

Salem School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, April 14, 2008

A regular meeting of the Salem School Committee was held on Monday, April 14, 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 (7:45 p.m.), Nate Bryant, Kevin R. Carr, Mr. James Fleming, Mrs. Kerry A. Martin, Dr. Brendan Walsh

Members Absent: Dr. Janet Crane

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

Dr. Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the School Committee meeting held on March 24, 2008 School Committee meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Fleming moved approval of the minutes to the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Carr. The motion carried.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Public Hearing on School Choice for FY09 School Year

Dr. Walsh called the public hearing on school choice for the FY 09 school year to order.

Dr. Walsh noted that traditionally the Salem Public Schools has not been a school choice community.

Dr. Walsh asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the School Committee regarding School Choice.

There being no questions or comments regarding this matter, Mr. Fleming moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Carr seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Student Representative Report

Kristen Sacco reported on the following events at Salem High School:

Congratulations to the Winter Color Guard for their wonderful performance at the world championships in Dayton, Ohio this past weekend. The color guard placed 13th in their round and competed against more than 120 of the best color guards in the country.

Congratulations to Kristin Wyke, Salem High's Salem News Student Athlete nominee.

Congratulations to Owen Grover and Susannah Barnes- Saslem High's Northeastern Conference Student Athlete nominees.

Student Government Day will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2008.
The ROTC sponsored an assembly today for Juniors featuring Chester Nez, a World War II Code Talker.

Several Salem High School groups are traveling in Europe this month. Students studying German are on a 3 week exchange trip to Germany. The Drama department is sponsoring a trip to London next week. Students studying French will leave this week to travel in France, and another group of students from Salem will be traveling to London next week.

Dancing With The Staff will be held in the Salem High School auditorium Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. This is a senior class fundraiser.

A fundraiser will be held for the benefit of Greg Martinez on Sunday, April 27, 2008 at the Knights of Columbus. There will be a DJ, raffles, refreshments and a door prize. A donation of \$25.00 is requested.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cameron reported that the Mayor has given him the FY09 budget figure of \$43.9 million dollars, which is \$900,000 more than last year. He explained that is is \$2 million dollars below what we are currently operating at and noted that he would like to propose changes to the budget meeting schedule so that the management team and the principals can work on the budgets and revamp the proposals. He suggested that they would need an additional week to do that and suggested that the School Committee meet on May 5th, May 6th, May 12th for the public hearing and May 19th for the adoption of the budget.

Dr. Walsh stated that he is unavailable on May 6th. The School Committee changed that meeting to May 8th.

Mr. Fleming suggested that the School Committee hold the public hearing for the school budget and the adoption of the budget could be done on the same night and suggested May 12th.

There being no further questions or comments regarding the budget schedule, Mr. Fleming moved to approve the changes to the budget meeting schedule as recommended. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The following budget meetings will be held:

Tuesday, May 6, 2008	Elementary School Budget
Thursday, May 8, 2008	Collins Middle School and Salem High School Budgets
Monday, May 12, 2008	Public Hearing and Adoption of SPS FY09 budget

Dr. Cameron reported that he raised the issue of adopting school choice for FY09 given that there may be some economic benefit to doing so. He reported that after talking with the administrative staff he is NOT recommending that we adopt it. He explained that we would have to raise class sizes to accommodate the additional students.

Dr. Cameron requested approval from the School Committee to commence bargaining with AFSCME Union regarding the RFP to privatize the school lunch program. He explained that we received three proposals which are being reviewed by the committee and they will make a recommendation to him which will be given to the School Committee for action. He noted that this is part of the process of gathering all available information and to do that he feels that discussions with AFSCME should be held.

Mr. Fleming stated that he understands the process but noted that the RFP stated that the RFP was put out at the behest of the School Committee and he feels that the School Committee should be doing this. Dr. Cameron stated that the Committee is composed of people who are objective and well informed on the school lunch program. Mr. Fleming stated that he feels

that the School Committee should deliberate on this matter and then enter into collective bargaining.

Mr. Bryant addressed the School Committee and noted that the Ad Hoc Committee that is looking at the proposals is looking at the best vendor to use should the recommendation be to privatize the school lunch program.

Dr. Walsh stated that the purpose of the RFP is to gather information so that we have something to compare to the AFSCME counter proposal.

Mr. Fleming stated that he feels that it is unfair to AFSCME and they should know what is going to happen before they start negotiating.

Dr. Walsh introduced the following motion:

MOVED, that the School Committee authorize the Personnel Subcommittee to commence negotiations with Local 294, Council 93, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) over the impact of the privatization of the Salem Public Schools food services program, said authorization to be subject to two conditions precedent, those conditions being: first that the Salem Public Schools' receive a formal recommendation from the proposal review committee regarding privatization with at least one vendor who duly submitted a proposal; and second, that upon receipt of such a recommendation, the Superintendent forward the recommendation, as well as the proposal or proposals so recommended, to the members of the School Committee and to a duly designated representative of AFSCME.

Mr. Carr seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Cameron noted that the RFP proposals are not a matter of public record until a proposal moves forward.

Mr. Fleming asked what the timeline is for the process. Dr. Cameron stated that the review committee will be meeting and he hopes to have a recommendation at the end of the week. Mr. Bryant noted that he is a member of the review committee and he thinks that the intention of the Committee is to have a formal recommendation by the end of the week.

Curriculum Report - Mrs. Davis reported on the progress of Kindergarten registration for September. She stated that there are 45 seats remaining and as of April 10, 2008 – 110 students have been registered.

Mrs. Davis reported that the NCLB report cards are posed on the web and she will be distributing copies to the School Committee.

Finance Report

Budget Transfer Request

Deliberation on the transfer of \$27, 566 as follows:

From:

\$7,471 from 13640161-5307 – Special Education Instructional Supplies

\$20,095 from 13640181- 5270 – Special Ed Rentals and Leases

To the following accounts:

\$10,522 TO 13640920-5163 – Special Ed Para – Collins

\$4,000 TO 13640520-5163 – Special Ed Para – Bowditch

\$9,783 TO 13640420-5163 – Special Ed Para – Carlton

\$3,261 TO 13640320-5163 – Special Ed Para – Bentley

Mr. Danizio reported that this transfer is required to cover the costs of the requested Para positions for Special Education.

Dr. Walsh moved to approve the budget transfers as requested. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Deliberation on the School Department Warrant

The following Salem Public Schools warrants were presented for approval:

March 27, 2008 in the amount of \$238,220.19

April 3, 2008 in the amount of \$380,828.99

April 10, 2008 in the amount of \$209,596.59

Mr. Fleming moved approval. Dr. Walsh seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Fleming stated that he would like to have the budget book prior to the meetings so that the School Committee can review it.

Dr. Cameron informed the School Committee that the budget books would be given out this evening.

Old Business - There was no old business to attend to this evening.

New Business – After School Programs

Mayor Driscoll explained that she has heard some concerns about one of the After School Programs and has a request for the School Committee to follow up on this. She suggested that the matter be referred to the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee as the matter pertains to programs that rent space from the Salem Public Schools.

Mr. Fleming moved to refer the matter to the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee. Mr. Carr seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Action Items

- a. Deliberation on the approval of a Coordinator for the Salem Prep Program

Mr. Carr moved approval, seconded by Dr. Walsh. The motion carried. (Mr. Fleming opposed)

Dr. Walsh moved approval action items b-g - to hire 1-1 paraprofessionals. Mr. Carr seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- b. Deliberation on the approval to hire a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Nathaniel Bowditch School – 6 hours per day/5 days per week at a rate of \$12.35 per hour
- c. Deliberation on the approval to hire a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Collins Middle School – 6 1/2 hours per day / 5 days per week at the rate of \$12.35 per hour
- d. Deliberation on the approval to hire a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Bentley School – 6 1/2 hours per day / 5 days per week at the rate of \$12.35 per hour
- e. Deliberation on the approval to hire a Special Education Paraprofessional at the Carlton School – 6 1/2 hours per day / 5

days per week at the rate of \$12.35 per hour

- f. Deliberation on the approval to hire a Special Education 1-1 Paraprofessional at the Carlton School – 6 1/2 hours per day / 5 days per week at the rate of \$12.35 per hour
- g. Deliberation on the approval to hire a Special Education 1-1 Paraprofessional at the Collins Middle School – 6 1/2 hours per day / 5 days per week at the rate of \$12.35 per hour
- h. Deliberation on the approval to hire a Special Education Classroom Paraprofessional at the Collins Middle School – 6 hours per day/5 days per week at a rate of \$12.35 per hour

Mr. Carr moved approval. Seconded by Dr. Walsh. The motion carried with Mr. Fleming opposed.

- i. Deliberation on the approval to hire a Special Education Paraprofessional for D & M Programs at the Carlton School – 6 1/2 hours per day / 5 days per week at the rate of \$12.35 per hour

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

- j. Deliberation on the recommendation of the Superintendent that Salem NOT be a school choice community for the 2008-2009 school year.

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

- k. Deliberation on the approval of the School Calendar for 2008-2009 School year.

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

- l. Deliberation on the approval of a \$50,000 donation to the Salem Public Schools from the Gelfand Family Charitable Trust to be used in accordance with the terms of the donation.

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

- m. Deliberation on the request of Director of Buildings and Grounds to declare furniture and equipment surplus for the Salem High School renovation project.

