

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
NOVEMBER 17, 2010, 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting for 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 Vice President Jim Renk, on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Renk 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, Rose Riva, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the meeting agenda of November 17, 2010. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you notes were received from Sarah Wick for the plant sent after the birth of her son and from Lexy Rebholz for the plant sent after the birth of her daughter. The Board thanked Mr. Cross for acknowledging them on November 15 for "School Board Members Day". In observance of American Education Week, the Board received "Survival" packages from the Parkside Student Council in appreciation for all they do for Peru Schools.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- October 20, 2010 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- November 3, 2010 Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
- November 4, 2010 Building and Grounds Committee Minutes
- November 9, 2010 Finance Committee Minutes
- November 10, 2010 Policy Committee Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation of the Tentative 2010 Tax Levy

Mr. Cross presented the Tentative 2010 Tax Levy which he also reviewed with the Finance Committee at its November 9 meeting. The proposed levy is based on a net assessed valuation of \$188,000,000 and an estimated overall tax rate of \$3.06 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Mr. Cross explained that the district uses an inflated EAV for purposes of calculating the levy, even though the actual taxable assessed valuation is likely to be around \$181,000,000, a drop of about 3.4 percent from last year. This means the district will likely receive less in local tax revenue than it did from the previous year, despite the need to increase the levy for the IMRF fund.

Mr. Cross and Finance Committee members said the district will be able to weather the drop in local taxes for at least this year since the district had prepared well with maintaining healthy fund balances and monitoring expenditures carefully; however, this will need to be monitored carefully going forward. Because the proposed 2010 levy, excluding Bond and Interest, is 103.34% of the actual previous year's extension, the district is not required to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing prior to adoption in December. Mr. Cross stated that he does not anticipate the levy changing before its final adoption.

Presentation of Recommended Board Policy Changes

Mr. Cross reported the Board Policy Manual can now be viewed on the district website. The district subscribes to the Illinois Association of School Boards PRESS, a service which helps update Board policies. Policies are then modified to meet the needs of the district and still be in compliance with state and federal law. The Administrative Procedures and Exhibits will be kept separately in the district office. Mr. Cross will bring recommended policy changes to the Board quarterly or more frequently as needed.

Update and Discussion Regarding Parkside Storage Facility Project Design

The Building and Grounds Committee reported on their recent meeting regarding the potential construction of a storage facility at Parkside School. The plan continues to house the facility at the current dumpster site. It will have ample space for any future storage and will have wood or metal trusses to hold more storage. The building will have electric but no heat. The outside of the facility will have virtually the same brick and windows as Parkside School. The district architect recommends a site survey for the entire 28 acres after the construction of the storage facility. A timeline was discussed for completion of the project by May 20, 2011 in order to make final payment by the end of Fiscal Year 2011. The project would need to be approved by the Board at the December meeting and the planned bid opening would be January 13, 2011.

Update and Discussion Regarding Energy Efficiency Grant Application

On Monday, November 29, Mr. Cross and architect Jake Been will do a walkthrough at Northview and Washington schools. They are pursuing an Energy Efficiency Grant which needs to be sent to the Illinois State Board of Education by January 15, 2011. The grant, if received, would provide a 50 percent match to district funds up to \$250,000 on approved projects. Some possible projects discussed were a security vestibule at Northview School, possible replacement of some doors and windows at Washington School and improved energy efficient lighting in both buildings.

Principals' Reports

Mrs. McDonald reported a 98% attendance rate for Parent Teacher Conferences, with the remaining 2% being reached through phone contact. Veterans Day festivities were a huge success. There were approximately 35 veterans in attendance. Retired Peru Schools employee and author Karen Panier read her recently published book *Love Spots* to the Northview students.

Mrs. Bosnich reported the Parent/Grandparent breakfasts and lunches ran smoothly. Parent Teacher Conferences were as successful at Washington School as well. For Veterans Day, students enjoyed breakfast with approximately 40 veterans. Students later walked over to Washington Park to observe the

Peru Veterans Program. Teachers received many comments on how well the students were behaved. Mrs. Bosnich attributes this to the success of the new district-wide behavior program. There was some discussion on the new behavior program and its impact at all three buildings.

The Veterans Day program at Parkside School was successful as always. Some 8th grade students from literature teacher Karole Ochs class read a line from a poem at the program. The Parent/Grandparent breakfasts and lunches also went well, with a large turn-out. Ms. Madden also reported the first quarter numbers for the At-Risk Study Hall are significantly lower than in years past. Ms. Madden reported that morning entry to Parkside is running more smoothly since the students line up by grade level.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cross reported the district received many positive comments on Veterans Day festivities hosted throughout the district on Thursday, November 11. He believes it is one of the best things our district does for our local community.

On November 10, local Rotarians distributed 450 dictionaries to third grade students in twelve local school districts. This annual project has expanded to schools in Bureau County also. The teachers were appreciative for the donation and the children were thrilled to receive their own dictionary. Board member and Rotarian Simon Kampwerth leads this project. Mr. Cross and Member Renk are also involved with the club and the project.

Mr. Cross reported the district will have its 3 year Compliance and Health/Life/Safety Visit from the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education on Tuesday, November 30.

Review and Discussion Regarding Strategic Plan Final Draft

Due to time constraints, the Strategic Plan Final Draft was not ready for approval for this evening's meeting. The Board will review the final draft at a later date before putting it on the website for staff and public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the Tentative 2010 Tax Levy

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by President Leonatti, to approve the Tentative 2010 Tax Levy. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Sheppard, Leonatti, Renk, Gustat, Kampwerth, Lamboley, and Pillai. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of 2010-11 Snow Removal Contract with Stuart Tree Service

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve Stuart Tree Service to provide snow removal services for the 2010-11 winter season as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Lamboley, Kampwerth, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding for the 2010-11 Food Service Agreement Between L.E.A.S.E. and Peru Elementary School District 124

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding for the 2010-11 Food Service Agreement between L.E.A.S.E. and Peru Elementary School District 124. AYE: 7, NAY: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Strategic Plan Final Draft

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by President Leonatti, to adjourn at 7:08. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary