

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25  
1200 S. Dunton Ave.  
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

School Board Meeting Minutes  
April 29, 2021

Brian Cerniglia, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on April 29, 2021 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 6:48 p.m. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

The meeting was noticed for closed session to discuss: Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees/Independent Contractors/Volunteers of the District, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); Review closed session minutes, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21); Collective negotiating matters, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); Student disciplinary cases, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9); Security procedures, school building safety and security, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).



**Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education**



Regular Meeting

**Motion:** B. Cerniglia moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education move into the Regular Board meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Scott Filipek, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the regular meeting to order 8:11 p.m. on April 29, 2021. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Roll call was noted.

Board members present: Brian Cerniglia, Chad Conley, Gina Faso, Scott Filipek, Rich Olejniczak, Anisha Ismail Patel, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: None

Others Present: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent; Stacey Mallek, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Dr. Peg Lasiewicki, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; 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.

### Recognitions and Presentations

Mr. Filipek, on behalf of the Board, and Dr. Bein congratulated Thomas Middle School Principal, Ms. Lori Naumowicz, who was awarded the 2020-2021 Illinois PTA Outstanding Administrator. Dr. Bein noted that the district is fortunate to work with the PTA. She introduced Ms. Liz Nierman, President of the PTA, and Ms. Lucy Block, Thomas PTA President. Ms. Nierman talked about the award, and introduced Ms. Block, who talked about the reasons why Ms. Naumowicz was nominated for the Outstanding PTA Administrator for the state of Illinois. Ms. Naumowicz thanked the PTA for the award.

### Community Input

- Melissa Cayer addressed the Board regarding utilizing "sine die" on the agenda as well as Consent Agenda items in BoardDocs.
- Jen Strimling addressed the Board regarding representation on the Board's Executive committee.
- Tricia Hasan addressed the Board regarding the transparency of the Board of Education and the election of the Board's Executive committee.
- Bliss Hensen addressed the Board regarding the Oath of Office including transparency and respect.

Dr. Bein read comments that were received electronically before the submission deadline. All comments are given to the Board in full and posted on the website.

- Christine Organ thanked the Board for adopting the Strategic Plan including DEI core values and goals.
- Karen Joseph thanked the Board for adopting the Strategic Plan including DEI core values and goals.
- Monica Tietz thanked the Board for adopting the Strategic Plan including DEI core values and goals.
- Alina Laurie addressed the Board regarding updating district quarantine procedures.
- Alexis Christensen thanked the Board for adopting the Strategic Plan including DEI core values and goals.
- Leah Ross addressed the Board regarding contract tracing and quarantining.

### Consent Agenda

**Motion:** B. Cerniglia moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve those items on the Consent Agenda as follows: (A) Personnel Report and Addendum to Personnel Report; (B) Invoices; (C) Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of April 8, 2021; (D) Memorandum of Agreement with SEIU Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

### Communications:

The following reports were given:

- NSSEO - Mr. Filipek reported that the NSSEO 2021-22 budget will be presented later in the meeting. Ms. Faso expressed interest in being the NSSEO representative. Mr. Filipek will remain the alternate, unless someone else would like to be the alternate. The first meeting is Wednesday, May 5.
- IASB – Ms. Patel noted that IASB is offering a Social Emotional Learning webinar series May – August that the Board can attend.
- Board Governance – Mr. Filipek read from the new Board member orientation portion of the Board Governance document. Policy 2:120 refers to Board Member Development.

The following reports were received:

- PTA – Ms. Nierman reported that PTA has been very creative this year to bring programs to students in the schools, and asked people to join the PTA, which can be done during the online district registration. They look forward to welcoming new members.
- ABC25 – Ms. Poyer reported that the GetBurbed Challenge was a success. She thanked Dr. Bein, Mr. Filipek, and Ms. Patel for attending. She stated that the foundation is very important to our schools and students. Families can join the ABC25 Foundation during the online district registration. Anyone in the community is welcome to join as well. Board members thanked the ABC25 team for a great event.

There were no reports from:

- ED-RED
- ATA

### **Committee of the Whole Reports**

#### **Student Learning**

##### **Technology and Student Privacy**

Mr. Fahnoe, Director of Technology provided an update on the district's steps to comply with new requirements of the Student Online Privacy Protection Act (SOPPA). The district provides educational tools for student learning, and also takes privacy very seriously. He reviewed the current areas of focus, and the updated SOPPA, which will go into effect July 2021. Key concepts and expectations including operators were explained. The district must have a written agreement with operators, and post a variety of information on the website including data review procedures, vendor agreements, data shared, and data breaches.

Current SOPPA-related activities that the district has been doing include adoption of Board policies; updating data breach procedures; training with the Learning and Technology Center of Illinois; being a member of the Student Data Privacy Consortium;

collection of data agreements with operators; coordinating with legal teams and other districts; meeting with administration and staff; and utilizing LearnPlatform. Next steps involve continuing to send requests for data sharing agreements; building out LearnPlatform with new information; communicating information and developing materials for staff and community; updating the website as applicable; communicating an approval process for any new platforms or services; and planning for additional training in the fall.

Ms. Patel left the meeting at 8:44 p.m. and returned at 8:46 p.m.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion regarding software agreements; a parent's right of refusal; and data breach procedures. Mr. Fahnoe was thanked for the detailed report.

#### Student Services - No Report

#### Business and Finance

##### Extension of Contract with Audit Firm

Ms. Mallek reported that District 25 has worked with Baker Tilly for the past nine years, and we have been pleased with the services they have provided, as well as their resources to service the district and meet the necessary timelines. The proposed cost is in line with other districts.

A Board member asked about other auditors, and Ms. Mallek stated that Baker Tilly works with many school districts, including District 214.

**Motion:** B. Cerniglia moved and A. Patel seconded the motion that the Board of Education extend the contract for independent financial audit services with Baker Tilly for three (3) additional years (2020-21 through 2022-23) as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

##### NSSEO Budget for 2021-2022 (take from last year)

Ms. Mallek reviewed steps that NSSEO undertakes in determining their budget. Individual program costs will be increasing between 2.2-2.6%. For 2021-2022, we are budgeting for 35 known students at this point. The NSSEO budget will be \$2,704,007 which includes a contingency of \$180,481 for four additional students and estimated summer school costs. The total anticipated tuition budget of \$3,187,046 represents an increase of \$506,016 from the current year budget. A portion of the increase, \$216,671 is a result of a change in the way IDEA funds are handled. Previously, NSSEO withheld a portion of IDEA funds to cover each district's share of the 5% required to be spent on staff development as well as administrative costs. Now that IDEA funds come directly to districts, NSSEO bills us for those amounts so we have to budget for that expenditure, which is ultimately reimbursed through the IDEA funds. Ms. Mallek was thanked for the report.

### Extension of Bus Transportation Contract

Ms. Mallek explained that because we are in our sixth year with Cook County School Bus Inc for bus transportation services, we are only able to extend our contract on a year-to-year basis. Cook County has proposed a 3.5% increase for 2021-22, or an increase of about \$47,600 based on maintaining the same number and types of routes as typical. These increases are based on their need to increase their pay rates to attract additional drivers and remain competitive, insurance increases, and a need to replace some buses to maintain our required average age of our fleet. Ms. Mallek recommends continuing with them for next year.

**Motion:** B. Cerniglia moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Extension of the Bus Transportation Contract with Cook County School Bus Co for 2021/22.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

### Facilities Management – No Report

### Personnel and Planning – No Report

### Superintendent Report

#### Second Reading of Policies from the Strategic Plan

Dr. Bein noted that with the adoption of the Strategic Plan two policies need to be updated. The mission is being updated to reflect the new Strategic Plan.

1:30 School District Philosophy

6:10 Educational Philosophy and Objectives

**Motion:** R. Olejniczak moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the second reading of policies as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

### First Reading of Policies

Dr. Bein discussed the policies and noted that they will be brought back for a second reading at the May 6, 2021 meeting.

3:92 Administrator Benefits Plan

2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure

2:265 Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure

### Community Input

- Heidi Graham addressed the Board regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and her concerns with the Executive Board.
- Sajid Patel addressed the Board regarding the Executive Board.

- Karen Thomas addressed the Board regarding their votes for the Executive Board.

Future Agenda Items - None

Dr. Bein noted that Mr. Filipek will be reaching out to Board members regarding committee assignments, and they should contact Dr. Bein or Mr. Filipek with any questions.

The Board did not return to the closed session.

