

**Salem Public Schools
Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2022**

On June 22, 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, Marc LeBlanc, Linda Farinelli, Rubén Carmona

Call of Meeting to Order

Mayor Driscoll calls the meeting to order at 7:02pm and requests a call of attendance. 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 Ms. Manning seconded.

All in favor, all those opposed - the I's have it.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Fleming motioned and Ms. Manning seconded.

All in favor, all those opposed - the I's have it.

Public Comments

The School Committee Secretary announced that there were no public comments.

Educator's Showcase - Bates Elementary

Mr. Softic shares that the highlight for Bates Elementary is based on the Amazing Shake event that was held at Bates Elementary School for the first time since early 2020. Two students share their experience and how they were originally nervous but learned social skills and became more open after the event. Mr. Softic asks the committee for feedback on what they enjoy and various members of the school committee provide feedback on what they enjoy about the event.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Zrike provides some updates including summer programming beginning on July 5th with about 1,000 students enrolled across programs. He mentions at the next SC meeting, we'll review the playground study that was conducted during this school year. There is a summer reading series where community members will be invited to pair together in discussion at Salem Commons to discuss the books. Dr. Zrike also mentions the Summer Leadership Institute that will take place tomorrow and Friday (June 23-24). He finishes his updates noting the SAA contract is being discussed tomorrow during a long window of negotiations.

Middle School learning pilot

Dr. Zrike provides some background to the future of academic progress for both students and educators. He notes some of the initiatives throughout the district that have taken off and reflects on how different approaches of instruction can inform future work. Ms. Banks and WPS partners provide the overview of how the partnership will support the middle school learning pilot on the table.

Dr. Zrike follows up the presentation noting there isn't a major cost to this shift of instructional practices unless, like some situations, there are surprise costs. He also notes that there may be questions asked tonight that we don't have answers to and as the pilot takes off, we'll navigate a model to provide clarity and answers.

Mayor Driscoll makes some remarks to this approach of the instructional model. She mentions this is not a topic for a vote but rather a presentation for providing insight to the pilot.

Ms. Campbell asks if curriculum building would take place over the summer or if there would be a different approach to adopt and utilize curriculum. She also asks if summer planning will include folks from Carlton and NLIS to take their perspectives from their innovation structure. Dr. Zrike notes using their perspectives to help guide the progress of this initiative. Ms. Campbell also asks about the licensure of teachers for this program. Ms. Banks notes how teachers and certifications will be utilized.

Mr. Fleming asks about the process of which students will be chosen. Mayor Driscoll notes the presentation mentioned a lottery process. Dr. Zrike clarifies that there will be a family engagement outreach approach as well.

Ms. Manning notes about being more reflective on some of the issues mentioned that were happening long before two years ago in regard to the pandemic. She notes students having access to the enrichment and exploratory classes and wonders how that is intertwined into the program. She shares concerns of a sense of a broader community. She worries a small setting will not set them up for success when re-entering in a larger group. She also notes concern for staff comradery and community and the separation of the program from a larger building. She notes concern for how the community will be informed.

Dr. Zrike notes conversations were had with staff members during the tumultuous time frame Ms. Manning notes. He also notes a rigorous process for phone calls to all 8th grade families to inform them of this pilot. Conversation about the sense of urgency across the community is had and how the pilot will unfold in a timely manner.

Dr. Pangallo notes this is an exciting process for those who will be engaging in the pilot.

Dr. Zrike notes the Pride Parade on Sunday and meeting in the community.

Old Business

None

New Business

Deliberation and vote to approve transfer of \$550,000.00 from FY22 School Department appropriation to the special education stabilization fund

Mr. Fleming makes a motion and Mr. Cruz seconded. Ms. Manning asks if this is to be approved by the city counsel and clarification on that process is provided by the Mayor.

All in favor, all those opposed - the I's have it.

Vote to approve negotiated 2021-2023 contract with AFSCME Local 294

Mr. Cruz makes a motion to approve with deliberation and Ms. Manning seconded. Mr. Cruz provides an overview of the process of negotiations and describes the contract conversation that occurred. He notes productive working sessions with AFSCME and the focus was on the needs of the kids, schools, and district. He notes the group at the table was hard hit with the pandemic and heading into contract negotiations he believes there was productive dialogue throughout the negotiations.

All in favor, all those opposed - the I's have it.

Finance Report

Budget Transfers

Ms. DeLai shares information about the first budget transfer proposed to move funding ahead of the end of the fiscal year. Mayor Driscoll requests a motion. Ms. Campbell makes a motion, seconded by Ms. Cornell.

All in favor, all those opposed - the I's have it.

The second budget transfer includes moving funding within Special Education funding lines as noted by Ms. Delai. Ms. Campbell makes a motion, seconded by Ms. Cornell – Mr. Fleming notes both Special Ed transfers are from SpEd tuition and asks for clarification on how the money is available. Ms. DeLai notes the savings is from carry forward funds, and the offset of out of district placement.

All in favor, all those opposed - the I's have it.

The third budget transfer is again to clean-up funding lines as the fiscal year comes to a close. Mayor Driscoll requests a motion. Ms. Campbell makes the motion, seconded by Ms. Cornell. All in favor, all those opposed - the I's have it.

Ms. DeLai notes the final budget transfer is for the same purpose of consolidating funding lines. Mayor Driscoll mentions this is typical practice as we near the close of a fiscal year to streamline funding in lines to use the funding accordingly. She requests a motion, provided by Mr. Cruz, seconded Ms. Cornell.

All in favor, all those opposed - the I's have it.

Subcommittee Reports

Policy 1200 Community Use of School Facilities - second reading

Ms. Cornell makes a motion to approve the policy for second reading, seconded by Mr. Cruz. Mr. Fleming asks if there is a reference to the schedule of payments for the use of facilities. And Dr. Zrike notes that language isn't specific to the policy and the policy is general information. Mr. Cruz mentions having a specific schedule would be strict for folks to follow and with changing schedules and events it wouldn't be wise to include it within the policy. Following the motion, the committee votes.

All in favor, all those opposed - the I's have it.

Policy 1204 Outdoor Use of Facilities - second reading

Ms. Cornell makes a motion to approve the policy for second reading, seconded by Ms. Manning. No further comments or questions are asked. Following the motion, the committee votes.

All in favor, all those opposed - the I's have it.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Mr. Cruz notes the SAG has met and voted on officers and a new Student Representative will be announced once he receives that information.

Adjournment

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fleming motioned and Mr. Cruz 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 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jensen Frost

Executive Administrative Assistant to Assistant Superintendent