

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



*Ms. Ana Nuncio  
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”

May 14, 2020 (Date Posted)

**REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON INTER-DISTRICT SCHOOL CHOICE ON MAY 18, 2020**

Notice is hereby given that the Salem School Committee will hold a Regular School Committee meeting on **Monday May 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** This is an on-line meeting.

**HOW TO ACCESS THE MEETING -- Zoom Meeting Link**

Please click the link below to attend the School Committee meeting via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86823677779?pwd=RVpDc1lvNU9OTURXdFdBSERDSiYvQT09>

Password: 952599

Please note that during this meeting, there will be two forms of public comment each with their own method for participating:

**1. A Public Hearing on the Inter-District School Choice Recommendation**

To participate in the public hearing on the topic of the Inter-District School Choice Recommendation, please click on the below link to **sign up no later than 7pm on 5/18/20**. Within the form, you may choose whether you'd like to be recognized to be able to speak for up to 5 minutes (on the topic of school choice, only) or to submit a written comment that will be read aloud by an SPS staff member during the meeting. Please indicate your preference on the below form prior to 7pm on 5/18/20. <https://forms.gle/usL7AVLdTUGAnaG88>

**2. Public Comment Period During the Regular School Committee Meeting**

To participate in the public comment period during the Regular School Committee meeting (at the end of the meeting), please click on this link to submit your comment electronically: <https://forms.gle/Q8R1TnutwynMYRis9> A district staff member will be compiling all comments which will be shared with members prior to the end of the public meeting. Comments will also be summarized in the meeting minutes.

*Please contact Jill Conrad at [jconrad@salemk12.org](mailto:jconrad@salemk12.org) with any questions or to report any technical difficulties you experience.*

**MEETING AGENDA**

- I. Call of Meeting to Order
- II. Consent Agenda
  - a. Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting held May 4, 2020
  - b. Approval of Warrants: May 7, 2020 in the amount of \$265,856.52, May 14 2020, in the amount of \$311,901.79
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Student School Committee Representative Report – Jillian Flynn
- V. Superintendent’s Report – Kathleen Smith

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



*Ms. Ana Nuncio  
Mr. Manny Cruz  
Ms. Amanda Campbell*

*Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Chair*

- a. ELL Update on Remote Learning
- b. Executive Team Updates
- c. Update on High School End of Year Events
- d. Information on School Year Requirements from DESE
- e. Budget Update FY21

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE RECOMMENDATION FOR SALEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTER-DISTRICT SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM**

To participate in the public hearing on the topic of the Inter-District School Choice Recommendation, please click on the below link to **sign up no later than 7pm on 5/18/20**. Within the form, you may choose whether you'd like to be recognized to be able to speak for up to 5 minutes (on the topic of school choice, only) or to submit a written comment that will be read aloud by an SPS staff member during the meeting. Please indicate your preference on the below form prior to 7pm on 5/18/20. <https://forms.gle/usL7AVLdTUGAnaG88>

VII. Action Items: Old Business

VIII. Action Items: New Business

- a. Deliberation and Vote on the Superintendent's Recommendation to Participate in the Inter-District School Choice Program at Salem High School and New Liberty Innovation School.

IX. Finance Report

- a. Budget Transfers

X. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee Meeting

XI. Public Comment

XII. School Committee Concerns and Resolution

XIII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer A. Gariepy

Executive Assistant to the School Committee  
& 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."

Salem School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2020

A meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on May 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This was held using Zoom on-line meeting platform

In Attendance: Mayor Driscoll, Mary Manning, Manny Cruz, Amanda Campbell, Ana Nuncio, Kristin Pangallo, James Fleming, Jillian Flynn

Others in Attendance: Kathleen Smith, Kristin Shaver, Kate Carbone, Jill Conrad, Deborah Connerty, Liz Polay-Wettengel, Samantha Meier, Amy Martyn, Amy Richardson, Emily Flores, Matt Condon, Cyndi Napierkowski, Gwen Robinson, Shannon Carrick, Brian Edmunds, Amie Capodanno, Jennifer Winsor, Lynne Mullen, Elizabeth Rogers, Jack Armstrong, Lorainne Del Rosario, Stephanie Cantone, Stella Rowley, Gwen Robinson, Kira Pinkham

