

Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 7, 2018

A Regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, May 7, 2018 at 7:05 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, Margaret Marotta, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services, Kristin Shaver, Business Manager, Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy, and Kelley Rice, Chief of Communications.

Call to Order

Ms. Manning called the Regular Meeting of the Salem School Committee to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Deliberation and Vote on the Minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting and Public Hearing Held April 23, 2018

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting and Public Hearing held April 23, 2018. Mr. Cruz seconded the Motion. The Motion carried.

Deliberation and Vote on the Minutes of the Committee of Whole (COW) Meeting Held April 30, 2018

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting held April 30, 2018. Ms. Nuncio seconded the Motion. The Motion carried.

Deliberation and Vote on the Minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting Held April 30, 2018

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting held April 30, 2018. Ms. Campbell seconded the Motion. The Motion carried.

Questions and Comments From the Audience

There were no questions or comments from the audience at this time.

Superintendent's Report – Margarita Ruiz

Superintendent Ruiz notified everyone that 24 Salem Public School students will be participating in the 2018 Special Olympics games hosted at Danvers High School tomorrow. Students will compete at a number of different events. Superintendent Ruiz reported a brief update on how the receiving schools are preparing to welcome students and families from the

Nathaniel Bowditch School for the 2018-19 school year. Not all the details are finalized, as schools are currently focusing on MCAS testing. Many schools have begun reaching out to students and families. Actual welcoming activity dates are still in the works. Much coordination is needed, because they have students at different grade levels that are going to different schools across the district. The idea is to have welcoming days in June, but the logistics of that need to be worked out very carefully. Superintendent Ruiz provided some examples of the work that is happening across the district and stated that they will provide a fuller presentation later this month.

Superintendent Ruiz shared that all of their Salem School chefs and their assistants participated in a master cooking class on a hands-on cooking class that focused on developing eight new multicultural recipes. The recipes will become part of the regular menu at Salem K-8 schools. The goal is to celebrate the diverse student population through food. Ms. Ruiz mentioned some of the new items they have added to the Salem School menus. Superintendent Ruiz updated the School Committee on where they are in the hiring process of the new school leader for the Salem High School. Superintendent Ruiz shared that it is National Teacher Appreciation week and thanked all Salem School teachers, on behalf of their students, for their daily great work in all content areas.

Discussion

School Committee members engaged in further discussion regarding the process of hiring in specific positions by School Committee members. Mayor Driscoll said that the position of Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services has been advertised and outlined. Ms. Driscoll suggested a screening and interview process that would involve multiple stakeholders, including the School Committee.

Presentations and Reports

Update on 2018-19 Kindergarten Assignments

Superintendent Ruiz informed they have completed the assignments for the first batch of Kindergarten assignments and invited Ms. Conrad to provide an update on the process. Ms. Conrad talked about Batch 1 Kindergarten assignments, the first of three batches of Kindergarten assignments that began in January. The deadline for Batch 1 was originally March 1st but was extended to March 9th in light of other circumstances. Another lottery for the Bentley Academy Charter School (BACS) will be held on May 17. Batch 2 applications are ongoing and accepted through June 30th, and the assignments are done on the first week of July for Batch 2. Registrations are later processed on a rolling basis until the beginning of school. Ms. Conrad updated School Committee members, and walked everyone, through the assignment policy and provided members with a handout that lists the total Batch 1 assignments for each of Salem schools. Ms. Conrad concluded by informing that interested or concerned parents and families are welcome to contact the Parent Information Center or Ms. Conrad directly, at any time, at the Superintendent's Office.

Superintendent's Recommendation on Salem's Participation in the Inter-District School Choice Program for 2018-19

Superintendent Ruiz informed everyone of the process of the Inter-District School Choice program, which happens every year and asked Ms. Conrad to provide an overview of the program and present their proposal for the program next year. Ms. Conrad updated School Committee members on the Inter-District School Choice program, which included an explanation of the meaning of inter-district (being between school districts), a brief history of the Inter-District School Choice program, and details of its process and current status. Ms. Conrad continued that one of the two recommendations for this year's Inter-District School Choice program are to continue with the Salem High School program in the 9th

grade, which would allow up to 20 incoming 9th graders to attend the Salem High School for the 2018-2019 school year. Superintendent Ruiz added its reasons and further details. The other recommendation is to expand the program to add up to 10 students, at any high school grade level, to attend the New Liberty Innovation School, a competency-based learning school where students would be individually assessed and determination is then based on what grade level they would fall into. There will be a public hearing on this topic on May 21, 2018 and the School Committee will be asked to vote on the recommendation on that night.

