

Salem School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 7, 2019

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7:03 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 (via telephone speaker remote participation), and Mayor Kimberley Driscoll

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Kathleen Smith, Superintendent, Kate Carbone, Assistant Superintendent, Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy, and Kristin Shaver, Business Manager

**Call of Meeting to Order**

Mayor Driscoll called the regular meeting of the Salem School Committee to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of the Committee of the Whole retreat held September 14, 2019
- b. Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting held September 16, 2019
- c. Minutes of the School Committee of the Whole meeting held September 18, 2019
- d. Deliberation and Vote on the field trip request from Salem High School Basketball Team to Orlando, FL, December 18-22, 2019
- e. Deliberation and Vote on the field trip request from Saltonstall K-8 School for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to visit New York City on June 3-5, 2020
- f. Deliberation and Vote on the field trip request from the Salem High School Band to New Britain, CT on October 26, 2019, Salem, NH on March 7, 2020, New York, NY on April 1-3, 2020, and Canobie Lake Park, NH on June 12, 2020
- g. Approval of Warrants: 9/26/19 in the amount of \$386,706.05, 10/3/19 in the amount of \$206,529.78

**Discussion**

Ms. Wilson reported that a change of location was made, after posting, from the Salem High School Band field trip request. The city New Britain, in item f., has since changed to Stamford, CT.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Consent agenda with the amendment to item f. that the New Britain city be updated to Stamford. Ms. Nuncio seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Cruz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Before the public comment, Mayor Driscoll informed everyone that School Committee member, Ms. Campbell, would be participating via telephone remote participation.

**Public Comment #1: Questions and comments from the audience**

Councilor Thomas Furey, 36 Dunlap Street, City Council Member At Large and former Salem School Committee member, informed the School Committee that he would be making a request for the use and fee waiver of building facilities at the next School Committee meeting. The request would be for Friday, December 6, 2019. It would be for Salem Music Department's band concert fundraiser for Carnegie Hall.

Diana Robinson, 79 Willson Street, talked about the need to create an opportunity to balance the ELL and high needs population in Salem Public Schools. Mrs. Robinson shared details of the differences of district's ELL percentage as recorded on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website and the Salem schools. Mrs. Robinson reminded the School Committee of the

promise to her, students, families, teachers, and the community not to allow segregation to happen again and talked about the need for additional teachers to service the number of ELL students. Mrs. Robinson explained that she advocated for all Salem district students and asked the School Committee who follows up on the district's assignment policy, if there is a plan to address the inequalities, how are schools (that have no room to accommodate new students) being accounted for, and what is the plan to address the Bentley School's demographic imbalance?

### **Superintendent's Report – Kathleen Smith**

Superintendent Smith talked about a forum she attended at Salem State University with the North Shore alliance for economic developments and provided an update on the ALICE drills and training for fall 2019. There will be training for community and parents at Salem High School on October 28, 2019 from 6-7:30pm. Principals are sending letters to parents to inform them of dates that drills will be conducted. The information can be found in the schools district's website. Superintendent Smith talked about the Salem schools used as polling places for the primary. Parents called and reached out to School Committee members with concerns about the school closing and security. Superintendent Smith said she would like to bring this to a future agenda to see if there are opportunities to address them, as there will be an election day in November and a primary election in March 2020.

### **Recognition of Judee Davis, Occupational Therapist at Carlton Innovation, Bates Elementary, and Saltonstall Schools**

Superintendent Smith acknowledged and recognized Judee Davis's work on sensory processing. Deborah Connerty, Acting Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Executive Director, recognized Judee Davis for her substantive contributions, great deeds, and making a difference in the lives of students. Ms. Davis shared a few words with everyone and gave a brief overview of a pilot study program (with 18 students) that she is working with at the Bates Elementary School to measure the success of internal regulation. Ms. Manning shared her interest to know of those results in the future.

### **Update on the Bates Afterschool Program Leadership Team**

Superintendent Smith gave an update on the Bates Elementary School afterschool program and announced that the YMCA took over the afterschool program on October 1.

### **Update on the Bentley Academy Innovation School Prospectus**

Superintendent Smith clarified that an update on the Bentley Academy Innovation School Prospectus was listed on the agenda for this evening but was not to be a presentation. The Innovation Screening Committee reviewed the prospectus from the applicant group during their meeting on Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>. The Innovation Screening Committee is comprised of the Superintendent, School Committee Chair, and Teachers Union president. A vote was taken with two members voting in favor and one voting against. As a result, the prospectus was advanced to the next level of the innovation school development process, which is to allow the applicant to form an Innovation Planning Committee where they would hash out the details of the innovation plan. Once they develop a more comprehensive plan, it would go to the teachers at the Bentley Academy Charter School for a vote and then if passed at that stage, it goes to the School Committee for final approval.

### **Dual Language Program Update – Rebecca Westlake**

Rebecca Westlake, Director of English Language Learning and Bilingual Education, provided a brief update on the Dual Language program. Their partnership with Boston College is moving forward. Ms. Westlake talked about recruitment of Kindergarten families next year and discussed a community forum that will be held in late November (date not specified). A key focus of the task force is English and Spanish learners. Ms. Westlake continued to update on upcoming events and work of the Dual Language program.

