

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

School Board Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2021

Scott Filipek, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on May 20, 2021 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 6:49 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: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity; Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21); Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5); The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the District is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the District is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).



Regular Meeting

Scott Filipek, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order 7:39 p.m. on May 20, 2021. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said.

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. Becky FitzPatrick, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Dr. Peg Lasiewicki, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Dr. Brian Kaye, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Planning; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology and Assessment; Ryan Schulz, Director of Facilities Management; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Story Telling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

### Recognitions and Presentations

Ms. Patel spoke highly about Ms. Susan Preissing, a former Board member, who served on the Board for 12 years. The Board shares their condolences with the Preissing family.

Principals introduced and congratulated the district Retirees for their contributions and years of service to Arlington Heights School District 25. Dr. Bein and Mr. Filipek, on behalf of the Board, congratulated the honored guests and presented them with flowers and a gift.

### **Congratulations to Retirees: 2020 Additional Retirements**

Leesa Akins, Jeanne Craft, Ginger Harris, Karen Hutton, Laurie Pizzolato

### **2021 Retirements**

Nancy Abruscato, Bonnie Bedingfield, Russell Crittenden, Staci Cronin, LeRoy Dansby, Kimberly Dyer, Shannon Kownick, Denise Likes, Idelle Melamed, Betsy Powers, Judy Thompson, Carol Vittore, Ellen Wano, Amy Welzenbach, Karen Wenzel

Dr. Bein stated that these Retirees have provided many years of impactful service to District 25 students, and wished them the best of luck.

### Community Input

- Sam Pappas addressed the Board to thank them for the good COVID procedures and policies, and their response to the Strategic Plan.
- Melissa Cayer addressed the Board regarding Consent Agenda supporting documents in BoardDocs.

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 commented on the Board officer elections.
- Sean Molina commented on updated CDC guidance and masks.
- Sara Yantis commented on removing the mask mandate in schools.
- Kerri Hood commented on ending the use of masks, social distancing, and contact tracing.
- Craig Stone commented on a school lunch alternative.

Communications:

The following reports were given:

- IASB – Mr. Scapillato reported that he attended the first installment of the Social Emotional Learning webinar series last week, and recommended it to Board members.
- ED-RED –Dr. Bein reported that the meeting was a review of the legislation that is currently going through the legislature. The bill that was discussed at the last Board meeting has been rewritten.
- Board Governance – Mr. Filipek read the Unity of Purpose from the Board Governance Framework.

The following reports were received:

- PTA – Ms. Nierman reported that PTA executive boards are turning over. She thanked all of the volunteers and school presidents for all they have done this year. She introduced the PTA President for next year, Ms. Nicole Barbieri, who will take over for Ms. Nierman in July. Ms. Barbieri thanked Ms. Nierman for all of her leadership and support during this past year. She looks forward to collaborating with the school PTA Presidents.
- ABC25 – Ms. Faso will be providing ABC25 reports going forward. The volunteers and everyone that participated in the GetBurbed Challenge, either in person or virtual, were thanked. They are always looking for more volunteers.

There were no reports from:

- NSSEO
- ATA

**Committee of the Whole Reports**

Student Learning

Summer U, ESY, Summer Band, Camp Invention, and other Summer Programs Update

Dr. FitzPatrick introduced Ms. Melanie Soprano, Assistant Principal at Windsor School, and Principal of Extended School Year (ESY), who provided an overview of ESY. It will take place at Windsor School June 16 - July 14. She showed an enrollment comparison from 2019 and 2021 for Early Childhood, grades K-5, grades 6-7, and related service.

Mr. Nick Filipowski, Associate Principal at Thomas and Summer U Principal, noted that due to construction at South Middle School, Summer U will be held at Thomas Middle School June 16 - July 14. There are no waitlists for students that were registered within the window for review courses; waitlists are only for enrichment courses. He reviewed staffing and enrollment figures from 2019 and 2021, and noted that there are many more out-of-district teachers this year. He showed a comparison from 2019 and 2021 for Review, Enrichment courses, and EL classrooms.

Dr. FitzPatrick stated that Camp Invention, which is an inquiry-based experience focused on engineering, math, and science, will be held at Dryden July 19 - 23 for 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Summer Band is for 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, and will be held at Thomas Middle School August 2 - 12. Their final concert will be held on August 12 at 7:00 p.m.

She noted that the summer programs will be held in-person, and that Summer U review classes are free, but the enrichment classes are at a cost. The district is using ESSER funding for supplies for additional materials for teachers because there are many from outside of the district. An update on the summer programs and progress that students made during the summer will be given in the fall.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on resources for remote students; the value of the summer programs; the decline in the amount of enrichment classes; and the difference between review and enrichment courses. The district will administer MAP testing in the fall, and use that to compare it to the students that took the review courses. Ms. Soprano and Mr. Filipowski have done a great job with hiring Summer U and ESY teachers, which has been challenging. Dr. Bein also noted that Summer U is extended an extra week for the extra learning. Board members thanked the team for providing a robust summer program.

#### Student Services - No Report

#### Business and Finance

##### Resolution to Approve Abatement of Working Cash Funds

Ms. Mallek stated that the district anticipated having \$210,100 of the bond proceeds remaining to cover some of the Patton galvanized piping replacement identified in the 10-year life safety survey. The actual amount spent this year on that project was significantly more than this, but the transfer is limited to the amount of bond proceeds remaining. Including the interest earned on the balance of the bond proceeds, we are recommending the final transfer in the amount of \$210,141. Because the Capital Projects Fund is not a statutory fund, the resolution shows the transfer of \$210,141 of bond proceeds from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Fund, which is a statutory fund. Subsequently, an accounting transfer in the same amount will be made from the O&M Fund to the Capital Projects Fund. This two-step transfer process was anticipated and is reflected in our budget. This is the balance of what is left in the working cash fund, so this should be the final transfer.

**Motion:** A. Patel moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Abating The Working Cash Fund in the amount of \$210,141.

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.

### Award of Copy Paper Bid

Ms. Mallek noted that each year the district puts out a bid for paper for the following school year. This is a savings over the state contract. We recommend that the contract be awarded to Murnane as the lowest responsible bidder. They are our current vendor, and we are pleased with their product.

**Motion:** B. Cerniglia moved and G. Faso seconded the motion that the Board of Education award the 2021-22 copy paper bid to Murnane.

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

#### Personnel Plan, 2021-2022

Dr. Kaye reported that each spring staffing plans are reviewed with school administrators. These staffing projections are based on student enrollment projections, program needs, mandated state programming, student identified needs, and the goals of the district. Dr. Kaye highlighted the changes for next year which include additional Technology Facilitators, Teaching Assistants, Resource Teachers, and a Communications Assistant. ESSER funds will be used for intervention support based on assessments for math and reading. The district is also continuing to budget a contingency amount to accommodate staffing needs that may arise due to unexpected enrollment changes, or new students with special needs entering the district. The 2021 - 2022 budget will include a contingency for salary and benefits for 5.0 FTE certificated teachers and 6.0 FTE teaching assistants. A Board member asked for an overview of the fill rate of the Personnel Plan in August.

**Motion:** A. Patel moved and G. Faso seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 Personnel Plan as submitted.

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.

#### Administrative Compensation, 2021-2022

Dr. Kaye presented the compensation plan for returning administrators. The district has outstanding, dedicated administrators that make a profound impact on our students. The district reviews administrative compensation on an annual basis in order to remain fiscally responsible and ensure that we attract and retain staff. The increase for the next school year is 3%, unless otherwise noted.

**Motion:** A. Patel moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the contracts and 2021-2022 compensation for all administrators including principals, assistant principals, directors, and coordinators as submitted.

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.

### Non-Certified Employee Compensation, 2021-2022

Dr. Kaye reported that the district reviews non-certified employee compensation on an annual basis in order to remain fiscally responsible and ensure that we attract and retain staff. He reviewed the different groups. Food Services staff have an adjustment for the \$15 minimum wage. Crossing Guard compensation is set and reimbursed by the Village of Arlington Heights. A Board member stated that it is good to see the Strategic Plan in the Personnel items, and to acknowledge that diversity is an asset when hiring.

**Motion:** A. Patel moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 compensation for the non-certified employees as submitted.

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.

### Superintendent Report Strategic Plan Timeline

Dr. Bein expects to update the Board about the Strategic Plan 2021-2025 process consistently over the next four years. We will start by reviewing the process to identify Action Teams and sharing those participants with the Board in August. Then, we will rotate updates among the five goals throughout the next school year. She provided dates that goals will be discussed, and noted that it will be a consistent part of the agenda. Board members asked questions regarding the identification of the Action Teams and updates on assessments. The deadline to apply to an Action Team is May 21. Dr. Bein was thanked for the information.

### Committees

Dr. Bein asked if the draft document that the district has for Board committees for 2021-2022 is the final version, and Board members stated that they have been finalized. Mr. Filipek thanked Board members for joining the committees and giving extra time for them.

### CDC and IDPH Updated Guidance

Dr. Bein reported that the CDC and IDPH have recently provided updated guidance. The Illinois Department of Public Health notified local health departments that the "schools should continue to follow the CDC's school guidance until more people and children are vaccinated." That guidance as of May 14, 2021 still requires masks, and social distancing for everyone in school settings. We notified staff and families on May 14, 2021 that all of our mitigation strategies will continue to be implemented at schools and school-sponsored events until there is specific school-related guidance published by our health departments or the Illinois State Board of Education. The governor's May 17 order regarding the Bridge phase notes that schools should continue to follow separate guidance.

