

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25
1200 S. Dunton Ave.
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005
Special School Board Meeting Minutes
Committee of the Whole Meeting
September 23, 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 5:04 p.m. on September 23, 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, Gina Faso, Scott Filipek, Rich Olejniczak, Anisha Ismail Patel, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: Chad Conley

Others Present: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent; Dr. Brian Kaye, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Planning; Dr. Becky FitzPatrick, Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology and Assessment; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Story Telling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Dr. Destiny Peery; Reverend Clyde Brooks; 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.

- Nathan Ulery commented on the Board's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training, as well as future DEI training.
- Karen Joseph commented on the Board's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training, and turning it into action.
- Maria Zeller Brauer commented on the Board's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training, and that all Board members take an active role in the DEI efforts to make change in the schools.

Superintendent Report

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Board Training

Reverend Brooks introduced DEI as an appreciation of differences and a tool to help us build the best educational program possible. It also has an important impact from a business perspective.

Mr. Cerniglia entered the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Dr. Peery facilitated the Committee of the Whole topic by sharing definitions of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and encouraging the Board to determine our working definitions so there is common understanding.

Ms. Faso entered the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

The Board asked questions about how to best support inclusiveness in District 25 and how to understand the community's impression of inclusion. Dr. Peery spoke about beginning with measuring people's feelings about inclusion. She then began a conversation about decision making, understanding bias, and its impact on decision making. This included cognitive bias, implicit bias, and bias in the classroom. A Board member highlighted that interrupting bias takes intentionality. Dr. Peery concluded by reminding us of the importance of awareness; increased accountability and transparency; processes that consider and control for potential bias; and incorporation of diverse perspectives and people.

Community Input

Andrew Sinclair-Georges commented that DEI supports us all.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and G. Faso seconded that the Board of Education adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Submitted,

Lori D. Bein, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Approved: October 7, 2021

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: October 8, 2021

Date minutes posted on District website: October 11, 2021

Community Input Received Electronically

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the September 23, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Nathan Ulery	I am pleased to see that the Board is dedicating time to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training. Based upon the public comments of certain members of the Board last fall during public meetings and email correspondence with members of the public, it is my hope that the future trainings include the specific topics of unconscious bias and implicit bias. It is important that our school leadership understand these topics as they work to make District 25 an inclusive school district.
Karen Joseph	As the mother of three D25 bi-racial students, I am happy to see this training happening! I hope it is just the beginning of real engagement in DEI. I would like to see the entire Board continue to do the hard work of continuous learning and turn that into action, advancing DEI across the District. Thank you!
Maria Zeller Brauer	As the parent of a student in District 25, I am pleased to see that the School Board members are participating in a training to strengthen our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. I hope that these trainings continue and that all members of the school Board continue to take an active role in these DEI efforts to make real change in our schools and in our community. Thank you, Maria Brauer
The following comments were received after the submission deadline and not included in the September 23, 2021 Board Meeting.	
Michele Hilgart	Just wanted to thank Dr. Bein and the board for conducting this training and continuing to make DEI a priority in D25
Laura Culley	Than you for implementing Special Olympics in D25 this coming sprint. The traditional special Olympics team will be a great inclusive event for our special needs population. Although my immediate family does not have a special needs child, we have relatives who did have special needs and were cherished members of the family and we would love to support this cause and help support it. Let's continue to move forward and add to future board agent items and discussions about Unified champion schools. Unified champion schools directly aligns with our community's DEI efforts and our districts strategic goals.