NORTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 6, 2026

7:00 PM North Kingstown School Committee

Central Admin Building - Superintendent's Office
100 Romano Vineyard Way, Suite 120, North Kingstown

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~Minutes~

I. Meeting Organization

A. Call to Order into Open Session

Chair Earle called the School Committee Meeting of October 6, 2026 to order at 7:00 PM

C. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Status
Erin W. Earle	Present
Robert Case	Present
Jennifer Lima	Present
Megan Reilly	Present
Cole Kizzee, Student Representative	Present (Non Voting)
Aarav Puranik, Student Representative	Present (Non Voting)
Kenneth Duva, Superintendent	Present (Non Voting)
Robert Mezzanotte, Asst. Superintendent	Present (Non Voting)
Andrew Henneous, Attorney	Present (Non Voting)
Sheri Kennedy	Absent
Joshua Furtado	Absent
Ryan Kim, Student Representative	Absent (Non Voting)

Ms. Kennedy was not present at the time of roll call, but arrived soon thereafter.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Earle led the Committee and Attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

D. Calendars

The upcoming meeting calendar was read by School Committee Clerk Jennifer Turner:
1. October 7th, 4:30 PM - Health & Wellness Advisory Committee Meeting; Central Admin Conference Room, Suite 120, 100 Romano Vineyard Way, North Kingstown
2. October 13th, 5:00 PM - School Redistricting, Start Times and Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting; Central Admin Conference Room, Suite 120, 100 Romano Vineyard Way, North Kingstown (**Meeting moved to October 27th 5PM)**
3. October 20th, 7:00 PM - North Kingstown School Committee Meeting; Central Admin Conference Room, Suite 120, 100 Romano Vineyard Way, North Kingstown
4. October 22nd, 6:00 PM - Public Forum on School Construction Projects, North Kingstown High School Auditorium, 150 Fairway Drive, North Kingstown.
Ms. Lima pointed out that two meetings were omitted from the Agenda:
1. SELAC (Special Education Local Advisory Committee) - October 13th, 6:45 PM, Central Admin Conference Room, Suite 120, 100 Romano Vineyard Way, North Kingstown
2. Building Advisory Committee - October 14th, 5:30 PM, Central Admin Conference Room, Suite 120, 100 Romano Vineyard Way, North Kingstown

II. Presentations/Recognitions

Four North Kingstown High School Leadership Academy students, Emma, Kyla, Lizzy, and Joel, shared their experiences participating in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) summer camp. The students described the selection process and leadership-building activities designed to promote teamwork, resilience, self-awareness, and communication. They emphasized that the program encouraged participants to step outside their comfort zones and develop leadership skills through collaboration rather than competition, and noted that they brought several activities back to NKHS for use during freshman orientation. All four students have applied to return to the program next year as family leaders.

II.A. Leadership Academy Student Presentation

III. 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 addressed the Committee regarding errors she identified in previously posted School Committee minutes, including incorrect mover/seconder information, duplicated discussion summaries, and incorrect meeting dates. She requested that corrections be clearly identified and that the Committee ensure corrected versions are fully reviewed prior to approval.
2. Will Valverde spoke in recognition of Banned Books Week and expressed support for freedom of speech and students' access to diverse literature. He referenced previous book challenges in North Kingstown and encouraged the Committee to continue protecting students' freedom to read.
3. Lori Duffy also spoke regarding Banned Books Week and expressed support for access to diverse books and perspectives in school libraries. She emphasized the distinction between a parent determining appropriate materials for their own child and restricting materials available to other students, and encouraged the Committee to consider the educational value of difficult or challenging subject matter.

IV. Superintendent's Report

IV.A. Superintendent's Report 10.6.26

Dr. Duva provided updates on the School Redistricting, Start Times and Transportation Advisory Committee and the Rural Health Transformation Program grant. The advisory committee reviewed current enrollment, school boundaries, capacity, and projections through 2034, with a draft redistricting scenario and opportunities for public input planned before a final recommendation is presented in March 2027 for potential implementation in the 2027–2028 school year; any school start time changes would likely be phased due to transportation considerations, and the next advisory meeting was rescheduled to October 27. Dr. Duva also reported that North Kingstown High School was awarded $31,280 through September 2027 to support planning for a potential healthcare Career and Technical Education pathway, including consultant support and program development, with the possibility of additional grant funding in future phases.

