

**Salem School Committee  
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

A Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm using the Zoom platform.

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

**Members Absent:** Mr. James Fleming

**Others in Attendance:** Superintendent Stephen Zrike, Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone, Dr. Jill Conrad, and Sayonara Reyes

**Call of Meeting to Order**

Vice Chair Mary Manning called the School Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Discussion regarding the re-enrollment of families that have left Salem Public Schools district during the pandemic**

Dr. Jill Conrad came before the Committee to present the proposal for re-enrollment of students who withdrew because of the pandemic. She explained the number of students this may have affected and some of the reasons why they withdrew (home school, health reasons, parent's job, transportation, etc.). Many members agreed that they would like to see the students come back to the district. There was a question regarding the waiting list process and the date they should use as a benchmark and it was suggested that no date be used and this be called a pandemic related withdrawal. The Mayor asked if changes need to be made to our current school choice policy since residency could become an issue.

It was agreed that since this is not a policy change, no vote would be required of the Committee. The Committee decided that the Superintendent would have the authority regarding the re-enrollment requests.

**Central Office Review Findings**

Dr. Zrike presented to the Committee the recommendations that he has received from an outside consultant regarding setting up strategic priorities. He further explained the reasons why and the 7 findings that the consultant provided in the report. Dr. Zrike also announced that he would like to post a new position, Executive Director of Student of Family Support Services. He explained that this position would be budget neutral and would replace the position that was vacated when Dr. Conrad left. Ms. Manning asked if this could be sent to the Finance Subcommittee.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the School Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting this evening, Ms. Campbell motioned to rise and report. Mr. Cruz 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 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Nancy A. Weiss*

Executive Assistant to the School Committee  
& the Superintendent

**Approved March 1, 2021**