

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2022**

On February 28, 2022 the Salem School Committee held its regular School Committee meeting at 7:00 PM using the Zoom platform.

Members Present: Mayor Driscoll, Ms. Mary Manning, Mr. Manny Cruz, Ms. Amanda Campbell, Dr. Kristin Pangallo, Ms. Beth Anne Cornell, and Mr. James Fleming

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Stephen Zrike, Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone, Chelsea Banks, Liz Polay-Wettengel, Marc LeBlanc, Linda Farinelli, Adam Colantuoni
Bethann Jellison, Margie, Zoe Zohn
Brian Edmunds, Carly Mandell, Alexis Eveleth, Robyn Murtaugh

Call of Meeting to Order

Mr. Cruz calls the meeting to order at 7:01pm and requests a call of attendance by the school committee secretary. Mayor Driscoll enters at this time and takes over the call of the roll. She explained the Public Participation Policy 6409 and also explained the availability of Spanish interpretation.

Attendance

The school committee secretary called the attendance.

Ms. Campbell	Present
Ms. Cornell	Present
Mr. Cruz	Present
Mr. Fleming	Present
Ms. Manning	Present
Dr. Pangallo	Present
Mayor Driscoll	Present

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve the Regular Agenda. Mr. Fleming motioned and Mr. Cruz seconded. A roll call vote was taken as requested by the school committee secretary.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Mr. Fleming	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 7-0

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Which includes:

- Approval of minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting held on 2/7/22
- Approval of minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held 2/15/22
- Approval of Warrants: 2/10/2022 - \$285,740.62; 2/17/2022 - \$569,581.08; 2/24/2022 - \$456,251.11

Mr. Cruz motioned and Mr. Fleming seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Campbell	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Mr. Fleming	Yes
Ms. Manning	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 7-0

Report from the Student Representative - Hawa Hamidou Tabayi

Hawa reports the SAC had their retreat and created action plans for the restorative justice circles they've been working to prepare and implement. They are working on preparing a presentation/assembly district wide to explain the process for what and how restorative justice circles work using SHS as the model. The SAC is also working on the Student's Rights handbook as it stands in its first draft. The final component of discussion has been around the topic of the mask mandate and the future of that mandate. Originally the group's discussion was surrounding masking or lifting masking. The SAC has shifted their outlook to wanting more socialization limitations be removed as it pertains to COVID-19 protocols, such as the rows of desks in the lunchroom versus tables. She notes the SAC wants to highlight the impacts of COVID-19 mitigation protocols have on high school and middle school students. Also looking into student discipline at SHS, specifically with vape detectors. A meeting with the assistant principals is being scheduled to discuss the ways students are being searched, as there is not currently a transparent protocol outlining that process.

Dr. Pangallo asks Ms. Hamidou Tabayi about the preferences regarding the lunch room. Ms. Hamidou Tabayi references the way standardized testing occurs in large open spaces as the way the lunch room is set up and the SAC would like to see more communal spaces/tables available for socialization. She notes students eating in the library or other spaces where there are tables. Dr. Pangallo asks if people are eating outside. Ms. Hamidou Tabayi shares that outdoor eating was introduced in the beginning of the school year but students haven't been eating outside since the beginning of November, potentially October.

Presentation of Honorable Mention Award - MA Partnership for Youth Poster Contest

Dr. Zrike introduces tonight's guest: Margie Daniels - Executive Director of Massachusetts Partnership for Youth. The program promotes and supports mental health and safety throughout the state. He also notes Principal Jellison being present and student Zoe Zohn who will be receiving the award. Ms. Daniels introduces herself and provides background of the company. She notes the

theme for this year's poster contest: Peace Brings the World Together. Ms. Daniels mentions the characteristics of the poster that the judges noted during selection of winners and honorable mention awards. Zoe shares her inspiration being that quarantine had stress on people and that this virus has been an emotional stress but coming together can change the vision of how we see the world. Ms. Daniels provides some words of appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Zrike and his work as a superintendent and support of MA Partnership for Youth.

Student Showcase - Salem Prep High School

Mr. Edmunds opens the presentation regarding the student voice project with partnership of The Equity Imperative - he notes the students will use their voice to present their work. Alexis and Robyn introduce themselves and background being a student of Salem Prep High School, Robyn notes worries of mental health within the district and lack of highlighting this concern throughout the district. The students note teachers are not adequately prepared to assist in mental health - and that historically, counselors were meant to focus on mental needs of students and teachers on academics - whereas teachers could intertwine mental health advocacy into their work. Robyn notes the student voices say that Social Emotional Health should be included as a mandatory class throughout the district. Mr. Edmunds notes these two students being willing to bring forth the ideas presented tonight and he shares gratitude for the students representing hard work from the SPHS student body. Dr. Zrike also mentions these students requesting time on an Executive Team meeting to introduce and present their voice. Ms. Mandell notes gratitude for working to facilitate this platform for student voice.

Dr. Pangallo notes the point for evaluation for 504's/IEPs taking a while and wonders if there are ways to address student needs during the process that sounds to be timely. She notes returning to that question and thoughts in a future meeting.

Public Comments

The School Committee Secretary reads comments submitted ahead of the meeting aloud and promotes two people to speak their comment.

Tom Granitsas

33 Buffum St

I believe that it is clear that moving forward with removing the mask mandate and switching to a freedom of choice is appropriate at this time. As I understand some parents and teachers concerns over the spread of covid-19, I do believe that we've learned quite a lot about this virus in what preventative measures to take. Children have been made to cover their faces and wear masks for over 2 years now and I do think that it is time to follow the guidelines given to us by the CDC and and the government officials as well as the data and move forward from this and allow it to be a choice. Thank you.

McKenzie Shultz**31 Valley Road Nahant Ma**

My name is McKenzie Shultz and I am one of the SPS district's float nurses. I am here tonight because I believe at this time we should move to optional masking. The past two years have been incredibly difficult. Our students, parents, and staff have needed to adjust to a new normal because of the pandemic and this has been overwhelming for many. When it comes to masking in the schools I would like to be completely transparent, a large portion of our day is spent asking individuals to fix their masks because they're not being worn properly. Thankfully the school department has taken great strides to prevent spreading COVID throughout our schools. This included upgrading our water bubblers into water dispensing stations, hand sanitizer is readily available throughout the schools, and always circulating fresh air when weather permits. The district provides weekly pooled covid testing for all students and staff, we are holding vaccine clinics, and rapid home test kits are being distributed regularly. I believe by continuing to use these mitigation factors within our schools, our families should be able to decide which option of masking is right for their individual family. With the schools using these mitigation factors I kindly ask for families to stay home when sick, continue to wash their hands frequently, get vaccinated if able, and take advantage of our testing options.

Ana Brea**25 Belleview Avenue**

On behalf of Voices Against Injustice and the VAI Award committee, I would like to announce that the nomination deadline for the 2022 Raising Leader Award has been extended until March 16. The Raising Leader Award recognizes a young person living in Salem or attending a Salem School or community program, who has demonstrated a commitment to Human Rights and Social Justice through service and leadership. It includes a \$500.00 scholarship. Nomination forms outlining eligibility and process are available on our website, voicesagainstinjustice.org. Please note that while we have received some strong nominations, as of the time of this writing we have not received a nomination for a Salem High School student.

Ann Berman**1401 Crane Brook Way, Peabody**

Good evening Mayor Driscoll, Dr. Zrike, and members of the school committee. In regards to your vote on the mask mandate this evening, I would ask that you move cautiously in your decision to remove mandatory masks in school. In the past, we have seen infection rates soar after a vacation week. We have immunocompromised students and adults in our buildings who cannot afford to get sick. Some of us go home to immunocompromised family members. I know educators who remain cautious in their lives outside of school as well, in an effort to stay healthy. At my school, it is business as usual. We have small group work happening, we are sharing supplies, we go to our specialist classes, and our kids are doing it with a mask on. Isolation that was brought on by covid remote learning affected many of our students in a negative way. I have seen the first hand effects of this with my grandchildren. However, I see kids thriving in school now despite wearing a mask. They are learning and growing. I have seen so many signs of compassion and caring when a classmate is out sick. I know many will disagree with me but I don't believe masking is harming our children. Illness and isolation has done much more damage. I do think we need to, at some point, remove masks but lets make sure that 1) it is done safely and thoughtfully by looking at case counts and 2) that we use those case counts to remask if we see numbers going up again. As for me, I will remain masked to support any student who feels they need to continue masking up while in my classroom.

In regards to your vote this evening to add a break in during November, I do not support this. It will negatively affect our lowest paid employees at a time of year when pocketbooks are often hit hard with Thanksgiving and then subsequent holiday celebrations. However, I would love to see a bit of an extension to the Winter holiday, giving educators and families a day or two before December 25th to be able to travel and perhaps a day or two after January 1st to return home from a trip.

Thank you.

Donna Fritz

57 Summit St

Thank you school committee for your thoughtful consideration of the mask mandate. I have been subbing at the high school and middle school and I hope that you vote to move to mask optional. What I am experiencing is the schools are already in a mask optional world so you might as well make it reality. One way masking is already at work because those who want to wear them are wearing them properly and those who do not are not wearing them properly. Thank you, Donna

Barbara McLernon

25 Sunset Drive, Peabody

Good evening Mayor, School Board Members, and extended Salem Community,

I am Barbara McLernon, social director of the Salem Teachers Union and I also work at Collins Middle School. Tonight I would like to preview what will be happening with the Salem Teachers Union scholarship drive over the next few months. Our end gain is to have a raffle calendar for the month of May where raffles will be drawn daily. The raffle calendar will raise funds for our Salem High School seniors who qualify for the STU scholarships. Soon we will be asking local businesses for donations - as each day in May will be full of wonderful prizes. We would love to see all kinds of goods and services highlighted on the calendar and this letter will be physically and electronically sent to merchants. The letter will read:

I am writing on behalf of the STU scholarship drive to request a donation for our May 2022 raffle calendar supporting college scholarships for our Salem High seniors. Durin this event which reaches hundreds of community members, we will raffle gift cards, merchandise, and services generously donated by businesses like yours. The event will create 4 scholarships to be awarded by the STU, we would greatly appreciate any donation you could make. If you donate your business will be recognized on the 2022 raffle calendar and the STU will also provide you with a donation letter and our tax exempt ID number for your records.

The letter goes on to have information for how to connect with someone for donation. We hope to send something similar to parents through ParentSquare and the calendars will be available electronically right around April break. Thank you for listening, and I appreciate your time.

Phil Giglio

54 Lawrence St

Good Evening Member's of Of The School Committee

Just like to take A moment and thank each and every one of you for the very useful information meeting on February 15th .. Dr Kristin Pagalla your knowledge goes unnoticed. So thank you I thought I heard that teacher's won't be allowed to compel students to wear a mask. So now you have A teacher who's stuck in the middle of getting the child sick or themselves. I'm asking that keeping the mask optional will all cause more problems with staff. vaccine rates are low inside the school as everyone is asking how it is different? Well it's because as A community A parent caregiver we need to consider helping others getting vaccinated. We are also still in flu season . I hope that you vote to keep the mask on for a bit longer.. Some people could be struggling to make an appointment to get a vaccine ? We need more mobile walk-up walk-in clinics to make it easier.

Mandee Spittle

8 Woodbury Court

When making the decision to lift the public school mask mandate I respectfully request that you wait two weeks if not more from today. I would also request that you start a conversation in the schools to help support the students who will continue to remain masks. As a parent of an Immune compromised child I think it is important to help the students and community understand the reasons why some students will remain masked. Once masked are removed there is going to be a significant increase in illnesses and this will cause more work for the nursing staff. They have worked so hard the past two years and I hope that strong systems will be put into place to help support them while they navigate optional masking.

Erin Harrington

15 Lafayette Ave A4, Danvers - Teacher at Saltonstall

I hope the School Committee will NOT vote to remove the mask mandate in Salem schools. It does not make sense to stop universal masking just because we're tired of it. Students deserve a safe learning environment, and in a still uncontrolled and mutating pandemic, safe means masks. For everyone. Universal masking is a layer of safety for everyone, and moving to mask-optional will make everyone—including those who continue to mask—less safe.

We have a duty of care to every child that comes into our schools, and a mask-optional policy would be deeply inequitable. Mask-optional means we care more about "pandemic fatigue" than the safety of our immunocompromised students, like those with diabetes and asthma. Mask-optional means we care more about an "inconvenience" than about the legitimate fears of students who wear masks every day to protect their siblings too young to be vaccinated or their grandparents and great-grandparents at higher risk of complications.

Practically, mask-optional means we are letting children decide if they're going to wear a mask at school or not—passing the buck to them to decide and deal with the consequences, rather than act as the adults we are to keep them safe even if it's "annoying."

Please. Keep the masks for all.

Don Seiffert

10 Daniels St., Apt. 2

We've been supporters of the mask mandate in Salem schools for more than a year and a half now, and believe it has helped reduce the spread of Covid-19. But with just 39 active Covid cases as of Feb. 28, 72% of the population vaccinated and no new variants having been reported in months, we think it's time for the decision whether or not students should wear masks to be up to parents. The CDC last week changed its recommendations on masking indoors, and Massachusetts as a whole is already much further along in vaccinations as well as getting over the Omicron surge than the rest of the country.

Masks are a relatively small burden compared to the devastation due to the pandemic. However, there are inarguably downsides to kids wearing them. Communication is harder, and socialization between kids — one of the most important aspects of a public school education — is severely hampered. The behavior problems we've seen in schools this year are at least partially caused by the difficulty in students reading social cues. We urge you to make mask-wearing optional as soon as possible.

Liz Frazier

2 Warner St. Salem, MA 01970

Our family feels that relaxing in-school mask mandates, given recent encouraging public health metrics, is appropriate at this time. The CDC has just relaxed mask guidelines and many schools in our area are also adopting this mindset. Like many others who have commented, safety measures in the schools are rigid and transmission among children is low. Mental health issues are taking a toll on many of the students and it's time for them to regain some normalcy. Optional masking allows those with concern to continue to do so until they feel it is safe. Thank you.

John McHarrie

5 Nurse Way

Good evening, this past Thursday, my wife Ashley and I emailed the school committee regarding the masking topic, as we have a 7 year old enrolled at Carlton elementary school who has never experienced school without wearing a mask. I would like to thank Dr. Pangallo and Ms. Cornell for responding to us. We are, however, disappointed that the other board members did not reply. For the record, our family is 100% supportive of ending masking all together, but also fully respects anyone's choice to continue to wear a mask.

As of this writing, there is no federal mask mandate in the United States. As of today, the school mask mandate ordered by the State of Massachusetts ended. Additionally, on February 8, 2022, the Salem Board of Health voted to rescind the masking requirement in Salem. These decisions were made based upon public health data related to falling case counts and hospitalizations. Additionally, the CDC has recognized these trends and on Friday, February 25 announced revised masking requirements in schools, the criteria, which I believe as of today, Salem meets to remove masking. Children and young adults continue to be the population segment LEAST affected by Covid-19, both from a symptomatic and transmissibility standpoint. Why is the school committee, who has deferred to such public health guidance all along, now considering challenging public health experts with enacting its own mask mandate?

Presentation with Recommendations Related to Moving Forward with COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

Dr. Zrike asks Ms. Banks to share the presentation prepared for the school committee. Dr. Zrike provides an overview of the discussion at the COW meeting on February 15th and how they pertain to the presentation tonight regarding recommendations to future mitigation measures. He notes the presentation this evening is based on a data driven approach.

Ms. Banks notes the announcement of the state-level mandate being removed as of 2/28 and the CDC noted a shift of masking over the February break. These two large shifts are driving the recommendations for the upcoming weeks. Overview of masking changes in neighboring communities is provided. Ms. Banks share local COVID-19 data snapshots with various graphs. Ms. Banks review the multi-layered approach to minimize the risk of spread as presented in August 2020.

Dr. Zrike notes proposes a recommendation for the future of the virus in partnership with SPS Health Advisors and how informed decisions are made in the future. He also recommends having a strategy for decision-making for the different levels of risk as it pertains to the virus. He goes into further detail about securing a team of Health Advisors to meet regularly to provide and recommend the right level of risk mitigation for the district and learn how to live with the virus in the future. He outlines the key components for his recommendation of decision-making strategy in regard to metrics and considerations.

Ms. Banks notes the leveling of mitigation. She returns to past mitigation strategies that have already been presented and implemented throughout the district. She notes at current - the district is living on a Level 3 Mitigation Strategy and the district is recommending a Level 2 into Level 1 Mitigation Strategy in response to risk and mitigation. Dr. Zrike notes the mitigation strategies that should have always

been and should remain in place as regular practices (i.e. filtered air ventilation, outdoor dining, consistent hygiene, etc.)

Dr. Zrike notes the timeline. He mentions the two week timeframe following the February 28 mask-lifting date. He notes having time with the health advisory group ahead of the March 14 date which would be the two week mark. He continues to identify considerations for the the committee to note, including: pre-k students not eligible for vaccine, students/staff being able to wear a mask without fear of bullying or teasing, not changes to isolation guidance with this recommendation, masks would need to remain in health offices, and sports and performing arts are still operating under the mask mandate despite being fully vaccinated.

Mr. Cruz notes from a communication standpoint that if masks are voted to be optional that there is a need for general respect for both sides of those wanting to continue to mask and those who are not masking. Another note he makes is surrounding consideration for decision making in regard to advocacy regarding students who are immunocompromised or those that have members of their family who are considered at risk. He also notes approaches with the littlest learners who do not have access to vaccination and consideration around the tiered system for schools that are in different positions. He wonders if the health advisors will be looking at the recommendations in terms of the district as a whole or specific situations regarding school-by-school. He's also wondering about the tiers and how they apply to students participating in drama and sports and if there is consideration for the fact that these groups of students are fully vaccinated. He wonders if the recommendation is around the vaccination requirement as well.

Mayor Driscoll summarizes Mr. Cruz's points and asks if Dr. Zrike would like to respond to Mr. Cruz or take more questions or comments from other school committee members. Dr. Zrike notes one specific notion in regard to the question of access as it pertains to age and vaccination access.

Ms. Campbell asks for clarity on the proposed recommendation - questioning if the recommendation is requesting the school committee grant access to the health advisory committee to make recommendations to the superintendent to move forward with decision-making and implementation. Dr. Zrike and Ms. Banks give the "thumbs up." Ms. Campbell notes having mixed feelings on that as on one hand it allows us to act nimbly but it's also a tough position to be in to have other folks to be making the decisions - and she notes having an elected role to be making these decisions. She wonders if there is a middle ground to agree upon as looking at the criteria and considerations for decision making. She notes having information provided by experts to allow the committee to make informed decisions as elected officials. She notes the importance of being able to weigh in on the metrics. She notes the subjective language with leveling approaches and asks if the committee could get a better way of saying what's trying to be said without it all sounding the same. Ms. Campbell also raises the issue noted by a parent at the last meeting and discussed by Ms. Manning in regard to parents making choices for minors and now allowing decisions to be made with regard to masking and how teachers are to keep track of students and their masking expectations. She also raises immunocompromised students and staff, she also notes a female-dominant profession and increase of female teachers being pregnant, taking maternity leave, and having young babies and the concern and stress of "COVID time," and sick-time for covering parental leave. She notes the final component being the timeline of

informing the community on March 11 for the date of mask changes being March 14 and lack of time to discuss the respect and expectation factors within the classroom within that brief timeline.

Ms. Manning notes being more comfortable with a delineation of the responsibilities of the health advisory council specifically stating their decisions will be made only specific to COVID-19 protocols. She also asks if the make-up of the committee is those who have been helping us now. She raises the issue of perhaps needing an override provision as the school committee remains the elected officials to be making decisions such as this. She isn't sure if it's needed or not but more so opening for discussion among the group. Ms. Manning continues by mentioning a plan is needed for K-12, and perhaps a separate plan is needed for the early childhood center and the pre-k students in other schools as those students are not yet vaccinated. Lastly, she notes the sports and drama events coming up and would like to make a motion later to make an allowance for students actively participating in the game and on stage to remove masks.

Dr. Pangallo notes being on the advisory group and one of the reasons she's in favor of it, puts the guidance in the hands of those who have expertise in the area. She mentions as SC members, changing, rescinding, and adapting things is within the realm of duties. By nature of adopting the health advisory recommendation, it doesn't remove the authority of the school committee. She highlights the important role of oversight the school committee would have should the recommendation be adopted. She also mentions the importance of recognizing the evolution of trends, metrics, and science on the day-to-day. She mentions new data showing the 5-11 vaccine isn't as effective as hoped and to take that into consideration in decision-making. She mentions the concern for variants that could come that could affect the plans to decide on. She notes returning to a level of normalcy but figuring out how to do that with reference to metrics and data. Dr. Pangallo raises the sports and drama consideration and prefers only having one recommendation and change if possible - being if we are not changing masking until March 14th or a future date, then we keep the process the same for those specific events and students. If that's not what's decided upon she hopes rapid testing before the games and/or performances be completed as an additional layer of mitigation and safety.

Ms. Campbell clarifies that she wants to be able to authorize health experts in terms of what the school committee feels comfortable with in terms of health and wellness of the students. She also notes not having a specific number to drive protocol changes as metrics and data numbers are changing rapidly. She would also like to see the advisory committee and school committee define specific language that as of right now seems subjective rather than unified in the definition. She also notes language used: "equitable access to and level of vaccination rates in schools" and would like to see those considerations split in two separate metrics of consideration. She completes her thoughts noting it's not possible to have a pre-k plan and a K-12 plan as the pre-k classrooms are embedded in school communities of K-12 grades where there are shared communal spaces. She believes the decision needs to be made as a school community.

Mr. Cruz shares concerns of Ms. Campbell's and notes the need for recommendations to return to the school committee for decision making. He notes the language of an advisory group rather than a decision-making group and mentions policies surrounding that process.

Ms. Cornell would like to see perimeters being clearly noted by the health advisory committee for better decision-making by the school committee and to be able to inform families who may be reaching out on the matter. Ms. Cornell is happy to take the information from the health advisory committee but also notes the importance of the school committee putting the stamp of approval on the decision. She agrees with many voices of families who have connected with the school committee regarding the two week wait for mask optional following the break. She requests more detail on the social emotional learning expectations for the school regarding support and empathy for those who decide to and not to wear masks. She wonders about support for nursing staff if masks are removed and the concern of an uptick in cold and flu and thinking about returning to normalcy with regard to regular coughs and sneezes where students won't be removed from the classroom for concern of COVID. Lastly she notes athletics - noting going mask-free with rapid tests happening before production and games.

Mr. Fleming agrees that masks can be removed on stage or on the floor for performances and games and they should be worn when not playing or performing. He mention none of the levels presented mention distancing and with regard to Ms. Cornell noting sneezing - he thinks there should be language surrounding distance between people, perhaps in 3 feet. Lastly, he notes he is not comfortable with anybody aside from the school committee being in charge of making decisions.

Ms. Manning agrees rapid testing is important. She notes the social emotional learning going both ways in the sense of choice between those wearing and not wearing masks. She notes the pre-k and ECC needing a separate recommendation, recognizing Ms. Campbell's points, but noting the unvaccinated children may require different arrangements for students who don't have access. She pushes for different mitigation strategies for the little guys. She asks for clarification on voting on whether or not the health advisory is making the decisions.

Mayor Driscoll notes the expectation of masking remain in place for at least two weeks following the break. She reflects one what she's hearing in regard to the school committee members wanting to be in charge of decision making, and instead of picking a date on a calendar - using a group of metrics, is important for the committee to drive decisions. She notes the committee is wanting the recommendations be provided to the group for decision making, and lastly the decisions surrounding athletics and performances between now and a potential mask-lifting date.

Ms. Cornell asks about strategies listed on the levels presented tonight and what was voted on by the committee versus what was decided at the district level. She wonders what decisions based on the levels need to be made by the school committee.

Mayor Driscoll notes the best process may be for the health advisory committee to assess the data, deliver it to Dr. Zrike, and propose recommendations to the school committee for decision-making as the conversation and assessment of data and metrics is translating into a granular conversation.

Mr. Cruz notes the policy sent to Dr. Zrike in regard to decision making and the legal commitments of the school committee. He notes the health advisory committee and provides information to be presented to the school committee for decision-making.

Ms. Manning notes the topic isn't her concern, it's the process which she's trying to protect when it comes to school committee and decision making. She also wonders if it would move the process along and makes a motion to suspend the requirements for the boys basketball team and two drama clubs at SHS and CMS to follow the mask mandate while actively participating in the events until further change is made, noting rapid testing be required before participation; and masks to be worn when not actively participating.

Dr. Pangallo notes concern for students who signed up assuming everyone would be wearing masks and now that's gone - could put the students in an uncomfortable situation. She would prefer to keep the protocol as is, and see it through until the end. She also mentions discussion around the health advisory reporting back to the school committee - and she points out that it's the school committee's responsibility to ensure access to vaccines and access to masking no matter how the decision shakes out. She notes we haven't succeeded at ensuring vaccination and entirely separate from masking - the committee needs to keep the emphasis on vaccination throughout the community.

Mayor Driscoll summarizes what she hears from the members of the school committee regarding the recommendations provided tonight and what's needed for making decisions at the upcoming meeting to determine next steps in masking.

Calendar Options for SY 2022-2023

Dr. Zrike notes wanting the committee to consider the proposed calendars for the multiple schools for SY 2022-2023. He noted three options for consideration: pause after Halloween, a break in November, and an extension for winter break. He mentions having time to consider the proposed calendars with anticipation of a vote to confirm calendars at the next meeting.

Mr. Cruz requests having the election dates added in September in November. Dr. Pangallo notes in some of the calendars, the election dates are highlighted on various dates and should be consistent throughout. She also asks about the consideration of the three break options and assumes they were not added but should be considered in thinking and decision making. Dr. Zrike confirms. Ms. Campbell notes the main elementary and Carlton calendars have the incorrect November election date and Dr. Zrike notes those calendars needing updating. Mayor Driscoll notes the committee will consider the recommendations and move forward with a vote at the next meeting.

Personnel Report

Dr. Zrike mentions the personnel report is available in the packet as requested by the committee.

Old Business

None

New Business

Deliberation and vote on SHS ROTC overnight/out-of-state field trip to Elizabeth, NJ

The Motion:

Mayor Driscoll requests a motion to vote on the SHS ROTC overnight/out-of-state field trip to Elizabeth, NJ for a physical fitness challenge. Mr. Fleming makes a motion and Mr. Cruz seconded.

Discussion:

Dr. Pangallo requests clarification if testing and vaccination expectations are being followed for this trip. Mr. Fleming notes that's a good addition to the motion. Dr. Zrike confirms that is true.

Roll call:

Ms. Manning	No
Mr. Fleming	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 6-1

Deliberation and vote on recommendations for masking in Salem Public Schools

The motion:

Ms. Manning makes a motion to suspend the mandate for wearing a mask for students actively participating, competing, or performing on the floor for basketball playoff tournament and drama performances ensuring rapid tests are completed for SPS students ahead of the events. Students shall remain masked on the bench, and off stage. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Dr. Pangallo prefers not including music performances as the band includes a lot more students and raises more concern for transmission so keeping the motion only to basketball and drama is preferred.

Ms. Cornell requests adding rapid testing to the motion and also asks about the visiting team requirements for coming to Salem and the expectations they'll have in regard to our decision making. Dr. Zrike notes the home team's policies apply - Ms. Banks notes testing for visiting teams cannot be done without consent and we wouldn't have the ability to require consent for other districts. Dr. Zrike reads the MIAA guidelines released on February 28, 2022.

Ms. Campbell raises concern for the amount of students in a drama ensemble and wonders if that should be omitted from the motion.

Discussion surrounding consistent language and decisions for groups is had. Mr. Cruz and Ms. Cornell way in on the language and decision making surrounding consistency. Dr. Pangallo shares data surrounding cases and shares that lifting masks is a decision being made too soon.

Roll call:

Ms. Manning	Yes
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Mr. Fleming	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	No
Ms. Cornell	No
Ms. Campbell	No
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 4-3

Finance Report

None

Subcommittee Reports

Policies for Second Reading:

1103 Distribution of Notices, 1105 Media Relations/News Releases, 1107 Public's Right to Know

Mayor Driscoll requests a motion to move the above policies for second reading. Ms. Cornell makes the motion and Mr. Cruz seconds the motion. Roll call vote is taken:

Ms. Manning	Yes
Mr. Fleming	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 7-0

Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee Report presented by Mr. Fleming:

Mr. Fleming notes the subcommittee met on February 28th and considered three issues: review of capital projects requests and forwarded to the city for further consideration, considered entering an agreement for solar at Collins and Salts and would like to vote on that at the next meeting, and also considered budget for facilities and buildings and grounds and has sent to finance.

He notes only one vote needed at the next meeting by the whole committee for Solar energy at CMS and Salts. Mayor Driscoll asks if he is making a motion to move that to a vote at the next meeting. Mr. Fleming makes the motion, Mr. Cruz seconded. Roll call vote is taken:

Ms. Manning	Yes
Mr. Fleming	Yes
Mr. Cruz	Yes
Dr. Pangallo	Yes
Ms. Cornell	Yes
Ms. Campbell	Yes
Mayor Driscoll	Yes

Motion carries 7-0

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

None at this time.

Adjournment

Mayor Driscoll entertains a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fleming motioned and Ms. Manning seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Manning Yes

Mr. Fleming Yes

Mr. Cruz Yes

Dr. Pangallo Yes

Ms. Cornell Yes

Ms. Campbell Yes

Mayor Driscoll Yes

Motion carries 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:39pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jensen Frost

Executive Administrative Assistant to Assistant Superintendent