

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

June 9, 2025

A meeting of the Norwell School Committee was held on Monday, June 9, 2025 in the Meeting Room at Norwell Public Library. Ms. Lisa DiFrisco called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Present were Chair Kristin McEachern, Ms. DiFrisco, Scott Dyke, and Superintendent Matthew Keegan.

At 6:34 p.m., Ms. DiFrisco moved that the meeting go into executive session for purposes of strategizing on collective bargaining negotiations and to return to open session at the conclusion of executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dyke, and passed unanimously on a roll-call vote: McEachern, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Dyke, Aye. The Committee moved to Study Room 3. Executive session concluded at 7:00 p.m., and the Committee returned to the regular meeting in the Meeting Room.

Ms. DiFrisco moved, seconded by Mr. Dyke, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the executive and regular sessions of the Norwell School Committee meeting on May 19, 2025, and Accounts Payable Warrants #47, signed by Ms. Kane and #49 signed by Ms. McEachern, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Enclosed in agenda packets was the MOA for the Education Association of Norwell ratified by the EAN. Ms. McEachern and Mr. Patrick Reed had served this past year on the subcommittee. Ms. DiFrisco moved, seconded by Mr. Dyke, to ratify the September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2028 Memorandum of Agreement for a Successor Agreement as negotiated between the Norwell School Committee and the Education Association of Norwell, and to authorize the Chair to sign the MOA on behalf of the Norwell School Committee, as proposed.

Enclosed in agenda packets was Policy KCD: Public Gifts to the Schools and a memorandum and sample memorial plaque from Mrs. Allison Hughan. The School Committee approved John Hughan's Eagle Scout project last year, and the Foundation is completing it. Trees and Grounds Department has finished their work. Ms. DiFrisco moved to approve the acceptance of the Norwell Middle School Outdoor Classroom gift from the John Hughan Foundation and gift recognition plaque, as proposed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dyke, and was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Enclosed in agenda packets were the summary of proposed changes to the student-parent and athletic handbooks. A legal review will also need to occur before the second reading. There are very few changes this year. The High School has updated MCAS language and there are a few updates for the Food Services department. There are a few general areas that will be addressed between readings: names, page numbers, indexes, and the coordination of a few procedures based upon updated sections of the district policies. Ms. DiFrisco moved, seconded by Mr. Dyke, to approve the 2025-2026 Student-Parent Handbooks and Athletic Handbook, for first reading, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Enclosed in agenda packets were the 2024-2025 School Improvement Plan Status reports with status updates and drafts for the 2025-2026 School Improvement Plans. Each school principal reported out on the status of this year's plans and highlighted areas for next year. Ms. DiFrisco moved, seconded by Mr. Dyke, to approve the 2025-2026 School Improvement Plans, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Enclosed in agenda packets was a list of requested re-enrollment of dependents for the 2025-2026 school year and one new dependent enrollment. Ms. DiFrisco made the motion to approve the 2025-2026 Faculty/Staff Dependent Enrollment, as proposed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dyke, and was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Mr. Keegan reviewed the reductions in force and position transitioning for the Committee. Ms. DiFrisco made the motion, seconded by Mr. Dyke, to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for reductions in force for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented at the School Committee meeting on March 31, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Superintendent Keegan updated the Committee on recruiting for 2025-2026. There are 2 open positions - Vinal School Counselor and Middle School 7th grade Social Studies Teacher. All staff impacted by the reductions due to the non-override have been notified.

Mr. Keegan provided a preview of the Strategic Plan on the screen. It will be posted on the website after review. It will also be shared with the staff at the end-of-year convocation, and will be a part of the Leadership Team Retreat.

Committee members attended many senior week events including graduation, noting that the students and staff were outstanding, and all of the events were a nice send off. Noted also was the speech by retiring teacher John Willis' at graduation with a standing ovation by the students.

Mr. Keegan noted the underclass awards night went very well. Regarding the recent override, Ms. McEachern stated she encourages students to self-advocate.

Ms. Mary Lou O'Leary, 222 River Street, stated her various past and present roles in support of the schools, and recommended providing a *State of the Schools* letter to the entire town outlining the impact on the non-override budget. Ms. Kara Vautour, 256 Pine Street, asked a question regarding the EAN contract. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Keegan read an overview of the impact of the school staff on the non-override budget which was included in agenda packets. Ms. Lara Booras, 55 Captain Vinal Way, commented regarding the cuts to the World Language program at the high school.

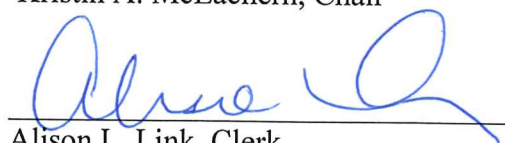
Mr. Keegan noted updates and correspondence included in the Google folder: schedule of School Committee Meetings for 2025-2026; SSEC update; letters to employees regarding Professional Status; letter from NESDEC regarding Board appointment; correspondence from Supt. Keegan regarding fire alarm and an override update; and recent schools' newsletters. The next regular meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Norwell Middle School Community Room on July 21 and August 18, 2025.

There being no further business to come before the Committee in open session, at 8:10 p.m., Ms. McEachern moved to adjourn the meeting.



Kristin A. McEachern, Chair

July 21, 2025



Alison L. Link, Clerk

July 21, 2025