Discussion

School Committee members asked questions, shared feedback, and engaged in further discussion. Mr. Fleming motioned to hold a public hearing, on the proposed recommendations for the Inter-District School Choice program, at the next School Committee meeting. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Action Item

Deliberation and Vote on the Proposed FY19 Salem Public Schools Budget

- a. **Motion to approve the Salem Public Schools FY19 Personnel Budget in the amount of \$45,859,624.**

Discussion

Mr. Fleming stated he is concerned that the Personnel budget might not cover two areas: the 4th grade at the Horace Mann Laboratory School and additions to the Saltonstall School personnel that he feels are not sufficient with the many new students who will be attending, and opposed the motion to approve. Mr. Cruz explained that he struggles with supporting this particular part of the budget through feedback and reviewing the numbers. Changes were made since their first review of the Personnel budget, specifically at the Horace Mann School. Mr. Cruz continued that they could have considered adding an instructional paraprofessional to support the teaching and learning at the school. Mr. Cruz continued his concern that they do not have the resources in place to support teaching and learning at the Horace Mann School - \$24,000 for an FTE does not seem like a huge request for the adequate support needed. Paraprofessionals are critical to teaching and learning and the school system's backbone of support as well as for teachers, parents, and students. Mr. Cruz continued that he would not be able to support this particular part of the budget. Ms. Manning shared that paraprofessionals play an important and major role, they should be allowed to fulfill their specific roles, and should not be used as substitutes. Ms. Campbell echoed the concerns of other School Committee members, said she understands the tight budget, and does not think that this budget sets out to do what they originally intended. Ms. Nuncio shared the same concerns. Members continued to share feedback and engaged in further discussion.

School Committee Secretary Roll Call:

Ms. Mary Manning	Yes
Mr. James Fleming	No
Ms. Kristine Wilson	Yes
Ms. Ana Nuncio	Yes
Mr. Manny Cruz	No
Ms. Amanda Campbell	No
Mayor Kimberley Driscoll	Yes

Of the 7 members voting, four (4) voted 'Yes' and three (3) members voted 'No.' The matter carries/passes with a motion of 4 in the affirmative and 3 in the negative. The matter was approved.

b. Motion to approve the Salem Public Schools FY19 Non-Personnel Budget in the amount of \$11, 769.266.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the FY19 Non-Personnel Budget in the amount of \$11, 769. 266. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The matter passes with 7 members voting in the affirmative. The motion was approved.

c. Motion to approve the total FY19 Salem Public School Budget in the amount of \$57, 628, 890.

School Committee Secretary Roll Call:

Ms. Mary Manning	Yes
Mr. James Fleming	No
Ms. Kristine Wilson	Yes
Ms. Ana Nuncio	Yes
Mr. Manny Cruz	No
Ms. Amanda Campbell	No
Mayor Kimberley Driscoll	Yes

Of the 7 members voting, four (4) voted 'Yes' and three (3) members voted 'No.' The matter carries/passes with a motion of 4 in the affirmative and 3 in the negative. The matter was approved.

d. Motion to approve the total FY19 Bentley Academy Charter School Budget in the amount of \$3, 238, 570.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the total FY19 Bentley Academy Charter School Budget in the amount of \$3, 238. 570. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The matter passes with 7 members voting in the affirmative. The Motion was approved.

Deliberation and Vote on the Approval of the Revised SY2018-19 School Calendar for Saltonstall School

Discussion

Ms. Carbone explained that the revision is a make-up snow day, scheduled for Good Friday.

Mr. Fleming motioned to table the Saltonstall School calendar for the next School Committee meeting. Mr. Cruz seconded the motion. The deliberation and vote on the approval of the revised SY2018-19 School Calendar for Saltonstall School is tabled for the next School Committee meeting scheduled for 5/21/18.

