

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2021**

On February 1, 2021 the Salem School Committee held its regular School Committee meeting at 7:00 PM using the Zoom platform.

Members Present: Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Ms. Mary Manning, Ms. Amanda Campbell, Dr. Kristin Pangallo, Mr. Manny Cruz, and Ms. Ana Nuncio

Members Absent: Mr. James Fleming

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Stephen Zrike, Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone, Ms. Mary DeLai, Ms. Chelsea Banks, Ms. Liz Polay-Wettengel, Ms. Deb Connerty, Mr. Duncan Mayer, Ms. Deborah Jeffers, Ms. Anne Hillman, and Mr. Gavin Softic

Call of Meeting to Order

Mayor Driscoll called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. Mayor Driscoll read the new Public Participation Policy 6409 and also explained the request for Spanish interpretation for participation.

Mayor Driscoll asked for a moment of silence for Muriel Santos, who worked as a paraprofessional with the Salem Public Schools for over 40 years.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve the Regular Agenda. Mr. Cruz motioned and Ms. Nuncio seconded. The Mayor called a roll call vote.

Ms. Manning	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Nuncio	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 6-0

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Pangallo motioned and Ms. Manning seconded. The Mayor called a roll call vote.

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

Ms. Nuncio	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 6-0

Public Comment

The School Committee Secretary announced that there were 2 public comment requests.

Don Seiffert, 10 Daniels Street asked for his comment to be read. Mr. Seiffert submitted a letter to the School Committee together with Laura Justice, Liz Chaves and Luis Matho. Their letter asked for the School Committee to re-open all the schools and consider in-person learning for all the students in Salem Public Schools.

Geoff Millar, 29 Boardman Street asked if he could comment in person. Mr. Millar also asked for the School Committee to re-open all the schools and consider in-person learning for all the students in Salem Public Schools.

Report from the Student Representative

Duncan Mayer announced to the Committee that the high school will be going back to in-person for anyone who chooses to do so on Thursday. He also gave an update regarding the Student Advisory Council that has been working on providing input in the mental health discussion taking place tonight. He also explained that this is currently the biggest struggle facing students. In addition, Mr. Mayer announced that he will be meeting with Dr. Zrike, Dr. Meier and members of the Student Advisory Council regarding upcoming events at the high school. He also mentioned that they are in the process of resending out the reassessment surveys.

Report of the Superintendent

a. Salem Public Schools efforts to support mental health and social emotional well being
Dr. Zrike introduced Assistant Kate Carbone who explained how a majority of the students have been having a very difficult time due to the social isolation, missing the routines of school and missing the interaction between peers and teachers. She said that because of the situation, they have been trying some new and innovative ways to help the students. She also added that they have been working hard to seek out resources for students and have also applied for grants, which they have just received \$85,000, to help support students' behavioral mental health and wellness, mostly at the high school level. She announced the district has also been recently accepted into an academy that is being hosted by the Dept. of Education which is a 3 year social emotional mental health academy and several principals and team members will be participating. Ms. Carbone introduced Ellen Wingard, Director of Student & Family Support, Tim Potts, Supervisor of School Adjustment Counselors and Psychologists, and Scott Tombleson, Assistant Principal for Student Supports, Salem High School. Ms. Wingard began the presentation with explaining the stress and anxiety the pandemic has brought to the students. She added that fortunately, the district already had an existing commitment and systems in place to offer support. She also spoke about the professional mental health staff that is in place,

the SEL Curriculum and school-based wellness teams that are all working to provide support. Ms. Wingard also explained the family point person tracker that families were assigned. These staff members would check in on the families during the pandemic, how they were doing and if they needed any food or services. During this time, they discovered that the largest challenge reported was remote learning. Ms. Wingard also explained the City Connect Program and how it helped the students. Ms. Wingard next introduced Mr. Tombleson who explained the Salem High School Redesign. He also spoke about how in 2019 the BARR model (which stands for Building Assets and Reducing Risks) was adopted. The BARR model is in place in 117 schools in over 18 states and has positively impacted 100,000 students. This includes embracing 8 strategies of the BARR model. Some of these strategies include focus on the whole student, PD for teachers, support staff and administrators, create cohorts and conduct risk-review meetings. Mr. Tombleson introduced Mr. Potts who explained how several support systems have been put in place and the importance now of strengthening them. Several members of the Committee asked questions.

