

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

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

October 16, 2023

5:35 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Higgins	<u>5:59 p.m.</u>
Mr. Dorsett	<u>Present</u>
Mrs. Gilgallon	<u>Present</u>
Mr. McDermott	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Smith	<u>Present</u>
Student Board Member	<u>Present</u>

Also present: Samantha Rodriguez-Torrento, Director of Curriculum & Instruction @5:38 p.m.

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of October 16, 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, as amended, 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 asked the student Board Member if there were any student body concerns or highlights she would like to share. She said that everything is going well, except it is sometimes cold in the classrooms. The School Business Administrator said that we got new boilers district wide and that they can't be put on until the installer comes to fire up the boilers, which just took place that day. The Superintendent said that some rooms are hotter/colder than others. He stated that it is difficult to regulate because the pipes in the buildings are so old.
2. Mr. Smith inquired about what the duties of the K-5 math coach. The Superintendent called in Mrs. Rodriguez-Torrento to respond to that question. She stated that the math coach is similar to the reading coaches. They look at the data and help teachers use the data to drive instruction, help teachers rotate workshops, modeling stations, and how to properly tier instruction. She said that the math coach is for grades K-5. The Board discussed further.
3. The Superintendent informed the Board that he identified the highest performing ELA and Math teachers in the district based on NJSLA results and met with them. He also invited the principals so that their best practices can be shared and heard. He said that every teacher said that they facilitated a positive classroom climate and helped to inspire the internal motivation of the students. They also referenced IXL as a main resource in their classes over the past few years.

Mrs. Rodriguez-Torrento left the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

4. The School Business Administrator handed out a document for the Board to review regarding the language for Use of Facilities Policy. The Board was supportive of the revised language.
5. The Superintendent discussed a new law with the Board, which requires a family to pay tuition for their child if the family moves out of the district at any point during the school year. It is reflected in Policy 5111.

Mrs. Higgins entered the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

6. The Superintendent discussed a potential NJCU partnership with the Board in relation to the placement of student-teachers and aspiring teachers. He explained the fees involved and structure of the program with the main attraction being that we would be able to increase overall support of our students and hopefully retain quality graduates looking to become teachers. The Board discussed. He said that they would work on the contract and provide further updates.
7. The Superintendent reminded everyone that we opened our 18-21 transition program this year. He discussed potentially turning the field house into an 18-21 transition house. Mrs. Gilgallon offered some input on how they might want to set up certain areas in the house such as a sensory room and hiring a transition coordinator. The Board was in favor of the space being utilized for this program. The Superintendent and School Business Administrator will begin getting quotes or prepare to bid, in coordination with the architect.
8. The Superintendent stated that it was time to finalize contracts for the PEA Grant for the next school year. He discussed a few potential locations for PEA (2023-2024) and being able to address our full PreK4 population. He said that further updates will be provided.
9. The Superintendent stated that for the past few years the PTOs have requested that a police office be present at the Halloween Trunk or Treat events and that some principals also request police presence at their Halloween parades and other school events. The Police Chief said that he is unable to provide full-time police coverage at these events, but that he can have an officer stop by each event. The Board discussed this issue further.
10. The Superintendent and Board discussed Recreation coverage at the schools and monitoring and clean up after recreation events. The Board discussed further. The Board identified liaisons on the NAPD and recreation matters and requested that the Superintendent facilitate a meeting with the Mayor and/or Council representatives.

Mrs. Gilgallon left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

11. The Superintendent said that he received a proposal for the lightning sensors for the fields at Veterans Middle School and "RIP" Collins Athletic Field. He said that the cost for the first five years would be approximately \$58,000 and after five years the cost is \$7,200 per year with a 5% increase each year. The Board discussed and would like to discuss with the Borough.
12. The School Business Administrator confirmed the dates for the School Boards Convention with the Board.
13. Mr. Dorsett inquired about the PTOC Meeting and Fun Festival. The Superintendent said that he held the meeting three weeks ago. He said that the PTOs decided not to do the Fall Festival of Fun because they already organized their own fall events, there wasn't much time, and because it could become costly. The Superintendent stated that he asked the group to consider this event for next school year.
14. The Superintendent discussed the high school students' potential trip to Spain. He said that there are 23 students, 5 teachers, and 5 parent chaperones slated to go. He said that each teacher will be assigned 4-5 kids. He stated that all security protocols are in place and that the trip is for 8 days. The Board was in favor of this opportunity for the students.
15. The Superintendent, in coordination with Mr. McDermott, identified areas outside of Roosevelt School that needed to be addressed for repair such as the blacktop, concrete work, and basketball hoops. He stated that the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds would be getting quotes for these items and that it will be reviewed with the Board.
16. The Board discussed security vestibules and security guards at the schools, along with the costs involved. Mr. McDermott asked the student Board Member to reach out to her peers and see how they feel about having school security officers in school.

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:55 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.

Respectfully,

Samantha Dembowski
SD:at