Dr. Bein stated that the district gave 8<sup>th</sup> grade families the choice to quarantine the last two weeks of school to make sure that they are able to attend graduation, and that 15 students at Thomas and 150 students at South are doing this.

Also related, the ISBE took action yesterday to support a requirement that schools resume full in-person learning for 2021-2022. Remote learning should be provided only if students cannot access a vaccination AND are also required to quarantine due to close contact. Medically fragile students have always been able to qualify for homebound tutoring, and we will still have that option. The State Superintendent needs to formally declare this information for it to be final. She expects to do that at the culmination of the current school year.

Dr. Bein noted that Superintendents in North Cook County sent a letter to ISBE asking to change the quarantine close contact from 6 feet to 3 feet to be in alignment with the IDPH recommended distance between students in a classroom. DuPage County Superintendents also submitted a similar letter. Lake County and McHenry County schools were approved to do a study for the rest of the school year using 3 feet instead of 6 feet for close contact. Dr. Bein reached out to CCDPH, and requested that District 25 be a part of the study, but they are not doing one. District 25 is still following close contact of 6 feet because of the guidance from CDC, CCDPH, and IDPH.

A Board member requested an update on this topic at an upcoming meeting. It was asked if Summer U students will have to wear masks, and at this time they will, but we will have to wait and see if there are any changes.

#### Consent Agenda

**Motion:** A. Patel 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) Organizational, Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of April 29, 2021; (D) Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of May 6, 2021.

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.

#### Community Input - None

#### Future Agenda Items

##### Topics with Dates to Be Determined

Dr. Bein noted that Kindergarten Research will be discussed sometime this summer before the school year starts. Quarantine Procedures for the 2021-2022 school year can be discussed at the June 10 meeting. A working draft document will be created so Board members can see specific topics that are discussed annually.

#### New Topics

Ms. Patel requested that the Board hold a focused conversation or listening session on special education, concerns from community, and inclusion of special education needs in neighborhood schools. Dr. Bein and the Board discussed options. Dr. Bein noted that the district had been examining inclusion before the pandemic and plan to continue.

**Motion:** R. Olejniczak moved and B. Cerniglia seconded that the Board of Education move into the Closed session at 9:32 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.

**Motion:** R. Olejniczak moved and G. Faso seconded that the Board of Education adjourn the regular 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 Board adjourned the regular meeting at 11:07 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien  
Recording Secretary

Approved: June 10, 2021

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President  
Board of Education

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Secretary  
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: June 11, 2021

Date minutes posted on District website: June 14, 2021

Community Input Received Electronically

First and Last Name	Public Comment – May 20, 2021
Christine Organ	To say that I am disappointed, disheartened, and infuriated of the Board's decision not to vote Anish Patel to the position of Vice President is a vast understatement. The board failed its duty to the community, parents, and most importantly our students. Your decision to pass up a qualified, female candidate flies in the face of everything that you preach and the irony that the DEI plan was discussed in the same meeting as this vote is disgusting. It is time for the board to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. History is watching -- and so are our children. The community deserves better.
Sean Molina	Members of the school board and Dr. Bein, I recently received the email from Dr. Bein addressing the recent CDC guidance regarding the use of masks by individuals who have been vaccinated and the discussions and guidance received from the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). While I can appreciate the CCDPH not wanting to waiver from their stance “schools should continue to follow the CDC’s [specific] school guidance until more people and children are vaccinated”, our district has been quite proactive in providing our teachers with the vaccine and from what I have heard, most if not all D25 teachers have gone ahead and been vaccinated. The vaccine is still not approved for children under 12 and data suggests that the virus has not had a major impact on those children under the age of 12. That being said I strongly urge that the school board, at the very least allow for our children to remove their masks when outdoors either for recess, PE class or any other class activities. With the weather finally becoming more consistently warmer and given this recent update to the CDC guidance, allowing our children to play and be outside without masks, should be strongly considered as these group settings pose a minimal risk to the children. Thank you.
Sara Yantis	The CDC now recommends that fully vaccinated people do not need to wear masks indoors. Can the mask mandate be removed at the schools? Teachers are vaccinated and children have been proven to not spread covid, plus the recovery rate for children is 99.9%.
Kerri Hood	End the masks, social distancing and contact tracing now! We have had vaccinez fir months. Kids have never been a high risk for covid nor is covid spreading in schools. We have known this for months, yet we have carried on as though we had zero data proving this. Move forward!
Craig Stone	School Lunch alternative: Marlas Lunch delivering pre packaged restaurant prepared lunches to schools. Fully outsourced ready for classroom distribution, Covid ready, serving 30+ Public schools in IL- Glencoe, Deerfield, Kenilworth, Winnetka, Northbrook, Green Oaks, soon to be in Schaumburg all public schools. A "virtual cafeteria" online ordering, delivering before lunch time (search marlaslunch.com)