

MINUTES OF THE OUTREACH MEETING OF THE NORWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

December 15, 2025

The Norwell School Committee met in the Meeting Room at Norwell Public Library on Monday, December 15, 2025. Clerk Alison Link called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Present were Ms. Link, Vice Chair Christina Kane, Chair Kristin McEachern, Lisa DiFrisco, Scott Dyke, and Superintendent Matthew Keegan.

At 6:32 p.m., Ms. Link moved that the meeting go into Executive Session for purposes of collective bargaining negotiations, and to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kane and passed unanimously on a roll call vote: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye and Dyke, Aye. The Committee moved to Study Room 3. Executive Session concluded at 6:59 p.m., and the Committee returned to the Meeting Room for Open Session.

Chair McEachern welcomed everyone, and read a statement in response to a public comment made at the November 24, 2025 School Committee meeting by Ms. Kara Vatour concerning the prior fiscal year's budget and negotiations to address inaccuracies. At the end of the statement, Chair McEachern asked if any members had comments, and brief statements of support were made by 3 members. There was no discussion of the Chair's statement.

Superintendent Keegan introduced Principal Eliza Burns to commence the *Celebrating Excellence* portion of the meeting: *One Love, One Village: Connecting Our Whole Community*. A PowerPoint presentation was included in agenda packets. Teachers Matthew Roberge, Nancy Thompson, Laura O'Malley, Liz Fitzgerald and their students shared Cole School's multifaceted approach to building connections within and beyond the school community highlighting the implementation of the new social-emotional curriculum, Second Step; the launch of the Volunteer Village program; the intergenerational Penpal Program connecting a third-grade class with the Norwell Council on Aging; and the One Love, One Village Fundraiser organized by 3rd and 4th grade students to support Jamaica's recovery from the recent devastating hurricane. This work demonstrates Cole School's commitment to fostering empathy, civic responsibility, and meaningful connections across generations and communities.

Utilizing a PowerPoint, Mr. Tyler Martin updated the Committee on this year's School Council successes and reported on progress related to school improvement plan goals. The Council's current School Improvement Plan, membership, bylaws, and meeting dates and times were included in agenda packets.

PTO President Anne Brennan updated the Committee on this year's PTO activities including various ways they have supported Cole School. Ms. Brennan presented a PowerPoint presentation to review the PTO past and future activities, enrichment, sponsored field trips, fundraisers and events. The variety show has been revamped, and will be held at the Cole School. PTO dues have been paid by 89% of families. An election will be held in the spring for her position with the PTO.

Chair Kane, Superintendent Keegan and the Committee thanked Principal Burns, Cole School staff, students, parents and the PTO and Council representatives for their presentations. At 7:47 p.m., Ms. McEachern announced the Committee would move to regular business.

Ms. Link moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the minutes of the Regular and Executive Sessions of the Norwell School Committee Meeting of November 24, 2025, accounts payable warrants #22 and 24

and refund warrant #24 signed by Ms. Kristin McEachern, and the international excursion request to Spain on February 11 – 20, 2027, as proposed. The motion passed unanimously: Link, Aye, DiFrisco, Aye, Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, and Dyke, Aye.

Director of Teaching, Learning & Technology Meredith Erickson discussed the changes to Policy LBA: Middle School Pathway Exploration adopted previously on October 20, 2025. A motion to adopt Policy LBA for first reading, as proposed was made by Ms. Link, and seconded by Ms. DiFrisco. The motion passed unanimously: DiFrisco, Aye, Link, Aye, Kane, Aye McEachern, Aye, and Dyke, Aye.

A memorandum from Athletic Director JJ Niamkey as well as a quote and an illustration for a scoreboard donation for the Clipper Community Complex was included in agenda packets. Mr. Niamkey discussed this donation with the Committee. Ms. Link moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco to accept the CCC MP Scoreboard donation, as amended, pending an updated rendering.

Enclosed in agenda packets were two drafts of next year's school calendar for the Committee's thoughts and suggestions. The calendar will be discussed and reviewed further with the Leadership Team and EAN regarding conference days and timing. The calendar will be brought back with everyone's input in January.


A Capital Budget items sheet was included in agenda packets. Director of Finance, Operations & Technology Warren MacCallum discussed the items and shared information on the new procedures that have been introduced by the Capital Committee. Boosters President Kristin Poulin and Mr. MacCallum discussed bathrooms at the Clipper Community Complex and the septic location options. The CPC has requested to have the School Committee be the lead on the application, and to provide an MOA from the Schools and Town on maintenance of the bathrooms. Ms. Poulin will provide a revised CPC application to the Committee.

A PowerPoint by Ms. Erickson on the Strategic Plan NTSS initiatives was included in agenda packets. Ms. Erickson updated the Committee on the Strategic Plan providing a brief overview of the processes engaged in to this point.

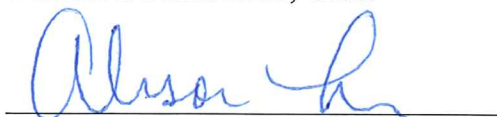
The Chair provided time for School Committee member reports. The football team's Superbowl at Gillette was mentioned.

Mr. Keegan updated the Committee on a variety of items in the Google folder including December 5, 2025 Enrollment and Average Class Size reports; letter to SSEC; and schools' newsletters since last NSC meeting. The Vinal School Presentations meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2026 at the Norwell Public Library. The budget workshop will be held on January 28, 2026. A regular meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2026.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Link moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.


Kristin A. McEachern, Chair

January 26, 2026


Alison L. Link, Clerk

January 26, 2026