

**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”

August 2, 2021 **REVISED & REPOSTED AUGUST 4, 2021**

SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 9, 2021

Notice is hereby given that the Salem School Committee will hold a **Special School Committee meeting on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.** This is an on-line Zoom meeting.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/96471753445?pwd=Zm1ldnE5ZjZlVUdoOVBDZzQ1TjhCZz09>

Passcode: 0a1T6i

I. Call of Meeting to Order

a. Summary of Public Participation Policy (SC Policy #6409).

Read aloud: *The Salem School Committee would like to hear from the public on issues that affect the school district and are within the scope of the Committee's responsibilities. Spanish interpretation is available for anyone who needs it.*

b. Request for Spanish Interpretation.

Should any member of the public need Spanish interpretation in order to participate in the meeting, please click on the below link (no later than 12:00 pm on the day of the meeting to request Spanish interpretation): <https://forms.gle/mtGpUeb2j8zjs75b8>.

c. Instructions for Participating in Public Comment

Should any member of the Salem community wish to participate in public comment during this meeting, please click on the below link to sign up and submit your comment electronically: <https://forms.gle/qsL3J2uqSHbw2v8o6>. 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 Nancy Weiss at nweiss@salemk12.org or 617-285-7567 with any questions or to report any technical difficulties you experience.

II. Call of Meeting to Order

III. Approval of the Agenda

IV. Public Comment

Please see above for instructions on participating in public comment.

V. Superintendent's Report

- a. Health and safety protocols for the school year.

*SALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2021*

VI. Action Items: Old Business

- a. Deliberation and vote on the revised 2021-22 Annual School Calendar for the Carlton Innovation School.

VII. Action Items: New Business

- a. Deliberation and vote to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent for school opening.

VIII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy A. Weiss

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.”

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



**Sra. Ana Nuncio
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”

Agosto 2, 2021 **REVISADO & REPUBLICADO AGOSTO 4, 2021**

REUNIÓN ESPECIAL DEL COMITÉ ESCOLAR EN AGOSTO 9, 2021

Por la presente notificamos que el Comité Escolar de Salem realizará una **Reunión Especial del Comité Escolar el lunes, 9 de agosto, 2021 a las 4:00 p.m.** Esta será una reunión virtual en Zoom.

Por favor presione el siguiente enlace para unirse a la reunión virtual:

<https://zoom.us/j/96471753445?pwd=Zm11dnE5ZjZlVUdoOVBDZzQ1TjhCZz09>

Contraseña: 0a1T6i

I. Llamado de la Reunión al Orden

a. Resumen de la Política de Participación Pública (Política del SC #6409).

Leer en voz alta: *El Comité Escolar de Salem desea escuchar al público sobre asuntos que afectan al distrito escolar y están dentro del alcance de las responsabilidades del Comité. La interpretación en español está disponible para cualquier persona que la necesite.*

b. Solicitud para Interpretación al Español.

Si algún miembro del público necesita interpretación en español para poder participar en la reunión, por favor presione el enlace a continuación (a más tardar a las 9 am del día de la reunión para solicitar interpretación en español):

<https://forms.gle/mtGpUeb2j8zjs75b8>.

c. Instrucciones para Participar en Comentario Público

Si algún miembro de la comunidad de Salem desea participar en un comentario público durante esta reunión, por favor presione el enlace a continuación para inscribirse y someter su comentario electrónicamente: **<https://forms.gle/qsL3J2uqSHbw2v8o6>**. Un miembro del personal del distrito recopilará todos los comentarios que se compartirán con los miembros antes del final de la reunión pública. Los comentarios también se resumirán en el acta de la reunión. Por favor contactar a Nancy Weiss en **nweiss@salemk12.org** o en el 617-285-7567 si tiene preguntas o para reportar cualquier dificultad técnica que experimente.

II. Llamado de la Reunión al Orden

III. Aprobación de la Agenda

IV. Comentario Público

Por favor ver las instrucciones previas para participar en los comentarios públicos.

*ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS DE SALEM
REUNIÓN ESPECIAL DEL COMITÉ ESCOLAR
AGOSTO 9, 2021*

- V. **Reporte del Superintendente**
 - a. Protocolos de Salud y Seguridad para el año escolar.
- VI. **Elementos de Acción: Asuntos Viejos**
 - a. Deliberación y voto sobre la revisión del Calendario Anual Escolar 2021-22 de la Escuela Carlton Innovation.
- VII. **Elementos de Acción: Asuntos Nuevos**
 - a. Deliberación y voto para aceptar la recomendación del Superintendente para la apertura de escuelas.
- VIII. **Aplazamiento**

Respetuosamente sometido por,

Nancy A. Weiss

Asistente Ejecutiva para el Comité Escolar & el Superintendente

“Las personas que requieran ayudas y servicios auxiliares para una comunicación eficaz, tales como un intérprete de lenguaje de señas, un dispositivo de ayuda auditiva o material impreso en formato digital o una modificación razonable en programas, servicios, políticas o actividades, pueden comunicarse con el Coordinador de ADA de la ciudad de Salem al (978) 619-5630 lo antes posible y no menos de 2 días hábiles antes de la reunión, programa o evento.”

Salem Public Schools

Carlton

2021 - 2022 School Calendar

AUGUST 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 2021						
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OCTOBER 2021						
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NOVEMBER 2021						
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DECEMBER 2021						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

- 16-20 New Teacher Orientation
- 30-31 – Professional Development Day (full)

September

- 1 – Professional Development Day (full)
- 2 - First Day of School **Grades 1-12**
- 3 – First Day of School **PK/Kindergarten**
- 6 – Labor Day
- 22 – Professional Development Day (half)

October

- 11– Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 20 - Professional Development Day (half)

November

- 1 – Professional Development Day (full)
- 11 – Veterans' Day
- 19 – Transition Day (half-day)
- 24 – ½ day before Thanksgiving
- 25-26 - Thanksgiving Break

December

- 8 - Professional Development Day (half)
- 23 - 31 - Winter Break

January

- 1 – New Year's Day
- 17 – Dr. Martin L. King Day
- 26 – Professional Development Day (half)

February

- 21-25 – February Vacation
- 27 – Dominican Independence Day

March

- 9 – Transition Day (half)
- 23 – Professional Development Day (half)

April

- 15 – Good Friday
- 18-22 - April Vacation

May

- 30 - Memorial Day

June

- 6 – Transition Day. No School for students
- 15 – Last day of School (**PK/Kindergarten**)
- 17 – Last day of School (**Grades 1-12**)
- 19 – Juneteenth Independence Day

JANUARY 2022						
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30	31					

FEBRUARY 2022						
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27	28					

MARCH 2022						
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APRIL 2022						
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MAY 2022						
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JUNE 2022						
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26	27	28	29	30		

	First Day (Grades 1-12)		Half Day: ½ day before holiday / Last day of school
	Schools Closed: Holiday or Vacation		First Day of School (PreK & K)
	Schools Closed: Staff Report, Professional Development		Last Day of School (PreK & K)
	Half Day: Professional Development		Holidays/Observances

Salem Public Schools

Fall 2021 Opening Health and Safety Proposal to SC

August 5, 2021

Salem Public Schools is making the following recommendations for consideration by the Salem School Committee for a safe and healthy return to school for the 2021-22 school year.

Context: Over the summer, the world, the US, and now Massachusetts have witnessed a change in the COVID-19 pandemic due to the Delta variant. There are two key lessons about this new variant that inform our reopening plans:

1. The Delta variant is much more contagious - for every person who gets sick, they are more likely to spread it to more people than the original virus.
2. It is still rare for individuals who are vaccinated to get sick. However, when a vaccinated person does get infected, they now may be able to spread it to other people as easily as an unvaccinated person. This variant is able to replicate more effectively and be spread even by those who are vaccinated.

The risk of severe illness for individuals as a result of this variant is still very limited *if they are vaccinated*. However, children under 12 years old are not yet vaccinated and, even if cases are mild, the spread of the virus is disruptive to the mission of Salem Public Schools – providing an exemplary educational experience for our students. We also recognize the unique nature of Salem as a tourist destination, particularly in the fall, that does increase the need to be cautious as we enter our peak season. As a result, the research on this variant indicates the need to resume some of our mitigation strategies in order to reduce the risk of spread of the virus as we learn more about the variant. The benefit of science is our ability to learn how to respond as the virus changes.

The goal of this recommendation is to ensure the safe opening of schools in September and to minimize disruption to learning for our students and their families. **We remain confident and committed to fully opening school this fall with in-person learning for all students.**

The best way to combat the spread of this virus is to implement a multi-layered approach, as each layer builds upon the others to reduce the probability of the spread of the virus. In addition to the explicit practices below, these layers of mitigation include continued good hygiene practices such as hand washing and hand sanitizing and regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces. We recognize that we may have the opportunity to adjust our plans and strategies depending on the efficacy of our mitigation efforts and the local community spread data in Salem.

Recommendation to the SPS School Committee: As a result, based on the advice of our healthcare advisors, Salem Public Schools recommends the following layers of mitigation for consideration at the Monday, August 9th School Committee Meeting:

1. **COVID-19 Surveillance Testing:** Surveillance testing empowers our district to identify asymptomatic or presymptomatic cases of COVID-19 that may unknowingly be coming into our schools and prevent the spread of the virus. Salem has been at the forefront of staff and student surveillance testing, and we will continue to be. We are working with the state on the exact details for this fall, but we will continue access to weekly surveillance testing for students and staff. All testing will take place in school, including follow-up testing.
 - a. **Test to Stay:** We are excited to add that the state is launching a test-to-stay program, which will enable individuals who are close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case to participate in daily rapid testing *and* stay in school. This is an important step to reduce the disruption *if* there are positive cases this fall. We will share more information as soon as we have it.
 - b. **Stay home when symptomatic:** It continues to be essential for any individual with symptoms to stay home and contact their healthcare provider.

2. **Supplemental Ventilation:** Our HVAC (ventilation) systems ensure the introduction of fresh air or the cleaning and filtering of the air in our schools. We are conducting another review of our HVAC systems and ensuring all of our HEPA filters are updated for the school year. We will also be introducing additional substantial HEPA filters in our cafeterias and we will continue to ensure open air flow whenever possible with open windows on buses and in classes.
3. **Masks:** We recommend that all students and staff be required to wear masks to start the year. Due to the level of contagiousness of this variant and the increased possibility for those who are vaccinated to have and spread the virus due to the variant, it is critical to reduce the introduction of small droplets and particles by ensuring all individuals wear masks when inside and on our buses. We saw strong implementation across our schools last year.
 - a. **No Masks Outdoors:** Students and staff will continue to be able to remove their masks when outdoors.
 - b. **Visitor Policy:** This mask policy will apply to all individuals who enter Salem Public School buildings, including parents and families, volunteers, and visitors. SPS will continue to implement visitor protocols to screen for symptoms and encourage meetings to take place outdoors.
 - c. **Mask Breaks:** Throughout the day, students and staff will be able to take planned mask breaks either indoors or outdoors. If indoors, all individuals will be at least three feet apart and mask breaks will last no more than 10 minutes.
4. **Meals:** SPS will encourage all meals to take place outdoors whenever possible and weather permitting. If meals take place indoors, there will be a minimum of three feet of physical distance between individuals as well as supplemental ventilation in those spaces.
5. **Physical Distancing:** SPS recommends to relax most physical distancing requirements when other layers of mitigation, including masks, are in place. As noted above, physical distancing requirements of at least three feet will be in place during any meals and mask breaks that take place indoors, and for any higher respiration activities (e.g., chorus, physical education). SPS will work with educators on the detailed recommendation for each of the higher respiration activities pending further guidance from the state.

In addition to the above strategies, we continue to emphasize the importance of the **vaccine** as the most critical strategy to combat the virus. We are working with our partners to make it available to everyone in our community – including by holding another vaccination clinic this Saturday, August 7th (sign up [here](#)). For those 12 and over, the vaccine is the most important strategy to reduce the risk of this virus. In addition, the state guidance still enables those who are vaccinated to not quarantine if they are a close contact. We also look forward to collaborating with our union partners and our school nurses and health agents to better understand the extent of vaccination in our school-based community.

Please know that the Salem School Committee will be discussing these recommendations at a special meeting on Monday, August 9th at 4 pm. [Information about how to participate in this meeting can be found in the agenda on the city website.](#) In addition, SPS has been in contact with the Salem Board of Health, which is meeting on Tuesday, August 10th regarding city-wide policies. We will also be hosting a forum for families, staff and community members with district staff and our medical advisors on Tuesday, August 24th from 5:30 to 6:30pm to share more details about our opening of school plans and to answer questions that you might have.

We are grateful to every member of our community – our students, staff, families, and partners. Last year, when we launched our reopening work, we put forward four core values: wellness, equity, flexibility, and community. We have watched as our community has come together to put our students first, lived by these values, and demonstrated our ability to adapt as we learn more about the virus. We appreciate your continued support as we enter a new school year where we are fiercely committed to minimizing disruption for our children and ensuring a healthy, positive, and thriving year for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen K. Zrike Jr.".

Stephen K. Zrike, Jr., Ed.D.