

## MINUTES OF THE OUTREACH MEETING OF THE NORWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 28, 2026

The Norwell School Committee met in the Meeting Room at Norwell Public Library on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. Chair Kristin McEachern called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Vice Chair Christina Kane, Clerk Alison Link, Scott Dyke, and Superintendent Matthew Keegan.

At 6:36 p.m., Ms. Link moved that the meeting go into Executive Session for purposes of discussion of collective bargaining strategy, and to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dyke and passed unanimously on a roll call vote: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Kane, 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.

Superintendent Keegan introduced Principal Nathan Thorsteinson and Vice Principal Catherine Egan to commence the *Celebrating Excellence* portion of the meeting. Mr. Thorsteinson presented a PowerPoint which was included in agenda packets. Eight students joined teachers Brendan Fennessy and Katie O'Connor at the podium to discuss their experiences on their involvement with student government and the many ways Vinal School "does great things" each day.

PTO representatives Katelyn Gleason and Katie Kenney were invited to the podium to share the PTO's successes this year. They stated that 100% of field trips' costs were covered by the PTO. They shared information on upcoming speakers and events. They thanked all the parents and community members for their involvement.

Mr. Thorsteinson highlighted and discussed the results of Panorama surveys from January 2024 and 2025 regarding readiness for learning, grit, school climate, fit and safety. A mid-year survey will be going out in February. The School Improvement Plan, membership, bylaws, and meeting dates were included in agenda packets.

Presentations for the outreach portion of the meeting concluded at 7:17 p.m. Each School Committee member addressed and thanked the students, staff and PTO members.

Ms. Link moved, seconded by Mr. Dyke, to approve the minutes of the Regular and Executive Sessions of the Norwell School Committee Meeting on December 15, 2025, and January 15, 2026, accounts payable warrants 25, 27, 28, 29 and 30, and refund warrants 25 and 28 signed by Ms. McEachern, and the trip request to New York on March 18 – 22, 2026, as proposed. The motion passed unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Kane, Aye and Dyke, Aye.

A draft of the 2026-2027 school calendar was included in agenda packets. Ms. Link moved to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar for first reading, as proposed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kane, and the motion passed unanimously, McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, and Dyke, Aye.

Ms. Link moved, seconded by Mr. Dyke, to approve Policy LBA for second and final reading, as proposed. The motion passed unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, and Dyke, Aye.

Superintendent Keegan and Director of Finance, Operations & Technology Warren MacCallum reviewed the final Capital, Article and Other Requests, a copy of which was enclosed in agenda packets. The revised CPC CCC restrooms amount is \$1,461,458. Ms. Link made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dyke, to approve the FY'27 Capital, Article and Other Requests, as proposed. The motion passed unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, and Dyke, Aye.

The FY'27 Executive Budget was presented at the January 15, 2026 NSC meeting, and Mr. Keegan mentioned that a workshop could be held after the February break, if necessary. The budget has been posted on the website as well as the presentation video to the Select Board on January 21, 2026. The budget will be presented to the Advisory Board on March 3, 2026.

Mr. Keegan noted that the Chamber's Breakfast will be held on March 5, 2026 at 7:00 a.m. A legislative breakfast sponsored by the South Shore Superintendent's group will be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 5, 2026. Chair McEachern stated that all School Committee meetings are open to the public, and they will be presenting the budget at the PTO meetings in the spring. All are welcome to attend and ask questions.

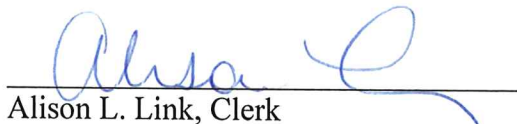
Mr. Keegan updated the Committee on items in the Google folder including the January 2 Enrollment and Average Class Size Reports and schools' newsletters published in December and January. The next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2026 and a Middle School Outreach meeting will be held on March 9, 2026 at Norwell Public Library.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Link moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.



Kristin A. McEachern, Chair

February 9, 2026



Alison L. Link, Clerk

February 9, 2026