

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

November 13, 2025

5:36 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	Absent

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of November 13, 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 addressed points that the student board member brought up at the last Board Meeting. He said that with regard to the printing for students, particularly the teaching internship program, they would be able to print in the Main Office of the High School. The new 12th grade advisor had a “meet and greet” with students and the students were receptive. He stated that with regard to the prom dues, he spoke with the high school administration who said that we need the dues particularly for the venue deposit otherwise they wouldn’t be able to guarantee the venue. The Board discussed further. The Superintendent suggested having a meeting with the high school principal, assistant principal, and Board Members to discuss in more depth.
2. The Superintendent stated that he spoke to the high school administration and athletic director regarding drones and that they were not in favor of using drones at “RIP” Collins Athletic Complex. He said that our athletic director and high school principal were at a game in Midland Park and the drone fell out of the sky and onto the field while the game was in play, but thankfully missed the players.
3. The School Business Administrator passed out Board Meeting dates for the 26-27 school year for the Board to review. The Board reviewed and discussed.
4. The School Business Administrator discussed Techspo Conference dates and booking with the Board. She stated that the event runs from January 28th through January 30th.
5. The Superintendent said that he spoke to the high school administration regarding dress down days and the flyers that were sent out did not have a general multicultural statement. They will correct in moving forward.
6. The Superintendent stated that the deck cleaning at “RIP” Collins Athletic Complex would be completed in the spring.

7. The Superintendent stated that the middle school track resurfacing was on tonight's agenda for \$87,000 and will be completed in the spring, if approved.
8. The Superintendent stated that the window for EIS will be shortened this year to strengthen the importance of these sessions (December through March).
9. The Superintendent said that he spoke with Kevin Blackford, Viking Academy Coordinator, regarding a date for a visit to "Break the Mold" gym. He stated that teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, students, and George, the owner, will be invited to next month's Board Meeting.
10. The Superintendent updated the Board on the 18/21 Graduation Rates. He said that the hearing with the Joint Committee on the Public Schools went very well. The lawmakers there said that they agreed that the process needs to be change. The Superintendent and Board discussed further.
11. The Superintendent stated that our anticipated QSAC points have been inputted into the DPR, which will be uploaded on November 14th. He told the Board that he expects our scores in each category to remain consistent with previous years (High Performance).

Mr. McDermott entered the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

12. Mrs. Higgins asked why we are suspending two policy readings. The Superintendent discussed the "Freedom to Read Act," which is a new law going into effect on December 9 2025. The adoption of this policy will ensure compliance.
13. Mr. McDermott stated that Tunnel to Towers was coming through town. It is originating in Lyndhurst, coming through North Arlington, then Kearny, and Harrison. He said that they asked if we could have our students outside when they pass the North Arlington High School at approximately 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17th. Mr. McDermott said that Lyndhurst was sending their Board to the event at Kearny Veterans Monday night at 6:30 p.m. He asked if any of our Board Members could be there as well. Dr. Hughes said that he will try to attend. The Superintendent stated that he'll work with the high school administration to organize willing students to support this event.
14. Mr. McDermott said that a parent approached him regarding issues her child had with staff and students but didn't want to be singled out. She asked him if there was any type of suggestion box where people could submit a complaint or concern anonymously. The Superintendent stated that information will be kept confidential and the parent should contact the school principal. If the parent is still concerned, she can contact the Superintendent or ask that a Board Member relay any information to the Superintendent.
15. On behalf of NAEMS, Mr. McDermott requested a holiday list for toys from the Superintendent. The Superintendent stated that they'll start working on it.
16. The Superintendent discussed a pilot program with regards to residence tracking with the Board.
17. The Board discussed a general issue regarding timeliness with inputting student grades.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:03 p.m. made by Dr. Hughes, 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