

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

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

December 13, 2021

5:35 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

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

III.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of December 13, 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 stated that he will present the 3-year Technology Plan to the Board in late January. He requested that two Board Members serve be on a committee to review the plan. Rob Dorsett and George McDermott volunteered to assist. All other Board Members were in agreement.
2. The Superintendent discussed the Millennium Project which was partnered with the Borough. He also discussed a secondary Internet proposal and is waiting to hear back from Bergen Tech regarding their analysis of this project.
3. Mrs. Higgins stated that levels of communication needed to be increased by all. After several ideas were shared, everyone agreed that a draft of the agenda would be shared approximately one week in advance to a meeting.
4. The Superintendent said that the County Superintendent reached out to districts asking them to consider being a site for vaccinations. He distributed materials to the Board to review. The Superintendent and Board agreed to host vaccination sessions at some time after the new year.
5. The Superintendent and Board discussed wellness breaks during school holidays and shutdowns. The Superintendent confirmed that homework would be reduced during these times.
6. The Superintendent presented a quarterly report regarding overall progress of LinkIt! and the Extended Instructional Support (EIS) Program. The Superintendent distributed EIS updates for the Board to review and discuss.

7. The Superintendent discussed hiring two Math Coaches in the district, K-5 and 6-12. He said that one was already budgeted and that the other Math Coach would be covered by ARP ESSER funding. He asked for their approval to post for both Math Coaches and the Board agreed.
8. The Superintendent stated that they were once again looking to partner with Conquer Math as classes are slated to departmentalize for grades 2&3 and 4&5 next school year.
9. The Superintendent stated that the administrative team was notified that the school store grant, which was initially approved by the NJDOE, now is no longer approved as is. He stated that if the grant does not work, Veterans Middle School is considering having a school store club which will be run by teachers on a volunteer basis for three years. He stated that we are all frustrated with this process and outcome, especially because we are now being asked to completely revamp the application which does not fit the initial plan.
10. The Superintendent discussed the district's three Twitter accounts with the Board and having the Twitter feed run down the right side of the district homepage and school webpages. The Board agreed that they would like to see that.
11. The Superintendent and Board discussed venues for honoring the Teachers of the Year in coordination with the NA Education Foundation. Everyone agreed that it would be best to wait until spring and possibly hold it at "RIP."

The Superintendent left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The Superintendent re-entered the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

12. The Superintendent and Board discussed parent-teacher conferences and their relation to quarantined students. The Superintendent stated that approximately 2% of the possible parent population was impacted and that they were provided a remote conference option or an opportunity to schedule an in-person session at a later time.
13. The Superintendent discussed his meeting with the County Health Department, local Health Department, Mayor and Council, and Freeholder regarding COVID19 one-symptom and exclusions with the Board. He distributed a letter to the Board for review from the Bergen County Health Department dated September 2020 recommending one-symptom exclusions and said that the recommendation is still in place as confirmed by their office earlier this school year. The Superintendent provided data on the impact their one-symptom exclusion rule has had on families and instruction. He pleaded with the county to adhere to NJDOH guidelines for overall consistency, but they declined to do so.

Mr. Dorsett left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Dorsett re-entered the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

The School Business Administrator left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The School Business Administrator re-entered the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

14. The Superintendent distributed architectural plans to the Board. The School Business Administrator discussed the drainage issues at Veterans Middle School with the Board. The Board requested a meeting with Pennoni to further discuss possible solutions. Mr. McDermott and Mr. Smith volunteered to take part in the meeting. The Board agreed.
15. Mr. Dorsett inquired about the estimated time for completion of the Veterans Middle School gym. The Superintendent stated that the company, Mathusek, said that there is a supply shortage of materials. He stated that the projected completion should be mid to late January if all the materials arrive on time.
16. Mr. Dorsett inquired about honoring both the girls and boys soccer teams at the next Board Meeting for their winning seasons. The Superintendent agreed and made note of it.

17. Mr. Dorsett inquired about sports and the two-parent rule. The Superintendent stated that our athletic director has been in constant contact with representatives from the NJSIAA and NJIC. Although the NJSIAA and NJIC are hopeful to have more fans, the current safety and health guidelines still recommend social distancing and face masks while indoors. Due to limited space, North Arlington will only host two fans/family members per child. Any away fans will not be permitted until further notice.
18. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the status on the elevator at Veterans Middle School. The School Business Administrator said that we are still waiting for delivery and was told that we are on track for the install either in April or June.
19. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the status of the roof replacement at Veterans Middle School. The School Business Administrator said that we are currently out to bid for the roof replacement. She said that the walkthrough is this coming Wednesday for all interested bidders and that we will be opening bids on January 6, 2022.
20. Mr. Dorsett commented on the wrestling event sponsored by IWF in honor of former student Michael Cammett and said that it was very nice.
21. Mr. Smith inquired about LinkIt! and if they were counting as grades. The Superintendent stated that everyone was instructed that Form A and Form B should not count as grades or as benchmarks; however, it's possible that Form C will count as a grade/benchmark since the material will have been covered during the course of the school year.
22. The Superintendent stated that the COVID19 weekly activity report reflects our region as "high." This notification comes with an increased number of days recommended to quarantine.
23. The Superintendent stated that the district just received official Individual Score Reports (ISR) for Start Strong today and that they should be emailed by the end of the week to parents. Mr. Smith inquired about a comparison to other districts among the State. The Superintendent stated that a presentation will be made at an upcoming Board Meeting.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 7:11 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