

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
JANUARY 19, 2011, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of January 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 Jyll Leonatti, on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, 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, Chris Kelsey, Phil Whaley, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the meeting agenda of January 19, 2011. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Sheppard, Gustat, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, and Leonatti. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Renk. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no correspondence this month.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda with the correction of changing the December 15, 2010 Board of Education Meeting Minutes to reflect Member Pillai from abstaining on the adoption of recommended Board of Education policies:

- December 15, 2010 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- December 15, 2010 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 Quarterly Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer Eric Heagy presented the district's quarterly financial report. He reported there is approximately \$180,000 remaining in the Bond Proceeds account. Seventy-five percent of the district's assets are managed with Vezzetti Capital Management with a 1.56% rate of return. The remaining 25% of investments are concentrated with Peru Federal. Mr. Heagy and Mr. Cross both stated that the 1.39% average return for all district assets is strong considering the current market conditions.

7.2 Principals' Reports

Northview School – Principal McDonald reported to the Board about professional development. At the most recent noon dismissal day, the teachers worked on writing scope and sequence. Although writing is not a component for ISAT testing any longer, writing has been a main focus of concentration with our staff. She feels writing scope and sequence will provide consistency throughout the district and it will also help any future teachers. Four teachers from Northview School recently attended the annual Reading Recovery conference.

Washington School – Mrs. Bosnich reported staff spent the January 3, 2011, Institute Day working on the new Write Trait Kits. MAP and AIMSweb testing began this week. There was an assembly on safari animals recently. Mrs. Bosnich said the presenter and program were excellent. Second and third grade students participated in a drawing for “Behavior Bucks”.

Parkside School – Ms. Madden reported the staff was very appreciative for having an Institute Day on the first day back from winter break. The staff worked on the development of scope and sequence for the district writing curriculum. AIMSweb and MAP testing were also done at Parkside School this week. Three new students in our district were given the InView test and two of them qualified for the G.A.T.E. program for gifted students.

7.3 Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cross reported that, due to a recent court decision, the Moment of Silence will return to public schools next Monday. Students will have several seconds for silent reflection before reciting the Pledge of Allegiance daily. Mr. Cross said he expects this law to eventually be resolved at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Cross shared an article from Member Gustat regarding the success the country of Finland is having with student achievement. The country has gone away from centralized testing and is going against the current tide of more standardized testing.

Mr. Cross reported the Project Success bus will begin on Monday, January 31. Approximately 84 students between Parkside and Washington schools participate in the after school program. Students who are currently eligible to ride the bus will be offered this new service. Bus routes will be completed after a final tally of riders.

The Spring Dinner Meeting for the Starved Rock Division of the Illinois Association of School Boards will be held at Celebrations in LaSalle on Tuesday, March 1. Member Kampwerth, Vice Chair of the division, said that several Illinois legislators have been invited and plan on attending.

Member Renk joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

7.4 Presentation of Proposed 2011-12 School Calendar

Mr. Cross presented the proposed 2011-12 school calendar. The most noticeable change is a 2:15 p.m. dismissal on every Wednesday afternoon throughout the school year. After discussing with the administration and staff, Mr. Cross feels the change will offer more consistency for staff development and articulation. He feels this schedule will provide less disruption to the students' academic day versus the several noon dismissals. The proposed calendar would eliminate most of the noon dismissal days. The Board was supportive of the concept, and Mr. Cross will post the information on the district homepage and allow for parental input. He will report back with a recommendation at the February Board meeting.

7.5 Update and Discussion Regarding the Status of the Submitted School Energy Efficiency Grant Application

The School Energy Efficiency Grant Application has been submitted to the state of Illinois after the Board previously approved the grant application. The final application items focused on lighting at both Washington and Northview schools along with the replacement of the 52 year old boiler at Northview School. These types of energy items have the best chance of being awarded the grant. Mr. Cross is hopeful the district will be awarded the grant which will match funds of up to \$250,000.

7.6 Update and Discussion Regarding Base and Alternate Bids for Construction of Parkside School Storage Facility

Parkside School Storage Facility bids were opened last Thursday. The lowest bid received was \$145,525. Mr. Cross will not recommend the Board accept the bid at this time. There was discussion on ways to cut back on the cost of the facility, including eliminating the brick exterior, eliminating the metal roof and several other items that added cost. The Board agreed to have Mr. Cross contact the district architect to develop new specifications so the Board can consider rebidding the project at a later date.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Certified Seniority List for 2010-11

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the 2010-11 Certified Seniority List as presented. Aye , Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Support Staff Seniority List for 2010-11

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lambolely, to approve the 2010-11 Support Staff Seniority List as presented. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Date and Time for the 2011 8th Grade Graduation

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve Thursday, May 26, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at Parkside School as the date, time, and location for the 2011 8th Grade Graduation. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Recommended Base and Alternate Bids for Construction of Parkside School Storage Facility

Due to the high costs of the bids submitted, the base and alternate bids for construction of the Parkside School storage facility was rejected by the Board of Education.

Adoption of Resolution Providing for the Abatement of Certain Taxes Levied for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2008, and General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2009, of Peru Elementary School District Number 124, LaSalle County, Illinois

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Sheppard, to adopt the resolution providing for the Abatement of Certain Taxes Levied for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2008, and General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2009, of Peru Elementary School District Number 124, LaSalle County, Illinois. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Renk, Sheppard, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, Lambolely, and Pillai. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Lambolely, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:23 p.m. to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel; and for the semi-annual review of Executive Session

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

The meeting returned to Open Session at 7:55 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of Approval of Release of Executive Session Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to keep both the written and verbatim Executive Session minutes closed due to the continued need for confidentiality. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Requests for Leave of Absence

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the leave of absence request under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 for Tara Duncan. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Lamboley, to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary