

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

School Board Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2022

Scott Filipek, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on April 21, 2022 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 6:10 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); 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); 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); The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).



Organizational Meeting



Regular Meeting

Dr. Jogee, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. on April 21, 2022. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Roll call was noted.

Board members present: Brian Cerniglia, Chad Conley, Scott Filipek, Gina Faso, Rich Olejniczak, Dr. Anisha I. Jogee, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: None

Others Present: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent; Stacey Mallek, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Dr. Becky FitzPatrick, Assistant Superintendent of the Department of Student Learning; Dr. Brian Kaye, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Planning; Dr. Peg Lasiewicki, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology and Assessment; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Story Telling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

Recognitions and Presentations

Dr. Jogee, on behalf of the Board, and Dr. Bein wished the Arlington Heights All-Star student-athletes good luck on their upcoming participation in the Special Olympics Spring Games – Track and Field on Sunday, May 15.

Dr. Lasiewicki introduced the head coaches, Allison Keough and Colleen Higgins. They introduced all of the coaches and showed a video that introduced the All-Stars. The All-Stars presented the team t-shirts to Board members along with invitations to the games. Ms. Golemo, one of the coaches, announced that \$260 was raised for the All-Star team. Dr. Bein presented small gifts to each of the student-athletes. Mr. Filipek noted that the neighboring police departments will be participating in the opening ceremony.

Dean Borodic
Aidan Bowers
Grace Canady
Andrew (Drew) Dudic
JT D'Angelo
Lily Franchi
Oishi Golder

Eliza Kim
Grace Pedota
Adit Prajapati
Ava Reveles
Owee Sasane
Abhay Shetty

Dr. Jogee, on behalf of the Board, and Dr. Bein congratulated the wrestlers who participated in the State Wrestling meet. Coaches, Mike Damico and Ben Hamilton, spoke about the season and the athletes. They also thanked Coach Danny Malik, as well as all of their supporters. The Board was thanked for the support of the wrestling program. Dr. Bein presented small gifts to each of the student-athletes.

Tony Klikas
Owen Pham
Frank Tagoe

Community Input - None

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

Consent Agenda

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and R. Olejniczak 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 Report; (C) Fixed Asset Disposal Reports; (D) Invoices; (E) Public Hearing on the Reduction in Force Meeting minutes of March 17, 2022; (F) Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of March 17, 2022. Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Communications:

The following reports were given:

- NSSEO – Ms. Faso reported on two upcoming events for the community. The Miner School fundraiser will be held on April 30 at Miner School, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., with various activities taking place. A charity golf outing on behalf of Timber Ridge School will be held on June 4, and additional information can be found on the NSSEO website.
- IASB – Dr. Jogee reported that last night Dr. Bein, Dr. Jogee and Mr. Olejniczak attended the North Cook Division Dinner meeting at Lincoln Junior High School in Skokie. Mr. Olejniczak noted that the program included a presentation by Mr. Martire, and highlighted some points from his presentation. Dr. Jogee stated that some Board members attended an IASB equity presentation, and highlighted points from the presentation.
- ED-RED – Mr. Olejniczak reported on legislation that was recently passed in the state regarding COVID-19 sick leave for school staff. Ms. Mallek added that last week's meeting was focused on this recent law, and reviewed other provisions of the law. The ED-RED dinner meeting will be held on April 25, and the speaker will be Dr. Carmen Ayala.
- A Board Governance Framework – Mr. Filipek read an excerpt from the Board Governance Framework regarding Board protocols and the annual restructuring of the Board.
- Other Board Communication – Mr. Scapillato stated that he participated in the Patton bike rodeo. Mr. Scapillato and Ms. Faso noted that they attended the referendum forum that was held at Dryden School last week. Dr. Jogee noted that she attended a volunteer breakfast at Dryden this morning.

The following reports were received:

- PTA – Dr. Jogee read a report from Ms. Barbieri. The PTA Council held a "Pack the Piggies" fundraiser which raised over \$9,600. The funds will be used to help support the scholarship fund, which provides nine high school seniors a \$1,000 college scholarship, and ten elementary school students a \$100 gift certificate to the park district. The PTA thanked everyone for the support of the program, and the ACH fundraising chair, Jody Schaaf, for bringing the idea to the community.

- ABC25 – Ms. Faso reported that the GetBurbed Challenge will be held on April 30, and the entire community is invited to participate. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year, and all of the funds go to the teachers in the district in the form of grants. Volunteers are still needed for the event.
- ATA – Ms. Berg stated that negotiations with the ATA and Administration are ongoing. She noted that it has been fun to watch the All-Stars this spring. She showed a video and highlighted the happenings at Olive-Mary Stitt Elementary School. Ms. Berg was thanked for her report.

Student Learning – No Report

Student Services – No Report

Business and Finance

Extension of Bus Transportation Contract

Ms. Mallek stated that the district requested to extend the bus transportation contract for next year, and Cook County Bus Company proposed a 12% increase for 2022-2023. The increase is based on their need to increase pay rates to attract additional drivers, increases in insurance premiums, and a need to replace some buses to maintain our required average age of our fleet. Many bus companies are not bidding on RFPs and all districts are seeing double digit increases this year. We are reducing some routes at Ivy Hill School because we are not seeing as many students using the bus this year. We have been pleased with the services of the bus company during this contract.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Extension of the Bus Transportation Contract with Cook County School Bus Co for 2022-2023.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Music for Youth Contract

Ms. Mallek explained the Music for Youth program. It is a tuition-based program, and the district pays a portion to offset the program, which is approximately 42%. Historically we have had three-year contracts. The current financial commitment is \$106,392. The agreement reflects annual increases based on CPI-U or 5% for the next three years. Based on this, the cost would be \$111,711 for 2022-23, and estimated at \$113,889 for 2023-2024 and \$116,110 for 2024-2025. Dr. Bein added that the original agreements were split more evenly, and this next contract brings it closer to that.

A Board member noted that this is a great experience for students and noted the positive benefits of playing an instrument. It was asked how we support the families that are not able to afford the program. Dr. Bein noted that Music for Youth has a small scholarship program, and the district can utilize the Bernice Gliege Angel Fund if a student would like to participate but cannot afford it.

NSSEO Budget for 2022-2023

Ms. Mallek reviewed steps that NSSEO undertakes in determining their budget. The anticipated tuition budget for NSSEO is \$3,324,892, which is a \$165,479 increase, or 5%, over 2021-22. Of this, \$219,411 represents the 5% of IDEA funds designated to NSSEO required to be spent on staff development as well as administrative costs. The district is budgeting for 39 students in 2022-2023, which is an increase of thirty-five students budgeted for in 2021-2022. The budget includes four contingency students. The private placement tuition budget will decrease by \$172,000, or 34%, over 2021-2022. The total anticipated tuition budget will be \$3,653,692, or a 0.2% decrease over 2021-2022.

Student Fees for 2022-2023

Ms. Mallek noted that the student fees were presented at the March 17 Board meeting, and the only thing that changed are the prices of gym clothing and the graduation fees. These costs are being estimated because vendors are not able to give pricing for next year.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2022-23 student fees as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Facilities Management – No Report

Personnel and Planning – No Report

Superintendent Report

Freedom of Information Act Report

Dr. Bein reported that the following FOIAs have been received and responded to.

- Jeff Van Buren requested information on communications regarding the mask mandate lawsuit; a response was provided on March 14, 2022.
- Jairo Gomez, Chicagoland Laborer's District Council requested information on the 2022 Capital Improvements Bid Results; a response was provided on March 15, 2022.
- Gerardo Mendez, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting requested information on the 2022 Capital Improvements Bid Results; a response was provided on March 15, 2022.
- Preston Dedi, Chicagoland Construction requested information on the 2022 Capital Improvements Bid Results; a response was provided on March 15, 2022.
- Gerardo Mendez, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting requested information on the bid tabulation; a response was provided on April 6, 2022.
- Preston Dedi, Chicagoland Construction requested information on the 2022 Capital Improvements Phase 2 Bid Results; a response was provided on April 12, 2022.

Board Meeting Structure Update

Dr. Bein asked the Board to revisit some areas of how Board meetings are structured. The history of allowing electronic public comments was explained. Because it is not required, if we keep it in place, we no longer need to read them at Board meetings. Dr. Bein would like to encourage the Board to end using public comments. She noted that people can email Board members any comments or questions that they have, which is more timely than electronic public comments. It also is time consuming for Ms. O'Brien, and we may not be able to stop someone from having something posted that is challenging in various ways.

Dr. Bein will create a list of Board Policy Committee meeting dates starting with the 2022-2023 school year. Since the Board will reorganize this month, and the Board President will assign committee roles, we will check those dates with the Policy Committee members prior to finalizing them.

A Board member thanked Dr. Bein for handling the reading of the electronic public comments with professionalism over the past two years. After discussion, the Board decided to suspend electronic public comments.

Department of Communications Update

Mr. Harris, Head of Communications and Storytelling, updated the Board on several Communications topics. He explained the process and goals of the redesign of the districtwide logo. The logo creates pride and sense of ownership in the schools and community, and the district wanted to find something that gives us our identity and tell the district's story. Mr. Harris explained and described the new logo. It tells a story with a modern take on a school house and the arrow pointing up, which is always looking forward and raising our bar. Mr. Harris talked about the team that worked on the project including community partner, Tom Riesing, the Cabinet team, and Inana Zomaya, Communications Assistant.

The district website is a resource for current and future parents, and is a billboard for our district. It is usually the first place that people get an impression of our district. We want it to be simple; not flashy, yet engaging; intuitive navigation; and tell our story. It will be more of a refurbishment, and not a complete redesign as the district is adapting to the way that the public navigates the internet. Mr. Harris showed samples of the new website, and described the updates in detail.

Mr. Harris explained the district's social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and how the district utilizes the different platforms. He noted that the district's Instagram account was started by Ms. Zomaya, and that it is a quick and easy way to use high quality visuals to communicate what it feels like to be a student, staff member, and community member in District 25.

The new content themes include D25 Features; the District Dish, which comes out every two weeks on Thursdays; a revamped G2KY Podcast; and Instagram. Mr. Harris showed a video from the D25 Features series.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the full implementation of the logo; the clean and simple design of the logo; how the new logo will interact with the school mascots; the website design and attention to the usability; social media; the great things that have been done since Mr. Harris was hired in 2015; and outreach to the community. Mr. Harris and Ms. Zomaya were thanked for all of the work they have done.

Community Input

- Ms. Cayer addressed the Board regarding District 25 employees' paystubs; and the Cook County tax bill.

Future Agenda Items

Topics with Dates to be Determined

The Equity Audit will be added to the May 5, 2022 agenda. A plan for addressing capital projects needs in future projections will be added to an agenda in the Winter 2022-2023.

New Topics - None

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and C. Conley seconded that the Board of Education move into the Closed session at 9:10 p.m.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and G. Faso seconded that the Board of Education adjourn closed session at 10:26 p.m.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

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

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; S. Filipek, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 10:26 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: May 5, 2022

