

NORFOLK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting-March 31, 2026

MINUTES



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John DeShazo, Virginia Coleman-Prisco, Amy Bennett, Donna Rubin, Jeremy Withnell, Mike Listorti

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Walter Godlewski,

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Kevin D. Case, Superintendent, Lauren Valentino, Principal

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M.

Public Comments:

None

Motion by D. Rubin **seconded by** J. Withnell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 24, 2026. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Motion by D. Rubin **seconded by** J. Withnell to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 4, 2026. D. Rubin Abstaining. **APPROVED**

Correspondence:

None

Financial Report: Superintendent Case reviewed the February 2026 Check Authorization/Bills for Review and the February 2026 Monthly Expenditure Report. After some discussion the Board Chair asked for a motion to approve.

Motion by A. Bennett **seconded by** J. Withnell to approve the February Monthly Expenditure Report. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Superintendent Case reported the following to the Board:

- 2026-2027 Proposed Budget – Superintendent Case reported that Board Chair John DeShazo presented the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget to the Board of Finance.
- Mission Vision Committee Update- The first meeting will be on April 1st at Botelle School in the Hall of Flags at 7:00 pm
- Minimum Budget Requirement Non- Compliance Update - Superintendent Case reported that he along with Board Chair John DeShazo, Board of Finance Chair Mike Sconyers, First Selectman Henry Tirrell and State Representative Maria Horn met via zoom with State Official's Jessica Brunetti and Kevin Chambers to discuss the MBR Non- Compliance but were told that Special Education costs do not meet the requirement and that they don't write the law they just reinforce it so to avoid any penalties the \$58,366 would have to be put into this year's budget. The superintendent asked for a motion to request that the Board of Finance add the appropriated funds to the budget the meet the Minimum Budget Requirement for the 2025/2026 school year with the understanding that the school would not spend the money.
- Norfolk Board of Education will receive \$32,000 in CT State DRIP (District Repair and Improvement Program) Grant Funding. Superintendent Case will discuss this in more detail at the next BOE meeting.

Motion by A. Bennett **seconded by** J. Withnell to request that the Board of Finance add the appropriated funds of \$58,366 to meet the Minimum Budget Requirement for the 2025/2026 school year with the understanding that the funds will be given back to the town in June **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Principal's Report:

Teaching and Learning

- SRBI CYCLE REVIEW MEETINGS - Teachers met to review the progress of students who receive additional academic or social-emotional instruction. The team determined next steps for students based on the data collected and shared. The number of students who are receiving additional instruction to close learning gaps is decreasing which confirms that the instruction our classroom teachers are delivering is highly effective.
- POWER GOALS - Student Council led our last Good News Gathering where we focused on the SOAR expectation - Achieve Your Goals. Student Council chose a book that was read aloud and planned an activity for Learning Buddies. Learning Buddies shared their Power Goals for either reading or math and made them public. This connects to our school goals which are based on the belief that students, when they understand what they are learning, why and how to be successful, are very motivated to work hard and achieve their goals!
- FEATURES EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION - Kevin and I completed walkthroughs of each classroom last week, collecting evidence on effective instructional strategies. This was a leadership action step based on our learning from ReadConn. The features of effective instruction we looked for were systematic, sequential and explicit instruction that had multiple multi-sensory examples and opportunities for active learning by students. Each teacher will receive written specific feedback about how the use of these strategies impacted student learning. Kevin and I will also synthesize the data to make decisions about professional learning and high-quality instructional materials. This will have a direct impact on student achievement and growth.
- STAFFING UPDATES- Mrs. Christine Guglielmino is our new school nurse. She joined the Botelle School team on Monday after Nurse Dillard accepted a new position. Ms. Brittany Perrone is a part-time school counselor, brought to us by EdAdvance, and her first day was today. She will work closely with Mrs. Roldan to support students' social, emotional and behavioral functioning. We're thrilled they are here!

Professional Learning

- READCONN - Educators have completed Module 1 *The Science of Reading* and are almost finished with Module 2 *Oral Language & Phonology*. We will complete Modules 3-6 next year.
- IMPACT TEAMS - Each week, teachers meet with their colleagues to collaborate on instructional strategies, based on evidence of student learning in math and reading. Sharing ideas helps us grow our practice!

Community Connections

- Parent - Teacher Conferences were well attended and successful.
- I met with representatives from Great Mountain Forest to look for opportunities to connect what students are learning in the classroom to resources at the forest.
- Miss Eileen visited on Read Across America Day. Students from NWR7 visited at the end of the month and read a book about kindness and a Dr. Seuss book.
- PTO sponsored a cultural event called, Bring the Hoopla which featured professional hula hoopers.
- The PTO and Student Council planned a Spirit Week which included a new tradition on St. Patrick's Day- a leprechaun scavenger hunt.

Standing Committee Reports:

Policy: Meeting canceled; rescheduled for April 21st at 5:30

Affiliation Reports:

PTO – Student Council Spirit Week, Cultural event called “Bring the Hoopla “
Shared Services – Minutes Attached
Board of Finance – Budget presentation
EDC- Minutes Attached

New Business:

Healthy Food Certification for the 2026/2027 School Year –

Vote 1: Required vote for participation in healthy food option of HFC

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Norfolk Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion by D. Rubin **seconded by** A. Bennett to accept the healthy food option for the 2026-2027 school year. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Vote 2: Required vote for food exemptions for BOEs voting “yes” to the healthy food option of HFC

The Norfolk Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

Motion by J. Withnell **seconded by** A. Bennett to vote “Yes” to allow food exemptions for the 2026/2027 school year. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Negotiations Update: The Board entered into Executive Session.

7:33 - Entered Executive Session

7:47 - Exited Executive Session

7:48 - Motion made by Amy Bennett - "Move to approve the principal's contract through June 30, 2029 with the proposed salary increase and insurance buy-back adjustments." Motion seconded by Michael Listorti. No discussion. Unanimous approval, no abstentions.

Motion by J. Withnell seconded by V. Coleman-Prisco to adjourn the meeting@ 7:49
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Meeting adjourned@ 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Lippincott

Kathy Lippincott,
Recording Secretary

THESE ARE NOT APPROVED MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING.