

**NORTH ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NORTH ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC WORK SESSION  
March 18, 2026**

5:46 p.m.

**Board of Education Office**

**I.     CALL TO ORDER**

**II.    ROLL CALL**

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Dr. Hughes           | Present |
| Mr. McDermott        | Absent  |
| 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 March 18, 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. Auditor, Mr. Bobby Bedara, of Donohue, Gironda, Doria, and Tompkins presented the North Arlington 2024-2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) to the Board.

Mr. Bedara left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

2. The Superintendent and School Business Administrator reviewed the 2026-2027 school calendar. The Board suggested a few edits. The School Business Administrator said that she would make the proposed adjustments. The Board approved the academic calendar for 26/27 with those adjustments.
3. The Superintendent informed the Board of prior complaints regarding the PBA’s use of the softball field at “RIP” Collins Athletic Complex. Residents complained the balls were going over the fence and hitting the houses. The Board decided to let the PBA continue to use the field for their league as long as Officer Scala was present during all games. It was confirmed that he will be.
4. The Superintendent stated that we will be adding bike racks at the elementary schools due to several requests from students and parents.
5. The Superintendent and School Business Administrator discussed the outstanding lunch debt within the school district and the different potential options to remedy the situation. The Board asked the Superintendent to conference with the Board Attorney and report back regarding various degrees of theft and potential criminal charges.
6. The Superintendent stated that there were complaints about lights that were left on at RIP Athletic Complex one evening. The Superintendent said that there is usually a timer set for the lights to go off when events are scheduled; however, the events were cancelled while the timer was still set for 10:00 P.M. The Superintendent stated that an ap is being installed to control the lights remotely.

7. The Superintendent discussed NJGPA testing with the Board and the irregularities that were noted due to students not understanding instructions that were provided by the NJDOE. The Superintendent stated that other school districts encountered the same issues. He also stated that the NJDOE did a poor job of establishing this new assessment and rolling it out.
8. The Superintendent said that our visit from QSAC went very well.
9. Dr. Hughes inquired about automatic attendance notification in RealTime. The Superintendent stated that it is already in place.
10. Mrs. Higgins inquired if the aides could be paid with food service monies. The School Business Administrator said that she would look into it and get back to her.
11. Dr. Hughes inquired about using ID numbers or SMID numbers instead of employee names on the agendas for medical leave purposes. The Board was in agreement with this change in order to preserve privacy. The Superintendent stated that the change will take place in moving forward.
12. The School Business Administrator presented the Board with three different Budgets to review and choose. The Board agreed with one of the Budgets presented.
13. Dr. Hughes inquired about delayed openings for NJGPA and similar testing at the high school. The Superintendent said that he would speak to the High School Principal.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:33 p.m. made by Mrs. Higgins, second by Mr. Dorsett. 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