

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**  
**JULY 27, 2011, 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the month of July 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, July 27, 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 Simon Kampwerth, Jyll Leonatti, C. G. Pillai, Jeff Sheppard, Vice President Mark Lamboley, and President Jim Renk. ABSENT: Member Cynthia Gustat.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Kim Vezzetti and Jeff Dankert.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Leonatti, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the meeting agenda of July 27, 2011. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Leonatti, Pillai, Sheppard, Lamboley, Renk, and Kampwerth. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A note of appreciation was received from Lisa Goddard for the recent purchase of iPads in the district.

**HOLIDAY WAIVER HEARING**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to enter the Holiday Waiver Hearing for Peru Elementary School District 124 at 6:09 p.m. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Kampwerth, Sheppard, Lamboley, Renk, Leonatti, and Pillai. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Cross reported on the recommended proposal to permanently waive the following legal holidays: Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Lincoln's Birthday, and Casimir Pulaski Day. Approval of this waiver would not change any of our district's past practice. This will allow our district the option of holding school on these dates in future years. Peru Elementary School District 124 will continue to hold school on Veterans Day and President Lincoln's birthday with related activities and events on those days, as well as Casimir Pulaski Day as long as ISAT testing takes place during that week.. No one from the audience spoke in favor or against on the recommended calendar waivers.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Lamboley, to exit the Holiday Waiver Hearing for Peru Elementary School District 124 at 6:14 p.m. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Sheppard, Lamboley, Renk, Kampwerth, Leonatti, and Pillai. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- June 8, 2011 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- June 8, 2011 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- June 22, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- July 7, 2011 Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

## **REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **Treasurer's Report**

District Treasurer Eric Heagy reported for the end of the fourth quarter as well at the end of Fiscal Year 2011. The district's cash management and money market funds with Peru Federal Savings hold 2.3 million dollars with an average weighted yield of .79%. The brokered accounts at Vezzetti Capital Management are 5.5 million dollars with average weighted rates of 1.96%. The district's total cash and investments at the end of the fourth quarter are just under 8 million dollars with an average yield of 1.61%. Mr. Heagy reported nothing has changed since the third quarter and anticipates it will be a long time until rates go up. This has had a very negative impact on the district's investment returns.

### **Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Report**

Mr. Cross reported on fiscal year 2011 finances. He said the Education Fund ended with a smaller than anticipated deficit of a little over \$217,000. He stated that this fund will need to be watched very closely in FY12 and FY13. The Operations & Maintenance Fund finished with a surplus, pushing that fund's balance to slightly over \$1 million. The Capital Projects Fund was reinstated due to the grant money the district was awarded recently for matching funds of up to \$250,000 for energy efficiency projects. He reported that FY12 will experience rougher times with funding but the staff cuts that have already been made will help offset this. The district finished FY11 with healthy O&M and Education fund balances, but the extent of the Education Fund shortfall for FY12 will be reviewed with the tentative budget on August 17.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Mr. Cross reported:**

- Due to an increase in the average daily attendance, the General State Aid should see an increase of roughly \$95,000 for FY12 and assuming it is not prorated before being distributed to the school districts. The district has received all of the GSA payments for last year and has received two of the four transportation payments.
- If signed by the governor, a new law for school district's to be in full day attendance on the very first and last days of school would be in effect this school year.
- Superintendent Cross, Member Simon Kampwerth and district architect Jake Been have met with the Capital Development Board to review costs associated with the construction of Parkside School. The district is on the FY03 funding list, and could receive reimbursement funding from the state of Illinois. The district is also in the process of reviewing needs in anticipation of a \$50,000 matching maintenance grant for future projects, should funding become available.
- Mr. Cross suggested that the district look into purchasing a new van and for the purpose of transporting in-district students who require special transportation. There was some discussion regarding the type of van, drivers and insurance. A new van would replace the old one, which cannot be used to transport students. At the request of the Board, Mr. Cross will gather more information to present at a later date.

### **2010-11 Bright Futures Preschool Report**

Mr. Cross reported on the district's Bright Futures preschool program. Tuition will remain the same for the 2011-12 school year as well as the 3 tier system of tuition. For those families choosing to pay in four tuition payments, payments will now be due on September 1, November 1, February 1, and April 1. There were 14 students on the waiting list last year who did not attend the program. Mr. Cross reported some state funding is available again for "at risk" preschool programs, but those districts receiving this money were already established programs. These funds are not available to new school districts.

### **2010-11 Food Service Program Report**

Mr. Cross reported the district saw a surplus of \$21,000 in this year's food service program. The extra amount is in part due to the federal and state breakfast and lunch reimbursements. The district is beginning its third year in the breakfast program, and Mr. Cross stated that it was a pleasant surprise to have a break even food service program again with the breakfast program just three years old.

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

Mr. Cross presented policy changes from the past two Illinois Association of School Boards Press issues. He reported there were no major changes in substance. There is, however, a new "Identity Protection" policy. The Board will approve revisions and adoptions at the August 17, 2011 Board of Education meeting.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Approval of Permanent Waiver of Certain Legal School Holidays as Proposed**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve a permanent waiver of the following legal holidays as required under Public Act 96-640: the second Monday in October (Columbus Day, November 11 (Veterans Day), the third Monday in January (the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.), February 12 (the Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln) and the first Monday in March (known as the Birthday of Casimir Pulaski) for the purpose of this providing Peru Elementary School District 124 the option of holding school, scheduling teacher institutes, conducting parent teacher conferences, or conducting staff development activities on these dates in future years. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Sheppard, Lamboley, Renk, Kampwerth, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

#### **Approval of Peru Elementary School District 124 Teacher Evaluation Plan**

The Peru Elementary School District Teacher Evaluation Plan is approved yearly.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Leonatti, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the Peru Elementary School District 124 teacher evaluation plan for the 2011-12 school year. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Leonatti, Kampwerth, Pillai, Sheppard, Lamboley, and Renk. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

#### **Adoption of Illinois Department of Transportation Serious Safety Hazard Resolution**

This resolution is required yearly by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The resolution remains on file in the district office for audit purposes.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the Illinois Department of Transportation findings for Northview, Washington, and Parkside schools. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Sheppard, Lamboley, Renk, Leonatti, and Pillai. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

#### **Adoption of Resolution Authorizing the Re-Establishment of the Capital Projects Fund**

Mr. Cross explained the Capital Projects Fund is being re-established due to the Energy Efficiency Grant monies the district was awarded., as all revenues and expenditures must be shown from this fund.

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Lamboley, seconded by Member Leonatti, to adopt a resolution authorizing the re-establishment of the Capital Projects Fund and. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Lamboley, Leonatti, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

#### **Adoption of Resolution Authorizing the Re-Establishment of the Working Cash Fund**

Mr. Cross explained the Working Cash Fund is re-established at the beginning of each fiscal year after being abolished in June when the funds are transferred to the Education Fund.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Lamboley, to adopt a resolution authorizing the re-establishment of the Working Cash Fund. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Sheppard, Lamboley, Renk, Kampwerth, Leonatti, and Pillai. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

#### **Approval to Authorize the Superintendent to Develop a Committee for the Purpose of Establishing an Education Foundation for Peru Elementary School District 124**

Mr. Cross discussed with the Board the development of an Education Foundation which is part of the district's adopted Strategic Plan. He provided information on steps to begin the process. There was discussion about committee membership, including how many community and school board members there would likely ultimately be on the foundation board. Upon approval, Mr. Cross will arrange for a meeting with interested community members and school board members to begin the development of the foundation.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Leonatti, seconded by Vice President Lamboley, to authorize the Superintendent to develop a committee for the purpose of establishing an Education Foundation for Peru Elementary School District 124. Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel; and for semi-annual review of Executive Session minutes. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Sheppard, Kampwerth, Leonatti, Pillai, Lamboley, and Renk. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 7:42 p.m.

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

##### **Employment of Recommended Personnel**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Leonatti, seconded by Member Sheppard, to accept the resignation of Jennifer McCollum as Title I Reading teacher. Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent, 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Lamboley, seconded by Member Sheppard, to employ Stephanie Miller as second grade teacher for the 2011-12 school term. Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent, 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Leonatti, seconded by Vice President Lamboley, to employ Christine Hueneburg-Mitchell as special education teacher for the 2011-12 school term. Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

#### **Consideration of Approval of Release of Executive Session Minutes**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Leonatti, seconded by Member Pillai, to continue to keep both the written and verbatim Executive Session minutes closed due to the continued need for confidentiality. Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

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Jim Renk, Board President

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Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary