

Salem School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2008

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee Chambers at Collins Middle School, 29 Highland Avenue, Salem, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Nate Bryant, Kevin R. Carr, Dr. Janet Crane, Mrs. Kerry A. Martin, Dr. Brendan Walsh

Members Absent: Mr. James Fleming

Others Present: Dr. William Cameron, Superintendent, Alyce Davis, Assistant Superintendent, School Business Manager John Danizio, Student Representative Kristen Sacco, and Eileen Sacco, Secretary

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Carr moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Dr. Crane and approved.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the School Committee meeting held on February 25, 2008 School Committee meeting were presented for approval Mr. Carr moved approval of the minutes of the February 25, 2008 meeting as amended. Dr. Crane seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

Craig Jackson an ELL teacher at the Witchcraft Heights Elementary school addressed the School Committee and referred to a letter he had published in the Salem News today regarding school personnel and their importance to a child's education.

Student Representative Report

Kristen Sacco reported on the following news and activities at Salem High School:

Congratulations to the Percussion Ensemble for their first place finish and to the Winter Color guard for their second place finish at the NESBA competition at Reading High School. Great job!

Congratulations also to all who performed in the Massachusetts High School Drama Festival. Special congratulations go to Casey Levesque for winning the stage managers award and Chris Martel for winning an excellence in sound design award.

Congratulations to the Jazz Ensemble for their silver medal at the IAJE festival at Reading High School. Special awards for Outstanding Musicianship were presented to Matt Heggie, Chris Martel and Eric Reardon. Kinnon Church received a \$600.00 scholarship to attend Jazz In July, a summer two week intensive jazz workshop at UMASS-Amherst.

And also congratulations go to the Math Team. Salem finished 3rd in the Math League finals. Tim Erps had the highest individual score for the meet. Another great job for Salem High!

March is Music in our Schools month. The Music Department starts us off each day with a song contest. The winner who has identified the most songs correctly will be announced at the end of the month

Wednesday is Parent-Teacher afternoon conferences from 2:10 to 3:05PM.

The freshman honors science fair will be held Wednesday in the first floor cafeteria. Judging will begin after the parent teacher conferences. (I'll check on times)

The Salem High School Council Meeting is Thursday at 6:30PM in IMC.

The Senior Show will be held on Thursday and Friday at 7:00 in the high school auditorium. This is an opportunity for seniors to show off their talent and raise money to defray the cost of senior week events. Tickets will be sold at the door. Everyone is welcome to attend. (you may have prices, I don't yet)

Dress for Progress, an annual event to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation will be held on March 20th. Dress for Progress is a fashion show and sale of gently used formal and semi-formal dresses for the prom season. Everyone is welcome to help out by donating dresses and attending the event. Dresses may be dropped off in the IMC on or before March 18th. This year the event is being sponsored by the National Honor Society and also includes a benefit concert being sponsored by social studies classes. The proceeds from this event will be shared with the Salem Mission. Please support this effort in whatever way you can.

Congratulations to the SHS Business Professionals Club who just returned from their State Conference in Framingham, MA and they qualified to participate in the National Conference in Reno, Nevada. BEST OF LUCK!

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cameron reported that the deadline for the RFP for the Food Services program has been extended to March 13, 2008. He noted that the time has been extended due to amendments being made to the notice for the RFP.

Dr. Cameron announced that the Hiliyer Orchestra will be performing a benefit concert for the Salem Public Schools at Salem State College on March 15, 2008.

Dr. Cameron announced that parent teacher conferences will be held in the schools next week and stressed that parental participation in their Childs education is important. He also noted that the times for the conferences at the schools are listed on the Salem Public Schools website.

Dr. Cameron congratulated the Business Professionals Club at Salem High School on their achievement at the State Conference in Framingham this weekend which qualified them to participate in the National Conference in Reno, Nevada in May.

Administrative Reports

Curriculum Report - Mrs. Davis reported on the kindergarten enrollment for next school year.

Finance Report –

- a. Deliberation on the transfer of \$8,400.00 as follows:

13482021-5381	Printing and Binding	\$1,900
13482021-5421	Office Supplies	\$1,500
13482021-5320	contracted Services	\$5,000

Total \$8,400 to Advertising 13482021-5306

This transfer us needed to cover the cost of advertising and the anticipated costs for the advertising in May for school year 2008-2009.

Dr. Walsh moved approval, seconded by Dr. Crane. The motion was approved.

- b. Deliberation on the Transfer of \$800.00 as follows:

13252030-5342 Office Supplies \$800.00

Total \$800.00 to Office Supplies 13252030-5241

This transfer is needed to cover the cost of the necessary supplies throughout the district administration offices for the remainder of the year.

Dr. Walsh moved approval, seconded by Mr. Carr. The motion carried.

- c. Deliberation on the School Department Warrant:

February 21, 2008 in the amount of \$747,006.52

Dr. Crane moved approval, seconded by Mr. Carr. The motion carried.

VIII. Action Items

- a Deliberation on the request of the Salem Parks and Recreation Department to grant the Director and the Recreation Supervisor the authority to open and close Bertram Field for recreation programs sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Carr moved approval, seconded by Mr. Bryant. The motion carried.

- b. Deliberation on the approval of the Salem High School After Prom Party, May 16, 2008 from Midnight to 5:00 a.m. at the Boston Sports Club in Lynnfield, MA

Dr. Crane moved approval, seconded by Mr. Bryant. The motion carried.

- c. Deliberation on the approval of the Salem High School AP Government Class trip to England- April 18 – 23, 2008

Dr. Walsh moved approval, seconded by Dr. crane. The motion carried.

- d. Deliberation on the approval of the Superintendents Goals for 2008-2009

Dr. Crane moved that the matter be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion, seconded by Mr. Carr. The motion carried.

- e. Deliberation on the approval of the proposed Budget Meeting Schedule for the 08-09 School Budget

Dr. Crane moved approval, seconded by Mr. Carr. The motion carried.

- f. Deliberation on the approval of the Salem High School Program of Studies for 08-09

Mr. Carr moved approval, seconded by Dr. Walsh The motion carried.

School Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Carr reviewed the minutes from the Finance Subcommittee meeting held on March 3, 2008.

Curriculum

Mrs. Martin reported that the Curriculum Subcommittee met last week and again tonight to review the program of studies at Salem High School and Report Cards.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Dr. Walsh reported that if there are any parents of Special Education students interested in serving on the Parent Advisory Council they should contact him.

Dr. Walsh noted that the MASC Day on the Hill will be held in April and questioned if there is any money available for members to attend. Dr. Cameron stated that he will look into that and report back to the School Committee.

Dr. Walsh stated that he found the orientation held for new school committee members to be very helpful and suggested that we should schedule one for the new members. Dr. Cameron stated that we would get that scheduled.

Dr. Crane asked if there is a Bilingual Outreach Coordinator for the middle school and the high school. She stated that she heard there is no designated person for the high school. Mayor Driscoll suggested that more information be gathered on that and report back to the school committee.

Mr. Bryant announced that the Foundation for Salem Public Education will be holding their annual auction on April 10, 2008.

Questions and Comments from the Audience regarding the March 10, 2008 agenda

Michael Blatty addressed the School Committee and requested to speak on the privatization of school lunch. Mayor Driscoll noted this portion of the meeting was for comment on items on the agenda this evening and there was nothing about the school lunch program on tonight's agenda. She noted that it is a policy that she would like to be consistent with.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the School Committee this evening, a motion was made by Mr. Carr to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Eileen M. Sacco, Secretary
Salem School Committee