

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

School Board Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2026

Greg Scapillato, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. The meeting was held at South Middle School, 400 S. Highland Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Roll call was noted.

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

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); 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; 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 7:06 p.m. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Battle of the Books winning team from South Middle School.

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; Diane Kaffka, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Kendra Perri, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Planning; Chris Fahnoe, Director of Technology; Adam Harris, Head of Communications and Storytelling; Brad Katz, Information Technology Specialist; Lana O'Brien, Recording Secretary; staff; and community.

Recognitions and Presentations

Battle of the Books Winners from South Middle School

Congratulations to the winners of the Battle of the Books from South Middle School. Thank you to Sponsors, Kelly O'Kelly of South and Becky Fahnoe of Thomas.

Fiona Ennis
Eleanor Ennis
Anna Henry

Katarina Macho-Cierna
Anna Petratos
Evie Polifka

Rilla Puckett
Colette Schroeder

Wrestlers from South and Thomas Middle Schools to State

Congratulations to the students from South and Thomas Middle Schools who qualified for the State Wrestling Tournament. Thank you to coaches Jay Bingaman and Dan Burdi from South M.S.; and Anthony Greco, Ben Hamilton, and Dave Kozik from Thomas M.S.

South Middle School

Atricus Harkey
Thomas Irmen – *6th place, State*

Thomas Middle School

Noah Carvajal
Lucas Daub
Ryan Pham

Thomas Middle School 7th Grade Girls Volleyball Team to State

Congratulations to the Thomas 7th Grade Girls Volleyball Team that qualified for the State Tournament. The team came in 2nd Place at State. Thank you to their coach, Sureiya Peshek.

Alexandra Dorner
Lylah Kalnes
Gabriela Kisiova
Addison Korba
Samantha LaValle

Leighton Mattix
Katie Neary
Suhani Parekh
Stella Schmit
Bridget Skotnicki

Alyssa Sprovieri
Ellie Varrato
Katie Veselinova

Thomas Middle School 8th Grade Girls Volleyball Team to State

Congratulations to the Thomas 8th Grade Girls Volleyball Team that qualified for the State Tournament. Thank you to their coach, Todd Slowinski.

Amelia Bieganski
Karina Boduch
Marlow Das
Lexi Doktorczyk

McKenna Fox
Kaya Giersz
Alexa Lockhart
Adrianna Marinescu

Kavinaya Muthukumar
Finley O'Brien
Mathea Ong
Daniela Storelli

Krishna Vullakula

PTA Reflections Participants

Congratulations to the students who participated in the Arlington Heights Council of PTAs Reflections art program. Erin Lakomski, AHCPTA President; and Shelly Daley, Reflections Chairperson recognized the students. The theme this year was "I Belong".

Dryden Elementary

Hannah Bode
Maddie Bode
Mila Johnson
Hazel McQuillan

Olive-Mary Stitt
Elementary

Eloise Berglund
Joey Berglund
James Lee
Madison Lee
Thomas Lee

Patton Elementary

Madelyn Anstandig
Elle Boylan
Guinevere Ceniza
Mabel Cooper
Walter Dalton
Olivia Dames

Luke Fontana
Lauren Hager
Addie Hendrickson
Emery Hendrickson
Ayden Kizhake
Gianna LaMonica
Emilia McCarty
Sara McCarty
Emery Messmer
Hannah Murray
Clare Naughton
Aashvi Parekh
Ananya Parekh
Kaitlyn Peterson
Natalie Sanchez
Claire Schneider
Eleanor Steinbeck
Quinn Sudol
Olivia Wojtaszek
Grayson Zurek

Westgate Elementary

Ender Alkin
Nathan Alkin
Cullen Daley
Gannon Daley
Alexandra Dziedzic
Christian Dziedzic
Emma Gavin
Henry Halliday
Savannah Halliday
Layla Kaufman
Aurya Mahakumarage
Ellie Martin
Aiden Walker
Tyler Walker
Katarzyna Zapart
Scarlet Zapart

South Middle School
Addison Daley

Appointment of President Pro Tem and Secretary Pro Tem

Mr. Scapillato asked for nominations for the appointment of President Pro Tem.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved to appoint Mr. Michael to serve as President Pro Tem. Upon asking if there were any more nominations, and being none, nominations were closed.

As President Pro Tem, Mr. Michael presided over the meeting and asked for a motion to appoint a Secretary Pro Tem.

Motion: G. Scapillato moved to appoint Ms. Buchberger to serve as Secretary Pro Tem. Upon asking if there were any more nominations, and being none, nominations were closed.

Election of Officers and Appointment of Recording Secretary

Mr. Michael asked for nominations for the office of president.

Motion: E. Nierman moved to appoint Mr. Scapillato as president for a one-year term commencing today, April 21, 2026. Upon asking if there were any more nominations, and being none, nominations were closed.

Mr. Scapillato is declared and elected as president.

As president, Mr. Scapillato presided over the meeting, and asked for a motion to appoint a vice president.

Motion: A. Jogee moved to appoint Mr. Michael as vice president for a one-year term commencing today, April 21, 2026. Upon asking if there were any more nominations, and being none, nominations were closed.

Mr. Michael is declared and elected as vice president.

Motion: K. Michael moved to appoint Ms. Nierman as secretary for a one-year term commencing today, April 21, 2026. Upon asking if there were any more nominations, and being none, nominations were closed.

Ms. Nierman is declared and elected as secretary.

Motion: A. Jogee moved to appoint Ms. O'Brien as recording secretary for a one-year term commencing today, April 21, 2026. Upon asking if there were any more nominations, and being none, nominations were closed.

Ms. O'Brien is declared and elected as recording secretary.

Mr. Scapillato thanked Dr. Jogee for her years of service as an officer on the Board. Dr. Jogee shared a few words of gratitude.

Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Scapillato asked for a motion to set the meeting dates and times for the 2026-2027 calendar year.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the school board meeting dates, times and locations for 2026-2027 as presented.

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.

July 21, 2026	November 17, 2026	March 16, 2027
August 18, 2026	December 15, 2026	April 27, 2027
September 29, 2026	January 19, 2027	May 18, 2027
October 20, 2026	February 16, 2027	June 15, 2027

Communications from District Partners

- PTA – Ms. Lakomski noted that this is National PTA Volunteer Appreciation week. She reviewed the end of year events at the schools. Building slates for 26-27 are set and will be voted on at the May meetings. The fifth-grade mixers were held this month. The PTA Council slate for next year is as follows: Suchi Joshi President; Mary Cape, President Elect; Evan Korkofigas. Treasurer; and Brianna Hegarty, Secretary.
- ATA – Ms. Berg talked about the many happenings at the schools.

There were no reports from the following

- ABC25 Foundation

Community Input – None

The Consent agenda was moved earlier in the agenda for this meeting.

Consent Agenda

Motion: E. Nierman 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) Treasurer's Report; (C) Invoices; (D) Fixed Asset Disposal Report; (E) Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2026. 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.

Ms. Perri introduced two new administrators for the 2026-2027 school year: Kyle Mengarelli, Associate Principal from Thomas Middle School; and Nicole Martin, Assistant Principal from Olive-Mary Stitt Elementary School.

Board Communications:

- Board Member Updates – Mr. Michael attended the AHML 100th birthday celebration; Ms. Tranter attended a City of Support fundraiser, and volunteered at Patton for a day. Ms. Buchberger attended a 2nd grade performance at Windsor. Dr. Jogee attended the state of the Village report with Ms. Nierman, South M.S. track meets, and Science Olympiad tournaments.
- Legislative Report – Mr. Michael provided an overview of the April 10 virtual ED-RED meeting. The next meeting will be held on June 5. The Mini Summit will be held on June 11.
- IASB/COSSBA – Dr. Jogee reported that IASB will hold a webinar on policies tomorrow.
- NSSEO – Ms. Nierman noted that the NSSEO is currently working on their budget.

Student Learning – No Report

Student Services – No Report

Business and Finance

2026-2027 NSSEO Budget

Ms. Mallek noted that the anticipated tuition budget for NSSEO is \$3,613,488, which is a 1.7% decrease over the 2025-26 final budget. Of this, \$245,000 represents the IDEA funds designated to NSSEO required to be spent on staff development as well as administrative costs. Similar to past years, we are budgeting for 42 students with a known enrollment of 38, and a contingency of 4 students for placements or move-ins that may occur mid-year. The private placement tuition budget will increase by \$37,000, or (4.8%), over 2025-26 based on returning students and a \$123,000 contingency. The total anticipated tuition budget will be \$4,416,388, or a 0.6% decrease over 2025-26.

Dr. Kaye thanked Ms. Nierman for serving on the NSSEO Board, and Ms. Mallek and Ms. Kaffka for the monthly meetings that they attend at NSSEO.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the NSSEO Budget for 2026-2027.

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.

Release of Claim for the Dryden Fire

Ms. Mallek noted that this is for the fire that occurred during the construction at Dryden. Board approval is required for the district to execute the agreement.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the release of claim E2J25528 related to the March 2024 fire that occurred at Dryden School.

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.

Bus Company Contract Approval

Ms. Mallek noted that we have been with Cook County school Bus Company for 15 years, and they have been purchased by First Student. We received a two-year renewal quote, and after negotiating, the district is recommending a five-year contract because it is a better deal overall. Other districts that went out to RFP ended up having higher costs.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve a five-year extension of the contract for bus transportation services with Cook IL/First Student, Inc. as presented.

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

Facilities Management – No Report

Personnel and Planning – No Report

Superintendent Report
Superintendent Update

Dr. Kaye shared updates to the Board regarding school volunteer week. He also recognized Ms. Erin Lakomski for heading the ACHPTA, and presented a gift to her. He noted that gifts were sent to all of the school PTA Presidents. He thanked all of the Administrative Professionals in the district as tomorrow is Administrative Professionals Day.

Freedom of Information Act Report

- Sandra Koslowski, Account Manager of Beary Landscaping, requested information on the grass cutting bid results; a response was provided on March 10, 2026.
- CT Mills requested employee responsibilities for specific areas; a response was provided on March 17, 2026.
- William Boodro requested information on the March 2025 closing bond memorandum; a response was provided on March 23, 2026.
- Justin Wenig requested information on professional learning contracts, agreements, and purchase orders; a response was provided on April 1, 2026.
- William Boodro requested information on the Miner School window replacement; a response was provided on April 9, 2026.
- Carla Carlos of Employee Research Data LLC requested information on district employees; a response was provided on April 9, 2026.
- Oshea Smith of Sunlight Access requested information on purchase orders; a response was provided on April 10, 2026.
- Justin Wenig requested information on purchase data; a response was provided on April 10, 2026.
- Jules Goonewardena of North Cook News requested information on email communications; a response was provided on April 13, 2026.
- Michael Henry requested information on district law firms; a response was provided on April 16, 2026.
- Tom Johnson requested information on purchasing data; a response was provided on April 16, 2026.
- Ellis Erickson, Account Executive of genesisONE, requested information on printer and copier lease agreements; a response was provided on April 16, 2026.
- Dave Jamnik requested information on South Middle School employees; a response was provided on April 17, 2026.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Kaye along with members of the Strategic Plan team, Andrea Luessow, Director of Student Learning; Sochi Joshi, parent; David Nienhueser, parent; Ilinca Wallace, parent; Graham McGann, student, presented the Strategic Plan Refresh to the Board.

They reviewed the Strategic Plan Refresh process and timeline, which included the outreach to the community and feedback that was received; the information that was provided to the committee in “The Journey” document; and the data that was provided. The set of recommendations is the collective voice of all stakeholders. The Motto will remain the same. The recommended Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Goals were reviewed in detail, and are written in a way that students can easily understand.

The five strategic goals, including the critical strategies, were explained and include student achievement, an inclusive learning environment, high quality staff, family and community partnerships, and resources. The Portrait of a Learner which is new to this plan, define the knowledge, skills, and mindsets every graduate will develop to succeed in school, career, and life. The plan for the rollout includes branding, communications, placement, and accountability.

The members of the committee that participated in the Strategic Plan process, as well as the members that presented to the Board were thanked. This will be brought back at the May meeting for approval.

Student Voice

Dr. Kaye provided detailed information to Board members on student voice. A two-phase process is proposed. The district would add a Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC), which would include two 5th graders from each elementary school and two students from both South and Thomas from each grade. These students would then be designated to be the Student Advisory Council representatives at each Board meeting. From the SSAC, two middle school students and two elementary school students will be selected to serve as Student Board Ambassadors (SBA) at each Board meeting, and they will rotate each meeting, giving every member of the SSAC an opportunity to serve as an SBA throughout the school year. Two Board members will be invited to each SSAC meeting. The Administration will monitor the program during its initial implementation and make adjustments based on feedback from students, staff, and the Board.

Board members asked questions and there was discussion on the timeline; the student selection process; SSAC attending Board meetings in person or remotely; and how long SSAC members would stay at the Board meetings. Dr. Kaye was thanked for the unique idea for the district.

Community Input – None

Future Agenda Items

Topics with Dates to be Determined - None

New Topics - None

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded that the Board of Education return to the Closed session meeting at 9:29 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 10:20 p.m.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael 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 10:20 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved: May 19, 2026

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection: May 20, 2026

Date minutes posted on District website: May 20, 2026