NORFOLK BOARD OF EDUCATION

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1:05pm
JUN 15 2026
TOWN CLERK, NORFOLK CT

Regular Meeting-May 26, 2026

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Walter Godlewski

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Public Comments:
None

Motion by D. Rubin **seconded by** J. Withnell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 28, 2026 with noted changes **abstaining** V. Coleman-Prisco, Mike Listorti; **Motion Approved.**

Correspondence:
None

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

Motion by V. Coleman-Prisco **seconded by** A. Bennett to approve the April Monthly Expenditure Report. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Superintendent Case reported the following to the Board:

- Initial End of Fiscal Year 26 Budget Projection: Superintendent Case reported that at this time there looks to be some unexpended funds in special education of approximately $50,000.
- Minimum Budget Requirement Non- Compliance Update: Superintendent Case informed the board that the minimum budget requirement issue has been resolved. The towns people voted to transfer the funds to the Board of Education's 25-26 budget.
- Supplemental Education Assistance: The superintendent informed the board that the town received $2,216 in Supplemental Education Assistance money to be used for education.
- DRIP (District Repair and Improvement Program) Grant: The town has received the $32,000 DRIP Grant money. The money can be used for repair, maintenance or improvements to the building and needs to be expended by 06/30/2027.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Case updated the Board on the progress with the slide. Parts have been ordered and the slide should be ready to use this summer.

- Mission/Vision Committee Report: Superintendent Case reported the Mission/Vision Committee have completed their sessions. Members at the meeting learned a great deal about the school and a draft Mission Statement has been developed. Superintendent Case will seek additional feedback on the statement.
- Grade 6 Promotion will be held on June 16, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at Botelle School.
- Changes to Food Service for the 2026-2027 School Year: Superintendent Case informed the Board that next year all students will receive free breakfast and that families who qualify for reduced lunches will now be free.

Principal's Report:

Teaching and Learning

- DATA CHATS - Teachers and students met before MAP testing to set goals and discuss growth targets. Students were very excited to see their progress after the assessment. Teachers helped them connect this growth to their Power Goals!
- CURIOSITY & CREATIVITY - Mrs. Dubecky partners with teachers to extend learning in ELA. Students in the Primary grades took a tour of government buildings in other countries with VR goggles. Students in the Intermediate grades a creating a 3-D model to extend their understanding of marine animals.

Professional Learning

- MATH - Teachers met with their grade level partners for continued professional learning and collaboration.
- ROP PROJECTS - Teachers are concluding their action research projects, as part of educator evaluation and support.
- SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PRACTICES - Staff met to review end of year expectations and responses to challenging behaviors.

Community Connections

- Thanks to our PTO for a wonderful Staff Appreciation Week! We enjoyed the gifts and treats throughout the week.
- Thanks to the PTO Drama Club for an outstanding performance of Moana Jr. Their time and talents enrich our students' experiences.
- K-2 went to Roaring Brook Nature Center for a field trip.
- 6th graders visited Northwestern Middle School for "Move Up Day".
- Community partners donated to the Nature's Classroom trip and students have no out-of-pocket expenses. Thank you for your generosity!

Chair Report:

Board Chair John DeShazo reported to the board that the Superintendents and Board Chairs from the 4 Regional #7 Feeder Towns met to discuss the possibility of having a Regional Director of Curriculum for the 2027-2028 school year. Additional regional meetings will be held to discuss this idea. Board Members posed questions they had about the position which will be discussed at future meetings.

Standing Committee Reports:

Policy - Meeting May 26, 2026

Committee members discussed the Health and Wellness Policy. The Policy will be sent to the board for a first reading.

Health and Wellness- Meeting May 6, 2026

Revised the Health and Wellness Policy.

Affiliation Reports:

PTO – The PTO will be having an Ice Box Merchandise Spring Fundraiser and will be providing snacks for Field Day

Shared Services – will meet on June 8, 2026

Board of Finance – Budget and MBR Compliance passed.

EDC- Minutes attached.

Approval of Policies:

After some discussion the Board decided to table the approval of the policies until the June 9th Board of Ed Meeting.

New Business:

None

Executive Session:

Discussion of Superintendent's Performance Evaluation and Negotiations.

Motion by Mike Listori **seconded by** J. Withnell to enter into executive session and to invite the superintendent at 7:55 p.m.

Motion by J. Withnell **seconded by.** V. Coleman-Prisco to come out of executive session at 8:37 p.m.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Motion by J. Withnell **seconded by** M. Listorti to approve the Agreement Between the Norfolk Board of Education and the Custodial Employees Local 1303-322 of Council #4 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFD-CIO for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029

Motion by M. Listorti **seconded by.** J. Withnell to adjourn the meeting@ 8:39 p.m.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Meeting adjourned@ 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Lippincott

Kathy Lippincott,
Recording Secretary

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

EDC Monthly Meeting (recurring invitation) - May 14, 2026

Minutes

In person attendees: Commission members; Jennifer Almquist, Elizabeth Borden, Sue Frisch, Cheryl Heller, Jon Riedeman, Brett Robbins (chair), Robert Whipple Guest: Peter Aziz

Brett Robbins called the meeting to order at 5:06

• Minutes from the April monthly meeting were approved unanimously

Leadership Transition

• Cheryl Heller was appointed as new EDC chair with unanimous approval after motion and second. Brett Robbins will step down to a regular board seat, ◦ Cheryl will notify First Selectman and town clerk.

New Commission Member

• Peter Aziz was introduced as a potential new commission member. He is a Norfolk resident since 2019, and the owner of Valiant Energy. He has over 30 years' experience with community involvement, including nonprofit boards, and has taught and mentored entrepreneurs.

• Cheryl will propose Peter as a new member to the First Selectman for an official vote.

Budget Allocation for Norfolk Artists and Friends

• $1,500 approved for Artists and Friends festival advertising ◦ Jon Riedeman will provide detailed expense breakdown offline, and for how effectiveness of the expenditures will be measured. Cheryl Heller and Libby Borden will support Jon with that work.

Budget subcommittee established
The group unanimously approved the establishment of a budget subcommittee that will allocate the remaining budget for this fiscal year without requiring full commission votes for individual expenses. Cheryl Heller, Libby Borden and Brett Robbins will serve on the subcommittee.

Update on business owner survey
Cheryl Heller updated the group on learning from follow-up individual interviews with business owners and managers. The needs and interests expressed are varied, and would not support a formal mentoring program at this time. The recommendation is to create a speaker series available to everyone, on topics of interest, such as identifying and winning grants, financial management, communications and marketing, etc. Ideas for speakers will be solicited from the group before the next monthly meeting.

Connecticut Main Street workshop June 2nd, 10am-12pm Libby Borden reviewed the purpose of the workshop and encouraged everyone from the EDC to attend. Sue Frisch committed, as did Libby and Cheryl.

Henry requested EDC participation in grant-funded consultation
◦ Opportunity to show EDC engagement and learn best practices

Elevating the profile and deepening the work of the EDC As a first step, Sue Frisch contacted Tom McGowan and shared a link to his video in progress on Norfolk. Strategies for how to make the EDC more relevant and effective will be a continuing conversation over the next few months.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 and all members joined the presentation of Infinity Hall's future.

Respectfully submitted

Cheryl Heller