

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

School Board Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2021

Scott Filipek, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on December 9, 2021 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 6:45 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, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); 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); Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11); 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).



Public Hearing on the 2022 Tax Levy



Regular Meeting

Scott Filipek, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order 7:28 p.m. on December 9, 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: Chad Conley, Gina Faso, Scott Filipek, Rich Olejniczak, Anisha Ismail Patel, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: Brian Cerniglia

Others Present: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent; Stacey Mallek, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Dr. Brian Kaye, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Planning; Dr. Becky FitzPatrick, Assistant Superintendent for the Department of Student Services; Dr. Peg Lasiewicki, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; 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

Mr. Filipek, on behalf of the Board, and Dr. Bein extended congratulations to the NSSEO/District 25 Shining Stars for December: Vivaan Kanoi, Yaashika Karvannan Rajesh, Anastasia Marinos, and Louise Morrison. Dr. Lasiewicki explained the itinerant vision services, and highlighted the four areas of curricular focus: self-determination; compensatory skills and sensory efficiency; orientation and mobility; and assistive technology. Dr. Lasiewicki introduced Dr. Judith Hackett, Superintendent of NSSEO, and Ms. Molly Dunne, NSSEO Coordinator of Vision Programs. District 25 is proud to work in partnership with NSSEO for more inclusive classrooms. The students each spoke about an area of curricular focus. The Board was very thankful and impressed with the inspiring presentation by the students.

The principals from Olive-Mary Stitt and Windsor Elementary Schools, Ms. Erin Davis and Ms. Lindsay Anastacio, presented information about their respective schools. Ms. Davis showed the enrollment by grade, and talked about the theme at Olive-Mary Stitt, "All Are Welcome: Many Identities, One School". They are excited about the volunteers; the ABC25 Grants; and Storytime with the Principals. Ms. Anastacio showed the enrollment by grade, and talked about the theme at Windsor, "Throwback to our WHY!" They are excited about returning to small group work and hands-on activities; volunteers back in the building; and all of our students and staff engaged in new curriculum. A Board member stated that it is nice to see the staff attending the Board meetings; and thanked the maintenance staff at the buildings.

Community Input

- Tom Kopacz addressed the Board regarding vaccinated and unvaccinated children and masks.
- Marianne Corcoran addressed the Board regarding mental health and local control.
- Kristin Keil addressed the Board regarding the Lorado Taft cancellation.
- Karen Wolff addressed the Board regarding local control.
- Ewa Wojcik addressed the Board regarding the RULER program.
- Brittany Polihronis addressed the Board regarding full day kindergarten.

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

- Agnes Zapat commented on quarantine information.
- Marta Denisiuk commented on the vaccination clinic.
- Mia Wery commented on the letter from the Board.
- Agnes Piersa commented on masks.
- Jill Larsen commented on full day kindergarten.
- Jennifer Borrell commented on full day kindergarten and the letter from the Board.
- Margaret Waz commented on Covid data.

Consent Agenda

Motion: A. Patel moved and G. Scapillato 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) Treasurer's Reports (C) Invoices; (D) Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of November 11, 2021; (E) Superintendent Professional Organizations and Professional Development Leave. Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Communications:

The following reports were given:

- NSSEO – Mr. Filipek reported that the NSSEO meeting last week shows the positive partnership between District 25 and NSSEO. NSSEO and the students are doing a great job. The Timber Ridge gym project should be completed soon, and the ribbon cutting will occur in January and February.
- IASB – Ms. Patel reported that several Board members attended the Joint Annual Conference last month, and provided highlights from the conference. IASB is hosting a book club, which will begin in January.
- ED-RED – Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi was the speaker at the most recent meeting, and Mr. Olejniczak highlighted a few points that he made. He also explained some recent legislation. Ms. Mallek stated that the tax bill should be due on November 1, 2022.
- Board Governance – Mr. Filipek read an excerpt from the Board Governance Framework regarding Code of Conduct.
- Other Board Communication – Mr. Scapillato stated that last week he attended the Olive-Mary Stitt and Thomas band concert at Thomas Middle School. Ms. Patel noted that she attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Dinner in November. Mr. Filipek stated that a Future Stars event was held in Palatine.

The following reports were received:

- PTA – Ms. Patel read a report from Ms. Barbieri. The PTA Council received 46 submissions for the Reflections program. This year the PTA will not be hosting a showcase, but each artist will be recognized. Thirty-one entries will advance to the Northwest Cook Region. Region advancement should be announced in late January, and the Illinois PTA winners will be announced in March. The PTA volunteers, PTA leaders, parents, school administrators, teachers, staff, and Board members were thanked for their support of the arts in District 25.
- ABC25 – Ms. Faso reported that the ABC25 Grants have closed, and the teachers and schools will be notified before winter break. She noted that the schools each get a grant if they meet their enrollment target, so if families have not signed up for ABC25, she asked them to do so. She thanked everyone that submitted artwork for the t-shirt. Families can vote on the t-shirt designs on the website.
- ATA – Ms. Berg showed pictures and videos from Patton Elementary School, and talked about many of the happenings there.

Student Learning – No Report

Student Services – No Report

Business and Finance

Adoption of the 2021 Tax Levy

Motion: A. Patel moved and G. Scapillato seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the "Resolution of Arlington Heights School District No. 25, Cook County, Illinois, Providing for the Levy of Taxes for the Year 2021.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, no; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/1.

Extension of Memorandum of Agreement with Cook County Department of Public Health for Conducting and Interpreting BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Antigen Testing Through Standing Order and/or Extended CLIA Waiver

A Board member asked Dr. Bein about the test to stay program. Dr. Bein explained that this agenda item is only for symptomatic staff members, and is not the test to stay program for students.

Motion: A. Patel moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the "Memorandum of Agreement with Cook County Department of Public Health for Conducting and Interpreting BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Antigen Testing Through Standing Order and/or Extended CLIA Waiver".

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, abstain; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0, with one abstention.

PA102-0519 Property Tax Refund Recapture

Ms. Mallek explained Public Act 102-0519, which amends the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law in the Property Tax Code. This law presents an opportunity for taxing districts to recapture the financial impact of property tax refunds caused by post-extension assessment appeals. The law requires that "On or before November 15 of each year, the county treasurer will be required to certify the aggregate amount of refunds paid by each taxing district during that 12-month period." The amount certified by the Cook County Treasurer for District 25 for the 2021 tax year is \$940,584, which would cost the average owner of a \$400,000 home approximately \$49 in additional property taxes on the 2021 property tax bill. The Board may choose to accept this refund, or to forego all or any portion of the refund amount by passing an abatement resolution prior to April of 2022. Ms. Mallek will need direction from the Board if they want her to work with legal counsel to abate any or all of the recapture of the levy.

Board members ask questions and there was discussion regarding the impact of this on an annual basis, and the timeframe Ms. Mallek will require if they move forward. Ms. Mallek noted that the amount will change each year. Ms. Mallek was thanked for the information. The Board did not request this be included on a future agenda.

Facilities Management

2022 Facilities Capital Improvement Projects Approval

Mr. Schulz presented information on Scenario #2 that was presented at the November 11 Board meeting. He reviewed the projects that will occur in 2022, and noted that these projects will not be impacted if full day kindergarten will move forward. Mr. Schulz stated that this amount is needed to keep up the facilities.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion regarding costs and the connection with full day kindergarten; funding for the projects; getting to a set point with renovations; repair and replacement on large items; budgeting recommendations from the Strategic Plan; and information on the previous bond issues.

Motion: A. Patel moved and G. Scapillato seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2022 Facilities Capital Improvement Projects as presented. Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, no; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/1.

Personnel and Planning – No Report

Superintendent Report

Freedom of Information Act Report

- Gosia Olszanski requested information on positive COVID cases in District 25; a response was provided on November 18, 2021.
- Diane Kramer requested the Attorney General determination letter regarding an OMA request for review; a response was provided on November 18, 2021.
- Agnes Zapat requested information on vaccinated people and quarantine; a response was provided on November 18, 2021.

- Angelika Babich requested information on Board voting on IASB Resolutions; a response was provided on November 22, 2021.
- Agnes Piersa requested information on mask use in school; a response was provided on December 2, 2021.
- Jeff Van Buren requested information on the current policy and procedures in regard to vaccine clinics at school; a response was provided on December 2, 2021.
- Ewa Wojcik requested information on the RULER Social Emotional Learning program; a response was provided on December 2, 2021.
- Karen Garcia/Smart Procure requested information on current employees; a response was provided on December 2, 2021.

Strategic Plan – Student Achievement Goal Update

Dr. FitzPatrick updated the Board on the Student Achievement Goal from the Strategic Plan. The team is a combination of parents, community members, administrators, and staff. The group began by brainstorming and decided on four objectives that aligned with the Student Achievement Goal: increase inclusive practices; develop an assessment plan that encompasses qualitative and quantitative data/information; increase teacher competencies to meet the needs of all learners; and implement consistent intervention and support across all district schools. After finalizing the list of objectives and prioritizing them, we concluded with a discussion focused on opportunities for determining and measuring success for each objective. On November 30, all Strategic Plan Action Teams met together to share objectives and discuss overlaps and gaps/conflicts. All of the objectives will be shared with staff who will begin working toward the objectives and overall goals of the Strategic Plan.

A Board member asked when they could expect to see the SMART goals. Dr. Bein noted that the Cabinet level team will take the information from the Action Team meetings, create a timeline of each goal and the strategies in that goal, and when and how we will be able to accomplish the goal. Additional information will be brought back to the Board in the winter. Dr. FitzPatrick was thanked for the presentation.

Full Day Kindergarten Update

Due to the time, Board members and Dr. Bein discussed the remainder of the agenda, and determined that the Full Day Kindergarten presentation should be moved to a Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Bein and the Board clarified discussion on the topic.

Mr. Filipek left the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Letter from the Board

Dr. Bein noted that in a previous Board of Education meeting, Board members mentioned an interest in crafting a letter to the Governor's office, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and/or the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The intent of the letter would be to describe the challenges District 25 has faced during the pandemic, including in response to the related Executive Orders.

Board members discussed their opinions on the letter in detail, as well as the intent of the letter. Dr. Bein noted that if the Board would like to pursue sending a letter, then a Board member should draft the letter, and it should come back on a future agenda where a vote can take place. Board members discussed how they could discuss the topic with the Board members that were not in attendance. Dr. Bein stated that the topic could also be added again to a future Board agenda.

Board Meeting Times

Dr. Bein noted that if the time for the regular meetings moved to 7:00 p.m., then the Closed session meetings would begin at 6:15 p.m. A Board member requested that future District 25 Board meetings be held on different nights from District 214 Board meetings. Dr. Bein noted that those meetings are set in April of the previous year, and it could be added to a future agenda to discuss. She stated that it could be looked at for the 2022-23 school year Board meetings, but may be difficult to do this year.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education change the start time of all remaining 2021-2022 scheduled Board meetings to 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Community Input

- Christy Witherow addressed the Board regarding letter from the Board.
- Brittany Polihronis addressed the Board regarding full day kindergarten.

