

Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 6, 2017

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, March 6, 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, Mr. James Fleming, Ms. Mary Manning, Ms. Kristine Wilson, and Ms. Deborah Amaral

Members Absent: Dr. Brendan R. Walsh, Mr. Patrick Schultz

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

Call to Order

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

Action Items

Mr. Fleming began the meeting with the Deliberation and Vote on the approval of the Paraprofessionals MOU Contract approved by the Paraprofessionals on February 6, 2017.

Ms. Wilson motioned to approve the Action Item. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Mr. Fleming then moved in order of the Agenda.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Amaral moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting held on February 6, 2017. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion

Ms. Amaral she will meet with School Committee Secretary Angelica Alayon to discuss shortening of the Minutes. Mr. Fleming agreed, said it is quite extensive.

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 reported that parents and students have easy access to the portal. The High School will be hosting information sessions for parents in hope to support them. Teachers have agreed to update the portal every two weeks. Ms. Ruiz provided an update on the schools' drinking water. There are 1,384 drinking water taps in the schools and have been tested. They are developing new tap devices. 5.6% have been taken out of service. The scope of testing is a very low level. A quick update of the Bowditch School is that they are now in Phase 2 of the Performativity Assessment process. Ms. Ruiz mentioned there would be an upcoming 3rd phase. The last phase is a one-to-one interview with the superintendent, hoping to have it complete by May. Ms. Ruiz talked about strategic plan. The 2nd City Wide will be held on March 22nd. She asked Mary Manning to share her thoughts on her experience. Ms. Manning said that the meetings were welcoming. There were 6 working committees that covered all aspects of education. The 5-year plan was written with optimism. All discussions were based on reality, budget, was very tangible, and real. Ms. Manning said "*we are on the right path*" and that everything was well organized and well thought out. Ms. Ruiz talked about music in the month of March, of amazing performances by their students. All Salem Public Schools provide music, with instructions, to all students from K-12. She thanked all their music teachers. She also updated the School Committee with City Wide Connects and asked Margaret Marotta and Emily to provide further presentation. She is committed to ensure that every student feels safe and comfortable. Ms. Ruiz ended her presentation.

Presentations and Reports

Margaret Marotta and Emily Ullman gave a presentation on City Connects. The presentation included a City Connects Model explaining in-school experiences, the provision of enrichment support, and information about student academic, social, and environmental needs. The presentation talked about school adjustment counselors. Every child in school wide district will be part of this through whole class review, which takes place twice a year. Plans are carefully followed through. Mary Manning asked which grades are involved. This involves Kindergarten through the 8th grade. The presenters were asked who is responsible for referring a child to a specialist. They have a person from City Wide, Social Worker, City Wide Counselors, and others who work together with parents - one will be an expert and other individualized counseling. Ms. Manning asked if students (with parents) are able to contact and get help from specialists directly. Yes, they are not withheld from it. Mr. Fleming asked about the starting date of the program. The program will roll out in the fall. Mr. Fleming asked how the student needs were based. Family domain (home) is considered and are served accordingly. Mr. Fleming asked how they are able to assess that information. The

presenters explained that the goal is to work closely with family, specialist, and school engagement. Mr. Fleming asked about community partnership. Mayor Driscoll said there is a list of participants and can be provided. Ms. Ullman talked about the positive outcomes the City Connects Model provides and said that the satisfaction is extraordinarily high. Their services also helps track student progress such as which high schools they go to. City Connects allows tracking of absenteeism and chronic absenteeism, retention, dropout rate from Kindergarten to Eighth Grade. Mr. Fleming asked about the fees. Mayor Driscoll agreed an outline for pricing would need to be prepared. Mr. Fleming asked for a provision of the cost. Ms. Ullman continued explaining the benefits of City Connects, which are in preparation of a rollout for the fall. They are working on community assess, leveraging their current sources such as community partnerships from counselor services to summer programs and talking to families in schools. They are putting everything together to have things running in September. They will have more information then. Margarita added that every single student would benefit from the services of City Connects. With City Connects they have the sources to provide wraparound support for every student. It is what City Connects is all about, a supportive resource for every student in every way they can. Mayor Driscoll shared supportive comments in favor of the benefits provided by City Wide Connects. Ms. Marotta and Ms. Ullman concluded the presentation.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Action Items

Deliberation and Vote on the approval of the Paraprofessionals MOU Contract Approved by the Paraprofessionals on February 6, 2017

Discussion

Mr. Fleming had begun the meeting with the Deliberation and Vote on the approval of the Paraprofessionals MOU Contract approved by the Paraprofessionals on February 6, 2017.

Ms. Wilson motioned to approve the Action Item. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Deliberation and Vote on the agreement to secure legal services for the School Committee from the Stoneham, Chandler and Miller legal firm

Discussion

Ms. Amaral had a question relative to the use of the Assistant City Solicitor. Mr. Fleming agreed that the City Solicitor could be used for some matters, after an approval or agreement for services.

Mr. Fleming noted that the contract with Stoneham, Chandler, and Miller was not a sole source contract.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Action Item. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Finance Report

a. Approval of Warrants

February 9, 2017 in the amount of \$297,701.99
February 16, 2017 in the amount of \$249,882.35
February 23, 2017 in the amount of \$212,846.97
March 2, 2017 in the amount of \$138,690.64
March 9, 2017 in the amount of \$242,123.59

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the warrants as stated. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Budget Transfer Request FY17-114, FY17-15, FY17-16

Business Administrator, Kristin Shaver explained the requests of the reallocation of funds.

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the Budget Transfer as stated. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Policy Subcommittee

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

Ms. Amaral motioned this policy remains tabled. No discussion.

- b. Deliberation and Vote on the Third Reading of Policy 6408 Minutes to SC Meeting

Ms. Amaral motioned this policy remains tabled.

- c. Deliberation and Vote on the Third Reading of the Recommendations of the Policy Subcommittee on the revisions to the following policies:

1101	School – Community Relations Goals and deletion of
3202	Acceptance of Gifts Grants and Bequests
6114	Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members

Discussion

Policy 1101 is a simple change in wording.
Policy 3202 is the same as Policy 1301.

Ms. Amaral motioned to approve. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion. The motion carried.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Mayor Driscoll discussed the Horace Mann Statement of Interest

Questions and Comments from the Audience

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the School Committee this evening. Mayor Driscoll entertained the motion to adjourn. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted by:

Angelica Alayon, Secretary
Salem School Committee

Meeting Materials and Reports

School Committee Agenda March 2, 2017
School Committee Minutes February 6, 2017
1000, 3000, and 6000 Policy Revisions Recommended