

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

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

**April 27, 2020**

3:34 p.m.

**Online**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

**III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

This Public Meeting of April 27, 2020, 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, 2020 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 School Business Administrator reported to the Board on Buildings and Grounds. Mrs. Dembowski stated that a memo was received from Department of Health which noted that all rubberized gym floors must be tested for mercury. T&M Associates has been working with a company testing the floors and the air quality at Roosevelt and Washington Elementary Schools. A recommendation will be presented to the Board after the all testing is completed.
2. The School Business Administrator discussed the Sensory Room at Jefferson School with the Board for the new ABA Program. The Superintendent also provided information.
3. The School Business Administrator informed the Board that we will be going to bid in May/June for new bathrooms at Jefferson and the current North Arlington Middle School as well as going out to bid on revamping the cafeteria for the New Middle School.
4. The School Business Administrator informed the Board regarding an issue with getting the PSE&G to the New Middle School. Mr. McDermott was able to help resolve the issue and get PSE&G in touch with the electricians. Mr. McDermott was concerned that the Architect was not monitoring this more closely.
5. The Superintendent updated the Board that NJSIAA has extended the spring season to June 30<sup>th</sup>.
6. The Superintendent discussed expanding the Chromebooks next year from Middle School, 6, 7, and 8 to include grade 5, and for the ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes at the High School for grades 9 and 10.

The Superintendent acknowledged and thanked Mr. Michael Asmus, Director of Technology and Robert Silkowski, Computer Technician for doing a great job in putting this together and making everything happen over the past few weeks.

The School Business Administrator pointed out that the Chromebooks that on this Agenda were just for grade 5 and that the quote for grades 9 and 10 will be forthcoming. The Board further discussed Chromebooks.

7. The School Business Administrator explained a new health plan called The NJ Educator's Plan with the Board.
8. The Superintendent discussed a project he was working on suggested by Mrs. Higgins regarding a power point presentation to acknowledge first responders and families that will be posted on our website.
9. The Superintendent stated that I&RS meetings are continuing throughout the district.
10. The Superintendent stated that student attendance was good. He said that there were still several cases of students being absent, and when needed NAPD was contacted for courtesy wellness checks.
11. The Superintendent discussed the high school and middle school past/fail option and numerical grade option. After careful review, the Administrative team has decided to keep the numerical grade option.
12. Mr. Dorsett suggested that students be given a grace period, given the current circumstances. The discussion was further discussed by the Board.
13. The Superintendent informed the Board that the Early College and Early Career Program packets have been finalized today for the 2020-2021 school year. The Guidance Department and High School Principal will be working together to get them out to the eligible high school students and keep the middle school students informed.
14. The Superintendent discussed mental health and mental wellness days with the Board.
15. Mr. Dorsett inquired if the Guidance Counselors are keeping in touch with "at risk students" and following up with them. The Superintendent said that the Counselors are keeping logs on all the students.
16. The Superintendent reviewed some platforms being used for special education. Training was provided in Flip Grid/ScreenCastify/EdPuzzles to all staff as one-way online platforms for remote instruction..
17. The Superintendent reviewed guidelines set forth by the NJDOE for the evaluation of staff members.
18. The Superintendent discussed Ms. Jaume's emergency response plan that she has been working on.
19. The Superintendent discussed a scheduled June 2<sup>nd</sup> PD day for our staff as a potential moving day, or personal item pick up day for teachers on that date, depending on the Governor's orders.
20. The Superintendent discussed the posting of new positions and conducting online interviews.
21. Mr. McDermott inquired about the ABA behaviorist position. He recommended that we hire a full-time behaviorist. The Superintendent said that right now we have budgeted a half-time behaviorist, but can work with Mr. Burke to come up with a schedule to see where the person would be further needed throughout the day as well as analyze funding.
22. The Superintendent discussed student placement notification. He would like to get the information out to families in late May or early June.
23. Mrs. Higgins inquired about notifying the children of who their teacher is for the next year and asked if we could synchronize it so that all schools are doing it in the same way. The superintendent agreed.
24. The Superintendent discussed Kindergarten Registration. The pre-registration forms are located on our website under Headlines and Announcements. Further information will be released once we receive further guidance from the State.

25. The Superintendent discussed Middle School and High School graduations. He spoke with Mr. Bott and Ms. Russo regarding different ideas for graduation and promotion ceremonies.
26. The Superintendent stated that he asked for the community service for the High School be waived and suspended for the remainder of this year due to the current situation.
27. The Superintendent discussed the Senior Scholarship Ceremony and coming up with a plan so the award winners and donors can still be acknowledged.
28. Mr. Dorsett suggested doing a huge Zoom for the ceremony and all future events. The Superintendent said that he would look into it and discuss with Mr. Asmus and Ms. Buckley at the next administrator's meeting.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. made by Mr. McDermott, 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.

Respectfully,

Samantha Dembowski  
SD:at