

Salem School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 15, 2017

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 7:11 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. James Fleming, Mr. Patrick Schultz, Ms. Kristine Wilson, and Ms. Deborah Amaral

Members Absent: None

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

Call to Order

Mayor Driscoll called the Regular Meeting of the Salem School Committee to order at 7:11 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2017 School Committee Minutes. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Questions and Comments From the Audience

Andrea Rupert, Chase Street shared her opinion, on the discussion of the City Connects program, that North Shore Medical Center and MGH owe this community a lot. From her perspective, they should have paid for her son Holden's education for the last half of his life. Up until he passed away, at age 20, on December 15th of this past year. She felt it is important for the sake of children and families to make one general point that one cannot be harmed without harming the whole. The school, particularly this administration, gave them sanctuary and helped them recover what they could of many losses, often going above and beyond what should ever be asked of anyone. She feels that the school should be compensated. If the City Connects budget has been allocated to other priorities, she feels that MGH and North Shore Medical Center should at least offer a matching grant to cover the cost of the program for the school. Some structural adjustments are also in order to try to ensure that no one else ends up taking their path. She urges School Committee members to look deeply into her son Holden's story as an account that in many respects may be representative of others and of more cases to come.

Superintendent Report – Margarita Ruiz

Ms. Ruiz reported that Salem High School would be celebrating the graduation ceremony for the graduating class of 2017 on June 2nd. Ms. Ruiz announced that she has appointed Jose J. Munoz as the new principal of the Nathaniel Bowditch School. He will officially be joining the Bowditch on July 1st, 2017. Ms. Ruiz also announced that Salem Public School received a grant totaling nearly \$20,000 to provide drug prevention curriculum to all of their 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. These funds are made available through Attorney General Maura Healey's office. Ms. Ruiz thanked the Salem City Council for unanimously approving the North Shore Medical Center's Community Benefits Agreement that included vital resources that will enable the district to launch City Connects. Ms. Ruiz also thanked Mayor Driscoll for her efforts and School Committee members for voicing their support.

Presentations and Reports

Update on Inter-District School Choice

Superintendent Margarita Ruiz summarized the discussion on Inter-District School Choice that took place during the Committee of the Whole meeting earlier in the evening and addressed the questions and issues that arose during that meeting.

SPS Strategic Plan

The SPS Strategic Plan presentation included context, challenges and opportunities, and overview of the Strategic Planning Process. The presentation showed Levers for Change, Governance and Structure of the Strategic Planning Process, and Vision statement that "All students will be locally engaged, globally connected, and fully prepared to thrive in a diverse and changing world". The presentation shared a mission statement, core values, SPS 21st century graduate skills and qualities needed for success in the workplace, theory of action that serve as foundation for an effective system, and implementation.

Discussion on SPS Strategic Plan

Mr. Schultz commented that he is pleased they have the implementation advisory board and other accountability mechanisms they have to use. He asked Ms. Ruiz whether they have thought about how that would look like, how the makeup is going to be, how often it's going to meet; how to disseminate the plan in a way that becomes internalized by the professionals in the schools. Ms. Ruiz said they do not currently have the actual composition and how often it is going to meet. They do know that the board is going to be a mirror in the steering committee. They would need to have further discussions. She said that it makes sense to have a cross section of the community such as parents, partners, school committee members, teachers, and staff members. Ms. Ruiz said that, in terms of communication, they would also have to consider what the school level strategy is to ensure that teachers and staff members have an opportunity to discuss this with the principals. Having school leaders discuss this with their staff is also important.

2017-18 Transportation Application Process and Timeline.

Kristin Shaver reported they are planning to release the application for the FY18 Transportation within the next couple of weeks. They will be updating everyone at the next school committee meeting.

Update on the BACS and WHES solar projects

Kristin Shaver reported they have two solar projects. One is being completed at the Witchcraft Elementary School and the other at the Bentley Academy Charter School. The project at Witchcraft is being completed in two parts. One part, a large roof with 437 kilowatts, is almost finished. The installation is complete, they just need to do some of the interconnections. The second part is on a different part of the roof, about one third of the total 209 kilowatts will be completed after they make repairs. It will likely be completed this fall. The roof at Bentley was redone. They are expecting to install the panels this week. They expect it fully completed by the beginning of August.

Discussion

Mayor Driscoll commented they would have tremendous savings on electricity as a result of the completion of these projects.

Public Hearing on Salem's Participation on the Inter-District School Choice Program for 2017-18

Mr. Fleming moved to open the public hearing on Salem's Participation on the Inter-District School Choice Program for the 2017-18 year.

Discussion

Mayor Driscoll reported that they held a Committee of the Whole meeting prior to this Regular School Committee meeting where they discussed the Superintendent's recommendation. The recommendation is to allow the School Choice program for students outside of Salem to be eligible for their School Choice program only at the Salem High School and only up to 20 students who will be entering the 9th grade in 2017-18.

Questions and Comments From the Audience

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

There being no further questions or comments at this time regarding Salem's Participation on the Inter-District School Choice Program for 2017-18 Mr. Fleming moved to close the public hearing. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Action Item

Deliberation and Vote on Salem's Participation in the Inter-District School Choice Program 2017-18

Mayor Driscoll entertained the motion to approve the Deliberation and Vote on Salem's Participation in the Inter-District School Choice Program 2017-18.

Mr. Fleming moved that Salem accept the Superintendent's recommendation to accept up to 20 non-resident students in the 9th grade at Salem High School for the 2017-18 school year. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved/carried.

Deliberation and Vote on the Approval of the SY 2017-18 School Calendars

The Saltonstall calendar was not available.

Discussion

Superintendent Ruiz informed School Committee members that the Saltonstall School calendar is not in the packet because the principal at Saltonstall needs to have more discussion and present it to the school council and conversation is still pending.

Mr. Fleming said that he does not understand how the Saltonstall School calendar shows its population has the first week of November off (right after Halloween) unlike anyone else in the city. Dr. Walsh asked that, given that the calendar is not here, might he move to approve the calendars that are here tonight with the exception of the Saltonstall School.

Dr. Walsh motioned to approve the calendars before them today, with the exception of the Saltonstall School calendar. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Deliberation and Vote on the SPS 5-Year Strategic Plan

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the SPS 5-Year Strategic Plan. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Deliberation and Vote on the Nathaniel Bowditch 8th Grade Field Trip to Canobie Lake Park

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Nathaniel Bowditch 8th Grade Field Trip to Canobie Lake Park. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Deliberation and Vote on the Approval of the New Liberty Innovation School Lock-in Event

Discussion

Ryan Sullivan, 30 Cooper Street, informed School Committee members that he worked on the Student-Staff ratio because he knows it is important as they would not want High School students walking about aimlessly. They have a total of four staff. One of the staff members is available to stay for the entire event upon opening Saturday, May 27, 2017 at 5pm to 9am on Sunday, May 28th. Three other staff members would split their shifts throughout the event where one staff member would be available a few hours and transition to the other, etc. There will always be two staff members per maximum of 20 students. Mayor Driscoll asked if he could share what the motivation for this event is and if this idea was based on anything that they have seen anywhere else. He responded that the three main motivations are to celebrate the year's accomplishments, to celebrate the success of the upcoming graduates (there is a bigger class than last year and they've all worked hard this year), and to further build school community and culture. They are a smaller student count than most other schools in their area. He feels it is important to bond and get to know each other better that way. He believes they can all encourage each other to move to that final step to graduation. Ms. Manning asked how many students are graduating. He said there are about 12-15 students the last time he checked. She asked if the students chose Saturday night. He said they all agreed to have it over the weekend and also considering that it will be a Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the New Liberty Innovation School Lock-in Event. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Deliberation and Vote on the Resolution in Support of the Foundation Budget Review Commission recommendations

“Whereas, the Constitution of the Commonwealth (1780) requires “it shall be the duty of legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of this commonwealth, to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences...public schools and grammar schools in the towns” And Whereas, McDuffy v. Secretary of the Executive Office of Education (1993) declared the “Massachusetts Constitution impose[s] an enforceable duty on the magistrates and Legislatures of this Commonwealth to provide education in the public schools for the children there enrolled, whether they be rich or poor and without regard to the fiscal capacity of the community or district in which such children live. It shall be declared also that the constitutional duty is not being currently fulfilled by the Commonwealth.” And Whereas, Hancock v. the Commissioner of Education (2005) concluded “I do not suggest that the goals of education reform adopted since McDuffy have been fully achieved. Clearly they have not. Nothing I say today would insulate the Commonwealth from a successful challenge under the education clause in different circumstances.” And Whereas, the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center report Cutting Class (2011) found “the real value of the original foundation budget has eroded significantly over time, due in large part to rapid cost growth for health care and special education. Since the foundation budget's original design did not foresee this rapid cost growth, spending reductions have been forced in other key areas, especially Regular Education Teachers.” And Whereas, the Foundation

Budget Review Commission (2015) resolved “the good work begun by the education reform act of 1993, and the educational progress made since, will be at risk so long as our school systems are fiscally strained by the ongoing failure to substantively reconsider the adequacy of the foundation budget.” Therefore We, the Salem School Committee petition the 190th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to implement without further delay in full the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.”

Discussion

Dr. Walsh said this is simply something being done by School Committees statewide. It is encouraged by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees so that School Committees voices would be heard on the hill and legislatures will know that the people and representatives of the people out here want executives to live up to promises.

Dr. Walsh motioned to approve the Resolution in Support of the Foundation Budget Review Commission recommendations. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Finance Report

a. Approval of Warrant

May 11, 2017 in the amount of \$424,286.02

Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the warrant as stated. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

b. Budget Transfer Requests FY17, FY17-21, FY17-22, FY17-23

Budget Transfer Requests

Business Administrator, Kristin Shaver explained they are requesting the enrollment adjustment from the Bentley Academy Charter School to the Salem Public Schools budget, reflecting the October 1, 2016 enrollment of 257 versus the budgeted enrollment of 300. Per the agreement developed with Bentley Academy Charter School this year, the adjustment will be \$259,964 from the Bentley Academy Charter School budget to the following accounts in the SPS budget:

From Account	Account Number	Amount
Bentley Academy Charter School		\$259,964
To Account	Account Number	Amount
Salem Public Schools		
Pupil Transportation	13570151-5333	\$120,000
Vehicle Repair and Maintenance	13640181-5244	\$30,000
Contract Services – Bowditch	13570521-5320	\$25,000
Contract Services District Wide	13252030-5320	\$69,964

Mr. Fleming moved to approve their enrollment adjustment budget transfer request of \$259,964 from the Bentley Academy Charter School to the Salem Public Schools budget. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The 2nd is Collins Middle School request the following transfers to allow for funds to be used for museum entry for the 8th Grade New York City trip:

From Account	Account Number	Amount
Collins Middle School		
Supplies	13570921-5429	\$268.31
Instructional Supplies	13570921-5514	\$1,745.45
Office Supplies	13570921-5421	\$175.00
In State Travel	13570921-5710	\$111.80
Dues and Subscriptions	13570921-5730	\$479.00
Stipends	13570920-5150	\$1,616
To Account	Account Number	Amount
Contract Services	13570921-5320	\$4,395.56

Mr. Fleming moved to approve Collins Middle School budget transfer request of \$4,395.56 to Contract Services to allow for funds to be used for museum entry for the 8th Grade New York City trip. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The 3rd is the New Liberty Innovation School request of the following transfer to align funds with the intended expense:

From Account	Account Number	Amount
New Liberty Innovation School		
Instructional Supplies	13571621-5514	\$182.00
To Account	Account Number	Amount
Contract Services	13571621-5320	\$182.00

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the New Liberty Innovation School budget transfer request of \$182.00 from Instructional Supplies to Contract Services for the alignment of funds with the extended expense. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The 4th is the Salem High School request of the following transfer to align funds with the intended expense:

From Account	Account Number	Amount
Salem High School Equipment	13571021-5860	\$2,900
To Account	Account Number	Amount
Student Activities (Graduation)	13451031-5780	\$2,900

Dr. Walsh moved to approve the Salem High School budget transfer request of \$2,900 from Equipment to Student Activities for the alignment of funds with the intended expense. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Subcommittee Reports

There were no Subcommittee Reports

Policy Subcommittee

Deliberation and Vote on a Policy 6406 Voting Method – Tabled from 5/15/17

Discussion

School Committee members discussed Policy 6406 Voting Method at the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting that evening between 6-7pm. The policy remains tabled.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Mr. Fleming suggested that the main phone in the Superintendent's office be assigned as needed. Ms. Manning asked the Saltonstall School principal or designated person explain the difference in their calendar to them when it becomes available.

Superintendent Ruiz announced an invite to members of the School Committee to join her at the Salem Prep Senior celebration that will be held on May 30th, 2017 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the school.

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. Dr. Walsh entertained the motion to adjourn. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Angelica Alayon, Secretary
Salem School Committee

Meeting Materials and Reports

- School Committee Agenda May 15, 2017
- Minutes of the May 1, 2017 Regular School Committee Meeting
- Superintendent Memo Recommendation Regarding Salem's Participation in MA's Inter-District School Choice Program for 2017-18
- MA Inter-District School Choice Program Information for the Salem School Committee DRAFT 5/15/17
- Salem Public Schools Strategic Plan 2017-2022
- School Calendars (Bentley Academy Charter School, Carleton Innovation School, New Liberty Innovation School, Bates, Bowditch, Collins, ECC, HMLS, SHS, Salem Prep, WHES)
- Nathaniel Bowditch Field Trip Request
- New Liberty Innovation School Lock-in Night special event request
- Budget Transfer Requests
- Policy 6406
- Invitation to SC Members