

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

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

August 15, 2022

5:34 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **ROLL CALL**

Mr. McDermott	<u>Present</u>
Mrs. Higgins	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Dorsett	<u>Present</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>Present</u>
Mrs. Gilgallon	<u>Present</u>
Student Board Member	<u>Absent</u>

III.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. **STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

This Public Meeting of August 15, 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. The Superintendent stated that the Bergen County Coalition of School Administrators (BCASA, BCPSA and BCCC) sent a joint letter to the Commissioner expressing their displeasure and concerns with the implementation of Start Strong. The State did not provide a response. The Board further discussed.
2. The Superintendent stated that QSAC training is on August 30th. He said that the County said that our district does not need to go since we are always in good standing. He further stated that the State formula for test scores is not being modified at this time.
3. The Superintendent stated that the State revamped the HIB law and that it is now a requirement to use the NJDOE system, which has not been released yet. The Superintendent said that the Emergency Remote or Virtual Instructional Plan checklist has not yet been released either.
4. The Superintendent said that the numbers for cheerleaders have risen to 37, which is larger than most athletic teams. He asked the Board to create an assistant cheerleading coach position which would be a stipend of \$1800 per season (2 seasons Fall/Winter). The Superintendent and Board discussed further. The Board agreed with this position as long as participation numbers remained at 25 or above.
5. The Superintendent reviewed all district positions that still need to be filled for the 22-23 school year. The Superintendent reviewed and discussed with the Board.

6. The Superintendent discussed the necessity to post soon for a leave replacement or interim for the position of Director of Curriculum and Instruction. The Board discussed further and agreed to post for the position.
7. The Superintendent reviewed class enrollment numbers and neighborhood zones within the district.
8. The Superintendent updated the Board with the status of the proposed joint meeting with the Borough. The Superintendent stated that we have reached out to the Borough Administrator in a joint effort to post for the meeting, but have yet to hear back. The School Business Administrator will inquire further.
9. The Superintendent said that he sent an email to all employees regarding Governor Murphy's Executive Order 302 which is lifting routine COVID-19 testing requirements for school districts for unvaccinated workers as of September 1, 2022.
10. The Superintendent discussed the student handbook and areas of concern from the principals, which included playground areas before school and open lunch for 9th graders. The Board provided input so that the documents could be finalized.

Mrs. Higgins left the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Mrs. Higgins re-entered the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

11. The Superintendent stated that several families near Veterans Middle School voiced concerns about the traffic issues because of the amount of students being dropped at Beaver and Legion. The Superintendent and Board further discussed this matter and will continue to provide updates based on discussions with the Veterans Middle School Administration, the North Arlington Police Department and construction forum.
12. The Superintendent said that there was a construction meeting regarding the drainage project at Veterans Middle School. He stated that a plan would be in place to open up Veterans Middle School staff parking in the back of the High School building.

The Superintendent left the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

13. The School Business Administrator updated the Board on the drainage project at Veterans Middle School and stated that the project should begin on August 22nd.

The Superintendent re-entered the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

14. The School Business Administrator and Board asked on who plans on attending the School Boards Convention. She said that she needed to know by September 12th.
15. The Superintendent and Board discussed having police coverage at Veterans Middle School during the beginning of the construction work there. The Superintendent said that he would discuss with the Veterans Middle School Principal, who would coordinate with the North Arlington Police Department.
16. Mr. McDermott suggested having book houses in front of each school building and felt that it might be a good idea to involve the PTO at each school. Mrs. Gilgallon suggested possibly having the Boy Scouts build the book houses. The Superintendent stated he would discuss logistics with the principals and report back to the Board.
17. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the cost for RBT and Behaviorists from The Uncommon Thread. The School Business Administrator said that ESSER funding will be used to cover a portion of this cost for this year. The Superintendent stated that this contract was related to several positions, not just one.
18. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the items listed on the agenda to be purchased for the cafeteria. The School Business Administrator said that these items were listed on the agenda as being rescinded and not being purchased.

19. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the purchase of chromeboxes at Veterans Middle School. The Superintendent stated the chromeboxes were never ordered at Veterans Middle School to go with the Promethean Boards and HDMI cables. He said that chromeboxes had been installed at the High School and that now Veterans Middle School will have the same technology as the High School.
20. Mrs. Gilgallon inquired about the quorum policy and the doctrine of necessity in place. The Superintendent stated that he would discuss the need for the doctrine of necessity with the Board Attorney and get back to the Board.
21. Mr. Smith inquired about the High School Block Schedule. The Superintendent stated that he will review with the High School Principal and ask that he follow up.
22. The Superintendent stated that the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds had noticed that the gate at "RIP" Collins Athletic Field had been left unlocked on multiple occasions during the evening hours and that he had to lock it. He suggested having the district custodians open and close the field on weekends to be sure that the field is always locked at night to avoid vandalism. The Board agreed.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 7:06 p.m. made by Mr. McDermott, 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