



**Tuesday, March 24, 2026
AGENDA - Regular Meeting**

6:00pm - Executive Session

7:00pm - Regular Meeting

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Mrs. Heather Garcia - President

Mr. Michael Sprague - Vice President

Mrs. Rita Bodine - Trustee

Mrs. Juliana Lee - Trustee

Ms. Stephanie Machin - Trustee

Mr. Omar Pedraza - Trustee

Mrs. Kelly Wilson - Trustee

Dr. Timothy Gouraige, Superintendent

Mr. Michael Jordan, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

A. OPEN Public Meeting

Subject	1. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT:
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	A. OPEN Public Meeting
Type	Procedural

B. Adjournment to Executive Session

C. Adjournment from Executive Session

Subject	1. Adjournment from Executive Session
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	C. Adjournment from Executive Session
Type	Action (Consent)

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Time:

D. Public Session Meeting

Subject	1. CALL TO ORDER
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	D. Public Session Meeting

Type Procedural

Subject 2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT:

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category D. Public Session Meeting

Type Procedural

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of New Jersey 1975, notice of this meeting, its date, time and place have been posted on the Board's official bulletin board, and it has been delivered to The Record & Suburbanite newspapers circulated in the District at least 48 hours prior to the time for this meeting.

Subject 3. PUBLIC MEETING ROLL CALL; TIME: _____

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category D. Public Session Meeting

Type Procedural

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT	ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE TIME
Mrs. Rita Bodine, Trustee			
Mrs. Juliana Lee, Trustee			
Ms. Stephanie Machin, Trustee			
Mr. Omar Pedraza, Trustee			
Mrs. Kelly Wilson, Trustee			
Mr. Michael Sprague, Vice President			
Mrs. Heather Garcia, President			

Faculty & Community Members: In-person _____

Others Present: _____

Subject **4. FLAG SALUTE:**
Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category D. Public Session Meeting
Type Procedural

Subject **5. DISCUSSION OF CORRESPONDENCE:**
Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category D. Public Session Meeting
Type Discussion

Subject **6. INFORMATIONAL ATTACHMENTS**
Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category D. Public Session Meeting
Type Information

Subject **7. PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT:**
Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category D. Public Session Meeting
Type Discussion

Subject **8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Gouraige**
Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category D. Public Session Meeting
Type Information

Subject **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category D. Public Session Meeting
Type Action (Consent)

- 1) **Curriculum:** Kelly Wilson (chair), Heather Garcia, Omar Pedraza
- 2) **Personnel and Negotiations:** Michael Sprague (chair), Rita Bodine, Kelly Wilson
- 3) **Buildings and Grounds:** Michael Sprague (chair), Heather Garcia, Stephanie Machin
- 4) **Finance:** Heather Garcia (chair), Michael Sprague, Omar Pedraza
- 5) **Policy:** Rita Bodine (chair), Juliana Lee, Stephanie Machin
- 6) **Special Education:** Omar Pedraza (chair), Juliana Lee, Rita Bodine

E. Open Public Participation - On Agenda Items

Subject	1. Open Public Participation - On Agenda Items
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	E. Open Public Participation - On Agenda Items
Type	Action, Procedural

Moved by:
Seconded by:
Time:

Public Participation Statement

- Each member of the public wishing to comment must state their Name and Address for the record
 - Each public comment is limited to five (5) minutes
 - Only members of the public physically present at the meeting will be heard.
-

F. Close Public Participation - On Agenda Items

Subject	1. Close Public Participation - On Agenda Items
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	F. Close Public Participation - On Agenda Items
Type	Action, Procedural

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Time:

G. Approval of Minutes

Subject	1. Approval of Minutes
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	G. Approval of Minutes
Type	Action
Recommended Action	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Norwood Board of Education approves the minutes of the following meetings:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Norwood Board of Education approves the minutes of the following meetings:

- **March 3, 2026 - Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **March 3, 2026 - Executive Meeting Minutes**

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Vote: Roll Call

BOARD MEMBER	AYE	NAY	ABSTAINED	ABSENT
Mrs. Rita Bodine, Trustee				
Mrs. Juliana Lee, Trustee				
Ms. Stephanie Machin, Trustee				
Mr. Omar Pedraza, Trustee				
Mrs. Kelly Wilson, Trustee				
Mr. Michael Sprague, Vice President				
Mrs. Heather Garcia, President				

File Attachments

[March 3 Regular Meeting Minutes.pdf \(544 KB\)](#)

H. Administrative

Subject	1. Fire Drill
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	H. Administrative
Type	Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the fire drill for March:

- Fire Drill: March 10, 2026

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category I. Personnel
Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Mark Meyers, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, for the purpose of retirement with a final date of employment of June 30, 2026. The Norwood Board of Education expresses its sincere appreciation for his years of dedication and service to Norwood Public School.

Subject 2. Maternity Leave

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category I. Personnel
Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the maternity Leave of Absence for employee #0211 using an anticipated total of 20 sick days from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026, followed by 12 weeks unpaid FMLA days from October 1, 2026 through December 23, 2026 and an extended unpaid leave from December 24, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Subject 3. Maternity Leave Extension

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category I. Personnel
Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the extended unpaid maternity Leave of Absence for employee #0385 for the period of November 13, 2026 through January 3, 2027.

Subject 4. Medical Leave of Absence : Extension

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category I. Personnel
Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the medical leave of absence extension for employee #0065 beginning March 17, 2026 and ending on or about June 9, 2026.

Subject 5. Appointment - Substitute

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category I. Personnel

Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Amanda Leichter as a substitute teacher for the period of March 25, 2026 through April 22, 2026.

Subject 6. Resignation - Paraprofessional

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category I. Personnel

Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Maria Baricella, paraprofessional, with a final date of employment of March 31, 2026.

Subject 7. Home Instruction - SID#5240692931

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category I. Personnel

Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Marijean O'Donnell for home instruction for State ID#5240692931 effective March 23, 2026 through June 25, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$55.00 per hour, not to exceed ten (10) hours per week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Emily Francavilla for home instruction of Multi Sensory Reading Instruction for State ID#5240692931 effective March 23, 2026 through June 25, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$55.00 per hour, not to exceed ninety (90) minutes per week.

Subject 8. PERSONNEL VOTE:

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category I. Personnel

Type Action

Recommended Action BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Personnel Committee recommends the approval of the following resolution(s):

Motion to approve Personnel Items: #1-7

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Vote: Roll Call

BOARD MEMBER	AYE	NAY	ABSTAINED	ABSENT
Mrs. Rita Bodine, Trustee				
Mrs. Juliana Lee, Trustee				
Ms. Stephanie Machin, Trustee				
Mr. Omar Pedraza, Trustee				
Mrs. Kelly Wilson, Trustee				
Mr. Michael Sprague, Vice President				
Mrs. Heather Garcia, President				

J. Curriculum

Subject	1. Field Trip
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	J. Curriculum
Type	Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the amended field trip for the 2025 - 2026 school year

Staff in Charge	Location	Grade	Month
Kerri Marano	Turtle Back Zoo	1	June

Subject	2. Field Trip Chaperones
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	J. Curriculum
Type	Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the attached chaperone list for the 2025 - 2026 field trips.

Subject **3. Workshop/Conference**

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category J. Curriculum

Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following workshop/conferences:

Name: Hae Jin (Danny) Mun
Workshop: NJ TESOL Spring Conference
Location: Hyatt Regency New Brunswick
Date/Time: May 19 & 21, 2026
Cost: \$515.00 plus travel

Subject **4. Course Approval**

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category J. Curriculum

Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following course(s):

Name: Karen Feder
Course: Technologies for Teaching and Learning in School Library
Credits: 3
Dates: Spring 2026
Institution: William Paterson University

Name: Elizabeth Belfiore
Course: Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing Disorders in the School Setting

Credits: 3
 Dates: Spring 2026
 Institution: Colorado State University at Pueblo

Subject **5. CURRICULUM VOTE:**

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category J. Curriculum

Type Action

Motion to approve Curriculum Items #1 - 4

Moved by:
Seconded by:
Vote: Roll Call

BOARD MEMBER	AYE	NAY	ABSTAINED	ABSENT
Mrs. Rita Bodine, Trustee				
Mrs. Juliana Lee, Trustee				
Ms. Stephanie Machin, Trustee				
Mr. Omar Pedraza, Trustee				
Mrs. Kelly Wilson, Trustee				
Mr. Michael Sprague, Vice President				
Mrs. Heather Garcia, President				

K. Finance

Subject **1. Monthly Disbursements**

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category K. Finance

Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator and Superintendent, the Norwood Board of Education approves/post-approves the following 2025-2026 disbursements:

- 1) Post-approve **February 2026 Hand Checks**, in the amount of **\$240,616.27**.

2) Post-approve **February 2026 Payroll related Wire Transfers**, in the amount of **\$686,094.49** from the General Bank Account to the Payroll Bank Accounts.

3) Approve **March 24, 2026 Monthly Disbursements**, in the amount of **\$442,018.89**.

File Attachments

[March Check Run.pdf \(323 KB\)](#)

Subject	2. Financial Reports
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	K. Finance
Type	Action

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator and Superintendent, that the Norwood Board of Education accepts the Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports for the months of **January 31, 2026**;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(e)*, we certify that as of **January 31, 2026**, after a review of the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section), and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(b)*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

File Attachments

[January 2026 Treasurers Report.pdf \(82 KB\)](#)

[January 2026 Secretary Report.pdf \(995 KB\)](#)

Subject	3. Budget Transfers
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	K. Finance
Type	Action

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator and Superintendent, the Norwood Board of Education approves the attached **January** budget appropriation transfer of funds for the 2025-2026 school year.

File Attachments

[Transfer_Report_January_2026_revised.pdf \(213 KB\)](#)

Subject	4. School Bond Sale Series 2026 Norwood Board of Education
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	K. Finance
Type	Action (Consent)

RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE FORM AND OTHER DETAILS OF \$6,107,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2026 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF NORWOOD IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THEIR SALE AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

File Attachments

[RESO - Form and Sale - School Bonds - Norwood BOE 3.24.2026\(95928609.1\).pdf \(309 KB\)](#)
[Bond Financing TimeTable.pdf \(101 KB\)](#)

Subject	5. Annual Maximum Travel Expenditure
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	K. Finance
Type	Action

WHEREAS, the Norwood Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Norwood Board of Education established \$6,800 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$5,446.63 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$6,800 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Subject	6. Agreement
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	K. Finance

Type Action

WHEREAS, the Board is the respondent in a special education due process action pending in the Office of Administrative Law, regarding Student Identification #1695361009 and bearing OAL Docket Number EDS 19956-25; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the Director of Special Services have recommended settlement of this litigation pursuant to the terms set forth in an Agreement and Release, a copy of which is on file in the Office of Special Services; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that entering into a settlement pursuant to the terms set forth in the Agreement is in the best interests of the District and the student at issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Norwood Board of Education that it hereby approves the Agreement and Release in this matter.

Subject	7. Agreement
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	K. Finance
Type	Action

WHEREAS, the Board is respondent in a special education due process action pending in the Office of Administrative Law, regarding student, State Identification #5268840414 and bearing Agency Reference No. 2026-39541 and Docket No. EDS 13729-25; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a prior agreement and recent evaluation of student State Identification #9832863914., the Board was facing a potential dispute regarding student State Identification #9832863914; and

WHEREAS, the Board Attorney and the Supervisor of Special Services have recommended a global settlement of both disputes pursuant to the terms set forth in an Agreement and Release, a copy of which is on file in the Office of Special Services; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that entering into a settlement pursuant to the terms set forth in the Agreement is in the best interests of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Norwood Board of Education that it hereby approves the Agreement and Release in these matters.

Subject	8. Permission to Discard and Donate
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Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
 Category K. Finance
 Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator, the Norwood Board of Education approves the Library disposal of approximately 600 books that are outdated, obsolete and have not been circulated in many years. Norwood's ELA teachers are not interested for use in the classroom. These books will be donated to BookSmiles, a current book drive through our ELA department.

Subject 9. Use of Facility Requests

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
 Category K. Finance
 Type Action

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator and Superintendent, the Norwood Board of Education Approves/Post Approves applications for the USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES made by the following groups/organizations listed below, subject to the health and safety guidelines and terms set forth by the School Board Policy P7510 and Regulation R7510:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board reserves the right to schedule school activities at any time.

	GROUP/ORGANIZATION	USE/PURPOSE/ROOM	DATES/TIMES	FEE
1	8th Grade Committee	Cafe; meeting	March 11, 2026; 6:30pm - 7:30pm	none
2	PTO Enrichment	Room 24; Chess	Tuesdays- 3/24-5/19/26; 3:15pm - 4:15pm	none
3	PTO Enrichment	Room 19; Choir	Tuesdays- 3/24-6/23/26; 3:15pm - 4:30pm	none
4	PTO Enrichment	Room 21; Samunori	Tuesdays- 3/24-5/19/26; 3:15pm - 4:15pm	none
5	PTO Enrichment	Room 23; Art	Tuesdays- 3/24-5/19/26; 3:15pm - 4:15pm	none
6	PTO Enrichment	Room 24; Math	Thursdays- 3/26-5/21/26; 3:45pm - 4:30pm	none
7	PTO Enrichment	Soccer	Thursdays- 3/26-5/21/26; 3:15pm - 4:15pm	none
8	Norwood PTO	APR; Spring Fling	May 1, 2026; 2:30pm - 10:00pm	none
9	Pre-K Families	Family Picnic	May 18, 2026; 1:00pm - 3:00pm	none
10	Norwood PTO	APR; Author Visit	May 28, 2026 8:30am - 3:00pm	none
11	Norwood Recreation	Gym/Classrooms; Summer Camp	July 2026; 9:00am - 1:00pm	none

Subject **10. FINANCE VOTE:**

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category K. Finance

Type Action

Recommended BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the
Action Finance Committee recommends the approval of the following resolution(s)

Motion to approve Finance Item : 1 - 9

Moved by:
Seconded by:
Vote: Roll Call

BOARD MEMBER	AYE	NAY	ABSTAINED	ABSENT
Mrs. Rita Bodine, Trustee				
Mrs. Juliana Lee, Trustee				
Ms. Stephanie Machin, Trustee				
Mr. Omar Pedraza, Trustee				
Mrs. Kelly Wilson, Trustee				
Mr. Michael Sprague, Vice President				
Mrs. Heather Garcia, President				

L. Open Public Participation - Off Agenda Items

Subject **1. Open Public Participation - Off Agenda Items**

Meeting Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting

Category L. Open Public Participation - Off Agenda Items

Type

Moved by:
Seconded by:
Time:

Public Participation Statement

- Each member of the public wishing to comment must state their Name and Address for the record

- Each public comment is limited to five (5) minutes
 - Only members of the public physically present at the meeting will be heard.
-

M. Close to the Public - Off Agenda Items

Subject	1. Close Public Participation - Off Agenda Items
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	M. Close to the Public - Off Agenda Items
Type	Action, Procedural

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Time:

N. New Business / Old Business

Subject	1. New Business / Old Business
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	N. New Business / Old Business
Type	Discussion

O. Adjournment to Executive Session - (If Needed)

P. Adjournment from Executive Session - (If Needed)

Subject	1. Adjournment from Executive Session - (If Needed)
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	P. Adjournment from Executive Session - (If Needed)
Type	Action (Consent)

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Time:

Q. Meeting Adjournment

Subject	1. Meeting Adjournment
Meeting	Mar 24, 2026 - AGENDA - Regular Meeting
Category	Q. Meeting Adjournment
Type	Action (Consent), Procedural

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Time:

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael Jordan
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary