

**NORTH ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTH ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY**

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

January 28, 2019

5:35 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Dorsett	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>Present</u>
Mrs. Gilgallon	<u>Present</u>
Mrs. Higgins	<u>Present</u>
Mr. McDermott	<u>Present</u>

III. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

IV. **STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

This Public Meeting of January 28, 2019, 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 3, 2019, 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. Dorsett inquired about the process involved in hiring new coaches. The Superintendent stated that recommendations come from the Athletic Director and then to the High School Principal.
2. Mrs. Higgins inquired about certain sports programs. The Superintendent explained that the Athletic Director will have direct oversight of these programs, which include evaluations.
3. Mr. Dorsett inquired about the school calendar. The Superintendent stated that it reflects the new dates as per the CNA.
4. Mr. Dorsett inquired about the Suspension Alternative Program. The Superintendent stated that it will provide students a chance to be in a school setting instead of at home during suspension and that it could reduce absenteeism rates for short-term out-of-school suspensions.
5. Mrs. Higgins inquired about a 7th period stipend. The Superintendent explained the schedule related to the stipend in question.
6. Mr. Smith inquired about the repetition of the Meadowlands Environmental Center field trips and the possibility of a partnership with them. The Superintendent stated that he'll review and provide an update.
7. Mrs. Higgins inquired about parent volunteers on sports teams. The Board discussed this matter.

8. Mrs. Higgins inquired about hiring a full-time nurse and inquired about how effective the company in place has been. The Superintendent stated that we are still searching for a full-time nurse. The Superintendent stated that the current company has been providing substitutes regularly and that the new company is to further ensure regular substitutes.
9. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the budget transfer in excess of 10%. The assistant school business administrator stated that the transfer requires county office approval since the money is going into an administrative line.
10. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the door and hardware replacement at various schools. The Superintendent stated that all law enforcement agencies have stressed the importance of securing classrooms during emergencies.

The Superintendent informed the Board that a student was coming in to read a letter she wrote to the Superintendent and Board that was previously provided to the Board.

Parent and student entered the meeting at 6:00 pm.

The student read the letter to the Superintendent and Board commending them on how the school is run and thanking them for their services

The Board President praised the student and noted that this was the first time in 12 years that a student has professionally come forward to the Board with such a well-written letter.

The student discussed different clothing options for the school uniform.

Mrs. Higgins commended the student on her courageousness to speak in front of the Board. The Superintendent thanked her and asked her to contact Mr. Kenny to review uniform options with the committee.

Parent and student left the meeting at 6:08 pm

11. The Superintendent reviewed a letter he received from HUMC Oncology thanking us for the \$1,100 donation linked to Mustache Madness.
12. The Superintendent informed the Board that the students in the remedial Algebra I class at 0 period recently took the fall block PARCC for the first time. The majority of students increased their scores, which led to some students meeting their graduation requirement.
13. The Superintendent discussed the vaping issues in our district. He discussed various avenues to combat the vaping epidemic. The Superintendent and Board discussed various consequences for offenders, which includes loss of privileges. The Superintendent stated that he'd review with the administrative team and provide an update.
14. The Superintendent discussed a planned Open House for the High School and Middle School on February 12, 2019. The Middle School 8th grade students will have the opportunity to come to the High School and see what activities and clubs are available and what the High School has to offer. The Board suggested and inquired about a "Shadowing Program." The Superintendent stated that he'll review with NAHS and NAMS administration and provide an update. The Superintendent also informed the Board that NAHS will be having an Open House for parents on 2/13/2019 regarding clubs/activities.
15. The Superintendent discussed the cold-weather morning lineups at the elementary schools. The Superintendent and Board discussed possible solutions that will be reviewed with the administrative team.
16. Mrs. Higgins inquired about district special education contracts. The assistant school business administrator explained the background of each contract to the Board.
17. Mr. Smith inquired about uniform policy and dress code. The Superintendent stated that the uniform committee will review existing options and new options at the next committee meeting. The Superintendent invited Mr. Smith to be part of that committee.

18. Mr. Smith inquired about renovations and lighting at the Middle School. The Superintendent stated that there have been a number of follow-ups with the company and that this is an unfortunate situation that sometimes happens with the lowest bid that we are required to take. The Superintendent stated that we'll follow-up with our attorney.

19. Mr. Smith inquired about PTO meeting days and PTO members. The Superintendent stated that we are cognizant of PTO meetings; however, some dates still conflict. The Superintendent stated that it will be reviewed at the next PTOC meeting.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:35 pm made by Mrs. Higgins, second by Mrs. Gilgallon. 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