

Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2017
6:00 pm, Room 124

Members Present: Nina Cohen, Joshua Biber, Steve Palmer, Alfonso Perillo, Michelle Aroko, William Henning, Karen Cady, Christine Wynne, David Pabich, Thomas Monroe, Rick Jones, Nina(???), Peter Copelas

Members Absent: Leslie Tuttle, Paige Nalipinski,

Guests: Coree Dovev, Jennifer Lebzelter, Christian Foster, Sean Gass, Sean O'Neil, Fawaz Abusharkh, Stephanie Callahan, Nina Bridgeman

AGENDA

I. Call to Order, Welcome
Nina Cohen, Chair

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Salem Academy Charter School, 45 Congress St., Salem, MA was called to order on February 15, 2017 at 6:21 PM in room 124 by Chair, Nina Cohen.

II. Minutes of the Meeting of January 25, 2017 [VOTE] Appendix A
Rick Jones

Motion: The minutes of the February, 2017 meeting shall be approved without corrections. Motion made by Rick Jones and seconded by David Pablich.

Resolved: The motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment

IV. Executive Director/ Finance Committee Salary / Budget Presentation Appendix B
Sean O'Neil, Thomas Monroe

Sean O'Neil gave an overview of the Finance Report which included a brief synopsis of a proposal for teacher salaries moving forward. Sean O'Neil reminded the Board that this proposal was merely for presentation and discussion purposes and did not include projections for new staff, budget moving forward and other additional costs that could be incurred.

Sean O'Neil then summarized the monthly budget report. Items of interest included increased social security for substitute teacher, new computers for staff and a shift of the rent for the Arts Center. Salem Academy will also be able to place a good amount of money into the long term reserve at the end of the year.

IX. Executive Director Search Committee Discussion
Steve Palmer

Before the interview with Kathy Egmont began, Steve Palmer summarized the hiring process up to the time of the February 15 meeting. Nina Cohen added the role Alison Wyatt played in the ED Search process.

Kathy Egmont then entered the room and began the interview with the Board of Trustees. She began by meeting the members of the Board of Trustees and also gave a brief overview of her career experience and what she had learned about Salem Academy Charter School through the interview process.

She summarized her day at Salem Academy meeting with the Search Committee, students, teachers, leadership and parents. She also shared a few details about her departure from Lowell Community Day Charter School.

Kathy answered a few questions about helping to run a high school. This would be a new challenge for her, one that she would look forward to. She then discussed her experience managing a school's budget and finances.

Part of Kathy's interview included a prompt created by the Search Committee. She summarized her answer to that prompt for the Board of Trustees and answered a few questions about her responses.

The topic of diversity in Salem and Salem Academy Charter School came up. Kathy described how the diversity of Salem Academy will present both challenges and opportunities. She reflected on her time in Harlem and up in Lowell.

Questions about interacting with teachers and school leaders were then answered by Kathy. She then looked into the future of Salem Academy and spoke about her view for the strategic planning of the school moving forward. Managing change was one of the topics discussed by Kathy during this time.

After the Board of Trustees finished up their questions, Kathy Egmont was given an opportunity to ask questions of the Board. She asked about the relationship of the Board of Trustees with the Executive Director. A few of the Board members shared their concerns with the school moving forward and mentioned qualities they are looking for in a new Executive Director. These concerns included maintaining academic excellence, retaining school culture, partner relationships and strategic planning.

Board members ended the interview summarizing why they enjoy working with Salem Academy and expressed why they feel Salem Academy is special.

X. Vote to Adjourn Regular meeting
Nina Cohen

On motion made and seconded, Nina Cohen adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.