

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

School Board Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2023

Dr. Anisha Jogee, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on November 14, 2023 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 5:05 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).



Regular Meeting

Dr. Anisha Jogee, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. on November 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, Gina Faso, Dr. Anisha Jogee, Kevin Michael, Elizabeth Nierman, Rich Olejniczak, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: None

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 of the Department of Student Learning; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology and Assessment; Shab Poloz, Director of Equity; Ronni Hohe, Communications Assistant; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; press; and community.

Recognitions and Presentations

Dr. Jogee, on behalf of the Board, and Dr. Bein congratulated student, Stanley Powers, of the South Middle School Golf Club who participated in the state tournament, and thanked coach, Phil O'Grady. Coach O'Grady highlighted Stanley's season, and noted that everyone is very proud of his accomplishments.

Dr. Jogee, on behalf of the Board, and Dr. Bein extended congratulations to the students from the South and Thomas Middle School Cross Country teams that participated at the State meet. The South Coaches were Diana Cox, Tim Evans, and Tyler Stordahl. The Thomas Coaches were Becky Fahnoe, Joe Kim, and Todd Slowinski. The coaches reviewed the season, and thanked the parents, athletes, and Board. A video from Thomas was shown. The Thomas Girls team came in first place, and the Thomas Boys team came in second place at the state meet. The South Boys and Girls teams both came in ninth place at the state meet.

Dr. Bein recognized the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, noting that November 15 is Illinois School Board Members' Day. Dr. Bein, on behalf of the staff, thanked the Board for their service. This year's School Board Members' Day theme is "Learn Together. Lead Together." Board members received a certificate of recognition for their service.

Dr. Bein also congratulated the Board of Education for earning the IASB 2023 School Board Governance Recognition designation. This is a two-year recognition, and only 45 districts from throughout the state of Illinois received this recognition for 2023 and 2024. She thanked the Board for their dedication to growing in their governance role and for setting an example for all of us to continue to learn and grow as a team.

Mr. Olejniczak left the meeting at 7:44 p.m. and returned at 7:47 p.m.

Board Communications:

- Board Member Updates – None
- ED-RED – Ms. Mallek summarized the guest speaker's presentation regarding the Cook County tax bills at the ED-RED meeting, which was a joint meeting with IASBO. Mr. Michael talked about veto session legislative items that were also discussed at the meeting.
- IASB – Dr. Jogee reported that this weekend is the Joint Annual conference. She thanked Ms. Poloz and Dr. Kaye for presenting at the conference with the Board. She thanked Mr. Michael for representing the Board at the Delegate Assembly. Board members shared their thoughts on the resolutions that will be voted on at the Delegate Assembly. The Board disagreed with the committee recommendations for resolutions 1, 4 and 5, and agreed with the committee recommendations for resolutions 2 and 3.
- NSSEO – Ms. Nierman reported that the meeting was held at Miner School. NSSEO is working towards their Facilities assessment plan. Harvest Fest, which was held at Sunrise Lake, was a success. Dr. Jogee noted that the NSSEO Board members were recognized as Shining Stars.

Community Input – None

Communications from District Partners

- PTA – Ms. Worthington reported that the PTAs have hosted a variety of events at the schools. October 16 was the annual PTA meeting, and each school in the district received awards. The Pack the Piggies fundraiser started last week, and the funds raised will go towards scholarships. Reflections is coming up, and the PTA looks forward to seeing the projects submitted. She thanked the PTA volunteers in the district.
- ABC25 – Ms. Faso reported that the ABC25 Foundation received 55 grants totaling over \$63,000. They are grateful for the teachers and administration, and all of the work they put into the grant submissions. The results were tabulated last night, and announcements are coming. Each school has a grant recipient. She thanked all of the grant liaisons.
- ATA – Ms. Berg thanked the Board for their service and dedication to District 25. She provided a spotlight on the schools, with a focus on Westgate Elementary School. Each school held an event for Veteran's Day.

Consent Agenda

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and E. Nierman 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) Special, Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2023.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Student Learning

RULER Update

Dr. FitzPatrick as well as Sharon Nelles, SEL & Literacy Coordinator; Janine Flauter, Windsor 5th Grade Teacher; and Jodi Christoforou, Olive-Mary Stitt 2nd Grade Teacher; presented the RULER update report to the Board.

Ms. Nelles noted that research confirms that social and emotional learning supports academic achievement. Dr. FitzPatrick reviewed the historical timeline. Ms. Nelles provided highlights about the program and noted that RULER is embedded throughout the school day in several ways.

Ms. Christoforou and Ms. Flauter explained in detail the various tools that are used, including the Mood Meter, the Meta-moment, school and classroom charters, and the Blueprint. A video was shown of staff and students talking about the impact that RULER has had. Dr. FitzPatrick explained benefits of RULER and how it supports the district's Strategic Plan. She noted next steps include continued staff and student learning, and integration of SEL across content areas.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the timeline; how the rollout of the program was impacted; staff development; and how new staff is trained on RULER. The group was thanked for their presentation.

Assessment Report

Dr. FitzPatrick, along with Assessment Coordinator, Amanda Czerniuk, presented the Assessment report to the Board. Ms. Czerniuk reviewed the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) results; and noted that District 25 proficiency rates continue to outperform the state, as well as all other District 214 feeder districts.

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) overall math and ELA proficiency was reviewed. It was reiterated that Illinois has the highest proficiency cut scores in the nation. They discussed in detail growth and proficiency in both math and ELA. In summary, District 25 performs in the top 10% for math and the top 12% for ELA compared to districts across Illinois; overall District 25 students are growing as expected; 7th grade growth in math and ELA is higher than expected; proficiency gaps exist between student groups; however, all student groups are growing at similar rates; and District 25 administrators continue to analyze student assessment data to identify areas of further growth.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on a resource for teachers, the DSL Hub; student scores on assessments and benchmarks; achievement gaps; and whether or not the Board should provide additional guidance or direction. Dr. FitzPatrick and Ms. Czerniuk were thanked for their presentation.

Student Services – No Report

Business and Finance

Presentation of the Tentative Tax Levy

Ms. Mallek presented the Tentative Tax Levy to the Board. She reviewed the 2022 Tax Levy and shared historical information from the past several years. Taxes are based on a dollar amount limited to an increase each year of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), or 5%, whichever is less. The proposed levy is 6.5% higher than the 2022 levy extension in the capped funds. This is to capture the 5.0% CPI plus new growth. We anticipate the actual increase will be closer to 5.7%, which represents the 5% increase due to CPI plus 0.7% new growth.

Dr. Jogee left the meeting at 9:23 p.m. and returned at 9:27 p.m.

In an effort to provide some relief to our community, Ms. Mallek recommends abating \$1.9M of the debt service levy and transferring an equivalent amount from the working cash fund to the debt service fund to cover. This abatement would reduce the 2023 tax increase from an estimated 5.7% to 2.7%. Ms. Mallek shared the levy timeline in accordance with legal requirements.

Presentation of Tentative Levy
Publication of Hearing Notice
Public Hearing & Levy Adoption
Levy Filed

November 14, 2023
between November 27 and December 4, 2023
December 12, 2023
Prior to December 26, 2023

Ms. Mallek was thanked for the information.

Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal for Calendar Year 2024

Ms. Mallek noted that the renewal for 2024 reflects a 5.87% decrease over the 2023 renewal premium, but an increase of 4.51% over the 2023 revised premium. The renewal reflects the impact of better years of actual claim experience included in the district's five-year loss ratio.

Motion: K. Michael moved and R. Olejniczak seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve Illinois Public Risk Funds as the provider of the Workers' Compensation insurance for calendar year 2024 at a cost of \$432,742.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

FY2023-24 School Maintenance Project Grant

Ms. Mallek explained that this is a state matching grant program providing awards up to \$50,000 to grantees exclusively for the maintenance or upkeep of buildings or structures for educational purposes. We are writing the grant to offset the cost of the replacing the air handler units at Dryden Elementary School. This work was identified as "recommended" on our 10-year life safety survey and qualifies as a *Health/Life Safety* priority project.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and E. Nierman seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the FY2024 School Maintenance Project Grant application as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Resolution Authorizing Transfer (Loan) of Moneys from the Working Cash Fund to the Debt Service Fund in the amount of \$5,500,000

Ms. Mallek noted that the district currently has \$1.2 million in the debt service fund with December 1 bond payments due of \$6,685,206. Based on this, we are short \$5,478,494 in the debt service fund, and it is unlikely that we collect that amount in taxes before December 1, since fall tax bills aren't expected to be due until that date. As soon as taxes are received, the loan will be repaid from the debt service fund to the working cash fund.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the "RESOLUTION directing the transfer of funds from the working cash fund of School District Number 25, Cook County, Illinois, to the bond and interest

fund of said District in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied by the District for bond and interest purposes for the year 2022 and such moneys so transferred to be reimbursed from such bond and interest taxes upon their collection."

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Facilities Management – No Report

Personnel and Planning

Professional Development Committee Update

Dr. Kaye and Ms. Alison Berg, ATA President, presented the Professional Development Committee report to the Board. Dr. Kaye reviewed the history, thanked the members of the committee, and discussed the process and order of events. He explained the current professional development model, the research on and desired state of effective professional development.

He reviewed the solutions considered and showed several options. The Committee is recommending that the Board approve the addition of half-day School Improvement Days in addition to the full-day School Improvement Days that are traditionally built into the school calendar. This additional time will benefit the district staff and students providing professional learning outside of the student instructional day and reducing the amount of time staff are pulled out of the classroom. The administration and the ATA expect that this additional training will positively impact student outcomes.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the impact on the students' day, CAP, working families, and busses; the sample calendar, and other possible options; if the committee can take feedback provided by the Board and come back in December; and feedback from families and staff.

Motion: B. Cerniglia moved and E. Nierman seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Professional Development Committee to add half day School Improvement Days into the school calendar.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, no; A. Jogee, no; K. Michael, no; E. Nierman, no; R. Olejniczak, no; G. Scapillato, no. The motion did not pass, 1/6.

Due to the time and because the Board had to go back into closed session, Dr. Bein recommended that the items on the Superintendent report will be tabled until a future meeting. She noted that the Illinois School Report Card has been published and is available for the public to view online at illinoisreportcard.com.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and K. Michael seconded that the Board of Education table the rest of the agenda to a future meeting for further dialogue and discussion.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Motion: R. Olejniczak moved and E. Nierman seconded that the Board of Education move into the Closed session at 10:21 p.m.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Motion: G. Faso moved and R. Olejniczak seconded that the Board of Education adjourn closed session at 11:20 p.m.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

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

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 11:20 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: December 12, 2023

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: December 13, 2023

Date minutes posted on District website: December 13, 2023