

Salem Public Schools

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SALEM SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT JULY 21, 2026

Salem School Board Meeting Minutes Date: July 21, 2026 **Time:** 6:00 PM **Location:** Salem School District **Members Present:** Karen Coffman, Dr. Guy Smith, Burton Yarnell, Jason Miller and Joey Hall entered meeting at 6:25 p.m.
Members Absent: None

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by the Board Vice Chairman. A quorum was established.

II. Reports and Updates

- **Testing Results:** The district finished **second overall** in the 2026 Atlas test rankings, moving up from third place the previous year. Notable achievements included **first-place rankings** in Biology, Algebra, and all fifth-grade subjects (ELA, Math, and Science). Areas identified for improvement include 10th-grade Geometry and foundational skills for first-grade students.
- **Facilities:** Updates were provided on the gym lobby, bleachers, and flooring. A new concession menu featuring items such as burgers, Philly cheesesteaks, and fried bologna sandwiches will be managed by Shaun Windsor.
- **Fuel Emergency:** A **declaration of emergency** was reported regarding the district's fuel situation. The district will remain with its current provider to ensure fuel quality while potentially bidding for new prices in the coming months.
- **ESA Funding:** The district successfully documented a **70% free and reduced lunch demographic**, which will result in doubled **Enhanced Student Achievement (ESA) funding** phased in over the next three years. Consequently, free and reduced lunch forms will not need to be collected for the next two years.

III. Consent Agenda

The minutes from the June 15, 2026 meeting were reviewed.

- **Motion to approve:** Yarnell
- **Seconded by:** Miller

The Vice Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous
Nays: None

The minutes from the July 9, 2026 meeting were reviewed.

- **Motion to approve:** Miller
- **Seconded by:** Coffman

The Vice Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

IV. Action Agenda

The Board entered executive session for employment at 6:11 PM and reconvened at 6:25 PM.

- Ella Purdom (Resignation): Resignation from Fifth-grade teacher, effective July 10, 2026.

- **Motion to approve:** Coffman
- **Seconded by:** Yarnell

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

- **Result:** Motion passed.
- Haley (Ward) Skaggs (Hire): Hired as an Elementary Teacher for 2026-2027 School Year.

- **Motion to approve:** Coffman
- **Seconded by:** Smith

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

- **Result:** Motion passed.
- Alina Cawvey (Hire): Hired as an Elementary Teacher for 2026-2027 School Year.

- **Motion to approve:** Smith
- **Seconded by:** Yarnell

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

- **Result:** Motion passed.
- **ASBA Board Policy Updates:** The Board reviewed and approved updates for the 2026-2027 school year.

- **Motion to approve:** Coffman
- **Seconded by:** Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

- **Result:** Motion passed.

- **School Resource Officer (SRO):** The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Salem to hire a **second full-time SRO** starting in January 2026, funded by increased ESA dollars.

- **Motion to approve:** Yarnell
- **Seconded by:** Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

- **Result:** Motion passed.

- **Board Meeting Dates:** The 2026-2027 meeting schedule was approved, with adjustments made to avoid holidays in January and February.

- **Motion to approve:** Coffman
- **Seconded by:** Smith

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

- **Result:** Motion passed.

- **Legal Transfers:** The Board approved the transfer of **three students** from the Highland School District to the Salem School District.

- **Motion to approve:** Miller
- **Seconded by:** Yarnell

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

- **Result:** Motion passed.

- **Capital Assets:** The Board approved the deletion of 3 capital assets for the 2026-2027 school year.

- **Motion to approve:** Miller
- **Seconded by:** Coffman

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

- **Result:** Motion passed.

- **Insurance Renewal:** The Board approved the **Arkansas State Captive Insurance** renewal for buildings at a cost of **\$74,132.10**, to be paid via ACH.

- **Motion to approve:** Smith
- **Seconded by:** Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

- **Result:** Motion passed.

- **Financial Reports:** The Board reviewed current financial statements, noting that **\$430,000** of the \$500,000 spent from the building fund was allocated for gym bleachers.

- **Motion to approve:** Coffman
- **Seconded by:** Smith

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

- **Result:** Motion passed.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion to adjourn:** Smith
- **Seconded by:** Coffman
- **Result:** Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Secretary _____
Karen Coffman