Future Agenda Items

Topics with Dates to be Determined - None

New Topics

A Board member requested Remote Academy information, including how the district is measuring the results. A Board member requested community feedback on the Remote Academy, as well as information on homework coming from the classroom teacher for students that are in the Remote Academy.

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

Roll Call: C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Patel, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: January 20, 2022

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: January 21, 2022

Date minutes posted on District website: January 21, 2022

Community Input Received Electronically

First and Last Name	Public Comments Received Electronically for the December 9, 2021 Board Meeting
Agnes Zapat	<p>The district could not provide explanation for my inquiry why individuals who are fully vaccinated and remain asymptomatic are not required to quarantine, given that both vaccinated and unvaccinated transmit the virus. I was also wondering why any child who is unvaccinated but has long term natural immunity from a previous infection, is exempted from quarantine only if the infection occurred in the last 90 days.</p> <p>I was told by a district person to obtain answers to my questions from IDPH. While I'm waiting to hear back from IDPH and CDC, I did my own research and what I found indicates that the quarantine rules were established without any scientific justification. The following articles prove the discrimination against unvaccinated students and those who have recovered from covid - CDC admits they don't collect data on natural immunity and they don't know of anyone who recovered from covid and became reinfected and transmitted the virus to someone else when reinfected:</p> <p>https://thescotfree.com/canada/cdc-forced-to-admit-it-doesnt-collect-data-on-natural-immunity-to-covid/ https://www.sirillp.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/21-02152-Final-Response-Letter-Brehm-1.pdf</p>
Marta Denisiuk	<p>Dr. Bein, I do not support your decision to host a vaccination clinic. Are you not aware of what the experts say? Here is just one of many examples: Vaccine Expert Warns of Covid Vaccination Catastrophe https://thehighwire.com/videos/vaccine-expert-warns-of-covid-vaccination-catastrophe/</p>
Mia Wery	<p>I am disappointed to see the "letter of dissent" regarding the mask mandate on the schedule to be discussed. As a parent of two SD25 students I strongly oppose any such letter. This is not a good use of the board's time and is not the view of the majority of SD25 parents or staff. Further, such a letter is against the advice of the board's attorney and is quite frankly contrary to common sense.</p>
Agnes Piersa	<p>The COVID-19 POSITIVE CASE SCHOOL COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION that parents receive states: "We are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) for best practices and procedures to protect everyone's health."</p> <p>Yet, our district cannot provide scientific basis for those "best practices and procedures", our district is just "following guidance". Our district is not claiming masks are effective in preventing COVID-19 transmissions or infections, our district is simply "following the execute order." This is the best answer our district can give because such scientific evidence simply doesn't exist.</p> <p>Why are we still wearing masks if we have the vaccine? If it's so important to get everyone vaccinated, why are the following people totally exempt from the vaccine mandate: All US Senators and House Representatives plus all Congressional staff; 6,000 White House employees; all employees of Pfizer (2,500), Moderna (1,500), and Johnson & Johnson (120,000); 15,000 CDC workers; and 14,000 FDA employees?</p> <p>A lot of things related to covid rules being forcefully imposed on us doesn't make any sense. Yet, our district is doing everything to make us believe that's not the case, willing to sacrifice the students and school staff instead of doing what it takes to truly "protect everyone's health." The district's claim that safety of the students is our #1 priority has no meaning. What must happen to make our school board get to take care of students and staff instead of blindly following guidance without any scientific data?</p>
Jill Larsen	<p>While I support full day kindergarten, I am not in favor of the current proposal which would reduce the specials to a mobile cart, and interventions or special services to a hallway. Our students who receive special services should not have the added pressure or fear of another student or teacher</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comments Received Electronically for the December 9, 2021 Board Meeting
	<p>hearing what is going on behind the panels. A closed room is the only appropriate option. As for the specials, the arts have been shown to be hugely impactful on education. To reduce them to cart is sending a message that these classes are not as important. Lastly, we ask so much of our teachers already. Let's not take away their lounge area too. There has to be a better option than this for moving to full day Kindergarten, without making these hugely impactful changes. Thank you.</p>
Jennifer Borrell	<p>Re: Agenda item 14C, I'm writing to support the adoption of full-day kindergarten in SD25. I recognize that plans are still tentative, but I encourage the district to include the community in decisions around this. I'd also like to discourage using tuition as a way to pay for FDK. We don't need to further the disparities that currently exist in our community by enabling those with the economic means to pay for FDK to get ahead while those without economic means fall further behind. I believe that any costs should be shared more evenly across the community.</p> <p>Re: Agenda item 14D, I encourage you all to lay this idea to rest. If the board does not feel that discussions to develop an "off-ramp" for masking are happening between ISBE, IDPH and districts, a letter expressing a desire to begin a *thoughtful* discussion of off-ramping would be a suitable alternative.</p>
Margaret Waz	<p>I saw other school districts are posting the following data: % of Positive Cases Who Are Fully Vaccinated % of Positive Cases Who Are Not Fully Vaccinated</p> <p>Why is our district not providing this information?</p>
Kristin Keil	<p>I am disappointed for our 7th graders regarding the decision by the district to cancel the Taft Trip. April 2022 is over 4 months away and to take away this experience from our students is such a shame. I plan to attend the School Board meeting in person to speak publicly questioning Dr. Bein's reasoning of "Taft would be extremely difficult to execute this year due to the small confines of the bunk cabins, dining hall, and indoor learning spaces." My understanding is Taft has always been an optional trip, if you as a parent are uncomfortable sending your 7th grader they do not need to attend. Why wasn't a survey sent out to 7th grade parents to get their input before cancelling this trip?</p>
Ewa Wojcik	<p>I'd like to make a few observations related to the RULER program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our district is saying that the goals of RULER that were central to the district's decision making during the selection of a new social emotional program are: develop future role models and create a positive emotional climate. How do you think I look at this statement if my children are being abused with masks which are not even preventing covid? Yet, my children are not surrounded by role models at school. If they were surrounded by role models, those role models would have already done something to stop this unprecedented child abuse. 2. My taxpayer's money is paying for the program that I opted my youngest child out from - once I took a closer look at the actual materials that are supposed to be used in class. 3. The RULER marketing material identifies top 3 student emotions: "tired, bored, stressed." Do you honestly see those as the TOP emotions among children in our district? 4. Under the RULER Impact, I read "less anxious and depressed" and "better academic performance." Couldn't we have achieved this by unmaking the kids and keeping the schools open? The district is truly wasting taxpayers' money.
Alexis Hammond	<p>Dear D25 Board and Dr. Bein,</p> <p>I ask that the D25 Board abandon the dissenting opinion letter to the Governor. A majority of the community does not support this letter. If individual board members have concerns regarding the Governor's actions, I ask that they write their own letters as private citizens and forgo using Board Meeting time to address personal and political beliefs.</p>

