

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

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

**December 14, 2020**

5:35 p.m.

**High School Gymnasium**

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 December 14, 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 Superintendent reported information from his meeting with the Bergen County Superintendents. He said that 27 of 75 school districts county-wide have elected to go fully virtual until sometime in January. He said that once a region reaches “red” all schools must move towards fully remote and that some districts disagree with this guidance. We are monitoring everything on a weekly basis.

Mrs. Gilgallon said that she read an article stating that Bergen County was now red. The Superintendent said that the Bergen County Health Department will not acknowledge a specific county and are going to keep everyone together as a region. The NJ Department of Education is requiring all students that are virtual and quarantined due to COVID-19 positive results to be reported. The Board continued to discuss the issues associated with this directive.

2. Mr. Smith asked if the Superintendent has been given any numbers from the town? The Superintendent said that he gets daily updates and he believes the numbers in town are approximately 800 right now.
3. Mr. Smith inquired about when we were scheduled to return back to school. The Superintendent said that we are slated to return on January 19, 2021, but we must continue to review COVID-19 related data.
4. Mr. Dorsett asked if the Department of Health would let us know a week in advance of opening if they don’t think it’s a good idea to open. The Superintendent said that right now we are orange and that the data is rising. He said that we will be monitoring it and if it is still orange, we would need to discuss further. He said that if it is red then we would remain remote unless the health department states otherwise.

5. Mrs. Gilgallon said that she has heard other districts are getting increasing numbers of people requesting leaves and asked if that has impacted us yet. The Superintendent said that numerous staff members have utilized FFCRA from the beginning and we have a number of people still utilizing the FFCRA which they are entitled to by the Federal Government to care for their children.
6. Mr. Dorsett inquired about what would happen when a teacher returns in January and a student gets sick, if the teacher had to go on any type of leave. The Superintendent said that they would have to quarantine, but continue working from home. The Superintendent stated that the FFCRA ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>.
7. Mrs. Gilgallon asked if we are getting reimbursed for FFCRA. The School Business Administrator said that we are not getting reimbursed due to the fact that the tax credits do not apply to governmental agencies and that we are paying up to \$200 a day to employees on FFCRA leave in addition to having to pay a substitute in a teacher's absence.
8. Mr. Dorsett inquired about lunch distribution during the upcoming school closure due to the snowstorm. The Superintendent stated that he sent an email to everyone detailing that the food distribution will be made available on Wednesday, December 15, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He said that in addition to Wednesday's meals the food distribution will also provide breakfast and lunch for five days including Thursday through Sunday. School meals will also be provided the following week.
9. Mr. Smith inquired about what the process would be if we return to school in person and there is a snowstorm. The Superintendent stated that we would review, but possibly asynchronous learning.
10. Mrs. Higgins stated that she was very happy with our purchase of the LLI (Leveled Literacy Intervention) program for grades K-5 for the school district. She said that it was a program to use for students who need additional or more intensive reading instruction. She said that it was a very intense program and a very good system to use.
11. Mrs. Higgins said that she attended a Bergen County School Boards meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. She said that they had a marine corp. speaker, Sara Walker. She discussed bills that were being considered for the assembly: the QSAC review for High Performing Districts, and Bill 4310 regarding carryover of additional surplus into the next school year. Mrs. Higgins also reviewed other topics of interest from the meeting with the Board. The Board discussed student testing.
12. Mr. Dorsett inquired about how LinkIt scores were being used. The Superintendent explained and the Board discussed.
13. The Superintendent discussed a grant opportunity for low income students to go to college for free, which we were not eligible because we are not an "opportunity zone" district.
14. Mrs. Higgins said that she spoke to Matt Lee, a representative of School Boards and gave the Board a PowerPoint outlining examples of different types of committees to possibly restructure our current committees. She said that he would be happy to come to our Board Meeting in January.
15. Mr. Dorsett asked the Superintendent if he could follow up with the High School Principal and the Guidance Department regarding the soccer player that was injured during the State's game. The Superintendent said that he'll follow up.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:13 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.

Respectfully,

Samantha Dembowski  
SD:at