

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

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of March 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, March 16, 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, C. G. Pillai, Jeff Sheppard, Vice President Jim Renk, and President Jyll Leonatti. ABSENT: Member Mark Lamboley.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Kim Vezzetti, Lori Madden, Sara McDonald, Melissa Bosnich, Debbie Rounds, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A thank you note was received from the Comprehensive Literacy Team for the opportunity given to do a presentation on comprehensive literacy and intervention models at the February Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- February 7, 2011 Technology Committee Minutes
- February 16, 2011 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- February 16, 2011 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- March 2, 2011 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Principals' Reports

Northview School Principal

Mrs. McDonald reported:

- There will be 2 days of Kindergarten registration. One of these days will offer evening hours for the convenience of working parents. So far, there are 71 students known to the district who will enter kindergarten next year, although this number will likely increase like past years.
- The PTC recently sponsored a Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo Night at Northview School. The event was not as well attended as in the past. Different options for boosting attendance at the gathering next year may need to be looked into. Every student who attended the event went home with a prize.
- Member Pillai inquired about the recent Dental Clinic held in our district. The annual clinic is free to students and fulfills the required Illinois State school dental exam, with the exception of an initial kindergarten exam.

Washington School Principal

Mrs. Bosnich reported:

- There was a kick-off assembly for ISAT testing for 3rd and 4th graders at Washington School. Teachers reported the students worked extremely hard this year. Teachers felt the new Smart-boards were great for reviewing and preparing the students for the tests.
- Read Across America celebrated the 107th birthday of Dr. Seuss. Students and staff celebrated the day by reading together in the gymnasium and were treated to some guest readers from IVCC.
- Chris Kelsey, the music teacher of Northview and Washington schools will be taking 4th grade students on a field trip to LP High School for a performance by the Illinois Valley Youth Symphony, featuring Peru Elementary alumnus Jennifer Antkowiak on the flute.

Parkside School Principal

Ms. Madden reported:

- Students were involved in a 3rd quarter attendance challenge which improved attendance during ISAT testing earlier this month. The 96% attendance rate made make-up testing much smoother than in past years.
- Ms. Madden congratulated the 7th grade girls' volleyball team on their recent class 7-3A State Championship. There will be a state trophy presentation at Parkside School on Friday, March 18.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cross reported:

- Congratulations to the 7th grade girls' volleyball team for their Class 7-3A State Championship. Also, he praised coaches Kasik and Turczyn for the wonderful job they have done with the volleyball teams. Fifty-seven students took a fan bus to the tournament to support the team which was provided by the generosity of our schools PTC. Fans included the 8th grade volleyball team who were wonderful "superfans" and displayed good sportsmanship throughout these games.
- The Technology Committee will give a report from their recent meeting along with specific recommendations for purchases at the regular April Board meeting.
- As discussed at a prior Board meeting, the Policy Committee will meet as needed for special policy issues, although the Board agreed that general policy changes will simply be presented to the Board as a first reading one month, and recommended for adoption at the following meeting. Mr. Cross will present the latest recommended changes in policies which are provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards at an upcoming meeting.
- The Board will also need to hold a hearing before the end of the spring to permanently waive certain school district holidays. However, the district will always have the option to be in attendance on a holiday they chose to waive. In the past, school districts were required to have a hearing every five years, but the waiver process has been simplified.

Review of the Strategic Plan Final Draft

The Board discussed the Strategic Plan Final Draft. They agreed that some rewording in the success indicators needs to be changed. Science will be added to success indicator 2.4.1. Mr. Cross will distribute this copy of the plan to the staff for feedback and will share that information with the Board at the regular April meeting. The Board would like to review the plan for progress every six months.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the Recommended Bid for Construction of Parkside School Storage Facility

A bid opening was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. for the construction of a storage facility at Parkside School. A low bid of \$65,500 was received from Brandt Construction of Morris. Board members shared their opinions regarding the cost of the facility and the timeliness of constructing the building with remaining Parkside Bond funds. Mr. Cross pointed out that while the previous bids came in far over the construction budget, this time the low bid was within the construction budget after the project was scaled down considerably. Member Kampwerth stated that he thought this was too much to spend for this particular project. After some discussion, other Board members determined that there was still a definite need and after bidding the project twice, the cost was not likely to decrease in the future.

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the recommended bid for construction of Parkside School Storage Facility. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Sheppard, Pillai, Renk, and Leonatti. ABSENT: Lambole. NAYS: Kampwerth. **The motion carried 5-1.**

Approval of the Final 2010-11 School District Calendar

Mr. Cross reported that each spring the Board must approve a final school district calendar for the current year. The final amended 2010-11 calendar will be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education. Changes in the calendar include the two emergency days used in February due to a snowstorm.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the final 2010-11 school district calendar. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Establishment of Date, Time and Location for Special Board of Education Meeting

Due to the timeline of the canvassing of votes and the date of the regular Board of Education meeting in April, a special meeting for the purpose of Board organization, election of officers and appointment of committees needs to be established.

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to establish Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the choral room at Parkside School as the date, time and location for a special board of education meeting. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Renk, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel; and to discuss information related to employee salaries, benefits, and issues related to collective bargaining. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, and Pillai. ABSENT: Lambole. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 7:38 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Resignations

Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the resignation of Terri Essl as teacher aide at Northview School at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Requests for Retirement

Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve a request for retirement from Parkside School teacher Judy Cary at the conclusion of the 2013-14 school year. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve a request for retirement from Parkside School teacher Rose Riva at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve a request for retirement from Washington School teacher Debbie Rounds at the conclusion of the 2013-14 school year. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal of Non-Certified Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal of Linda Biancofiore-Swain as a teacher aide at Parkside School at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Re-Employment of Non-Tenured Staff for 2011-12

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the re-employment of non-tenured faculty for the 2011-12 school term as follows:

Fourth Year: Wes Miller, Heather Smigel, Jason Thompson, Jennifer Pettinger and Tony Cerveny

Third Year: Dinelle Wood, Rhonda Becker-Giachetto, Tom Foust, Tracey Jaegle and Sarah Krich.

Second Year: : Michele Smudzinski, Beth Derango, Alexis Rebholz, Lindsay Ferrari, Julie Peffley, Mary Covert, Jennifer McCollum, Rachel Pett, Lisa Goddard and Cassie Rissman

First Year: Jennifer Calhoun, Kaitlin Kubasiak and Mary Knaub

Part-Time: Lynn Siska, Jamie Peel and Abby Salomone

Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Re-Employment of Building Administrators for 2011-12

Motion: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to re-employ Northview School Principal Sara McDonald, Washington School Principal Melissa Bosnich, Parkside School Principal Lori Madden, and Parkside Dean of Students Sherri Pannier for the 2011-12 school year. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary