

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

August 18, 2025

A meeting of the Norwell School Committee was held on Monday, August 18, 2025. The School Committee met in the community room at Norwell Middle School. Ms. Lisa DiFrisco called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Present were Chair Kristin McEachern, Vice Chair Christina Kane, Clerk Alison Link Ms. DiFrisco and Scott Dyke. Superintendent Matthew Keegan joined the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

At 5:17 p.m., Ms. DiFrisco 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 Ms. Link and passed unanimously on a roll-call vote: Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and DiFrisco, Aye. The Committee moved to the principal's conference room. Executive session ended at 6:29 p.m. The Committee returned to regular session in the community room.

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 July 21, 2025, and to approve accounts payable and refund warrants #3, 5 and 7 signed by Ms. McEachern and accounts payable warrant #4 signed by Ms. Kane, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

A Google folder for 2025-2026 Student-Parent Handbooks for second reading was shared with the Committee containing the counsel's, principals' and central office directors' recommended changes. The proposed handbook changes have been reviewed by the principals, athletic director, and central office directors. Legal counsel also reviewed the district policies and procedures areas. All changes to district policies can be approved through a second reading in accordance to legal counsel and central office administration review. Ms. Link moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the 2025-2026 Student-Parent Handbooks for second and final reading, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

The final version of the 2025-2026 Resource Guide was distributed to the Committee. Ms. Link moved to approve the Norwell School Committee Resource Guide for second and final reading, as proposed. The motion was seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, and was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

An amendment to the 2025-2026 School Committee Meeting Schedule is proposed to change November 17 to November 24 as the Public Library will not available on the 17th. Ms. Link moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco to approve the amendment to the 2025-2026 School Committee Meeting Schedule, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Dyke, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, and Kane, Aye.

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. Director of Teaching, Learning & Technology Meredith Erickson reviewed the 2-day schedule noting the *Universal Design for Learning Professional Development* that will occur for the district throughout the year. 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.

The Committee reviewed Superintendent Keegan's end of year evaluation as a group in Executive Session. Chair McEachern read their statement for the Superintendent's review and merit increase, a copy of which was provided to the recording secretary. Mr. Keegan thanked the Committee.

Mr. Keegan noted that High School athletics started on August 18, and an athletic trainer will need to be hired to replace a position already in place.

Chair Kane requested public comment on non-agenda and agenda items, and Ms. Kara Vautour, 256 Pine Street, asked a question regarding staff compliance and sign offs, which Mr. Keegan answered.

Information included in the Google folder from Superintendent Keegan included the *Use of the Sparrell Building by the Norwell Food Pantry* MOU and a copy of the form filed to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance regarding the budget override. *A Simple Gesture* dropped off food on August 16, and the Food Pantry will provide distributions to the community on Thursdays at 2:15 p.m.


The next meetings of the Norwell School Committee will be held at the Norwell Public Library on September 15 and October 20, 2025.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 6:57 p.m. Ms. Link made a motion to adjourn.



Kristin A. McEachern, Chair

September 15, 2025



Alison L. Link, Clerk

September 15, 2025