### **2019 District Level Accountability and MCAS Results (with Jill Conrad)**

Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy, presented data and analysis on the 2019 MCAS, District-Level Accountability, District-Level MCAS, School-Level Accountability, and MCAS results across schools. Dr. Conrad talked about the new accountability system that focuses on multiple measures

as well as the progress made on set targets by the district and schools. Salem Public Schools earned 63% on the 2019 accountability system, which represents the percentage of progress toward accountability targets. According to the DESE standards, districts that earn more than 50% progress toward accountability targets are making “substantial progress” on their targets. Ms. Carbone explained that improvement efforts focuses on ensuring accessibility for diverse learners, strengthening social, emotional and behavioral supports across Salem schools, bolstering the existing curriculum, continuing to focus on addressing incidents of chronic absenteeism, and moving forward with the High School redesign work. They would like to focus on these at the next School Committee meeting, on October 21, and go into depth on the programmatic initiatives work under way as well as new initiatives to address some of the current understandings of the data. Ms. Carbone commented on the possibility to host a school and School Committee member round tables at a school Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on November 4 (from 5-6:30pm), before the scheduled regular School Committee meeting that evening. Members considered that it would be the day after elections and agreed to check their calendars for another potential date.

**Action Items: Old Business** – None

**Action Items: New Business**

**Deliberation and Vote on the Carlton Innovation School PTO request to use the Carlton School parking lot on October 12-14, 19, 20, 26, 27 from 11am to 6pm and October 31<sup>st</sup> from 12pm to 10pm**

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Carlton Innovation School PTO request to use the Carlton School parking lot on October 12-14, 19, 20, 26, and 27 from 11am to 6pm and October 31<sup>st</sup> from 12pm to 10pm. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion.

**School Committee Secretary Roll Call Vote**

Ms. Mary Manning	Yes
Mr. James Fleming	Yes
Ms. Kristine Wilson	Yes
Mr. Manny Cruz	Yes
Ms. Ana Nuncio	Yes
Ms. Amanda Campbell	Yes
Mayor Kimberley Driscoll	Yes

Seven members voted by roll call with 7 members in the affirmative. The matter carried.

**Deliberation and Vote on the request from North East Burn Basketball for the use and fee waiver to use the Bates Elementary gym for Salem kids on October 3, 10, 17, and 21, 2019**

**Discussion**

Mr. Fleming expressed he is not familiar with North East Burn Basketball. Mayor Driscoll expressed that she would be willing to entertain approving the request subject to review by the Superintendent.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the request from North East Burn Basketball for the use and fee waiver to use the Bates Elementary gym for Salem kids on October 3, 10, 17, and 21, 2019 subject to final review by the Superintendent. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion.

**School Committee Secretary Roll Call Vote**

Ms. Mary Manning	Yes
Mr. James Fleming	Yes
Ms. Kristine Wilson	Yes
Mr. Manny Cruz	Yes
Ms. Ana Nuncio	Yes
Ms. Amanda Campbell	Yes
Mayor Kimberley Driscoll	Yes

Seven members voted by roll call with 7 members in the affirmative. The matter carried.

**Finance Report** – There were no budget transfers

**Subcommittee Reports** - None

**School Committee Concerns and Resolutions**

Mr. Cruz asked the Superintendent who, in the district, is in charge of following up with Mrs. Robinson regarding some of the concerns she had raised earlier in the public comment. Mayor Driscoll responded by providing a brief update on the enrollment and equity subcommittee process to help meet, and address, the needs of the students. Superintendent Smith said she would work with Dr. Conrad and the Parent Information Center to seek the information requested. Ms. Manning commented on the plaque and renaming of the Salem High School's main office. The office will be designated as the Gail A. Kucker Welcome Center on October 21 at 5pm. Mr. Fleming expressed concern on the resignation of a school teacher and the School Committee secretary.

**Public Comment #2: Questions and Comments from the Audience** - None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the School Committee this evening. Mr. Fleming motioned to adjourn the regular School Committee meeting. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Angelica Alayon, Secretary to the  
Salem School Committee

**Meeting Materials and Reports**

School Committee Consent Agenda October 7, 2019

Minutes of the September 14, 2019 School Committee of the Whole retreat

Minutes of the September 16, 2019 Regular School Committee meeting

Minutes of the September 18, 2019 School Committee of the Whole meeting

Salem High School Basketball Team field trip request to Orlando, Florida

Saltonstall K-8 School field trip request to New York City

Salem High School Band field trip request to CT, NH, New York, NY, and Canobie Lake Park

Dual Language Update Presentation

2019 District-Level Accountability & MCAS Results

Salem Public Schools 2019 MCAS Results Presentation

Carlton Innovation School PTO request to use Carlton School parking lot in October 2019

North East Burn Basketball request for use and fee waiver to use Bates Elementary gym in October 2019