**Call to Order**

Mayor Driscoll called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Fleming motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and Mr. Cruz seconded. The motion carried by roll-call vote:

James Fleming:	Yes
Kristin Pangallo:	Yes
Ana Nuncio:	Yes
Manny Cruz:	Yes
Amanda Campbell:	Yes
Mary Manning:	Arrived after the call at 7:11 p.m.
Mayor Driscoll:	Yes

**Agenda**

Mayor Driscoll requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Ms. Nuncio motioned to approve the Agenda and Dr. Pangallo seconded. The motion carried by roll-call vote:

James Fleming:	Yes
Kristin Pangallo:	Yes
Ana Nuncio:	Yes
Manny Cruz:	Yes
Amanda Campbell:	Yes
Mary Manning:	Arrived after the call at 7:11 p.m.

Mayor Driscoll: Yes

### **Report of the Student Representative**

Ms. Flynn addressed the Committee. She informed them the Superintendent attended the meeting. They discussed senior events. They also made a template for their mission and vision statement. They will use the google form. They are working on donations for books for those who are at the Field House asymptomatic. The Student Advisory Council is planning to meet with the new Superintendent in the next two weeks to work on transitioning. Finally, they thanked their school committee advisors Mr. Manning and Ms. Campbell as well as Ms. Edmonds and Mr. Longus.

Mayor Driscoll asked if anyone had questions. Dr. Pangallo asked if there was anything we can do to help with getting books to the field house. Jillian informed the committee she reached out to the chief about dropping them at the police station.

### **Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Smith informed the Committee we will be presenting a report on remote learning for our middle and high schools. She told them that one of our presenters, Michael Lister's dad has passed away. She wanted everyone to keep him in their thoughts. She went on to explain her gratitude for teacher appreciation week. She explained the teachers have been working hard to create on-line learning tools. The teachers are delivering chrome books. She went on to ask that the public participate in sending photos and pictures to our District's Chief of Communications to show our appreciations. The first week of May is also National Physical Education Week, as well as National Music Education Week. She explained we will have a presentation on music shortly. In addition to this, Governor Baker has also proclaimed last Friday as School Lunch Day. She referenced our food service professionals. She explained the food service workers are giving out thousands of meals to our families. Also, it is also National Nurses Day on Wednesday May 6. She explained many are reaching out to our nurses for guidance during this health crisis. Food Service Director, Deb Jeffers is invited to meet with Senator Warren for a Town Hall meeting. Discussions are surrounding USDA guidelines for food service. She explained the food service department will continue to deliver lunches during the summer. The Superintendent then announced that Kristin Shaver is leaving the district to go to the Shore Collaborative. Ms. Shaver has done a lot for our district in the four years that she has been here. The Superintendent expressed that we will have big shoes to fill. The Superintendent is working with Dr. Zrike on filling this position. She discussed her call with the Commissioner. Some items discussed was the remote learning. The focus is going deeper in subjects. She explained that we are getting students ready for the next grade level. Parents shouldn't worry about their students being held back. She explained Salem will be submitting our plans to the Department of Education, so they know what we are doing. She also explained that we will hear plans for graduation tonight. She also expressed how happy she has been working with the various city departments. The community always comes together to work on plans for graduation.



She said she will update the committee along with Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone, on what things will look like going into the fall. The Commissioner also informed them about the Cares Act. This is money for school districts. This money is entitlement money as it relates to title I. This money is available now and going into 2022. Superintendent Smith then introduced Cynthia Napierkowski for a presentation on Music.

Ms. Napierkowski explained that the closure came on suddenly and lots of instruments were left at school. With a collaborated effort we were able to get the instruments home. She explained that they were able to distribute music materials on to the website within one week of the closure. She also discussed a letter explaining how to access Smart Music. She explained Smart Music is a web-based tool that assists students with practicing. The program gives feedback and they can hear themselves playing. The program also assists with making corrections. We currently have 218 students working with the program. She explained the principals have been fantastic getting students on the program. Going forward she would love to have this program permanently. She then went on to demonstrate the program to the committee. The Mayor asked how she learned of the program. Cyndi explained that she has purchased this for her own professional use. She went on to explain that if the district were to purchase this program the costs is \$40.00 per teacher per account. Students who are in elementary school would be 10.00 per student and in the upper grades the cost is 20.00 per student. Therefore, to purchase for all students the costs would be under \$10,000.00.

The Mayor recognized Ms. Manning for a question. Ms. Manning asked how many students would be using this. The response would be 600. Right now, we have over 200 students using this. Dr. Pangallo believes this is good we are getting the word out about this. Cyndi went on to discuss that we reached out to all parents about this program and hopes that this meeting will remind them this is here for them to use. Also, our instrumental instructors are meeting with students on-line. Overall students and parents have had a positive experience using this program. She also reminded everyone we are also using schoology and they are able find the music website using the salemlearns site. She recognized Jillian Flynn for delivering letters to parents about participating in the music programs. She also explained the elementary students have been meeting weekly and are really enjoying this. Finally, she demonstrated on screen names and emails for parents to contact the music department. Dr. Pangallo went on to explain that due to being overwhelmed at the beginning of the closure this information was inadvertently missed.

Mayor Driscoll then moved on to the middle and high school presentation. Superintendent Smith introduced Ms. Carbone. Assistant Superintendent Carbone introduced the presenters for the secondary on-line learning platform. Middle school level she introduced, Elizabeth Rogers, Saltonstall, Shannon Kerrick, and Matthew Condon. The group gave a presentation for the on-line learning platform. The presentation began with middle school level. The discussion included information about accessing the classrooms. The middle school level was already using on-line tools so the transition was smooth. The group discussed the standards set by the Department of Education. Liz Rogers informed the group that our middle schools were already aligned to these standards. Mr. Condon discussed the supports in place for the students. He

additionally discussed grading. Teachers are giving feedback both live and in writing. He also explained that they will be uploading an assignment tracking of students for parents. Liz discussed how they are tracking how many students are engaging. She explained they work with staff to identify students who are not in attendance. They assign students to specific individuals to eliminate duplicate calls.

Finally, Mr. Condon explained they are using google classroom and schoology. He then introduced Ms. Carrick who displayed for the Committee what the google classroom looks like. Ms. Manning inquired if the assignments are the same for all students. Ms. Carrick informed the group that there are special ed teachers assigned to students. These students work with these teachers and they supply supplemental support.

Mr. Condon informed the committee they have supplied the students with a schedule. The focus is on the classroom time. This is a structured time where teachers can work individually with students. This time also works to supply special education students with the necessary supports.

At this time Liz Rogers discussed professional development for teachers. One of the professional developments was focused on technology. They provided development in a variety of platforms. Many were comfortable with these platforms but for others this was brand new for them. Other supports included supporting students with disabilities and English language learning. Mr. Condon also discussed end of year activities. They have a team working on making these end of year events special. One example he spoke of was a virtual field trip to New York. They are also planning something for the kids to get together on-line. They are currently working on something special for the moving on ceremony. Additionally, they will supply a virtual tour for the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Kate Carbone introduced Jennifer Winsor, Principal at New Liberty to give the Committee information on the high school level on-line learning platform. Ms. Winsor discussed the priorities across the high schools. She discussed high quality scaffolding learning experience. She expressed the importance of social emotional needs and health for the remainder of the year. Initial focus was to make sure families and students were safe. They tracked who they reached out. Their students already had chromebooks. They worked with families on internet access. They offered Professional Development for teachers. She introduced Dr. Meier, Principal of Salem High School. She described what a student schedule would look like. The schedule incorporated time for students to complete work. She explained that students are to work 60 minutes on instruction. Lessons are uploaded to schoology so students can access when they are available. She went on to discuss various methods of making education available to all students. She then introduced Ms. Rogers. Ms. Rogers discussed the five E's explain, explore, elaborate, engage, and evaluate as a method for student success. She referred to this as a students' essential habits. The students have an opportunity to upload videos to show what they are working on. Students can join project liberty which is a social enterprise. Finally, students are engaging on hands on stem projects. Teachers are providing them with kits. She then introduced Brian Edmunds. Program Director at Salem Prep. He

explained their teams are already using Schoology. He explained Salem Prep's point system. He said focus was on social emotional skill development. He talked about five core competencies: self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, social awareness, and responsible decision making. He then introduced Amy Martyn head teacher at Salem Prep. She displayed the wheel of emotions. This is an emotional coping strategy. They use this as a social emotional check-in.

At this time, Samantha Meier presented and detailed the information on grading. There will be credit earned, no credit, or not yet. GPA will be based on semester one, class rank will be based on semester one as well. Dr. Meier went through a detailed explanation how credit is assigned. Ms. Manning asked for clarification on not yet credit. She explained this is for students who don't need too much to pass but need to show proficiency in the class.

Dr. Meier introduced Ms. Winsor at New Liberty. She explained grading at their school. She informed the Committee they grade on competency. They use benchmarks set by the Department of Education. Students never fail. They are always allowed to make up work. They use blended learning. Salem Prep described grading at their school. Students are awarded a 2, 3, or 4 for each assignment. Work completion is 70% of the credit. Two-way communication is graded. Students who contact staff are awarded points.

The group moved on to engagement. He then introduced Jen Winsor to explain how we track student engagement at the New Innovation School. Ms. Winsor showed data on how many students are engaging in classes. She explained methods of communications with students and parents. Amie Capodanno explained that counselors are reaching out to students about post-secondary planning. They set up college visits and they are working with special education students on transition planning. They have been working with LEAP for education. They offer tutoring.

Lynn Mullen spoke about the Senior celebration. All three schools have a plan in place. They are using surveys about planning celebrations. May 22, 2020 is the last day for Salem Prep. They are planning a drive by to celebrate the seniors. New Liberty's last day is June 24, 2020. They are planning a graduation in August. She then introduced the senior class officers. Jack Armstrong spoke about the Senior Show. They are working on a virtual show. Lorainne Del Rosario spoke about a virtual senior awards recognition and a virtual graduation program is currently being worked on. They are planning a November graduation. Kiara Pinkham discussed having a proper last day. They discussed the prom being held the day after thanksgiving with the graduation on the following day in the field house. Stella discussed having theme days during the last week of class. Stephanie discussed their valedictorian to give her speech on NESN. Dr. Meier acknowledged the group.

Samantha Meier discussed the changes that have taken place in the remote learning plans. She explained how the remote learning has impacted students and teachers. Ms. Winsor discussed engagement of students. She talked about those who haven't completed their work. She

mentioned 74% of students are accessing the material with 13% actually turning in assignments.

The Mayor thanked the group for their hard work. She thanked the seniors for their work on celebrating seniors. She then acknowledged Ms. Campbell. Ms. Campbell thanked everyone for their work. She asked Dr. Meier about students who arrived mid-year and what their grading would look like. Dr. Meier explained they would be graded the same way as if they attended during regular classes. They would look at them on a case by case basis. Mayor Driscoll asked about the percent of students engaging. She noted that 40% of students seems the highest. She asked if this was broken down by grade level. Dr. Meier will look into the grade level participation. As of right now, it is across the board. Mayor Driscoll asked about how we reach out to parents. Dr. Meier asks teachers to reach out to parents. If they don't check in two or more days then their enhanced team will reach out to the parents and offer supports. Mr. Fleming reminded the group the Salem Days Scholarship is extended until May 15. Jillian Flynn informed the group the information was also sent out to student emails.

### **Recommendation for Salem's participation in Inter-District School Choice Program**

Superintendent Smith informed the Committee the vote for this is due by June 1. She discussed current enrollment of school choice students. She explained with all the great things happening in Salem we should open this up to enroll up to 10 at each grade level at Salem High School and 12 spots available at the New Liberty Innovation School.

Mayor Driscoll asked about having enough space and Superintendent informed her that we do. Mayor Driscoll asked if this is voted on tonight? The vote would take place on May 18 as a public hearing. The Mayor asked for a number of students who currently school choice into the district. Superintendent Smith told her 16 at Salem High School and 9 at the New Liberty Innovation School. We currently have 75 students who are opting out to other schools.

### **Update on Kindergarten Batch 1**

The Superintendent informed the Committee batch 1 has been sent out and the next one is June 15. She informed them the numbers have dropped a bit and encouraged the public to register.

The Superintendent informed the committee that we received \$84,000 in a grant award. The Superintendent informed the Committee the feedback form for the Student Opportunity Act is up on the website. She went on to discuss donations made to the district and how appreciative we are for the gifts for students.

### **Finance Report**

Mayor Driscoll moved on to the finance report. Ms. Shaver informed the Committee the finance report is in the packet. She discussed that we have used about 70% of our funds and there will be a surplus going into next year. The Mayor asked if there are any trouble spots and Ms. Shaver confirmed there are not.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

The Mayor asked about subcommittee reports. Ms. Nuncio informed the committee they have not been able to meet due to licensure for the ability to meet. She asked about an update on the ability to meet. The Mayor asked if there were any other reports.

### **School Committee Concerns and Resolutions**

Dr. Pangallo recognized the SWIG grant. She went on to discuss the email system. She would like the issue with this to be addressed. Especially during this time. The issue was also brought up during a meeting at the Bates School. She would also like the parent portal up and running during this time. Dr. Pangallo also would like to know what Education will look like long-term. She would like to see this discussed moving forward. Mr. Fleming asked about food service working past June 30<sup>th</sup>. He believed that we need to discuss their contract as it pertains to the staff working during the summer. He wants the Superintendent to check into those contracts which may be expiring. Ms. Manning stated they negotiated with them in last fall. Superintendent will look into it. Mr. Cruz stated we finalized this contract last fall. Mr. Fleming added that he believes they don't work in the summer and needs that looked into. Superintendent Smith stated she will look into. Mr. Cruz congratulated Ms. Shaver on her new position. He went on to discuss the CTE program and the students. Would like to see more information on the work that is being done. Secondly, he wanted to know about any exploring of student information systems they are looking at.

Mayor Driscoll acknowledged Jillian Flynn. Ms. Flynn thanked the Committee for the SWIG grant.

Mayor Asked about public comment. Dr. Conrad read a comment from Jaimie Lapensee about plans for gradation or year end events. In other communities there has been broader community engagement. They would like to see more participation by the public. The Mayor agreed that she would like to know where parents can give their input for year-end activities. Ms. Mullen informed the Committee that we are doing zoom meetings to get ideas from students. Mayor Driscoll discussed the various moving up ceremonies through-out the grades. She asked Liz Polay-Wettengel to work on something for parents share their ideas.

### **Motion to Adjourn:**

Mr. Cruz motioned to adjourn and Ms. Manning seconded. Vote was taken by roll-call:

Mary Manning:	Yes
James Fleming:	Yes
Kristin Pangallo:	Yes
Ana Nuncio:	Yes
Manny Cruz:	Yes
Amanda Campbell:	Yes
Mayor Driscoll:	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Jennifer Gariepy*

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Executive Assistant to the School Committee  
& the Superintendent



