

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

**August 19, 2024**

A meeting of the Norwell School Committee was held on Monday, August 19, 2024. The School Committee met in the community room at Norwell Middle School. Ms. Alison Link called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Present were Vice Chair Kristin McEachern, Clerk Patrick Reed, Alison Link, Lisa DiFrisco, and Superintendent Matthew Keegan. Chair Christina Kane arrived at 6:47 p.m.

At 6:35 p.m., Ms. Link moved that the meeting go into executive session for purposes of strategizing on non-union personnel strategy 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, Link, Aye, Reed, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye. The Committee moved to the principal's conference room. Executive session ended at 7:03 p.m. The Committee returned to regular session in the community 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 July 22, 2024, to release the declassified 2015 Executive Session minutes with the exception of March 9, October 26 and December 14, 2015, and to approve accounts payables warrants #3, 4 and 7 signed by Mr. Reed, and #5 signed by Ms. McEachern, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Reed, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

A Google folder for 2024-2025 Student-Parent and Athletic Handbooks for second reading was shared with the Committee. The folder contained a clean version of each handbook as well as principals' and counsel's recommended changes. The proposed handbook changes have been reviewed by the principals, athletic director, and central office directors. Legal counsel has done an extensive review of the district policies and procedures areas. A document summarizing District Policy revisions was included in agenda packets. Some policies have been replaced, some have technical changes, some have statutory reference updates, and some changes have been rejected. All changes to district policies can be approved through a second reading in accordance to legal counsel and central office administration review. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Link, to approve the 2024-2025 Student-Parent and Athletic Handbooks for second and final reading, as proposed and amended. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Reed, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

The final version of the 2024-2025 Resource Guide was distributed at the meeting. Mr. Reed moved to approve the Norwell School Committee Resource Guide for second and final reading, as proposed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Link, and was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Reed, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

Mr. Keegan introduced Norwell student John Hughan to propose his Eagle Scout Project to create an outdoor classroom at the Middle School. John had met with Principal Dupille, Facilities Manager John Maurice, and Mr. Keegan regarding specific requirements that must be met for the project's materials. John's PowerPoint presentation outlined information on the project including teachers survey, timeline, fundraising and materials. Director of Finance, Operations & Technology Warren MacCallum shared that he will provide information regarding certified mulch that must be used, and recommended contacting Trees and Grounds Director Glenn Ferguson regarding location and ongoing maintenance for the outdoor

classroom. The Committee thanked John for his presentation, commending his research, and stated that he was very well spoken and impressive. Mr. Reed made the motion to approve John Hughan's Eagle Scout Project to create an outdoor classroom at the Middle School, as proposed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Link and was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Reed, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

Included in agenda packets was Athletic Director JJ Niamkey's request to create a cooperative swim team for girls and boys with the South Shore Vocational School. The waiver has been approved by the league, and will be an important benefit to maintain Norwell High School's swim team status. Mr. Keegan recommends it's approval. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. McEachern, to approve the co-op waiver for girls' and boys' swimming teams, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Reed, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

A copy of the FY'23 audit report from Marcum Accountants/Advisors was included in agenda packets.

Mr. Keegan updated the Committee on schools' reopening plans for the school year. Professional Development and Opening Day Schedule for staff was enclosed in agenda packets. The second page of the school calendar includes the dates of fall open houses, curriculum nights and other important dates. Discussion ensued regarding the Committee's attendance at the open houses in September.

Chair Kane read a statement from the Committee for the Superintendent's end of year review and merit increase, a copy of which was provided to the recording secretary. Superintendent Keegan thanked the Committee.

Ms. McEachern touched base with the schools and the Trees and Grounds Department regarding landscaping for schools' opening and improving the condition of the tennis courts.

Chair Kane requested public comment on non-agenda and agenda items, and Mr. Geoff Gordon, 491 River Street addressed the Committee regarding his concerns for students and cell phone usage. Discussion ensued between Mr. Gordon, the Committee and Mr. Keegan.

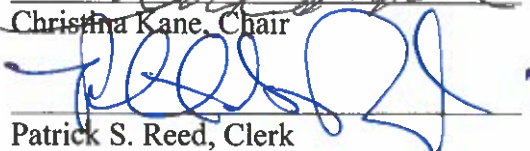
Information included in the Google folder from Superintendent Keegan included a memo from the Athletic Director for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade waiver on behalf of girls' cross country for 2024 fall season; homeschool update; *Application for and Permit to Use NPS* for December 12, 2024 Special Town Meeting; final *Business View* magazine article; and a draft of *Norwell Neighbors* articles to be published September 10, 2024 from the Superintendent and Athletic Director. The next regular meeting of the Norwell School Committee will be held at the Norwell Public Library on September 16, 2024. Ms. Provenzano invited the members to meet the new teachers and mentors on August 22, 2024 at the high school.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 8:10 p.m. Ms. Link made a motion to adjourn.



Christina Kane, Chair

September 16, 2024



Patrick S. Reed, Clerk

September 16, 2024