V. Routine Items

The Committee exempted Item VI.B New Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Committee Members and Item VII.A-C Minutes Approval (Minutes for 8.18.2026, 9.8.2026 and 9.22.2026) from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

VI. Consent Agenda (For Discussion and Possible Action)

MOTION TO APPROVE: To approve the Consent Agenda (VI.A, C, D & E; And VIII.A) excluding Item VI.B and VII.A-C
MOVED: Mr. Case
SECOND: Ms. Lima
RESULT: APPROVED (UNANIMOUSLY 5-0)

VI.A. New Health & Wellness Advisory Committee Members

VI.B. New Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Committee Members

Ms. Reilly requested that the item be removed because she could not open the supporting attachment. The contents of the memorandum were reviewed aloud, including proposed changes to the membership of the DEI Advisory Committee.

MOTION TO APPROVE: To approve Item 6B regarding DEI Advisory Committee membership changes.
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Mr. Case
RESULT: APPROVED (UNANIMOUSLY 5-0)

VI.C. New School Building Advisory Committee Members

VI.D. New School Redistricting, Start Times, and Transportation Advisory Committee Members

VI.E. New Budget & Finance Advisory Committee Members

VII. Minutes Approval

MOTION TO DISCUSS: Minutes approval for 8.18.26, 9.8.26 and 9.22.2026
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Mr. Case

VII.A. Approval of Minutes from North Kingstown School Committee Meeting 8.18.2026

MOTION TO EXTEND: To RE-extend the date for approval of the August 18, 2026 minutes to October 22, 2026 to allow additional time for review and correction.
MOVED: Ms. Lima

SECOND: Ms. Reilly
RESULT: RE-EXTENDED TO 10/22/26 (APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0)

VII.B. Approval of Minutes from North Kingstown School Committee Meeting 9.8.2026

MOTION TO EXTEND: To RE-extend the date for approval of the September 8, 2026 minutes to October 22, 2026 to allow additional time for review and correction.
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Ms. Reilly
RESULT: RE-EXTENDED TO 10/22/26 (APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0)

VII.C. Approval of Minutes from North Kingstown School Committee Meeting 9.22.2026

MOTION TO EXTEND: To extend the date for approval of the September 22, 2026 minutes to October 22, 2026 to allow additional time for review and correction.
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Ms. Reilly
RESULT: EXTENDED TO 10/22/26 (APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0)

VIII. Approval of Bids and Awards

VIII.A. Bid Award to Vendor for Rural Health Care Request for Proposal (RFP)

End of Consent

IX. Reports

IX.A. 2026/27 Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Foster-Care plan for Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)

Dr. Duva reported out on the district's annual foster care plan required by RIDE. The Committee discussed a separate statutory foster care academic report and whether the School Committee had previously received that information. Administration clarified later in the meeting that the academic information referenced is generated through RIDE using student information system data rather than being independently prepared by the district. Administration agreed to provide the applicable information to the Committee.
ACTION: Report received; no formal vote required

IX.B. Energy Audit Report Recommendation per Policy ECF North Kingstown Energy Management Conservation/Sustainability and Facility Maintenance Plan

Dr. Duva reported out on the district's energy audit report and recommendations associated with the district's energy management, conservation, sustainability, and facility maintenance planning requirements. It was clarified that the applicable policy requires presentation to the Committee but not formal approval.
ACTION: Report received; no formal vote required.

X. B. Advisory Subcommittee Reports

X.A. Advisory Report - Building Advisory Committee

Dr. Duva reported out to the Committee with an update on district construction projects. The high school roof project was reported to be substantially complete and under budget, with final closeout anticipated following remaining work. Elementary school stabilization design documents were progressing through the 60% construction document phase and review process. Design and construction planning for the middle school projects also continued, including procurement, cost reconciliation, early work planning, and review of

project alternates. The next Building Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled for October 14. Dr. Duva confirmed that the October 14th date was no longer tentative.

X.B. Advisory Report - School Redistricting, Start Times and Transportation Advisory Committee

Dr. Duva reported out that the Advisory Committee met on September 28 and reviewed school boundary information, enrollment projections through 2034, school capacities, and the development of a potential redistricting scenario. Draft surveys regarding school start times were also reviewed for future distribution to families, staff, and students. The next meeting was rescheduled to October 27 from October 13.

X.C. Advisory Report - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Ms. Lima reported out that The DEI Advisory Committee received updates regarding equity and belonging initiatives, restorative practices, staff training, discipline data, and recommendations from the NKHS Student Union. Areas identified for continued review included discipline practices and disproportionality, accessibility improvements, increasing diversity among district staff, and reviewing the availability and consistency of student supports across schools. The next meeting will be on October 21, 2026.

Dr. Duva requested to go back to the report in Item IX.A to clarify that the remediation report that was submitted for this item is what the District writes and submits annually to the RIDE (Rhode Island Department of Education) portal. Ms. Lima's question under Title 16-22-9.1 reporting is not provided by the District. The daily report for attendance/suspensions etc. is automatically pulled from the District's Student Information system and synced to the RIDE portal.

XI. Unfinished Business

XI.A. Credit Card Processing Fees Update and Contract Amendment - Food and Nutrition (Schoolcafe.com)

MOTION TO DISCUSS:
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Ms. Kennedy
RESULT: DISCUSSED

Dr. Duva and Director of Operations Bridget Hayes reviewed options for addressing credit card processing fees. The Committee reaffirmed its preference that families not be charged processing fees for the current school year and directed administration to negotiate with the vendor for an arrangement under which the district would absorb the cost. Administration was asked to return to the Committee if the final cost exceeds the projected amount or requires a multi-year commitment.

XI.B. Request for reallocation of Gate Receipt funds to purchase sideline stadium chairs for Athletics Department

MOTION TO APPROVE:
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Ms. Kennedy
RESULT: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

Dr. Duva requested authorization to reallocate previously approved athletic gate receipt funds to purchase sideline chairs. Funds had originally been designated for other athletic needs, including storage units, but transportation and related costs made the storage purchase less feasible.

XI.C. Second Read with Revisions - Policy JICD Student Conduct

MOTION TO APPROVE:
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Ms. Kennedy
RESULT: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

The Committee conducted the second reading of revisions to Policy JI, Student Conduct, which had not been substantially updated since 2012. The revisions were developed in response to recommendations from the district's Equity Audit and incorporated input from the DEI Advisory Committee, Policy Advisory Committee, administration, and Assistant Superintendent Mezzanotte, with the goal of creating a clearer, more consistent, equitable, and restorative approach to discipline. Discussion included how the district reviews discipline data for disproportionality and the importance of considering demographic, special education, socioeconomic, attendance, and other contextual factors. The Committee also noted that implementation will require consistent communication throughout the district and corresponding updates to school handbooks and practices. Ms. Lima recommended approval.

XII. New Business (For Discussion and Possible Action)

XII.A. Elementary Schools 60% Construction Documents Approval for submission to Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)

MOTION TO APPROVE:
MOVER: Mr. Case
SECOND: Ms. Kennedy
RESULT: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

MOTION TO RECESS: A motion was made to recess for 5 minutes to allow presenters to set up.
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Mr. Case
RESULT: RECESSED (UNANIMOUS 5-0)

Meeting Recessed (5 minutes)

Meeting reconvened

Representatives from DBVW and Peregrine presented the 60% construction documents for the elementary school stabilization projects. The scope includes media center improvements, secure vestibules, roof work, selected gym dividers, accessibility improvements, and code-related improvements at district elementary schools, with construction planned across the summers of 2027 and 2028. The estimated base bid was reported at approximately $23.99 million, with discussion of project alternates, updated electrical work, skylights, and cost-estimating methodology.

XII.B. Davisville Middle School (DMS) 60% Construction Documents Approval for submission to Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)

MOTION TO APPROVE:
MOVER: Mr. Case
SECOND: Ms. Reilly
RESULT: MOTION WITHDRAWN, INFORMATIONAL ONLY

The Committee received an update on the Davisville Middle School project, including changes to the public address system alternate, restroom layouts, science laboratories, acid-neutralization systems, and updated project estimates. Discussion focused extensively on project alternates, equity between Davisville and the new Wickford Middle School, the timing of future approvals, and identifying funding sources if additional alternates are moved into the base bid. Administration clarified that the item was an informational project update and that the 60% construction documents were **not** being presented for approval that evening. The matter will return through the Building Advisory Committee before coming back to the School Committee.

XII.C. Feasibility of Current Bus Fleet and alternative options to provide late buses for after-school activities at the two middle schools and the high school.

MOTION TO DISCUSS:
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Mr. Case
RESULT: DISCUSSED

Administration (Dr. Duva and Bridget Hayes, Director of Operations) presented an analysis of existing late-bus service at the middle and high schools, including ridership, fleet availability, staffing and supervision, timing constraints, third-tier transportation impacts, supplemental transportation options, and estimated costs. The Committee discussed its goal of reducing transportation barriers to academic support, clubs, athletics, and other after-school opportunities while recognizing the operational and financial challenges. Administration indicated that current service generally addresses academic support and club participation, while sports practices and varying activity schedules remain more difficult to accommodate. The Committee discussed gathering additional data from families regarding transportation barriers and asked administration to continue exploring options and identify any additional resources that may be needed.

MOTION TO EXTEND: Extend meeting to 10:30pm to finish agenda
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Mr. Case
RESULT: EXTENDED (4-Ayes:Case, Earle, Lima, Kennedy 1-Nay Ms. Reilly)

XII.D. Title IX Training Process Review per Policy ACB Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

MOTION TO DISCUSS:
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Mr. Case
RESULT: DISCUSSED

Administration (Dr. Duva) provided an overview of the district's Title IX training process and documentation for employees, coaches, and students. Discussion included how annual training is tracked, training requirements for coaches and student athletes, how districtwide student training is conducted, and whether individual attendance at student training sessions is documented. The Committee also discussed potentially exploring supplemental training regarding consent and bystander intervention through Day One or a similar organization, while administration clarified that such programming would be additional to the district's existing Title IX requirements and current training efforts.

XII.E. Homeschool / Charter/ Out of District (OOD) / Career Tech Education (CTE) School Enrollment

MOTION TO DISCUSS:
MOVED: Ms. Lima
SECOND: Mr. Case
RESULT: DISCUSSED

The Committee reviewed enrollment data for North Kingstown students attending homeschool, charter, out-of-district, and Career and Technical Education programs. Discussion focused on enrollment trends by grade and cohort, reasons students may pursue other educational options, CTE programs unavailable within the district, and whether the district should further promote its schools and programs. Administration noted that families electing homeschooling are not required to provide reasons for their decision and that the district can only track information voluntarily provided. The Committee agreed that continued monitoring of the data would be useful to identify trends or anomalies.

XIII. Correspondence

XIII.A. This agenda item consists of a reading of the author's name and subject line of any correspondence sent to the Official North Kingstown School Committee email address since the last held School Committee meeting. No discussion will be entertained and no action will be taken.

Ms. Lima read the Correspondence consisting of emails sent to the School Committee inbox. Listing consisted of names and subject lines.

XIV. Adjourn

Per North Kingstown School Department policy BE, all meetings of the School Committee shall be adjourned no later than 10:00 p.m. if said meeting(s) are to be succeeded by an Executive Session or 10:30 p.m. if no Executive Session meeting is to be convened.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:
MOVED: Mr. Case
SECOND: Ms. Lima
RESULT: ADJOURNED 10:15 PM (UNANIMOUS 5-0)

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Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Turner
School Committee Clerk