

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

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

March 11, 2019

5:33 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Dorsett	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>Present</u>
Mrs. Gilgallon	<u>5:48 pm</u>
Mrs. Higgins	<u>Present</u>
Mr. McDermott	<u>Present</u>

Also Present: Mr. Matthew Donohue of Donahue, Gironda, Doria & Tomkins, LLC
Mr. Anthony Catana of Spiezle Architectural Group

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of March 11, 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.

The Superintendent discussed:

1. The Superintendent reviewed the High School and Middle School Course placement requirements with the Board.
2. Mr. Smith inquired about the criteria for Middle School 1st and 2nd Honors and the grading system. The Superintendent stated that this is the second year the honor roll system has been in place for both the middle school and high school. He stated that the criteria is 90 or above in all subjects for 1st honors and 85 or higher in all subjects for second 2nd honors.
3. Mr. Smith inquired about possibly weighting honor roll criteria. The Superintendent stated that he's unaware of any district that does that; however, he'll conduct a survey among Bergen County districts and share the results.
4. Mr. Smith inquired about the grading system. The Superintendent stated that the administration and teachers on the DEAC and at faculty meetings worked to streamline the percentages for continuity across specific grades and subject areas; however, they are not the same for all grades or subjects because of different assessment methods and allowing for creativity of the teacher. The Superintendent acknowledged the teachers efforts to strengthen the grading system. He also stated that he'll review this topic at our upcoming DEAC meeting.
5. Mrs. Higgins asked if all 5th graders take the Middle School placement test. The Superintendent responded, "Yes" for ELA and Math.

6. The Superintendent reviewed different committees established by the Board to confirm those who will be meeting once or twice per month regarding QPHS.
7. Mr. Catana of Spiezle Architectural Group discussed the committee meetings with the Board and discussed dates for hosting a December referendum.
8. The Superintendent and Mr. Catana discussed proper remediation of the oil tank on Queen of Peace High School property and discussed clearance from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding these tanks with the Board.
9. Mr. Catana discussed the status on the punch list given to the contractor completing the Middle School HVAC Project with the Board.
10. The Superintendent updated the Board on the improving Random Drug Testing Policy, which has not yet been finalized yet.
11. The Superintendent updated the Board on the increase in State Aid and discussed the Statutory Growth adjustment with the Board.
12. Mr. Smith inquired about the replacement teachers at Washington Elementary School. The Superintendent stated that the public agenda shows the tenure-track replacement.
13. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the update to the Access Card System. The Assistant Business Administrator stated that we are recommending a full-scale upgrade to the door card security and access control system across all five school buildings. The current system was installed over 15 years ago and is beyond maintenance, and supplies/parts are no longer manufactured or obtainable. The existing system's functionality has suffered degradation over the past few years and could completely fail at any moment. The new system, consisting of door hardware, network cabling, controllers, and new access cards, would also combine all school databases into one centralized database for greater security. This upgrade will also integrate with the door access system scheduled to be installed at the former QPHS.
14. The Superintendent and Mr. Catana discussed "Man Traps" at each school with the Board.
15. Mrs. Higgins questioned the availability of all teachers being provided a school issued laptop and inquired about a survey. The Superintendent stated that a survey will be conducted and the results will be shared with the Board.
16. The Superintendent discussed an Item Not Known on the Agenda with the Board regarding a staff member to conduct graduate-level research.
17. Mr. McDermott announced he would be recusing himself from Item 5 D part I on the Agenda.

Motion to go into Executive Session regarding Student Privacy, Legal Matters, and Personnel at 6:30 p.m. made by Mr. Smith, 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 Session resumed at 7:12 pm

18. Mr. Donohue gave the Board a full report of the financial position of the district as well as reviewed the Certified Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Respectfully,

Kathleen McEwin-Marano
KMM:at