

**Minutes of the Regular Session
of the Salem School Committee
Monday, May 11, 2026
Hybrid Meeting**

Members Present: Mayor Pangallo, Yamily Byas, AJ Hoffman, Mary Manning and Veronica Miranda

Others in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Carbone and Interim Deputy Superintendent Pauley

Members Absent: Vice Chair Cornell and Meg Stott

Call of Meeting to Order

Mayor Pangallo called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and informed the public that the docket contains the public participation procedure and how to access Spanish interpretation.

A moment of silence was held for Massachusetts State Trooper Kevin Trainor who graduated from Salem High School in 2013 and tragically lost his life in the line of duty on May 6, 2026.

Approval of Agenda

Member Miranda made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Byas seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Miranda made a motion to take out of order the student recognitions and presentations. Member Hoffman seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting held on April 27, 2026
2. Approval of Field Trip to New York City for Collins Middle School Grade 8 students on May 28-29, 2026
3. Approval of FY26 Warrants:
 1. 4/23/2026 - \$531,833.60
 2. 4/30/2026 - \$405,053.84

Member Miranda made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Hoffman seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Vice Chair Cornell ABSENT

Member Byas voted YES

Member Hoffman voted YES
Member Manning voted NO
Member Miranda voted YES
Member Stott ABSENT
Mayor Pangallo voted YES
Motion passed with 4 votes in favor, 1 against and 2 absent.

Student Representative Report

Student Representative Sula mentioned that Advanced Placement testing is currently taking place at Salem High School along with SAT and the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). The Student Advisory Group is preparing to host elections. The medical assisting class of the Career and Technical Education program started their Salem Hospital internship as of last week.

Superintendent's Report

Interim Superintendent Carbone acknowledged Mother's Day and Educator Appreciation Week.

1. Student Recognitions

Interim Superintendent Carbone recognized Alexia Coleman, Grant Dwyer and Johan Polanco for their accomplishments in the wrestling program, swimming program and technical skills competition.

The students were presented with City seals and they took pictures with their families and the School Committee members.

Member Manning joined the meeting at 7:15 pm.

2. Collins Middle School 8th Grade Civics Project Presentation

Collins Middle School 8th grade students and Ms. Katherine Jahl presented the civics project that the students completed.

In response to Student Representative Sula, Ms. Jahl said that Representative Cruz recommended that the School Committee should write a resolution. Ms. Jahl added that posting on social media has already been done. In response to Mayor Pangallo and Interim Superintendent Carbone, the students said that they picked this topic based on consensus and because it was affecting the community the most. In response to Member Miranda, the students said that it was an exciting project with lots of research and that it makes a difference in the community.

Mr. Bob McCarthy who currently serves as the Chief of Staff for Massachusetts State Senator Joan Lovely commented that Senator Lovely sends her regards for not being able to be present at the meeting and that he is attending on her behalf. Mr. McCarthy said that he served on the School Committee for a little while previously and that he was impressed with the research the students had done. Mr. McCarthy continued that the Senate takes up the budget next week and all amendments to the budget were filed on

Friday, May 8th. Mr. McCarthy recommended that a resolution be passed soon and sent in electronic form so that it can be brought to the attention of Senator Lovely and Senator DiDomenico.

Member Miranda made a motion to endorse the amendment to increase the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) up to \$60 million. Member Hoffman seconded. A roll call vote was taken.

Vice Chair Cornell ABSENT

Member Byas voted YES

Member Hoffman voted YES

Member Manning voted YES

Member Miranda voted YES

Member Stott ABSENT

Mayor Pangallo voted YES

Motion passed with 5 votes in favor and 2 absent.

Mayor Pangallo added that a correspondence noting this endorsement would be sent to Senator Lovely. Mayor Pangallo thanked the students for bringing this to the School Committee's attention as it is a critical need.

Member Miranda made a motion to take a 2-minute recess. Member Byas seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Updates from Salem High School on College Application Process

Salem High School (SHS) Principal Glenn Burns and SHS College and Career Center Director Megan Sousa provided a presentation on the college application process.

In response to Student Representative Sula, Principal Burns said that the guidance counselors would be reaching out to students via phone and email in the summer. Member Miranda expressed interest in seeing exit surveys for the alumni. In response to Member Miranda, Principal Burns and Director Sousa said that the parents of students will be contacted as well and that the guidance counselors meet with the students multiple times throughout their four years at high school. In response to another question from Student Representative Sula, Principal Burns said that depending on the guidance counselor's availability, students would be able to meet with particular guidance counselors. In response to Member Byas, Principal Burns said there needs to be a lot more community outreach.

In response to Member Hoffman, Principal Burns said that with constant communication with students and families, they would be able to collect data as to why students are not matriculating and having a support system. As for the financial aspect, Principal Burns said that the school is helping families by partnering with College Affordable, a non profit organization built to help families reduce the cost of college, minimize debt and increase higher education choices. There are also partnerships with folks in the community who are certified to do this type of work and they have worked with many of the families.

Students also start their college essays in junior year and most of them have a draft by senior year. In response to Member Miranda, Principal Burns said the school is working on a partnership to create a data dashboard with financial aid packages that different colleges offered Salem students. Director Sousa elaborated further on the process, options for students and how students are encouraged to apply to reach schools. Student Representative Sula provided personal experience with College Affordable which she found helpful. Member Hoffman also provided a positive personal experience.

4. Sarah Parker Remond Revised Calendar

Interim Superintendent Carbone said that Saltonstal School Principal Jellison highlighted that the approved calendar for the Sarah Parker Remond School was missing the September 23rd Professional Development Half Day.

5. Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Update

Interim Superintendent Carbone mentioned that the city voters approved a debt exclusion tax override in a special election on May 5, 2026 for the new high school. Interim Superintendent Carbone added that it is a project that represents a powerful investment in the future of the city. The first Building Committee meeting since the vote will be taking place on May 12th and the milestone review to ensure the project is on target, future meeting dates as well as an update from the finance working group will be discussed at the meeting.

Student Representative Sula left the meeting at 8:26 pm.

6. Finance and Operations Report

Interim Deputy Superintendent Pauley said that last summer, the Salem Public Schools Summer Eats Program served 29,591 meals to children across 22 community sites. Interim Deputy Superintendent Pauley continued that the program is available again this summer to provide free meals to children throughout Salem beginning on Monday, June 29th and concluding on Friday, August 21st. The program will operate at 11 open sites and provide meals at 22 partner locations. The information would be shared with the School Committee and families soon. Interim Deputy Superintendent Pauley invited the School Committee to the kickoff event on Monday, June 29th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Finance Subcommittee

No report at this time.

2. Personnel Subcommittee

No report at this time.

3. Building and Grounds Subcommittee

No report at this time.

4. Curriculum Subcommittee

No report at this time.

5. Policy Subcommittee

No report at this time.

6. Superintendent Screening Committee

Member Hoffman said that the Superintendent Screening Committee met last week and the interview questions were finalized. Initial interviews will begin this week and end next week. The selected candidates would then be forwarded to the next level.

Motions and Resolutions

1. Sarah Parker Remond Revised Calendar

Member Miranda made a motion to approve the revised Sarah Parker Remond School 2026-2027 calendar. Member Hoffman seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

In response to Member Miranda, Interim Superintendent Carbone said that there's language in the contract that if Juneteenth falls on weekend, it does not impact the school day. In response to another question from Member Miranda, Interim Superintendent Carbone said the Sarah Parker Remond School wants to reserve the right to have some autonomy around the calendar for trimester transitions but they have acknowledged that there's less of a significant need because they are approaching it in a different way. Interim Superintendent Carbone added that the school also acknowledges that it has to be a significant reason and not something frivolous as it can have an impact on the budget in terms of transportation.

Newsletter Items

This matter was tabled.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

Member Miranda made a motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm. Member Hoffman seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Shirley Dorai

Executive Assistant to the School Committee & Superintendent