

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2010, 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the month of December 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, December 15, 2010, at 6:05 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 Lambole, 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, Linda Carls, Judy Cary, Jake Been, Cliff Bender, and Jeff Dankert.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Lambole, to approve the meeting agenda of December 15, 2010. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Lambole, Kampwerth, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thank you notes were received from Judy Hubbard, Tracey Jaegle, Gayle Yepsen, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team for the lunch served during American Education Week.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- November 17, 2010 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- December 6, 2010 Building and Grounds Committee Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

**REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Presentation of the Recommended 2010 Tax Levy**

Mr. Cross reported there has been no change in the Tax Levy since last November's Board meeting. The proposed 2010 levy is based on net assessed taxable valuation of \$188,000,000. The estimated extension will be based on \$181,000,000. Mr. Cross explained that the district is seeing a loss to the Education fund for the first time in recent years, which will likely continue for the next 2-3 years. The tax rate will be approximately \$3.06 to \$3.07 per 100 dollars of assessed valuation.

### **Principals' Reports**

Northview School – Principal McDonald reported on the Positive Behavior Program. She mentioned that 95% of the Northview students were treated to a hayrack ride in Northview's backyard by Kindergarten teacher Debbie Pletsch's husband as a reward for positive behavior. In addition, 30 students from each Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade levels will be caroling at Heritage Manor, also a reward for positive behavior. Training will continue in January for PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports) for approximately 18 staff members. There was some discussion regarding the paid preschool program and outstanding tuition payments.

Washington School – Principal Bosnich reported teachers from Chillicothe visited the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms to observe the Rigby Literacy by Design reading series. She commended the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team for sharing their time and expertise with their peers. She also reported that milkshakes were a huge hit with students who received them for positive behavior. Trait Crates, an instructional resource which helps create stronger writing instruction, was purchased for Washington School teachers. Finally, Mrs. Bosnich reported the Winter program was a huge success and was well attended.

Parkside School – Principal Madden reported that the Band and Chorus members gave an outstanding performance at the Winter concert this past Monday. She received good feedback and the program was well attended. She also reported on some changes made in study halls. Students identified as needing extra help at Problem Solving meetings are being re-taught lessons during their scheduled study hall time. Students who have missing assignments are also being helped.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE IASB EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATIONAL DESIGN AWARD CERTIFICATE FROM HEALY, BENDER & ASSOCIATES**

Jake Been and Cliff Bender of Healy, Bender & Associates presented the Illinois Association of School Boards Excellence in Educational Design Award Certificate for Parkside School. Mr. Been explained there were 17 submittals and Parkside School was one of seven schools to receive the award. There was a display of Parkside School at the recent IASB Joint Annual Conference. They also presented the Board with two plaques with pictures of Parkside School which will be displayed in the building.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Cross told the Board he is looking into the possibility of having bus service for those students who attend the Project Success after school program offered at Washington and Parkside Schools. After speaking with Ms. Madden and Mrs. Bosnich, they have decided the attendance rate for this program, which offers extra help to students, would increase participation. The program is typically 4 days per week. He will check to see if transportation costs are reimbursable. The Board also expressed strong support for implementing a bus route for Project Success students at Washington and Parkside.

He also reported that the PBIS universal team has been selected. Approximately 18 district staff members will be working with the LEASE office for training and will have 3 more meetings this year.

The district recently had a three-year Compliance Visit from the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education. The visit went well and all findings have been addressed. There were no life safety issues.

Recently, a representative from our property/liability insurance company, A.J. Gallagher, conducted an annual safety walkthrough at each of our three buildings. He will follow-up and share his findings and provide some training to relevant staff.

### **Discussion Regarding Energy Efficiency Grant Application and Project Details**

Jake Been of Healy Bender & Associates reported on the recent walkthrough he and Mr. Cross completed in order to begin preparing the Energy Efficiency Grant application. The grant, if awarded, would match district funds up to \$250,000 for energy efficient projects. Following are some projects Mr. Been and Mr. Cross recommend for consideration: changing overhead light fixtures in classrooms at Northview, modifying light switches in classrooms at both Washington and Northview schools in order to control tubes independently in each row of lighting, motion sensors in bathrooms for lighting. He suggested the Board think about replacing the boiler at Northview School, which is the original and running at 70% efficiency. The Board was provided with a Recommendations and Enhancements Summary sheet and estimated project costs. The Board would like Mr. Been and Mr. Cross to proceed with the recommended projects on the Energy Efficiency Grant Application. The application is due January 15, 2011.

### **Update and Discussion Regarding Parkside Storage Facility Project Design and Bid Document Specifications**

Mr. Been reported on the final design of the Parkside Storage Facility. The 24' x 30' structure will have a brick exterior with a metal roof and block windows, similar to Parkside School. The overhead door will be big enough for 2 cars to enter. There will be wood trusses to create more storage space. The interior will have electricity but will not be insulated. He also reviewed some bid specifications. The project completion date will be May 20, 2011. Mr. Been sets the project cost at approximately \$73,000.

Mr. Cross updated the Board on the floor tile situation at Northview. Over the winter break several tiles will be removed in four different classrooms and replaced with matching tile to make sure the stain spreading has stopped. If all goes well, the remaining stained tiles will be replaced at the end of the school year.

### **Reports and Information from the 2010 Joint Annual Conference**

Board members had discussion about sessions they attended during the recent 2010 Joint Annual Conference. Member Pillai also reported information from the Delegate session he attended. Mr. Cross informed the Board the January 3-11, 2011 legislative session will likely see some drastic changes to teacher tenure and accountability for student achievement.

### **Review and Discussion Regarding Strategic Plan Final Draft**

The Board discussed setting a separate meeting for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the Strategic Plan final draft. It was decided to hold this meeting at a date sometime between the regular January and February Board of Education meetings. Mr. Cross will offer the Board some dates available for this meeting.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Resolution for Approval of the 2010 Tax Levy**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to adopt the Resolution for approval of the 2010 Tax Levy as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Approval of School Energy Efficiency Grant Proposed Projects, Estimated Budget and Grant Application**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the School Energy Efficient Grant proposed projects, estimated budget and grant application. ROLL CALL,

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

### **Approval of Final Project Design, Estimated Budget and Bid Documents for Parkside School Storage Facility**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the final project design, estimated budget and bid documents for Parkside School storage facility. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **Approval of Strategic Plan Final Draft and Opportunity for Public Comment**

No action was taken.

### **Adoption of Recommended Board of Education Policies as Presented for Policy Numbers:**

1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:20, 2:40, 2:50, 2:80, 2:105, 2:110, 2:125, 2:140, 2:150, 2:160, 2:210, 2:220, 2:250, 2:260, 3:10, 3:40, 3:50, 4:20, 4:30, 4:40, 4:50, 4:55, 4:60, 4:70, 4:80, 4:90, 4:110, 4:120, 4:150, 4:160, 4:170, 4:180, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40, 5:90, 5:100, 5:130, 5:150, 5:170, 5:180, 5:185, 5:200, 5:220, 5:230, 5:250, 5:260, 5:270, 5:280, 5:285, 5:300, 5:320, 5:330, 6:10, 6:30, 6:50, 6:60, 6:65, 6:70, 6:100, 6:110, 6:150, 6:160, 6:170, 6:210, 6:230, 6:235, 6:255, 6:270, 6:290, 7:10, 7:20, 7:40, 7:50, 7:60, 7:70, 7:100, 7:150, 7:160, 7:170, 7:180, 7:190, 7:210, 7:220, 7:230, 7:240, 7:250, 7:285, 7:290, 7:325, 7:340, 8:10, 8:30, 8:80, 8:100

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to adopt the recommended Board of Education policies as presented for Policy Numbers: 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:20, 2:40, 2:50, 2:80, 2:105, 2:110, 2:125, 2:140, 2:150, 2:160, 2:210, 2:220, 2:250, 2:260, 3:10, 3:40, 3:50, 4:20, 4:30, 4:40, 4:50, 4:55, 4:60, 4:70, 4:80, 4:90, 4:110, 4:120, 4:150, 4:160, 4:170, 4:180, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40, 5:90, 5:100, 5:130, 5:150, 5:170, 5:180, 5:185, 5:200, 5:220, 5:230, 5:250, 5:260, 5:270, 5:280, 5:285, 5:300, 5:320, 5:330, 6:10, 6:30, 6:50, 6:60, 6:65, 6:70, 6:100, 6:110, 6:150, 6:160, 6:170, 6:210, 6:230, 6:235, 6:255, 6:270, 6:290, 7:10, 7:20, 7:40, 7:50, 7:60, 7:70, 7:100, 7:150, 7:160, 7:170, 7:180, 7:190, 7:210, 7:220, 7:230, 7:240, 7:250, 7:285, 7:290, 7:325, 7:340, 8:10, 8:30, 8:80, 8:100. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0-1. Member Pillai abstained.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:41p.m. to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:22 p.m.

### **ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **Approval of Request for Early Retirement**

No action was taken.

#### **Employment of Recommended Temporary, Part-Time Personnel**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to employ Terri Essl as a temporary, part-time Teacher Aide at Northview School. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Renk, to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

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Jyll Leonatti, Board President

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Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary