

**Ms. Mary A. Manning
Mr. James M. Fleming
Dr. Kristin Pangallo**



**Ms. Beth Anne Cornell
Mr. Manny Cruz
Ms. Amanda Campbell**

Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Chair

“Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 18-25 and
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033”

March 16, 2022

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Salem School Committee will hold a **Committee of the Whole School Committee meeting on March 21, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.** This is an on-line Zoom meeting.


Zoom Link to participate:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89848104839?pwd=anBQbzA3cUdHRGlvbE9XNVJlc01OQT09>

Passcode: 784599

a. Live Spanish Interpretation

Spanish language interpretation is now provided for all Regular School Committee meetings. To listen to this meeting with Spanish language interpretation, please see instructions below:

1. Click **Interpretation** .
2. Click **Spanish**
3. (Optional) To hear the interpreted language only, click **Mute Original Audio**.

AGENDA:

- I. Discussion on proposed changes to policy 3601 Student Transportation Services

Respectfully submitted by,

Mindy Marino

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

“Persons requiring auxiliary aids and services for effective communication such as sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device, or print material in digital format or a reasonable modification in programs, services, policies, or activities, may contact the City of Salem ADA Coordinator at (978) 619-5630 as soon as possible and not less than 2 business days before the meeting, program, or event.”

**Sra. Mary A. Manning
Sr. James M. Fleming
Dra. Kristin Pangallo**



**Sra. Beth Anne Cornell
Sr. Manny Cruz
Sra. Amanda Campbell**

Alcaldesa Kimberley Driscoll, Preside

“Conozca sus Derechos según la Ley de Reuniones Abiertas, M.G.L. c.30A § 18-25 y Secciones de Ordenanzas de la Ciudad 2-2028 hasta 2-2033”

16 de marzo de 2022

REUNIÓN DEL COMITÉ ESCOLAR PLENARIO

Por la presente se notifica que el Comité Escolar de Salem llevará a cabo una **Reunión del Comité Escolar Plenario el 21 de marzo de 2022 a las 5 p.m.** Esta es una reunión en línea por Zoom.


Haga clic en el enlace a continuación para unirse al seminario web:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89848104839?pwd=anBQbzA3cUdHRGlvbE9XNVJlc01OQT09>

Contraseña: 784599

a. Interpretación al español en vivo

La interpretación al español se provee en todas las reuniones del Consejo Escolar Regular. Para escuchar estas reuniones con la interpretación al español, por favor vea las instrucciones de abajo:

1. Pulse en **Interpretation** .
2. Pulse en **Spanish**
3. (Opcional) Para escuchar la lengua interpretada solamente, pulse **Mute Original Audio**.

AGENDA:

- I. Discusión sobre las revisiones propuestas a la política 3601 Servicios de Transporte para los estudiantes

Sometido respetuosamente por,

Mindy Marino

Asistente Ejecutiva del Superintendente

“Las personas que requieran ayuda auxiliar y servicios para una comunicación eficiente tal como un intérprete de lenguaje de señas, un dispositivo asistente para escuchar, o material impreso en formato digital o una modificación razonable de programas, servicios, políticas, o actividades, puede ponerse en contacto con el Coordinador ADA de la Ciudad de Salem al (978) 619-5630 a la brevedad y no más de 2 días laborales antes de la reunión, programa o evento.”

FISCAL MANAGEMENT & NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS 3000

TRANSPORTATION **Annual Review** 3600

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES 3601

1. Statement of Purpose & Scope of Policy

A. The purpose of school transportation is to get pupils who live an unreasonable walking distance from home to school and back in an efficient, safe, and economical manner. Other purposes consistent with this definition include the provision of transportation for academic field trips in direct support of the curriculum and transportation for the support of the co-curricular program (e.g., music, drama, athletics).

B. It is the intention of the School Committee to comply with the letter and spirit of the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 68 and other laws pertinent to the transportation of pupils, and these shall govern any questions not covered by specific declaration of policy herein.

MGL Ch. 71, section 68 states that “if the distance between a child’s residence and the school s/he is entitled to attend exceeds two (2) miles and the nearest school bus stop is more than one mile from such residence ..., the school committee (city) is responsible for providing transportation to students in grades K-6. Further, the school district is required to provide transportation for students with disabilities who have transportation included as part of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and 504 Plans.

