

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

School Board Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2025

Greg Scapillato, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 5:22 on May 13, 2025. The meeting was held at Thomas Middle School, 1430 N. Belmont Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said.

Board members present: Melissa Buchberger, Kevin Michael, Elizabeth Nierman, Greg Scapillato, and Deb Tranter

Board members excused: Brian Cerniglia and Dr. Anisha Jogee

Others Present: Dr. Brian Kaye, Superintendent

**Motion:** E. Nierman moved and K. Michael 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); Student disciplinary cases, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9); The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); 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). Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 5/0.



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

Board members present: Melissa Buchberger, Brian Cerniglia, Dr. Anisha Jogee, Kevin Michael, Elizabeth Nierman, Greg Scapillato, and Deb Tranter.

Board members excused: None

Others Present: Dr. Brian Kaye, Superintendent; Stacey Mallek, Assistant Superintendent for Business/CSBO; Dr. Becky FitzPatrick, Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning; Diane Kaffka, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Kendra Perri, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Planning; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology; Sandy Voss, Director of Food & Nutrition Services; 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 Science Olympiad teams from South and Thomas Middle School for their success in competition this year. Thank you to their Coaches: Shaun Marusek, Kirsten Calderone, Sara Kuhn, Lynne DeSalvo, Alison Gruzewski, Shree Mukhopadhyaya, Karen Mukhopadhyaya, Pedro Ramirez, Phil Ramirez, Mrs. Pace, Allison Buck, Matt Griffiths, Harlan Heiber, Daniel Burkhardt, Andy Anderson, Dave Cooke, Thilo Garkisch, Hannah Zimmermann, Sara Van den Akker, and Aimee Hall from South M.S.; and Kim Malinowski, Jim Grant, Bradford Keeler, Sureiya Peshek, Tina Wilson, Cindy House, Christina Wilson, Carolyn Taylor, Kaitlin Fajks, Carly Dust, and Nicole Arguelles from Thomas M.S.

#### South Middle School

Omkar Bhat  
Jack Brown  
Nick Cox  
Cameron Davis  
Ziva Delgado  
Nathan Dodon  
David Duplantier  
Ameera Fatina  
Peyton Griffiths  
Emma Gruzewski  
Kendall Kuhn  
Claire Martin  
Moiria McGregor  
Diya Mukhopadhyaya  
Oliver Nierman  
Henry Pace  
Jiana Philip  
Violet Polley  
Rilla Puckett  
Tyler Ramirez

Claudio Rodriguez  
Colette Schroeder  
Jonathan Seagram  
Jonah Sidereas  
Keegan Skony  
William Thanopoulos  
John Theiss  
Fritz Theiss  
Sofia Turcotte  
Matthew Watts

#### Thomas Middle School

Sofia Arguelles  
Neha Bilfaqi  
Matthew Cole  
Felic Gao  
Colin Hafer  
Caroline Hong  
Teddy Hrejsa  
Andrew Ivan  
Uma Joshi

Peter Koleczek  
Leo LaMonica  
Goodnews Lee  
Razi Mahesar  
Ben Malia  
Joshua Martens  
Alison Monish  
Avi Nanisetty  
Archi Patel  
Kayaan Patel  
Anagha Prasad  
Harshan Rajkumar Anusha  
Carson Rosczyk  
Shravya Saboo  
Aarav Singhal  
Prakash Siva Subramanian  
Hazel Varghese  
Ishaan Varma  
Wyatt Wakefield  
Yena Yoon

The Board and administration are pleased to recognize the employees who are retiring from District 25. School Principals and Administrators shared a few words about each individual and thanked them for their service to the Arlington Heights community.

**Food & Nutrition Services**

Lesa Lawson, 17 years\*  
Terry Privratsky, 3 years\*

**Dunton**

Kurt Kisala, 2 years

**Dryden**

Kathleen LaRoe, 13 years  
Akemi Sessler, 13 years

**Ivy Hill**

Karl Pearson, 11 years

**Olive-Mary Stitt**

James Stewart, 50 years\*

**Patton**

Amy Johnson, 34 years  
Pat Litberg, 23 years

*\*Retired in 2024*

**South Middle School**

Marie-Christine Hajduk, 24 years  
Oksana T. Lukaszewskyj, 34 years  
Dr. Jim Morrison, 6 years  
Steven Sokolik, 3 years \*

**Thomas Middle School**

Nora Fergus, 24 years  
Carol Golemo, 25 years

**Westgate**

Kathleen Rymark, 23 years  
Hilary Nigro, 25 years

**Windsor**

Susan Klarnier, 35 years\*

**Board Communications:**

- Board Member Updates – Ms. Buchberger noted that several Board members attended the Strategic Plan meeting on May 7. She also thanked the school PTAs. She attended the Westgate Kindergarten choir concert. Ms. Tranter and Dr. Jogee attended the Arlington Heights Memorial Library art reception. Ms. Nierman attended the Special Olympics Track and Field meet last weekend, and congratulated the Arlington All Stars. Dr. Jogee attended the Thomas Pride of the Wolfpack assembly. Mr. Scapillato attended a band concert at Hersey H.S. for Patton and Olive band students.
- ED-RED – Mr. Michael reported that the next regular meeting is on June 6. The second annual mini-summit will be held on June 12. He provided information on recent legislative updates.
- IASB – Dr. Jogee reported that the Board is going to be presenting on Board governance at the Joint Annual Conference in November.
- NSSEO – Ms. Nierman reported that a retiree recognition was held at the previous meeting. The Kirk Market will be held on May 17. NSSEO will be reviewing their articles of organization.

**Community Input**

- Kim Dyer addressed the Board regarding the district's Science Olympiad support for over 40 years.

Communications from District Partners

- ABC25 Foundation – Dr. Kaye read a report from Ms. Faso. All of the schools have reached their membership goals and each received \$2,500. Next year's fundraiser will be held at Top Golf on March 15, 2026.
- ATA – Ms. Berg provided a spotlight on the many happenings at the schools.

There were no reports from:

- PTA

Consent Agenda

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee 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 April 22, 2025.

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Student Learning – No Report

Student Services – No Report

Business and Finance

Food Service Equipment Bid

Ms. Voss stated that the district is investing in two new ovens as there are increased food purchases.

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education award the bid for food service equipment to Culinary Depot.

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

Paper Bid

Ms. Mallek stated that we have released a bid for paper for the 2025-26 school year for approximately 1,500 cases of paper. We are recommending awarding the contract to Murnane as the lowest responsible bidder. The per case cost is 3.4% lower than last year, and the estimated usage is down 500 cases, for a total estimated reduction in projected spending of \$18,350.

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education award the bid for paper for 2025-26 to Murnane Paper.

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

### Third Quarter Budget Update

Ms. Mallek shared highlights from the third quarter budget update for 2024-2025. She reviewed the revenues and expenditures in each fund. For 2024-2025, a total deficit of \$8.8 million was budgeted. As of the end of the third quarter, there is an unknown on the revenue side in regards to property tax collections, especially due to the significant amount of refunds issued this year totaling over \$2M. We have collected over \$400K more in interest than budgeted. One other concern is the prorated State transportation reimbursement, which could leave us almost \$700K short in the transportation fund.

The district does not anticipate spending the entire expenditure budget. Between tuition and contingency, we will be under budget in our expenditures by at least \$415,000. We have had a number of positions we were not able to fill for the entire year so we should be under budget in salaries. The largest factors bearing on final budget results will be the property taxes and expenditures. Based on the above, and assuming typical further spring tax collections, we anticipate ending the year with less of a deficit than budgeted.

### Facilities Management – No Report

### Personnel and Planning – No Report

### Superintendent Report

#### Superintendent Update

Dr. Kaye shared updates with the Board on various items. Staff appreciation was last week and all employees were recognized. He thanked the PTA for their efforts last week. He thanked the tech staff for recording the Strategic Plan meeting. The PTA Scholarship Breakfast was held last month, and 12 former District 25 students received college scholarships. Multicultural Fairs at the schools have been held. Three videos were shown.

### Freedom of Information Act Report

- Michael Ayele requested information on records related to National Child Abuse Prevention Month; a response was provided on April 24, 2025.
- Karen Garcia, Data Acquisition Specialist at SmartProcure, requested information on employee/staff contact information; a response was provided on April 25, 2025.
- William Boodro requested information on electric bills; a response was provided on May 1, 2025.
- Owen Wang, Lake County Gazette, requested information on emails and memos regarding Units of Study; a response was provided on May 6, 2025.

### NSSEO Draft Resolution

Dr. Kaye noted that all eight member districts are proposing the resolution to their Boards. The resolution clarifies and formalizes expectations for its appointed representative to the NSSEO Governing Board. This will be brought back at the June meeting for a vote.

### Professional Learning Presentation Questions

Dr. Kaye noted that this topic was presented at the last meeting, and Board members submitted questions after the presentation. The questions and responses are uploaded to

BoardDocs. Board members thanked Dr. FitzPatrick and Ms. Luessow for the in-depth presentation last month. Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the hours that teachers work with Instructional Coaches; details about microcredentials; how professional learning impacts staffing for guest teachers and classroom instruction; and modifying the school schedule so teachers do not get pulled out of their classroom for professional learning.

#### Combined Local Government Board meetings

Mr. Scapillato asked the Board if they are interested in holding combined local government Board meetings with the park district, library, village, and District 214. Board members discussed the topic and agreed it would be beneficial if the meeting has a joint purpose with a combined interest in a topic.

#### Finance Committee

Mr. Scapillato noted that since Ms. Mallek is going to retire in two years, the Board may be interested to build its capacity to understand what Ms. Mallek feels is important for the Board to know. Board members asked questions and there was discussion on having up to two Board members attend an existing financial meeting/committee; the purpose of the committee; gathering information on what other school boards' finance committees do; and components of this strategic learning. Board members agreed that they would like to do more research on this topic.

#### Updated Board Committee Names

Mr. Scapillato suggested to change two Board Communications agenda item names. ED-RED would change to Legislative Report; and IASB would change to IASB/COSSBA. Board members agreed to the updates.

#### 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 9:41 p.m. for the same reasons as previously stated.

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

The Board returned to open session at 10:54 p.m.

**Motion:** K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded that the Board of Education adjourn the regular meeting.

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; B. Cerniglia, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; E. Nierman, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 10:54 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien  
Recording Secretary

Approved: June 10, 2025

---

President  
Board of Education

---

Secretary  
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection:

---

June 11, 2025

Date minutes posted on District website:

---

June 11, 2025