**Motion:** B. Cerniglia moved and G. Faso seconded that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien  
Recording Secretary

Approved: May 20, 2021

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President  
Board of Education

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Secretary  
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: May 21, 2021

Date minutes posted on District website: May 24, 2021

Community Input Received Electronically

| <b>First and Last Name</b> | <b>Public Comment – April 29, 2021</b>  |
|----------------------------|---|
| Christine Organ            | I would like to thank the Board for unanimously adopting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which includes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Core Values and Goals. I look forward to hearing more about implementation and to seeing actionable steps regarding DEI.   |
| Karen Joseph               | Thanks to the Board for unanimously adopting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which includes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Core Values and Goals. The Strategic Plan aligns well with the Board's commitment to eliminate racial injustice and with the approved DEI policy 1:32. As stated at the last meeting, the DEI policy is meant to be built into the DNA of what we are as a District. That being said, I look forward to hearing more about implementation and to seeing actionable steps regarding DEI very soon.  |
| Monika Tietz               | I just want to thank the Board for unanimously adopting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and included within DEI core values and goals! I look forward to hearing more about implementation and to seeing actionable steps regarding DEI.   |
| Alina Laurie               | It's time to update SD25 procedures regarding anyone identified as a close contact. First off, the CDC latest guidance is that a person can take a test 5 days after "close contact" exposure and if test is negative they can resume normal activity. Secondly, the "close contact" distance is 3 feet instead of 6 feet. Even if the county health dept hasn't updated their procedures yet that should not hold SD25 back from doing the right thing. Our community has ample access to the vaccine, all SD25 who wanted the vaccine had the opportunity to get it. The best thing about independent school districts is that each can make the decisions that are best for their students. The greatest impact on students right now is needless exclusion from school and exclusion from school activities such as music and sports. |
| Alexis Christensen         | I would like to thank the Board for unanimously adopting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which includes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Core Values and Goals. As a District 25 parent, I look forward to hearing more about implementation and to seeing actionable steps regarding DEI.  |

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| Leah Ross  | <p>I am incredibly concerned about the policy of contact tracing, that completely disregards that an airborne virus can move wherever it wants to and it's also invisible. A virus might move to feet 3 feet4' or 10 feet or it might not ever enter anyone else's body whatsoever. Nobody throughout history has been able to predict who will get a virus next and you certainly cannot do that with groups of children and tell the healthy children they have to go home. These are decisions we must trust parents to make, and we must give families control again now that we are through the worst of this pandemic, to make choices about when their child is ill and when their child is well. We decide if our children are at risk, or if they have been exposed, or if they are sick and need to stay home. The children are also wearing masks and although they've been blamed to be wearing them wrong it is an incredible insult and age discrimination against the middle school group that you would make them wear masks but deny their effectiveness. Why are they wearing masks then? They have complied with every rule all year long. And now that nearly 100% of these children are in school they are being threatened on a daily basis just by showing up and working hard that they might get a phone call and be told to stay away and get kicked out of sports and activities and potentially culminating events at the end of eighth grade like graduation in the last week of school. Contact tracing is a complete failure and does more harm than good. The number statistically currently on the district 25 dashboard prove this. .07% of all excluded cases have ever become positive cases... And the positive cases are likely the ground zero cases where the child acquired Covid outside of school likely from an adult. We have known Covid transmission within schools is so small to nonexistent at this policy of contact tracing now where we exclude hordes of healthy children is a complete and total travesty of our rights and public education. It is a total failure and it is certainly not needed at this stage when we have a vaccine protecting all adults who have chosen to take it at this point. The number of excluded children far exceeds the number of total positive since September 1 of 2020 to an embarrassing degree. 197 positive children since the beginning of the year in the building. 2,632 healthy children have been excluded this year. It is a violation of our rights to public education as taxpayers that our school district is using health guidance as law and claiming it is law when it is only guidance to remove healthy children from the school building and demand they stay out of the building and all activities for 14 days.</p> |
| <p><b>The following comments were received after the submission deadline and not included in the April 29, 2021 Board meeting.</b></p> |   |
| Michele Hilgart  | <p>I just wanted to thank the board for your time and commitment to incorporating DEI initiatives into the strategic plan. I am looking forward to swing these initiatives come to life over the coming years.</p>  |
| Jennifer Hahne   | <p>"I would like to thank the Board for unanimously adopting the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan which includes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Core Values and Goals. I look forward to hearing more about implementation and to seeing actionable steps regarding DEI."</p>  |