~~The school committee may assess fees to the transported students in grades 7-12 up to the amount sufficient to cover the costs incurred by the district; provided however, that no student eligible for free or reduced lunch, under the federal school lunch program, shall be required to pay the fee.~~

2. Mileage Limits for Entitlement to District-Provided Transportation

A. The Salem School Committee has determined that student bus transportation shall be provided at no cost for students in grades K-6 in accordance with MGL CH. 71, section 68. In addition to what is required by MGL, the Salem Public Schools provides transportation. ~~The School Committee shall review and consider changes in these mileage limits on an annual basis as the transportation system and budget allow.~~ to students as per the following:

- Pre-K: Not eligible
- Grades K-2: Students who live 1 mile or more from school

- Grades 3-5: Students who live 1.5 miles or more from school (~~should this be 1 mile for all elementary?~~)
- Grade 6: Students who live 2 miles or more from school (students in grade 6 are required to be transported 2 miles or above per MGL)
- Grade 7-12: Students who live 2 miles or more from school (~~should grade 6-8 be 1.5 miles?~~)

****These students are considered mandatory riders**

B. The School Committee, at its discretion and to the extent permitted by Massachusetts' law, shall authorize transportation ~~for a fee~~ to students who are not entitled to District-provided transportation to and from school as stated above. **Such students shall be classified as non-mandatory riders.**

Student bus transportation shall only be provided to non-mandatory riders if there is excess capacity on buses being used to service mandatory riders. Additional seats shall be assigned on a priority basis to non-mandatory students using the following criteria:

- Economic status
- Unsafe zones
- Younger sibling

Providing seats are available, the SPS Transportation Director will assess the above criteria for non-mandatory ridership requests using the following tiered assignment process:

Tier One: applicants meet all three of the non-mandatory rider request criteria.

Tier Two: applicants meet two of the three non-mandatory rider request criteria.

Tier Three: applicants meet one of the three non-mandatory rider request criteria.

Consideration of the above will only be provided to:

- Grades 3-5: Students who live between 1 and 1.5 miles from school
- Grade 6-12: Students who live over 1.5 but less than 2 miles from school

C. No mileage restrictions ~~nor any fees, shall apply~~ to the transportation of a student whose individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan includes entitlement to school transportation. In addition, **multilingual learners** ~~students who arrived in the United States within the last 12 months by the English Learner office shall be eligible for bus transportation at no cost~~ ~~and~~ with no mileage restrictions for the remainder of the school year that they arrive to SPS. Students who are homeless or in foster care will be transported at no cost and in conformance with the requirements of the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

D. Schools that identify transportation as a contributing factor to a student's chronic absenteeism will ~~Students who show early warning signs of chronic absenteeism and the cause is determined to be a lack of transportation will be referred to the Superintendent (or designee) to proactively identify options for reducing transportation as a barrier to attendance.~~

E. A bus pass shall be required for each student who is transported by the Salem Public School District and will be issued to each eligible student. The bus pass is a valuable document and must be retained in order for students to ride the bus.

F. Neither rerouting an established bus route when said bus is at capacity ridership, nor the addition of a bus to create a new route, shall be required to accommodate a request for a ~~non-mandatory rider transportation for a fee.~~ When either rerouting or adding a bus is the only way to accommodate a request for a ~~non-mandatory rider paid transportation, that request will be denied.~~ The last ~~non-mandatory student rider who was provided transportation student who purchased transportation (or receives FRL ride privileges) on a given route would be the first student to be denied transportation if that route should exceed capacity. Prorated fees would be refunded.~~

G. ~~A When a non-mandatory student rider transported for a fee may be denied transportation denied is suspended from school, due to a violation of the district's in-school's their her or her school's code of conduct or is denied transportation due to a violation of the SPS transportation code of conduct. for students, neither the student nor his or her parent or guardian shall be entitled to reimbursement of any part of the fee paid for transportation, except when the suspension is for the remainder of the school year. Reimbursement shall be made pro rata, based on division of the fee by the number of months in the school year.~~

H. Eligibility for Transportation and Controlled Choice. Under the Salem School Committee's student assignment policy, parents have the opportunity to select a school other than their neighborhood school. Busing will be provided for those children who enroll in a school other than their neighborhood school only if they meet the distance eligibility requirements detailed above and are consistent with the objectives of policy 5103 "Controlled Choice Student Assignment Policy." For all others, transportation is the responsibility of the parent. ~~Additionally, school choice students who reside outside of the city of Salem are not entitled to transportation services.~~

I. Late Bus Transportation. "Late bus" transportation is for those students who stay past the normal dismissal times for school-related purposes at the middle school and high school. On occasion, when funds allow, "late bus" service will be provided to students at the elementary school level in conjunction with academic support programs.

J. Rider Eligibility. Any persons who are not employees and/or Salem students are not entitled to District transportation and are prohibited from Salem School District busses.

3. Superintendent Exception and Annual Review

In special circumstances, and in a limited number of cases, the Superintendent shall have the authority to make exceptions to this policy when a student's or family's circumstances may require additional supports. ~~including but not limited to a caregiver's medical condition, economic status of a student, whether a student has a sibling that is a mandatory rider to the same school~~ These circumstances include but are not limited to economic hardship, sibling transportation status, ~~or students who must travel through hazardous or unsafe areas. a-if there are hazardous areas that-~~

The School Committee shall review this policy annually.

Legal Reference: Policy 5103, "Student Assignment"
M.G.L. c. 71 §§ 7A, 68
29 U.S.C. §794 (Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)
34 C.F.R. Part 104

Approved 1/19/21