

MINUTES OF THE OUTREACH MEETING OF THE NORWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 9, 2026

The Norwell School Committee met in the Meeting Room at Norwell Public Library on Monday, March 9, 2026. Chair Kristin McEachern called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Ms. McEachern, Clerk Alison Link, Lisa DiFrisco, and Superintendent Matthew Keegan.

At 6:32 p.m., Ms. Link moved that the meeting go into Executive Session for purposes of non-union personnel negotiations and collective bargaining strategy, and to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. DiFrisco and passed unanimously on a roll call vote: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, and DiFrisco, 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 James Dupille to highlight, using a PowerPoint presentation with videos, student engagement at Norwell Middle School. Copies of the PowerPoint and memorandum from Mr. Dupille were included in agenda packets. Teachers Ms. Jennifer Marani, Ms. Diane Uhlman, Mr. Jason Amato and Ms. Bethany Gavin and several students from the 6th and 7th grades presented their project-based learning projects that promotes student engagement. Several of the social studies projects were on display. Music teacher Mary Jo Running and music students shared their progress as musicians from grade 6 through 8, and members of the chorus sang a song. Student contestants in the Math Counts competition together with their advisors Ms. Denise Ryan and Mr. Richard Wolbach, and Geography Bee and Spelling Bee champions Tate Silva and Peter Borunov were recognized. Mr. Dupille introduced this year's Project 351 Ambassador Elisa Trebicka. Elisa will be leading a clothing, school supply and toy drive for Cradles to Crayons to help children from birth through age 12 in March and April.

PTO President Veronica Carney and Treasurer Allison Hughs shared the PTO's successes this year including the many events they have supported and held at the Middle School.

School Improvement Council parent member Danielle Green was invited to the podium to update the Committee regarding Council focus areas and activities. Ms. Green reviewed the results of student surveys. The School Improvement Plan, membership, bylaws, meeting dates and times and the recent Panorama student survey results were included in agenda packets.

Middle School outreach concluded at 7:55 p.m. Ms. McEachern noted the common theme of student choice during the student/staff presentations. The Committee and Mr. Keegan thanked all for their participation and presentations.

Ms. Link moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the minutes of the Regular and Executive Sessions of the Norwell School Committee Meeting on February 9, 2026, accounts payable warrants #33, 34, 35, and 36 signed by Ms. McEachern, the out-of-state trip requests to Bedford, NH on March 13 – 15, 2026 and to Kingston, RI on March 19 – 21, 2026, as proposed. The motion passed unanimously: DiFrisco, Aye, Link, Aye, and McEachern, Aye.

An 8th grade waiver request from Athletic Director JJ Niamkey on behalf of the girls' jv softball was included in agenda packets. Ms. Link made a motion, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the waiver request on behalf of girls' jv softball for the spring 2026 season, as proposed. The motion was passed unanimously: DiFrisco, Aye, Link, Aye, and McEachern, Aye.

Balances for the Middle and High School Student Activity Accounts were included in agenda packets. Ms. Link moved, seconded by Ms. DiFrisco, to approve the Middle and High School Student Activity Accounts, as presented. The motion passed unanimously: DiFrisco, Aye, Link, Aye, and McEachern, Aye.

Director of Teaching, Learning & Technology Meredith Erickson presented a PowerPoint which was included in the Google folder and noted a copy of the letter to parents posted on the website regarding the Norwell Tiered System of Support for the elementary students. Ms. Erickson was joined at the podium with the reading and math specialists from Cole and Vinal Schools Courtney Carpenito, Kerri Fuller, Jennifer Bretsch and Tracy Simmons, respectively. Questions and answers ensued.

Enclosed in agenda packets was a PowerPoint from Ms. Erickson regarding the 2024-2027 Student Opportunity Act Progress Report. Ms. Erickson gave a brief presentation providing information on Norwell Public Schools' SOA accountability, initiatives, progress, and data collection for the Early Literacy based SOA report.

A proposal for an EV charging installation project at the school buildings from Director of Finance, Operations & Technology Warren MacCallum was included in agenda packets. The Committee's questions regarding locations, liability, cost and timelines were answered by Mr. MacCallum, and the Committee agreed that Mr. MacCallum should pursue the project.

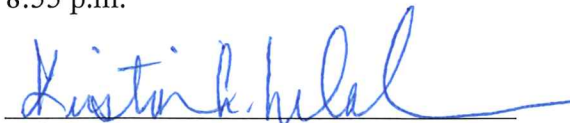
The Committee met with the Advisory Board on March 3 to present the FY'27 budget. Capital Budget Committees are scheduled to be held at Town hall on March 16 and March 24, 2026. Visits to the schools' PTO steering committees prior to the May 4 Town Meeting will take place in April. The Budget Hearing is scheduled for the March 30, 2026 School Committee meeting.

The Superintendent Mid-Cycle Formative Assessment Report, Plan Form with artifact list and back up documents were available for the Committee in the Google folder. Mr. Keegan reviewed his goals and discussed the School Building Committee which will commence meetings in the spring.

School Committee members commented on the boys' and girls' basketball and hockey teams' play-off games. Ms. Kane and Ms. McEachern attended the recent legislative breakfast hosted by the South Shore Superintendents. Ms. Kane presented at the annual Chamber of Commerce breakfast.


Mr. Keegan noted the documents in the Google folder: March 6, 2026 Enrollment and Average Class Size Reports; 2025 Annual Report of the Superintendent; notice to Norwell Mariner to publish March 30, 2026 Budget Hearing; applications from the Town Clerk to use the Middle School for Town meetings and elections; and schools' newsletters.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Link moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.



Kristin A. McEachern, Chair

March 30, 2026



Alison L. Link, Clerk

March 30, 2026