

**NORTH ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTH ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC WORK SESSION
February 10, 2025**

5:47 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of February 10, 2025, 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 6, 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 Superintendent updated the Board on a meeting he had with Mr. McDermott, the School Business Administrator, and Rich Boza, NJASA President, regarding special education high school graduation rates and the 18-21 program. The Superintendent was told that the State was previously not willing to budge on this issue. The Superintendent said that he will be happy to speak to any NJDOE representatives or politicians to point out the discriminatory graduation rate formula in relation to special education 18-21 students. He said that he will be speaking to the BCASA committee regarding this in March and will keep everyone posted.
2. The Superintendent said that he shared parts of a letter received from the Bergen County Legal Team with staff regarding ICE guidance.
3. The Superintendent stated that we will be recognizing the JV (boys) Varsity bowling teams in March. He said that the varsity team (boys) won the NJIC 24-25 Tournament Championship and 24-25 Meadowlands Division Championship and that the JV team finished the season undefeated at 21-0.
4. The Superintendent requested for a committee to be formed regarding the renaming of the Veterans Middle School gym. He asked for two board Members to be on the committee and discuss the decision to rename or not rename the gym. The Board discussed, and Mr. McDermott and Mrs. Higgins agreed to be on the committee.
5. Mr. Dorsett said that he attended the elementary school chorus concert a couple of weeks ago and received good feedback from everyone. He stated that parents wished they would do more than one concert a year. He also suggested possibly holding an outdoor concert at the new Riverside County Park Amphitheater. The Superintendent thanked the Board for their support and growth of the music program.
6. Mr. Smith inquired about the 7th period stipends. The Superintendent said that the stipends are covering any vacant periods. Mrs. Higgins stated that she was grateful that our current teachers agreed to take on these assignments.

7. Mr. McDermott inquired about exit interviews. The Superintendent stated that we do not do “official” exit interviews but more on an informal basis.
8. The Superintendent shared a list of additional programs, teachers, and requests from each school that hopefully may be placed in the 2025-2026 budget depending on our revenue numbers.
9. Mrs. Higgins suggested doing a survey to find out what programs families would like to have at the high school. She suggested sending the survey out to middle school and high school families. The Superintendent agreed.
10. The Superintendent asked the student board member about additional electives she or other students would like to see at the high school. She responded that she would get back to us.
11. The School Business Administrator discussed the 2025-2026 Budget with the Board, pointing out specific increases in certain line items.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:31 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