

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

November 18, 2024

A meeting of the Norwell School Committee was held on Monday, November 18, 2024. The School Committee met in the Meeting Room at Norwell Public Library. Vice Chair Kristin McEachern called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Present were Chair Christina Kane, Ms. McEachern, Clerk Patrick Reed, Lisa DiFrisco, Alison Link, and Superintendent Matthew Keegan.

At 6:34 p.m., Ms. McEachern moved that the meeting go into executive session for purposes of strategizing non-union personnel strategy and collective bargaining negotiations and to return to open session at the conclusion of executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed and passed unanimously on a roll-call vote: McEachern, Aye, Kane, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, Link, Aye, and Reed, Aye. The Committee moved to Study Room 3. Executive session concluded at 6:59 p.m., and the Committee returned to the regular meeting in the 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 October 21, 2024 and Accounts Payable Warrants #17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, and Refund Warrant #17 signed by Ms. McEachern, addition of EL 6<sup>th</sup> period assignment teaching position, and an addition of a dependent enrollment through the end of the 2024-2025 schoolyear, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Kane, Aye, Reed, Aye, Link, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

FY'26 Budget Assumptions and Priorities were included in agenda packets. A few of the areas that will have an impact on the budgeting process were highlighted by Mr. Keegan. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Link, to adopt, for budget planning purposes, the FY'26 Budget Assumptions and Priorities, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Kane, Aye, Reed, Aye, Link, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

A memorandum from Food Services Director Judy Crooks regarding raising the prices for second/additional lunches at the schools was included in agenda packets. Also enclosed was a revised Fee Schedule reflecting the increased prices. Mr. Keegan noted that lunch fees were listed as TBD as Norwell Public Schools awaited the state to provide clear guidance on pricing for second lunches. Prices have not increased since 2012. The handbooks and website will be updated to reflect the increase in second lunches. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the revised 2024-2025 fees schedule for an increase in 2<sup>nd</sup> lunch school prices, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Kane, Aye, Reed, Aye, Link, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Student Government Representative Holly Panttila recapped happenings at the high school including homecoming week, sports and Guys and Dolls performance. A mini spirit week and pep rally will be held the week of November 25.

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee met for their first meeting and introductions on November 4. The second meeting is scheduled for December 2. A printout was included in the Google folder containing the steering committee members and roles.

Mr. Keegan reviewed the NESDEC Enrollment Projection Reports from the fall of 2024 and 2023 which were included in agenda packets. Differences between the reports and long-term projection numbers were discussed. Overall, it appears that the large projected increase in student enrollment may not be as severe as once projected.

The FY'25 First Quarter Budget Report was included in agenda packets. Mr. Keegan presented a PowerPoint and stated the budget is mainly on target at this time. There are three areas we have identified as required increases: one, a personnel change of responsibility; two, an additional module for Aspen to help with registration, signoffs, and the ability to process information in different languages (this is required for compliance); and three, Google ransom ware protection. NPS will continue to work as the year progresses to manage all areas of the budget.

Congress of Councils was held on October 22, 2024. Two PowerPoint presentations were in the Google folder. Mr. Keegan shared the findings that each council most valued and prioritized which was also in the Google folder. Information from Congress of Councils will be captured in the initial budget and refined for the executive budget which will be presented to the Committee in January 2025.


Committee members and Superintendent Keegan attended and reviewed positively on the *Guys and Dolls* play and the National Honor Society ceremony at Norwell High School. The Committee commended Ms. Jill Donovan and the Norwell Arts for their leadership and revitalizing the arts program.

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

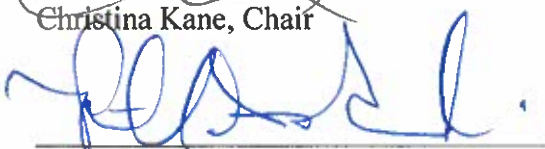
Mr. Keegan noted information in the Google folder: school newsletters published since the October 21 meeting; November 1 Enrollment and Average Class Size Reports; memo regarding Special Town Meeting on December 12, 2024; Superintendent's correspondence regarding Council on Aging/Rec. Dept. survey and Town/MBTA public forum on December 9; revised Policy IHBEA with update of Legal Reference; and notice from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the January 23, 2025 breakfast meeting.

The next meeting will a Cole School Presentation meeting at the Norwell Public Library on December 16, 2024.

There being no further business to come before the Committee in open session, at 7:36 p.m., Ms. Kane moved to adjourn.

  
Christina Kane, Chair

December 16, 2024

  
Patrick S. Reed, Clerk

December 16, 2024