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: _____ May 6, 2022

Date minutes posted on District website: _____ May 9, 2022

Community Input Received Electronically

| First and Last Name | AHSD25 Public Comments for the April 21, 2022 Board Meeting |
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| Karen Medina Zinn | <p>I want to express my support to Full Time Kindergarten for SD25 starting as soon as 2023. I currently have a Kindergartener attending Patton in the afternoon. When I compare my child - to his friends from neighboring districts - who attend Full Time kindergarten, my child is at a disadvantage. The number of actual minutes that he spends learning (academics) and socializing with peers is minimal compared the number of minutes other districts offer/provide their kindergarten students. Academically children attending FT kindergarten get the opportunity to not only learn new skills but also practice them under the supervision/support of a qualified teacher. I am fortunate to be a SAHM and be able to sit down with my child and teach him/practice with him math/writing/reading frequently. However, not all parents can do this. Not all parents can teach. Socially, FT kindergarteners learn how to better interact with their peers - recess and lunch time. I have a younger child attending EC at Greenbrier. He will attend EC again in 2022-2023. While currently he is transitioning to a blended classroom, it is likely that he attends a general ed Kindergarten class Patton in 2023-24. I truly hope that my younger child gets to attend Full Time Kindergarten at SD25.</p> |
| Zenek Piersa | <p>To District Leaders, Do you think misleading the community is acceptable? Why somebody's unprofessional services are being paid by taxpayers' money? Are you going to continue to listen to Kriha Boucek's legal advice? How does it make you feel when you hear Mrs. Boucek talking about beer and heroin? Why did KB Lawyers disappear from the board meetings and why did KB remove their online weekly recaps from public viewings?</p> <p>At the 8/12/21 board meeting Mrs. Boucek said, "Really, until the mandate is lifted, the local control is limited at this point." Really, we heard the opposite in court! Mrs. Boucek also said, "With the mandate in place, it adds up an entirely different legal analysis as well as legal considerations that I have an obligation to tell you as the board to consider when you're looking at your return to school plan." Do you as a board think her advise benefited our community?</p> <p>At the same board meeting, one of the board members said, "We have a long tradition of flexibility and communication". What happened to that? There was no public apology, no explanation given to the community. Is our board satisfied with that? Is that what you call a public service? Concerned Taxpayer/Parent, SD25. Thank you. Zenek Piersa</p> |
| Margaret Waz | <p>As a mom of 6 children (the youngest one in 1st grade, the oldest one in college), I've had a chance to observe how the curriculum in our schools is changing and how the focus is shifting from the core subjects such as math, reading and writing, grammar, history and science to this vague concept called social emotional learning, which is currently like a mantra, but most parents don't even understand what it's about. A few years ago, there was not much talk about SEL, but now it's exploding. I personally don't know any child who truly benefited from SEL. There is really no partnership between parents and educators anymore. A specific curriculum is being pushed on parents whether they like it or not. The SEL in its current form is nothing more than social emotional destabilization of children and it is causing great frustration for many families. You underestimate parenting abilities of ours and assume too many roles for school. Too many usually means not good at anything.</p> <p>Regarding comprehensive sex ed, parents should educate their children on sex at the right time for them and per THEIR values. It's not for teachers nor any third parties to do that. The LGBTQ+ and gender agenda that "welcoming" schools are embracing just rips away the innocence of the kids</p> |

| First and Last Name | AHSD25 Public Comments for the April 21, 2022 Board Meeting |
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| | and confuses them, their mind is not there to comprehend this subject, plus this has no educational value. Just let the kids be kids! |
| Agnes Zapart | When I read the district's 5-year Strategic Plan, I wonder what you mean by social justice? Does it imply hiring teachers just for the color of their skin or sexual orientation to make the environment more "diverse"? Have you considered the negative consequences of forced diversity? Does it mean lowering the educational standards for ALL students in order for everybody to "pass"? But, everybody is different and social success cannot be evenly distributed. In regards to inclusion, does it mean gender-neutral restrooms at schools? Will our school board have a same-sex bathroom in the administration building as well? What about tampon machines in boys' bathrooms, which makes MOST kids uncomfortable? Will you be putting cat litter there too for an individual who identifies as a cat? Those are serious questions that you might need to address sooner than you think. Also, I want my child to be an independent thinker, not a "global citizen". |
| Ewa Wojcik | <p>Parents shouldn't be spending their time and energy fighting their school district. The district shouldn't be telling parents: If you don't like it here, you can take your kids somewhere else. As a matter of fact, I will, but this is not advice I would expect to hear (multiple times) from Dr. Lasiewicki and Dr. Bein. Doesn't it contradict the sign in front of Ivy Hill that says "All are welcome here"?</p> <p>At this point, there is nothing to convince me I should keep my kids here. The district broke the law and showed the parents the only way to ascertain their rights is through a lawsuit. It took me some time, but I realized it's not about what's best for the children, it's about pushing an agenda that comes from the above. Nobody is accountable, nobody admits to their mistakes.</p> <p>I really hope that our district starts working with the parents, not against the parents. It's really the ignorance of the concerns of parents that is causing those parents to push back. Please step back and take a deeper look at whether the district is fulfilling its goals when it comes to community relations.</p> |
| Sam Pappas | Has the Superintendent and School Board extensively explored all other avenues for raising the proposed \$75 million of capital funds beyond raising local taxes? This is quite a heavy burden on the residents of Arlington Heights. Were all federal and state funding sources completely exhausted for this purpose? We hear reports of many earmarks at both the federal and state level funding projects that are much less worthy than funding our children's education. What lobbying efforts were undertaken to draw such funds to our School District? Were private funding sources also explored in addition to the ABC25 Foundation? We hear of private donors and others funding projects in the City of Chicago directly or through not-for-profits to help with funding gaps locally, but I don't see that happening in our School District. Raising local taxes should be a last resort. |