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

- n. Deliberation on the acceptance of donations of \$1,000 or more to the Salem Public Schools from the Salem Education Fund in accordance with School Committee Policy 1310 as follows:

Salem Rotary Club	\$20,000
Anonymous Business Contribution	\$20,000
North Shore Medical Center	\$20,000
Salem Five Bank	\$20,000
Salem State College	\$20,000
Bates, Bentley, Horace Mann, Nathaniel Bowditch, Witchcraft Heights and Saltonstall PTO's	\$15,415
Foundation for Salem Public Education	\$10,000
F.W. Webb	\$10,000
Peabody Essex Museum	\$10,000

Anonymous	\$ 5,000
Salem Board of Library Trustees	\$ 5,000
Danvers Bank	\$ 5,000
Endicott College	\$ 5,000
Gilbane Building Co.	\$ 5,000
Saltonstall School Parent (anonymous)	\$ 5,000
The Salem Partnership	\$ 5,000
Beverly Cooperative Bank	\$ 5,000
Julianna Tache	\$ 5,000
Steve Manning	\$ 5,000
Paul & Danika Herrick	\$ 5,000
Mary Manning	\$ 5,000
Horace Mann North PTO	\$ 3,546
Kam-Fun Lam & Woon Chung Lam	\$ 3,000
Dr. & Mrs. Brendan Walsh	\$ 3,000
Crosbies Market	\$ 2,500
Pediatric Health Care Associates, Peabody, Ma	\$ 2,500
National Grid	\$ 2,000
Brooksby Village	\$ 2,000
Edward Ingraham & Darleen Melis	\$ 2,000
Essex Lodge A.F. & A.M	\$ 2,000
North Shore Marine Inc.	\$ 2,000
Mayor Kimberley Driscoll	\$ 2,000
State Representative John Keenan	\$ 2,000
State Senator Fred Berry	\$ 2,000
Jonathon Blodgett	\$ 2,000
Lotus Gifts	\$ 2,000
Mary Ann Lyons	\$ 2,000
Edward Cloutier	\$ 2,000
Salem Youth Soccer	\$ 2,000
Salem Academy Charter School	\$ 1,500
Anderson Tuttle Properties	\$ 1,500
Linda Blier	\$ 1,500
Stanley & Jody Smith	\$ 1,500
William & Joy Cameron	\$ 1,200
Bruce & Jeanette McLaughlin	\$ 1,200
Nathaniel Bowditch PTO	\$ 1,008.88
First Church in Salem Unitarian	\$ 1,000
AFT Massachusetts	\$ 1,000
Hale & Dorothy Bradt	\$ 1,000
George Cairns & Sons	\$ 1,000
Larry & Deborah Callahan	\$ 1,000
The Depot Group Inc.	\$ 1,000
Seaport Credit Union	\$ 1,000
The Salem Inn	\$ 1,000
The Salem Renewal	\$ 1,000
Northside Carting	\$ 1,000
Cinema Salem	\$ 1,000
Phillip & Judith Grondin	\$ 1,000
Alice & Delorers Jordan	\$ 1,000
Michael & Elaine McNamara	\$ 1,000
Bruce Michaud	\$ 1,000
Glenn Polito & James Moran	\$ 1,000
Louis Morrisey	\$ 1,000
The Phoenix School	\$ 1,000
Alexander Pszenney	\$ 1,000
Betsy Merry	\$ 1,000
Harold DeMonaco	\$ 1,000
Arthur & Karen Emery	\$ 1,000

Richard & Christina Harrington	\$ 1,000
Michael & Helen Medler	\$ 1,000
Martha Tierney	\$ 1,000

Mr. Fleming moved approval. Seconded by Mr. Carr. The motion carried.

School Committee Reports –

Personnel – Mr. Fleming reported that the Personnel Subcommittee met this evening regarding the contract for Assistant Superintendent Alyce Davis. He stated that he will report to the School Committee in Executive Session at the next meeting.

School Committee Concerns and Resolutions

Mr. Fleming reported that a fundraiser will be held for the Martinez family on Sunday, April 27, 2008 at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Mrs. Martin asked if the Salem Public Schools budget would be posted on the website. Mr. Danizio stated that he plans to do that once the package is together.

Mr. Fleming requested that he Superintendent provide AFSCME any materials that they request regarding the School Lunch program free of charge. Dr. Cameron stated that ASFCME has not requested any information from him, noting that he has received requests from private citizens.

John Danizio stated that ASFCME did contact him to get the proposals but they are not public documents at this time.

Questions and Comments from the Audience regarding the April 14, 2008 agenda

Deb Jeffers, Vice President of AFSCME addressed the School Committee and noted that she has been working with a group of parents for the past 18 months working on creative proposals to save money and they would like the opportunity to discuss that.

John Phelan addressed the School Committee and reported that the After Prom Committee held a very successful paper drive last weekend at Salem High School. He noted that the custodians at Salem High School contributed greatly to the success of that and noted that they did so on their own time. He asked that the School Committee be mindful of the benefits of having our own custodians and cafeteria staff.

Lindsey Morsillo addressed the School Committee and suggested that the School Committee take up the matter of school choice earlier in the year next year.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Eileen M. Sacco, Secretary
Salem School Committee