First and Last Name	Public Comments Received Electronically for the December 9, 2021 Board Meeting
	<p>As explained by the board’s attorney at the September 2nd meeting, the Governor has “clear legal authority” to make executive orders regarding masks and vaccination as they pertain to the disaster proclamations that have been issued every 30 days since March 2020. The Illinois Emergency Act gives the Governor the authority to protect the citizens of Illinois. That includes the children, teachers and staff of District 25. Vaccination and testing are not violations of privacy. There is already precedent for inoculations in the state of Illinois regarding Tuberculosis. (105 ILCS 5/24-5) (from Ch. 122, par. 24-5) of the school code specifically calls out the health criteria that school personnel must follow to be employed by the school. The Illinois Department of Public Health and the local health department can also issue requirements based on need. As we are in a global pandemic and experiencing variants such as Delta, and now Omicron, there is obviously a great need for masking and vaccination mandates.</p> <p>District 25 does not operate in a vacuum. Our district is not a self-sufficient governing body. We exist in the Village of Arlington Heights, Cook County, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America. There are many governing bodies that supersede what little “power” the District 25 Board holds. As the Board voted not to make masks required before the start of the 2021 school year, I am relieved that the Governor stepped in to protect residents of Illinois and mandate masks. Your discretion regarding public health and the health of our children and the community has been taken away. The Federal Government, the Governor, the IDPH, the ISBE, and the Cook County Department of health have the clear legal authority and public health expertise to make these decisions for our community.</p> <p>For these reasons, I ask that the board cease and desist in further debating bucking the mandates, executive orders, and public health guidelines. When making comments at the September 2nd Board meeting such as “we didn’t run for this position to be told what to do” you are not representing the students of District 25. I ask that members of the Board find a little humility. Board positions are not about power, they are about leading and representing the students of District 25 in pursuit of excellent educations.</p> <p>Sincerely, Alexis Hammond</p>
Alexis Hammond	<p>Dear D25 Board Members and Dr. Bein, Initially my thought was not to offer my opinion on full day Kindergarten, as my children are older. However, after looking at the presentation, I found I do have a few concerns. Adding full day Kindergarten does impact the rest of the children, teachers and staff of the elementary schools in the district.</p> <p>Slide 8, Option A, talks about a “Class Size Target Increase to 25:1”.</p> <p>Perhaps in the older grades, class size isn’t as important, but in the earlier years of elementary education, smaller class sizes are ideal for quality education. With smaller class sizes, teachers can get to know each student and more quickly identify a student’s strengths and weaknesses and can tailor instruction to make sure each student is getting what they need. Smaller class sizes offer more opportunities for each student to participate. Smaller class sizes foster relationships and friendship amongst students. Smaller class sizes mean less disruptions and distractions when children are trying to focus and learn.</p> <p>Slide 12 mentions that “Resource, Intervention and other services may have to be conducted in hallways or other locations due to lack of available classroom space. Art / Music would need to be completed in classroom spaces.”</p> <p>I am concerned that children requiring speech, OT, social work, and literacy services, such as my son, could possibly be located in a hallway for these essential services that help them reach their</p>

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	<p>fullest potential. These necessary and valuable resources should continue to be provided in a nurturing classroom setting conducive to learning. These spaces should be quieter and less distracting than a hallway. Teachers, staff, and therapists should be able to quickly access all of their classroom materials to support these students.</p> <p>I have truly been amazed by the quality of fine arts instruction at both Patton Elementary and Thomas Middle School. The fine arts are absolutely essential to the SD25 curriculum and the growth and development of each student. Please do not make Art and Music an afterthought by eliminating dedicated classrooms. Allow these teachers to have their own dedicated classrooms and access to all of their resources, art supplies, and musical instruments etc. The act alone of a teacher packing and unpacking their cart throughout the day reduces our children's time of discovery, learning & creativity. Layer in the added confusion of teachers and students cleaning and hanging dripping artwork throughout the classroom before the teacher needs to roll to the next class, and I believe you will find both students and teachers frazzled and frustrated.</p> <p>I ask that you carefully consider the ripple effect of adding full day Kindergarten to SD25 and look to mitigate any negative effects for the students, teachers, and staff.</p> <p>Sincerely, Alexis Hammond</p>
Malgorzata Olszanski	<p>Dear Superintendent and the Board, please take this into consideration:</p> <p>ALARMING Study: COVID Regulations, Masking May be DRASTICALLY Lowering Kids' IQs https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10247315/Face-masks-harm-childrens-development-Study-blames-significantly-reduced-development.html</p>
Maureen Schmidt	<p>Given the below data, why is our district promoting covid vaccines?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scottish data released on 11/24/21: - 74% of the covid hospitalizations in the past month are in the vaccinated - 89% of the covid deaths in the past month are in the vaccinated https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/10462/21-11-24-covid19-publication_report.pdf 2. Mayo Clinic-trained Doctor Says Covid-19 Vaccines Suppress the Immune System https://dailyexpose.uk/2021/11/22/mayo-clinic-trained-doctor-says-covid-19-vaccines-suppress-the-immune-system-making-people-more-prone-to-hiv-shingles-and-herpes/ 3. If you get the Pfizer vax, you're more likely to get COVID https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/if-you-get-the-pfizer-vax-youre-more-likely-to-get-covid-insider-leaks-fda-study/ 4. Omicron Variant First Detected In Four Fully Vaccinated People https://www.zerohedge.com/covid-19/omicron-variant-first-detected-four-people-who-were-fully-vaccinated publichealthscotland.scot
Blake Mosser	<p>I am writing to express my fullest support for full-day kindergarten. Expanding our kindergarten program will only serve to make our district that much more attractive to young families, thereby helping to ensure the long-term economic health of our community.</p>
Katie Rausch	<p>I respectfully ask that you make changes to the policies for learning during quarantine. I'm asking that you allow classroom teachers to send home work, not lesson plans, to children. I have spoken to many teachers who want to support their students but are not allowed. I simply don't understand why teachers are not allowed. It's what is best for our children. Isn't your goal to close the achievement gap? This policy is hurting our children, especially are special education students. Please make change now. The goal is to strengthen community trust. Parents and schools are a team so let's see it.</p>

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Alina Laurie	<p>The online academy for kids excluded from class is insufficient. Students need to stay on top of the actual work they are missing in their regular classroom. I call on the Board to put together a letter of dissent and send it to ISBE and the IDPH and the governor of IL. Excluding a student from school after a so-called "close contact" is much more detrimental than the risk of any student catching COVID itself. This is due to huge impact on the mental health of a student every time they are excluded from school and not permitted to do their school work with their class, not permitted to participate in school extra curriculums, and isolated from friends and mentors. To Dr. Bein: leverage your power and influence within the state of IL: remember you are representing all the children in this district who have no voice at the table when decisions are made. Kids are trapped 3 or 6 feet apart at school, they are trapped in masks when inside school buildings, they are so anxious of being excluded from school they get sick feelings of panic in their stomach when they hear a friend cough or sneeze. The mandates in IL are out of line with the majority of the country where masks are optional and exclusion of kids from school after a so-called "close contact" is a relic of the past. School Board and Dr. Bein: stop following mandates that don't apply to our local community. School boards have local control. Use your local control or resign from your position to make room for someone who will.</p>
Nathan Ulery	<p>Mr. Conley and his co-conspirators on the Board and in the community seem to be under the mistaken belief that the span of control for elected school boards is much broader than what it really is. Nothing in the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5) calls upon a school board to interpret, overrule, object, or refuse to comply with laws written by Congress or the General Assembly, executive orders issued by the Governor, or guidance from state and county public health officials. While school board members are critical in setting the educational direction of our community, their influence stops at the schoolhouse doors. Even within the schoolhouse, the control of the school board is limited -- it does not get to dictate building codes, employment practices, or a great number of other issues -- including the public health considerations of fighting a pandemic. This division of responsibilities is by design -- because AHSD25 school board members, administrators, and staff lack any expertise or formal training on public health issues. Much like we should not look to Mr. Conley or administrators of District 25 to determine the appropriate plumbing or electrical design during a school construction project, we should not be looking to him in regards to how to manage a pandemic.</p> <p>Mr. Conley continues to waste the time of this school board and district resources with this vendetta to object to the legally issued Executive Orders from the Governor. The Board has no legal standing to refuse their enforcement. Further, it is not the charter of the School Board to send letters to the Governor objecting to the orders nor would such a letter adequately represent the diverse points of view of the voters and parents of AHSD 25. Sending a letter of objection is not only a waste of time and resources, it illustrates the disfunction of this Board and how inadequately it is serving its community. If Mr Conley, as a private citizen, wishes to write a letter to the Governor or a letter to the editor, he is welcome to do so. But the voters in Arlington Heights did not vote for him to object as part of official business by this school board. Further, if Mr. Conley feels so strongly about this issue, he should be encouraged to tender his resignation from the board immediately and start collecting nomination signatures for a run for the Illinois General Assembly or Governor -- both of which have elections next year.</p>
Laura Culley	<p>Please allow teachers to send home homework (it can be as simple as sending an email with page numbers of lessons in their books) if children are excluded from school due to covid exposure, whether parents choose remote academy or do not choose remote academy. This benefits not only the students and families but the teachers to ensure kids are not behind when they return to class. This can be done without undue time commitments from teachers.</p>
Kevin Michael	<p>Regarding Agenda Item 14 D, "Letter From the Board", any letter from the Board of Education questioning or challenging masking mandates or any public health directives is a waste of the board's time, a misrepresentation of the interests of the majority of parents, staff, and other community stakeholders, and an inappropriate political stance. Please cease all discussion of this</p>

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	<p>topic. Most parents and staff members fully support the mask mandate and the added layer of protection it provides our community. It is time to move on from this debate.</p>
Nathan Ulery	<p>Full-day kindergarten would be a great benefit to many children in Arlington Heights and the board should continue to think through the options to provide it as soon as possible. But as it considers how to implement this change, it needs to thoroughly consider the impact on other children already in the district.</p> <p>I grow concerned when I see options being considered like moving 5th graders up to the middle school. Our kids already grow up too fast and moving 5th graders up to the middle school will only accelerate the pace in which kids are forced to act like young adults.</p> <p>Further, actions like increasing class sizes, removing classroom space for specials teachers, and moving resource groups to the hallways needs to be carefully considered. While no doubt full-day kindergarten would provide an educational benefit -- that benefit shouldn't outweigh potential negative implications of some of the trade-offs being considered.</p>
Sara Mungovan	<p>I ask that Dr. Bein talk to the ATA about the current MOU that does not allow teachers to send home classwork or keep kids up in class when they are quarantined. I would like this rule to be revisited because it is not best practice and is further holding back our children and contributing to even more learning loss. It is also inequitable to some of our elementary students, because the middle school children are able to stay current with their classes through Schoology. Also, not all of the elementary schools in our district are following this rule. Some children are able to access their classwork, while children at Ivy Hill, specifically, are not.</p> <p>I ask that Dr. Bein survey ALL d25 teachers for feedback on this matter. I believe that the ATA is not accurately representing our wonderful teachers in this case. I have personally spoken with several d25 teachers and they WISH they were allowed to keep their students up to speed during their quarantine. I would like this survey to be approved by the board before it goes out so the objective is properly represented.</p> <p>I also believe it is a dangerous and fundamentally wrong message to send to families and children that "you are not responsible for what you miss during quarantine." Furthermore, this is not a true statement, and directly contradicts the attendance section on page 10 of our handbook, "It is extremely difficult for a student to make up missed work over an extended period because because of the sequential teaching and learning processes."</p> <p>This policy is hurting our children. It needs to change.</p>
christy witherow	<p>It is December and we have not been presented with a single plan to remove ANY mitigations measures. Please ask that the Administration develop a plan for our district regardless of any pending litigation. Please put the kids first. Everyone and anyone who wants the vaccines and boosters can get them.</p> <p>If there is NO plan to remove mitigation measures (namely masks), please require the Superintendent to communicate this much to the families by the end of the calendar year. Many would like to know, so the process of making other arrangements for their children can begin.</p>
Michael Jones	<p>We live in Arlington Heights in the Windsor area and have two daughters, one who will start Kindergarten in 2023 and one in 2024. We strongly support all-day Kindergarten for District 25. It will not only help families with childcare costs, etc., it will also help our children to be better equipped for learning throughout their school career. I have family in other states with school districts that have many less resources for their students and they ALL have all-day Kindergarten.</p>
Sabrina Singh	<p>My expectations for high academic standards from district 25 fell short when my children were enrolled in remote academy during a Covid quarantine. I understand the district has multiple needs that have to be addressed during remote academy and my children have essentially had a break from learning for the 10 days they were out. Even if that can be reasoned, there was no</p>

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	<p>communication from the middle school teachers including the fact that my child would miss MAP testing. It's only because I asked repeatedly that they have set up a make up test for them. I also asked for some worksheets for my other child and was told to look on the Internet. I believe this puts the kids at a real disadvantage when they return to school. My ask is for better communication between the parents teachers and principals so that we can all work together towards supporting the students during these times. Thank you.</p>
Kerri Hood	<p>1) Why have you pushed out the discussion on the letter of dissent for 2 months now and it's no longer even on the agenda for this week's meeting? A school board exists for local control. Every single board member should be pushing for this letter to be sent. If not, there is no purpose for this school board. Remember what you campaigned on - governance.</p> <p>2) Will the board start responding to emails again?</p> <p>3) The issue of no lessons given to parents when kids are forced to quarantine is still in place. This needs to change now. This is not a burden to teachers, and it is only further damaging our children. Most teachers we have spoken to hate this rule, so please reach out to all teachers and not just the union on this topic to get real feedback. ...but most importantly, do what is right for the KIDS. They are already being forced out of school due to no fault of their own, and your own policies are just a further punishment for them. It is not a fair, inclusive, or equitable policy.</p>
Jennifer Anderson	<p>If the Board feels compelled to pacify Mr. Conley's need to express his unhappiness with the Governor exercising his legal right to instate a mask mandate, I'd ask that you at minimum include a disclaimer that a significant number of District 25 parents are both in agreement with and greatly appreciate this executive order. You were each elected to represent the full district, and though it's not a productive use of time, the letter should at least uphold that obligation. Thank you.</p>
Katarzyna Laczak	<p>Dr. Bein and Board Members, Let's consider the current situation. You have certain obligations to ISBE and strings attached to state funding, but parents will hold you accountable for your misconduct, for endangering children's health, and for misusing taxpayers' money by masking our children for covid money. It's not about safety, it's all about money.</p> <p>If you're planning to continue obeying the unlawful mandates until a judge mandates something else or until your ESSER contract expires (June 2022), carefully consider what is in stake. We're talking legal claims which go beyond restraining orders, lost respect and public trust, next elections, and most importantly children's health.</p> <p>I wouldn't want to be in your place. You come to the board meeting and you meet angry parents. That's because as public officials you are expected to make informed decisions and you're not doing that. Stop hiding behind the executive order. Instead, use some common sense and start exercising your leadership skills. Leaders are not coercing anyone, leaders are critical thinkers, leaders do not divide community, leaders don't prevent anyone from exercising their constitutional rights.</p> <p>You're justifying your actions through a district attorney who tells parents something that turns out not to be true in reality. Ask yourselves who am I serving? Don't abuse your power and don't underestimate parents' power. I would hope you see our dedication to our children instead of trying to shut us down.</p>
Julie Mueller	<p>I would like to see the school using the data we have from the last year regarding actual positive cases that resulted from being a close contact in the school setting. This data showed an extremely low rate of transmission within the close contact definition, especially when wearing masks. The negative impact on students who are healthy and need to miss school because of a close contact situation outweighs the minimal risk that this student is actually a positive case and then would also transmit to another student. Please consider advocating for the student's</p>

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	<p>education and mental health by applying the information learned over the past months on this topic.</p> <p>For a non-covid topic, can the curriculum be evaluated at the middle school for the main track program? The selection process to be included in the "advanced track" misses many high potential and high performing students. This is leaving many of them unchallenged and not learning how to study, prepare and struggle with new learning concepts. When students are getting 100% on nearly all quizzes/exams in all classes with little to no studying, this is an indication of a need to create additional differentiation to support their learning growth opportunity. It will not prepare students for life after middle school if classes here do not provide a challenge.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Robyn Swanson</p>	<p>As a member of the District 25 community, I writing to express my concern that we continue to take up valuable board time with the proposed "Letter from the Board" to the Governor, IDPH and ISBE.</p> <p>The complaints that certain board members wish to express do not fall under the board's responsibilities and do not reflect the many viewpoints of the community at large.</p> <p>"The intent of the letter would be to describe the challenges District 25 has faced during the pandemic", ignores the fact that every family, business and a entity has faced hardship and challenge during this pandemic. The letter would serve nothing more than as a tool to gripe. The school board is not qualified to weigh in on public health policy. Other tax payer funded agencies, staffed by experts in public health are charged with that function. The duty of the board is to implement those policies.</p> <p>Please focus your time and efforts on curriculum, quality staffing, facility maintenance, and making sure that you are properly executing Covid public health policy as it pertains to the health and well being of students and staff.</p>
<p>Jim and Cristina Small</p>	<p>We support a full day kindergarten program being one of the only districts in our area that do not currently have one. We appreciate this matter is finally being considered substantively for the first time. However, concessions that are being considered such as mobile classrooms, de-minimizing specials and high value resource programs by eliminating classrooms, restructuring the elementary and grade school models, etc. seem harsh and drastic compared to the expected annual cost of only \$1.5 million. In fact, the details of the presentation suggest that there may be a larger overall future planning issue for the district as a whole considering capacity if enrollment increases. It seems that the fundamental issue is spacing/logistics and these compromises will be the most difficult hurdle to overcome.</p> <p>While the presentation provided for this meeting is a first attempt at a fairly detailed strawman, we support additional polling and seeking feedback from the community in the Board/Administration's strategic execution. Because of the significant budget and logistical issues highlighted in presentation, this will clearly be a medium to long term initiative for which the board and administration should seek to minimize the impact to the quality of our current education while adapting in the future to offer a full day program. Please keep a solutions based focus going forward while tackling these obstacles.</p> <p>On another note, please jettison the idea of a letter of dissent to the Governor. There is no benefit to the community, it is divisive, it does not represent the view of the community as a whole, and serves only to politicize certain board members' personal agendas.</p>
<p>Lori Martin</p>	<p>I am writing in regards to the possibility of adding full day kindergarten. I am curious as to why there seems to be such a rush to have a decision and implementation by 2023? The District, students and staff are still maneuvering through school during COVID which has caused schools to want more space between students, staffing issues, and mental and emotional tolls on students</p>

