

NORFOLK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting-October 6, 2026

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John DeShazo, Amy Bennett, Walter Godlewski,
Mike Listorti, Donna Rubin, Jeremy Withnell

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Virginia Coleman-Prisco

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comments:

Ms. Skylar Sander and Mr. Kyle Carberry addressed the Board over concerns of the small First Grade class.

Motion by A. Bennett seconded by W. Godlewski to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 1, 2026 Abstaining, D. Rubin, J. Withnell **Motion APPROVED.**

Correspondence:

None

Introduction of New Staff:

Superintendent Case introduced Mrs. Megan Schneider - *Upper Intermediate Teacher*
Mrs. Schneider is a member of the Norfolk community. Her children attend(ed) Botelle and she was the co-director of the PTO Drama Club for 2 productions. Mrs. Schneider loves the supportive Botelle School Community and most recently was a substitute teacher at Botelle. Prior to that she was a Special Education teacher in Winchester. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Reading from the University of West Florida.

Motion by A. Bennett seconded by W. Godlewski to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 1, 2026 Abstaining, D. Rubin, J. Withnell **Motion APPROVED**

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

Motion by J. Withnell seconded by W. Godlewski to approve the September 2026 Monthly Expenditure Report. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Case shared with the Board that he received an electronic presentation on new state education laws compiled by Tom Mooney of Shipman & Goodwin. Superintendent Case will forward to Board Members.

Many of these new laws carry policy implications that will take effect next year or the year after, giving the board time to revise local policies.

Superintendent Case informed the Board that the state has launched an assessment institute to train select staff members as SCALE (Student-Centered Assessment for Learning and Engagement) coaches.

Nicole Partyka, Intermediate Teacher at Botelle was selected to serve on this statewide committee.

Core Objectives will be to reduce over-assessment; audit and decrease the volume of broad, time-consuming assessments (such as those taken on iPads) to maximize instructional time.

Shift the focus toward formative assessments (e.g., continuous observations, one-on-one work, and classroom "exit slips") to help teachers instantly gauge understanding, rather than relying heavily on summative assessments. The committee is currently at a baseline phase, building an inventory of the types of assessments each school district uses and determining which ones are most meaningful. There is no official "acceptable number" of assessments established yet.

Principal's Report:

2025-2026 Student Assessment & Achievement Presentation

Principal Valentino presented multi-year data on student performance and growth, highlighting a balanced assessment framework aimed at informing instruction and individualizing student learning through student-centered "power goals."

English Language Arts (ELA): Grades 3–6 demonstrated steady multi-year growth, moving from 41% meeting/exceeding standards in 2022–2023, to 45% in 2023–2024, and 52% in the most recent testing cycle. Four additional students scored within the standard margin of error for reaching the next performance band.

Mathematics: Performance trends remained strong and consistently positive, with 63% of students meeting or exceeding grade-level standards (up from 57% and 41% in prior years). Growth target achievement in math remains steady, supported by long-term implementation of the Illustrative Math curriculum.

Acadience & MAP Growth: K–4 foundational reading data showed high performance, with 90% of students meeting or exceeding benchmarks on Acadience Reading measures. MAP Growth results reflected strong year-over-year growth trajectories across K–6 in both reading and math.

Continued enhancement of Tier 1 instruction through strategic scheduling, personalized learning targets, and evidence-based structured literacy resources (UFLI for K–2 and word-origin/morphology instruction for 3–6).

Implementation of systematic data protocols and ongoing regional professional development collaboration to support targeted classroom interventions.

Chair Report:

Chair DeShazo discussed the proposal from EdAdvance to align curriculum in the four feeder Region 7 Districts. The specific proposal presented by EdAdvance on September 9th will not move forward because the four feeder towns could not reach a consensus. A meeting is scheduled for October 28th at 5:00 PM with board chairs and superintendents to discuss the next steps.

Standing Committee Reports:

Curriculum and Technology-

Amy Bennett reported the New Illustrative Math curriculum materials are ready-made, teachers no longer need to spend extensive preparation time creating, cutting, or laminating physical resources.

Erin Dubecky, Media Specialist secured a grant over the summer from a local family foundation. The funding provided various new items for student exploration and hands-on learning, including 3D printing machines and knitting machines, which will be integrated into upcoming units of study.

