

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

School Board Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2022

Dr. Anisha Jogee, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on May 5, 2022 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 6:32 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).



Regular Meeting

Dr. Anisha Jogee, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. on May 5, 2022. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said.

Board members present: Brian Cerniglia, Chad Conley, Dr. Anisha I. Jogee, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: Gina Faso, Scott Filipek, and Rich Olejniczak

Others Present: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent; Stacey Mallek, Assistant Superintendent of 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; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Storytelling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; staff; and community.

### Recognitions and Presentations

Dr. Jogee, on behalf of the Board and Dr. Bein recognized the dedicated Music, Chorus, Band, and Music for Youth teachers in the district. Thanks to them, the district has been awarded Best Communities for Music Education national recognition by The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. The Foundation recognizes and celebrates school districts for their support and commitment to music education. Dr. FitzPatrick congratulated each of the teachers and they were presented certificates.

Jerry Berger  
Dana Berry  
Katie Conomikes  
Riley Cook  
Len Deptula  
Kate Hojek  
Candace Horton  
Oksana Lukaszewskyj  
Adam Mead  
Cathy Privett  
Kaitlin Pucci  
Kate Randolph  
Nina Rauzi

Carolyn Schneider  
Olivia Weismann  
Casey Whitaker  
Camille Ziemann

Music for Youth:  
Karen Noorani  
Ching-Yun Cloudia Huang  
Tamara Glassburg  
Gretchen Grube  
Phillip Lee  
Vannia Phillips  
James Sanders

### Community Input

- Joanne Carroll addressed the Board regarding the referendum and the enrollment study.
- Sheila Cruz addressed the Board regarding the referendum.
- Roger Berg addressed the Board regarding the referendum.
- Ewa Wojcik addressed the Board regarding a student-organized event that took place at Thomas Middle School.

### Consent Agenda

**Motion:** G. Scapillato moved and C. Conley 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) Invoices; (C) Organizational, Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of April 21, 2022.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

### Communications:

The following reports were given:

- NSSEO – Dr. Bein read a report from Ms. Faso. Kirk School is having their first student micro-business on May 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Kirk School.

The Timber Ridge Golf Outing will be held on June 4. Upcoming NSSEO graduation dates and times were provided.

- IASB – Dr. Jogee reported that the Board is getting ready for the Joint Annual Conference in November. Ms. O'Brien was thanked for organizing the registration for the conference.
- ED-RED – Ms. Mallek reported that there was an error on the state level in evidence-based funding, and as a Tier 3 district we are only getting an additional \$18,000. Dr. Jogee provided highlights from the previous week's ED-RED Dinner meeting.
- Other Board Communication – Dr. Jogee that the PTA hosted their scholarship breakfast the previous week, and the students all had inspiring stories. Last night several Board members attended the Arlington Heights Memorial Library art show.

The following reports were received:

- PTA – Ms. Barbieri reported on the scholarships that were awarded. Nine high school seniors received college scholarships and several elementary school students received a gift card to the park district. She noted that two students received National PTA Reflections awards. Also, each school's PTA provided snacks and treats to all of the teachers in the district. She requested that families join the PTA when they register their children for school next year.
- ABC25 – Dr. Bein read a report from Ms. Faso. The ABC25 GetBurbed Challenge committee, volunteers, sponsors, participants and spectators were thanked. The foundation is proud to be able to raise funds through this event to give back to our teachers. Anyone that would like to be a part of the foundation should consider a donation during school enrollment.
- ATA – Ms. Berg talked about several recent district activities. She noted that the ABC25 GetBurbed Challenge was a great event. The ATA provides scholarships to high school graduates of ATA members, and three students received scholarships. Becky Dufern, the chairperson for the scholarship committee, was thanked. The Special Olympic games will be held on May 15. She shared pictures from the South and Thomas track meet that was held yesterday. She also thanked the PTA for all of the wonderful treats that teachers have received.

#### Superintendent Report

#### Freedom of Information Act Report

- Illinois Policy requested information on professional staff; a response was provided on April 29, 2022.

### Board Meeting Dates for 2022-2023

Dr. Bein noted that the dates were changed and the meetings will be held on Tuesdays next year.

**Motion:** G. Scapillato moved and B. Cerniglia seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Board meeting dates for 2022-2023 as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

### ECRA Report on Student Growth

Dr. Bein introduced Dr. Eleni Speron, ECRA Groups Senior Associate. Dr. Speron reviewed the state of the district. She explained the difference between proficiency and growth, and noted that growth is a more equitable approach to assessing improvement efforts. She showed the math and reading proficiency NWEA MAP data from Spring 2022, as well as national percentile information. The national percentile information shows that students in District 25 are performing better than the average student in the nation in both math and reading.

A projection versus actual framework was explained, and is based on multiple data points. She explained how the growth score in math and reading are determined. District level growth scores were shown and illustrates that the district has expected growth in both reading and math. The data for various student groups was shown, and the data shows expected growth or higher than expected growth for math, and expected growth for reading. Dr. Speron explained academic return on investment (ROI). She reviewed the math and reading ROI data. Math intervention tells us that the district is placing the right students in this group.

In summary, District 25 students significantly outperform the nation in both math and reading proficiency. The overall district-level growth is consistent with pre-pandemic norms and growth is significantly higher than expected in several grade levels. Proficiency gaps exist between student groups; however, student groups are growing at similar rates. To close gaps, lower performing groups have to grow at higher rates. Students in advanced math courses are growing at higher rates; and students in math interventions are growing at expected rates, but trending higher. Students in advanced language arts courses are growing at expected rates, but trending higher; and students in reading interventions are growing at expected rates, but trending higher.

Dr. Bein added that this is good information for the district from an instructional perspective. The supports that the district has put in place is making a difference in the classroom, and Dr. Bein thanked the teachers for their work as well as the students for putting in the work. Dr. Speron was thanked for her report.

## Business and Finance

### Presentation of Bond Sale Options

Ms. Mallek introduced Elizabeth Hennessy from Raymond James, who presented options for issuing bonds should the referendum pass. She noted that these are options, and no decisions will be made at this time.

Ms. Hennessy provided an update on the bond market, and showed interest rate information. Since January, index and treasury rates have increased. She showed the district's outstanding bonds, and discussed the debt limit. The net debt limit is currently \$108,264,852.

She reviewed the referendum issuance options in detail. The options include issuing the \$75 million all at once in August 2022, or issuing \$60 million in August of 2022 and \$15 million in June of 2025. This will also work with the district's construction schedule. Regulations require that 5% of proceeds are spent in the first six months and 85% within three years. She reviewed the two options, and noted that this is a very conservative schedule, and also depends on what interest rates are in the future.

Issuing the \$75 million at once reduces the interest rate risk, earns more interest on investment of proceeds, and must meet arbitrage spenddown requirements. The other option is a lower annual payment and tax impact, given the ability to spread payments of each issue over 20 years, but there is an interest rate risk on the second \$15 million issued in 2025. It is easier to meet arbitrage spenddown requirements, but there are less earnings on investment of the proceeds.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the amount of bonds that would need to be taken, and abating taxes back if the district doesn't need all of the funds that were borrowed. Ms. Mallek noted that these are two models that she discussed with Ms. Hennessey, but there are several other options that the district could use. Ms. Hennessey was thanked for the research.

### NSSEO Budget for 2022-2023

Ms. Mallek noted that there are no changes since it was presented at the last meeting.

**Motion:** G. Scapillato moved and B. Cerniglia seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the NSSEO Budget Resolution for the 2022-23 School Year.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

### Music for Youth Contract

Dr. Bein noted that the Exhibit was updated with the Music for Youth description, but there is no change to the contract or services provided.

**Motion:** G. Scapillato moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Proposed Agreement for Music Services with Music for Youth of Arlington Heights for the 2022-23 thru 2024-25 school years.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

### Student Learning

#### Curriculum Equity Audit

Dr. FitzPatrick stated that the district began a partnership with PCG to conduct an audit of the district's K-8 Literacy curriculum, K-8 Social Studies curriculum, and the Library Media Center collections to ensure that they reflect the diversity of students and families in our community. The audit consisted of four phases.

Dr. FitzPatrick introduced Ms. Mary Ellen Hannon and Ms. Sydney Menzin from Public Consulting Group. Ms. Menzin introduced the team that works with the district, and explained the equity curriculum audit process and phases of the work. An overview of the methodology was discussed and it was noted that the focus was on curriculum and curricular practices.

Ms. Hannon thanked the DSL team for all of the work that they have done. She reviewed the positive practices and highlights from the curriculum audit, including the strategic plan, pacing guides, teacher planning materials, and staff commitment. Recommendations for areas of growth were discussed, including updating the curriculum adoption rubric with an intentional focus on equity; ensuring every student has access; providing an opportunity for culturally responsive instruction, and the materials provide an opportunity for diversity; and setting aside additional funding for supplemental books and materials when purchasing new curriculum. She discussed diversity in book collections; professional learning; adding more stakeholder voices in curriculum adoption; communicating new additions to the LMCs; and providing student and family engagement activities with an equity lens. She reviewed the action planning steps. Three areas of focus that were identified include providing professional learning, updating curriculum materials, and engaging parents. The district now needs to begin building action plans.

A Board member had comments regarding the definition of equity; professional development; having the student and parent voice; that every student is seen; what is important to families; and the equity rubric. Dr. Bein was asked and she explained how the new curriculum adoption and the equity audit interact. The district will use the equity audit information to expand the materials. The team was thanked for the report. Dr. Bein was thanked for her leadership on the topic.

#### Elementary Math Curriculum Adoption

Dr. FitzPatrick provided history on the math curriculum adoption. She introduced Ms. Lisa Szydowski, Math and Elementary Fine Arts and PE Coordinator. Ms. Szydowski reviewed the Strategic Plan connection; the committee members; and the timeline, which she explained in detail. All elementary teachers will receive professional learning,

and the curriculum will be rolled out in the 2022-23 school year. We will continue professional learning in the 2023-24 school year. A differentiation component is embedded within each section of the program. There are new embedded opportunities in every section for students to engage in math conversations. Real world application and the digital component was discussed, and costs for the program were reviewed.

Dr. FitzPatrick introduced Ms. Christina Dastice, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Windsor and Math Committee member, who reviewed the benefits of the Math in Focus program and how it is used in the classroom. A video was shown of students talking about what they think of the Math in Focus program.

A Board member asked how the digital piece will work. Ms. Mallek noted that when the district presented the five-year plan, it included the math component, and we expect to fund a portion of it through grants.

#### Middle School English Language Arts Curriculum Adoption

Dr. FitzPatrick introduced Ms. Sharon Nelles, the Literacy and SEL Coordinator. Ms. Nelles reviewed the Strategic Plan connection; the committee members; and the timeline, which she explained in detail. The Units of Study will be fully implemented in the 2022-23 school year. Professional learning topics will include reading and writing instruction; assessment; and grading.

She noted that Units of Study prepares students for reading and writing tasks they will face in the future, and develops confident readers and writers who display agency and independence. She reviewed the benefits of the reading and writing units of the program. The units for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, and costs for the program were reviewed. Videos clips of 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA Teacher, Mr. Todd Slowinski, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA Teacher, Ms. Christine Fontanetta, were shown in which they talked about the benefits of using Units of Study in their classrooms.

A Board member asked them to explain the purpose of the curriculum review and why they chose this curriculum over what the district is currently using. Dr. FitzPatrick explained the six-year curriculum cycle. The district needed an updated resource where the students are more engaged with each other, which the previous curriculum did not possess. One of the main literacy goals is to increase volume of reading and writing, and this program will provide that. The team was thanked for their report.

Student Services – No Report

Facilities Management – No Report

Personnel and Planning – No Report

#### Community Input

- Roger Berg addressed the Board regarding providing additional equity opportunities for students.

- Melissa Cayer addressed the Board regarding reusing buildings; taxing; adding the website address on the tax bills; and cautious spending.
- Ewa Wojcik addressed the Board regarding a correction on the date of her previous statement, and the curriculum equity audit.
- Sheila Cruz addressed the Board regarding equity and diversity in Arlington Heights.
- Liz Paczosa addressed the Board regarding who was selected to be on the curriculum committee, and what curriculum is being added and removed.

#### Future Agenda Items

##### Topics with Dates to be Determined

- A plan for addressing capital projects needs in future projections - Winter 2022-2023

##### New Topics - None

**Motion:** C. Conley moved and G. Scapillato seconded that the Board of Education move into the Closed session at 9:40 p.m.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

**Motion:** C. Conley moved and G. Scapillato seconded that the Board of Education adjourn closed session at 10:17 p.m.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

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

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; A. Jogee, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 4/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien  
Recording Secretary

Approved: June 9, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: June 10, 2022

Date minutes posted on District website: June 10, 2022