

NORFOLK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting –March 11, 2025

MINUTES



**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Virginia Coleman-Prisco, John DeShazo, Amy Bennett(zoom), Janet Byrne, Jay Whitaker

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Donna Rubin, Walter Godlewski

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** Mary Beth Iacobelli, Superintendent, Lauren Valentino, Principal

**ADMINISTRATION ABSENT:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 P.M.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Public in attendance:**

Avice Meehan

**Motion by J. DeShazo seconded by J. Whitaker to table approval of minutes until the April board meeting.**

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**Student Council Update:** Student Council Representative Elana Hunt shared a presentation with the board that highlighted what the student council has been up to and what their plans are for the rest of the school year.

**Superintendent's Report:** The superintendent shared her report with the board.

**Principal's Report:** Mrs. Valentino shared her report with the board.

**Committee Reports:** The following committee chairs reported to the board:

PTO

Finance – 2025-2026 budget: The board was presented with a new draft budget with a reduction from the last draft which shows a decrease in special education. The new budget is \$2,545,203 which is a -3.92% from last years budget. The board voted to adopted the new budget version.

**Motion by J. Byrne seconded by J. Whitaker to adopt the 2025-2026 school year budget UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**New Business:**

Superintendent Search: The board voted to form a search committee consisting of 3 board members; 3 staff members and 2 community members.

**Motion by J. Byrne seconded by J. DeShazo to for a search committee UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

The board discussed the new non-lapsing account regulation that will allow each board of ed to set aside up to 2% of unexpended funds each year to use for educational purposes at the board's discretion.

**Motion by J. DeShazo seconded by J. Whitaker set aside up to 2% of unexpended funds each year to use for educational purposes at the board's discretion.**

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Healthy Food Certification Vote to Participate:

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, 2025, through June 30, 2026. 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 J. Whitaker seconded by J. Byrne to participate in the healthy food option of HFC**  
**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Food and Beverage Exemption:

The Norfolk Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes 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 and beverage 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 and beverage sales.

**Motion by J. Whitaker seconded by J. Byrne to allow food and beverage exemptions**  
**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**Motion by J. Deshazo seconded by J. Byrne to adjourn the meeting @ 6:25**  
**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Meeting adjourned @ 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathy Lippincott*

Kathy Lippincott,  
Recording Secretary

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