

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2023**

On November 6, 2023 the Salem School Committee held its regular School Committee meeting at 7:00 PM using a hybrid model.

Members Present: Mayor Dominick Pangallo, Ms. Mary Manning, Dr. Kristin Pangallo, Ms. Amanda Campbell and Ms. Veronica Miranda

Members Present Virtually: Mr. Manny Cruz and Ms. Beth Anne Cornell

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Stephen Zrike, Deputy Superintendent Kate Carbone, Dr. Kimberly Talbot, Ms. Ellen Wingard, Mr. Christopher O'Donnell, and Mr. Marc LeBlanc

Others in Attendance Virtually: Ms. Laura Assade

Call of Meeting to Order

Mayor Pangallo calls the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requests a call of attendance. He explained the Public Participation Policy 6409 and also explained the availability of Spanish interpretation.

Attendance

Mayor Pangallo recognizes the attendance with members absent and joining virtually. Dr. Pangallo motions for approval and seconded by Ms. Campbell.

Ms. Campbell	Present
Ms. Cornell	Present Virtually
Mr. Cruz	Present Virtually
Ms. Manning	Present
Dr. Pangallo	Present
Ms. Miranda	Present
Mayor Pangallo	Present

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pangallo requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Dr. Pangallo motions for approval and seconded by Ms. Campbell. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Cruz	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Miranda	Yes

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Pangallo	Yes
Motion Carries 7-0	

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Pangallo requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Pangallo motions for approval and seconded by Ms. Miranda. A roll call vote is taken.

Mr. Cruz	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Miranda	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Pangallo	Yes
Motion Carries 7-0	

Public Comment

Ms. Lisa Hansen-Damato, 53 Hawthorne St., notes she would like to speak briefly in regards to the agenda item pertaining to the Salem College students requesting the consideration to change the name of the Saltonstall School. Ms. Hansen-Damato notes this particular school community has been through a lot and underwent a lot of changes already and hopes this is considered as this discussion unfolds. This is a community that has gone through good and bad changes. This should be a thoughtful process and would like to think of the practical implications in regards to this decision.

Student Showcase - Bentley Academy Innovation School

Ms. Trahn notes the Bentley students this evening will review what they have learned regarding important components of multiplication. The students will be sharing their learning in English as well as Spanish language. Students discuss the breakdown of the distributive property and what it is. Students have learned multiplication, division, and equal groups.

Superintendent Dr. Zrike acknowledges all of the 3rd grade teachers from Bentley School who attended the School Committee meeting and acknowledged their hard work and commitment to each student.

Superintendent's Report

- A. Technology Update from Executive Director of Instructional Technology- Marc LeBlanc

Mr. Marc LeBlanc noted the technology plan development and reviewed which strategy from the strategic plan the technology department could focus on. The four priorities from the strategic plan are to accelerate academic achievement for all students, engage educators in high-quality professional learning designed to strengthen instruction and prepare them to meet

the needs of all students, elevate the voices of students, parents and families to tap into their funds of knowledge, and lastly fully integrate practices and guidelines district wide to build efficiencies and optimize impact.

Salem Public Schools IT Mission statement believes in using fostering independent learners, focus on our students' growth, and families having access to resources and communication tools. Priorities discussed include students, educators, family and community, and data. Providing students have the appropriate skills and independent equitable access to the information they need for current and future success.

Educators have clear pathways to the information and tools needed to create innovative, high-rigor tasks for students. Family and community members have access to technology training and resources in support of their students' learning. Data is accurate, accessible, comprehensible, and can be utilized for transparency in decision making, all while maintaining appropriate confidentiality.

Essential resources and three year budget estimates noted are elementary student, middle student, high school student, educator, and classroom hardwares. Estimated yearly total for 2024 is \$736,650. Mr. LeBlanc reviews the yearly cost for 2025, 2026, and 2027 as well. The organizational chart is reviewed to explain the person and the roles on the IT team.

Future personnel opportunities include potential involvement of library spaces, rethinking the role of the Digital Learning Coach, and strategizing support of applications and data integrations as more resources become digital and data access becomes a premium commodity.

Ms. Manning asks about the Elementary school hardwares and budget requests

Mr. LeBlanc notes the age of the units plays a large factor and the devices at Carlton and Horace Mann have not been replaced in a long time. Some schools have less students but more devices needed. The budgeting for each school is just an estimate. Mr. LeBlanc would plan to sit down with each principal to see if they could undertake the technology projects to update all devices.

