

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

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

March 16, 2022

5:40 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **ROLL CALL**

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

III.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. **STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

This Public Meeting of March 16, 2022, 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, 2022 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. Auditor, Mr. Bobby Bedara, Manager, of the Accounting firm of Donohue, Gironda, Doria, and Tompkins introduced himself to the Board and presented the North Arlington 2020-2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) to the Board. The School Business Administrator and Board discussed parts of the Budget and Capital Projects. Mr. Bedara continued with his presentation. At the end of his presentation he thanked the Business Administrator and her staff for their tremendous job and stated that the past two years of audits have gone very well. Mr. Bedara also thanked the Board.
2. The Superintendent discussed the Teacher of the Year dinner. He said that it would be held at the Graycliff on May 25th. He also said that there would be teachers and retirees from the last three years invited. He thanked Barbara Kaiser and the NAEF for organizing the event.
3. The Superintendent and Board discussed the possible date of May 26th for the plaque dedications, which may be held at 8:30 a.m. at Susan B. Anthony Elementary School and at 9:15 a.m. at Veterans Middle School.
4. The Superintendent said that the ceiling lights in the gym at Veterans Middle School were upgraded so that it is brighter.
5. The Superintendent handed out EIS Reports and LinkIt! Reports. He reviewed them with the Board. He said that a survey showed that the students and staff enjoyed the program. He stated that they have seen a lot of growth. Mr. Smith inquired about the grading format of Forms A, B, & C of LinkIt! The Superintendent provided an explanation.

Mrs. Higgins left the meeting at 6:18 p.m. and re-entered the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

6. The Superintendent updated the Board on PreK-4 registrations. He said that we received approximately 64 registrations and will have a cut off date of May 31st. The Superintendent stated that we are expecting an enrollment of approximately 150-160 for Kindergarten in the new year.
7. The Superintendent stated that SACC is requesting to move back to Roosevelt School since the classes are easier to manage with the smaller children when they are all on the first floor. Mrs. Higgins asked if SACC would run in the Summer as well. The Superintendent said “yes.”
8. Mr. McDermott updated the Board on the Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Access for All.
9. The Superintendent said that members of the hockey team who won the McMullen Cup would be honored them at the April meeting. He said that Athletic Director, Josh Aronowitz, was in the process of ordering our first Hockey Championship banner for the gym.
10. The Superintendent said that he sent the Board tentative dates for the High School and Middle School, end-of-year events.
11. The Superintendent said that he spoke with the NAEA President, regarding ideas on what to do for Teacher Recognition. The Board liked the idea of allowing the teachers to be released once the buildings were cleared for that week, (Tuesday – Friday), as well as a dress down week.
12. The Superintendent reviewed the 2022-2023 school calendar with the Board. He said that the principals and teachers association reviewed it and were all in agreement.
13. The Superintendent discussed snow days and how they may affect the possibility of being able to offer remote/asynchronous days. He told the Board that he would report back once he had more information.

The Superintendent left the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and re-entered the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

14. The Superintendent stated that the Middle School Principal and Assistant Principal would like to have the Middle School graduation back in their gym. He said that he supported their request. He said that the High School will be having a traditional graduation at “RIP.” The Board were all in agreement that it would be nice to have the parents sitting with their children on the field as was done in the past two years.
15. The Superintendent discussed random drug testing at schools. He said that the program is working very well and effective. He reviewed general data and stated that students identified have been receiving assistance.
16. Mr. Smith inquired about the \$2 million regarding the new science labs at the High School. The Superintendent and School Business Administrator said that approximately \$875,000 was from coming from ESSER funds for ventilation and HVAC upgrades for the entire science wing at the High School. The Superintendent said that the science labs have been in long-range facility plans for decades and were in desperate need of upgrades. Mrs. Higgins seconded his concerns.
17. Mr. Smith inquired about the Boys’ bathrooms at the High School. The Superintendent invited Mr. Bott in for an explanation of what was occurring. Mr. Bott said that this issue has been going on for many years, but they’re working to address it by opening bathrooms in the boys’ locker room.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. made by Mrs. Higgins, 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.

Public Session reconvened at 8:17 p.m.

18. The Superintendent discussed enforcing the handbook requirements for walking at graduation. The Board supported the requirements.

19. The Superintendent discussed the Early College Program and Early Career Program with the Board. He also discussed moving the Early Career Program to an in-house program.
20. The Superintendent and Board discussed recreational summer programs. The Board and Superintendent are waiting on more information from Borough Officials.

The Board adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

On Motion 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