

First and Last Name	Public Comment from the February 3, 2022 Committee of the Whole Board Meeting
<p>Miel Johnson, Board Director Political Action for the League of Women Voters of Arlington Heights, Mt. Prospect, Buffalo Grove and surrounding areas</p>	<p>This is a statement from the League of Women Voters of Arlington Heights, Mt. Prospect, Buffalo Grove and surrounding areas.</p> <p>The League of Women Voters of Arlington Heights, Mt. Prospect, Buffalo Grove and surrounding areas urges the District 25 Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Lori Bein to take immediate action to implement a tuition-free, full-day kindergarten program.</p> <p>So often conversations about things like full-day kindergarten focus on what we can't afford to spend. We talk about the cost of new classrooms. We talk about how many additional teachers the District would need to hire. We talk about tax levies and bonds and referenda and tuition. But we never talk about the things we can't afford to lose.</p> <p>How long do you think Arlington Heights and District 25 will be an attractive place for young families to settle if we fail to keep pace with other communities and school districts? How many families will leave District 25 schools in search of an education that prepares their children for the world they live in now? How many kids will not receive the kind of high-quality education and support they need and deserve because we spent so many months and years talking about whether or not we should prioritize them?</p> <p>The data is clear. Full-day kindergarten helps all children. The community has been clear. The majority of families in the 2017 survey wanted full-day kindergarten.</p> <p>Let's keep talking about this. But let's stop talking about IF we should provide full-day kindergarten. Let's start talking about HOW we will provide tuition-free, full-day kindergarten for our families.</p>