

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

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

October 16, 2019

5:40 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>5:50 p.m.</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 October 16, 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. The Superintendent presented a letter to the Board a letter stating we are officially in Cohort 1 for QSAC. He informed the Board that on November 15th there will be a facility walkthrough, and on February 25th there will be an official review of all the categories.
2. The Superintendent put in an OPRA request to the State of NJ for all PreK Expansion Aid Applications. Rubrics were denied; however, a blank rubric was provided after a second OPRA request. He offered Board Members the opportunity to review them. Mrs. Higgins asked if there was any way to get un-redacted copies of all applications. The Superintendent said that he would review with our attorney.

Mrs. Gilgallon entered the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

3. The Board discussed possible options regarding PreK if November Ballot Question #3 gets voted down by the town. The Superintendent noted that tuition-based PreK could be discussed at a later time.
4. The Superintendent discussed different uniform options with the Board and provided them with several examples to review. The Board exchanged views on embroidery vs. digital print (not screen print) for uniforms. They discussed the pros and cons and noted that it will be reviewed further at the next Uniform Committee Meeting.
5. The Superintendent and School Business Administrator discussed a Special Public Board Meeting regarding acceptance of the Queen of Peace bid that will take place on October 30, 2019 at 4:45 p.m.
6. The Superintendent discussed a soccer parent meeting with High School Administration.

7. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the logistics behind the 7th Period Stipends for the High School. The Superintendent explained that most of the stipends are coming off in late October due to the recommended hire of a new teacher (Students with Disabilities Certification).
8. Mrs. Higgins had concerns regarding the high school assessment scores and regarding retaining good staff while making a steady progression. The Superintendent reviewed all initiatives in place and cited a steady overall growth over the past few years. He also cited a committed group of new staff joining a group of dedicated educators for this school year.
9. Mr. Smith inquired about test score initiatives. The Superintendent discussed honors classes, LinkIt!, and PLCs. He also discussed NJSLA-released items with the Board and being able to now plug the data into proper sections within the curriculum.
10. Mr. Smith asked about the Algebra I scores in the Middle School compared to Algebra I scores at freshman level in the High School. The Superintendent responded that the 8th grade scores will typically be higher because those students are ready for that challenge. The students taking Algebra I in the High School took general Math in the 8th grade and may take longer to progress.
11. The Board discussed ways to get extra help for those students who really need it. The Superintendent said he would meet with the Principals, Director of Special Education and the Supervisors of Curriculum to discuss establishing a weekly or bi-weekly basis for students who are identified as struggling.

Mr. McDermott thanked all the educators on the Board for offering difference idea and strategies for dealing with these issues.

12. The Superintendent addressed the increase in students who qualify for free and reduced lunch in the district, which is noted in the data presentation.
13. Mrs. Gilgallon offered a suggestion regarding future Personal Development Opportunities on co-teaching and team teaching. The Superintendent thanked her for her input.
14. Mrs. Higgins suggested continuing the literacy Personal Development district wide. The Superintendent stated that it would continue and reviewed the existing plan.
15. The Board President reported to the Board on the outcome of the meeting with senior citizens regarding "Vikings Value A Blueprint For Our Future." He noted that there were approximately 60 senior citizens in attendance as well as Ms. Russo, and former Board of Education member, Tony Blanco. The purpose of the meeting was to answer any questions the seniors had regarding the upcoming staffing questions or referendum vote.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:50 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