

Salem School Committee
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 6, 2019

A Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, May 6, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the IMC Classroom 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: Kate Carbone, Acting Superintendent, Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy, Kristin Shaver, Business Manager, Phyllis Hardy, Executive Director of Multi-State Association of Bilingual Education (MABE), Rebecca Westlake, Director of English Learning and Bilingual Education, Nancy Meacham, ELL Coordinator, Salem Public Schools

Review and discuss the Look Bill and Dual Language Programming

Rebecca Westlake, Director of English Learning and Bilingual Education, updated the School Committee on the Look Act and where they are. Ms. Westlake explained that Massachusetts adopted the State Seal of Biliteracy. This is the 2nd year it is offered through Salem, the first year they opened it up for both Juniors and Seniors at Salem High and are seeing great interest. Ms. Westlake walked members through the Look Act Components of the presentation. Ms. Westlake explained that the Look Act opens up English Learner Programs Beyond SEI (Sheltered English Immersion) for everyone and opens up opportunities beyond dual language.

Ms. Westlake introduced Ms. Phyllis Hardy, Executive Director of Multi-State Association of Bilingual Education (MABE). The MABE role is an advocacy and program support group across Massachusetts and New England. Ms. Hardy's role is to support programs that are starting, that have been implemented for decades, and programs that need technical assistance. Ms. Westlake continued that Ms. Hardy's work with MABE was instrumental in passing the Look Act in 2017, and Ms. Hardy has partnered with them. Ms. Hardy updated the School Committee on what is happening with the Bilingual and Dual Language Education in Massachusetts and across the nation.

Ms. Hardy explained that the the previous law disposed of the Transitional Bilingual Education. They are now talking about Dual Language Education. The goal of the program, in Transitional Bilingual Education, is English Proficiency and allows teachers and schools to utilize the language that students come with, so that they do not stop learning the content. The goal is to come to a place where they have all their instructions in English, so that they can go into a mainstream classroom. Whereas the goal of the program, in a Dual Language Education program, is Bilingualism and Biliteracy – an entirely different model.

Ms. Hardy talked of the different state conditions of Bilingual Education, what is happening in Salem, and walked members through the presentation on the definition of Dual Language Education, and its essential components. Ms. Hardy shared there is tremendous commitment to growth, nationwide, of Dual Language Education programs where the goal is Bilingualism and Biliteracy and talked about research on Dual Language programs. Ms. Hardy expressed that many students who start in Kindergarten, and come to their Dual Language program, reach the level of proficiency, by the time they are in the 8th grade, that

current High School Seniors are working towards today to earn the Seal of Biliteracy. These students in the Dual Language program would likely earn the Seal of Biliteracy, with distinction, as they would still have four more years at the High School to continue learning the language.

Ms. Hardy emphasized that the Dual Language Education program is a program for all students. The curriculum is the same standards curriculum in classrooms; that does not change. What changes is that the instruction occurs through two languages: English and another language. In this case, Spanish is going to be the partnering language. Ms. Hardy talked of some very essential components of the Dual Language program and four goals of the Dual Language Education.

Nancy Meacham, ELL Coordinator, Salem Public Schools, provided a brief history of the implementation of the previous Dual Language program in Salem, housed at Federal Street and then as a program within the former greater Nathaniel Bowditch school. Ms. Meacham talked of its success and reason for its discontinuation due to need for staff, financial challenges, and intense focus on student accountability.

Ms. Westlake mentioned she is thinking of using the Federal grant for the Puerto Rico Relief funds grant for next year to try to fund a Spanish speaking Kindergarten teacher to co-teach in order to start a pipeline. Ms. Westlake talked about the community forum on May 22nd. School Committee, and members of the audience, were handed an invitation. Ms. Westlake explained they have a keynote speaker, who had also spoken at the MABE annual conference, who will be coming to work with Lynn and Salem. She would be helping them do a lot of the work around technical things they need to think about, how much literacy, what the curriculum looks like, and what to think about with the placement of the program, for example.

School Committee members agreed this is a path they want to continue to support and look forward to more information and results.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the School Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting this evening, Mr. Cruz motioned to adjourn. Ms. Nuncio seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Angelica Alayon, Secretary
Salem School Committee

Meeting Materials

School Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting Agenda

Look Bill and Dual Language Presentation

Revised FAQ Salem's Plan for a New Two-Way Dual Language Program

Artifact: Dual Language Letter From Jo Sullivan March 12, 2019

Artifact: Bilingual Program Letter From Alex Mancebo