Policy- The policy committee met to review the draft *Botelle School Generative AI Responsible Use Policy & Guidelines*, after some discussion and changes to the policy the committee decided to send the revised draft policy to the Board for a first reading.

Superintendent Case asked for a motion to add the First Read of the *Botelle School Generative AI Responsible Use Policy & Guidelines* under New Business

Motion by M. Lisorti **seconded by** J. Withnell to add under New Business, First Read of the *Botelle School Generative AI Responsible Use Policy & Guidelines*. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Affiliations/Liaison Reports:

PTO – Upcoming Events – Botelle Spooktacular; looking at options for the school play; Botelle Merch for sale through November 18, 2026

Shared Services- Minutes attached

EdAdvance- Nothing to report

New Business: *Botelle School Generative AI Responsible Use Policy & Guidelines as a first read.*

Motion by A. Bennett **seconded by** M. Listorti to approve the *Botelle School Generative AI Responsible Use Policy & Guidelines as a first read.* **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Anticipated Executive Session- Negotiations

Motion by W. Godlewski **seconded by** J. Withnell to enter into executive session and invite Superintendent Case and Recording Secretary, Kathy Lippincott at 7:47p.m. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Motion by J. Withnell **seconded by** M. Listorti to exit executive session at 8:00p.m. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Motion by W. Godlewski **seconded by** M. Listorti to approve the Agreement Between the Norfolk Board of Education and the Norfolk Teachers' Association for July 1, 2027 to June 30,2030. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Motion by D. Rubin **seconded by** J. Withnell to adjourn the meeting@ 8:01 p.m. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Lippincott

Kathy Lippincott,
Recording Secretary

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

COMMITTEE FOR SHARED SERVICES

September 21, 2026

Held Remotely Via Google Meet

5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Barkhamsted Jaclyn Dombrowski
Colebrook Alison Jassen
Hartland Amy Levan
Regional #7 Theresa Kenneson, Chairperson
Shared Services Quentin H. Rueckert, Executive Director
Superintendents' Council Steven LePage, Sup't-Regional #7

ABSENT: Norfolk Jeremy Withnell

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Kenneson called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. The meeting was held via teleconference.

2. PUBLIC PORTION:

- a. Special visitors or delegations
None
- b. Opportunity for public to speak on agenda items
None

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF June 8, 2026, meeting:

MOTION by Alison Jassen, seconded by Amy Levan, to accept the minutes as presented.

In favor: Theresa Kenneson, Alison Jassen, Amy Levan, and Jaclyn Dombrowski

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

4. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Quentin Rueckert reported that there have been multiple positions vacated and that he has been busy with filling those positions over the summer and into the fall. Shared Services was able to hire two new Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) for Regional District #7, a new literacy specialist for Regional #7, several new paraprofessionals for multiple buildings, and most recently a new preschool teacher for the Shared Services Integrated Preschool Program (SSIPP).

Also, the move of the Highlander Transition Academy from Winsted to the EdAdvance building in Torrington has gone well and they are settling in nicely.

The next focus for the Executive Director and the team is to conduct teacher negotiations. They are set to begin on October 8th

5. **SUPERINTENDENTS' COUNCIL REPORT:**

Superintendent Steve LePage reported that the superintendents have recently had their back to school meeting. Jeff Sousa is leaving New Hartford and Judy Palmer will be taking over as Colebrook Superintendent.

Steve is looking forward to meeting with board chairs and superintendents to strategize how to best operationalize curriculum alignment across towns and vertically throughout the Regional #7 district. The latest idea is to contract with EdAdvance to provide consultation in this process which would be more cost effective than a shared curriculum coordinator position. These discussions are ongoing.

Steve reported that the superintendents have discussed recent legislative changes and that we have a new weather service.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Presentation of the check register to the CSS treasurer. The Treasurer reported she received the check register electronically.

9. **OTHER:**

None

10. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

None

MOTION at 5:36 p.m. by Jaclyn Dombrowski, seconded Alison Jassen to adjourn the meeting.

In favor: Theresa Kenneson, Alison Jassen, Amy Levan, and Jaclyn Dombrowski

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted,

Quentin H. Rueckert

Approved: _____