

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
APRIL 13, 2011, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of April 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, April 13, 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, Sherri Pannier, Lois Edgcomb, Eric Heagy, Tristan Chapman, Shelly Chapman, Chloe Cinotto, Michelle Cinotto, Abby Coutr , Beth Coutr , Katie Galas, Rachel Galas, Michael Galas, Taylor Gibson, Nicci Gibson, Abby Happ, Carol Happ, Lynda Kasik, Julia Pohar, Jill Pohar, Jasmine Rau, Elvis Woodruff, Lauren Spelich, Maureen Spelich, Samantha Taylor, Kim Taylor, Alli Zeman, Sue Zeman, and Jeff Dankert.

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the meeting agenda of April 13, 2011. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Lamboley, Kampwerth, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A congratulatory letter to the 7th grade volleyball team for their recent state championship was received from City of Peru Mayor Scott Harl. A thank you note was received from Rose Riva for the Board's invitation to the Excellence in Education Banquet in honor of her retirement; regrettably, she is unable to attend. A thank you note was received from Kelli Pryde-Funfsinn for the flowers sent in remembrance of her father.

RECOGNITION OF THE I.E.S.A. CLASS 7-3A STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS

Mr. Cross introduced the 7th grade volleyball team and Coach Kasik. He, along with Principal Madden, congratulated the entire team, their parents and the coaches for a wonderful and successful season. They are the first team in the district's history to capture a state championship title. Coach Kasik thanked the staff, administration and the Board for all of their support throughout the entire season. On behalf of the Board of Education, President Leonatti and Superintendent Cross presented each of the girls with a certificate of recognition.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- March 16, 2011 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- March 16, 2011 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- March 31, 2011 Building and Grounds Committee Minutes

- April 7, 2011 Technology Committee Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer Eric Heagy presented his quarterly report. He reported the weighted average rate of return on all deposit accounts is 1.39%. The brokered accounts with Vezzetti Capital Management have a yield of 1.65%, while the cash management accounts with Peru Federal Savings Bank have a rate of 0.85%. He explained the balancing of investment yields. Mr. Heagy feels the district's financial returns are as good as can be expected at this time of low rates.

School District Attorney's Report

As part of a service to the district, Peru Elementary School District Attorney Walter Zukowski spoke to the Board. First of all, he congratulated the Board on the success of Parkside School. He feels the community relies on its schools and businesses to maintain its success and support. Mr. Zukowski spoke to the Board about some proposed legal changes regarding TIF (Tax Increment Financing) and how the TIF districts are allowed to spend their monies. There was also some discussion regarding proposed forced consolidation/reorganization changes within the State of Illinois. Board members took the opportunity to ask a few questions and thanked Mr. Zukowski for sharing his time.

Building and Grounds Committee Report

Mr. Cross informed the Board that our district was awarded the School Energy Efficient Grant. Of the 399 applications, 155 were awarded and our district came in at number 120. The district's grant award matches funding dollar for dollar up to \$250,000. There is a 2 year timeline in which to finish projects, so the district is likely looking at completing projects in the summer of 2012. It is unclear when the grant money will be paid to the district. Energy efficient lighting projects at Washington and Northview schools and a boiler replacement project and entrance vestibule at Northview were approved in the grant.

This summer's maintenance proposals are ranked by most needed and the costs are estimated based on history. The total costs for summer projects at Northview and Washington are estimated to be \$84,000. At Parkside this summer, a Home of the Raiders mural will likely be painted in the gymnasium and partially funded with donations from the graduating classes of 2007 and 2008. Lastly, Mr. Cross reported Parkside Middle School received a design award from a National School Boards Association publication, *Learning by Design* magazine. This is the second major design award Parkside School has received.

Technology Committee Report

The committee is recommending purchases of over \$71,000 for technology hardware next year for Northview and Washington schools. The committee is taking a conservative approach to purchases without losing ground with technology due to unsure funding. Ms. Pannier explained the focus is on Northview next year with the replacement of 60 desktop computers. Teachers feel students at this age level use desktops more manipulatively than laptops. In addition, the cost of desktops are significantly lower. The addition of several Smart Boards will complete the classrooms at Northview. At Washington School, additional Smart Boards will be installed. iPads will be purchased for certain classrooms in the district, partially through a grant.

District Enrollment Update

Mr. Cross reported on the significant increase in enrollment over the past several years. The purpose of sharing this information tonight coincides with some decisions which will need to be considered regarding 2011-12 staffing needs in certain grade levels.

2011-12 Cost Saving Recommendations

Mr. Cross reported he will have some cost saving recommendations to discuss during the Executive Session portion of tonight's meeting.

Member Renk left the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Principals' Reports

Northview School Principal

Mrs. McDonald reported:

- A Family Food Fun Night was held recently at Northview. This successful event was coordinated by our nurse intern, Melissa Mata. Children and parents participated in fun nutrition activities.
- The annual Family Reading Night was a huge success. More than 300 children and 150 parents participated. Mr. Cross was a guest reader.
- There are now 75 children registered for Kindergarten next fall, with 17 more who should possibly be registering. Last year at this time there were 84 children registered.
- Preschool registration stands at 60, with 21 students on the list. Due to next year's 2:15 p.m. dismissals on Wednesdays, Mrs. McDonald is proposing to change the start times for the a.m. and p.m. preschool students. She feels the traffic congestion at drop-off and pick-up will be much improved. The teachers feel positive towards the change.

