

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NORWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 18, 2026

A meeting of the Norwell School Committee was held on Monday, May 18, 2026 in the Meeting Room at Norwell Public Library. Chair Kristin McEachern called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Ms. McEachern, Vice Chair Christina Kane, Elizabeth Bersell, Jana McCarthy, Scott Dyke and Superintendent Matthew Keegan. Ms. Bersell and Ms. McCarthy were sworn in with the Town Clerk on May 18, 2026 to serve for a 3-year term on the Norwell School Committee.

At 6:32 p.m., Ms. McEachern moved that the meeting go into executive session for purposes of strategizing on collective bargaining negotiations 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: McEachern, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, Bersell, Aye and McCarthy, Aye. The Committee moved to the study room. Executive session concluded at 6:57 p.m., and the Committee returned to open session in the Meeting Room.

In accordance with Policy BDA: School Committee Organizational Meeting, Mr. Keegan proceeded to conduct the election of a new Chair for a term of one year for the School Committee. Ms. Kane nominated Ms. McEachern to serve as Chair. There being no other nominees, Ms. Kane moved the nomination be closed and that Ms. McEachern be elected to Chair. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dyke, and unanimously passed by roll call vote: Dyke, Aye, Bersell, Aye, McCarthy, Aye, McEachern, Aye and Kane, Aye. Chair McEachern then proceeded with the election of a Vice Chair and Clerk, also to hold their respective offices for one year. Ms. McEachern nominated Ms. Kane for Vice Chair. There being no other nominees, Ms. McEachern moved the nomination be closed and that Ms. Kane be elected to Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dyke, and unanimously passed by roll call vote: Dyke, Aye, Bersell, Aye, McCarthy, Aye, McEachern, Aye and Kane, Aye. Ms. Kane nominated Mr. Dyke for Clerk. The motion to close the nomination and elect Mr. Dyke as Clerk was made by Ms. Kane; seconded by Ms. Bersell, and it was unanimously voted and passed on a roll call vote: Dyke, Aye, Bersell, Aye, McCarthy, Aye, McEachern, Aye and Kane, Aye.

A memorandum from Account Payable Clerk Laurence Huntley proposing *DocuSign* for School Committee members to utilize for warrant signatures was included in agenda packets. Mr. Dyke moved, seconded by Ms. Kane, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the Executive and Regular sessions of the Norwell School Committee meeting on April 27, 2026; the special meeting minutes of May 4, 2026; Accounts Payable Warrants #44 and #46 and Refund Warrant #44 signed by Ms. McEachern, Accounts Payable Warrant #45 signed by Ms. Kane; the designation of Kristin McEachern or Christina Kane to approve warrants using *DocuSign* for the Norwell School Committee, and said members shall make available to the Norwell School Committee at the first meeting following such action a record of such action, and the out-of-state trip request to NH on June 16, 2026, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, Bersell, Aye and McCarthy, Aye.

Enclosed in agenda packets was the proposed 2026-2027 School Committee Meeting Schedule. All meetings will be held at the Norwell Public Library. Study room 3 for Executive Sessions and the large meeting room for Regular Sessions have been reserved, and NSTV will record Regular Sessions. Mr. Dyke made the motion, seconded by Ms. Kane, to accept the 2026-2027 School Committee Meeting

Schedule, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, Bersell, Aye, and McCarthy, Aye.

The proposed fees schedule was included in agenda packets. Mr. Keegan discussed the proposed change to the kindergarten fee referring to a document that outlines the current year standing and next year's projections. The Committee discussed the proposed increase, and Mr. Dyke made the motion, seconded by Ms. McEachern, to approve the 2026-2027 Fees Schedule as presented with the full day kindergarten fee of \$4,250, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, Bersell, Aye, and McCarthy, Aye.

Mr. Keegan referenced a potential vote to award a custodial service contract and for a reduction in force to the custodial bargaining unit as previously presented by Director of Finance, Operations & Technology Warren MacCallum. Mr. Dyke made the motion, seconded by Ms. Kane, to award a custodial service contract to HES Company, and for a reduction in force to the custodial bargaining unit, as discussed and proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye, Kane, Aye, Dyke, Aye, Bersell, Aye, and McCarthy, Aye.

Student Government Representative Isabel Belisle reported on the end-of-year high school activities. Superintendent Keegan presented a certificate to Ms. Belisle on behalf of the Committee together with a gift with the logo of the university Ms. Belisle plans to attend. The Committee thanked and congratulated Ms. Belisle.

Included in the Google folder was Katherine Busk's *Introduction Letter to the Cole Community* as the new Cole School Assistant Principal. Mr. Keegan introduced Ms. Busk to the Committee. Ms. Busk shared a few words and was welcomed by all.

A PowerPoint presentation from Norwell High School Robotics team was included in the Google folder. Students Ben McAlear, Ben Carr, Henry Davies and Braden Achorn along with their mentors Judy Crooks and Tom McAlear were in attendance and each shared their positive experiences of being on the team. This year's robot was on display. The Committee several questions and thanked the students for their presentation.

Mr. Keegan updated the Committee regarding the School Building Committee's April and May meetings. Discussion ensued regarding timelines and acronyms used for the MSBA project.

A DESE Special Education Annual Determinations letter was included in agenda packets. Director of Student Services Sue Theodorou discussed the findings. Overall, Norwell Public Schools is rated as *Meets Requirements*.

Included in agenda packets was a list of events and dates outlining the major end of year activities. The Committee discussed attending the senior banquet, high school graduation and the Celebration of Success on June 9.

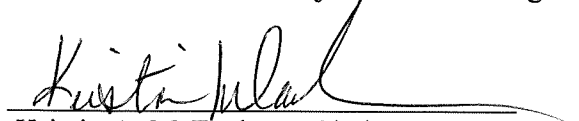
Committee members shared comments on recently attended school events.

Ms. Kara Vatour, 256 Pine Street, read a prepared statement regarding her experience with the Town election and the tone surrounding public engagement of the Committee. Members Ms. Kane, Ms. McEachern and Ms. Bersell responded in support of the School Committee's experience and availability for the community.

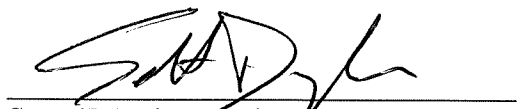
Ms. McEachern asked for public comment on agenda items, and hearing none, proceeded with the Agenda.

Mr. Keegan noted updates and correspondence included in the Google folder: May 1, 2026 Enrollment and Average Class Size reports; Celebration of Success invitation; confirmation of appointment to SSEC; and schools' newsletters. The next regular meeting will be held at the Norwell Public Library on June 8, 2026. The meetings in July and August will start at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Committee in open session, at 8:21 p.m., Ms. McEachern moved to adjourn the meeting.


Kristin A. McEachern, Chair

June 8, 2026


Scott E. Dyke, Clerk

June 8, 2026