Deliberation and Vote on the Nathaniel Bowditch 8th Grade Field Trip to Canobie Lake Park on June 22, 2018

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Nathaniel Bowditch 8th Grade field trip to Canobie Lake Park on June 22, 2018. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Deliberation and Vote on the Approval of the Salem High School Drama Club Field Trip to New York on May 26-27, 2018

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Salem High School Drama Club field trip request to New York on May 26-27, 2018. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Finance Report

a. Approval of Warrants

April 26, 2018 in the amount of \$517, 143.34

May 3, 2018 in the amount of \$67, 692.55

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the warrants in the amounts stated on the agenda. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Budget Transfers - There were no budget transfers

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Mayor Driscoll shared that Nathaniel Bowditch has their Destination Imagination Global 2018 VIP fundraiser for the Knoxville finals in Knoxville Tennessee. Mayor Driscoll explained they have helped subsidize these events in the past, as it is costly for parents and families to raise the funding to go to Knoxville in such a short period of time and talked about the grant amount they provided before. Mayor Driscoll continued that any contribution would be very helpful to them, commented they do not have it posted for the next agenda, and wondered if the School Committee would entertain the notion of adding an official deliberation and vote for a donation of \$3,000 to \$5,000 resource on the agenda for the next School Committee meeting. School Committee members agreed.

Mr. Fleming addressed the Salem parents, whose child is a Salem Senior student, and informed them that their child may be eligible for one of the Salem Golf Tournament scholarship. Mr. Fleming explained that there are currently insufficient amount of applicants and encouraged Salem parents and families to talk to their child's guidance counselors to apply for the scholarship. The school's guidance counselors have applications and can provide them with further information as needed.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

Jeremy Goldberg, 8 Freeman Road shared that the Kindergarten placements were released this week and felt disappointed that his family was denied any of their three choices. They went to the open house, visited four schools, met with principals and teachers, parents, and other students. Mr. Goldberg communicated that he feels it is not fair, further explained his concerns, and asked questions of School Committee members.

Mary Goldberg, (address not provided) shared how outraged she and other parents felt after completing their applications and being informed they did not get their choice, because they did not meet the necessary demographics.

Fawaz Abusharkh, 4 Harrison Road pointed that the Bentley School is 100% lottery and has nothing to do with the economics. Students who are picked are assigned, extra spots goes on the waiting list and in the order they were picked. It is a charter school. Mr. Abusharkh said that School Committee members should consider supporting the Nathaniel Bowditch community with funding as needed as they have been subjected to the changes they endured due to the closing of the school. There should be money in the

budget to aid their needs. Mr. Abusharkh shared that he continues to believe that the budget is overinflated and shared concerns and indignation on the process of how members are being assigned or appointed.

Scott Sternberg, 25 Pickman Road shared that he wanted to make sure that the School Committee can also think longer term in the ideas of school improvement plans that incorporate the constant monitoring of how the balance in the schools are going and how the students, that have transferred, are performing and what they need so that to make sure that there is some continued focus on that and be able to move to act on them – to make sure to look over the year, two-year, and three-year term.

Lisa Hansen-Damato, 53 Hathorne Street communicated that Mr. Michael Lister has been appointed permanent principal at Saltonstall School and shared a few good words about his work and how pleased they are to have him and that he will be staying. Ms. Hansen-Damato thanked Superintendent Ruiz for listening to the families.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Angelica Alayon, Secretary
Salem School Committee

Meeting Materials and Reports

- School Committee Agenda May 7, 2018
- Minutes of the April 23, 2018 Regular School Committee Meeting and Public Hearing
- Minutes of the April 30, 2018 Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting
- Minutes of the April 30, 2018 Regular School Committee Meeting and Public Hearing
- Recommendation Memorandum Regarding Salem's Participation in MA's Inter-District School Choice Program for 2018-19
- Presentation on Inter-District School Choice – MA
- Participation in the MA Inter-District School Choice Program Information for Salem School Committee Draft 5/3/18
- Nathaniel Bowditch 8th Grade Field Trip Request
- Salem High School Drama Club Field Trip Request
- Salem Public Schools (SPS) Fiscal Year 2019 Proposed Budget Draft