Salem Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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GUY SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT
KAREN COFFMAN, SECRETARY
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HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
CODY CURTIS
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
LINDSEY WISEMAN

SALEM SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
OCTOBER 26, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

- **Call to Order:** The meeting of the Salem School District Board of Directors was called to order on October 26, 2026 at 6:00pm in the board room of the school district.
- **Roll Call**
- **Present:** Miller, Coffman, Smith, Hall and Yarnell.
- **Absent:** None
- **Quorum established**

II. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

1. **Grandparents Breakfast Report:**
   - Superintendent Guiltner reported on the Grandparents Breakfast held on September 30, 2026.
   - A total of 1009 breakfasts were served, and the event ran smoothly.
   - Special recognition was given to OPAA! and district employees for organizing and setting up the event.
2. **Higher Education Technical Skills Grant Support:**
   - Ozarka College is applying for a grant through the Department of Higher Education to expand technical skills programs (including carpentry, plumbing, and electricity) in Ash Flat.
   - The school submitted a letter of support on behalf of Ozarka to help expand trade opportunities for Salem students.
3. **Facility & Construction Projects Update:**
   - **Building Fund Balance:** Currently stands at approximately $2.6 million. Following completion of the baseball and softball field updates ($250,000 projected), the building fund balance will be slightly over $2.4 million.
   - **Track, Turf, & Concession Stand Proposals, Signage and Baseball & Softball Fields:** Superintendent Guiltner gave a report for all listed.
4. **Community Workshop Announcement:**
   - Ashley Bateman and Miss Ragsdale will present a "Resiliency for All" parent workshop on November 2, 2026, at 5:30 PM in the High School Cafeteria.
5. **District Statistical Overview:**
   - **Student-to-Teacher Ratio:** 12.79.
   - **Millage Rate:** 31.5 mills (6th lowest in the state).
   - **Assessment Valuation:** $71,220 per mill.

III. ACTION AGENDA & MOTIONS

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
   - **Action:** Review and approval of board minutes from the previous meeting (September 28, 2026).
   - **Motion Made By:** Miller.
   - **Seconded By:** Smith.
   - **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
2. Approval of 2028–2029 Proposed Budget
   - **Action:** Approval of the proposed budget for the 2028–2029 school year for newspaper publication prior to the election, maintaining existing budget figures due to enrollment trends.
   - **Motion Made By:** Yarnell
   - **Seconded By:** Coffman
   - **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
3. Resolution to Designate Qualified Elector for Annual School Election
   - **Action:** Adoption of a resolution under 2025 state law permitting the district to designate a single qualified elector to cast a ballot for the unchanged tax rate (31.5 mills) in the March 2, 2027 election, eliminating the need to open polling places and reducing costs.

- **Motion Made By:** Smith.
- **Seconded By:** Yarnell.
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

4. Appointment of Qualified Elector
   - **Action:** Designation of Superintendent Guiltner to cast the official ballot pursuant to the adopted resolution.
   - **Motion Made By:** Smith.
   - **Seconded By:** Coffman.
   - **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
5. Approval of 2026–2027 Annual Compliance Report (Cycle 2)
   - **Action:** Approval of the Cycle 2 Annual Compliance Report for the 2026–2027 school year confirming full state compliance.
   - **Motion Made By:** Miller.
   - **Seconded By:** Coffman.
   - **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
6. Adoption of ADE Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy
   - **Action:** Formal adoption of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) AI Policy for the district, replacing the temporary board association policy.
   - **Motion Made By:** Yarnell.
   - **Seconded By:** Miller.
   - **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
7. Approval of Monthly Financial Report
   - **Action:** Review and approval of the monthly district financial report.
   - **Motion Made By:** Coffman.
   - **Seconded By:** Smith.
   - **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISCELLANEOUS

- **Greyhound State Day:** October 28 (High School) and October 29 (Elementary School).

V. ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion Made By:** Yarnell.
- **Seconded By:** Coffman
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
- **Time of Adjournment:** 6:29 PM.

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Secretary