# English Learner and Bilingual Department Update

Presentation to the School Committee  
May 18, 2020

# Our Charge





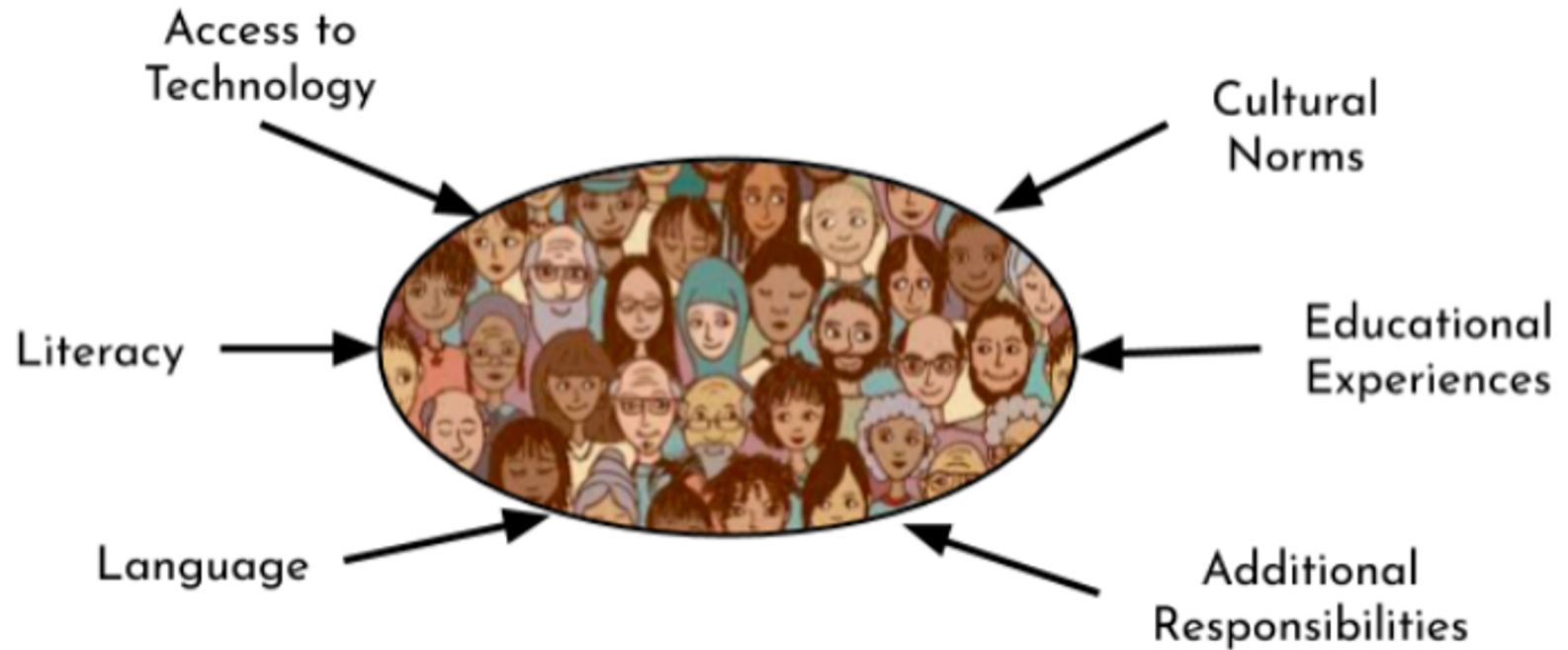
# Our Students and Families

English Learners and their families are among the most vulnerable of our students during this time. Some concerns families face:

- fear of deportation
- family separation concerns
- unemployment and underemployment
- overrepresentation in essential areas (grocery, delivery, home health care) causes increased risk of exposure
- navigating bureaucracies for support
- establishing and utilizing networks of support
- technology needs: wifi, devices, comfort with technology



# Barriers to Remote Learning



“Educators must remember there are many ways for families to engage. We **must recognize that all families care about their children’s education** and that engagement can vary based on many factors, including caregivers’ cultures and beliefs, their own educational experiences, their types of employment, responsibilities to others and more.”- Teaching Tolerance

# EL Academic Concerns

- Specific and unique language acquisition needs
- Lack of interaction practice for communication skills
- Challenges of assigning independent work
- Psychological safety and positive community needed for academic risk taking



# EL Student and Family Support

- Chromebook Distribution
- Wifi/Internet support
- K-5 Printed packets with Newcomer (Level 1 and 2) specific lessons created by ESL teachers
- Outreach assistance from Parent Information Center and Bay State Interpreting



INTERNET ESSENTIALS

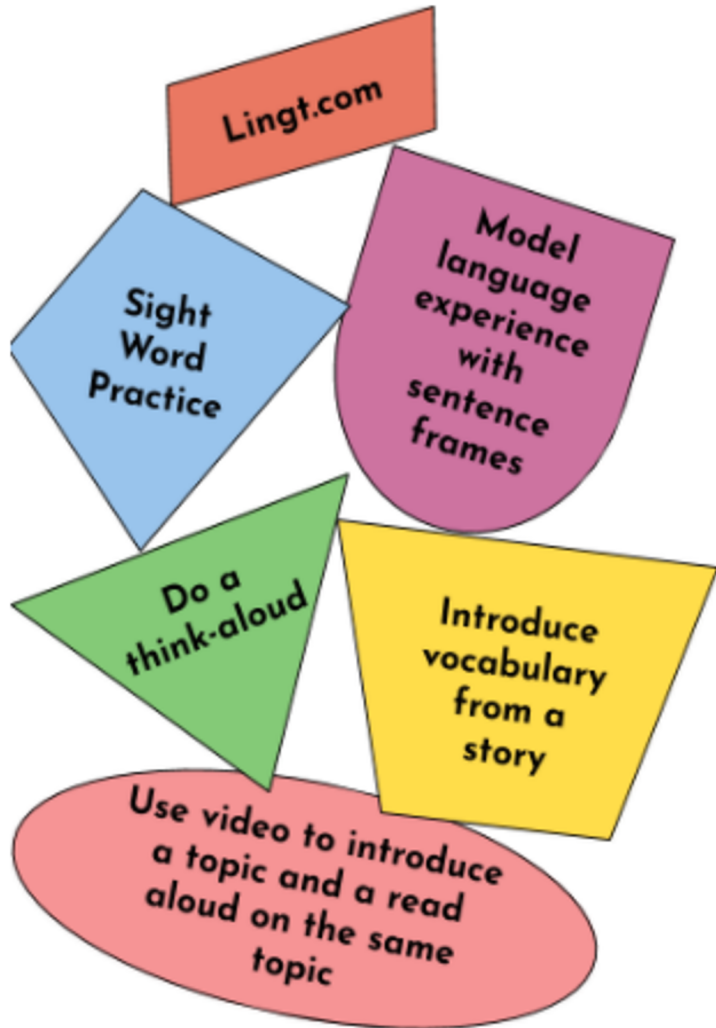
Application Process



February 2020



# K-5 Level



- Beginner ELD lessons in district matrix
- “Accessibility experts” per content area
- Differentiated role of EL teacher depending on EL incidence of school
- Increased teacher cross-school collaboration
- K-5 EL Teacher Resource Sharing Site

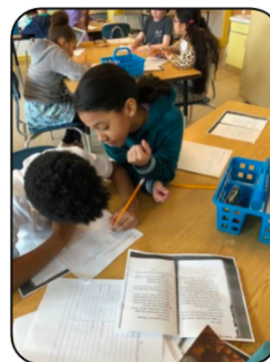


# 6-12 Level

- High School Co-teaching: EL and Content experts
- Increased High School/Middle School EL teacher collaboration with focus on lesson sharing and best practices
- Priority: Get all students connected
- All teachers: self-paced professional development course with face-to-face feedback on accessible lessons



## Creating Accessible Materials



# Ongoing and Future Needs

- Deeper, more culturally responsive family outreach and support
- Nascent English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC)
- Ease of use, access, and support for technology platforms (Zoom, GoogleClassroom, Chromebook troubleshooting) and information
- Systems of feedback and responsiveness that focus on diverse family needs
- Recalibration of language learning and literacy instruction
- Social emotional support and innovating community building approaches

# Seal of Biliteracy



## Earned in the Fall

- 5 State Seals with Distinction (4 Spanish, 1 Polish)
- 22 State Seals (18 Spanish, 1 Luganda, 1 Polish, 1 Arabic, 1 Yoruba)

## Pending Tests

- 7 Less Commonly Spoken Language Portfolios:  
Albanian, Haitian Creole, Tagalog (2), Bengali, Swedish, Swahili
- 6 retesters



# Dual Language Updates

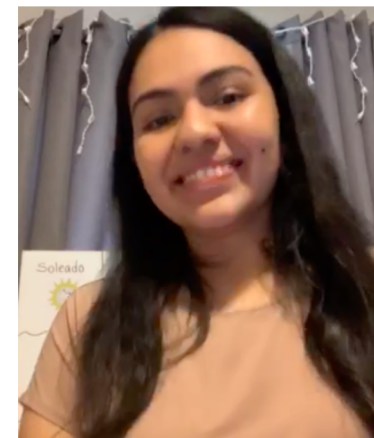
## Curriculum

- Thematic units with assessments created
- Cross-district collaboration with Lynn



## Hiring

- Both Spanish Kindergarten teachers hired
- Ongoing: ELD teacher, bilingual paras



## Enrollment

- Batch 1 Notifications and Confirmations
- Batch 2 Recruitment









*News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the  
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

**Further Guidance on 2019-2020 School Year Requirements**

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents, and Collaboratives,

We continue to receive inquiries about the requirements for this school year. Please keep in mind that given the significant disruption to school, the focus should not be on the minimum requirements for districts but on how we can best keep teaching and learning going for students' benefit. With the Governor's recent order closing school buildings for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year, we offer the following updated guidance.

