

Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 17, 2018

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, September 17, 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, 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, and Kelley Rice, Chief of Communications.

Call to Order

Mayor Driscoll called the regular meeting of the Salem School Committee to order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Deliberation and Vote on the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting held September 6, 2018

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting held September 6, 2018. Ms. Wilson seconded the Motion. The motion carried.

Questions and Comments From the Audience

Kellie DeYoung-Donlon, Medical Assistant Instructor for Salem High School, introduced herself and two of her students who are chairpersons for their blood drive who took a moment to talk to the School Committee about some of the community service opportunities. School Committee members were invited to support their blood drive, by attending on the 27th. Ms. DeYoung-Donlon also offered blood pressure screenings to those who come to School Committee meetings, as part of their public health curriculum. The screenings would be done once a month or every six (6) weeks as a way of giving back to the community; one of the ways for students to learn to give back to the community.

Superintendent Report – Margarita Ruiz

Superintendent Ruiz reported that the district welcomed Kindergarten students last Tuesday and thanked everyone who helped put everything together. Ms. Ruiz informed the School Committee that Governor Baker is scheduled to visit one of the Early College classes at Salem High School on Thursday, this week. His visit will include observation of a classroom in progress. They will then have a discussion with Salem High School students, teachers, and staff as well as Salem State professors and their partner organization LEAP for Education. This is an opportunity for the Governor to see Salem Early College courses in action, something he is doing across the state at other communities with Early College grants. Superintendent Ruiz highlighted her attendance at the first of ten scheduled dinners last week as part of the Salem Meet and Eat – a community-building initiative through partnership of Salem Public Schools. Eastern Bank is sponsoring the initiative. The meals are free to Salem residents and are held at the Saltonstall School the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Ms. Ruiz urged the public, and all members of the community, to join them at the next meal on October 10, 2018 from 5:30-7:00pm. Ms. Ruiz thanked the many parent volunteers engaged with their school Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and Parent-Teacher Committee (PTC) organizations on the Welcome Back breakfast and lunches for teachers and students at the start of the school year.

Superintendent Ruiz announced that this Saturday, September 15, marked the start of National Hispanic Heritage month and will run through October 15 (September 15 – October 15, 2018). Ms. Ruiz reported that she and Dr. Joseph Cambone, Salem State Dean of Education, have been asked to present at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation convening in Seattle in early October (1st week of October). This is in recognition of the strong Pre-K-12 partnership and work they are doing together to support students and teachers in Salem. Superintendent Ruiz asked the School Committee for a Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting in October dedicated to the new accountability system. The focus of the new accountability framework has shifted to address two questions: How are the schools and the district doing? And what kinds of support would the school and the district need? Ms. Ruiz reported that the accountability of the district would no longer be tied to its lowest performing school. The accountability for Salem Public Schools would be a function of how all four thousand (4,000) students are performing in schools.

Presentation and Reports

Review and Discussion of Mock Agenda using Consent Agenda procedures

Superintendent Ruiz recalled that the School Committee previously voted to adopt a Consent Agenda and referred members to two documents in the School Committee materials: Draft Mock Agenda sample for review and revisions (sample of what the structure of a Consent Agenda would look like) and Consent Agenda plans. Ms. Ruiz explained that the revisions on the Consent Agenda plan, as School Committee previously discussed and agreed to, at a prior meeting, were to add the approval of field trip requests and warrants into the Consent Agenda and deletion of staff appointments regarding School Committee observations.

Discussion

Members shared feedback, insight, and engaged in further discussion on the topic. Members agreed for Minutes to be included in the Consent Agenda given there are no problems and that final approvals of proposals, policies and reports not be included. School Committee members agreed to have a Consent Agenda used at the next meeting.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the adoption of a Consent agenda process, as amended. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Action Items

Discussion and possible re-vote on the request from the Clothing Connection to use the Carlton School parking lot in October 2018.

Discussion

Mayor Driscoll explained that the School Committee received a request, at the last regular School Committee meeting, from the non-profit Clothing Connection to use the Carlton School parking lot. The School Committee checked with the Solicitors office and there were some complications in regards to the use of school-based property for fundraising purposes by outside groups. Superintendent Ruiz informed members that this is still under discussion at the Carlton School and may be resubmitted by the Carlton PTO instead of the outside group, but they are not currently ready to discuss at this time. Mayor Driscoll explained that the School Committee had voted to allow the use of the Carlton School parking lot and that the favorable vote was subject to review of the terms. New requests from the PTO can be submitted given it is in compliance with the law. School Committee members agreed. Members engaged in further discussion. Mayor Driscoll shared she does not think this matter needs to be tabled for deliberation and vote and no action is needed as the School Committee had already voted subject to the legal review.

Deliberation and Vote on the Salem High School field trip request to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida on December 19-23, 2018.

Discussion

Coach Tom Doyle shared additional insights of the field trip. They will participate in three games at a tournament and later enjoy the parks. The cost is approximately \$1,100 per player before airfare. Airfare

would fall within a \$400 range equaling a total cost of about \$1,500 per person. They are working to raise \$25,000 and have very good ideas and a jump start towards fund raising. Members asked questions, shared feedback, and engaged in further discussion.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Salem High School field trip request to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida on December 19-23, 2018. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Finance Report

Approval of Warrants

September 13, 2018 in the amount of \$353,778.11

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the warrant amount as listed on the agenda. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Budget Transfers - There were no budget transfers.

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Nuncio reported that the Policy Subcommittee members met this evening and reviewed policies in the 4000 series. They agreed to review ten policies at a time. They plan to meet in early October and will notify the School Committee of those dates. They will provide a report at the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting scheduled for September 27, 2018.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Superintendent Ruiz shared they would like to discuss the results of the facilities assessment with the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee. Mr. Fleming motioned to refer the matter of the facilities assessment and move to ask the City Solicitor to review the use of school property to Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Cruz seconded the motion. The matter carried. Mr. Fleming reported that the Salem State Golf tournament was cancelled due to the weather. The Salem State Golf tournament granted them two rain dates: October 15th at noontime for the AM group and October 22nd for the PM group.

Questions and Comments From the Audience - There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Angelica Alayon, Secretary
Salem School Committee

Meeting Materials and Reports

School Committee Agenda September 17, 2018

Minutes of the September 6, 2018 Regular School Committee Meeting

Draft Mock Agenda for Review

Draft Consent Agenda

Salem High School field trip request