

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

April 28, 2025

4:49 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of April 28, 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, 2025, 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.

1. The Board interviewed Dr. Scott Hughes to potentially fill a Board vacancy for the remainder of the year.

Dr. Hughes left the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

2. The Superintendent introduced two new courses for next school year: AP Psychology and African American Studies. He stated that we presently have forensics, public speaking, and weight room, which some incoming students were interested in based on a survey.
3. The Superintendent stated that Lauren Buckley, Supervisor of Guidance, was successfully awarded the invitation to participate in the Nurtured Heard DREAMS Program, which will certify her and another school counselor to provide additional resources to families related to mental wellness. He said that the program is partnered with Rutgers, NJDOE, and DCP&P and is a five-year program.
4. The Superintendent said that we will be recognizing Honor Roll and BCC Early College Program graduates at the May Board Meeting.
5. The Superintendent stated that the elementary and high school bands will be represented at the Memorial Day Parade in May. He said that he is unable to attend this year due to a prior commitment.
6. The Superintendent stated that there will be a DEAC meeting tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. where they will discuss potential district goals. These goals may focus on Attendance/chronic absenteeism, and MTSS (Multi-Tiered System Support) which covers a wide range of areas. He suggested some Board goals that included, to continue to monitor and extend PreK programs and fully implement the new location of the 18-21 program of the and promote expansion for other districts to enroll on a tuition basis, and to continue to monitor security in the district. The Board will discuss further at the next meeting.

7. The Board revisited having security vestibules and security for the school district. The Board requested 4 additional security guards, one at each of the elementary schools for the 25/26 school year.
8. The Superintendent and Board discussed the lightning rods at the fields and what to do if there is no supervision at the fields and the alarms go off. Mr. Dorsett suggested placing signs at the fields. The Superintendent stated that he would speak to the supervisor of buildings and grounds and the athletic director regarding the signs.
9. Mr. McDermott suggested a possible need for a generator at Veterans Middle School or possibly upgrading the high school generator, which only offers back up to limited areas within the school, in case of an emergency. The School Business Administrator stated that she would speak to the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds to obtain quotes.
10. The School Business Administrator announced that the 2025 School Boards Conference is scheduled for Monday, October 20th through Thursday, October 23rd.
11. Mr. Dorsett suggested that we publicize and make a brochure for an honors track student in high school. The Superintendent stated that he would speak to the middle school and high school administration regarding this request.
12. Mr. Smith inquired if we have any volunteers throughout the district. The School Business Administrator said that we have approximately 10 volunteers that have been board approved throughout the school year. Mr Smith notified everyone that training sessions/practices may be taking place at “RIP”, which are not authorized. The Superintendent stated that he will speak to the athletic director to address the situation.
13. Mr. Smith inquired about what we are doing to improve the student absenteeism. The Superintendent and Board discussed the corrective action plans at Veterans Middle School and Washington Elementary School, along with efforts already in place.
14. The Superintendent stated that we will be placing the drunk driver car in front of the high school. Mr. McDermott stated that it will be here from approximately May 12th through the end of the school year. The Superintendent said that he would ask Mr. Bott to send a memo to the high school students and families regarding distracted driving.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. made 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.

Respectfully,

Samantha Dembowski
SD:at