Washington School Principal

Mrs. Bosnich reported:

- The 3rd grade students took a field trip to Aurora to see Slim Goodbody. They saw two programs, Lighten UP! And Bodyology. The programs were informative and much enjoyed by the students.
- On March 18, 4th graders attended a concert at LP High School presented by the Illinois Valley Youth Symphony. The students enjoyed the live orchestra.
- For two days, Star Lab was set up at Washington School. Students visited the portable, inflatable planetarium and enjoyed the presentation by Mrs. Grivetti.
- The Behavior Incentive Program is doing well. Many students enjoyed the 3rd quarter behavior incentive and were allowed to bring a stuffed animal or pillow pet to school where they read books in the gym and had a snack.
- Because the annual Young Authors is being held during our spring break, our district will recognize those students sometime in May.

Parkside School Principal

Lori Madden reported:

- Sixth grade students recently went on the very popular field trip to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. The seventh graders went to the interactive Lincoln Museum. The trips were enjoyed by all students.
- Ms. Madden received over 100 applications for the 5th grade and 7th grade social science positions. Ms. Madden and Ms. Pannier will interview 10-12 applicants and narrow this down to 4 or 5 before they will set up interviews with a committee. Employment recommendation will likely be made at the May Board of Education meeting.

- The spring musical was a huge success. Ms. Madden commented how nice it was to see all of the students shine. As an added feature this year, a Brunch with Belle was hosted by the actors prior to the Saturday matinee and was enjoyed by over 100 people.
- The second annual Parkside School Honors Breakfast will be held on May 17 & 18.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cross reported:

- The reorganization meeting for the Peru Elementary School District 124 Board of Education will be held on Thursday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the choral room at Parkside School. This complies with the allotted 28 days from the time of the consolidated election.
- Mr. Cross explained the recent 2011 Financial Profile Score from the Illinois State Board of Education. The district's rating of "recognition" for the last nine years has moved to "review", as expected. Several factors can be attributed to this change such as the planned expenses incurred for renovation projects at Northview and Washington schools in FY10, the construction of Parkside School and the lack of state funding for FY10. He anticipates the status will move back to "recognition" unless state funding falls short again.
- Mr. Cross gave a report on the tax extension from the December 2010 levy. He provided the Board with a 12 year history of tax rates and extensions. He explained it is down somewhat this year for the first time in recent history. Mr. Cross believes this will have a large impact on local revenues considering the anticipated decreases in General State Aid for fiscal year 2012.
- A meeting was held for parents of 8th grade students regarding the annual graduation party. Ms. Pannier led the meeting and received positive feedback about some changes being made this year.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of the Strategic Plan for Peru Elementary School District 124

Mr. Cross reported he received much positive feedback and several suggestions from the staff regarding the Strategic Plan. Once adopted, he will update the Board on the accomplishments of the plan's goals and strategies twice a year.

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to adopt the Strategic Plan for Peru Elementary School District 124. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Sheppard, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, and Lamboley. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Renk. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended Summer 2011 Maintenance Projects

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the recommended summer 2011 maintenance projects. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Lamboley, Kampwerth, Pillai, Sheppard, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAY: None. ABSENT: Renk. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended 2011-12 Technology Purchases

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the recommended 2011-12 technology purchases. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Gustat, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Sheppard, and Leonatti. NAY: None. ABSENT: Renk. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of FY12 Facility Lease Agreement for the LEASE Pre-Primary Keys Program

Mr. Cross and Mrs. McDonald reported on the LEASE Pre-Primary Keys Program and how the program and staff has fit into Northview. Mr. Cross noted the only change in the agreement will be language to include the addition of a daily per diem rate for an extra 20 days in June for extended school year.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the FY12 Facility Lease Agreement for the LEASE Pre-Primary Keys Program. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:

Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAY: None. ABSENT: Renk. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of 2011-12 Student Registration Fees

Mr. Cross is recommending there be no increase in registration fees for next school year. He noted there has been an increase in participation in the breakfast program at Parkside School. He will give a full breakfast/lunch program report in June or July.

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the 2011-12 student registration fees. AYE 6, NAY 0, ABSENT 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of 2011-12 Athletic Admission Fees

Mr. Cross is recommending the Board increase admission prices at athletic events from the current \$1 for non Peru students and senior citizens and \$2 for adults, to \$2 for all students, including our district students and senior citizens and \$3 for adults.

MOTION: Moved by Member, seconded by Member, to approve the 2011-12 athletic admission fees. AYE 6, NAY 0, ABSENT 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:40 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: Kampwerth, Pillai, Sheppard, Leonatti, Gustat, and Lamboley. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Renk. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Renk returned to the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Approval of Recommended 2011-12 Cost Saving Recommendations

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard to approve the recommended 2011-12 cost saving recommendations of reducing one full-time teaching position, reducing or not replacing certain special education staff and teacher aides and other miscellaneous cost saving recommendations totaling roughly \$167,700. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, and Lamboley. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Resignations

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the resignation of Abby Salomone effective at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of 2011-12 Non-Union Employee Salaries

Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the Non-Union Employee Salaries for Fiscal Year 2012 as recommended. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the 2011-2016 Contractual Agreement with Peru Elementary School District 124 Food Service Employees, Local Union 138

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the 2011-16 Contractual Agreement with Peru Elementary School District 124 Food Service Employees, Local Union 138. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the 2011-2016 Contractual Agreement with Peru Elementary School District 124 Custodial Service Employees, Local Union 138

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Renk, to approve the 2011-16 Contractual Agreement with Peru Elementary School District 124 Custodial Service Employees, Local Union 138. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, kampwerth, Lamboley, and Pillai. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary