

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

School Board Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2024

Greg Scapillato, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:19 on December 10, 2024. 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, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: Rich Olejniczak

Others Present: Dr. Brian Kaye, Superintendent

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded that the Board of Education adjourn into 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); 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); 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).  
Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.



Public Hearing on the Tax Levy

Mr. Scapillato called the Public Hearing on the Tax Levy to order at 7:02 p.m. He asked if anyone present was there for the Public Hearing.

Ms. Mallek presented information on the 2024 Tax Levy. Revenues from local property taxes generate approximately 83% of all revenues for District 25. She reviewed Public Act 103-0394, which requires that we present the information on the operational funds reserve balances. The tax levy is based on CPI at 3.4%. The increase this year looks higher because last year's was reduced. An increase in the tax levy doesn't mean that every bill increases in the same way.

Mr. Scapillato adjourned the Public Hearing on the 2024 Tax Levy at 7:06 p.m.



The Board returned to open session at 7:06 p.m. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said.

Board members present: Brian Cerniglia, Gina Faso, Dr. Anisha Jogee, Kevin Michael, Elizabeth Nierman, and Greg Scapillato

Board members excused: Rich Olejniczak

Others Present: Dr. Brian Kaye, Superintendent; Stacey Mallek, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Diane Kaffka, Assistant Superintendent for the Department of Student Services; Kendra Perri, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Planning; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology and Assessment; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Storytelling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

#### Recognitions and Presentations

Congratulations to the South Middle School Speech Team that participated at the State Contest. Thank you to their Coach, Wes Skym.

Elizabeth Asper  
Dylan Bunting  
Ella Dimick  
Nathan Dodon  
Ameera Fatina  
Cecilia Faust  
Stella Foley  
Chloe Gallagher  
Mattias Gilliland  
Silas Gonzalez  
Katelyn Grund  
Jack Hemmila

Emerson Henry  
Natalie Jares  
Ellie Joyce  
Emily Kelly  
Archie Kordalewski  
Kimberly Kowols  
Diya Mukhopadhyaya  
Lillian Myskevych  
Annabelle Nelson  
Elan Pattie  
Beatrice Popp  
Kinsey Poyer

Julia Puccini  
Claudio Rodriguez  
Addison Salyards  
Victoria Selbka  
Tegan Simpson  
Elizabeth Snider  
Sofia Spiropoulos  
Nate Stahlmann  
John Theiss  
Emily Warnement  
Eleanor Zaporowski

#### Board Communications:

- Board Member Updates – Dr. Jogee attended a Village Board meeting last night regarding the MOU with the Chicago Bears. Mr. Michael noted that several Board

members and staff attended the Joint Annual Conference, and he co-presented a session with Dr. Kaye and Dr. Jogee.

- ED-RED – Mr. Michael reported that he attended the monthly ED-RED meeting on December 6, which was a joint meeting with the Northwest Suburban Business Officials. He reviewed items from the Director’s Report. The ED-RED Legislative Dinner will be held on January 27, 2025. Ms. Mallek explained recent legislation that was passed.
- IASB – Dr. Jogee highlighted points from the Joint Annual Conference, including Mr. Harris’s presentation on Friday. She thanked the District 25 team for attending, as well as Mr. Michael and Dr. Kaye for co-presenting with her. Board members are invited to share a summary of what they learned from the conference at the January Board meeting.
- NSSEO – Ms. Nierman shared that a District 25 team attended strategic planning meetings on December 3 and 10. She will present the findings at a future Board meeting. A SIP Day will be held in January.

#### Community Input

- William Boodro addressed the Board regarding not wanting to move up the \$15M in bonds; five-year capital plan projections; furniture; and the kindergarten expansion costs.

#### Communications from District Partners

- ABC25 Foundation – Ms. Faso thanked Ms. Satera in the Business office for assisting the grant recipients in purchasing items from their grant. ABC25 is currently fundraising; planning for the Fun Fair; and are seeking connections to business owners and sponsors. Two of the nine schools have attained their school membership grant goal, and will earn \$2,500 per school.
- ATA – Ms. Berg provided a spotlight on happenings at the schools.

#### There were no reports from the following:

- PTA

#### Consent Agenda

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and G. Faso 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) Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2024.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Dr. Jogee left the meeting at 7:53 p.m. and returned at 7:54 p.m.

#### Student Learning – No Report

## Student Services – No Report

Mr. Scapillato requested that the order of the agenda be changed to move Facilities Management before Business and Finance, and the Board agreed.

## Facilities Management

### Five-Year Facilities Capital Plan

Mr. Schulz presented a five-year facility plan to the Board with a projected cost of \$24,641,000. The plan communicates long-term needs and maintenance details for the district buildings. The priorities for facilities management planning are safety, to preserve the schools and grounds, to extend the life of schools and grounds which supports the district's strategic goals, to improve efficiency, and enhancements.

The top building needs and recently completed items were reviewed in detail. Westgate is one of the biggest construction successes because of energy improvements, supporting Full-Day Kindergarten, and alleviating enrollment stresses. Projects in years 2025 and 2026 will be primarily funded from Build 25 bond proceeds. Beyond 2027 the district will explore various finance options to ensure facility safety and reliability. The district recommends maintaining a consistent investment in capital improvement projects. This proactive approach will prevent our maintenance backlog from increasing to a level that could significantly impact the quality and functionality of our learning environments. The five-year plan by trade and building were shown. Other exploratory options were reviewed and include flexible learning space upgrades, front office reconfigurations, LMC renovations, and LED light and ceiling upgrades.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion regarding budgeting so the Board would not have to ask for additional funds from the taxpayers; consistency with addressing issues; and the life safety survey.

## Business and Finance

### Adoption of the 2024 Tax Levy

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee 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 2024."

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

### Resolution Directing The Cook County Clerk To Abate The Increase In The 2024 Real Estate Tax Levy Due To Section 18-233 Of The Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/18-233)

Ms. Mallek noted that the aggregate refunds paid by the District 25 during the preceding 12-month period was \$616,683. This amount will be automatically added to the district's 2024 property tax extension unless the Board takes action to abate it. No additional tax dollars due to the refund recapture were anticipated in the five-year financial forecast after tax levy year 2021, and abating this amount would not negatively impact the five-year financial picture. Also, 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 2024 tax extension. Since tax year 2022 the district has abated over \$3.7M in property taxes to the taxpayers.

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Directing The Cook County Clerk To Abate The Increase In The 2024 Real Estate Tax Levy Due To Section 18-233 Of The Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/18-233).

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Review of bond issuance plan for remaining referendum bonds and parameters bond resolution

Ms. Mallek introduced Elizabeth Hennessy from Raymond James, who presented the bond issuance plan for the remaining referendum bonds. She is recommending that we sell the bonds earlier in the year that we anticipated. She explained the historical AAA MMD rates, and noted that we expect a rate reduction in December, so those rates will start to come down in the short term. She presented information on interest rates over time, and indicated that since November 1, 2023, the tax-exempt benchmark rates have decreased across the entire curve. She reviewed the debt limits and the outstanding debt summary.

The taxpayers will not feel any impact on the remaining \$15M referendum bonds issued in March 2025 as these bonds wrap around the existing bonds. Rates have come down and are lower than they have been over the past 30 years, so it makes sense to lock in the lower rate. Issuing the bonds five months sooner results in more interest cost over time. Short term investment rates are currently elevated, allowing the district to earn more than the yield on the bonds. She reviewed the draft financing schedule, and the Board did not have any objections to following the timeline. Ms. Hennessy and Ms. Mallek were thanked.

Resolution expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by the District

Ms. Mallek reiterated that we have spent the proceeds from the original bond sale, so this will allow us to reimburse ourselves for remaining costs that were part of the referendum until the point when we sell the balance of the referendum bonds.

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the “Resolution expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by the District.”

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

Personnel and Planning

Approve 2025-2026 School Calendar

Ms. Perri presented information for the 2025-2026 proposed school calendar. She also described the goals, and the process utilized, including a committee structure that involved parents, teachers, a Board member, and administrators. She thanked the Calendar Committee for their work, which was very collaborative. The district seeks to align to the

District 214 calendar for the benefit of the families with children in both districts. Important dates from the calendar were highlighted.

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

#### Resignation Agreement

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Resignation Agreement with Maria Seto as presented.

Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

#### Superintendent Report

##### Freedom of Information Act Report

- Mary Czaplewski requested information on video footage; a response was provided on November 8, 2024.
- Madeline Bavakis requested asbestos information; a response was provided on November 22, 2024.
- Olivia Lynd of Genesis One requested information on print service contracts; a response was provided on November 22, 2024.
- Kimia Hamidi of The Data Branch requested information on purchase orders; a response was provided on December 3, 2024.

Dr. Kaye shared updates with the Board on various items including his attendance at an ABC25 Foundation meeting; the passing of a former District 25 Principal; and Principal interviews for South and Dryden.

##### Third Party (Independent) Audit of Board Policies and Administrative Procedures

Dr. Kaye reviewed in detail the audits that the district participates in including the Regional Office of Education, Cybersecurity, Financial, Food and Nutrition, Annual LEA Determination, Life Safety, Multilingual Services, Curriculum Equity, and Advanced Learning.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the comprehensive audits that the district participates in; if the Cybersecurity audit is mandatory; the timing of the Multilingual Services audit; adding a time interval to some of the non-mandatory audits; areas where we may want to review further; a holistic Equity audit; the time and expertise required for the audits; and facilities and the environment. Dr. Kaye was thanked for his presentation. The Board supports the culture of continuous improvement.

Community Input - None

##### Future Agenda Items

Topics with Dates to be Determined - None

New Topics - None

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded that the Board of Education return to the Closed session meeting at 9:13 p.m. for the same reasons as previously stated.  
Roll Call: B. Cerniglia, yes; G. Faso, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

The Board returned to open session at 10:21 p.m.

**Motion:** G. Faso moved and K. Michael 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; and G. Scapillato, yes. Motion carried 6/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 10:24 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien  
Recording Secretary

Approved: January 14, 2025

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President  
Board of Education

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Secretary  
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection:

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January 15, 2025

Date minutes posted on District website:

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January 15, 2025