

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

School Board Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2023

Dr. Anisha Jogee, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on March 14, 2023 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 7:01 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); Student disciplinary cases, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9); Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8); The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).



Regular Meeting

Dr. Anisha Jogee, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. on March 14, 2023. 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, Gina Faso, Scott Filipek, Dr. Anisha Jogee, Rich Olejniczak, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: None

Others Present: Dr. Lori Bein, Superintendent; Stacey Mallek, Assistant Superintendent of Business/CSBO; Dr. Becky FitzPatrick, Assistant Superintendent for the Department of Student Learning; Dr. Brian Kaye, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Planning; Diane Kaffka, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology; Ryan Schulz, Director of Facilities Management; Shab Poloz,

Director of Equity; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Storytelling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

Recognitions and Presentations - None

Board Communications:

- Board Member Updates – Mr. Scapillato provided highlights about the Olive-Mary Stitt STEAM night. Dr. Jogee stated that some Board members attended the Music for Youth concert, and that the Board is thankful for the collaboration with them.
- ED-RED – Ms. Mallek provided updates on two bills.
- IASB – Dr. Jogee reported that tomorrow night is the North Cook Division dinner meeting which will be held at Community Consolidated School District 21.
- NSSEO – Mr. Filipek reported that he and Dr. Bein attended the NSSEO Legislative Roundtable, which was held on March 3. It was a community roundtable with legislators, parents and administrators. The NSSEO Board approved the new Superintendent, Dr. Meg Schnoor, who will start on July 1. The District 25 Board is invited to attend a welcome reception before the NSSEO Board meeting on April 5 at 6:00 p.m. at Timber Ridge School.

Community Input

- John Supplitt addressed the Board regarding Policy 6:230 and Policy 6:260.
- Sandra Bachar addressed the Board regarding the nature of the books in the school library
- Ewa Wojcik addressed the Board regarding books.
- Cathy Jo Horan addressed the Board regarding books and academics.
- Ed Lapinski addressed the Board regarding an excerpt from a book in the library.
- Arlen Gould addressed the Board regarding not banning books; and thanked the Board for staying strong during the pandemic.
- Lauren Thomas addressed the Board regarding curriculum.
- Art Ellingsen addressed the Board regarding the national sex education standards and the pandemic.
- Cari Klinkenborg addressed the Board regarding a book rating system.

Communications from District Partners

- ABC25 – Ms. Faso reported that all of the awarded grants for this year have been fulfilled. Registration is open for the GetBurbed Challenge, which will be held on April 15.
- ATA – Ms. Berg talked about various events that are happening in the district, including Pi Day; the Windsor School Multicultural Week; various athletic events;

and the District Spelling Bee winner. She also spotlighted the great things happening at South Middle School.

There were no reports from the following

- PTA

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) Treasurer's Report (C) Invoices; (D) Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2023.

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

Dr. Jogee stated that the Superintendent Report will be moved to a later portion of the agenda so that the legal update could be provided first.

Superintendent Report

Freedom of Information Act Report - None

Board Policy Legal Update Presentation

Dr. Bein introduced attorney Tony Loizzi, from Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn, who will present about legal aspects of a School Library Media Center program. Dr. Bein noted that according to the Board procedures, the Policy Committee would consider what was learned from Mr. Loizzi's presentation and the full Board's discussion to review related policies at their next meeting on April 4, 2023. Mr. Loizzi noted that he is here to present the facts and the law around the issue. He discussed trends for book challenges starting in 2010, and reviewed terminology.

Mr. Loizzi reviewed policies 6:230, Library Media Program and 6:260, Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs. Policy 6:230 is not drafted to apply to book banning. If a person has a complaint, they can fill out an objection form, but just because they file the objection form does not mean it is approved. He reviewed the most relevant American Library Association (ALA) Bill of Rights that apply to this.

Applicable federal and state laws were reviewed. New Illinois legislation that was just proposed will allow the Secretary of State to deny state grants to public libraries, including those in schools, that don't adhere to the ALA Library Bill of Rights, if it passes.

He reviewed in detail a chronology of significant cases since 1982. He stated that employees have protections from suit, and discipline. The Board may discipline an employee for policy violation or insubordination, but must provide due process.

Board members asked questions and there was detailed discussion on the legality of removing books; criteria where books can be banned or moved to a restricted area;

more narrowly tailoring opting out; the difference between Policy 6:210 for the movie rating system and Policy 6:230; the ALA Bill of Rights and the first amendment rights of students; best practices that school districts are using for resolutions to complaints that are successfully being implemented; the current District 25 book objection process; and operational versus governance decisions. Board members discussed in detail their individual perspectives for how the Policy Committee should move forward and the direction that the Board should take. The Board thanked Mr. Loizzi for the detailed presentation.

Student Learning

Cybersecurity Audit Update

Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology, provided an update to the Board on the cybersecurity audit, which was conducted in the fall of 2022. The audit is part of an overall plan to provide the resources and information to maintain and improve District 25's cybersecurity posture in a dynamic landscape of cyber threats.

In the last 3-5 years there has been a noted increase in ransomware, phishing attacks, malware, password attacks, and denial of service attacks. It takes a team to build a culture of cybersecurity. The district partnered with Cosmopolis to provide a comprehensive penetration test, enterprise risk assessment, and incident response program. Mr. Fahnoe reviewed the audit process.

Overall feedback is that District 25 has the elements in place for a culture of cybersecurity; a low incidence of actionable vulnerabilities; up-to-date systems and technology; a low incidence of default login credentials; and a thoughtful and detailed network. Mr. Fahnoe thanked Brad Katz, the district's Network Specialist for his work on cybersecurity.

Mr. Fahnoe reviewed implementation areas including account and vendor management; network monitoring and backups; procedures; and user training and awareness. He noted that the district needs to leverage various resources to remain current. The district belongs to several groups that provide training and alerts.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on items that have been mitigated, or in the process of being mitigated; and how often the district needs a cybersecurity audit. Mr. Fahnoe was thanked for the presentation.

Mr. Filipek left the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Student Services – No Report

Business and Finance

Student Fees, 2023-2024

Ms. Mallek provided the Board information on the various student fees for 2023-2024. There will be an increase in the paid bus rider transportation fee of 10.5% due to an increase in the cost of the bus transportation contract. There will be no increase for

food services or student fees. Costs for some of the items under additional fees have slightly increased. These fees are charged for items that are purchased in bulk by the district and then sold to students. The fees for these items are based on the actual cost to the district. The district will no longer be selling calculators starting next year. Families can use what they have, or purchase them on their own. The Early Childhood Children's Circle program will increase by \$10 per month. A Board member asked a clarifying question on the bus cost.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Student Fees for 2023-2024 as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Facilities Management

Bid Awards for Capital Projects

Ms. Mallek noted that this work is part of the typical capital projects plan. The majority of this work is for the north end of Westgate School and includes galvanized piping, LED lighting; and other galvanized piping throughout the district.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on solar panels; the cost of the projects being over the anticipated budget; and how the projects relate to the referendum.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education award Bid Package #1, Base Bid and Alternate #1 for General Trades to Monarch Construction in the amount of \$5,375,500 for 2023 Capital Improvements and immediately assign the Contract with the Contractor to Nicholas & Associates, Inc., as Construction Manager.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and C. Conley seconded the motion that the Board of Education award Bid Package #2, Base Bid for Electrical to Carey Electric in the amount of \$989,875 for 2023 Capital Improvements and immediately assign the Contract with the Contractor to Nicholas & Associates, Inc., as Construction Manager.
Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Personnel and Planning - None

Community Input

- Sam Pappas addressed the Board regarding book objections.
- Maurice Finnegan addressed the Board regarding not agreeing that the excerpts that were read earlier were objectionable.
- Ewa Wojcik addressed the Board regarding books and the Board policy.

- Art Ellingsen addressed the Board regarding books leading to mental illness, and parent notification when children check out books from the library.

Future Agenda Items

Topics with Dates to be Determined

- Student Achievement/Assessment (following spring assessment)
- RULER Update/Presentation – May 9, 2023

New Topics - None

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and C. Conley seconded that the Board of Education move into the Closed session at 10:11 p.m.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Motion: G. Faso moved and R. Olejniczak seconded that the Board of Education adjourn closed session at 10:57 p.m.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

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

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; C. Conley, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 11:00 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: April 11, 2023

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: April 12, 2023

Date minutes posted on District website: April 12, 2023