NORTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 31, 2026

7:00 PM Business Meeting

Central Admin Building-Conference Room
100 Romano Vineyard Way, Suite 120, North Kingstown

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~Minutes~

Call to Order

6:00 PM-Executive Session - Convene Open Session and Recess to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 for discussion of

Administrative Contract Renewal Supporting Documents
I. Any discussions of job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that such person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1); Admin Contract Renewals: Review of Superintendent Goals
II. Sessions pertaining to potential litigation/legal advice and collective bargaining pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5-(a)(2); NEANK Negotiations; ESS 26-27 Addendum; ABM Custodial Services Proposed Contract

1. ABM Custodial Services Proposed Contract

III. Discussion regarding the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(3); Security System

I. Meeting Organization

A. Call to Order to Reconvene into Open Session

Chair Dr. Earle called the School Committee meeting of March 31, 2026 to order at 7:15 PM.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by School Committee Chair Dr. Erin Earle.

C. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Erin Earle	School Committee Member	Present	

Robert Case	School Committee Member	Present	
Jennifer Lima	School Committee Member	Present	
Megan Reilly	School Committee Member	Present	
Sheri Kennedy	School Committee Member	Present	
Joshua Furtado	Jamestown Representative	Absent	
Kenneth Duva	Superintendent	Present	
Robert Mezzanotte	Assistant Superintendent	Present	
Andrew Henneous	Attorney	Present	
Sadie McCann	Student Representative	Absent	

D. Calendars

April 1, 2026 - Building Advisory, Central Admin Conference Room, 4:30 pm

April 6, 2026 - Budget and Finance Advisory, Central Admin Conference Room 4:30 pm

April 14, 2026 - School Redistricting, Start Times, and Transportation Advisory, Central Admin Conference Room, 5:00 pm

April 7, 2026 School Committee Business Meeting, Central Admin Conference Room, 6:00 pm

April 8, 2026 - SC Office Hours, Central Admin Conference Room, 6:00 pm

E. Presentations/Recognitions

MLL update presentation by Asst. Superintendent Robert Mezzanotte.

1. MLL Update

ATTACHMENTS:

- MLL Presentation 3.31.26 (PDF)

II. Citizen's Comments - Pursuant to Policy BE, individual's comments are respectfully requested to be limited to 5 minutes

Pursuant to Policy BE, during citizen's comments it is expected that the committee and public observe the following etiquette: Comments from the public are to be civil, courteous and remain within the scope of School Committee. In consideration of all those in attendance, it is asked that comments are kept to a 5 minute limit. Lastly, members of the School Committee will recognize that the citizen's comment portion of the agenda is for the public to express their thoughts and concerns and we as committee members will refrain from interrupting speakers during their right to comment. Any person who wishes to make public comments and voice their concerns will be treated equally, with dignity and respect.

1. Pam Pinheiro - Concerns regarding information in agenda packet missing or late; she believes this discourages meaningful resident engagement.

2. Vanessa Mascaro - Wants to support SC resolution regarding sludge facility/asphalt plant. Explained she is relieved the School Committee is taking the matter seriously.

III. Superintendent's Report

1. District Highlights

Superintendent's Report 3.31.26

District Highlights

Unified Spirit Week:The North Kingstown School Department proudly celebrated its 2nd Annual Unified Spirit Week during the week of March 23, expanding this important initiative across all schools in the district. This year's celebration was especially meaningful as North Kingstown High School was recognized by Special Olympics International as a National Unified Champion School, honoring its commitment to inclusion, student leadership, and meaningful engagement for all learners.

Unified Spirit Week featured themed spirit days that promoted unity and school pride, along with student-led presentations by NKHS students at our elementary and middle schools focused on the importance of inclusion. Each school also embraced the week through its own unique activities that reflected their individual school communities.

The week culminated at NKHS with a highly spirited Unified Basketball game, bringing students together and reinforcing the message of inclusion and belonging.

