

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

July 13, 2026

5:34 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of July 13, 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. Mr. McDermott said that the school dress code was not being properly enforced. He gave the example of young ladies wearing stretchy pants. He said that the article for the dress code stated “nothing that can be deemed too tight.” He said that that is something that needs to be addressed this coming school year. The Superintendent said that the pants have been an ongoing debate. He stated that Dr. Hughes served as the liaison this year to the District Wide Uniform Committee and recently attended the annual meeting. It was decided by the Committee that no changes would take place for the upcoming school year. Dr. Hughes said that based on a meeting they had, there was talk about allowing people to go to a different vendor to get uniform shirts. The Superintendent said that they piloted the screenprints a few years ago, but they came off after two washes. Dr. Hughes said that there is a place in Kearny who can embroider the shirts for approximately \$3.00. The Superintendent stated that one of the parents was supposed to send Mr. Kenny some information on that. He said that he would follow up with Mr. Kenny.
2. The Superintendent said that this afternoon, he, Dr. Hughes, Mr. McDermott, and the School Business Administrator met with the Borough to discuss two items. He said that they discussed potentially expanding the SROs to three so that one SRO could rotate throughout all of the elementary schools for the 27/28 school year. He stated that they also discussed a potential joint venture for expansion, which would include a recreation center and 6-8 classrooms. The Mayor requested that we send them a draft of what we envision and that we would meet again in late August/early September.
3. The Superintendent discussed the different expansion options laid out by Spiezle with the Board, which included Roosevelt Elementary School. Mr. McDermott said that the prices for expansion are only going up and suggested that we do not wait.
4. The Superintendent discussed the resurfacing of the School Safety Violence Protection grant that was available a few years ago. Security vestibules were denied the last time we requested them. He said that we intend to work with the Borough to put in for this grant again and request security vestibules for Jefferson, Roosevelt, and the North Arlington High School. He stated that there are vestibules already at Susan B. Anthony, Washington, and Veterans Middle School.

5. Dr. Hughes inquired about the cancellation of prior accounts payable on the agenda. The School Business Administrator said that it was from a project with Billy Contracting and Restoration for a ROD grant and that we got 40% back. The remaining funds would fall to fund balances.
6. Mrs. Higgins asked if the replacement doors at Washington School would be covered by our insurance. The School Business Administrator said “yes,” and our insurance will be going after the driver of the vehicle.
7. The Superintendent discussed ballards around the district. Mrs. Higgins asked if we could use PEA funds to replace ballards at Susan B. Anthony School. The School Business Administrator stated that stipulations within the PEA aid do not allow us to use the funds for construction purposes.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 5:51 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.

Public Work Session reconvened at 6:21 p.m.

8. The Superintendent discussed JV girls soccer with the Board and handed out projected numbers for the Board to review. The Superintendent stated that with these current numbers, it would not be possible to field a JV girls soccer team for the 26/27 school year. Dr. Hughes agreed. The Superintendent stated that he’d keep them updated.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:23 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