

**Minutes of the Special Session
of the Salem School Committee
Monday, June 22, 2026
Rm. 227, 29 Highland Ave.**

Members Present: Mayor Dominick Pangallo, Vice Chair Beth Anne Cornell, Yamily Byas, AJ Hoffman, Mary Manning, Veronica Miranda and Megan Stott

Others in Attendance: Interim Superintendent Carbone and Interim Deputy Superintendent Pauley, and Brooke Trivas at Perkins & Will

Members Absent: None

Call of Meeting to Order

Mayor Pangallo called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. There was a round of introductions.

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) High School Building Project Update

Ms. Margaret Minor Wood, Senior Project Director, Accenture, Owner's Project Manager for the High School Building Project said that the schematic design submission to the MSBA was done in December. Since then, the MSBA took their vote on the project and the voters in Salem took their vote on the project. The next phase of the project, which is the design development, has now been launched. Ms. Wood continued that this phase entails all the design pieces done in the early stages by Perkins&Will, the Designer for the project which will now be taken to the next level of design. The submission to the MSBA will be done in March at which point the design issues would have been settled. Another estimate will be done prior to that along with eight or nine months of preparing the construction documents. The design team is creating a detailed bid package which is the basis of going out and confirming the cost of the construction cost of the project. It will go to bid at the end of 2027 and construction will start in early 2028. The goal is to have the building open for occupancy and use in the fall of 2030. Once everyone moves into the new building, a side relief will be taken and the old building will be torn down to build new playing fields.

Brooke Trivas, Managing Principal K-12 Practice Leader, Perkins&Will presented the design details of the bathrooms which have been changing. Ms. Trivas gave a shout out to Salem High School Principal Glenn Burns because there was a total of 900 respondents to the survey that was done and 558 completed the survey which Ms. Trivas said is really unheard of for a survey.

Member Manning joined the meeting at 5:15 pm.

In response to a question, Ms. Trivas said the restrooms in the daycare section of the building would be customised for the use of the young children. Member Stott asked about the overall count of restrooms and how it compares to code as well as the cost of maintenance for inclusive restrooms. Ms. Trivas said that the number of restrooms would be the same as the ones available now but that the distribution and locations would be what is changing based on the flow of people

through the spaces as well as being closer to classrooms. There are no urinals in the whole plan. The restrooms are all within the code requirements. Ms. Trivas also explained that simultaneous use of the big spaces such as the gym and auditorium would require more restrooms. The number of restrooms are driven by the number of people in the building and Ms. Trivas said that the number can be provided. Restrooms near the athletic fields and storage needs were also discussed.

Ms. Trivas responded to another question that was raised stating that the locker rooms need to be gendered. Ms. Trivas added that inclusive restrooms, urinals and single stalls are not a requirement but that they are allowed now. In response to Member Miranda's question of whether it is possible to have showers inside the single stalls in the locker room, Ms. Trivas said that some of them could include showers. In response to Vice Chair Cornell, Ms. Trivas said that there is no particular count of showers requirement in the code. The showers could have doors instead of curtains. Vice Chair Cornell was in support of floor to ceiling doors in the bathrooms in the locker rooms.

In response to Member Hoffman about locks in the restrooms that lock even when no one is in the restroom, Ms. Trivas said that there will be conversations about hardware such as locks. In response to Interim Superintendent Carbone, Ms. Trivas said that they can try to change the placing of the stalls in the bathrooms so that it can enable better supervision. In response to Interim Deputy Superintendent Pauley, Ms. Trivas said it is good practice for all the Career Technical Education (CTE) spaces to have their own restrooms. Ms. Trivas said that Salem is taking a progressive approach to the design. Ms. Trivas said that there is still time if a radical change needs to be done but that a decision would need to be made by the summer and that the sooner, the better.

Ms. Trivas mentioned that the changes suggested at this meeting for the locker rooms, repositioning the restrooms on the north section, increased visibility in the inclusive restrooms on the south section, locks, and the showers in the locker rooms will be incorporated into the design plan and that it will be provided in a week or so.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Cornell made a motion to adjourn at 6:02 pm. Member Miranda seconded and it was so VOTED. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Shirley Dorai

Executive Assistant to the School Committee & Superintendent