

NORTH ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTH ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC WORK SESSION
October 16, 2024

5:35 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of October 16, 2024, 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 4, 2024 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.

1. The School Business Administrator handed out 3 quotes for the Board to review for lightning rod detectors, which would potentially be placed at two locations in North Arlington. The Board decided to discuss the project further at the next meeting.
2. The Superintendent discussed the gym floor repairs at Washington School and compared them to the gym floors that were done at Roosevelt School. He was concerned about the 3-point lines and expressed his disapproval of the communication we received after mistakes were made on the contractor’s part. The lines on the gym floor at Washington School have been corrected. The Superintendent is now negotiating to have the Roosevelt gym floor lines fixed as well.
3. The Superintendent and School Business Administrator discussed the 2025/2026 projects which include the High School Elevator, updating the High School Home Economics Kitchen, and Media Center at Washington Elementary School.
4. The Superintendent discussed a potential expansion project at Roosevelt School. He said that classrooms in the district are beginning to get overcrowded. The Superintendent and Board discussed multiple options available at potential schools within the district. The Superintendent suggested having an architect visit each school to determine the best solution for expansion and invited the Board if they are available.
5. The Superintendent discussed restorative practices instead of traditional discipline, which have decreased the amount of suspensions and HIB cases district wide.
6. The Superintendent discussed the outcomes and feedback from district wide-data meetings.
7. The Superintendent stated that the new NAEA contract added four, half PD days to the school calendar each year for the months of October, January, March, and May. Since we are already in the month of October, this year will only include three additional half PD days. The Superintendent also stated that we will be providing a revised school calendar with these days for Board approval.

8. The School Business Administrator discussed reception and phone connectivity in the North Arlington High School Building. She said that there were a lot of “dead” spots in the building which is a potential security risk. She said that she will be getting quotes and will revisit with the Board.
9. The Superintendent said that the Middle School and High School visited the Tunnels 2 Towers Mobile Museum in Kearny and that it was a great success. He thanked Mr. McDermott. Mr. McDermott said that it was the first time the Tunnels 2 Towers hosted four schools at once and stated that “now we are a model for other districts.” The School Business Administrator added that our high school student council also donated fundraised monies to the Tunnels 2 Towers Mobile Museum.
10. The Superintendent stated that we are in the process of putting together a PreK3 lottery, and information will be shared on or around October 28th. The lottery will be used to service our low SES households first.
11. The Superintendent informed the Board of the Borough project that is being done outside the High School building.
12. The Superintendent asked the Student Board Member if she had any questions from the student body that she wanted to share with the Board. The Student Board Member said that she had nothing to report at this time.
13. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the Expert Hiring service for the district. The Superintendent discussed the hiring of a biology teacher through this service.
14. Mrs. Higgins inquired about a long-term substitute position at Washington School. The Superintendent stated that this opening was for the new ABA program and that we are still in the process of hiring a qualified teacher for this position. He also stated that we still have a handful of vacancies that we are actively trying to fill.
15. Mrs. Higgins inquired about what grade percentage the summer reading assignments were required to be and was concerned about keeping the same percentage rate at each grade level. The Superintendent stated that he would discuss this with the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and report back to them.
16. The Superintendent stated that the basketball coach interviews will be starting next week. Mr. Dorsett inquired about football. He also voiced his opinion questioning the need to have three coaches for the girls’ soccer team and that possibly that money could be used elsewhere. Mr. Smith was concerned about the boosters mandating that parents fundraise. The Superintendent stated that he will speak to the Athletic Director and report back to the Board.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. made by Mr. McDermott, second by Mrs. Higgins. 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