

APPROVED



## Salem Academy Charter School

### Minutes

#### Education Committee Meeting

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##### **Date and Time**

Tuesday September 16, 2025 at 8:00 AM

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The Salem Academy Charter School Education Committee will meet via Zoom.

Zoom Link: <https://salemacademy.cs.zoom.us/j/9876543210>

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##### **Committee Members Present**

Amy Stewart (remote), Drea Jacobs (remote), Rich Cowdell (remote), Sabrina Williams (remote),  
Stephanie Callahan (remote)

##### **Committee Members Absent**

Domina DiBiase

##### **Guests Present**

Fallon Burke (remote)

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#### **I. Opening Items**

##### **A. Record Attendance**

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

Rich Cowdell called a meeting of the Education Committee of Salem Academy Charter School to order on Tuesday Sep 16, 2025 at 8:04 AM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

Amy Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from Education Committee Meeting on 07-09-25.

Stephanie Callahan seconded the motion.

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

## **II. Education Committee Reports**

### **A. Back to School Updates**

Sabrina Williams provided the Lower School Back to School updates. This year, there is only one new teacher joining the team—an 8th-grade English teacher. The primary programmatic shift in the Lower School is the implementation of MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports). The schedule was slightly adjusted to accommodate four cohorts of 6th graders and to integrate an MTSS block. After three weeks in the new schedule, feedback has been positive. MTSS has met four times since the start of the year, primarily for introductions and student placement. Each MTSS block also includes a social-emotional learning (SEL) component in which teachers check in with students at the start of the period. The theme for the 2025–26 school year is “Push Your Potential.”

Drea Jacobs shared Upper School Back to School updates, noting a strong start to the year and positive feedback from staff following recent staffing updates. The Upper School also made a small scheduling shift to include a Support Block, marking this week as the first full implementation without interruptions from presentations, alternative schedules, or field trips. The new MTSS Support Block operates three days a week for 35 minutes, providing targeted academic support. Drea noted that the Upper School continues to refine student schedules, particularly to differentiate supports for 11th- and 12th-grade students.

Additional highlights include the start of the fall MAP testing window and the launch of 19 student clubs, including several new offerings. There are 45 students running for various positions in student government over the next few weeks, reflecting strong student engagement early in the year.

### **B. MTSS Updates**

Sabrina Williams provided an update on MTSS implementation. Tier 1 updates were included in the Back to School report, and Tier 2 interventions for the Lower School will begin in Quarter 2. Current Tier 1 interventions are focused on supporting foundational reading and math skills. Data from Quarter 1, including MCAS scores and MAP assessments, will inform the design and placement of Tier 2 supports.

In the Upper School, Tier 2 interventions will prioritize 9th and 10th grade students, particularly in math, while 11th and 12th grade students will receive targeted support related to AP coursework and Competency Determination requirements as needed. Mark Hodgkins will lead training for staff on the reading intervention curriculum and assist with scheduling for Tier 2 and Tier 3 implementation.

### **III. Family Advisory Council**

#### **A. Family Council Updates**

Drea Jacobs provided an update on the school council nomination process. Nominations are currently being collected for staff, students, and caregivers. Student government will serve as the selection pool for student representatives. Staff elections are scheduled to take place later this week, with 12 nominations already submitted. Drea will conduct an additional outreach effort at next week's Back to School Night to increase caregiver participation, with the goal of holding caregiver elections at the October SFC meeting.

The committee discussed the need to recruit community representatives for the council and agreed that support from Education Committee members will be essential in identifying and engaging prospective candidates.

### **IV. Education Committee Goals**

#### **A. Progress Toward Committee Goals**

There are no updates on accountability measures at this time. Drea Jacobs noted that the committee will review data once MCAS scores are officially released and the embargo is lifted.

#### **B. Trustee Recruitment**

No updates on Trustee Recruitment.

### **V. Other Business**

#### **A. Reach the Beach Update**

Fallon Burke updated the committee on RTB. The team reached the beach and met the \$25K fundraising goal.

### **VI. 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 8:43 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Fallon Burke