

MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124
October 3, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Peru Public Schools District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Library at Washington School, 1325 Park Road, Peru, IL, by Board President Jyll Humpage, on Wednesday, October 3, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Humpage led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members Cynthia Gustat, Simon Kampwerth, C.G. Pillai, Jim Renk, Vice President Bob Etheridge and President Jyll Humpage. **ABSENT:** Member Mark Lamboley.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Secretary Julie Brown, Lori Madden, Phil Whaley, Jake Been, Jeff Dankert, and Jennifer Nagle.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the special meeting agenda of October 3, 2007. **ROLL CALL VOTE – AYE:** Etheridge, Kampwerth, Humpage, Gustat, Pillai, and Renk. **ABSENT:** Lamboley. **NAY:** None. **Motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prior to the arrival of District Architect Jake Been, Mr. Cross discussed the following handouts that were presented to the Board:

- Fifty-eight names for the new middle school have been submitted so far. Forms for submitting names, mascots, and school colors are available on the district website, at all three schools, and at the City Clerk's office. The district will put out a press release reminding the public that forms are due back by November 1.
- A letter from Healy, Bender & Associates recommending the architects provide commercial food service design services, with Edge Associates, Inc. as their food service design consultant, at a cost of \$9,840. This is a service that is not included in the architect's contract for the construction of the new middle school. At the request of the Board, Mr. Cross and Ms. Madden will investigate the possibility of other alternatives for this service and make a recommendation at the October 17, 2007 Board of Education Meeting.

Member Lamboley arrived at the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION REGARDING NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT DESIGN

Mr. Cross described the following areas of concern and explained why each of them have been added to the latest design development for the Board's consideration:

- Two additional academic classrooms have been added to be used for Spanish instruction, gifted education, and special education. The additional classrooms are 850 square feet and 700 square feet, for a total of 1,550 square feet.

- It was determined that the current 7,900 square foot gymnasium is not large enough for the middle school when it is at its full capacity of 600 students and three full-time physical education teachers. It has been enlarged by 1,800 square feet, allowing for additional courts for physical education classes. Mr. Cross noted that all four physical education facilities that were recently visited were in the range of 9,500 square feet.
- The fitness room was moved from the academic wing “triangle” as originally proposed by the gym where it can be more easily accessed by physical education classes.
- The library was moved in to the center “triangle” of the building to make it more accessible and visible to everyone. The art room was moved to where the computer lab was to take advantage of the natural lighting and the computer lab was moved to the art room’s former location.
- The kitchen was made a little larger to accommodate more students and a future breakfast program. Also, more food storage space was added, for a total of 550 additional square feet.
- After much time and research, Mr. Cross recommended that the Board consider that the raised, fixed stage be replaced with a portable, flexible stage that could be erected for fine arts performances. Mr. Cross noted that the current stage is used primarily for a variety show in the fall and the spring musical. In addition, Mr. Cross noted if the district decides to pursue the addition of an auditorium in the future, the fixed stage in the gymnasium would no longer serve a purpose. None of the new schools visited by the district included a fixed stage in the gymnasium.
- Additional seating capacity for student assemblies and performances would be added due to the proposed widening of the gymnasium.

District Architect Jake Bean presented the latest Design Development Update incorporating the above recommendations with two options, one which incorporates the flexible stage and one which includes the fixed stage. Mr. Been said the cost of the building with all of the proposed changes without the stage is estimated at \$19.3 million (Option B.5), while including the stage would bring the total to \$19.633 million (Option B.6). Also discussed briefly were exterior brick design and color and options for placement of mechanicals.

The Board spent considerable time discussing the pros and cons of a fixed stage versus a portable stage. Vice President Etheridge proposed keeping the stage at the same level as the gymnasium. This would allow for constructing the portable stage in that area, while also allowing for the space to be used for physical education activities when it is not in use. Although no formal action was taken, the consensus of the Board was that the fixed stage should be eliminated.

The results of polling the Board were are follows:

For eliminating the fixed, raised stage (Option B.5): President Humpage, Members Kampwerth, Lamboley, and Renk.

For keeping the fixed, raised stage (Option B.6): Vice President Etheridge and Member Pillai.

Pass: Member Gustat.

Vice President Etheridge left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

The administration and architect will continue to work on the best solution of implementation of a flexible stage and will provide an update at the October 17, 2007 Board of Education Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Pillai, to adjourn at 10:06 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0.
Motion carried 6-0.

Jyll Humpage, Board President

Julie Brown, Board Secretary