

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

**SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**

**April 11, 2025**

4:32 p.m.

**Board of Education Office**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mr. McDermott	Present
Mrs. Higgins	Present
Mr. Smith	Present
Mr. Dorsett	Present
The Superintendent phoned in due to a prior engagement at 4:30pm.	
Student Board Member	Absent

**III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**IV. STATEMENT OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, the North Arlington Board of Education will hold a special meeting on April 11, 2025. The meeting will take place at the Board of Education Office, 222 Ridge Road, North Arlington, NJ. The meeting will commence at 4:30 p.m. and the Board will immediately move into closed executive session to discuss an unpaid leave request, harassment, intimidation, and bullying matters and to hold a hearing on a student discipline matter. After the conclusion of the closed executive session, the Board of Education will return to public session where it will hear public comment (if any) and will take action on resolutions that approve the resignation of a member of the Board, approve the hiring of new staff, approve the affirmative action team, approve or reject an unpaid leave request and affirm, modify, or reject the Superintendent's decision on harassment, intimidation, and bullying cases. The meeting will then adjourn. Formal action will be taken at this meeting.

Notice of this meeting has been posted in the Board of Education office, in all district schools, and on the district website. This is an official meeting of the North Arlington Board of Education.

**V. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

Motion to close the Hearing of Citizens made by Mr. McDermott, second by Mrs. Higgins. There was no discussion. On Roll all Board Members present voted in the affirmative and none in the negative, it was so ordered.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 4:35 p.m. made by Mrs. Higgins, second by Mr. Smith. There was no discussion. On Roll Call all Board members present voted in the affirmative and none in the negative, it was so ordered.

Open Session reconvened at 5:14 p.m.

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The Board discussed a current board position vacancy. The Board instructed the Board Secretary to post in the newspaper for the board position and direct all resumes to her attention. The Board decided to interview selected candidates during an already scheduled public work session.

The Board Attorney offered feedback regarding filling the vacancy over the telephone.

### **PERSONNEL**

The Superintendent congratulated Rosemary Drozdowski on her retirement. He thanked her for her 28 years of service she gave to North Arlington Public Schools and wished her well.

#### **A. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT OF LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve the employment of the following long-term Substitute Teachers for the 2024-2025 school year:

**Rupeet Teji**, as a **Long-Term Substitute Teacher** at Washington Elementary School (temporarily replacing Anna Lauria), at the per diem rate of \$140.00 retroactively beginning on or about April 3, 2025 through on or about June 9, 2025 not to exceed 29 hours per week, without benefits.

**Dylan Grabkowski**, as a **Long-Term Substitute Teacher** at Veterans Middle School (temporarily replacing Persa Tzakis), at the per diem rate of \$140.00 retroactively beginning on or about April 21, 2025 through on or about June 17, 2025 not to exceed 29 hours per week, without benefits.

**Vani Bhat**, as a **Long-Term Substitute Teacher** at Jefferson Elementary School (temporarily replacing Michelle Maxwell), at the per diem rate of \$140.00 retroactively beginning on or about May 12, 2025 through on or about June 24, 2025 not to exceed 29 hours per week, without benefits.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby approves the employment of the long-term Substitute Teachers for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth above.

#### **B. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT OF A SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve the employment of a Substitute Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year:

**Carla Carrillo**, as a Substitute Teacher at North Arlington Public Schools, at the per diem rate of \$120.00 beginning on or about April 21, 2025 through June 30, 2025 not to exceed 29 hours per week, without benefits, *pending criminal history clearance and completion of all required employment paperwork*.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby approves the employment of a Substitute Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth above.

#### **C. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONAL FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve the employment of a substitute paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year:

**Carla Carrillo**, as a **Substitute Classroom Aide** at North Arlington Public Schools beginning on or about April 21, 2025 through June 30, 2025, at the hourly rate of \$15.49, not to exceed 29 hours per week, without benefits, *pending criminal history clearance and completion of all required employment paperwork*.

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**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby approves the employment of substitute a paraprofessional, for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth above.

### **D. RESOLUTION TO RATIFY AND AFFIRM THE RESIGNATION OF A BOARD MEMBER.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education ratify and affirm the resignation of **Heather Gilgallon**, Board Member at North Arlington School District, effective April 2, 2025.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education ratifies and affirms the resignation of **Heather Gilgallon**, Board Member at North Arlington School District, effective April 2, 2025.

### **E. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education accept the following resignations:

**Aizlyn Carrasquillo**, as a part-time **Special Education Aide** at Jefferson Elementary School, effective on or about April 11, 2025.

**Rosemary Drozdowski**, as a full-time **Teacher of Elementary School** at Washington Elementary School, effective on or about July 1, 2025 (retirement purposes).

**Kate Iglesias**, as a part-time **Special Education Aide** at Anthony Elementary School, effective on or about March 18, 2025.

**John O'Hanlon**, as a **Cross Country Coach**, at North Arlington High School, effective on or about March 28, 2025.

**Michele Maxwell**, as a full-time **Teacher of Elementary School (N-8)/ Teacher of the Handicapped** at Jefferson Elementary School, effective on or about May 19, 2025.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby accepts the resignations, set forth above.

### **F. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF A PARAPROFESSIONAL FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education to approve the employment a paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year:

**Nisha Kumari**, as a part-time, **Special Education Aide** (replacing Kate Iglesias) at Anthony Elementary School beginning on April 21, 2025 through June 30, 2025, at the hourly rate of \$17.75, not to exceed 29 hours per week, *pending criminal history clearance and completion of all required employment paperwork.*

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby approves employment of a paraprofessional, for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth above.

### **G. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT OF A TEN MONTH SECRETARY, FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve the employment of **Nicole Krapels** (replacing Jennifer Belcuore), as a full-time, ten-month **Secretary to the Director of Special Education** at North Arlington Public Schools, for the period beginning on or about May 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, at an annual salary of \$48,000.00, *pending criminal history clearance and completion of all required employment paperwork.*

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**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education approved the employment of **Nicole Krapels (replacing Jennifer Belcuore)**, as a full-time, ten-month **Secretary to the Director of Special Education** at North Arlington Public Schools, for the period beginning on or about May 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, at an annual salary of \$48,000.00, *pending criminal history clearance and completion of all required employment paperwork.*

### **H. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT OF A CERTIFICATED STAFF MEMBER FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve the employment a certificated staff member, for the 2025-2026 school year:

**Jordan Maass**, full-time **Elementary School Teacher and Teacher of Students with Disabilities** (replacing Michelle Maxwell) at Jefferson Elementary School for the period beginning on or about September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, at Step 10, BA on the North Arlington Teachers' Salary Guide or \$77,000.00, *pending criminal history clearance and completion of all required employment paperwork.*

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby approves the employment of a certificated staff member, for the 2025-2026 school year, as set forth above.

### **I. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN ANTICIPATED SICK LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A STAFF MEMBER FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve anticipated sick Leave of Absence for **Adelino Pescadinha**, Night Custodian for the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

#### **ANTICIPATED SICK LEAVE**

with pay from on or about **January 06, 2025** through **February 21, 2025** utilizing 32 sick days.

#### **UNPAID FAMILY LEAVE (FMLA/NJFLA)**

**on or about** from on or about **February 24, 2025** through **April 13, 2025**, not to exceed 12 weeks per year.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby approves anticipated sick Leave of Absence for **Adelino Pescadinha**, Night Custodian for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth above.

### **J. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A SICK LEAVE FOR A STAFF MEMBER FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve a sick leave for **Daniel Farinola**, Teacher at North Arlington High School, for the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

#### **SICK LEAVE**

with pay from February 6, 2025 through on or about April 11, 2025.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby approves a sick leave for **Daniel Farinola**, Teacher at North Arlington High School, for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth above.

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### **K. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A PAID SICK LEAVE AND UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A STAFF MEMBER FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve a paid sick leave and unpaid leave of absence for **Michelle DiGiorgio**, Teacher at Veterans Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

**PAID SICK LEAVE** from on or about **January 21, 2025** through **April 25, 2025**, utilizing 59.5 sick bank days.

**UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE** from on or about **April 25, 2025** through **June 20, 2025**.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby approves a paid sick leave and unpaid leave of absence for **Michelle DiGiorgio**, Teacher at Veterans Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth above.

### **L. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A BLACK SEAL STIPEND FOR A CUSTODIAL STAFF MEMBER.**

**WHEREAS**, Anderso Salas successfully passed the examination for licensure through the Bureau of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Compliance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve a boiler stipend for Anderso Salas in the amount of \$284.47 to be added to his base salary, retroactively effective April 1, 2025.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby approves a boiler stipend for Anderso Salas in the amount of \$284.47 to be added to his base salary, retroactively effective April 1, 2025.

### **M. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve the appointment of volunteers at North Arlington High School, for the 2024-2025 school year, as follows:

#### **VOLUNTEER FLAG FOOTBALL COACH**

**Ali Beh**, Volunteer Flag Football Coach for the 2025 Spring sports season.

**Ali Quan Sessoms**, Volunteer Flag Football Coach for the 2025 Spring sports season.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education approved the appointment of volunteers at North Arlington High School, for the 2024-2025 school year, as set forth above.

### **N. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE EXTENDED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT (EIS) PROGRAM AND CERTIFICATED STAFF ASSIGNED TO THE PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools is recommending that the North Arlington Board of Education approve the Extended Instructional Support (EIS) Program; and

**WHEREAS**, this program will provide students in grades K-11 instructional and enrichment opportunities, in an afterschool setting, during the months of March, April and May; and

**WHEREAS**, the following staff members will be facilitating instruction and planning.

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<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Rate of Pay</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Arpaio	Rosanna	EIS Secondary Teacher	\$40 per Hour	Not to Exceed 110 hours
Fiore	Gabriel	EIS Secondary Teacher	\$40 per Hour	Not to Exceed 110 hours
Vignone	Jeanine	Teacher-In-Charge	\$40 per Hour	Not to Exceed 50 hours

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education the Extended Instructional Support (EIS) Program and certificated staff assigned to the program as specified above.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that extended Instructional Support is being funded through Title I allotment.

On Motion 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.

**OPERATIONS**

**A. RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S DECISION IN HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING INVESTIGATIONS.**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) hereby affirms the Superintendent’s decision on the following HIB Investigations for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent’s decision to the students’ parents, and directs the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board’s decision to the affected students’ parents forthwith. HIB Investigation Numbers:

- 287154\_NAH\_02072025
- 287134\_FDR\_02062025
- 286925\_NAH\_02042025
- 286837\_NAH\_02032025
- 286854\_FDR\_02032025
- 288504\_FDR\_02272025
- 288375\_FDR\_02262025
- 288215\_FDR\_02252025
- 287799\_NAH\_02192025
- 287823\_NAH\_02192025

**B. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE DISTRICT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TEAM, FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the North Arlington Board of Education approve the appointment District Affirmative Action Team, for the 2025-2026 school year, as follows:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Jennifer Rodriguez          | AAO & Principal of Anthony Elementary School    |
| Stephen Yurchak             | Superintendent of Schools                       |
| Michael Burke               | Director of Special Education                   |
| Antonio Alho                | Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds             |
| Samantha Rodriguez-Torrento | Director of Curriculum and Instruction          |
| Patrick Bott                | North Arlington High School Principal           |
| Dennis Kenny                | North Arlington High School Assistant Principal |
| Joseph Cioffi               | Athletic Director                               |
| Anthony Marck               | North Arlington High School Teacher             |
| Nicole Russo                | Veterans Middle School Principal                |

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Bernadette Fash  
Kevin Barber  
Irene McKenna  
Marie Griggs  
Alexa Juncosa  
Alicia Giammanco  
Roseanna Palermo  
Melissa Cutrali  
Lauren Sharry

Veterans Middle School Assistant Principal  
Veterans Middle School Teacher  
Anthony Elementary School Teacher  
Jefferson Elementary School Principal  
Jefferson Elementary Guidance Counselor  
Roosevelt Elementary School Principal  
Roosevelt Elementary School Teacher  
Washington Elementary School Principal  
Washington Elementary School Teacher

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Arlington Board of Education hereby approves the District Affirmative Action Team, for the 2025-2026 school year, as set forth above.

On Motion by Mr. McDermott, second by Mr. Smith. There was no discussion. On Roll Call all Board Members present voted in the affirmative and none in the negative, it was so ordered.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education of the Borough of North Arlington, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, this Special Public Meeting of April 11, 2025 adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

On Motion by Mr. Smith, 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.

SD:at