

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124  
NOVEMBER 16, 2011, 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the month of November of the Board of Education of Peru Elementary School District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Choral Room at Parkside School, 1800 Church Street, Peru, IL, by Board President Jim Renk, on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

ABSENT: Member Jyll Leonatti.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Kim Vezzetti, Lori Madden, Melissa Bosnich, Sara McDonald, Tracey Jaegle, Michelle Pangrcic, and Jeff Dankert.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the meeting agenda of November 16, 2011. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Kampwerth, Gustat, Pillai, Sheppard, Lambolely, and Renk. **ABSENT:** Leonatti. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Lambolely, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- October 19, 2011 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- November 10, 2011 Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes
- November 10, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

**ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Lambolely, Sheppard, Renk, Gustat, Kampwerth, and Pillai. **ABSENT:** Leonatti. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Presentation of the Tentative 2011 Tax Levy**

Mr. Cross presented the Tentative 2011 Tax Levy which he previously presented to the Finance Committee at its November 10, 2011 meeting. The proposed levy is based on a net assessed valuation of \$184,000,000 and an estimated overall tax rate of \$3.0510 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Mr. Cross stated the tax rate will drop two cents per \$100 assessed valuation which is down from its peak 7 years ago. He reported most taxpayers will likely see a drop in their property taxes for the school district's levy. Because the proposed levy, excluding Bond and Interest, is 100.35 percent of the actual previous year's extension, the district will not require a Truth in Taxation Hearing prior to adoption in December.

### **Presentation of Recommended Board of Education Policy Changes**

Mr. Cross presented policy changes as recommended through the Illinois Association of School Boards PRESS Service. He reported there were mostly no major changes for policies 2:250, 3:60, 4:80, 5:90, 5:100, 5:200, 5:240, 6:60, 6:150. After the initial presentation this month, Mr. Cross stated that the final policies will be presented to the Board for final approval at the December 14, 2011 Board of Education meeting.

### **Update and Discussion Regarding Energy Efficiency Grant Project Design**

The Building and Grounds Committee met recently with the district's architects from Healy, Bender and Associates. They presented the designs for work to be done this summer at Northview and Washington Schools. Projects include lighting at both schools, remodeling the vestibule at Northview, and the replacement of the boiler at Northview. If approved at the December meeting, the project will go out for bid in late January to early February. The district was awarded the matching grant fund of \$250,000 last spring.

### **Education Foundation Development Report**

Mr. Cross reported the committee has had three working meetings thus far. The bylaws have been developed and are in final draft form and the next step will be to get legal and accounting assistance for the paperwork required for filing the 50(c)(3) forms. Mr. Cross is looking for feedback on naming the organization.

### **What Board Members Need to Know: A Primer on Senate Bill 7 and Education Reform**

Mr. Cross distributed information on Senate Bill 7 and the recent education reform legislation in Springfield. He said this topic will be huge at this week's Joint Annual Conference in Chicago. Some major changes include teacher/principal evaluations, dismissal of staff, collective bargaining and mandated school board training.

### **Principals' Reports**

#### **Parkside School**

Ms. Madden reported:

- American Education Week grade-level breakfasts and luncheons were well attended. Parents also visited classrooms.
- Ms. Madden commended Mr. Foust and Mr. Whaley for the excellent Veterans Day Assembly which also was well attended.

#### **Washington School**

Mrs. Bosnich reported:

- Washington School will hold off on purchasing math textbooks due to the changes with the Math Common Core Standards.
- The principals explained some changes with grade level curriculum and Common Core Standards.

#### **Northview School**

Mrs. McDonald reported:

- Northview School had an excellent turnout for recently held parent/teacher conferences.
- Some considerations for next year's parent/teacher conferences include allowing for an extra day of conferences for preschool and possibly holding conferences in the spring for kindergarten and first grade.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Cross reported:

- Veterans Day programs throughout the district were outstanding. Mr. Cross said it's one of the best things our school district does for the community and local Veterans, while also teaching our students the purpose of Veterans Day.
- The leadership team is currently doing a book study which will aid in our understanding of potential changes to the updating the teacher evaluation plan.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Approval of the Tentative 2011 Tax Levy**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Lamboley, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the Tentative 2011 Tax Levy. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Gustat, and Kampwerth. ABSENT: Leonatti. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

### **Approval of FY12 Illinois School Library per Capita Grant Application**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the FY12 Illinois School Library per Capita Grant Application. **AYE 6, NAY 0. The motion carried 6-0.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Pillai, to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

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Jim Renk, Board President

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Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary