

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 25**  
1200 S. Dunton Ave.  
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005  
Special School Board Meeting Minutes  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
**December 16, 2021**

**Special Meeting**

Brian Cerniglia, Vice President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. on December 16, 2021. The meeting was held remotely at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said.

**Motion:** R. Olejniczak moved and G. Scapillato seconded the motion that the Board of Education move into open session.

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

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

Board members excused: Gina Faso and Scott Filipek

Others Present: 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; and Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist.

**Community Input**

All comments received electronically are given to the Board in full and posted on the website.

**Committee of the Whole Reports**

**Superintendent Report**

**Full Day Kindergarten Update**

Staff presented information on a timeline for Full Day Kindergarten. They also shared a detailed look at available classroom spaces; projections for construction and operational costs; and funding options to consider.

The Board agreed that they are ready for the administration team to take the next steps in researching details for the following options:

- Full day kindergarten placed at each elementary school
- Full day kindergarten placed at a Kindergarten Center

- By adding onto a specific school and redistricting
- By building a separate school

The Board also commented that they are not interested in negatively impacting already existing programs or class sizes to add Full Day Kindergarten. The Board discussed the importance of reviewing enrollment numbers; capital outlay cost plans; and information from the Stewardship of Resources Action Team. The Board discussed wanting to make a decision by March 2022.

Community Input - None

**Motion:** R. Olejniczak moved and C. Conley seconded that the Board of Education move into the Closed session at 8:36 p.m.

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); 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).

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

**Motion:** C. Conley moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education adjourn closed session at 9:10 p.m.

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

**Motion:** C. Conley moved and R. Olejniczak seconded that the Board of Education adjourn the regular meeting.

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

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted,

Lori D. Bein, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
for  
Lana M. O'Brien  
Recording Secretary

Approved: January 20, 2022

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President  
Board of Education

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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

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Natalie White	I am glad that there is a special meeting for this topic. As full time working parents who have seen the quality of District 25 school education, we highly request strong consideration for a full - time option. The alternative is having to spend additional money at a private school or in daycare. In fact, we may choose to not send our child to D25 half day at all and just send them to a full day option. This would be a disservice to both our child as well as the school (Patton) she would be going to. Thanks for considering to make full time kindergarten an option.
Dan Schoen	There is a gap in full-day Kinder in the area and this would be an excellent solution. We would fully utilize this option if made available. Thanks for your consideration.
Margaret Zapata	Fifth grade should not be moved to the middle school level. This is not developmentally appropriate. This should be nonnegotiable in the conversation about full-day kindergarten.
Melissa Buchberger	<p>I am writing to board in support of full day kindergarten. My daughter was in kindergarten last year and my son will be in kindergarten in 2024.</p> <p>As a stay at home mom, I used to support half-day kindergarten until I saw how much this shortened schedule put my daughter at a disadvantage. All kindergartners must meet the same standards and teachers must teach the same content regardless of whether they have full or half-day kindergarten. This meant that there was very little time for students to work on their social and emotional learning and for them to have the very important specials and time for recess. Kindergartners still learn a great deal through play and having very little time for that in kindergarten was difficult for my daughter. With full-day kindergartners, students will have more opportunities to develop vital social skills and time to learn through play. It will also make childcare and schedule challenges easier for working parents in the community.</p>
Carrie Schoen	We are delighted to see there is continued conversation around the importance of full day kindergarten. We feel strongly that it would offer all students the opportunity to develop key cognitive and social competence necessary for success in school and lifelong learning.
Shalin Shah	Kindergarten students are ready to attain full time school. So, we appreciate if this one will work from coming year. Thank you!
Fred DeMarco	Thank you to the SD25 School Board for your work on behalf of students, staff, and parents! Full day kindergarten is definitely a long-standing unmet need in our district. However, I urge the board to use restraint and think of students' learning environment when determining how to fund this program. Our "destination district" can no longer be considered such if teachers' classrooms are eliminated and repurposed for other needs. Most troubling is the proposal that Art Class go "on a cart". Decades ago, Art Rooms were built districtwide to create a dedicated learning space for children to explore visual art. These rooms feature sinks, tile floors, kilns, and plenty of storage, all of which allow children to explore a huge variety of art processes and techniques. By forcing art teachers to push into classrooms, I fear children will be denied the wonderful depth and breadth of artmaking they've come to love. Additionally, classroom teachers will essentially lose their classroom during their plan time, which isn't fair. Thank you for finding alternate ways of housing full day kindergarten!
Jenna Sandstead	Please consider full day kindergarten. Full-day kindergarten provides students at this age a jump start to the structure of their school day for the remaining time of their academic career. Furthermore, it provides the structure and social opportunities that students at this age need.
Carrie Holt	I understand the district's desire to move towards full-day kindergarten; however, with the current proposal, it is clear that adding full-day kindergarten would negatively affect all district 25 students. Eliminating dedicated spaces for specials and resource services or moving 5th grade to middle school will have a detrimental impact on all students. I would urge the board to take more time coming up with additional avenues for offering full day kindergarten in which it wouldn't negatively impact all other students.
Grzegorz Koniecko	Dear Members of the Committee----Full Day Kindergarten is very important topic for me an my family. Unfortunately D25 lags far behind most school districts in the suburbs that offer full day kindergarten. We have 2 children who will be attending D25 next year and in 3 years and having

