



# School Committee Meeting Materials

## **Regular School Committee Meeting**

**August 22, 2016**

**7:00 pm**

*Mr. James M. Fleming  
Ms. Rachel Hunt  
Ms. Mary A. Manning*



*Mr. Patrick Schultz  
Dr. Brendan R. Walsh  
Ms. Kristine Wilson*

*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.”**

**August 19, 2016**

**REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the **Salem School Committee** will hold a **Regular School Committee meeting Monday, August 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the **School Committee Chambers at Collins Middle School, 29 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA.**

**AGENDA  
Monday, August 22, 2016**

- I. Call of Meeting to Order**
- II. Approval of the Agenda**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. Deliberation and Vote on the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting held on July 25, 2016
- IV. Questions and Comments from the Audience**
- VI. Action Items**
  - a. Deliberation and Vote on the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$4,000 from Schultz Family for the Farm Programs at Salem High School (\$3,500) and Witchcraft Heights (\$500)
  - b. Deliberation on the Resolution to Not Raise the Existing Cap on Charter Schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
  - c. Deliberation on the first reading of the revision to Policy 5219 Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
- VII. Superintendent Report – Margarita Ruiz**
- VIII. Presentations and Reports**
- IX. Finance Report**

**a. Approval of Warrants**

July 21, 2016 in the amount of \$785,840.75  
July 28, 2016 in the amount of \$268,621.09  
August 4, 2016 in the amount of \$273,418.98  
August 11, 2016 in the amount of \$480,456.12  
August 18, 2016 in the amount of \$65,055.70

**b. Budget Transfer Requests**

**X. Subcommittee Reports**

**XI. School Committee Concerns and Resolutions**

**XII. School Committee Meetings**

**XIII. Questions and Comments from the Audience**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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Eileen M. Sacco, Secretary to the  
Salem School Committee

Salem School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 25, 2016

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, July 25, 2016 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, Deborah Amaral, Ms. Mary Manning, and Kristine Wilson.

**Members Absent:** Dr. Brendan Walsh

**Others Present:** Ms. Margarita Ruiz, Superintendent, Kate Carbone, Assistant Superintendent, Margaret Marotta, Assistant Superintendent, Chief of Communications Kelley Rice.

**Call to Order**

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

**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 June 20, 2016 Regular School Committee meeting. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The minutes of the School Committee Meeting of the Whole held on June 28, 2016 were presented for approval. Ms. Wilson moved approval, Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2016 Special School Committee meeting. Ms. Manning seconds the motion. Mr. Fleming abstained. The motion carried.

**Questions and Comments from the Audience**

There were no questions or comments from the audience at this time.

## **Action Items**

- a. Deliberation and Vote on the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Patrick Higgins of Swansea, Ma., June 6, 2016 and remedial action to be taken, and to Designate the City Solicitor to respond on behalf of the School Committee.

Ms. Amaral moved approval. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- b. Deliberation and Vote on the approval of the Salem High School Band Trip to Jaffrey N.H. on August 10, 2016

Mr. Fleming moved approval. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- c. Deliberation and Vote on the approval of the AFSCME Contract Ratification

Mr. Fleming moved approval. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **Superintendent Report – Margarita Ruiz**

Ms. Ruiz reported on some of the events and activities that occurred during the 201-16 school year in the Salem Public Schools as follows:

The Bates School held a Literacy Festival and the theme was “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs”. Students read for 320,000 minutes at home and celebrated their success with a spaghetti and meatball dinner. She noted that one student alone read for 8,500 minutes.

The Carlton School students read 51,970 books during their “Snow Ball Slam” which represents a 50% increase over last years Snow Ball Slam.

Collins Middle School inducted 39 students into the National Junior Honor Society.

Salem Prep graduated 8 students in June.

Salem High School has launched a peer mentoring program for freshman.

Saltonstall School students participated in a contest sponsored by the Library of Congress. There were 18 semi finalists from Saltonstall and Maya Whitfield was a finalist.

Ms. Ruiz reported that 500 Witchcraft Heights scholars participated in five community service projects during the year.

Ms. Ruiz reported that the Salem Public Schools has been selected to be part of a Community Engagement Program from Nellie Mae and explained that coaches will be assigned to the district to support activities.

Ms. Ruiz announced that the Salem Public Schools will be partnering with the United Way and AmeriCorps. She explained that they will provide tutors and mentors for ELL students and notes that this will complement our strategic planning process that is underway. Ms. Ruiz invited the School Committee and members of the public to attend a presentation on August 1, 2016 at Collins Middle School to announce this program and that she will be joined by Mayor Driscoll and Congressman Seth Moulton.

Ms. Ruiz reported that the new Business Manager Kristin Shaver is working in the district two days per week and will begin her duties full time on August 22, 2016.

### **Presentations and Reports**

There were no presentations or reports this evening.

### **Finance Report**

#### **a. Approval of Warrants**

The following warrant totals were presented for approval this evening.

June 23, 2016 in the amount of \$567,721.89  
June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$332,421.00  
June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$406, 998.45  
July 14, 2016 in the amount of \$ 79,155.68

Mr. Fleming moved to approve the warrants as stated. Ms. Manning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Budget Transfer** There were no budget transfer requests this evening.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

Mr. Fleming reported that a personnel subcommittee meeting was held and the Committee reviewed requests from the Superintendent for an additional .5 FTE Accelerated Middle School Math teacher for the Saltonstall School and recommends approval of the position.

Mr. Fleming moved to approve an additional .5 accelerated math teachers for the Saltonstall School. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Fleming reported that the Committee also considered the request of the Superintendent for a 1.0 FTE Transportation Services Specialist for the Transportation Department. He notes that this

will be a non-union 52-week position and the salary range for the position is \$44,000-\$46,000 per year.

Mr. Fleming moved approve of the addition of a 1.0 FTE Transportation Specialist for the Transportation Department. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

Mr. Fleming stated that he would like to schedule a Personnel Subcommittee Meeting with the Superintendent regarding any investigations regarding the Bentley School. Mayor Driscoll suggested that the Chair of the Board of Trustees should be invited to attend the meeting.

Ms. Manning requested that the School Committee change the date of the School Committee retreat scheduled for August 8, 2016 noting that one of the reasons for the retreat was to provide some training for the new School Committee members and since former School Committee members Deborah Amaral has been appointed to fill the seat there is no need to train her.

Mayor Driscoll states that she would like to reschedule the retreat sooner rather than later noting that scheduling is tight and things get busier as we get further into the school year. Ms. Ruiz states that she will work on another date for the retreat.

Mr. Schultz reported that he and his wife have made a donation to the School Farm program and questioned why it was not on the agenda for approval. Ms. Ruiz reported that it was an oversight and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Shultz explained that the donation is for the Salem High School and Witchcraft Heights Farm Programs and is in the amount of \$4,000 to be distributed with \$3,500 to Salem High School and \$500 to Witchcraft Heights.

### **Questions and Comments from the Audience Regarding the July 25, 2016 Agenda**

There were no questions or comments from the audience at this time.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the School Committee this evening, Mr. Fleming moved that the School Committee adjourn the meeting. Ms. Amaral seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Eileen M. Sacco, Secretary  
Salem School Committee

**Meeting Materials and Reports**

Minutes of School Committee of the Whole Meeting June 28, 2016

Minutes of Regular School Committee Meeting June 20, 2016

Minutes of Special School Committee Meeting June 28, 2016

School Committee Agenda July 25, 2016



SCR-16-10

RESOLUTION

REQUEST NOT TO RAISE THE EXISTING CAP ON CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WHEREAS, Commonwealth Charter Schools educate different students with disabilities than district schools with at least 85% of Charter School students with disabilities receiving services through full inclusion, as against 65% of district school students with disabilities in full inclusion, and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth Charter Schools educate fewer English Language Learners than district schools, with the increases of such students in Charter Schools eclipsed by the increases statewide in district schools, and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth Charter Schools "lack of comparability between Charter Schools and sending districts presents significant barriers to any attempt to determine whether the higher Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System performance at certain Charter Schools is attributable to demographic differences or whether innovative practices have produced positive outcomes," per Massachusetts Auditor Bump's findings of December 2014, and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter Schools have serious student retention problems, with significant losses in both number and percentage of students from initial enrollment through the final academic year of the school, and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth Charter Schools fail to fill empty seats from waitlist, despite the requirement of the Act Relative to the Achievement Gap of 2010, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education has failed to require or to disseminate adequate documentation of innovative programs, best practices, and models within Commonwealth Charter Schools for replications in public schools, per Massachusetts Auditor Bump's findings, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education has been "inconsistent in its decisions regarding whether to impose conditions for some school charter renewals," per Massachusetts Auditor Bump's findings, and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's reimbursement to districts has failed to be fully funded, seeing funding of 63% in FY14; 55% in FY15; and 69% in FY16, and

WHEREAS, Governor Baker's proposed reform of charter reimbursement neither fully funds reimbursement nor equitably treats sending districts.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that the Salem School Committee opposes any lifting of the cap on Charter Schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION 5000**

**INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM 5200**

**TEACHING ABOUT DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO 5219**

The Salem School Committee recognizes its responsibility to educate its students about drug abuse, including the illegal and inappropriate use of alcohol, and to formulate policies that will assist school administrators and teachers with problems arising from the misuse of drugs.

In accordance with state and federal law, the District shall provide age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate, evidence-based alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention education programs in grades K-12.

The alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention program shall address the legal, social, and health consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, with emphasis on nonuse by school-age children. The program also shall include information about effective techniques and skill development for delaying and abstaining from using, as well as skills for addressing peer pressure to use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.

The objectives of this program, as stated below, are rooted in the Committee's belief that prevention requires education, and that the most important aspect of the policies and guidelines of the District should be the education of children and youth on healthy decision-making:

- To prevent, delay, and/or reduce alcohol, tobacco, and drug use among children and youth.
- To increase students' understanding of the legal, social, and health consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.
- To teach students self-management skills, social skills, negotiation skills, and refusal skills that will help them to make healthy decisions and avoid alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.

The curriculum, instructional materials, and outcomes used in this program shall be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the School Committee.

This policy shall be posted on the district's website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents in accordance with state law. Additionally, the district shall file a copy of this policy with DESE in accordance with law in a manner requested by DESE.

The committee and school department employees shall cooperate with other community agencies concerned with drug abuse.

Debbie Amaral 8/16/2016 12:06 PM  
**Deleted:** The committee shall approve guidelines for drug education and the handling of drug abuse as recommended by the superintendent in accordance with the guidelines of the State Department of Education Drug Advisory Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent and his/her staff to review these guidelines periodically and to present their recommendations to the committee. -