b. PIC 2020-2021 District Enrollment Report

Dr. Zrike shared the PIC 2020-2021 District Enrollment Report. He explained that this was for informational purposes only.

c. Recognition of Staff - Participation in Interpreter and Translator in Education Training Workshop with UMass

Dr. Zrike announced that 4 staff members participated in the interpreter and translator in education training workshop: Sayonara Reyes, Vanessa Fagundes, Alma Pimental and Hadee Benoit. This workshop consisted of a total of 25 training hours and during this time, they learned more about the standards and procedures of interpreting and translation in the school setting. Each participant received a certificate of completion and shared with the Committee some feedback of what they enjoyed of the program.

d. Update on Student Testing

Dr. Zrike introduced Chelsea Banks who gave a brief overview of the student testing that is being planned for the district. Ms. Banks explained that the state is launching expanded testing for schools utilizing state-wide contracts. We are currently waiting to be matched with a vendor. Ms. Banks said that the district proposes to continue with the current saliva-based PCR pool test for staff and expand the testing to all k-12. Ms. Banks explained the process of the testing program and provided the tentative plan with pilot testing to begin with middle school students at Collins and Saltonstall the week of 2/8 and with a full launch to happen the week students return from February vacation.

e. Request from New Liberty Innovation School for a School Committee member to be part of Innovation Renewal Planning

Dr. Zrike introduced Jen Winsor, Principal of New Liberty Innovation School. Ms. Winsor explained that they are beginning the innovation renewal planning process, which will be presented to the Committee in May. She is requesting a member of the School Committee to sit on the planning committee.

Old Business

None to report.

New Business

a. Acceptance of donation from Frontier Technologies, Inc. to the Bentley School
Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$5,675 from Frontier Technologies to the Bentley School for the purchase of student and staff headphones, document cameras, and a color printer. Mr. Cruz motioned and Ms. Nuncio seconded. The Mayor called a roll call vote.

Ms. Manning Yes

Dr. Pangallo Yes

Ms. Nuncio Yes

Mr. Cruz Yes

Ms. Campbell Yes

Mayor Driscoll Yes

Motion carries 6-0

Finance Report

a. Budget Transfers

Ms. DeLai also requested the following Budget Transfer.

FY21 Budget Transfer Request 13 - Transfer from Substitute Teachers to Computer Software to pay for additional administrative software licensing expenses in the amount of \$10,727.

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve FY21-13 Budget Transfer. Dr. Pangallo made the motion and Ms. Manning seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning Yes

Dr. Pangallo Yes

Ms. Nuncio Yes

Mr. Cruz Yes

Ms. Campbell Yes

Mayor Driscoll Yes

Motion carries 6-0

Subcommittee Reports

a. Policy Subcommittee

There were three policies that were tabled at the last School Committee meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Nuncio to remove the tabled policies, Policy 5222 Parental Notification of Courses Involving Human Sexuality and 5401 Hazing. Ms. Manning seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning Yes

Dr. Pangallo Yes

Ms. Nuncio Yes

Mr. Cruz Yes

Ms. Campbell Yes
Mayor Driscoll Yes
Motion carries 6-0

- i. Policies for Second Reading
 - 3504.01 Emergency Plans
 - 5109 Emergency Closings
 - 5222 Parental Notification of Courses Involving Human Sexuality
 - 5401 Hazing
 - 5713 Emergency Medical and Safety Plans

Ms. Nuncio made a motion for second reading of the above mentioned policies and Ms. Campbell seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning Yes
Dr. Pangallo Yes
Ms. Nuncio Yes
Mr. Cruz Yes
Ms. Campbell Yes
Mayor Driscoll Yes
Motion carries 6-0

- ii. Policies for Third Reading
 - 5102.02 Children of Full-time Staff Members
 - 5224 Animals in School
 - 5405 Drug Abuse

Ms. Nuncio made a motion for third reading of the above mentioned policies. Ms. Manning seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning Yes
Dr. Pangallo Yes
Ms. Nuncio Yes
Mr. Cruz Yes
Ms. Campbell Yes
Mayor Driscoll Yes
Motion carries 6-0

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Ms. Nuncio requested follow up at the next meeting regarding if Civic Education is covered in the new Program of Studies.

Adjournment

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Manning motioned and Dr. Pangallo seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Nuncio	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy A. Weiss

Executive Assistant to the School Committee & Superintendent