

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

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

**October 15, 2025**

5:33 p.m.

**Board of Education Office**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

Dr. Hughes	Present
Mr. McDermott	Present
Mrs. Higgins	Present
Mr. Smith	Present
Mr. Dorsett	Present
Student Board Member	Present

**III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

This Public Meeting of October 15, 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 Superintendent shared with the Board an updated copy of the tri-fold pamphlets for the High School Showcase, which included outlining the academic programming and career pathways modifications.
2. The Superintendent said that there will be a meeting regarding the 18-21 graduation rates on November 12<sup>th</sup> in Trenton. He asked if any Board Members would like to attend. He stated that there will be a pre-meeting with the Superintendent Committee.
3. The Superintendent stated that he received an invitation to meet with State Officials that oversee the PEA on October 27<sup>th</sup> in Trenton. He stated that it's in relation to the attempted charges to the QEA contract.
4. The Superintendent stated that because of low attendance in some instances years they will be revamping the Extended Instructional Support (EIS) this year and shortening it from December to March. The School Business Administrator stated that funds to run the program would till come out of the Title I allotment.
5. The Superintendent stated that the fobs and cell phones were in place for the multifactor authentication. He said that there were some issues with the fobs, but that the Director of Technology was taking care of it. He also stated that technical assistance was being offered, by building, on an as needed basis.
6. The Superintendent asked Dr. Hughes to give him more information on the "Break the Mold" Program. Dr. Hughes said that some 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball students go there and work out for free and high schools went there and worked out for free all summer. The Superintendent asked Dr. Hughes for the contact information and said that he would like to recognize the owner at our next Board Meeting.

7. The Superintendent stated that he would like to implement two new positions. He stated that the first position was for an additional part-time residency officer. The current residency officer and the Supervisor of Guidance have requested additional help. The Superintendent read a detailed letter from the current residency office, which explained the need for an additional residency officer. The library media specialist has requested additional assistance taking care of all six schools properly. The Superintendent said that he would like to advertise for another library media specialist or an assistant library media specialist. The Board agreed to both positions.
8. Mrs. Higgins inquired about Title I policies. The Superintendent said that when a school is identified as a Title school, the law requires that we create a policy for them. The county wants the language in each policy to be unique to that school.
9. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the use of the weight room and if students were aware and allowed to use the weight room after hours. The student board member stated that she doesn't think that anyone knows about it. She said she only found out about it at the beginning of this year. The Superintendent said that he would have Mr. Kenny announce weight room days and times in his morning announcements.
10. Mr. Dorsett inquired about the gaga ball status at Jefferson School. The School Business Administrator said that everything has been ordered and that we are expecting shipment of all materials soon.
11. Mr. McDermott stated that there were four things that he wanted to bring to the attention of the Board. He said that he believes that Veterans Middle School needs a cellular upgrade. The Superintendent said that he would speak to the Veterans Middle School Principal about it, however; he has not heard of any issues. Mr. McDermott stated that a camera is needed facing the back fence by the river near the batting cage at RIP Collins Complex. The Superintendent said that he would have the Directory of Technology look at the area. Mr. McDermott said that the field house wood decking, also at RIP Collins Complex, needs to be cleaned up. The Superintendent stated that he would ask the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds look to review the area. Lastly he said that the exterior of the middle school where the crosses were removed need some attention. The Superintendent said that he would speak to the Middle School Principal regarding branding the area.
12. Mr. Dorsett commented regarding posting pictures for the 18/21 Viking Academy and the positive feedback he was also receiving online. Ms. Higgins asked all Board Members to be mindful of what they are posting on social media and to remember that the Board, as a whole, and the administration are responsible for all these new programs and achievements within the district. She asked that no one take individual credit for these accomplishments. Mr. Dorsett apologized.
13. The student board member said that she was at a student council meeting and students asked if can have a area where the students are allowed to print things. She said that the public library is charging them for printing. The Superintendent asked what things they were printing out. She stated that they have school projects specifically for students enrolled in the future teachers program. He said that he would speak to Mr. Bott. She stated that some of the senior class students were having a problem with reaching their advisors. The student board member also stated that students have problems regarding dues payments. The Superintendent said that he would speak with Mr. Bott and schedule a meeting with her so that all concerns can be addressed.
14. Dr. Hughes stated that there was a flyer where students were asked to wear something for Spanish heritage month. He asked if we could also have something in other months to support different heritages. The Board discussed. The Superintendent said that he would speak to Mr. Bott about it.

15. Mr. McDermott inquired about obtaining uniforms with different vendors. He suggested another vendor. The Superintendent asked Mr. McDermott to have the vendor get in touch with Mr. Kenny, Assistant High School Principal.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:30 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