

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

School Board Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023

Dr. Anisha Jogee, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order on December 12, 2023 to accept a motion to adjourn into closed session at 6:43 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); The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).



Public Hearing on the 2023 Tax Levy



Regular Meeting

Dr. Anisha Jogee, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. on December 12, 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, Dr. Anisha Jogee, Kevin Michael, Rich Olejniczak, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: Gina Faso and Elizabeth Nierman

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 for the Department of Student Services; Diane Kaffka, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Chris Fahnoe,

Director of Technology and Assessment; Ryan Schulz, Director of Facilities Management; Shab Poloz, Director of Equity; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Story Telling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; press; and community.

Recognitions and Presentations

Congratulations to the South Speech Team for a successful year with all members earning strong scores at their contest. Thank you to their Coach, Wes Skym.

Morgan Baird
Nathan Dodon
Ameera Fatina
Kaylee Gilliland
Christina Greene
John Hemmila
Ellie Joyce
Sophia Marino
Jash Mathew
Elan Pattie
Kinsey Poyer
Julia Puccini

Margaret Puccini
Cleo Puckett
Addison Salyards
Victoria Selbka
Madison Smith
Elizabeth Snider
Sofia Spiropoulos
Grace Tatum
Zoe Teich
Emily Warnement
Effie Zbierski

Congratulations to the South and Thomas band students who tried out and participated in the ILMEA District 7 Honor Band! To make the honor band, students had to submit an audition video.

Thomas - Jazz Band

Io Shigefuji - piano

South - Concert Band

Alyssa Culley, flute

Thomas - Concert Band

Isla Burney, flute
Caroline Hong, oboe
Andrew Rice, clarinet
Nathan Hessling, clarinet
Brandon Geltner, euphonium

Thank you to their music teachers, Oksana Lukaszewskj from South and Candi Horton and Dana Berry from Thomas.

Board Communications:

- Board Member Updates – None
- ED-RED – Mr. Michael reported that the speaker at the December 1 meeting discussed school building safety and security. He provided updates on the veto session, and noted that The Invest in Kids Act did sunset. The Legislative Dinner meeting will be held on January 29.

- IASB – Dr. Jogee thanked the Board members that were able to attend the Joint Annual Conference. Board members will share what they learned from the conference at the January 9 Board meeting.
- NSSEO – Dr. Jogee provided Ms. Nierman’s report. Gavin McGinn will be the new Assistant Superintendent of Business when Julie Jilek retires in June. NSSEO is offering a professional development opportunity on January 8 for member districts. NSSEO is now live-streaming their Board meetings.

Community Input

- Sam Pappas addressed the Board regarding IAR test scores needing improvement.
- William Boodro addressed the Board regarding questions on the construction budget, and what expenses and services will be eliminated.
- Glenn Guth addressed the Board regarding his property tax bill increase.

Communications from District Partners

- ABC25 – Dr. Bein provided Ms. Faso’s report. ABC25 announced the 2023-24 grant recipients. Seven of nine schools have received the school grant, and they will receive an additional \$2,500 each. An upcoming fundraiser will be for Fork Farm hydroponic units. Upcoming events include Thrown Elements art on January 15, 2024, and Mr. Freeze STEM event on February 19, 2024. These are free for ABC25 members. A Fun Fair Fundraiser will be held on June 1 at Thomas Middle School.
- ATA – Ms. Berg reported on the many happenings at Greenbrier Elementary School including the Veterans’ Day Assembly; the Buffalo Grove High School Drumline playing for the school; the Chompers Thanksgiving Day Parade; the Early Childhood students learning nursery rhymes; and the Early Childhood Family Night.

There were no reports from the following:

- PTA

Consent Agenda

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and K. Michael 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) Special Joint Meeting with the Arlington Heights Park District Board Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2023; (D) Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2023; (E) Special Closed Session Meeting Minutes of November 27, 2023; (F) Special Closed Session Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2023; (G) Special Closed Session Meeting Minutes of November 29, 2023.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Student Learning

Full-Day Kindergarten Programming

Dr. Becky FitzPatrick, along with Katie Paulson, Advanced Learning, LMC & Creative Arts Coordinator; Lisa Szydowski, Math and Elementary Fine Arts & PE Coordinator; Karen Pullam, Patton Kindergarten Teacher; and Lindsay Heitz, Greenbrier Kindergarten Teacher, presented the report to the Board.

Ms. Pullam and Ms. Heitz showed what it is like to start the day in a kindergarten classroom. Ms. Pullam discussed the evolution of a kindergarten student through the school year. They explained what instruction in ELA, math, science, and social studies include, as well as how play is used as an instructional tool. These will all be expanded on in a meaningful way as we transition to full-day kindergarten. They explained that having full day kindergarten is a gift of time. There will be more science and social studies content, more time in special classes, and an expansion of literacy and math instruction.

Ms. Szydowski showed a sample full-day kindergarten schedule, and explained that the bulk of reading and math will be in the morning. She provided student transportation information. Ms. Paulson stated that support services, including multilingual, intervention, and special education services will continue to be provided for all children who qualify. Families can still register for half-day kindergarten, and those students will attend in the morning. Kindergarten registration will begin in January. Full-day Kindergarten Committee meetings will be held through May. Students will begin full-day kindergarten in August 2024. The district full-day kindergarten website, including an FAQ section, will launch later this week. A video was shown. The Communications Department was thanked for their work on the video and website.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the roll out plan so the teachers will be prepared in August; the makeup of the committee; if a family opts for a half-day program; and switching from a half- to a full-day program. Board members thanked the group for the presentation. The group ended the program with an activity from the kindergarten students. Dr. Bein noted that a letter will go out to the community this week. The Communications Department was thanked for all of their work on the full-day kindergarten roll out.

Student Services – No Report

Business and Finance

Adoption of the 2023 Tax Levy

A Board member asked for a full summary of what is being proposed. Ms. Mallek stated that we propose to adopt the tax levy in full, but abate a portion of the levy. It would bring the levy down to a total increase of 2.7% from the 6.5% published amount.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the "Resolution of Arlington Heights School District No. 25, Cook County, Illinois Providing for the Levy of Taxes for the Year 2023."

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution Authorizing the Abatement of a Portion of the 2023 Taxes Heretofore Levied by Arlington Heights School District No. 25, Cook County, Illinois (Debt Service Fund)

Ms. Mallek stated that this is the resolution that would be filed along with the levy.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the "Resolution Authorizing the Abatement of a Portion of the 2023 Taxes Heretofore Levied by Arlington Heights School District No. 25, Cook County, Illinois (Debt Service Fund)".

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution Directing The Cook County Clerk To Abate The Increase In The 2023 Real Estate Tax Levy Due To Section 18-233 Of The Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/18-233)

Ms. Mallek stated that legislation passed requires that any property tax refund to individual taxpayers be "re-extended" by the County Clerk on behalf of the district in the most current levy. No additional tax dollars due to the refund recapture were anticipated in the five-year financial forecast after tax levy year 2021. As such, abating this amount would not negatively impact the five-year financial picture. We also realize our community just approved a large tax increase to support full-day kindergarten. In recognition of this, and so not to put an additional tax burden on our taxpayers, the administration recommends that the Board abate this levy adjustment for the 2023 tax extension.

Dr. Bein thanked the Board and Ms. Mallek for these resolutions, as it will help return over \$2.3M to taxpayers in the community. Dr. Bein also noted that the district is in its 31st year of exemplary business reporting.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Directing The Cook County Clerk To Abate The Increase In The 2023 Real Estate Tax Levy Due To Section 18-233 Of The Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/18-233).

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Resolution Approving Implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten Beginning in the 2024-2025 School Year

Ms. Mallek stated that currently Kindergarten students are assigned a value of 0.5 in the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) data if they attend a half day and a value of 1.0 if they attend a full day. Per the EBF statute, a school district may inform the State Board of Education of its intent to convert from half-day to full-day kindergarten. To make sure that they count as full day, the district needs to submit this Board approved resolution to the state by March 1.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Approving Implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten Beginning in the 2024-2025 School Year.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Facilities Management

Construction and Capital Projects Update

Mr. Schulz reviewed the progress of the current construction at the elementary schools. Photos of each construction site were shown and the construction progress was reviewed in detail. The progress at Dryden is as expected. Construction at Olive-Mary Stitt should be completed in March, but the site work will continue through the summer months. Patton is moving along, and the new feed for the building was completed over Thanksgiving. The foundation at Greenbrier and Windsor will be complete this winter, and the remainder of the work will begin in the spring after the weather breaks. Westgate has the largest amount of construction, and the addition is coming along well.

A high-level timeline was provided. Significant construction activities will occur during the summer of 2024, including renovations and improvements in the school buildings. The district will plan strategically, and align the construction scope with the start of the school year. The goal is to ensure completion and readiness of schools for students, and the primary objective is to ensure a safe, secure, and welcoming learning environment for students. The Pre-work at each school was reviewed and will be scheduled during breaks and other windows to help facilitate the progress of the work. He reviewed the timeline summary, and noted that construction will be complete in August 2024.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the timeline and the likeliness of needing a buffer to start the new school year; if there is a safety buffer with Olive-Mary Stitt being close to Arlington Heights Road; opportunities to get ahead of construction; a request for projected costs and the current budget; and the programs and staffing that come with the construction. Dr. Bein noted that there are weekly district construction meetings and each site has a construction lead.

Kevin Michael left the meeting at 8:46 p.m. and returned at 8:48 p.m.

Dr. Jogee thanked Ryan, the facilities team, and the construction team for all the work they are doing in the district.

Personnel and Planning

Approve the 2024-2025 Advance Personnel Plan

Dr. Kaye provided the advance personnel plan for 2024-2025 to the Board. He reviewed the certified positions that will be added and eliminated. The net result is an addition of 4.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE). He reviewed the positions in detail, and explained their duties. There will be one Advanced Learning Specialist for each

building. Instructional Coaches will report directly to DSL, and each will have a school as a home base, but could go to other buildings as needed. The Director of Student Learning will work with the Instructional Coaches, oversee advanced learning placement, oversee title grants and reporting, and be a liaison with Student Learning district partners. The additional Student Services Coordinator will help fulfil the additional support needs in the district. The total financial impact will be \$623,353 for 2024-25. Dr. Kaye reviewed next steps pending Board approval. The interview process will begin January 8, 2024. Internal posts will be updated as positions become available, and remaining open positions will be determined.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on how will this impact the per pupil cost; the expected outcome of these changes; a review of the cost summary; and Dr. Hattie's research of the significance of building teacher efficacy and enhancing teacher clarity to enhance student achievement.

Dr. Kaye, Ms. Mallek, and Dr. Bein were thanked for the well thought out plan for the needs of the district, and only adding 4.0 FTE. Dr. Bein also thanked Dr. FitzPatrick for her work on the plan.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 Personnel Plan as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Superintendent Report

Joint Recreational Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Board of Education of Arlington Heights School District No. 25 and the Arlington Heights Park District

Dr. Bein stated that the district attorney and the Park District attorney suggested one more change to the "CAP" agreement to align with the law that school districts must do specific background checks on any vendor that works in our schools. Though the Park District already does a level of background checks on their employees, the attorneys feel that the intent of the law still requires District 25 to do our background checks. That section (4.b.) of the agreement has been updated.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the revised Joint Recreational Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the Board of Education of Arlington Heights School District No. 25 and the Arlington Heights Park District as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Community Input - None

Future Agenda Items

Topics with Dates to be Determined

- Acceptable Use Policy - TBD
- Student Representatives on the Board - TBD

New Topics - None

Dr. Jogee thanked the Board for the additional hours of work that they have given.

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

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; R. Olejniczak, yes; G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: February 13, 2024

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: February 14, 2024

Date minutes posted on District website: February 14, 2024