

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

School Board Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026

Greg Scapillato, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. The meeting was held at the Dunton Administration Building, 1200 S. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Roll call was noted.

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

Board members excused: Brian Cerniglia, Dr. Anisha Jogee, and Elizabeth Nierman

Others Present: Dr. Brian Kaye, Superintendent

Motion: K. Michael moved and D. Tranter 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); Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); Student disciplinary cases, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; K. Michael, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes.
Motion carried 4/0.



The Board returned to open session at 7:07 p.m. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said.

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

Board members excused: Brian Cerniglia and Elizabeth Nierman

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; Ryan Schulz, Director of Facilities Management; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Storytelling; Shab Poloz, Equity & Multilingual Programming Coordinator; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

Recognitions and Presentations

Hearts of Gold Staff Recognition

Congratulations to the following District 25 staff members for receiving a Hearts of Gold award this year.

- Lisa Smorzewski, Westgate Elementary School – Educator
- Sandra Vliet, Thomas Middle School - Kenneth M. Bonder Beautification

Thomas Middle School Poms Team

Congratulations to the Thomas Poms Team that participated in the state competition. Thank you to their Coaches, Gaby Mularczyk and Carly Lange. The team came in 10th place at state.

Lorelei Butcher
Scarlett Bywater
Gretchen Enz
Emma Foster
Lelu Horvat
Katya Konyk

Abigail Mau
Sydney OBrill
Sofia Paciorek
Audrey Panico
Norah Parisi
Maddie Thompson

Ella Tomaszewicz
Maya Tyson
Ellie Varrato
Allison Zanini

Communications from District Partners

- ATA – Ms. Berg introduced Wes Skym, South drama teacher, who along with South Middle School students, presented on music and theatre in District 25.
- PTA –Ms. Buchberger read a report from Ms. Lakomski. The Pack the Piggies fundraiser is underway in the schools. Various activities are happening in the schools including new clubs, parent fundraising events, and book fairs. The PTA is looking for volunteers for open board positions for next year.
- ABC25 Foundation – Dr. Kaye noted that the Top Golf fundraiser will be held on March 15.

Community Input – None

Board Communications:

- Board Member Updates – Mr. Michael attended the Ivy Hill Multicultural Fair. Ms. Tranter provided information on upcoming events in the community. Dr. Jogee, along with other

Board members, attended the Hearts of Gold luncheon. She also attended a Science Olympiad event.

- Legislative Report – Mr. Michael provided an overview of the March 6 virtual ED-RED meeting. The next meeting will be held on April 3.
- IASB/COSSBA – Dr. Jogee reported that the District 25 Board was awarded the Governance Recognition at the North Cook Division meeting, which was held last week. Mr. Michael is going to submit a proposal to IASB on behalf of the Board to present at the Joint Annual Conference in November.
- NSSEO – Dr. Kaye noted that there was discussion at the last NSSEO Board meeting regarding a resolution. Negotiations are ongoing.

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; (B) Treasurer's Report; (C) Invoices; (D) Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2026; (E) Special Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2026.

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Student Learning

Middle School Math Curriculum Adoption

Dr. FitzPatrick noted that there were no changes since this was presented at the previous meeting.

Motion: K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Middle School Math Curriculum adoption as presented.

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Student Services

Instructional Program Restructuring

Ms. Kaffka provided an update on the Instructional Program in the district. Enrollment data, program needs, and stakeholder feedback regarding the current K–5 Instructional Program at Windsor were reviewed by the district. Projections indicate that enrollment will grow to 55 students for the 2026–27 school year, creating strain on space, staffing, and shared resources. Additionally, a social and transition concern was identified as students return to their home middle schools, and students who attend Thomas Middle School do not have an opportunity to build peer relationships during their elementary years as all Windsor students attend South Middle School.

To address these concerns, the district is recommending a restructuring of the program. A dual-site model will begin in 2026-27 with the north-side location of Patton serving students who will attend Thomas, and the south-side location at Windsor serving students who will

attend South. Patton was the ideal location for the north-side program because of their experienced building administrators, history of supporting a district program, caring team members, a central location on the north side, and having open classrooms. A phased approach will begin in 2026-27 with kindergarten through 2nd grade students entering the Instructional Program attending Patton or Windsor based their residency. All 3rd through 5th grade students will remain enrolled at Windsor Elementary School. This approach allows for thoughtful implementation at Patton and continuity for current students at Windsor. Through this gradual transition, by the 2029–30 school year, all K–5 students requiring the program will be served at their designated north- or south-side location.

This restructuring ensures program sustainability, strengthens middle school transitions, supports peer relationship development, and maintains our commitment to providing high-quality, student-centered programming with equitable distribution of resources. Ms. Kaffka and Dr. Kaye was thanked for their work, and care they are taking to update the program.

Business and Finance Student Fees 2026-2027

Ms. Mallek noted that there are no significant changes in fees for this year. Cook County Bus Company was purchased by First Student, and the district is waiting for the new contract with them for the 2026-2027 school year. As typical, we would recommend increasing the paid rider transportation fee by the same percentage that our contract increases.

Motion: K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Student Fees for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Facilities Management Rand School

Mr. Schulz noted that Rand School is currently leased to Futabakai Japanese School since 1999, and the current lease expires in March 2028. The district does not recommend renewal of the current lease under its existing terms because the existing lease terms do not reflect the long-term financial realities of maintaining an aging facility; the projected capital expenditure obligations are not recoverable or sustainable under the current lease structure; there is no mechanism within the current lease to recover or share significant improvement costs; the building no longer aligns with current or projected District educational programming needs; and continuing under current terms is not in the financial interest of the District.

The district remains open to negotiating a new lease arrangement, or exploring other options for the property, provided any future terms demonstrate long-term financial sustainability for the district. He reviewed key considerations; the financial impact including the projected capital investment; and an assessment of the building condition by system. Ms. Mallek noted that \$3M in the five-year capital plan may not be spent on Rand depending

on what option the Board decides to take. Maintenance on the building will continue to be provided.

Board members agreed that the district should move forward as recommended. The district will formally notify Futabakai School that we do not intend to renew the lease in its current form, and will return to the Board at a future meeting with a broader analysis of building options.

Award Grass Cutting Bid

Mr. Schulz noted that Gilio Landscape has worked with the district since 2017, and was the lowest responsible bidder out of seven. The bid is for grass cutting and general maintenance.

Motion: K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Grass Cutting Services bid for the period 2026–2030 in the amount of \$251,009 and award the contract to Gilio Landscape, the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Summer Capital Projects

Mr. Schulz noted that four primary capital improvements represent the core scope of the bids. They include the Thomas first floor ceiling and lighting replacement, the Windsor ceiling and lighting replacement, the Miner second floor HVAC replacement with centralized cooling, and the Health and Life Safety district-wide fire alarm and emergency lighting upgrades. The district has worked with all of these contractors in the past.

Motion: K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education award BP1 General Trades in the amount of \$1,717,500 to D Kersey and further to immediately assign the awarded contractor agreements to Nicholas & Associates, Inc., as Construction Manager; and further to reject Alternates #1 through #4 and accept Alternates #5 through #7. Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Motion: K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education award BP2 HVAC in the amount of \$1,013,000 to FE Moran and further to immediately assign the awarded contractor agreements to Nicholas & Associates, Inc., as Construction Manager; and further to reject Alternates #1 through #4 and accept Alternates #5 through #7. Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Motion: K. Michael moved and A. Jogee seconded the motion that the Board of Education award BP3 Electrical in the amount of \$2,001,000 to Prospect Electric and further to immediately assign the awarded contractor agreements to Nicholas & Associates, Inc., as

Construction Manager; and further to reject Alternates #1 through #4 and accept Alternates #5 through #7.

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Personnel and Planning

ML Programming Update

Ms. Poloz provided an overview of the district's Multilingual program. There are currently 584 ML students in the district who represent 47 languages. She reviewed how multilingual learners are identified, including the state-required home language survey process, screening procedures, and placement criteria. This ensures that students who qualify for services are accurately identified and receive appropriate instructional support from the start. She explained the two different program models in detail - Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI), and Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE). These services are structured to provide targeted English language instruction while ensuring access to grade-level content, with an emphasis on inclusive practices and collaboration between multilingual specialists and classroom teachers.

She noted that ML services are a part of Tier 1 instruction, and students participate in all core content instruction. ML students may receive additional support through MTSS if needed. She reviewed the WIDA standards and framework. Our language screeners and annual assessments are consistent with other WIDA states; and WIDA provides language standards, and a framework for instruction and assessments. She provided an overview of the WIDA English language development standards.

She reviewed student outcomes and accountability measures, including language proficiency growth, academic performance indicators, and ongoing progress monitoring. These data points allow the district to evaluate program effectiveness, ensure compliance with state and federal requirements, and identify areas for continuous improvement. She noted that all of the ML teachers in the buildings are doing great work with the students, and they go above and beyond.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on reasons for parent refusals; the TBE program; the exit criteria; and the monitored and former ML students. Ms. Poloz was thanked for the comprehensive review of the ML program.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Update

Dr. Kaye reviewed Strategic Plan information with the Board.

Freedom of Information Act Report

- Michael Rost, Founder/CEO of Allium Data, requested information on insurance policies; a response was provided on February 16, 2026.
- Oshea Smith requested information on vendor contracts; a response was provided on February 16, 2026.

- Brenda Abrego, Administrative Associate of Milieu Design LLC, requested information on bid tabulations for grass cutting; a response was provided on February 17, 2026.
- Michelle Connolly requested information on her employment; a response was provided on February 19, 2026.
- Michelle Connolly requested information on her employment; a response was provided on February 23, 2026.
- Max Binnington of Judiciocracy requested attorney invoices and agreements; a response was provided on March 3, 2026.
- Sheri Reid, Data Acquisition Specialist of SmartProcure, requested information on district account numbers; a response was provided on March 5, 2026.

Set Date for Board Organization Meeting

Dr. Kaye noted that it is recommended that the Board has the Organization Meeting as part of the April 21 regular Board meeting. At that meeting, the Board will select officers and set Board meeting dates for 2026-27. The Board agreed that the Organization meeting will be held on April 21 before the regular Board meeting.

Student Voice

Dr. Kaye facilitated a discussion with Board members on student voice. A two-phase process is proposed. The district would add a Superintendent Student Advisory Council, which would include two 5th graders from each building and two students from both South and Thomas from each grade. These students could then be designated to be the Student Advisory Council representatives at each Board meeting.

Board members discussed rotating students; having two schools represented at every Board meeting; the student selection process; and Board members assisting during the Student Advisory Council meetings. Dr. Kaye noted that this would begin the next school year. He will provide more details and a timeline at the next Board meeting.

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 9:56 p.m. for the same reasons as previously stated.

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

The Board returned to open session at 10:53 p.m.

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

Roll Call: M. Buchberger, yes; A. Jogee, yes; K. Michael, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 5/0.

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

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: April 21, 2026

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection:

April 22, 2026

Date minutes posted on District website:

April 22, 2026