

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

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

March 13, 2023

5:31 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

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| Mr. McDermott | <u>5:39 p.m.</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>Present</u> |

III.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of March 13, 2023, 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 5, 2023 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, of Donohue, Gironda, Doria, and Tompkins presented the North Arlington 2021-2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) to the Board.
2. The Superintendent discussed the PreK expansion at Roosevelt School. He said that we are expanding one class this year and that the multipurpose room will be converted to kindergarten classroom for next year to free up a PreK room in the building. The Superintendent and Board discussed further.
3. The Superintendent said that the winter Sports Awards was held in the High School Gym and the ceremony reverted back to how the night was ran in the past. He said that the athletic director remarked that a lot of kids did not show up for their certificates, which was part of the concern noted from earlier in the school year. The Superintendent stated that we would solicit feedback from student-athletes, in coordination with the parent boosters, via a survey to assist in making a decision for future planning. The Superintendent said that, in coordination with the Parent Boosters, the end of year sports awards dinner will not be taking place at the Fiesta due to financial concerns and overall student involvement. The Superintendent and Board discussed different options for the year end event, which included the North Arlington High School Gym, the Veterans Middle School Gym, and “RIP” Collins Athletic Complex.
4. The Superintendent said that a principal opening has been posted and that he should get interviews completed in two weeks or so. He said that there are no dates or committees set up yet. He invited two Board Members to sit in for the interviews, but stated that the interviews would take place during the day.

5. The Superintendent said that he would like to pilot a math program called enVision. The Board discussed comparisons of Go Math! and enVision and how the programs would fit in each school. The Superintendent suggested that we pilot enVision for one year in these grade levels since it came highly recommended through Conquer Math and since the high school is already using it. Mrs. Higgins suggested asking for a pacing guide from Conquer Math to assist.
6. The Superintendent discussed piloting a science program called Elevate Science or just move forward based on overall feedback, instead of using the Mystery Science program for next school year in grades K-5. He stated that we currently use Elevate Science in grades 6-8 and this will now align K-8 for science.
7. The Superintendent said that he has been observing elementary classrooms over the past three weeks and seeing different lessons with some teachers using Readers and Writers and some using Wonders. He said that most, if not all, of the teachers are in favor of Wonders instead of Readers and Writers based on last year's survey and recent feedback from a meeting. He stated there are pros and cons to both programs, but Wonders seems as though it is able to provide our student population with the best chance to succeed over the next few years. The Superintendent said that his team is contacting other districts using the program. Mrs. Higgins suggested visiting these schools and the Superintendent agreed. Mr. Smith asked for data to show programs from the other school districts. The Superintendent stated that he will request that information. Mrs. Gilgallon suggested creating a pacing guide, similar to the math discussion, to make sure all of the students' needs are being met, which includes independent reading of authentic, leveled text.
8. Mr. Smith inquired about the Extended Instructional Support (EIS) and teachers who have only a couple of students attending their sessions. He asked for monthly attendance reports in all the classrooms. The Superintendent explained that classrooms with low enrollment will be combined and that the Administrators will be closely monitoring the sessions within their buildings. The Superintendent will provide the Board with a monthly attendance report.
9. Mr. McDermott inquired about a situation at Roosevelt School regarding lunch options. The School Business Administrator said that she would speak with the Food Service Director and provide the Board with an update.
10. The School Business Administrator discussed the Tax Levy with the Board, as well as enrollment adjustment and a healthcare adjustment that we were eligible for. The Board agreed to move forward with the proposed percent; utilizing a portion of the adjustment.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:28 p.m. made by Mrs. Higgins second by Mr. McDermott. 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