



Arlington  
Heights  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 25

# Board Highlights

Board of Education Meeting  
November 12, 2020

## Regular School Board meeting – 7:40 p.m.

### Oath of Office

- Ms. Gina Faso was appointed to the Board of Education to fill the current Board vacancy, and took the Oath of Office of School Board Members.

### Recognitions and Presentations

- Illinois School Board Members' Day – November 15, 2020
- Honor all Veterans

### Community Input

- Melissa Newkirk has a child in middle school, who is happier being in school instead of remote. She wants the choice for full in-person or remote learning.
- Laura Culley wants full in-person learning, and feels that the in-person has been good so far. She would like to know the plan to go back into full in-person learning.
- Dr. Kyle Heaton is a dentist and has two children in the district. He feels that teachers are essential workers. He stated that using precautions is the primary reason Covid numbers are low amongst dentists and their staff, with following the CDC and IDPH guidance.
- Briana Hafer thanked the teachers and is impressed by the caliber of teaching in the district. She feels that the hybrid model is not working for all students, and wants a full in-person all day option.
- Sara Mungovan stated that hybrid is a stepping stone for full in-person. She feels that Covid is not spreading in the schools and that the district should move to full remote or full in-person January through March.
- Iliyana Zechevastated stated that her children are struggling with the hybrid model. They are a bilingual family and it is much harder for her children. She stated that the community wants to be part of the solution.
- Dr. Marianne Corcoran feels that if parents are fine with the risks with the hybrid model, they are also fine with the risks in full in-person learning. Other mitigating factors help to minimize the spread, and when done together they help a lot.
- Brooklynn Wiedner is a student at Windsor and spoke on behalf of herself, her younger brother, and her friends. She would like to go back to school full in-person, and is happy the two days she is at school.
- Steve Zurek stated that he feels the teachers are being pulled too thin with working with hybrid and remote students. He feels that there is not the same level of education with remote and in-person. He feels if a teacher is no longer

able to perform their in-person job, that they should not be able to keep it. He would like a choice for full in-person or remote learning.

- Erin Zurek was a teacher and knows that teachers and administrators are in a very difficult time, but wants full in-person learning. She read statements from parents that wished to remain anonymous.
- Kerri Hood spoke on behalf of someone who wanted to remain anonymous. She feels that the district should provide full in-person learning within two weeks. In speaking for herself, Ms. Hood felt that a petition that was sent out last month gave incorrect information.
- Stephanie Rapone said that the Board holds the school district accountable for achieving results and the Superintendent is the only employee of the Board. She feels the district should have a plan to get through 2022. She would like the option to return to full in person learning.
- Erin Kalaway feels that the children are suffering and the teachers are scared. She feels the district wasted time not getting the children into school full time. She is concerned with the leadership in District 25 and started a petition.
- Todd Witherow would like full in-person learning, and feels that the data shows that full in-person learning is safe with three feet. He asked what the teachers need for the district to be full in-person.
- Nikki Mather talked about her third-grade son and how he wants to go to school full time. He has a hard time managing his time when he's remote, and gets frustrated. She would like the choice for in-person or remote learning.
- Beth O'Meara supports a choice to have full day in-person or remote learning, a plan to move forward, and a way to solve the barriers. She stated the district has amazing teachers.
- Julie Manis attempted remote learning with her children, and ended up homeschooling after eight remote days. She feels that many students are struggling and people should be given a choice of full in-person or remote learning.
- Jennifer Huntzicker feels that our positive numbers are higher because we are testing more. She feels the district is basing decisions on fear, and that the district needs a plan to go back to full in-person. She feels that parents should have a choice for full in-person learning, and the district should find ways to mitigate the risks.
- Stephanie Levinsky spoke on behalf of Leah Ross who feels that it is not good to see the divide in the community, and the families need the leadership to make the decisions for the district. She feels no one should be disrespected for their feelings.
- Erin Blackburn thanked the Board and teachers for all their hard work. She feels remote learning is difficult and would like children back in school full time.
- Kellin Girard chose to live in Arlington Heights for the schools, which has been great up until now. She has seen negative impact remote learning has had on her children. She would like the district to give parents the choice for full in-person learning.
- Maryann Zaleski stated she was that the decision the board is making is political and that people speaking does not matter. She feels hybrid is working and that the next step is to bring the children back in-person full time.

- Paul Simkus feels that the school term should be extended to make up for lost learning, that parents are becoming more active in their children's' education and will scrutinize everything, and that parents don't feel that the Board and Superintendent do not have their children's best interest at heart.
- Adam Thoma is an architect and talked about the visuals of what six-foot distancing looks like. He provided a drawing of what six foot spacing looks like point to point to accommodate 15 students in a classroom. He hopes it helps the district's ability to see what a classroom could look like to help to move to full in-person.
- Mary Hahn from the League of Women Voters Arlington Heights-Mount Prospect-Buffalo Grove, encouraged the Board to approve Resolution 2 regarding guns at the 2020 IASB meeting. She also encouraged the Board to vote for the Equity belief statement being proposed by Indian Prairie School District 204. She noted that Board members can contact her or Heidi Graham for more information or questions.
- Renee Schlenhardt has watched other districts' Board meetings online. She spoke about the Superintendent from CCSD95, and how she feels that she provided leadership and worked with stakeholders. She feels the district is here to serve the students, and asked to get the children back in school full time.
- Adam Webb has had to reorganize work schedules for remote learning. He feels it is best to return to school safely, and would like a plan from the Board for all stakeholders. He would like clear and firm metrics to return to in-person, and stated that we must increase the mitigation to move to full in-person learning.
- Ryan Cooke is in support for full in-person learning. He felt that the district did a great job in March when it moved swiftly. He would like to hear a plan for full in-person learning, and stated that the teachers at Greenbrier are great.

Dr. Bein read categories of public 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.

- 25 - Use metrics to determine any change & stay in hybrid/remote
- 33 - Provide for choice and implement Full in-person learning as current metrics support
- 1 - Use a point-to-point measurement process
- 1 - Add every other Monday into the hybrid model
- 1 - Do not change teachers
- 1 - Have K-2 students go full in-person
- 1 - Remote Early Childhood has been wonderful - kids are safe and teachers are wonderful
- 1 - Go remote after the holidays for 2 weeks
- 1 - Kenosha School District is keeping schools open because it is in the best of interest of students; D25's actions do not feel schools are essential
- 1 - We need better leadership to support our children
- 1 - Teachers have been amazing. District should plan now for 2021-2022 full in-person choice

#### Consent Items Approved

- Personnel Report and Addendum to Personnel Report
- Treasurer's Report

- Invoices
- Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of October 15, 2020
- Special and Closed Session Meeting minutes of October 26, 2020
- Special Closed Session Meeting minutes of October 27, 2020
- Special and Closed Session Meeting minutes of October 29, 2020

Information/Discussion/Reports

- Presentation of the 2020 Tentative Tax Levy
- Five-Year Facilities Capital Plan

Action Items

- Direct the Superintendent to prepare for a full in-person learning with a target date of January 19<sup>th</sup> with the option for full remote learning, and to implement the model only once the following metrics are met:
  - An ability to maintain necessary staffing coverage, including substitutes
  - The District will to the greatest extent possible maintain six feet from point to point (i.e. center of chair to center of chair)
  - With the understanding that the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education advises that students be seated “six feet apart to the greatest extent possible” and
  - With the understanding that The American Academy of Pediatrics advises that physical distance between desks should follow current public health guidance, but that in the absence of specific guidance, desks should be placed at least three feet apart, and
  - <8% positivity rate in Region 10 as reported by the IDPH or
  - <70 new cases per 100,000 in Arlington Heights zip code in a 7-day period and
  - Flat or decreasing trend of Covid-19 positive cases in District 25 and/or
  - Decreasing trends in all of the above metrics that point towards them achieving the above metrics and
  - As part of this directive, the Superintendent should review metrics on a weekly basis.
- Approve nine additional temporary positions to assist with contact tracing for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$98,077.65.
- Direct the Superintendent to modify the current hybrid model, and current parent selection of hybrid model to afford an increase in the number of students attending classroom sessions beginning November 30 through the start of full in-person learning.
- Approve Illinois Public Risk Funds as the provider of the Workers’ Compensation insurance for calendar year 2021 at a cost of \$382,507.
- Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Arlington Teachers Association as submitted.

<p><b>NEXT REGULAR MEETING</b>          Thursday, December 10, 2020          7:30 p.m.          South Middle School          400 S. Highland Avenue          Arlington Heights, IL 60005</p>	<p>Arlington Heights School District 25          cultivates innovative learners within a nurturing and          collaborative community to thrive in an ever-changing world.          The Board Highlights are also posted on the          District web page at:  <a href="http://www.sd25.org">www.sd25.org</a></p>
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