

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

May 19, 2025

A meeting of the Norwell School Committee was held on Monday, May 19, 2025 in the Meeting Room at Norwell Public Library. Chair Christina Kane called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Present were Ms. Kane, Vice Chair Kristin McEachern, Alison Link, Lisa DiFrisco, Scott Dyke and Superintendent Matthew Keegan. Ms. Kane and Mr. Dyke were sworn in with the Town Clerk on May 19, 2025 for a 3-year term on the Norwell School Committee.

At 6:34 p.m., Ms. DiFrisco moved that the meeting go into executive session for purposes of strategizing on non-union and collective bargaining negotiations 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, Dyke, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Link, Aye. The Committee moved to the study room. Executive session concluded at 7:02 p.m., and the Committee returned to open session in the Meeting Room.

In accordance with Policy BDA: School Committee Organizational Meeting, Mr. Keegan proceeded to conduct the election of a new Chair for a term of one year for the School Committee. Ms. Link nominated Ms. McEachern to serve as Chair. There being no other nominees, Ms. Link moved the nomination be closed and that Ms. McEachern be elected to Chair. This motion was seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, and unanimously passed by roll call vote: Dyke, Aye, Link, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, McEachern, Aye and Kane, Aye. Chair McEachern then proceeded with the election of a Vice Chair and Clerk, also to hold their respective offices for one year. Ms. Link nominated Ms. Kane for Vice Chair. There being no other nominees, Ms. Link moved the nomination be closed and that Ms. Kane be elected to Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, and unanimously passed by roll call vote: Dyke, Aye, Link, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, McEachern, Aye and Kane, Aye. Ms. Kane nominated Ms. Link for Clerk. The motion to close the nomination and elect Ms. Link as Clerk was made by Ms. Kane; seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, and it was unanimously voted and passed on a roll call vote: Dyke, Aye, Link, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, McEachern, Aye and Kane, Aye.

On behalf of the Committee, Ms. McEachern read a statement regarding the outcome of the override vote at Town Election on May 17, 2025.

Ms. Link moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the Executive and Regular sessions of the Norwell School Committee meeting on April 28, 2025; the special meeting minutes of May 5, 2025; Accounts Payable Warrant #44 and #45 signed by Mr. Reed, #46 signed by Ms. McEachern; the designation of Kristin McEachern or Christina Kane to approve warrants for the Norwell School Committee, and said members shall make available to the Norwell School Committee at the first meeting following such action a record of such action, and the out-of-state trip request to NH on June 5, 2025, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Enclosed in agenda packets was the proposed 2025-2026 School Committee Meeting Schedule. Ms. Link made the motion, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to accept the 2025-2026 School Committee Meeting Schedule, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Two proposed fees schedules for 2025-2026 were included in agenda packets - one for an override and one for a non-override for next year. A memo from High School Assistant Principal Jennifer Greenberg regarding fee changes regardless of whether or not the override passes to the theater co-curricular activities was also included in agenda packets. Discussion ensued, and Ms. Link moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the non-override 2025-2026 Fees Schedule, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

A draft of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan with all components was included in agenda packets. The steering committee had made adjustments to the mission, core values, theme and mission. There are four overarching objectives with new initiatives to be pursued over the next five years. A website-ready document with additional graphics and pictures will be available for the Committee on June 9. Ms. Link made the motion, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Student Government Representative Holly Panttila reported on high school activities. Superintendent Keegan presented a certificate to Ms. Panttila on behalf of the Committee together with a gift with the logo of the university Ms. Panttila plans on attending.

A DESE Special Education Annual Determinations letter was included in agenda packets. Director of Student Services Sue Theodorou discussed the findings. Overall, Norwell Public Schools is rated as *Meets Requirements*.

A draft template of the School Building Committee from the MSBA was included in agenda packets. Mr. Keegan and Director of Finance, Operations & Technology have been meeting with various people to serve on the School Building Committee. Ms. Kane and Ms. McEachern will serve on behalf of the School Committee. Once the template is complete, the Select Board will vote on it on May 28th and Norwell Public Schools will submit it to the MSBA by May 30th.

Included in agenda packets was a list of events and dates and a letter from Principal Marc Bender sent to seniors and families outlining the senior week activities. Newsletters from the schools were included in agenda packets listing end of year activities. The Committee discussed attending the senior banquet, Celebration of Success on June 4 and high school graduation.

The annual Leadership Retreat will take place on June 20 and 23, 2025 at Norwell High School. The main focus will be on the new strategic plan and creating goals around several of the elements. Mr. Keegan asked the Committee to let him know if there are any topics they would like covered during the Retreat.

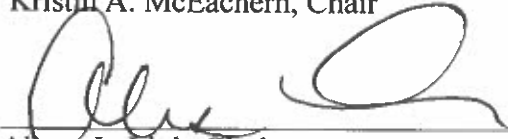
New member Scott Dyke stated that he is looking forward to serving on the Committee to support the students and staff. The Committee welcomed Mr. Dyke and congratulated Ms. Kane on her reelection. Ms. Kane thanked the many students who came out to vote at the Town Election.

Chair McEachern opened the meeting for public comment on non-agenda items and agenda items. Ms. Lauren Fish of 52 Wildcat Lane stated she was in attendance to support the School Committee and asked a question regarding staff cuts which was answered by Superintendent Keegan.

Mr. Keegan noted updates and correspondence included in agenda packets and in the Google folder: May 2, 2025 Enrollment and Average Class Size reports; Celebration of Success invitation; open letter to the community regarding new Director of Teaching, Learning & Technology; confirmation of appointment to SSEC; and schools' newsletters published since the April meeting. The next regular meeting will be held at the Norwell Public Library on June 9, 2025.

There being no further business to come before the Committee in open session, at 7:43 p.m., Ms. McEachern moved to adjourn the meeting.


June 9, 2025
Kristin A. McEachern, Chair


June 9, 2025
Alison L. Link, Clerk