

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

June 10, 2026

5:35 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 at 7:12 p.m.
Student Board Member	Absent

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of June 10, 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. The Superintendent stated that there was a recommended change in the Policy #5756 – Transgender Students. He said that the new case law states that a parent must be notified if a student decides to change his or her legal name at school. He, along with the Board Attorney recommended that the Board insert language into the policy for compliance purposes and cite case law.
2. Dr. Hughes inquired about why the tenure of an employee was being rescinded on the agenda. The Superintendent stated that the employee was placed as tenure as an error on last month’s agenda and that the employee had not worked the required amount of years yet to acquire tenure.
3. Dr. Hughes stated that he will be abstaining from voting on a few personnel resolutions on tonight’s agenda.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 5:43 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.

Open Session reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

4. The Superintendent discussed a visit to The Goddard School in Lyndhurst to discuss the possibility of partnering with them for the 2027-2028 school year for PEA.
5. The Superintendent stated that he and the School Business Administrator, and Dr. Hughes had a meeting with Spiegle to discuss expansion ideas, pre-fabricated building, domes, and the pros and cons for an expansion at Roosevelt School, the Jefferson School gym and classrooms. They discussed a potential recreation center with parking. He spoke about setting up a potential meeting with the Borough Council. The Board agreed that they would like to open communication with Borough Administration regarding joint ventures.

Mr. Dorsett entered the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

6. The Superintendent discussed the threshold potential to pursue criminal charges for households who have outstanding school meal balances. The Board requested more information and a breakdown of how many families fall between the given thresholds. The Superintendent also stated that Officer Fume will be stepping in and personally calling families as a final request for payment to the district before matters are escalated. The Superintendent and Board will discuss again at the next Board Meeting.
7. The Superintendent stated that there is new guidance from Strauss Esmay stating that the Board must be retrained on Ethics on an annual basis by code. The Board decided to hold a Public Work Session at 5:00 p.m. on January 5, 2027 to fulfill this requirement.
8. The Superintendent announced that the contract for the Early College Program is being finalized in July or August and that the tuition will be increased from \$73.25 to \$84.73 per credit.
9. The Superintendent said that the cell phone policy for next year is a hard “No” for cell phone usage for students in the district with the exception of special circumstances that will be handled on an individual basis; however, comparable, school-issued devices could still be an option.
10. Dr. Hughes inquired about technical issues related to GoGuardian in preparation of final exams. The Superintendent stated that the Technology Team was exploring a new system (blocksi); however, he had to find out more information and will provide an update.

Respectfully,

Samantha Dembowski
SD:at