

Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 20, 2017

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Chambers at Collins Middle School, 29 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA.

Members Present: Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Dr. Brendan R. Walsh, Ms. Mary Manning, Mr. Patrick Schultz, Ms. Kristine Wilson, and Ms. Deborah Amaral

Members Absent: Mr. James Fleming

Others Present: Margarita Ruiz, Superintendent, Kate Carbone, Assistant Superintendent, Margaret Marotta, Assistant Superintendent, Business Manager Kristin Shaver, Chief of Communications Kelley Rice and Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy.

Call to Order

Mr. Schultz called the Regular Meeting of the Salem School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Walsh moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The approval of the minutes of the March 6, 2017 School Committee Minutes was tabled to the next School Committee meeting on April 3, 2017.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Superintendent Report – Margarita Ruiz

Superintendent Margarita Ruiz began her presentation with student highlights. Ms. Ruiz acknowledged Former Surgeon General Dr. Antonia Novello, first woman and Hispanic Surgeon General to hold that position. Her business was organized by Salem State University. Both she and Ms. Ruiz are both from Puerto Rico. Ms. Ruiz said she is very thankful to Salem State for making this possible and publicly thanked Dr. Novello for her visit to the Collins Middle School. Ms. Ruiz reported that five of Salem Schools would receive an unrestricted \$500 Grant each from the EOS Foundation. Students will be able to eat breakfast every morning. In terms of District Wide Initiative, Ms. Ruiz invited School Committee members to join them on Wednesday at 6pm at the Salem High School for the 2nd City Wide conversation for a Strategic Plan. The feedback they received from prior meetings and surveys have been vital. They will share the work on Wednesday, March 22nd, 2017. Ms. Ruiz reported that last week's snowstorm marked the 5th Snow Day on the school calendar. The last day of school

will be Wednesday, June 28, 2017. For some, it will be Thursday, June 29. They hope these are the last snow days. The last day of school for most districts will be June 28th. Principals have been notified of the Statement of Interest for the possible relocation to the Horace Mann Laboratory School. They will be discussing this in greater detail. Ms. Ruiz asked Jill Conrad to provide an update on Kindergarten applications.

Presentations and Reports

Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy, made a presentation on the 2017 – 2018 Kindergarten registration process that is currently underway. She reviewed data on student enrollment for 5 years and the timeline for applications and trends that include the school preferences, parents, and the Bentley Academy Lottery process for admissions. Ms. Conrad reviewed the student assignment process of the Parent Information Center staff. She noted that they try to notify parents as soon as possible, by May 1st at the latest. She reviewed the student assignment process and its next steps. Mayor Driscoll requested an update of the district's population overall. Ms. Conrad will follow up on that.

Action Items

Deliberation and Vote on the approval of the Salem High School After Prom Party to be held on May 26, 2017 at 11:30 p.m.

Discussion

Mayor Driscoll said that the After School Prom party is an event that has been around for years and is a safe way for students and all who attend to be safe while having fun. School Committee members are more than welcomed to join the After School Prom party.

Ms. Manning motioned to approve the request to hold the SHS After Prom Party on May 26, 2017. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Deliberation and Vote on the Statement of Interest to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the construction project related to the relocation of the Horace Mann Laboratory School into the Harrington Building at the Salem State University's South Campus

Resolved:

Having convened in an open meeting on March 20, 2017, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of Salem, MA, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 7, 2017 for the Horace Mann Laboratory School located at 33 Loring Avenue, Salem, MA, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Elimination of severe overcrowding.

Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Salem School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Ms. Manning motioned to approve the submission of the Statement of Interest for the Horace Mann Laboratory School. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Deliberation and Vote and Approval of the Statement of Interest to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for Phase II of the Salem High School Building Project

Resolved:

Having convened in an open meeting on March 20, 2017, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of Salem, MA, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 7, 2017 for the Salem High School, 77 Willson St., Salem, MA, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.

Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the

Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Salem School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Ms. Manning motioned to approve the Statement of Interest for Phase II of the Salem High School Building Project. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Finance Report

There were no finance report this evening.

Subcommittee Reports

Policy Subcommittee

- a. Deliberation and Vote on a Third Reading of Policy 6406 Voting Method – Tabled from March 6, 2017.

Ms. Amaral requested that this policy remain on the table.

- b. Deliberation and Vote on a Third Reading of Policy 6408 entitled Minutes to SC Meetings.

Discussion

Ms. Amaral said that the emailed copy of the policy 6408, that was included in their packet for this meeting, was not correct but that the corrected copies were provided in their meeting tonight. Dr. Walsh pointed out that rather than resubmitting an entire corrected package when an error, or correction, has been made on the current School Committee packet (which would cause for an overly extensive package) that a notation instead be made on the next School Committee Minutes and that the packet with the correction be the one submitted online.

Ms. Amaral moved to vote on a third reading. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The motion for a third reading carried.

- c. Deliberation and Vote on the Third Reading of the Recommendations of the Policy Subcommittee on the deletion of 1301 entitled Gifts and Contributions to Schools.

Discussion

Ms. Amaral said Policy 1301 has gone through three readings, is the same exact policy as Policy 3202, and would like to delete it. This would be the last reading.

Dr. Walsh motioned to approve. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Margarita Ruiz announced a cordial invitation to all School Committee members, and members of the community, to the Read Family Science Night Event, which is sponsored by very generous partner Norman H. Read Trust. The event would allow participation of activities for families of Kindergarten to Fifth Graders (K-5). This year, the event will take place on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at the Nathaniel Bowditch School from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Mr. Schultz reminded everyone that the School Committee unanimously endorsed the Bewitched statue on Saturday, March 25th, 2017. The time may be posted on Facebook. The City Counsel meeting will be held on March 29th to discuss the same issue. Margarita Ruiz publicly invited the public to the 2nd Community Conversation that will take place at the Salem High School on Wednesday, March 22nd at 6pm. They will have dinner. They will also have babysitting and Spanish translation for families who need it. Ms. Ruiz had mentioned this earlier but wanted to ensure that the public became aware through SATV online as well.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

A member from the audience, Ms. Cindy Theriault, wanted to remind everyone about the After Prom party and thanked the Committee for approving it. She said that if anyone wants to donate, they could send donations to the High School, to the attention of:

Salem High School
After Prom Party
77 Willson Street
Salem, MA

Mayor Driscoll commented that donations could include cash to help offset the cost, as well as prizes, whether they are Gift cards to local establishments for some of the activities that evening. The member agreed and commented that this is opened to all proms, not just seniors. Mr. Schultz asked if there was a deadline for Gift card donations. There is no deadline as all monies received continues to roll onto the following year as needed. Donators will not only help out the current class year but classes that follow. Donations are received throughout the year.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the School Committee this evening. Dr. Walsh entertained the motion to adjourn. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Angelica Alayon, Secretary
Salem School Committee

Kimberley Driscoll, Mayor
City of Salem

Meeting Materials and Reports

School Committee Agenda March 6, 2017

School Committee Minutes March 6, 2017

Policies 6406 and 6408, deletion of Policy 1301

Resolution for the Statement of Interest for Horace Mann

Resolution for the Statement of Interest for Salem High School Phase 2