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	<p>and staff. To consider adding students to already crowded buildings and potential staffing issues seems premature. Additionally, the options shown on the presentation do not seem to benefit staff and students as a whole - having specials teachers lose their classroom space, asking students who receive extra services to share space or use hallways to access those services, and increasing class sizes in the elementary grades all seem detrimental to the learning environment. Furthermore, construction was recently completed at many buildings (at a cost to taxpayers) with the mindset that additional rooms for full day kindergarten were not in the plans. The potential construction costs and the staffing costs (which are long term) need to be strongly considered. And, I would like to see data presented as to the long term academic benefits of full day kindergarten. While I appreciate the need and desire for many families to want a full day option, I respectfully ask the Board and administration to carefully consider all the implications of moving forward with this so quickly. Can the district partner with the park district to provide a full day option which would include transporting students from the schools to a park district location? Instead of construction and increasing class sizes, would it be beneficial to instead use space in the administration building or another building to house full day kindergarten? Thank you for your time.</p>
Magdalena Martinez	<p>Please allow the Middle School students sufficient time to eat lunch. I understand that their lunch time has been significantly reduced, due to the need to rotate students as a result of Covid precautions. However, students need to be given more time than they are currently receiving to eat. Please give designated mask breaks. My child is consistently having no mask break, outside of lunch. Please consider buying medical grade air cleaners. The Covid numbers are increasing in D25, as noted in the District's dashboard. The teachers and students deserve the right to this relatively inexpensive mitigation, which can only help keep the schools open.</p>
Ewa Wojcik	<p>Dr. Bein,</p> <p>In regards to the vaccination clinic that took place on school grounds for the second time on Nov 29, please try to understand why informed parents are opposing it (apart from the fact that school is NOT a medical facility and you are NOT a medical professional) and please refrain from promoting vaccinations in any way in the future:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sudden Deaths of Children Under the Age of 12 Start Surfacing After COVID-19 Shots Approved for This Age Group 2. American parents mistrust mainstream media on vaccination information, poll finds 3. COVID Cases Falling in Five Least Vaccinated States 4. Latest UK Study Reveals 99.995% of Children And Young People Survive Covid-19 5. There is no scientific evidence that covid-19 vaccines have saved a single life <p>Please refer to the links below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- https://healthimpactnews.com/2021/sudden-deaths-of-children-under-the-age-of-12-start-surfacing-after-covid-19-shots-approved-for-this-age-group/ -- https://justthenews.com/nation/states/poll-shows-mistrust-mainstream-media-vaccination-information?utm_source=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter -- https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/covid-nw-cases-falling-five-least-vaccinated-states/?utm_source=salsa&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=004c6da5-58d3-4c9c-88d1-b6f208430727 -- https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/11/uk-study-reveals-99-995-children-young-people-survive-covid-19-two-million-chance-fatal-much-lower-risks-vaccine/ -- https://www.newstarget.com/2021-11-30-no-scientific-evidence-that-covid-19-vaccines-have-saved-a-single-life.html
Tom Galla	<p>I do not have a strong feeling either way about full-day kindergarten, however the initial proposal will materially and significantly reduce the quality of education while increasing our tax burden. People move to D25 for the quality of education. Specials on carts, mobile classrooms, services in hallways, degradation of the student/teacher ratio, moving 5th graders to the middle school – not only will these hurt our children's education, it will cost everyone in the district more while decreasing our real estate value.</p>

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	I am for full-day kindergarten when it does not sacrifice the quality of education for the current generation of students.
Deborah Freudenberger	I ask that the mask requirement is kept in place throughout the winter months for the safety of our children and community. I am thankful District 25 has complied with the mask mandate put in place by our Governor and ask that no letter of dissent be allowed as it does not represent our whole district.
Melisa Andrews	<p>Good Evening Board and Dr. Bein,</p> <p>I read the proposal for full day kindergarten and I am a little concerned with the options presented. While I am in favor for full day kindergarten these options presented are not the way to go. The way I am reading it is you want to take already established students (our most vulnerable) and move the resources that are given to them. How is it fair for someone who has say sensory issues be put in a hallway to meet goals. My son has autism and adhd. How is it fair for him to go to a resource teacher that is in a hallway that is noisy and full of distractions or put with other resources in a much larger room but are divided by dividers? Not to mention, the students that look forward to music and art. They like to go to a different classroom to learn more hands on experiences or the ability to have their resources right in front of them in art. If you move specials to a cart they are limited to what they can learn not to mention sitting at their desk in the same classroom they are taught math, reading, writing in. How is that fair? How is it fair for teachers to not have the specials time to plan and prepare for upcoming lessons? When do you expect them to do that? When they are at home trying to check out from the day with their family? I know studies show that the earlier a student receives services the better. Trust me with having a special needs child I know. Don't we offer that option even earlier than kindergarten with our EC program?</p> <p>There has to be a different way to approach this. Maybe think about bring the schools we are leasing up to code to house full day kindergarten. We have those resources at our hands.</p> <p>Another option is to open full day kindergarten to those that attend EC. Run it like the EC program. Where kids that need services are priority then have a certain allotment who want to pay tuition to the community. Then kindergarten can be housed at one school or building.</p> <p>I simply think it isn't fair for the all ready enrolled students to suffer. Melisa Andrews</p>
Marianne Corcoran	As an elected body, you have a duty to act for your constituents. Even if you do not agree with making changes in terms of masking and quarantining healthy students, please at least have an open discussion about it during the board meeting. There are so many significant mental health issues that are arising from the isolation, anxiety, and fear surrounding the possibility of getting that dreaded call of being a close contact. This week the surgeon general addressed it! Please use your power as elected officials to stand up for the children in the district, the ones that you promised to represent.
Michelle Casillas	Concern over the shorten lunch time, for all children and especially children with special needs trying to rush to eat, I find this totally unacceptable, all these requirements are getting really ridiculous. Also, regarding remote academy, we haven't had to use it for quarantine but I am tired of hiring from Dr. Bein how successful it is when I am hearing the opposite from parents. home work needs to be sent home just like before.
The following comments were received after the submission deadline and not included in the December 9, 2021 Board Meeting.	
Brian Larson	As a parent of a child who will eventually be attending District 25, I strongly support creation of a full day kindergarten. We are two working parents and having a full day option for our child to continue a quality education is a great resource opportunity for D25 students.
Bergroger1@gmail.com	I do not agree adding full time kindergarten. There is little unbiased evidence that full time kindergarten benefits anyone. If parents want before or after kindergarten they should seek it in the private sector. We also do not need educators with master degrees or above to teach any

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	grade or subject. Many colleges do not have staff with the amount of education teachers in SD 25 have.