

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

School Board Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2026

Greg Scapillato, President of the Arlington Heights School District 25 Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:17 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: 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); 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 7:07 p.m. Roll call was noted and the Pledge of Allegiance said. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Science Olympiad.

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; Sandy Voss, Director of Food and 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

Science Olympiad Teams from South and Thomas Middle Schools

Congratulations to the Science Olympiad teams from South and Thomas Middle School for their success in competition this year.

South Middle School

Omkar Bhat
Jack Brown
James Cochrane
Paul Czaplewski
Leila Delgado
Ziva Delgado
David Duplantier
Gabriel Dziedzic
Andrew Funk
Peyton Griffiths
Nadia Heckard
Thomas Irmen
George Korkofigas
Eliana Leigh
Katarina Mach-Cierna
Claire Martin
Ryan McGregor
Meara Mladic
Diya Mukhopadhyaya
Liam Neihengen
Sam O'Connor
Henry Pace
Khalil Patel
Jiana Philip
Zofia Pieczaba
Eliot Polley

Rilla Puckett
Tyler Ramirez
Gavin Repple
James Repple
Claudio Rodriguez
Leona Rodriguez
Shafer Samrah
James Schmidt
Olivia Schoenbeck
Colette Schroeder
Jonah Sidereas
Keegan Skony
Kelson Strauss
Drew Tetzlaff
Fritz Theiss
Nathan Ullegue
Nicholas Warter
Miles Wendt

Thomas Middle School

Manya Agrawal
Reyansh Banerjee
Hemasree Bathula
Oliver Bolanos
Evelyn Botnari
Kevin Botnari
Benjamin Cannon

Hema Challa
Brandon Cole
Ethan de Leon
Colin Hafer
Andrew Ivan
Samyak Jain
Anika Joshi
Cooper Keadle
Peter Koleczek
Leo LaMonica
Joshua Martens
Noah Martens
Owen O'Brien
Archi Patel
Kayaan Patel
Anita Potapo
Anagha Prasad
Nedim Rahman
Harshan Rajkumar Anusha
Liya Rajpari
Shravya Saboo
Dennis Saukaitis
Joe Scapillato
Kaitlyn Schwab
Swastika Srivastava
Seerat Tripathi
Wyatt Wakefield

Thank you to their Coaches Shaun Marusek, Kirsten Calderone, Sara Kuhn, Lynne DeSalvo, Alison Gruzewski, Shree Mukhopadhyaya, Karen Mukhopadhyaya, Pedro Ramirez, Phil Ramirez, Erika 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 Middle School; and Kim Malinowski, Jim Grant, Cindy House, Brad Keeler, Sureiya Peshek, Carolyn Taylor, Jackie Van Wyk, and Tina Wilson from Thomas Middle School.

Best Communities in Music Education

Thank you to our dedicated, creative, passionate, enthusiastic, and caring Music, Chorus, Band, and Music for Youth teachers, the district has been awarded Best Communities for Music Education national recognition by The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. The Foundation recognizes and celebrates school districts for their support and commitment to music education.

District 25 Teachers

Dana Berry
Katherine Conomikes
Kenneth Cook
Kate Hojek
Candace Horton
Cathy Privett
Kaitlin Pucci
Katie Randolph

Jenny Scapillato
Carolyn Schneider
Marcus Szuwald
John Toerner
Olivia Weismann
Casey Whitaker
Rachel Ybanez
Camille Ziemann

Music for Youth

Erin Cano
Gretchen Grube
Cloudia Huang
Philip Lee
Victoria Moreira
Vannia Phillips

Retiree Recognition

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 to thank them for their service to the Arlington Heights community.

Crossing Guards

James Kleiner, 10 years *
Eduardo Portugal, 25 years *

Ivy Hill

Sheila Crowley, 22 years *
Kimberly Mullan, 12 years *

Facilities Management

David Gaylor, 40 years

Olive-Mary Stitt

Cathy Privett, 19 years

Food & Nutrition Services

Kathy Benko, 12 years*

South Middle School

Adam Matthies, 11 years

Dryden

Lara Rebsamen, 26 years*

Thomas Middle School

Patty Geisel, 22 years
Cathy Holbrook, 19 years
Julia Piontek, 18 years*
Sandy Vliet, 7 years
Susan Ward, 22 years

Greenbrier

Kathy Brady, 19 years
Regina Kross, 23 years
Linda Pelczynski, 27 years
Karen Pilli, 20 years
Tiffany Repsher, 15 years

Westgate

Mary Kallal, 17 years

Windsor

Lynn Bengtsen, 28 years
Liz Chlopowicz, 21 years *
Donna Kohnen, 23 years

Dunton

Karen Iovino, 15 years *
Lana O'Brien, 13 years

**Retired in 2025*

Motion: E. Nierman motioned and K. Michael seconded that the Board take a ten-minute recess at 8:00 p.m.

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 took a recess at 8:00 p.m., and returned to the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Communications from District Partners

- PTA – Ms. Lakomski reported that the PTA is wrapping up the end of year activities and planning on activities for the summer as well as the next school year. She reviewed various activities that occurred during this school year.
- ATA – Ms. Berg talked about the many happenings at the schools. The ATA Board next year include Alison Berg, President; Casey Whitaker, Vice President; Joe Kim, Treasurer; Meghan Yarborough, Secretary; and Olivia Leiby; Rights and Responsibilities. She thanked Kate Renno and Alyssa Maloney for their work on the Board these past several years.

There was no report from the following

- ABC25 Foundation

Community Input

- Erika Pace addressed the Board regarding EdTech in District 25.
- Melissa Meagher addressed the Board regarding educational technology use in the classroom.
- Jennifer Hahne addressed the Board regarding technology use.
- Tessa Bohlman addressed the Board regarding her experience with Amira.
- Janine Kallen addressed the Board regarding EdTech.
- Andrew Bradley addressed the Board regarding a security breach in the district.
- August Kryska addressed the Board regarding Amira in the classroom.
- Christina Jenkins addressed the Board regarding EdTech.

The Personnel and Planning report and Consent Agenda were moved earlier in the agenda for this meeting.

Personnel and Planning
Resolution for Dismissal

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the "Resolution Dismissal of Custodian" Richard Chrzastowski 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.

Personnel Plan, 2026-2027

Ms. Perri noted that staffing projections are based on student enrollment projections, program needs, mandated state programming, student-identified needs, and the goals of the district. Updates to the plan were highlighted. A contingency amount continues to be budgeted to accommodate staffing needs that may arise due to unexpected enrollment changes or new students with special needs entering the school district.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Plan 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.

Memorandum of Understanding "ATA Sick Leave Bank"

Ms. Perri reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She noted that the proposed MOU is intended to clarify and expand access to Sick Leave Bank days for employees experiencing documented serious or extended illnesses. The proposed revisions maintain the existing tiered eligibility structure while adding language that provides greater flexibility for employees approved for extended leave situations.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding "ATA Sick Leave Bank" 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.

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 April 21, 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.

Dr. Kaye introduced three administrators for the 2026-2027 school year: Sandy Voss, Director of Business Operations; Monique Wodzinski, Coordinator of Multilingual Programming and Equity; and Lisa Szydlowski, Assistant Principal/EC Coordinator at Greenbrier Elementary School. Dr. Kaye introduced Diane Carpenter, who will be the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Recording Secretary for the 2026-2027 school year.

Board Communications:

- **Board Member Updates** – Ms. Tranter visited several classrooms in the district, and attended a Make-a-wish event at Patton; the Thomas Pride of the Wolfpack event; and the Olive-Mary Stitt Senior walk. Mr. Michael attended the Spring musicals at both Thomas and South. Ms. Buchberger, along with Dr. Jogee and Ms. Tranter, attended the PTA Scholarship Breakfast. Dr. Jogee attended the Thomas Pride of the Wolfpack event. Mr. Scapillato attended the South Spring musical as well as several musical events in the district.
- **Legislative Report** – Mr. Michael provided an overview of the latest ED-RED update. The ED-RED mini summit will be held on June 11. Dr. Jogee will be presenting at the mini summit.
- **IASB/COSSBA** – Dr. Jogee reported that the COSSBA Federal Advocacy Conference will be held in Washington D.C. this September.
- **NSSEO** – Ms. Nierman reported that NSSEO held a retirement celebration at their last meeting, and they are working on their contract negotiations. She thanked Dr. Kaye and Mr. Schulz for attending a meeting on the HVAC project at Miner.

Student Learning – No report

Student Services – No report

Business and Finance

Consolidated District Plan, 2026-2027

Ms. Mallek provided a summary of the grants and noted their requirements.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2026-27 Consolidated District Plan 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

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Update

Dr. Kaye shared updates with the Board on various items including an award that Ms. Mallek received from IASBO; the Special Olympics track and field event; the Instructional program expansion at Patton; and that District 25 will participate in the Memorial Day parade.

Freedom of Information Act Report

- Andrea Miller requested information on Advanced Math calculations; a response was provided on April 20, 2026.

- Alex Nitkin, Government Finance & Accountability Report, of the Better Government Association requested information on legal settlements with property owners regarding assessed values of their properties; a response was provided on April 22, 2026.
- Owen Wang of North Cook News requested information on Ramadan accommodation policies; a response was provided on April 22, 2026.
- Oshea Smith of Sunlight Access requested information on vendor contracts and agreements; a response was provided on April 22, 2026.
- Jomer Genite, Data Acquisition Specialist of SmartProcure requested information on district employees; a response was provided on April 28, 2026.
- Lisa Cortez Hendricks requested information on teacher emails; a response was provided on April 28, 2026.
- Catherine Merrill and Braylee Jennings of The Data Branch Research Time requested information on vendor procurement records; a response was provided on May 6, 2026.
- Sophia Price of the Data Branch Research Team requested procurement records; a response was provided on May 8, 2026.

Approve the Strategic Plan Refresh, 2026-2031

Dr. Kaye noted that this was presented at the previous meeting, and there are no changes. Next steps include creating a schedule and a visual.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Strategic Plan Refresh, 2026-2031 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.

Student Voice

Dr. Kaye facilitated a discussion with Board members regarding how the Board envisions the SSAC students participating during Board meetings. It was determined that we will build a time in the meeting where the community partners present.

Community Input – None

Future Agenda Items

Topics with Dates to be Determined - None

New Topics

A Board member requested to discuss the current use of technology in the district. Board members agreed that it would be added to a future agenda.

Motion: E. Nierman moved and K. Michael seconded that the Board of Education return to the Closed session meeting at 9:21 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 10:26 p.m.

Motion: E. Niernan 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. Niernan, yes; G. Scapillato, yes; and D. Tranter, yes. Motion carried 7/0.

The Board adjourned the regular meeting at 10:27 p.m.

Submitted,

Lana M. O'Brien
Recording Secretary

Approved:

President
Board of Education

Secretary
Board of Education

Date minutes available for public inspection:

June 17, 2026

Date minutes posted on District website:

June 17, 2026
