so that all students would benefit. High School leaders discussed the benefits and challenges of Aspen, alerts to issues, need for technology support and equipment as well as the need for social emotional support, building statistics (student and staff attendance), need for new teachers, High School start times, and an interest to also hear from the Salem High School. School Committee members shared feedback and insight.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole (COW) School Committee meeting, members motioned to adjourn and seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Angelica Alayon, Secretary  
Salem School Committee

### Meeting Materials

Salem Public Schools 2018 School-Level MCAS and Accountability (K-8 Schools)  
NLIS Data Fall 2018  
Prompt leaflet