



## **Record Attendance**

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Jeff Whitmore called a meeting of the Governance Committee of Salem Academy Charter School to order on Friday Jul 11, 2025 at 8:07 AM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

Steve Palmer made a motion to approve the minutes from Governance Committee Meeting on 05-09-25.

Toyuwa Newton seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Jeff Whitmore made a motion to approve the minutes from Governance Committee Meeting on 06-13-25.

Steve Palmer seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **II. Governance**

### **A. Trustee Recruitment**

The committee discussed trustee recruitment, noting that a prospective trustee interview was scheduled for the second half of the meeting. Ilene Vogel, who was voted on at the June meeting, is now awaiting DESE approval. The committee also reviewed a new opportunity through The Boston Club, a women's business organization, which offers a nonprofit application process for organizations seeking board members; a Boston Club member from Beverly, who owns an architectural firm, has applied. The committee emphasized that recruitment priorities include candidates with legal and HR expertise, particularly as Eddie will be terming off the board.

### **B. Retreat Planning**

The committee discussed plans for the upcoming Board retreat, with Mike Mizzoni from BoardOnTrack confirmed to help facilitate. The tentative agenda includes a morning session with an icebreaker, a review of MCAS results and DESE Accountability Plan results with discussion of next steps, and a review of the Board assessment results. Lunch will follow. The afternoon will focus on reviewing year-to-date progress on 2025 Board goals, committee work to develop 2026 Board goals, and concluding with a regroup and outlining next steps. The committee will continue retreat planning at its next meeting.

Stephanie Callahan left at 8:34 AM.

Kara McLaughlin left at 8:34 AM.

## **III. Prospective Trustee Interview**

### **A.**

## **Interview Preparation**

### **B. Interview with Prospective Trustee**

The committee conducted an interview with prospective trustee Giselle Ortega. Giselle expressed strong alignment with Salem Academy's mission, noting that education has been key to her own journey and that helping others navigate educational opportunities is a personal passion that grew following her MBA. She was particularly drawn to Salem Academy's focus on preparing students for college.

Her background includes a bachelor's degree in Business and an MBA in International Business and Marketing from Northeastern University. Giselle has experience working in an incubator in Mexico and with nonprofits including NEACOL (New England Association for Colombian Children), where she helped streamline marketing and events, and ALPFA, Inc. (Association of Latino Professionals For America), where she progressed from volunteer to co-chair and restructured marketing timelines and processes.

Giselle expressed interest in serving on the Development Committee and would also be open to the Education Committee. She shared familiarity with charter school advocacy through her participation in the Latinos for Education program and demonstrated an empathetic approach to discussing the charter school sector. Giselle highlighted that she could contribute recruitment strategies from her prior experience with other organizations.

Regarding Board expectations, she confirmed that she could attend monthly Board meetings in person and that the commute would not be a barrier. She also affirmed her commitment to philanthropy, acknowledging prior discussions about making a personally meaningful gift.

## **IV. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeff Whitmore