

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NORWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

September 16, 2024

A meeting of the Norwell School Committee was held on Monday, September 16, 2024. The School Committee met in the large meeting room at the Norwell Public Library. Ms. Alison Link called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Present were Chair Christina Kane, Vice Chair Kristin McEachern, Clerk Patrick Reed, Alison Link, Lisa DiFrisco, and Superintendent Matthew Keegan.

At 6:33 p.m., Mr. Reed moved that the meeting go into executive session for purposes of strategizing on collective bargaining and non-union personnel strategy, and to return to open session at the conclusion of executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Link and passed unanimously on a roll-call vote: Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Reed, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye. The Committee moved to the study room. Executive session ended at 6:59 p.m. The Committee returned to regular session in the large meeting room.

Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the Executive and Regular sessions of the Norwell School Committee meeting on August 19, 2024, accounts payable warrants #8, 9, 10 and 11 and refund warrants #8 and 11 signed by Ms. Kristin McEachern, and the out-of-state trip request to Washington, DC on June 11 – 13, 2025, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Reed, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

A copy of the Teamsters Local Union No. 25 Memorandum of Agreement was included in agenda packets. The Teamsters Union ratified the MOA on September 16, and the School Committee approved the MOA in Executive Session. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Link, to ratify the July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027 Memorandum of Agreement as negotiated between the Norwell School Committee and Teamsters Local Union No. 25, and to authorize the Chair to sign the MOA on behalf of the Norwell School Committee, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Reed, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye. Mr. Keegan thanked Mr. Reed and Ms. McEachern for their work with negotiations.

Included in agenda packets was Athletic Director JJ Niamkey's request to create a cooperative wrestling program with Rockland High School starting in the 2024-2025 winter season. The waiver has been approved by the league. Mr. Keegan recommended it's approval. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the co-op waiver for the wrestling program, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Reed, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

Mr. Keegan introduced Ms. Holly Panttila, the elected student government representative to the School Committee. Holly is a three-season athlete, involved in Student Government, the Volunteer Corps, Peer Educators, and the Math Team and received the Beacon Award in her sophomore year. A write-up regarding Holly's accomplishments from the School Counselor was included in agenda packets. Ms. Panttila updated the Committee on the many fall activities planned for Norwell High.

Mr. Keegan updated the Committee on schools' reopening. The community came together to deal with the loss of Norwell High student John Hughs. Principals' welcome letters and the first week of school's newsletters were include in the Google folder. The second page of the school calendar includes the dates of fall open houses, curriculum nights and other important dates.

Mr. Keegan updated the Committee on the strategic plan. A parent focus group met with the Teaching and Learning Alliance at Norwell High School on September 9, and community leaders will meet on September 23, 2024. Staff of the Middle and High Schools have met with TLA as well. Mr. Keegan went over the updated check list and important Strategic Planning dates included in agenda packets. A survey will be sent by the end of September or early October.

The Committee was asked to review and provide input for the dates and topics on the *Proposed FY'26 Budget Development Process Timeline* included in agenda packets. The Leadership Team will review the timeline on September 24, and the final version will be presented to the Committee on October 21, 2024.

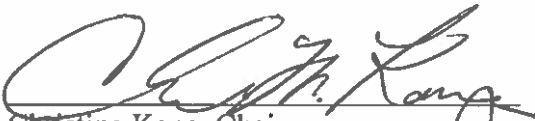
The *FY'24 End of Year Budget Report* was included in agenda packets. Using Power Point the Director of Finance, Operations & Technology Warren MacCallum presented the report. He stated that although FY'24 was a difficult year, NPS was aware of areas of increased costs early on and took many steps to manage the budget. Variances in the budget that occurred throughout the year were discussed, and questions and answers ensued regarding the budget process and a long-term plan. Time is scheduled to review the budget process with the Town. Congress of Councils is scheduled for October 22, 2024.

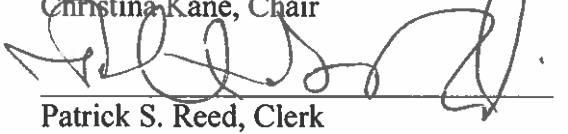
The Committee expressed their gratitude for everyone coming together over the recent tragedy. The high school open house was very well organized with signs directing the parents, and students' schedules were made available. Mr. Keegan thanked Ms. McEachern and the Beautification Committee for their initiatives and stated the schools looked really nice for the opening. Ms. DiFrisco will attend the Middle School open house.

Chair Kane requested public comment on non-agenda and agenda items, and hearing none, proceeded with the agenda.

Information included in the Google folder from Superintendent Keegan included correspondence regarding student John Hughan; September 6, 2024 Enrollment and Average Class Size reports; and Salary Scale Movement schedule for Fall 2024. The next meeting of the Norwell School Committee will be held at the Norwell Public Library on October 21, 2024 which include presentations from the High School.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 7:44 p.m. Ms. Kane made a motion to adjourn.


Christina Kane, Chair


Patrick S. Reed, Clerk

October 21, 2024

October 21, 2024