

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

January 20, 2026

5:35 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 January 20, 2026, 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. Mrs. Higgins expressed her concerns regarding IXL. The Superintendent reminded her that she took part in a curriculum meeting last year to address her concerns and a correlation study was also conducted at her request. The Superintendent also stated that we had some of the best test scores during the 24-25 school year. Although IXL isn't the sole factor, it is an important piece to the puzzle because of data and accountability. Mrs. Higgins stated that lessons should be differentiated and developed for each child's skills that are being covered in the class. The Superintendent agreed.
2. The Superintendent discussed a proposed program at the high school for CTE classes and internship credits (cosmetology, medical, criminal justice, real estate). He said that we were waiting for more information.
3. The Superintendent updated the Board on the good news regarding the 18-21 program. He said that ASA Attorney, Melanie Shultz, reached out to the Senate Assembly who assigned two liaisons to start the initial steps in working towards a bill. He said that there is a meeting tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. with the two liaisons.
4. The School Business Administrator and Board reviewed date changes to the 2026 Schedule of Board Meetings.
5. The Board reviewed and chose their committees to chair.
6. The Board discussed PTO fund raising.
7. Mr. Dorsett inquired about other fall coaching positions not on the agenda. The Superintendent stated that he believed those recommendations from the Athletic Director would be ready for the next Board Meeting.
8. Mr. Dorsett discussed traffic concerns at Jefferson School during morning drop off and his concerns related to lack of follow through from the NAPD.

9. The School Business Administrator introduced a school accounting program, that will connect to Account Tree. She said that it will be on the agenda and explained how the program works. The Board discussed further and decided to table that agenda item and look at other vendors for this service.
10. The Superintendent discussed a cursive writing curriculum law that should be in place for September 2026.
11. The Board questioned how the new ban on cell phone law was being addressed. The Superintendent stated that the high school is already ahead with this law because of current initiatives in place. He stated that discussions are taking place, but we are waiting for Strauss Esmay to develop a policy template before making any official recommendations.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. made by Mr. Dorsett, second by Dr. Hughes. 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