

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25
1200 S. Dunton Ave.
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005
Special School Board Meeting Minutes
Committee of the Whole Meeting
September 2, 2021

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Scott Filipek, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. on September 2, 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. 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; and community.

Community Input

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

- Maria Zeller Brauer commented on full day kindergarten.
- Ryann Uden commented on full day kindergarten.
- Stacy Pacilio commented on full day kindergarten.
- Dio Delfino commented on full day kindergarten.
- Lori Martin commented on full day kindergarten.
- Nathan Ulery commented on masking and the Governor's mandate.

Superintendent Report

Kindergarten Programming

Dr. Bein stated that the administration would like to get the Board's high-level thoughts and direction from them so that the staff can focus their efforts on the appropriate path forward. Dr. Bein thanked the Cabinet-level team for their work on the presentation.

Full Day Kindergarten is a service to our community, and the district currently offers Full Day Kindergarten for at-risk populations that include Bilingual/EL extended day, and

Early Childhood Kindergarten with IEP needs. Information from the 2017 study showed that 60% of the district families wanted Full Day Kindergarten if it was sustainable, held at home schools, all kindergarten students could attend, and there was no tax increase. Research on the academic impact is the same now as in 2017, which shows Kindergarten growth in the kindergarten year, and levels off in 3rd grade with no achievement gap.

Full Day Kindergarten considerations include curriculum, staffing and personnel, space needs, and continuing operations. Background information was provided including the location of district buildings.

Kindergarten and 1st grade enrollment projections based on the Kasarda study were shown through 2029. The current half day Kindergarten info was shown by school. Currently we have 469 students, with 25 sections, 14 classrooms and 12.5 FTE staff. Projections based on current 1st grade information as well as using Kasarda 1st grade information were explained.

Typical half day and full day schedules were shown. Dr. Lasiewicki noted that with the full day model there would be an increase in the English Language Resources minutes per week. There would be no significant impact in terms of Special Education, but the full day model would allow more flexibility for Special Education teachers and related service staff to schedule service delivery.

Chad Conley entered the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Ms. Mallek discussed operational costs to consider which include additional teachers, specials teachers, materials and supplies, furniture, classroom technology, related services staff, lunch staff/recess supervision, and custodial staff. Mr. Schulz summarized potential scenarios for locations, which include neighborhood schools, a new Kindergarten center, or repurposing existing buildings. To be fully ready, we would most likely begin with the 2024-2025 school year. The program can also be phased in, and we could possibly utilize modular classrooms. He reviewed the potential kindergarten enrollment, number of sections needed, and the number of classrooms we would need for each scenario, and the costs for each, and pros and cons of each.

A Board member noted that the district could be displacing existing tenants and would lose the revenue. NSSEO and A Mother's Touch are currently leasing Miner School and Futabakai Japanese School currently leases Rand School. AI have been partners with the district for decades.

Dr. Bein reviewed possible next steps including a community survey for the parents and tax payers; the format of additions at elementary schools or a Kindergarten center; the cost range comfort including funding options; instructional goals; and other goals.

Board members asked questions and there was detailed discussion regarding the reason for looking into full day kindergarten; the economic impact on the community and

families; the cost of a full day program; the Kasarda enrollment report; input from the community and taxpayers; building options; sections and staffing; what surrounding districts offer; transportation; and class sizes. Board members thanked the team for the presentation.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and C. Conley seconded that the Board of Education adjourn the Committee of the Whole 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 meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: September 23, 2021

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: September 27, 2021

Date minutes posted on District website: September 27, 2021

Community Input Received Electronically

First and Last Name	Public Comment for the September 2, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting
Maria Zeller Brauer	I strongly support the option of full day kindergarten in D25. I am the parent of a D25 student and would have loved the opportunity to send my child to full day kindergarten in the district, even if that meant that I paid a fee. Research has found that children who attended for a full day had better academic outcomes the following year, more self-confidence, and were better at playing with others. While I understand that full day kindergarten is not best for all families, I strongly believe that families should have the option in D25. Thank you for considering this option.
Ryann Uden	Please start a plan to implement all day Kindergarten in District 25. If we are committed to an inclusive community and school district, we must find a way to provide full day Kindergarten. Many families chose not to move to Arlington Heights because of the lack of all day Kindergarten, and many families don't have the resources to provide additional daycare resources or pay for private school tuition. Full day kindergarten would be more equitable for all.
Stacy Pacilio	I am a huge believer in half day Kindergarten at 5 years old and feel it offers a very balanced day for the age. I also support adding full day Kindergarten for families that need it. You will get a good amount more families enrolled at the Kindergarten level if you add full day because they use the Catholic schools for full day already and then transfer. nit is a valuable addition as long as it remains an addition and half day option remains.
Dio Delfino	Any chance Kindergarten class hours be for the same hours as the grade school's?
Lori Martin	As the administration and Board consider this issue, I ask that they strongly weigh what educational benefits, if any, full day kindergarten would provide compared to the already robust half-day program and weigh that against the financial cost (building, personnel, etc) of offering a full day program. And, is it possible to partner with the park district to provide more of a full day program for those parents who may need it for work reasons or other reasons (including transporting students from the school to a park district site). Thank you.
Nathan Ulery	Thank you for reversing your decision on optional masking and complying with the Governor's mandate. To the extent that you consider optional masking again, we expect that you explicitly inform the public in advance and take into account the community's concerns. We also expect that you continue to follow the spirit of the relevant health and education board guidance going forward. While wearing masks in school is an inconvenience, it is a critical component of the mitigation strategies being used in school . The goal is to keep our children in the classroom safely. As we can see by other school districts with optional masking across the nation who have had significant quarantines or have altogether shut down, masking is an important mitigation tool to ensure safety of our children, teachers and staff, as well as ensure continuity of our children's education.