

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

**July 21, 2025**

A meeting of the Norwell School Committee was held on Monday, July 21, 2025. The School Committee met in the community room at Norwell Middle School. Clerk Alison Link called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Present were Chair Kristin McEachern, Ms. Link, Scott Dyke, Lisa DiFrisco and Superintendent Matthew Keegan. Vice Chair Christina Kane arrived at 6:06 p.m.

At 6:04 p.m., Ms. Link moved that the meeting go into executive session for purposes of strategizing on non-union personnel negotiations strategy, and to return to open session at the conclusion of executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. McEachern and passed unanimously on a roll-call vote: McEachern, Aye, Dyke, Aye, Link, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye. Executive session ended at 6:28 p.m.

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 June 9, 2025, Accounts Payable Warrants 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and Refund Warrants 50, 52 and 53 signed by Ms. McEachern, and the trip request to Washington, DC on November 12 – 14, 2025, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

The 2025-2026 Resource Guide was shared in the Google folder with updated dates and information for Committee review. The FY'27 Budget Development Timeline is preliminary, and will be finalized in September. Ms. Link moved to approve the Norwell School Committee Resource Guide for first reading, as proposed. The motion was seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, and was approved unanimously: Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

The athletic handbook was included in the Google folder for second reading. The legal firm will review the policies for the student-parent handbooks which will be presented to the Committee in August. Ms. Link made a motion, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the 2025-2026 Athletic Handbook for second and final reading, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

A memorandum from Athletic Director JJ Niamkey was included in agenda packets regarding the renewal of the eighth grade waiver for girls' cross country. Ms. Link moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the renewal of the waiver request on behalf of Girls' Cross Country for the 2025 Fall Season, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Members of the Boosters Foundation and Norwell Youth Sports were in attendance to offer a donation for Sub-Varsity Teams that were cut from the non-override. A memo regarding the donation with the list of teams was included in agenda packets. This donation would cover the cost of the coaches for all teams cut from the non-override. The Athletic Director will have final say as to whether or not these teams run based upon participation and or any other administrative consideration, and will maintain full control of the Norwell Athletic programming. Ms. Link made the motion to accept the donation from the Boosters Foundation and Norwell Youth Sports for 2025-2026 Sub-Varsity Teams' Coaches' Salaries, as proposed. The motion was seconded by Ms. DiFrisco and was approved unanimously: Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

An additional early release/conference day on November 19, 2025 for the secondary level was added per the recent EAN MOU. The amended calendar reflecting the additional day was included in agenda packets. Ms. Link made a motion, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the amendment to the 2025-2026 School Calendar, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye.

Mr. Keegan introduced Ms. Meredith Erickson to the Committee. Enclosed in the Google folder was an email Ms. Erickson shared with the school community to introduce herself as the Director of Teaching, Learning & Technology. Ms. Erickson shared how her entry process is going.

On Friday, July 11, 2025, there was a walkthrough with the Tedeschi family, Town Administrator, Select Board, school administrators, and Kristin McEachern to determine if there is an appropriate space for the Norwell Food Pantry in the Sparrell building. In 2006 an MOU was drafted to hold the Food Pantry in the Sparrell building. This draft was included in the Google folder. Norwell Public Schools has a similar MOU with the Historical Society for the third floor. Ms. McEachern requested a motion, and Ms. Link moved to approve the Norwell Food Pantry to be located in the Wellness Room at the Sparrell Building according to the terms outlined in the MOU. The motion was seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, and was approved unanimously: Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye. An MOU that clarifies the conditions of hosting the Food Pantry will be finalized with the Food Pantry.

The agenda for the 2025 Leadership Team Retreat which was held at Norwell High School on July 20 and 23, 2025 was included in agenda packets. Mr. Keegan stated the Retreat focused lessons learned from the 2024-2025 school year, and how the team can move on from a non-override, an examination of difficult conversations and best practice sharing, breaking down the Strategic Plan for implementation, goal development, and training meetings for the summer.

The Superintendent's end-of-year summative report and artifacts were made available to the Committee in the Google Drive and copies were provided to the Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Keegan explained his goals for the year. The Committee will plan to share their evaluation at the August 18, 2025 meeting.

Chair McEachern opened the meeting for public comment on non-agenda items and Ms. Kara Vautour, 256 Pine Street addressed the Committee with comments and concerns regarding teachers' salaries, the FY'26 budget, and staff reductions in force.

Chair McEachern opened the meeting for agenda items, and Ms. Kristin Poulin, 10 Stanley Road, thanked the Committee on behalf of the students in the sub-varsity sports teams.

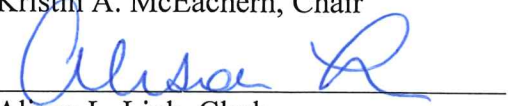
Mr. Keegan provided an update to the Committee on items which were included in the Google folder: June schools' newsletters; letter to Staff regarding Strategic Plan; correspondence from NHS students to NSC regarding METCO; and a memo regarding FY'26 Financial Signature Authorization and Responsibilities.

The next regular meeting of the Norwell School Committee will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Middle School community room on August 18, 2025.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 7:05 p.m. Ms. Link made the motion to adjourn.

  
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Kristin A. McEachern, Chair

August 18, 2025

  
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Alison L. Link, Clerk

August 18, 2025