

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

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

January 25, 2021

5:41 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 January 25, 2021, 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 7, 2021 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 discussed an organization called Warm Line, an emergency counseling service for students, parents, and community members. He reviewed the services and costs with the Board. The Board further discussed the advantages and disadvantages of implementing Warm Line in comparison to services already made available by Bergen County. The Superintendent said that he would discuss these services with our Supervisor of Guidance. The Board decided to put Warm Line on hold for the time being.
2. The Superintendent stated that we have a Board meeting scheduled on Veterans Day and asked the Board how they felt about keeping that date or changing it to another day. The Board agreed to change the Board meeting to Tuesday, November 9, 2021.
3. The School Business Administrator announced that we are cancelling the March 10, 2021 Board meeting. She reminded the Board that we will be keeping the date of March 15, 2021 for our board meeting as to follow the election calendar and submission of the 21/22 tentative school budget.
4. The Superintendent discussed the status of the Sensory Room. He said that the installer was ill and that the installation has been rescheduled for February 5th.
5. The Superintendent updated the Board on a potential CTE program. He said that he was working with the High School Principal trying to establish CTE entry-level courses. The Superintendent said that he met with the school district architects at the field house and at the high school to discuss revamping areas in the buildings to utilize these spaces for the placement of certain programs/services. The Board further discussed this topic.

6. The Superintendent discussed the outcome of the Pre-K lottery. He said that at present we have 81 respondents, approximately 25 were not eligible. He said that we were able to accommodate almost everyone who was eligible and that there are three people on the waiting list which we hope to accommodate as well. He said that we are in the process of registering children, verifying vaccination forms, and looking to place children based on siblings in the district. The Superintendent said that Chromebooks will be handed out to these students this coming Friday between 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
7. Mr. Dorsett inquired if our private provider would be virtual as well. The Superintendent said that the private provider is virtual since they are adhering to the school district's program.
8. The Superintendent discussed desk shields and their cost effectiveness. He said that the ones we had were not sturdy enough and needed to be upgraded. The School Business Administrator reached out to the company and exchanged the ones we had to much sturdier desk shields. The Superintendent and Board also discussed the possibility of the use of face shields for the Middle and High School. The Superintendent said that there will be a restart and recovery meeting on February 10, 2021 to discuss data and if schools should re-open. The Superintendent and Board discussed possible scenarios of re-opening schools.
9. Mr. Smith inquired if parents who had their children on fully remote when we closed have the opportunity to come back now. The Superintendent said that the answer is "yes." The Superintendent also stated that he was not pleased with the lack of information and conflicting information being shared by the NJDOE in relation to state assessments. The Superintendent and Board discussed this topic.
10. Mrs. Gilgallon inquired if we could send out surveys to ask parents if they would like their children to return to school in a hybrid model or return to school 4 days a week and then make our decision based on what our numbers are. The Superintendent and Board further discussed the possibility of sending out a survey.
11. The Board President and Board assigned committees.
12. The Board President handed out information regarding other schools with Facebook pages suggesting the possibility of having North Arlington obtain a Facebook page to share informational events and our district successes with the community. The Superintendent and Board further discussed the pros and cons of this suggestion.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. made by Mr. Smith, 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