

## **MINUTES OF THE OUTREACH MEETING OF THE NORWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**March 10, 2025**

The Norwell School Committee met in the Meeting Room at Norwell Public Library on Monday, March 10, 2025. Vice Chair Kristin McEachern called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Present were Ms. McEachern, Clerk Patrick Reed, Lisa DiFrisco, and Superintendent Matthew Keegan.

At 6:33 p.m., Mr. Reed moved that the meeting go into Executive Session for purposes of collective bargaining strategy, and to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. DiFrisco and passed unanimously on a roll call vote: McEachern, Aye, Reed, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye. The Committee moved to Study Room 3. Executive Session concluded at 6:57 p.m., and the Committee returned to the Meeting Room for Open Session.

Superintendent Keegan introduced Principal James Dupille to highlight, using a PowerPoint presentation with videos, student engagement at Norwell Middle School. A memorandum from Mr. Dupille and a copy of the PowerPoint which focused on core elements was included in agenda packets. Teachers and students presented on the subjects of 6th Grade Teams (communication, supports, transitions and learning), Off-the-Shelf (reading initiative), Math (Desmos 7th+8th) (Project-Based Geometry 7th+8th), Math Counts (1st place at Southeastern Regional MathCounts Competition / moved onto States), and Student Newsletter (designed, written, and produced by students for NMS students). Ms. Jeanine Ferris, Ms. Andrea Lewis, Mr. Richard Wohlbach, Ms. Cynthia DeBenedictis, Ms. Maeve Murphy and Assistant Principal Ellen Murray, together with students, shared their perspectives on student engagement. This year's Project 351 Ambassador is Thomas Wilson. Thomas will be leading a clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons to help children through age 12 with clothing insecurity in April.

PTO President Veronica Carney was invited to the podium. Ms. Carney shared the PTO's successes this year including the many events they have supported and held at the Middle School. Ms. Carney stated the Turkey Trot netted \$21,000 with 600 runners participating. The PTO supports the Beautification Committee.

School Improvement Council parent member Danielle Green was invited to the podium to update the Committee regarding Council focus areas and activities. Ms. Green reviewed the results of student surveys. The School Improvement Plan, membership, bylaws, meeting dates and times and the recent Panorama student survey results were included in agenda packets.

Middle School outreach concluded at 8:05 p.m. Ms. McEachern thanked first and foremost the students for their presentations, Mr. Dupille and Ms. Murray for their leadership, faculty for their leadership in and out of the classrooms, and the parents for all they do to support students. Ms. McEachern noted they were welcome to go as the regular business would commence.

Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the minutes of the Regular and Executive Sessions of the Norwell School Committee Meeting on February 10, 2025, accounts payable warrants #33, signed by Mr. Reed, accounts payable and refund warrants #35 and #36 signed by Ms. McEachern, the out-of-state trip requests to Kingston, RI on March 13, 14 and 15, 2025 and to Burlington, VT on March 28 – 30, 2025, as proposed. The motion passed unanimously: DiFrisco, Aye, Reed, Aye, and McEachern, Aye.

Policy EFD: School Nutrition Program Charge adopted on January 27, 2025 was included in agenda packets. The policy was reviewed, and the board recommended the deletion of the sentence:

*Any remaining funds for a particular student, whether positive or negative, will be carried over to the next school year.* Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the correction to Policy EFD, as proposed. The motion was passed unanimously: DiFrisco, Aye, Reed, Aye, and McEachern, Aye.

Policy ACAB: Sexual Harassment/Title IX was included in agenda packets for second reading. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve rescinding Policy ACAB adopted on June 10, 2024 and reinstate Policy ACAB to the previous adoption date of August 19, 2020, for second reading, as proposed. The motion passed unanimously: DiFrisco, Aye, Reed, Aye, and McEachern, Aye.

Balances for the Middle and High School Student Activity Accounts were included in agenda packets. Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the Middle and High School Student Activity Accounts, as presented. The motion passed unanimously: DiFrisco, Aye, Reed, Aye, and McEachern, Aye.

Enclosed in agenda packets was a PowerPoint from Director of Teaching, Learning & Technology Diane Provenzano regarding the 2024-2027 Student Opportunity Act Progress Report. Ms. Provenzano gave a brief presentation providing information on Norwell Public Schools' SOA accountability, initiatives, progress, and data collection for the Early Literacy based SOA report.

The Select Board met before February break to vote on the school budget process, and again on March 6 regarding the override. The Committee met with the Advisory Board on March 7. Ms. McEachern and Mr. Keegan plan on visiting the PTOs before Town Meeting on May 5. The Public Hearing on the budget will be held March 31, and Mr. Keegan will present information to the Committee on a non-override vote, and how that information will be shared.

School Committee members commented on the Robotics Team events, boys' and girls' basketball teams and 4<sup>th</sup> Wall Players' recent festival play.

Mr. Keegan noted that Director of Finance, Operations & Technology Warren MacCallum was currently attending the Town Capital Committee meeting. Documents in the Google folder included: 2024 Annual Report of the Superintendent; acknowledgement of retirement letter and announcement to staff; notice to Norwell Mariner to publish March 31 Budget Hearing; and schools' newsletters.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. McEachern moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

  
Christina Kane, Chair      March 31, 2025

  
Patrick S. Reed, Clerk      March 31, 2025