MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE NORWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

September 21, 2026

A meeting of the Norwell School Committee was held on Monday, September 21, 2026. The School Committee met 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, Clerk Scott Dyke, Elizabeth Bersell, and Jana McCarthy. Vice Chair Christina Kane arrived at 6:38 p.m.

At 6:31 p.m., Ms. Bersell moved that the meeting go into executive session for purposes of strategizing on non-union personnel negotiations and collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, and to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. McCarthy and passed unanimously on a roll-call vote: Kane, Aye; McEachern, Aye; McCarthy, Aye; Bersell, Aye; and Dyke, Aye. The Committee moved to the study room 3. Executive session ended at 6:59 p.m. The Committee returned to regular session in the community room.

Mr. Dyke moved, seconded by Ms. Bersell, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the Executive and Regular sessions of the Norwell School Committee meeting on August 17, 2026, accounts payable and refund warrants #8 and 11, and accounts payable warrants #9, 10 and 12 signed by Ms. Kristin McEachern, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye; McCarthy, Aye; Dyke; Aye; Bersell, Aye; and Kane, Aye.

A memorandum from Athletic Director JJ Niamkey was included in agenda packets. Mr. Dyke moved, seconded by Ms. Kane to approve the 8th Grade Waiver Request on Behalf of the Girls' Cross Country Team, as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye; McCarthy, Aye, Dyke; Aye; Bersell, Aye; and Kane, Aye.

Included in agenda packets was Policy ACL: Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement (PROTECT ACT) which Governor Healey signed into law on August 5, 2026. Among its provisions, the law establishes restrictions on civil arrests for civil law enforcement, including federal immigration enforcement, on school grounds during school hours, student drop-off and pick-up periods, before and after school programming, and school-sponsored events, except as required by state or federal law or pursuant to a judicial warrant or order. The Administration has also begun related implementation work, including identifying district-and school-level contacts, developing an escalation protocol for staff, establishing a process for consultation with district counsel, and preparing staff training and family communication. Mr. Dyke moved, seconded by Ms. McCarthy, to adopt Policy ACL: Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement (PROTECT Act), as proposed. The motion was approved unanimously: McEachern, Aye; McCarthy, Aye, Dyke; Aye; Bersell, Aye; and Kane, Aye.

Mr. Keegan introduced Henry Jacobs, the elected student government representative to the School Committee. A bio from the school counselor was included in the Google folder. Mr. Jacobs provided an overview of activities at Norwell High for the first three weeks of school.

Mr. Keegan updated the Committee on the first of week of school and upcoming events. Welcome letters, the first week of school newsletters, the first monthly addition of the Superintendent Newsletter, and the Superintendent's Norwell Neighbors article for October regarding the Strategic Plan and *Vision of a Learner* were in the Google folder.

Director of Teaching, Learning & Technology Meredith Erickson presented aspects of the Strategic Plan, Strategic Plan Update Year 1, the Norwell Tiered Systems of Support document, and the Vision of a Learner (three documents enclosed in agenda packets) initiative in an interactive way through our district website. The Vision of a Learner introduction letter was sent to all families on 9/11. Ms. Erickson stated that the school community will consistently be made aware of the Strategic Plan and how Norwell Public Schools is communicating status through the website as well as focuses on major initiatives. Discussion and questions ensued.

The proposed *FY'28 Budget Development Process Timeline* was included in agenda packets. The Leadership Team reviewed the timeline on September 15, and the final version will be presented to the Committee on October 26, 2026. The Congress of Councils will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026

The *FY'26 End of Year Budget Report* PowerPoint was included in agenda packets. Utilizing the PowerPoint presentation, Director of Finance, Operations & Technology Warren MacCallum and Mr. Keegan reviewed the variances in the budget that occurred throughout the year.

Chair McEachern requested public comment on non-agenda and agenda items, and Ms. Kara Vautour, 256 Pine Street, commented on communicating messages to families.

Mr. Keegan provided updates to the Committee regarding correspondence shared in the Google folder including: September 11, 2026 Enrollment and Average Class Size reports; homeschool update; approval letter to Conservation Committee; MA General Laws 2026 book; MIAA Tournament Passes (distributed at the meeting); and Salary Scale Movement for Fall 2026.

The next meetings of the Norwell School Committee will be held at the Norwell Public Library on October 26, 2026, which is a High School Outreach meeting. A regular meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2026 at the Norwell Public Library.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 8:45 p.m. Ms. McEachern made a motion to adjourn.

October 26, 2026
Kristin A. McEachern, Chair

October 26, 2026
Scott E. Dyke, Clerk