First and Last Name	Public Comments from the December 16, 2021 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting
	the opportunity for full time kindergarten will allow our kids to spend more time in this important environment preparing them for elementary school. I believe our community deserves full day kindergarten and I hope a solution can be found to make this happen.
Ashley Brown	I would love for there to be a full-day kindergarten. My kids are already used to being at daycare all day and they enjoy spending time with their peers and learning. As a working parent, it would be really nice as well.
Stephanie Ostrowski	As working parents we utilized private full-day K for our son. This wasn't for our benefit so much as it was for him to have that full-day learning and social interaction. I think given what the children have had to navigate the past two years it should be even more of a reason to consider offering our children that full-day learning and social interaction to jumpstart their school experience with Kindergarten.
Tracy Falconer	<p>It's time for the district to have full day kindergarten. We are one of the only districts around that does not have full day kindergarten. Our students are suffering from the lack of educational time. My son attended full day kindergarten in Burlington district 301. We then moved to Arlington Heights when he started 1st grade. The first two-thirds of his 1st grade year was a repeat of what he did in kindergarten at his previous school district.</p> <p>I was able to see with my daughter last year in her half day kindergsrten class that yes they do a lot of work in a short amount of time, but I feel she is still behind from her brother and where he was at the end of kindergarten from his previous district.</p> <p>We have been known for decades as a destination school district. Families specifically move here for their children to attend our district. It's troubling to see that we are behind educationally from other districts. We need to do better for our children.</p>
Kristin Meek	Full day kindergarten should not be an option in D25 at Olive-Mary Stitt. The need for classroom space would trigger larger class sizes in remaining classrooms, burdening our teachers and degrading the school experience for our students. The need for classroom space at Olive would mean loss of the art room, music room, and special ed rooms resulting in the loss of art, music and therapy facilities for the remaining hundreds of students in the building. Families who want full-day kindergarten also need child care before and after school and the CAP program at Olive is already overly full and requires busing to Rec Park and no gym time for the children that stay at Olive because there is no space. Thomas Middle School already has nearly 1000 students, so moving 5th grade to the middle school building is not feasible nor developmentally appropriate. What is the long term demographics for the district? When is the population dip coming for when all of these elementary school students age out? What is the purpose of the push now for overly full school buildings (even after construction projects)? Examine the demographic data and see when the school buildings will have more space to accommodate more classrooms.
Colleen Higgins	<p>The Windsor Elementary School Instructional Program is currently a full day program for kindergarteners. We fully support the full day program continuing, however our team feels based on students' individual needs, there should be the flexibility and option to start students half day. This would be greatly beneficial to the students in order for them to be successful and have a positive school experience.</p> <p>During my 5 years as a kindergarten instructional teacher I have observed students having a challenging time adjusting to the full school day routine. Many kindergarten students in our program have had difficulties transitioning to a full day program due to a number of factors such as: limited experience in an educational setting, limited experience in a full day 5 days a week program, limited experience in general education settings (e.g. lunch, specials) and experiencing an increase in demands between past school experiences and kindergarten.</p> <p>Discussing student transition plans on a case-by-case basis, allowing for flexibility in starting half or partial days then increasing their day based on their individual success, would allow students to begin their school year as successful and positive as possible.</p>

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Jennifer Palmer	<p>The Windsor Elementary School Instructional Program is currently a full day program for kindergarteners. We fully support the full day program continuing, however our team feels based on students' individual needs, there should be the flexibility and option to start students half day. This would be greatly beneficial to the students in order for them to be successful and have a positive school experience.</p> <p>During my 9 years as a kindergarten instructional teacher I have observed students having a challenging time adjusting to the full school day routine. Many kindergarten students in our program have had difficulties transitioning to a full day program due to a number of factors such as: limited experience in an educational setting, limited experience in a full day 5 days a week program, limited experience in general education settings (e.g. lunch, specials) and experiencing an increase in demands between past school experiences and kindergarten.</p> <p>Discussing student transition plans on a case-by-case basis, allowing for flexibility in starting half or partial days then increasing their day based on their individual success, would allow students to begin their school year as successful and positive as possible.</p>
Nathan Ulery	<p>It is good to see the Board focusing on issues within its purview, like full day kindergarten. Now only if the Board stayed focused on these issues rather than Mc. Conley's vendetta to write a letter of dissent or Ms. Faso's questioning of providing 15-minute COVID testing for teachers and staff so they can stay in the classroom (which she curiously abstained from voting for). If this Board stayed in its lane, it would have more time to focus on the important issues of this district and wouldn't be required to call special meetings because it ran out of time during its regular meeting. Keep this in mind as you consider your future agendas: When you stay focused on the educational matters of this district, you will have ample time to fully consider them correctly. When you stray from that focus, you waste your own time and that of the staff.</p> <p>On to the matter at hand, 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. 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. 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>
Brent Buchberger	<p>I write in support of full day kindergarten within SD25, however I reject this as a budget balancing exercise. We need to increase the budget for this expansion, not see it as a problem to solve with larger ratios, elimination of long term subs, reduction in facilities for specials, teachers, etc. Let's just take on the cost as a community for something that has been shown time and again to be one of the best possible investments and uses of our resources as a society.</p>

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Catherine Meyer	<p>If D25 moves forward with providing full day Kindergarten, the district needs to make an investment in building new classrooms - as a separate Kindergarten facility or as additions at the elementary schools or middle school. Several of the proposals from the Kindergarten Update reduce the quality of education for all students. I will address a few specific concerns below.</p> <p>- "Resource, Intervention and other services may have to be conducted in hallways or other locations due to lack of available classroom space. " This is NOT an acceptable solution for resource or intervention service. The hallway is naturally a place where traffic flows, and this would be extremely distracting to students who would be receiving services. I believe this also raises privacy concerns because other students will be able to see and hear other students receiving their intervention or resource services. My children have been a part of Music for Youth lessons in D25 schools for 8 years. For 2 of these years, my children's lessons took place in makeshift spaces at Olive similar to what is being proposed- 1 year in the hallway by the copy room, and one year in the "backstage" area off the commons stage area. While I understand the OMS staff did the best they could those years in providing a space for these lessons, these spaces had many distractions that interrupted lessons. The MFY lessons were short and private, and I personally attended with my children so they had the benefit of 2 adults helping to offset the many distractions. Students receiving small group resource and intervention services should have access to a room that allows them privacy and the ability to focus.</p> <p>- "Art / Music would need to be completed in classroom spaces." This is important break time for teachers who will then lose access to their classroom space to prepare for the rest of the day. The proposal also includes eliminating the teacher break room. Teachers would end up in their classrooms during specials, reducing their ability to prepare for the rest of the day.</p> <p>- "OPTION A - Class Size Target Increase to 25:1 average across grades K-5." I do not support reducing the quality of education for all students with overcrowded classrooms in order to accommodate full day Kindergarten.</p>
Tim Beishir	<p>D25 should absolutely move forward as soon as possible with a transition to full day kindergarten. The education community is trending towards universal pre-k and our community still holds to part time kindergarten. Nearly every major elementary and unified school district in the region uses full time kindergarten. The mid-day transportation necessitated by part time kindergarten assumes that at least one parent is not working full-time and will be available to pick up or at least shuttle his/her child to another child care option. 1 income families are no longer the norm of this community and D25 should adapt to meet the needs of Arlington Heights. Both pedagogical and practical realities are pulling D25 to only 1 logical conclusion. It's time to do what's best for our kids and our community. Thank You Very Much.</p>
Elizabeth Madison	<p>Do not remove resource and specials rooms to provide full day kindergarten. Removing resource and specials rooms in will reduce the quality of education for every child in that school. This is not an acceptable solution. Also, a class average of 25:1 for k-5 is not acceptable either.</p> <p>The only option that will not diminish the quality of education of current and future students is additions to elementary and/or middle schools or a separate kindergarten facility.</p>
Megan Heavrin	<p>The brief states the full day kindergarten impact is reduced child care costs. This really misses the mark of children's educational attainment which is critical for their lifetime health prosperity, economic opportunities, and ability to contribute to a thriving community. SD25 is in the small minority of districts that does not offer full day kindergarten. This does our children a disservice today and our community a disservice in the future. For every \$1 dollar invested in early childhood, returns yield from \$4-\$9. If the SD25 mission is to "Empower an inclusive, diverse community of learners to innovate and thrive as global citizens." it will continue to seek investment opportunities to offer full day kindergarten and look to offer full day preschool and transitional kindergarten in the future.</p>

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Scott Brown	<p>The Mission of District 25 is to, "Empower an inclusive, diverse community of learners to innovate and thrive as global citizens." If District 25 would like to focus on closing the achievement gap for its students, then providing full-day kindergarten is one important strategy. Closing these achievement gaps are especially important for students with special needs and students living in poverty. The extra time spent in kindergarten will give teachers the time to assess students' learning and emotional needs. Furthermore, many parents of kindergarten-age children enroll their young ones in daycare or preschool alongside kindergarten, creating unnecessary transition and transportation in a child's school day. Considering the instability and the lack of continuous child care for many over the last two years, District 25 would be best suited to join most districts in the state in providing full-day kindergarten. If the district would like to fulfill its mission, then full-day kindergarten is appropriate.</p>
Abbie Many	<p>Hello Board of Education and Cabinet members- First off, thank you for taking the time to consider full day kindergarten. I feel it would definitely be beneficial for our students both academically and socially. I know this is a big decision that is in the early stages. I was a bit disappointed in some of the plans currently outlined, and I hope that a plan can be reached that would not have such a large impact on class sizes and specials spaces. As an elementary teacher myself, I know firsthand that class sizes of 25 are extremely hard for ALL grades, but especially for kindergarten and first grade rooms. In my opinion, having smaller class sizes outweighs the benefits of full day kindergarten. If class sizes do increase, possibly an aide could be added to younger rooms. Also, I understand the predicament of needing more rooms, however, I truly feel it is necessary and best practice for our students to be able to rotate out of their homerooms for specials. It provides them a mental break, and a new area to get their creative minds flowing. Specials courses are much more effective when taught in their own spaces rather than in students' homerooms. Adding full day kindergarten would be amazing, but I hope it would not come at a cost that our students would be dealing with for their entire elementary career. Thank you for taking the time to read this, I look forward to hearing about our next steps.</p>
Lauren Wysocke	<p>Dear School Board Members,</p> <p>I recently moved to D25 and am the parent of two future D25 students. As a teacher myself, I have seen first hand the transformation my students have undergone as we moved from half-day to full-day kindergarten. In a half-day program, teachers and students are rushed to fit in the curriculum, and there is never enough time in the day for everything. In a full-day program, students have more time to build SEL skills, learn through play, and become more comfortable with how to be a successful, well-rounded student.</p> <p>I know that there are many factors a school board must consider as you make decisions, but I truly believe that implementing full-day kindergarten in D25 will be an investment for our community's future and is what's best for kids.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service to our community, -Lauren Wysocke</p>
Lisa Rottenberg	<p>I am opposed to all day kindergarten because I am concerned about its impact on our property taxes.</p>
Amber Sarb	<p>Has the district considered mobile classrooms or temporary spaces to offer full day K options as early as the 2022-2023 school year? There is such a need in the area for this and I know that other districts used temporary spaces in the past when there were capacity concerns.</p>
Laila Rajpari	<p>I am writing this letter to communicate my thoughts on the need for a full day Kindergarten program for D25. The voices of Arlington Heights are not being heard. The KG program is a crucial factor today in a family's decision when deciding on school districts and where to settle down. If we want to attract residents that have a focus on education, well rounded families that contribute back into the neighborhood, we need to make the education program competitive from day 1 of school. Wheeling township has one of the highest tax rates in the area. Yet our Pre-K and Kindergarten programs are not competitive at all.</p> <p>The neighboring suburbs of Mt. Prospect, Northbrook, Glenview all have full day KG programs. A</p>

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	<p>child that goes to a full day KG program has 30-32 hours of schooling vs. a child in half day program gets 12.5 hours a week of schooling. This difference multiplies when taking into account a child's brain development and growth at age 5, as being educators I am sure you are well aware of a child's ability to form neural connections at that age and if those connections are not made or engaged, they are lost forever. This is not a matter to be taken lightly as early childhood ages (3-6) are when a child has strongest ability to build a strong neural network and it will be lost if not engaged. And with having a half day program during these vitals years does not give the children of district 25 the same benefits a child within the neighboring district has. Neighboring districts (as District 225) have schools that start offering gifted programs in the first grade!</p> <p>We are falling behind severely. I have noticed that Olive, Ivy Hill, and Greenbrier have all been trending downward both in ranks and test scores according to School Digger over the past years. Do not take this lightly. Parents of today are not like the parents of from 10-20 years ago. We study and note these patterns and make decisions accordingly. We have our children in full day or half day programs prior to KG. We start participating in activities such as swimming, dance, sports when our kids are are babies. Our kids are ready and NEED full day KG to grow to their full potential and for the schools in our district to succeed – as if you will not attract the type of families that are focused on education and learning with decreasing test scores in our schools and sub par KG programs. Several personal friends and colleges of mine have left Arlington Heights out of their search to move due to this reason. Therefore I ask for a full day KG program to be implemented immediately if we want to save our reputation as a town with good schools (which is the biggest factor in real estate values, which determines tax dollars available) to continue. Please do not take this lightly and show that our voices and concerns are being heard and stop the snow ball effect this can have on our neighborhood. We are willing to pay for the full day kindergarten for the additional resources as we would have to pay for private kg or aftercare anyway. Please keep our kids safe in one school vs bussing them around by a private daycare for after care. I am prepared to have my voice heard.</p> <p>Thank you very much, Laila Rajpari</p>
Danielle Dishkin	<p>I am a big proponent of full day kindergarten for District 25. I have 2 young children and when I found out District 25 only offers half day with no option for full day, I was very surprised and disappointed. Nearly 80% of the school districts in Illinois offer full day kindergarten. As one of the top districts in the state, this is one area District 25 needs to improve to offer our children a level playing field. I am hopeful the district strongly considers the benefits of full day kindergarten and implements at least giving the choice to parents sooner than later. We would be willing to pay an additional annual fee to provide our children with the full day learning experience if necessary. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Charlotte Obodzinski	<p>Providing full day kindergarten would be wonderful for working families. I would happily pay more in taxes for this benefit. Half day kindergarten leaves many families in a lurch as we need to find childcare facilities that can assist for the second halves of the day or put our children in private kindergarten to bridge the gap until first grade. I hope the district is able to put forth a proposal and can accommodate this without cutting funding from other programs. As a full time working mother of two, I hope that D25 makes this a reality.</p>
Jenna Apel	<p>Holding specials, interventions, or special education services in non-classroom settings (e.g. the hallway, vestibules, etc.) is inexcusable and should not even be considered. This does a grave disservice to our students and educators. These spaces are often loud and frequently disrupted-which is particularly inappropriate for children receiving special education services and other interventions. Providing full day kindergarten should not be at the expense of these important parts of school. Every child and every educator deserves a designated space for learning and that space should never be an afterthought.</p>
Sarah Kull	<p>As the working parent of 2 young children, one of whom will be enrolled in kindergarten in 2023, I fully support the move to full-day kindergarten.</p>

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Mallory Cwik	<p>As a parent of a current 3 year old and future D25 student, I want to express my family's enthusiastic support of moving to a full-day Kindergarten program. I feel that this option will provide the time and consistency needed for my daughter to get an excellent education through our school district. Our daughter has become accustomed to a full day of education through her preschool and I have no doubt that she is capable and would thrive in a full day kindergarten setting.</p> <p>Additionally, as a family with two working parents, this would allow us to meet her education needs without having to seek privatized options for childcare. Our family is excited to fully support our local public schools when the day comes, and with a full day option for our daughter we would be able to do so in her very first year of eligibility.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p>
Katie Hurr	<p>We are desperately in need of full day kindergarten in Arlington Heights. As a working parent of an incoming kindergartener for the 2022 school year, the stress of finding before/after school care along with transportation to and from school has been weighing heavily on our family. Many of our children are coming from full day preschool programs and the switch to a 3 hour kindergarten school day is a drastic change for them. It would be incredibly helpful if our district would offer a full day K program!</p>
Sara Kellrr	<p>As parents with full time jobs, my husband and I will be GREATLY relieved if Dryden went to full day kindergarten. We are scrambling to find before/after kinder care for our son next year - it's been extremely stressful as most child care facilities do not offer bussing to/from Dryden. We moved to AH primarily for the fantastic public schools and had we known in advance about half day kindergarten, we might've thought twice about it. We love it here, but the kindergarten debacle must be resolved. So many parents in my shoes!</p>
Rob Obodzinski	<p>Please consider a full day Kindergarten option for families to choose if they want to align their children's school schedules as well as provide additional educational enrichment opportunities for students.</p>
Elisa Suchy	<p>Being surrounded by full day kindergarten programs in the area is considered the gold standard for education. By Arlington Heights not offering full day kindergarten it is putting the students behind their surrounding peers not just academically but from a social emotional learning perspective. It gives them more time to understand the classroom function before the quick speed at which 1st grade is taught. As a parent of a son who went through the 1/2 day program, I can't imagine if he had struggled with learning in kindergarten and would not have been prepared for first grade. My daughter will be approaching kindergarten and is not as prepared as my son. I do not think a half day program would adequately prepare her to be successful in elementary school</p>
Grace Worrell	<p>My husband and I are both elementary educators and live in Arlington Heights. We are passionate about public education and equitable access to education for all. As elementary educators, we know the challenge first hand that kindergarten teachers face while trying to master the Common Core State Standards in one school year. Providing full day kindergarten would give our daughter and all children in district 25 a fair and equitable chance at achieving these standards in one year. With the shift to Common Core, half day kindergarten is no longer appropriate. It would be of great disservice to our youngest learners to continue to only provide half day kindergarten. Thank you for your dedication to finding a solution to this problem.</p>
Melisa Andrews	<p>Good Evening Board and Dr. Bein, 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</p>

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	<p>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 and teachers to suffer. Melisa Andrews</p>
Mark Sherbin	I don't think it's a surprise to anyone that full-day kindergarten would be an excellent step forward for Arlington Heights education and a boon for parents in our community. It would be especially great for the kids of full-time working parents to not have to schlep between school and daycare every day.
Kellee Janus	I'm all for full-day kinder but I'm totally against it if it will impact the specials and additional service areas that are currently being utilized. Music needs a music room, art needs an art room, speech/physical/occupational therapies need their own room with a door as do interventions like reading, etc. We will all need to come together to come up with better ideas to accommodate this - building additions, moving EC to park district buildings and have kinder take that space, etc.
Eric Becker	<p>I believe that full day kindergarten is a vital addition to District 25. Not only would it create an easier transition into first grade, a full day in the classroom would provide more opportunities to develop social skills, participate in creative activities, and maintain any educational gains made in the earlier years of a child's life.</p> <p>Neighboring communities such as Northbrook, Long Grove, Deerfield, and Downers Grove have already adopted full day kindergarten and it is necessary to adopt in Arlington Heights as well.</p>
Lindabeth Rivera	It would be essential to have a full day kindergarten to meet the needs of families in the communities. It has been proven that families are finding themselves in difficult situations with finding child care and children are missing out on full length education that has time to include social skills in the curriculum. It also fosters growth and preparation for children to advance to the next grade.
<b>The following comments were received after the submission deadline and not included in the December 16, 2021 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting.</b>	
Alexis Rabe	As a former teacher, I understand the pros and cons of full day kindergarten, but as the mom of a future Kindergartner I would not choose it for my son. I have 2 older children (a 3rd grader and kindergartener), and I love the half day program. It allows them time to do other activities outside of school that improve their social skills. I would hope that D25 is looking into a full day program for the right reasons (and not just to satisfy those who want it as a source of child care). Kids need to be kids. Kindergarten is a time to learn foundational skills, but also social skills, not a time to be pushed academically. For some, this might be their first academic experience, and a full day is just too much. I know it would have been too much for my kids.
Jennifer Zakaras	Please seriously consider full day Kindergarten.
Elizabeth Paczosa	I believe Full Day Kindergarten to be extremely important. Not only to transition kids into a full day schedule, but also to gain more thorough education with more time to educate our kids. Kindergarten seems like a very rushed day for these kids currently especially with the class

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	sizes. The teachers, I have noticed have a disconnect, as they don't have time to individually care for each student and get to know them. Creating that teacher-student fundamental bond is so important in the first years of school to create the love of learning. Please begin Full Day Kindergarten to all students, as it's crucial for their educational development.
Stefan Moorehead	I, as a resident of Arlington Heights in district 25 with a four year old, fully support full day kindergarten. It is vitally important to us as two working parents. Please approve this thank you.
Leah White	As a resident of Arlington Heights and a district 25 full time working mother, full day kindergarten would make a huge difference in my family's life. I have a 4 year old child and this is coming up fast for us. I fully support full day kindergarten.