

**NORTH ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTH ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY**

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

September 11, 2023

5:44 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Higgins	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Dorsett	<u>Present</u>
Mrs. Gilgallon	<u>Present</u>
Mr. McDermott	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>Present</u>
Student Board Member	<u>Absent</u>

Also Present: Robert Lorfink, Esq. – Fogarty and Hara Esqs.
Samantha Rodriguez-Toronto, Director of Curriculum and Instruction PreK-12

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of September 11, 2023, of the Board of Education of the Borough of North Arlington, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, is called pursuant to a schedule of meetings adopted on January 5, 2023, as amended, and of notice given to the Clerk of the Borough of North Arlington and to the Librarian of the Free Public Library of North Arlington for posting therein as election notices are posted and of notice given to the Editor of the following newspapers: the Bergen RECORD of Hackensack and the Newark Star Ledger.

Mr. McDermott asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the lives that were lost on 9/11.

1. The Superintendent handed out samples of numerical grading measures for the 4th and 5th grades to the Board for review. The Superintendent discussed the breakdown of percentages with the Board. Mrs. Higgins inquired about how students with IEPs would be graded using these measures. The Superintendent explained assessments, modifications and accommodations. Mrs. Rodriguez-Toronto further added to the explanation of assessments. The Board discussed and provided feedback. The Superintendent stated that they would be reviewing updates with members of the curriculum committee.

Mrs. Rodriguez left the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

2. The Superintendent discussed the ROD grants with the Board. He said that we were unofficially informed from our architects that the security vestibules were not approved. He said that 3 projects were going to be approved: HVAC/Ventilation for the Washington School Gym, new roof for Roosevelt and new partial roof for the High School. He stated that the State ranked security as #6 on their approval of projects list for levels of importance.
3. The Superintendent updated the Board on the summer highlights that will be released for Back-to-School Nights.
4. The Superintendent stated that he will hold the first PTOC Meeting of the school year in the next week or two. He also stated that he'd like to see the Fall Festival of Fun return.
5. The Superintendent stated that the ISRs were received today for Spring. He said that a memo is being drafted for Thursday and will be going out to the parents.

6. The Superintendent stated that in 2019, a law was passed allowing students to change their names in school and parents did not need to be informed. He discussed the law and policy with the Board since it was a topic that was coming up early in the school year.
7. The Superintendent said that Policy 5536 (Random Drug Testing) is on tonight's agenda and that he is asking for a change from 10 random students picked each month to 20 random students tested each month. The Board agreed.
8. The Superintendent reviewed updates to Policy 5120 (Neighborhood Zones) and school placement depending on class capacity with the Board.
9. The Superintendent discussed open positions district wide with the Board, which included science, math, and special education.

Mr. Dorsett left the meeting at 6:25 p.m. and returned at 6:26 p.m.

10. The Superintendent said that Mr. McDermott contacted him regarding inquiries he received regarding thunder and lightning sensors at "RIP" Collins Athletic Field. The board discussed and agreed on sensors at "RIP" and VMS fields. The School Business Administrator said that she would reach out to the athletic director to secure quotes.
11. The Superintendent said that Mr. McDermott contacted him regarding having netting potentially placed between the little league field and "RIP." The Superintendent said that this was looked into in the past; however, it was costly. He also said that there might be utility and wildlife issues that may create challenges. He said that he would look into it further with the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds and that they would get quotes and keep the Board posted.
12. The School Business Administrator discussed confirming dates for the School Boards Convention with the Board.
13. Mrs. Higgins said that there is no bus service to take the JV soccer student-athletes to County Park in Lyndhurst and that the kids have to walk there and be at the park by 3:00 p.m. The School Business Administrator explained that this has always been our practice because on the days we are at County Park, that is considered our home field.
14. Mrs. Higgins inquired about having concussion tests done at the same time as the physicals are done for sports. The Superintendent said that he would ask the athletic director about the requirements and get back to her.
15. The Superintendent discussed school safety and potential referendums, OEM, NAPD and efforts to make schools safer. Mrs. Higgins said that we have made huge progress. She also said that she is hoping for joint support from the Borough to continue efforts to make our schools safer.
16. The Superintendent alternative measures to suspension, which included meaningful meetings with family members of students involved. The Board was supportive of this approach in certain circumstances.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:47 p.m. made by Mrs. Higgins, second by Mr. McDermott. There was no discussion. On Roll Call all Board members present voted in the affirmative and none in the negative, it was so ordered.

Respectfully,

Samantha Dembowski
SD:at