Anti-Vaping Efforts:

North Kingstown's Youth Vaping Prevention Efforts

Recognizing the importance of prevention, the district is focusing on elementary and middle school students to build greater awareness about the dangers of vaping and tobacco use before habits can form. This is an initiative of our Health & Wellness Advisory Committee. Students have been actively engaged through hands-on and peer-driven activities. At the middle schools, the Anti-Vaping Poster Contest-open to all 6th through 8th graders at Wickford and Davisville-was introduced during lunch periods alongside an interactive "What is in a Vape?" display from the RI Regional Prevention Coalition. Featuring visual examples of harmful substances, including a shark preserved in formaldehyde, the exhibit sparked conversations about the health risks of vaping. Students have been able to work on their poster designs individually or in small groups after school with staff support. One winning poster from each school will be selected, with student artwork displayed throughout the district to amplify youth-led prevention messaging.

At the elementary level, all 4th and 5th grade students are participating in the Tar Wars presentations by Brown Health, to help younger kids understand the dangers of tobacco and vaping before they transition to middle school.

Together, these efforts share a common goal: to reduce future vaping and tobacco use by equipping students with knowledge and empowering them to communicate these risks to their peers. By combining early education with student voice, North Kingstown aims to foster a culture of informed, healthy decision-making.

District Elementary Schools

The elementary schools are hosting a screening of "Screenagers: The Elementary Edition."

NKSD would like to invite families to a screening of "Screenagers: The Elementary School Edition" on Thursday, April 2nd from 7-8:00pm at NK High School (auditorium).

This film addresses the challenges elementary school-aged children, parents, and educators face in today's digital world, including early exposure to online content, social media pressures, device distractions in the classroom, moderating video game use and behavior, and rising sleep deprivation among youth. Screenagers Elementary School Age Edition is specifically tailored for younger parents of elementary school-age kids, focusing on the unique challenges and developmental needs of younger children. This edition offers age-appropriate strategies for building healthy digital habits early.

Weekly Attendance Leaders

Each week RIDE highlight's leading schools for attendance. Rhode Island's attendance leaders for the week of March 16, 2026 includes Stony Lane Elementary, with a 97.13% weekly attendance rate. Top for elementary schools in RI last week

Athletics Update

- Over 400 rostered high school athletes
- Roughly 300 rostered middle school athletes (Total DMS/WMS)
- High school games, meets and matches beginning this week (3/30)
- Middle school games and meets begin next week (4/7)
- HS unified basketball day game was last Thursday (3/26) morning vs EWG, played during NKHS spirit week

Child Nutrition Services

The North Kingstown School Department continues to make significant strides in its commitment to environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility. This memorandum provides an update on recent achievements, ongoing data collection efforts, and program expansions.

Key Updates

Statewide Presentation: North Kingstown Schools was recently invited to present our district-wide recycling data at the Rhode Island Compost Conference held at RI College on March 11. This presentation highlighted our leadership in school-based waste diversion within the state.

Diversion Success: To date, our collective efforts have successfully diverted 85,000 lbs. of waste from the landfill. This milestone reflects the dedication of our staff and students to maintaining a sustainable campus environment.

Dumpster Utilization Survey: Our Building Sustainable Coordinators are currently engaged in a comprehensive two-week dumpster survey. This initiative is designed to analyze current waste volume and disposal patterns to identify potential cost savings and efficiency improvements ahead of the hauling contract expiration on June 30, 2026.

High School Program Launch: We are pleased to announce that the North Kingstown High School recycling program officially launched today. This expansion ensures that our largest student population is now actively participating in the district's green initiatives.

Procurement Update: The Compost Hauling contract is currently being prepared to go out for formal bid. This process will ensure the district continues to receive competitive pricing and high-quality service for our organic waste diversion.

Next Steps: Data from the ongoing dumpster survey will be compiled and analyzed to inform the specifications for the upcoming hauling RFP. We will continue to monitor the implementation at the High School to ensure the program's long-term success.

IV. Routine Items

(For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Executive Session

1. Seal Executive Minutes of March 31, 2026

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Robert Case, School Committee Member
SECONDER:	Jennifer Lima, School Committee Member
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

2. 8681: Disclosure of Executive Session Votes of March 31, 2026

Chairperson Erin Earle disclosed that no votes were taken during Executive Session March 31, 2026.

V. Consent Agenda

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Erin Earle, School Committee Member
SECONDER:	Sheri Kennedy, School Committee Member
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

A. Homeschooling Requests

1. Home School Request
2. **Minutes Approval**
1. Business Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

- 3-17-26 North Kingstown SC Business Meeting Minutes (PDF)

2. Executive Session Minutes March 17, 2026

End of Consent

VI. Reports

A. Financial Reports

1. Fund Balance 2025 -Audited

ATTACHMENTS:

- Fund Balance Overview FY 2025 Year End (PDF)

RESULT:	**REPORT-NO ACTION REQUIRED**

2. Fund Balance 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

- Fund Balance FY 2026 Year to Date (PDF)

RESULT:	**REPORT-NO ACTION REQUIRED**

3. Check Registers

ATTACHMENTS:

- Check Register_By Vendor -FY 26 Nov-Mar (PDF)

Lesli-Ann Powell, Director of Finance answered questions and provided clarification on certain check register payments (for sums higher than the threshold).

RESULT:	**REPORT-NO ACTION REQUIRED**

4. Bank Reconciliations

ATTACHMENTS:

- Bank Reconcilation December 2025 (PDF)
- Bank Reconcilation January 2026 (PDF)
- Bank Reconcilation February 2026 (PDF)

Lesli-Ann Powell, Director of Finance, provided clarification on the missing bank reconciliation cover page.

Action Item: Ms. Powell will verify information upon accountant's return and then amend to include cover page.

RESULT:	**DISCUSSED**

B. Advisory Subcommittee Reports

1. Policy Advisory

The Policy Advisory Committee last met on March 23rd.

Discussions continued on the proposed revisions to the district's appeal policy that had started in December as well as the proposed new policy on student surveys. They hope to finalize the work on those two policies at the next meeting which is scheduled for Monday, April 13th.

2. DEI Advisory

The DEI subcommittee met last on 3/18.

The Committee discussed the departure of Ally Nascenzi, the Equity, Belonging, and Community Engagement Coordinator and the good work she had done in her time with the district. They then reviewed the recommendations from February 2025 from the Temporary Advisory Committee on District Discipline along with a reminder of why that group had been formed. They finished their review of the district's student conduct policy, as well as the Assistant Superintendent's proposed revisions, with particular focus paid to the recommendations in the equity audit. The committee compiled a summary of their notes into a letter that was sent to the Assistant Superintendent.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th.

3. SELAC

The SELAC subcommittee last met on 3/26/26.

There was a presentation by a 10th grade student regarding unified spirit week. There was a presentation regarding the facilitated IEP/504 initiative, how to request a facilitated IEP/504 and the speaker left time for questions/comments. An update was provided from Director of Student Services.

Next meeting set for 4/30/26.

4. Health & Wellness

Health and Wellness Advisory Committee last met on 3/19.

The committee discussed the RIHSC Wellness Policy Assessments. Final review to be held at the next meeting. The anti-vaping poster contest was launched (WMS 3/11/26 and DMS 3/19/26). There was a display of "what is in a vape." Mrs. G-Smith, 7th grade science teacher at DMS, secured a shark in formaldehyde for display. A winner from each school will be selected and the plan is to have these posters put up in the schools. There was also a Tar Wars presentation from Victoria Lugo from Brown University Health which took place for all elementary school students grades 4 and 5. NK was the first RI district that had all of the elementary schools participate.

The committee discussed the upcoming screening of Screenagers at NKHS on 4/2.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5/13/26.

VII. Unfinished Business

(For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Perkins Eastman Cost Estimate Timeline

Motion to discuss item A. - Ms. Lima. Seconded- Mr. Case.

Mark McCarthy from Perkins Eastman shared cost history presentation and provided information on cost estimates of the new Wickford Middle School, focusing on the substantial cost increases from Spring 2025 to Fall 2025.

Ms. Lima requested clarification regarding the basis of the cost estimate. Mr. McCarthy explained that the initial figures were largely derived from data and comparable projects whereas the updated estimates reflect the availability of architectural drawings and more detailed plans.

Ms. Lima inquired whether such a substantial increase is typical when earlier, data-based estimates shift once more detailed plans and drawings are available. Mr. McCarthy notes that Perkins Eastman was surprised that the cost went up so substantially. Ms. Earle further questioned how such a significant cost differential could be accounted for in this project compared to a similar project. Mr. McCarthy was unable to speak to that in detail.

1. Perkins Eastman Cost Estimate Timeline

ATTACHMENTS:

- Cost History Presentation_26331 (PDF)

RESULT:	**DISCUSSED**

B. FY27 Budget

Ms. Lima made a Motion to Discuss - Seconded Mr. Case

1. Fund Balance Assignments

ATTACHMENTS:

- Finance Memo to SC (PDF)

Lesli-Ann Powell, Director of Finance was available to answer questions on the memo provided.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Jennifer Lima, School Committee Member
SECONDER:	Robert Case, School Committee Member
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

2. Child Nutrition Spend Down Plan

ATTACHMENTS:

- Updated Nutrition Spend Down FY 26 and FY27.xlsx - Google Sheets (PDF)

no attachment

RESULT:	**TABLED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

3. Child Nutrition and Food Services FY 27 Budget

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY 27 Food Service Budget Version 1.2 SC 3.31.26 (PDF)

RESULT:	**TABLED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

4. Town Council Preliminary Budget/Town Appropriation & Healthcare Cost Increase

ATTACHMENTS:

- Town Council Preliminary Budget Approved - 3.31.26 (PDF)

Dr. Duva discussed this item as a notification -at the 3/16 Town Council meeting the preliminary budget was approved for FY27.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

C. Review of 2021 School Committee Fund Balance Allocations & Future School Committee Allocations

1. Review of 2021 School Committee Fund Balance Allocations & Future School Committee Allocations

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY21 capital allocations (PDF)

Motion to Discuss - Ms. Lima

Seconded - Mr. Case

Lesli-Ann Powell, Director of Finance explained the 2021 SC Fund Balance Allocations document and its application in more recent years.. The document was provided to the School Committee to assess whether it is a document they want to continue to utilize, or whether a different document should be developed moving forward to guide surplus allocation decisions.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

D. Recommendations from Budget and Finance Advisory Committee

Motion to Discuss - Ms. Lima

Seconded - Mr. Case

Discussion ensued

Lesli-Ann Powell, Director of Finance was available to answer questions from the School Committee.

1. Recommendations from Budget and Finance Advisory Committee

ATTACHMENTS:

- Budget and Finance Committee Recommendations (PDF)

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Fund Balance Allocation: Increase Assigned Anticipated Turf Replacement to $150,000
3. Fund Balance Allocation: Add CTE Program Non-Technology - $100,000 to Start, $75,000 Each Year Going Forward
4. Fund Balance Allocation: Add Curriculum - $100,000 to Start, $100,000 Each Year Going Forward
5. Fund Balance Allocation: Increase Fleet Upgrade to $150,000
6. Fund Balance Allocation: Add Athletic Capital - $100,000 to Start, $25,000 Each Year Going Forward
7. Fund Balance Allocation: Increase Playground to $100,000, $35,000 Each Year Going Forward
8. Fund Balance Allocation: Library/Media Repairs & Upgrades - $25,000 Each Year Going Forward

E. Administrative Contract Renewals

A. Administrative Contract Renewals

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER:	Jennifer Lima, School Committee Member
SECONDER:	Robert Case, School Committee Member
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

F. Policies

Ms. Lima made a Motion to discuss. Seconded - Mr. Case

Ms. Lima described the changes made to the purchasing procedure.

3rd Read Revised Policy

1. DJC - Purchasing Procedures Competitive Bidding

ATTACHMENTS:

- DJC - Purchasing Procedure and Competitive Bidding -3.31.26 (PDF)

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Jennifer Lima, School Committee Member
SECONDER:	Robert Case, School Committee Member
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

3rd Read Recommended for Deletion

2. DJF - Purchasing Procedures

ATTACHMENTS:

- DJF - Purchasing Procedures - Final 7.11.23 Recommended for Deletion (PDF)

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Jennifer Lima, School Committee Member
SECONDER:	Robert Case, School Committee Member
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

VIII. New Business

(For Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Blizzard Expense Update

Motion to Discuss - Ms. Kennedy

Seconded - Mr. Case

Dr. Duva provided a memo regarding blizzard expenses, FEMA reimbursement (for a 48 hour window), and answered questions from the committee regarding same.

Bridget Hayes, Director of Operations and Lesli-Ann Powell, Director of Finance responded to questions from Dr. Earle regarding revenue loss for school lunches during the blizzard, the overall budget impact of the storm and related adjustments, and threshold levels at which a memo from the Finance Department would be presented to the School Committee.

1. Blizzard Expense Update

ATTACHMENTS:

- Blizzard Expense Update (PDF)

RESULT:	**DISCUSSED**

B. ESS 26-27 Addendum

1. ESS 26-27 Addendum

ATTACHMENTS:

- ESS Memo (PDF)
- NKSD Substitute Cost Projection 1.29.2026 (PDF)
- Original ESS Contract(PDF)
- Revised Addendum to Extend 26-27 (PDF)
- Mid Year Review 3 year comparison (PDF)
- Five year report (PDF)

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Robert Case, School Committee Member
SECONDER:	Jennifer Lima, School Committee Member
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

C. Summer School Programming 2026

1. Summer School Programming 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

- SC Memo Summer School 2026 (PDF)

Motion to Discuss - Ms. Lima

Seconded - Mr. Case

Assistant Superintendent Robert Mezzanotte reviewed the attached memo, emphasizing efforts to meet family needs and the anticipated option for older students to participate virtually. He responded to questions from Ms. Lima regarding transportation for the summer program, including how it will be handled and potential barriers faced by working parents. Dr. Earle requested additional detail and clarification regarding the 2026 summer program, as well as data from the previous year.

RESULT:	**DISCUSSED**

D. DEI Advisory Committee Recommendation

1. DEI Advisory Committee Recommendation

ATTACHMENTS:

- DEI Advisory Committee Memo 3-31.26 (1)(PDF)

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Jennifer Lima, School Committee Member
SECONDER:	Robert Case, School Committee Member
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

E. Quonset Soil Solutions (aka: Global Soil Solutions; QSS Biosolids, LLC) - resolution / letter

Motion made by Ms. Reilly to move up New Business Item E. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy. Motion passed.

New Business Item E. taken out of order after Unfinished Business Item A.

Motion to discuss- Ms. Lima. Seconded - Mr. Case

Discussion ensued. Action item to correct a portion of resolution regarding the decline to execute lease. Adding edit about students regularly utilizing fields within the Quonset Business Park for school sponsored athletics.

1. Quonset Soil Solutions (aka: Global Soil Solutions; QSS Biosolids, LLC) - resolution/ letter

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed NKSC Resolution Biosolids- QDC 03.31.2026 (PDF)

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Robert Case, School Committee Member
SECONDER:	Megan Reilly, School Committee Member
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy

F. ABM Custodial Services Proposed Contract

Motion for Attorney to draft a letter on behalf of the School Committee - Ms. Lima

Seconded - Mr. Case

Approved Attorney to draft letter.

5-0

IX. Correspondence

Mrs. Lima read the list of correspondences.

X. Adjourn

Recess to Executive Session 10:06 PM

Motion by Ms. Lima

Seconded by Mr. Case

Return to Open Session 10:25 pm

Motion by Mr. Case

Seconded by Ms. Lima

Please note: ***Executive sessions are closed to the public.*** Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must contact the School Department at 268-6442, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting date. Copies of all backup materials for this agenda are available at the School Department Central Office. Any changes to this agenda will be posted on the School Department's Website at www.nksd.net <http://www.nksd.net>, at the Town Hall and NK Free Library, and electronically filed with the Secretary of State at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. For further information, please call 268-6442.

All employment opportunities are listed on the North Kingstown School Department website at www.nksd.net <http://www.nksd.net>.

1. Motion To: Adjourn Notes

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Oscarson

School Committee Clerk

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Robert Case, School Committee Member
SECONDER:	Jennifer Lima, School Committee Member
AYES:	Earle, Case, Lima, Reilly, Kennedy