

Salem Public Schools

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SALEM SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Salem Public School Board Meeting Minutes Date: September 28, 2026 **Time:** 6:00 p.m. **Location:** Salem Public School Board Room

Members Present: Karen Coffman, Dr. Guy Smith, Burton Yarnell, Jason Miller and Joey Hall.

Members Absent: None

I. Call to Order and Quorum Board President Joey Hall called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.. A quorum was established with all members present.

Annual Report to the Public

- a. Superintendent of Salem Schools, Mr. Wayne Gultner District Report
- b. Elementary School Principal, Mrs. Lyndsey Wiseman Elementary Report
- c. High School Principal, Mr. Cody Curtis High School Report
- d. Federal Programs Coordinator, Mr. David Turnbough, Federal Programs Report

Recess / Reconvene: The annual report portion concluded at 6:24 p.m., and the meeting reconvened in the boardroom at 6:28 p.m.

II. Reports

- **Certificate of Deposit (CD) Renewal:** Reported on the maturation of a \$500,000 CD, which earned approximately \$79,000 in interest over its term. Funds were rolled over into a new 182-day CD at a rate of 3.65%.
- **School Performance Letter Grades:** Salem High School earned a "B", Salem Elementary earned an "A", and the Salem School District overall earned an "A" grade.
- **OEP Awards:** Salem Elementary received six Office for Education Policy (OEP) statewide and regional growth awards in math, ELA, growth, and science.
- **Teaching Fellowship:** Announced that Mrs. Turnbough was selected for the second cohort of the Arkansas Excellence in Teaching Fellowship Program.

III. Consent Agenda

- **Approval of Board Minutes**
 - a. August 17, 2026

The minutes of the August 17, 2026 school board meeting were reviewed. **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the August 17, 2026 school board meeting.
Moved by: Miller **Seconded by:** Coffman

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

IV. Action Items & Board Motions

- **Executive Session:** Entered executive session at 6:32 p.m. and returned to open session at 6:40 p.m.
- 1. **Resignation of Grounds Custodian / Maintenance & Bus Driver**
 - **Action:** Accepted the letter of resignation from Austin Williams as grounds custodian/maintenance worker and bus driver, effective end of day September 11, 2026. **Moved by:** Smith **Seconded by:** Miller.

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous
Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

2. Employment of Full-Time Bus Driver

- **Action:** Approved hiring Ryan Harden as a full-time bus driver, effective September 14, 2026. Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Yarnell.

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous
Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

3. Employment of Full-Time Substitute Bus Driver

- **Action:** Approved hiring Nathan Bales as a full-time substitute bus driver effective September 21, 2026. Moved by: Coffman Seconded by: Miller.

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous
Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried

4. Legal Transfer Requests

• A. Salem to Melbourne Transfer

- **Description:** Approve legal transfer request for one student from Salem to Melbourne School District. Moved by: Coffman Seconded by: Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous
Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried

• B. Viola to Salem Transfer

- **Description:** Approve legal transfer request for two students from Viola School District into Salem School District. Moved by: Miller Seconded by: Yarnell

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous
Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried

• C. Highland to Salem Transfer

- **Description:** Approve legal transfer request for one student from Highland School District into Salem School District. Moved by: Coffman Seconded by: Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous
Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried

5. 2026–2027 High School Graduation Date

- **Description:** Approve setting 2026–2027 High School Graduation for Monday, May 10, 2027, at 7:00 PM in the gymnasium. Moved by: Smith
Seconded by: Coffman

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried

6. Bids & Surplus Property Sales

- **A. High School Baseball Field Fence Project**
 - **Description:** Accept lowest bid of \$29,868.72 from Justice Construction (Mountain Home) for commercial 5-ft black fencing (8-gauge fabric), funded from the Building Fund. (*Other bids received: Robinson Fence \$44,500.00; H&H Fencing \$36,547.53*). Moved by: Coffman
Seconded by: Smith

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

- **B. Sale of Surplus Bus #31**
 - **Description:** Accept highest sealed bid of \$2,001.00 from Becky Bartz to purchase surplus Bus #31. (*Second bid: Calvin Maguffee \$1,700.00; Copier and Scissor Lift received zero bids*). Moved by: Coffman
Seconded by: Yarnell

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried

7. Financial & Program Actions

- **A. 2024–2025 Audit Approval**
 - **Description:** Accept the 2024–2025 financial audit report as presented, including the corrective action plan for function code reclassification (\$575 expenditure). Moved by: Smith
Seconded by: Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

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- **B. CACFP After-School Program Continuation (2026–2027)**
 - **Description:** Approve continuation of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) after-school feeding program for the 2026–2027 school year. Moved by: Coffman
Seconded by: Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried

- **C. 2026–2027 District Budget Approval**

- **Description:** Approve the 2026–2027 Salem School District budget as presented. Moved by: Miller Seconded by: Coffman

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

- **D. Arkansas Game & Fish Grant Direct Deposit**

- **Description:** Authorize Arkansas Game & Fish Commission to deposit shooting sports grant funds via direct deposit into district accounts. Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

- **E. Social Media Harm Litigation Participation**

- **Description:** Adopt resolution to join class action social media harm litigation represented by Reddick Law Firm, Lanier Law Firm, and Dixon & Worship Law Firm on a 25% contingency fee basis. Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

- **F. Monthly Financial Report**

- **Description:** Approve the monthly financial report showing a Building Fund ending balance of \$2,668,590 after accounting adjustments. Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Announcements

- **Grandparents Breakfast:** Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 7:30 AM.
- **Board Member Training:** October 5 & October 12, 2026, at 5:30 PM.
- **Greyhound Steak Day:** October 28–29, 2026.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Scheduled for October 13, 2026, 2:00pm – 7:00pm.

8. Adjournment

- **Motion Made By:** Coffman
- **Seconded By:** Miller

The Chairman called for discussion.

Yeas: Unanimous

Nays: None

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.