**Recognizing that local remote learning plans were still being developed during the first week of ordered school closures, every district is expected to go to at least its previously scheduled 185<sup>th</sup> day. However, if the district continued remote learning during vacation days on April 21-24, the district is expected to go until its previously scheduled 181<sup>st</sup> day. A reminder: districts can always decide to go longer.**

A school committee or relevant executive board may file an appeal of the 185<sup>th</sup> day school end date to the Commissioner if they can demonstrate that their remote learning model was fully functional during the week of March 16 or can present other exceptional circumstances. Those appeals should be directed to Associate Commissioner Helene Bettencourt, [Helene.H.Bettencourt@mass.gov](mailto:Helene.H.Bettencourt@mass.gov). Helene can be reached by phone at 781-338-3120.

People have also asked when the school year can end for **high school seniors**. Under the Student Learning Time regulations, [603 CMR 27.05](#), seniors may be released up to 12 school days before the school's regularly scheduled closing date (i.e., the date that would have been the 180<sup>th</sup> school day). Even as districts are continuing remote teaching and learning through day 181 or 185, they can maintain the originally scheduled release date for seniors, as long as it is no more than 12 school days before what would have been day 180 for the current school year.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Salem School Committee  
 From: Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy, Superintendent's Office  
 Date: May 4, 2020  
 Re: Recommendation RE Salem's Participation in MA's Inter-District School Choice Program for 2020-21

Each year, the School Committee is required to vote – no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> – on whether or not to participate in the Massachusetts Inter-District School Choice program as specified in M.G.L. 76, Section 12B.

The Salem School Committee voted to opt-into the school choice program over the past three years. For the 2019-20 school year, the Committee voted to allow up to 20 non-resident students to enroll in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade via school choice at Salem High School (SHS) and in addition, enroll up to ten (10) students of any high school grade level at the New Liberty Innovation School (NLIS). In the previous two years, a limited number of students were allowed to enroll in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Salem High School.

As of March 2020, there are a total of 25 students enrolled in the Salem Public Schools via the inter-district school choice program with students “choicing-in” from a variety of other districts. The table below provides an overview of the “choice-in” students enrolled at each of the schools and grade levels along with their respective sending communities.

	Gr9		Gr10		Gr11		Gr12		Totals
	SHS	NLIS	SHS	NLIS	SHS	NLIS	SHS	NLIS	
Beverly			1	1		1			3
Danvers								1	1
Ipswich	1								1
Lynn	6	1	1		2	1		1	12
Marblehead	1			1					2
Middleton						1			1
Peabody			1			1	1		3
Rowley**			1						1
Stoneham					1				1
Sub Total by School	8	1	4	2	3	4	1	2	25
Grand Total	9		6		7		3		25

\*\*This student was subsequently placed at the Salem Prep High School based on their IEP.

<b>Total SHS</b>	16
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<b>Total NLIS</b>	9
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Since the number of applicants did not exceed the number of spaces available in any of the past three years, there was no need to hold a lottery and all applicants could attend. As provided for under the law, students who choose into Salem via the state's Inter-district School Choice program are eligible to complete their education, through graduation, with the receiving district.

For next year, the recommendation is to continue Salem's participation in the Inter-District School Choice program. The recommendation is to expand participation for both Salem High School and New Liberty in the following ways:

**Salem High School**

- Allow up to 10 students to enter at each grade level (up to 10 at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 10 at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, 10 at 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and 10 at 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

**New Liberty Innovation School**

- Expand participation by two seats (from 10 seats to 12). Students choosing into New Liberty can be from any grade level, grade 9-12.

**Process for Applying for School Choice**

- Should this recommendation be approved, the district will continue to utilize the same process we have used in the past few years. As such, the process will be managed by the Parent Information Center in coordination with the high schools. Interested students/families would complete the school choice application which is available on the district website. Applications are due by August 7<sup>th</sup>. At that point, if there are more applicants than there are spaces available for a particular school and grade level, a lottery would be held to select those allowed to enroll. If there are fewer applicants than designated seats available in each school and grade level, they would all be allowed to register and enroll. Any remaining seats would be available to be filled throughout the year on a rolling basis.

**Public Hearing and School Committee Vote on 5/18/20**

A public hearing on this matter will be scheduled during the regularly scheduled school committee meeting on May 18, 2020. The School Committee vote on this matter is also scheduled for that evening. All districts are required to report their decision to the state by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

I look forward to discussing this important matter with you over the coming days and weeks.