

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25

1200 S. Dunton Ave.
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2020

Regular Meeting

Brian Cerniglia, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. on October 26, 2020. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and E. Johannesen seconded the motion that the Board of Education move into open session.

Board members present: Brian Cerniglia, Chad Conley, Scott Filipek, Erin Johannesen, Rich Olejniczak, and Anisha Ismail Patel

Board members excused: None

Others Present: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology and Assessment; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Story Telling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

Community Input

- Christina Barbaric is a 6th grade teacher in District 25, and would like to keep and expand in-person learning. She described how teaching in a hybrid model has been for her.
- Todd Witherow requests children be in school with full in-person learning. He emailed a presentation to Board members.
- Leah Ross is anticipating that children will be in school full time. She feels that the science shows that school doesn't spread Covid, and wants to move to full in-person learning. She thanked the Board and administration for getting the district to this point.
- Heather Molina feels the district does not have an outline for what it will take to get the students back to full in-person learning. She wants to be given a choice for children to be back in school full time. She noted that the teachers in the district are amazing.
- Dr. Marianne Corcoran spoke about teen suicide. She stated that suicide rates are up and that students need connection with their teachers. She wants students back in school full time.
- Casey Whitaker is a teacher in District 25, and spoke on behalf of District 25 colleagues. He noted that the teachers are working very hard in the current model. He expressed concern with the speed of decisions being made, and how

- that information is being presented to teachers. He would like full transparency with an open communication with staff and administration. He would like students back in classroom, but is concerned about the safety of everyone.
- Renee Schlenhardt feels there is no transparency in the district. She noted that schools are a refuge for some students, and feels that the students' future is being put last. She would like a return date for a full time in-person option, and feels it can be done safely.

Dr. Bein summarized two comments that were received via email. All comments will be given to the Board in full and posted on the website tomorrow. They will also be attached to the Board minutes.

- Scott Caro and Kevin Allender are requesting full time in-person learning.
- Adam and Janelle Thoma would like the District to reprioritize and move to full day in-person instruction.

Mr. Cerniglia thanked everyone that spoke for their professionalism and information.

Communications:

The following reports were given:

- IASB – Dr. Bein noted that everyone should have the IASB Resolution Committee Report at their Board seat. The Delegate Assembly will be held virtually on November 14. Dr. Bein requested that Board members forward their votes on the IASB resolutions to Mr. Cerniglia no later than November 13, as he will represent the Board at the Delegate Assembly. If Board members have questions regarding IASB please contact Mr. Cerniglia or Ms. Patel. If they have a district question, they should contact her.

Committee of the Whole Reports

Student Learning – No Report

Student Services – No Report

Business and Finance – No Report

Facilities Management – No Report

Personnel and Planning – No Report

Superintendent Report

Cook County Department of Public Health Mandate/Recommendation

Dr. Bein said that updated information was received late this afternoon, and it is at the Board seats. Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) released a document regarding adaptive pause guidance. It is not in the final draft, but it will be published soon. Dr. Bein noted that these are recommendations, and not mandates at this time. CCDPH has no authority to move the district into full remote learning, but they can

direct us to close a building or classroom. The Board has the authority to close the district. Even if the CCDPH recommends remote learning, the district will take it as a recommendation and look at the district's internal metrics. If they are flat, we would continue in the Hybrid model.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion regarding guidance from the CCDPH and holding an emergency Board meeting. The motion that was presented was reviewed by Board members and clarified for the Board and Dr. Bein.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and S. Filipek seconded the motion that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent to take no action and for the Superintendent to return to the Board at such time as specific communication is received from the Cook County Board of Health for additional Board guidance, consistent with the CCPH guidance of October 16, 2020, and the Illinois Department of Public Health's guidance of August 17, 2020.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; S. Filipek, yes; E. Johannesen, no; R. Olejniczak, yes; and A. Patel, yes. Motion carried 5/1.

Mr. Olejniczak asked if the Board will make a decision on a date to go in-person at the October 29 meeting. Dr. Bein stated that it is one of the optional motions that the Board can make.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and E. Johannesen seconded the motion to adjourn the open meeting into closed session. The Board adjourned to the closed session.

The special meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



The meeting was noticed for closed session to discuss: Selection of a person to fill a vacancy in a public office, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).

Motion: E. Johannesen moved and C. Conley seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

The Board adjourned the closed session at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: November 12, 2020

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: November 13, 2020

Date minutes posted on District website: November 16, 2020

Community Input Received via Email

Name	Question/Comment
<p>Scott Caro and Kevin Allender</p>	<p>As we read the email communication from Dr. Bein last Friday, October 23, we agree with the opening paragraph which credits the students, staff and families for support as we transition to the hybrid model. We have a son in first grade and appreciate the commitment and dedication from our son's teacher every single day. The SD25 educators are truly committed to creating the best environment for our children.</p> <p>We cannot say that we feel the same about the leadership of the school district. We are extremely disappointed with the lack of progress being made to get our children back to school every day!</p> <p>As elected positions within our community, we would like to remind the SD25 schools board members of their role, as stated on the Illinois Association of School Boards website: "To provide local citizen control over education at a point as close to the parent and child as possible."</p> <p>Over the past three months we have heard many parents and community members ask the school board to step up and take a leadership role in opening our schools and getting our children back into the classroom.</p> <p>As of today, nothing has changed which is the reason we are writing this letter to the school board. This is not difficult! Schools in our community, state and country have figured out how to conduct in person education. We are requesting the board take ownership and provide local citizen control over education in order to get our children back in school every day.</p> <p>It's unfortunate that we continue to be stuck on analyzing the "right" metrics, charts and data to determine when to return to in person learning, while other schools are focused on metrics that drive academics and student success.</p> <p>We will be extremely disheartened if the next board of education update does not contain the words, "here is the plan and date that SD25 will begin five day in person learning."</p>
<p>Adam & Janelle Thoma</p>	<p>We believe the priorities of the district are off track. Health and safety metrics have been the focus of the district this school year, however it is not the district's job to create or disseminate health and safety metrics, that is the responsibility of the ISBE. So long as the ISBE recommends in-person education to be held there should be no reason not to hold school. The only metrics that the district should be focused on are education metrics: standards and enrollment. Hybrid was touted as a stepping stone - a way to identify and work out issues with providing in-person education. While it has gone better than remote learning, it is still not what our students deserve.</p> <p>We implore you to focus all efforts on getting students into the classroom full time and stop second guessing the ISBE guidelines. Other districts who made in-person education a priority have figured it out. Private schools and preschools have figured it out. Our schools have the capability to provide excellent education when they are fully functional. Please reprioritize and put our students first. Please bring back quality in-person education to District 25.</p>
<p>The following comment was received after the submission deadline and was not included in the October 26, 2020 Board meeting.</p>	
<p>Jenni Von Tobel</p>	<p>I have 3 daughters in D25, two of whom receive special services for both math and literacy. They LOVE the days that they are in school and struggle academically as well as socially on the days that they are at home. I'm writing to request that parents are given a choice for 5 day, in person school.</p> <p>As you see neighboring schools who are able to provide in-person learning for their students including all the schools on the North Shore, our neighboring communities and the private schools in our own community, I'm pleading with you to offer parents and teachers a choice for full day learning. Even if some schools go back remote for 10 days during an uptick in cases, they will then resume full time and provide the students the learning environment that they need.</p>

Name	Question/Comment
	<p>I am hopeful we can do the same asap - allow the parents the choice for full time in person instruction. And if and when the cases change over the next 6 months, we can adapt as needed. I've watched board meeting after board meeting where incredible creative solutions have been offered from community members - architects, psychologists, risk management professionals and more. We as a community are able to adapt together and make it work to the best of our collective abilities for those who choose to participate in full day instruction. The point is that we need a choice for the parents and the many teachers who are saying they want to be in person. If it's unclear to the board how many parents and teachers that is, perhaps another survey would help gather that information.</p> <p>I urge you, the School Board, to pick a date so that we can move forward with full in person learning.</p> <p>It goes without saying but is certainly worth saying that their teachers are incredible and I am moved to tears nearly every day as I listen to them patiently instruct the kids in front of them at school, and simultaneously the ones at home on a computer. They are amazing and I hope they are being supported with everything they need right now.</p> <p>Thank you for the time you put into this decision making - please move forward with that decision.</p>