

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

**March 30, 2026**

A meeting of the Norwell School Committee was held on Monday, March 30, 2026 in the Meeting Room at Norwell Public Library. Clerk Alison Link called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Ms. Link, Chair Kristin McEachern, Vice Chair Christina Kane, Scott Dyke, and Superintendent Matthew Keegan.

At 6:31 p.m., Ms. Link moved that the meeting go into executive session for purposes of strategizing on collective bargaining negotiations and to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements and Massachusetts Student Privacy laws, and to return to open session at the conclusion of executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dyke and passed unanimously on a roll-call vote: Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, Link, Aye and McEachern, Aye. The Committee moved to Study Room 3. Executive session concluded at 6:58 p.m., and the Committee returned to the open regular session in the Meeting Room.

Ms. Link moved, seconded by Mr. Dyke, to approve the minutes of the Regular and Executive Sessions of the Norwell School Committee Meeting on March 9, 2026, Meeting on March 3, 2026 with the Advisory Board, and accounts payable and refund warrants 37, 38 and 39 signed by Ms. McEachern, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, and Dyke, Aye.

Pursuant to MGL, Chapter 71, Section 38N, Clerk Link moved to open the Public Hearing on the School Committee's proposed annual budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kane and passed unanimously: Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, McEachern, Aye, and Dyke, Aye. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Superintendent Keegan provided an overview of the proposed FY'27 School Committee budget, a copy of which was enclosed in the Google folder. The proposed budget represents a 4% increase over last year's budget. Mr. Keegan will update the PowerPoint to include the CPC request for bathrooms at the Clipper Community Complex. Ms. Link requested public comment, and hearing none, proceeded with the motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Dyke. The motion passed unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, and Dyke, Aye. Ms. Link moved, seconded by Mr. Dyke, to adopt an FY'27 Requested School Committee Operating Budget of \$34,733,985 for insertion in the May 4, 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant amended to include the request to the Community Preservation Committee for bathrooms at the Clipper Community Complex. The motion passed unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, and Dyke, Aye.

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 12B, Paragraph (d) a hearing on inter-district choice is to be held annually prior to June 1, before a district considers adopting a resolution withdrawing from said program for the subsequent school year. Accordingly, Ms. Link moved to open the public hearing and vote, seconded by Mr. Dyke. The motion passed unanimously: Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and McEachern, Aye. Superintendent Keegan stated that given philosophical problems with school choice as currently structured in the Commonwealth, it is recommended not to participate. Ms. Link requested comment, and hearing none, requested a motion. Mr. Dyke moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Kane. The motion passed unanimously: Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and McEachern, Aye. Ms. Link moved, seconded by Mr. Dyke, that the Norwell School Committee resolves not to participate in the inter-district choice program for the 2026-2027 school year. The motion passed unanimously: Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and McEachern, Aye.

The elementary schools have requested a change for two dates – October 21 for early release (instead of October 28) and October 29 for conferences (instead of October 22). The Education Association of Norwell has agreed to the request. Ms. Link made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kane, to amend the 2026–2027 School Calendar, as proposed. The motion passed unanimously: Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and McEachern, Aye.

As was discussed by Mr. Keegan in executive session, Chair McEachern called for the following motion: to have the District assess tuition to the Venkatachalam family who is moving out of district on April 7, 2026 but would like to have their child continue to attend school until the end of the 2025-2026 school year, as requested. Ms. Link made the motion, seconded by Ms. Kane, and the motion passed unanimously: Link, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, and McEachern, Aye.

Student Government Representative Isabel Belisle shared an update on happenings at the High School including a fundraiser by the senior class that raised \$10,000. Discussion ensued regarding the *Mr. Norwell* event that did not occur this year.

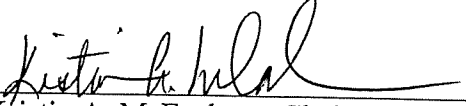
A draft of the *Town Meeting Information Guide May 4, 2026 and 2025-2026 Annual Report* was included in agenda packets. Also enclosed in agenda packets was last year's letter from the School Committee as well as the postcard from the previous year. This year's mailing will be a postcard with a QR code to obtain the letter from the Committee on the FY'27 budget, budget presentation and annual report.

Ms. Kane commented on attending the recent Chamber of Commerce and Legislative breakfasts.

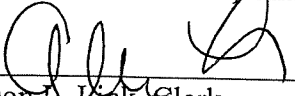
Chair McEachern opened the meeting for public comment on agenda and non-agenda items, and hearing none, proceeded with the agenda.

Mr. Keegan noted the updates and correspondence included in the Google folder: SSEC update; acknowledgement of resignation notice; and recent schools' newsletters. Regular meetings on April 27 and May 18, 2026 will be held at the Public Library, and a special meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on May 4, 2026 at the Norwell Middle School Community Room prior to the Town Hall meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee in open session, at 7:28 p.m., Ms. Link moved to adjourn the meeting.

  
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Kristin A. McEachern, Chair

April 27, 2026

  
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Alison L. Link, Clerk

April 27, 2026