Ms. Cornell notes she appreciates the mission statement for the IT department and stating a clear "why". How does his team know "when" technology is the appropriate tool? How does professional development look moving forward?

Mr. LeBlanc notes he firmly believes using a pen and paper is what to do and at times using a laptop is the best practice. This is a large discussion to be had with the academics team vs the IT team on deciding pen to paper learning vs laptop/tablet learning. When technology is the right fit in learning. Is taking notes on a computer vs paper best? Mr. LeBlanc plans on working closely with Dr. Talbot to decide what is the best way to learn for students.

Ms. Cornell notes the professional development for computer literacy for various teaching opportunities?

Mr. LeBlanc notes the professional learning academy is offered. It is one Thursday monthly lead by one of the IT coaches and a variety of different topics.

Dr. Pangallo asks Mr. LeBlanc to discuss students who have different needs beyond the classroom. How is the data accessed internally and for students' families?

Mr. LeBlanc notes each device allows students different settings and guides to engage with their learning outside of the classroom. At times specialized hardware may need to be purchased for the student based on their needs. Data informed instruction is important and there is extensive data cleaning to be done and making sure accurate and making sure when data is entered and replaced it is done correctly. Now we are in a great place and what can be done with the data now.

Dr. Zrike also notes we are working on building an external facing database regarding the strategic plan where families have the option to view as well. We would like the public to be able to see the updates happening and see how we are doing with the strategic plan.

Student Representative Report

none

Old Business

none

New Business

- A. Deliberation and vote on approval to reappoint Dr. James Picone to the Essex Tech School Committee. Ms. Campbell makes a motion and Ms. Miranda seconded. A roll call vote is taken.

Mr. Cruz	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Miranda	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Pangallo	Yes

Motion Carries 7-0

- B. Deliberation and vote on approval to accept the donation of a 2024 Mustang GT from Ford Motor Company and McGovern Ford of Saugus, MA to the ACE program at Salem High School. Ms. Campbell makes a motion and Ms. Miranda seconded. A roll call vote is taken.

Mr. Cruz	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Miranda	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Pangallo	Yes

Motion Carries 7-0

- C. Letter received from Salem State students requesting the renaming of Saltonstall School. Ms. Campbell makes a motion to move this agenda item to the Building and Grounds subcommittee. Mayor Pangallo motions this agenda item is best to be moved to the Policy subcommittee rather than Building and Grounds. Ms. Miranda seconded. A roll call vote is taken.

Mr. Cruz	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Miranda	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Pangallo	Yes

Motion Carries 7-0

Finance & Operations Report

none

Subcommittee Reports

- A. Policies for first reading:
- 2100 Superintendent of Schools - no substantial changes
 - 2101 Administrative Goals - no substantial changes

Ms. Cornell notes Policies 2100 and 2101 do not need to be first readings as they both had no substantial changes made. For 2100 there just needs to be a legal check done.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Mr. Cruz provides notice to the School Committee members that we are on the eve of another evaluation of our Superintendent. Over the next few weeks, Mr. Cruz will provide all School Committee members with the evaluation tool and a rough timeline to have this completed. Mr. Cruz and Dr. Zrike will be scheduling a future COW meeting to give Dr. Zrike to provide an overview of evidence of the evaluation process.

Dr. Zrike notes himself and Ms. Manning had a recent meeting with Peabody Veterans Memorial High School and discussed how we can offer the most CTE programs regionally. Right now there are students who would like access to different programs through different school districts. The

plan is to figure out how other school districts can work together to offer each student more options for CTE programs. This is a generational right for the region.
Ms. Manning notes this meeting was an investment from all angles to continue to work on this.

Ms. Campbell notes a reminder that November 7th is voting for School Committee members and City Council.

Adjournment

Ms. Campbell makes a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Cruz.

Ms. Cornell	Yes
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Mr. Cruz	Yes
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Ms. Manning	Yes
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Dr. Pangallo	Yes
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Ms. Miranda	Yes
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Ms. Campbell	Yes
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Mayor Pangallo	Yes
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Motion Carries 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Krista Perry

Executive Administrative Assistant to the School Committee & Superintendent