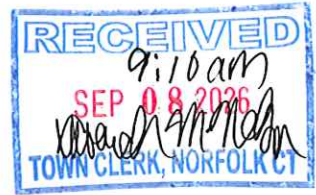


NORFOLK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting-September 1, 2026



MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John DeShazo, Amy Bennett, Walter Godlewski,
Virginia Coleman-Prisco (zoom), Mike Listorti

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Donna Rubin, Jeremy Withnell

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Public Comments:

None

Motion by A. Bennett **seconded by** M. Listorti to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 9, 2026
Abstaining, W. Godlewski. **Motion APPROVED.**

Correspondence:

None

Introduction of New Staff:

Superintendent Case introduced two new staff members hired at Botelle this year:

Mr. Chris Valerio – Instrumental Music Teacher

Mr. Valerio is a retired music teacher who spent much of his career in the Torrington Public Schools. He has experience at all levels. Most recently he was the Instrumental Music teacher at Colebrook Consolidated School. His love of students and music keep him coming back for more! Mr. Valerio will teach lessons and conduct band on Tuesdays. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Western Connecticut State University and completed graduate work at the Manhattan School of Music.

Mrs. Jennifer Rodgers – Instructional Assistant and SRBI Interventionist

Mrs. Rodgers is an Early Childhood educator who comes to us from the Masters School in Simsbury. In the morning, she will partner with Ms. Holly in the Early Primary classroom and in the afternoon will support students who benefit from extra assistance in reading and math. She is an experienced Pre-Kindergarten Teacher and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's Degree in Education from Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Mrs. Megan Schneider – Upper Intermediate Teacher and Mr. Jeff Howard- General Music Teacher will be introduced at the October 6th Board Meeting.

Annual Fire and Life Safety Code Inspection Report:

Fire Marshal Keith Byrne shared with the Board the results of the annual inspection report and noted that all areas were in compliance.

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

Motion by W. Godlewski **seconded by** A. Bennett to approve the July and August 2026 Monthly Expenditure Report. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

End of Year 2025-2026 Unaudited Budget Expenditure Report with Transfers:

Superintendent Case review the unaudited 2025-2026 Budget Expenditure Report with the transfers noted with comments next to each line item to explain the rationale. Superintendent Case also reviewed Transfer #3 that was presented in June but not voted on due to not having the exact dollar amount and asked for a motion to approve Transfer # 3. After some discussion the motion was made.

Motion by W. Godlweki **seconded by** M. Listorti to approve Transfer # 3: transfer funds from line 100-2800-52207-000 Health and Dental in the amount of \$14,326.90 to line 100-2600-54301-000 Building Repairs in the amount of \$8,279.05 and line 100-2600-56212-000 Electricity in the amount of \$6,047.85”

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Superintendent Case reported at the close of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, \$60,146.43 was unexpended. State legislation allows for up to 2% of the budget to be placed in the non -lapsing account. Therefore, he recommended that \$50,904.06 be placed in the non-lapsing account and the remaining \$9,242.37 be returned to the Town

Motion by W. Godlewski **seconded by** M. Listorti to accept the 2025-2026 unaudited Budget Expenditure Report and to place \$50,904.06 in the non-lapsing account and return \$9,242.37 to the Town.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Draft Botelle School Mission Statement Review:

Board Members reviewed the Draft Mission Statement. After some discussion the decision was made to resume discussions at the next board meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Case shared it was an excellent summer at the school. The custodians did an excellent job of and the building looks terrific and he thanked both Tyler and Evan for their hard work. The superintendent also thanked Principal Valentino along with Mary Pat and Kathy for all of their hard work during the summer. Enrollment is at 58 students which includes six tuition students, four are staff members children and we have two Colebrook Pre-K students enrolled this year. Superintend Case reported on the new curriculum resources that with the Board's support were purchased in both English Language Arts, specifically in the area of word study and word origin and Math, with new learning center materials to further engage students.

Principal's Report:

Teaching & Learning

The Eagles are having an outstanding start to the new school year. Building positive relationships and establishing expectations and routines are the first order of business. Our school rules are being taught and/or reviewed starting in the classroom and spanning all shared spaces throughout the building, like the cafeteria. We launched our school theme - Be Your “Best Self” at the Good News Gathering on the first day of school. On day two, we learned to breakdance during a Cultural Arts Assembly, thanks to CT Freshest.

Academics are in full swing. Here's a snapshot of what students learned today - Kindergarteners wrote stories with pictures, primary students studied mapping and neighborhoods, 3rd graders learned about scaled picture graphs, 4th graders learned about factors and multiples with fixed widths and Upper Intermediate students began their study of Greek Myths with the core text, Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief.

Professional Learning

On 8/24 & 8/25 staff engaged in professional learning related to our school goals, building upon our work last year. On Monday, teachers began Module 3 of ReadConn about Phonics and Word Study. Later, they familiarized themselves with new foundational reading skills resources and the updated version of Illustrative Math, including new centers. On Tuesday, we welcomed all new staff and engaged in positive school climate activities.

School Leadership Team and Safe School Climate Team met and analyzed our end of year data to identify topics for goals. Academically, our focus areas are problem solving in math, foundational literacy skills, Power Goals. Our focus areas for school climate are inclusion and belonging and consistent expectations and follow through as a staff.

Upcoming Events-

9/11 - Early Dismissal for Professional Learning

9/15 & 17 BOY MAP testing

9/17 Open House @ 6pm

9/25 River Day with Barkhamsted, Colebrook and Hartland Schools

Chair Report:

Board Chair John DeShazo reported to the Board that the new year is off to a great start. Looking forward to October 7th Fire Safety Awareness Week. Everyone is welcome to come to the school, there will be a fire engine there and a very special guest. Mr. DeShazo also reported that along with Superintendent Case and Principal Valentino, Board Chairs and Superintendents from the four feeder towns will meet at Northwestern Regional #7 for ongoing discussions of the possibility of having Curriculum Coordinator Position for all districts.

Standing Committee Reports:

Personnel & Negotiations:

Meeting on September 1st to discuss ground rules for the upcoming teacher contract negotiations. The next meeting will take place on September 10, 2026 at 4:00 pm

New Business:

Approval of Policy #6142.101 Health and Wellness

Motion by A. Bennett seconded by M. Listorti to approve the Health and Wellness Policy with noted change.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Motion by M. Listorti seconded by A. Bennett to adjourn the meeting@ 7:58 p.m.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Meeting adjourned@ 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Lippincott

Kathy Lippincott,
Recording Secretary

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