

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
OCTOBER 20, 2010, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of October of the Board of Education of Peru Public Schools District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Choral Room at Parkside School, 1800 Church Street, Peru, IL, by Board President Jyll Leonatti, on Wednesday, October 20, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members Cynthia Gustat, Simon Kampwerth, Mark Lamboley, C. G. Pillai, Jeff Sheppard, Vice President Jim Renk, and President Jyll Leonatti.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Kim Vezzetti, Lori Madden, Sara McDonald, Melissa Bosnich, Eric Heagy, Lucy Frasco, Tara DeFosse, Jenny Calhoun, Joe Jagella, Mrs. Jagella, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the meeting agenda of October 20, 2010. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Gustat, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, Kampwerth, and Lamboley. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you notes were received from Debbie Rounds for the flowers sent in remembrance of her father and from Judy Hubbard for the donation made in memory of her mother. The board enjoyed reading thank you notes from third graders for the annual John Jordan, Spirit of the Eagle presentation held recently at Washington School.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- September 22, 2010 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Principals' Reports

Lori Madden reported students at Parkside are excited about the new "Raider Rewards", part of the district-wide positive behavior program. Staff members distributed tickets to those students caught following the "Raider Rules". Tickets may be redeemed for classroom and school-wide incentives. She

also reported the 7th grade Girls Basketball team will be playing in the championship Starved Rock Conference game on Thursday, October 21.

Sara McDonald reported teachers from IVC Chillicothe came to Northview to visit and observe our kindergarten teachers using the Literacy by Design reading program. Also visiting Northview was a reading specialist from the LaSalle schools. He spent time with Mrs. Dawson observing Reading Recovery. Mrs. McDonald said she was proud of these teachers for taking their prep time to meet with these visitors and welcoming them into our district.

Melissa Bosnich reported students at Washington School enjoyed an assembly on “Raider Rules”, part of the district-wide positive behavior program. All students received a wrist band with the motto “Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe.” She also reported that Grandparents Day was a huge success with an approximate 65% turnout.

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2010 District Financial Statements and Independent Audit

Lucy Frasco presented the annual Audit Report for Peru Elementary School District 124. She presented an overview of the Financial Statements and Independent Certified Public Accountants’ Reports prepared by Wilcoxson & Associates, Ltd. Mrs. Frasco reviewed the revenues, expenditures and fund balances for FY10. She reviewed ten year statistics on operating expenses per pupil/per capita tuition charge. She told the Board budgeted expenses for FY10 were right on; however, revenues fell short as the State of Illinois did not come through with their money by the end of the fiscal year. She also reported the district would have had a surplus of \$955,000 if you took out Capital Projects Fund expenditures and renovation work out of the Operations and Maintenance Fund at Washington and Northview Schools. Mrs. Frasco said it was once again a clean audit.

Quarterly Treasurer’s Report

District Treasurer Eric Heagy reported the current weighted average rate of return of the district’s cash management accounts, certificates of deposit, and bond proceeds account is 1.15%, which is still much higher than the current Treasury bill rate. Mr. Heagy noted the district’s remaining certificate of deposit will mature in November which will leave a concentration of asset management at Vezzetti Capital Management. Mr. Heagy feels the district has seen the yield on investments hit bottom and expects to see a climb in the near future. He also reported the district has made a smooth transition into its new checking, money market and imprest fund accounts depository, Peru Federal Savings Bank. Mr. Cross reported he will be providing the Board a Financial Report by both fund balance and line item monthly in addition to the Treasurer’s report.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Cross told the Board the State of Illinois has an Energy Efficient Grant offering a maximum of \$250,000 in matching funds per district for approved specific energy projects. He will talk with the Building and Grounds Committee about possibly completing an application and discussing what specific energy projects could be done at Washington and/or Northview School.

PBIS, the district wide behavior program is off to a good, even if informal start. An external coach from the LEASE office will be at our district on the next noon dismissal, Friday, October 29 to provide more training to the faculty.

The district received a \$1,000 Mini Grant from WalMart. The grant will most likely be given to Northview School for technology and maybe PBIS incentives.

The Teacher Evaluation Committee will be meeting on Monday, October 25. The committee will be reviewing the evaluation form and process and making changes to be in compliance with the guidelines set by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Mr. Cross met with some parents regarding the annual 8th grade graduation party and fundraising for the event. Mr. Cross will survey the 8th grade parents for their input about the party.

The Board discussed the design of a new storage building at Parkside School. The drawing shows glass blocks on all four sides similar to Parkside. The building would be situated where the dumpsters are, which has a water and sewer line running underneath it. The Board agreed the building should have 2 garage doors or one oversized door. Mr. Cross will set up a Building and Grounds Committee meeting with Jake Been of Healy Bender, the district's architectural firm, to further discuss the storage building.

Finally, Mr. Cross reported on the Parkside Bond payment schedule. The City of Peru will be making a payment to the district that is due in January.

Fall Housing Enrollment Report and History

Mr. Cross gave a report showing the current year's enrollment by grade level along with a ten year history. The fall housing total without preschool is 971. Enrollment including preschool is 1061. Mr. Cross said we are continuing a substantial trend in growth, most noticeable at the middle to upper grades. Also, this year's kindergarten class saw an increase in enrollment compared to the past few years. These numbers are reported to the Illinois State Board of Education by October 15 yearly based on the enrollment the last day of September.

Presentation of 2010 School Report Cards, 2010-11 School Improvement Plans and Annual Report on Student Achievement and Progress in Peru Public Schools

The 2010 School Report Cards and School Improvement Plans were presented by the building principals. They each highlighted goals from the School Improvement Plans. Mrs. McDonald reported Northview School will focus on writing and writing instruction this year. Mrs. Bosnich reported one of the goals for Washington School includes additional reading instruction during intervention time. At Parkside School reading instruction is also the main focus. All three schools have incorporated the district-wide behavior plan into their individual school improvement plans. Mr. Cross reported that Washington and Parkside school did not make AYP (Average Yearly Progress) for the second year in a row. The district did not make AYP due to calculations in the Economically Disadvantaged and Students with Disabilities categories of the report card.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of FY11 Illinois School Library per Capita Grant Application

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the FY11 Illinois School Library per Capita Grant Application. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Employment of Recommended Extracurricular Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Gustat, to employ Tom Foust as choreographer for the spring musical for the 2010-11 school year. AYE: 7, NAY: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION GOAL SETTING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The Board of Education Goal Setting and Strategic Planning Session will be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the Parkside School Library.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn at 7:50. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary