

Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 15, 2018

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 7:10 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, and Mr. Manny Cruz

Members Absent: Ms. Amanda Campbell, Mayor Kimberley Driscoll

Others Present: Margarita Ruiz, Superintendent, Kate Carbone, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy, and Kelley Rice, Chief of Communications

Call of Meeting to Order

Ms. Manning called the regular meeting of the Salem School Committee to order at 7:10 p.m. and informed everyone that the Mayor is out of town and would not be attending the meeting this evening.

Revised Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Deliberation and Vote on the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting held October 1, 2018

Deliberation and Vote on the Saltonstall School overnight out-of-state field trip request to Philadelphia, PA from May 29-31, 2019

Approval of Warrant

October 11, 2018 in the amount of \$417,644.38

Discussion

Ms. Manning requested that the revised Consent agenda's Deliberation and Vote on the Salem High Jr. R.O.T.C. four-day field trip request to Molena, GA on November 1, 2018 action item be removed. The action item is moved to the New Business Action Item below.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the revised Consent agenda Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting held October 1, 2018, the Saltonstall School overnight out-of-state field trip request to Philadelphia, PA from May 29-31, 2019, and the warrant amount as listed on the agenda, with the exception of the deliberation and vote on the Salem High Jr. R.O.T.C four-day field trip request to Molena, GA on November 1, 2018. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comment #1: Questions and comments from the audience

Fawaz Abusharkh, 4 Harrison Road, talked about the Superintendent's report presented at the last meeting. Mr. Abusharkh said that the Salem School numbers and schools in general are not good, the High School is failing and needs intervention, and talked about the outcome from the closing of the Nathaniel Bowditch School closing. Mr. Abusharkh shared his desire for the Mayor to allow the School Committee members to do their work by stepping aside.

Scot B. Sternberg, 25 Pickman Road, said he spoke on behalf of students, parents, staff, teachers, administrators, and the community and asked that the School Committee pass a resolution proclamation reaffirming support for a 'Yes' on Question 3 "Defending pretensions for transgender students, staff, teachers, administrators from discrimination" at the voting polls and shared reasons for the request.

Nicole Lashomb, editor in Chief of the Rainbow Times, shared a student's personal experience on gender identity, talked about the 'Yes' on Question 3 initiative, explained why she is personally in favor, and asked the School Committee for their support in voting 'Yes' on Question 3 at the polls.

Dr. Brendan Walsh, 5 West Terrace, talked about a story he saw, last week, in the newspaper of the Early Childhood program that has been adopted in Salem. Dr. Walsh expressed his concern for 4 and 5 year old students who are not being taught to read at an earlier age and said that Parent/child programs start with 2-year olds. Parents are taught how to become their child's reading mentor. Dr. Walsh continued that it is not too late to start registration for students at an earlier age next year and asked School Committee members to think about this and consider it when they do the budget, in the spring, for next year.

Christine Ross, 33 Pleasant Street, said she represented the League of Women Voters in Salem, to speak up for Ballot Question 3, and asked School Committee members to vote in support of this ballot question. Ms. Ross said that the League of Women Voters would like the School Committee to take a stand on voting 'yes' for the ballot question 3 and read a statement aloud. Ms. Ross urged School Committee members to vote in favor and shared a few words on the resolution of starting a new Subcommittee on Equity and Inclusion. Ms. Ross spoke in support of the proposal to establish an Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.

Jamie Navins, 14 Andrew Street, suggested a look and discussion into the district calendar for next year, the possibility of changing the holidays, because of snow days, and its format regarding an inclusion of all Salem schools. Ms. Navins continued that in light of what happened last week at the Horace Mann School, recommended that the School Committee consider changing the dismissal time of either the Salem High or the Horace Mann School due to the traffic in general.

Presentation and Reports

Superintendent's Report – Margarita Ruiz

Superintendent Ruiz reported that close to 600 Salem High School students in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade were able to take the PSATs for free thanks to the support of the School Committee during the FY19 budget. This year's budget also includes resources so that juniors and seniors may take the SATs. Superintendent Ruiz talked about the College and Career workshops, this month's bullying prevention, and healthy nutritious foods for students at all Salem schools. Superintendent Ruiz recalled her mention, at the previous School Committee meeting, that the Office of District Review and Monitoring, within the Department of Education, selected Salem Public Schools for an on-site district review accountability. The review will focus on six (6) standards of effective district practices: Leadership and Governance, Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment, Human Resources and Professional Development, Student Support, and Financial and Asset Management. Superintendent Ruiz continued that the onsite visit would take place from November 5 through 7. The onsite visit will include School Committee members, as the visiting team will be interviewing them. Ms. Ruiz continued reporting on other topics and finalized by reminding the School Committee that all School Committee members have confirmed their availability and agreement for their next meeting as a Committee of the Whole (COW) on October 29, 2018 at 6pm.

Other Reports

Update on Student Enrollment

Superintendent Ruiz explained that this is part of the regular update on the state of enrollment in the Salem district, said they are using the same format, and referred the School Committee to their packet of materials that include a copy of the enrollment snapshot report as of October 12, 2018. Ms. Conrad walked the members through the snapshot enrollment data in all schools. Members asked questions on enrollment data and space availability and engaged in discussion.

Action Items: Old Business – None

Approval of the Bentley Academy Charter School (BACS) PTA request to use the school parking lot for fundraiser in October -tabled on 10/1/18

Mr. Fleming motioned to take the Bentley Academy Charter School (BACS) PTA request to use the school parking lot for fundraiser in October off the table. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion to take the action item off the table carried.

Discussion

Mr. Fleming said he would motion to approve based on discussions last week with the Superintendent Ruiz and Mayor Driscoll. Mr. Fleming continued that he still thinks they are in violation of the law and wants a firm legal opinion from either their own School Committee Attorney or City Solicitor relative to each of the uses by the Bentley Academy Charter School (BACS) PTA and Carlton School PTO.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Bentley Academy Charter School (BACS) PTA request to use the school parking lot for fundraiser in October. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of the Carlton School PTO request to use the school parking lot fundraising in October -tabled on 10/1/18

Mr. Fleming motioned to take the Carlton School PTO request to use the school parking lot for fundraiser in October off the table. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion to take the action item off the table carried.

Discussion

Mr. Fleming stated that he still thinks they are in violation of the law and wants a firm legal opinion, from either their own School Committee Attorney or City Solicitor, relative to each of the uses by the Carlton School PTO and Bentley Academy Charter School (BACS) PTA.

Mr. Cruz motioned to approve the Carlton School PTO request to use the school parking lot for the fundraiser in October. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Action Items: New Business

Deliberation and Vote on the Salem High Jr. R.O.T.C. four-day field trip request to Molena, GA on November 1, 2018

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Salem High Jr. R.O.T.C. four-day field trip request to Molena, GA on November 1, 2018. Ms. Manning was noted as opposed. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Deliberation and vote on the First Reading of the Revision to School Committee Policy #6501 Subcommittees.

Discussion

Ms. Nuncio reported that the Policy Subcommittee would like to refer an amendment to Policy #6501 Subcommittees for a First Reading. This policy would allow for the inclusion an Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee. Ms. Manning explained that they are basically going to add Equity and Inclusion to the list of Subcommittees that already meet.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the First Reading of the Revision to School Committee Policy #6501 Subcommittees. Mr. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Nuncio informed the School Committee that the Policy Subcommittee members reviewed Personnel policies in the 4000 series category and would like to refer to the School Committee, as a whole, for a First Reading of other policies at the next regular School Committee meeting.

Ms. Nuncio reported that, upon discussion this evening, they would put forth a resolution that mirrors the resolution passed recently by the City Council on September 27, 2018 adopting the same language. Mr. Cruz informed everyone that copies of the resolution were on the table for anyone who would like to have one. Ms. Nuncio continued that the School Committee might want to adopt a 'Yes' vote on Ballot Question 3.

Mr. Fleming stated that supporters of a 'Yes' vote on Ballot Question 3 may use his name, image, and support but knows that the School Committee, collectively, as well as the City Council cannot endorse a ballot candidate nor a ballot question. Mr. Fleming informed that it is illegal, by State Statute, for School Committee to collectively show their support on a ballot question or a candidate. Members engaged in further discussion.

Ms. Nuncio motioned for the School Committee to adopt the resolution, as worded by City Council, providing for protection and maintaining the civil rights of Salem transgender students. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. Ms. Manning called for a Roll-Call Vote.

School Committee Secretary Roll Call:

Ms. Mary Manning	Yes
Mr. James Fleming	No
Ms. Kristine Wilson	Yes
Ms. Ana Nuncio	Yes
Mr. Manny Cruz	Yes

5 Members voted. 4 in the *affirmative*, 1 in the *negative*. The Motion carried.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Mr. Fleming thanked the 120 golfers that created the elements today at Pure Country Club of which the money all goes to scholarships for Salem students in their first year of school. They will have another 120 golfers next Monday.

Mr. Fleming said that, relative to Dr. Walsh's comments earlier, he thought they did have a promise this year to include and increase in a Parent/Child home program. The budget did not develop that way but he would like to officially announce that the Finance Subcommittee shall look at substantially increasing the Parent/Child Home Program budget for the coming academic year.

Ms. Nuncio voiced her support for an increase in the budget next year for the Parent/Child Health Connection program as it makes a difference to give opportunities to students as early as they can.

Public Comment #2: Questions and comments from the audience

A J Hoffman, 3 Victory Road, made an announcement for CPAK that they are having a Basic Rights workshop, which is facilitated by the Federation for Children with special needs. It will be held at the Saltonstall School on Monday, October 22, 2018 from 6:30-9:00pm. It is a crash course in IPs, timelines, and evaluations. It is free and open to the public. Childcare and translations services

would be provided.

Sandra Quartarone, PTA Co-President of Bentley Academy Charter School (BACS), 98 Margin Street, inquired about their request to use the school parking lot for fundraiser in October, which was tabled on 10/1/18. School Committee members explained the legality issues that were looked into before voting in favor.

Scott B. Sternberg, 25 Pickman Road, thanked and applauded School Committee members for standing strong in their support for Salem students, staff, teachers, administrators, and community in that regardless what happens in the state that Salem and Salem Schools stands with everyone in the community. Mr. Sternberg also thanked and applauded Superintendent Ruiz and the Salem School Committee for having gender awareness training in the schools.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the School Committee this evening. Mr. Cruz entertained the motion to adjourn. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Angelica Alayon, Secretary
Salem School Committee

Meeting Materials and Reports

School Committee Consent Agenda October 15, 2018

Saltonstall School field trip request

Salem High Jr. R.O.T.C. field trip request

Warrant

Student enrollment snapshot as of 10/12/18

Policy #6501 Subcommittees

Minutes of the October 1, 2018 Regular School Committee meeting