

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124
October 15, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of October of the Board of Education of Peru Public Schools District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Library at Washington School, 1325 Park Road, Peru, IL, by Board President Jyll Leonatti, on Wednesday, October 15, 2008, at 6:04 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 Lambole, C. G. Pillai, Jim Renk, Vice President Bob Etheridge, and President Jyll Leonatti. ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, District Secretary Kim Vezzetti, Lucy Frasco, Eric Heagy, Jake Been, Lori Madden, Melissa Bosnich, Sara McDonald, Maryhelen Bidasio, Paula Leggett, Tom Foust, Jeana Davis, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the meeting agenda of October 15, 2008. Voting Aye: Kampwerth, Gustat, Lambole, Pillai, Renk, Etheridge, and Leonatti; Voting Nay: None. **Motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Lori Madden introduced Tom Foust, the new Choral Director and General Music teacher.

Maryhelen Bidasio presented the board with a plaque in remembrance of those teachers with 20 or more years of service to our district who are now deceased. The memorial was created through a generous donation by the family of Betty Whitaker Jensen. Magazines for Northview School were also purchased with this donation.

Jeana Davis, a parent of children in our district, asked the board to consider soccer as an extracurricular sport at Peru Public Schools. She told the board of the success of the soccer program at the former elementary district her children attended.

PUBLIC HEARING TO WAIVE THE LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COST CAPS

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lambole, to enter the public hearing to waive the limitation on administrative cost caps. Voting Aye: Kampwerth, Lambole, Pillai, Renk, Etheridge, Leonatti, and Gustat; Voting Nay: None. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Explanation of Administrative Cost Caps

Mr. Cross explained that a school district's budgeted "administrative expenditures" may not increase more than five percent over the prior year's actual administrative expenditures. Because our district did budget higher, a resolution must be filed with the Illinois State Board of Education. The limitation will then be waived.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to exit the public hearing to waive the limitation on administrative cost caps. Voting Aye: Kampwerth, Pillai, Lamboley, Renk, Etheridge, Leonatti, and Gustat; Voting Nay: None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- September 17, 2008 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- September 17, 2008 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- September 29, 2008 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- October 8, 2008 Board Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

Voting Aye: Renk, Kampwerth, Pillai, Etheridge, Leonatti, Gustat, and Lamboley; Voting Nay: None.
Motion carried 7-0.

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2008 District Financial Statements and Independent Audit

Lucy Frasco presented the annual Audit Report for Peru Public Schools. She presented an overview of the Financial Statements and Independent Certified Public Accountants' Reports prepared by Wilcoxson & Associates, Ltd. Mrs. Frasco reviewed revenues, expenditures and fund balances for FY08. Mrs. Frasco reported the district had a very clean audit and ended the year with strong balances in all of its funds.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer Eric Heagy presented the Quarterly Treasurer's Report for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2008. He reported our portfolio is doing better than average and we are getting good rates on our CD's. He also gave a brief explanation of securities and collateral for deposits over \$250,000.

Principals' Reports

Mrs. McDonald reported on the new assessment instrument, AimsWeb. This tool allows all grade levels to be tested in the areas selected. The students will be assessed three times throughout the year. The program is web-based which allows for easy access to various reports. She also reported that the staff at Roosevelt is very pleased with TeacherEase, the new student management system.

Ms. Madden reported that Washington School applied for and received a grant to send teachers and administration to the Raising Student Achievement Conference at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. The conference features nationally acclaimed speakers and various administrator academies. Also, like the Roosevelt staff, Washington staff is equally pleased with TeacherEase.

Mrs. Bosnich reported on a program called Great Leaps for reading intervention, along with a report on MAP testing and the possibility of a school-wide behavior program. Mr. Kampwerth praised the recent assembly held at Northview School, Spirit of the Eagle, presented by Jon Jordan. The speaker was impressed with the questions and knowledge the students had of Native Americans.

Presentation of 2008 School Report Card

The 2008 School Report Cards were presented by the building principals. They each highlighted on successes and areas of improvement, which is based on our school improvement plan. Dr. Pillai presented an Interactive Illinois Report Card handout comparing other area test scores to ours. The 2008 School Report Cards will be available online at the district website after Monday, October 20, 2008.

Fall Housing Enrollment Report and History

Mr. Cross presented a report on the past, current, and future enrollment projections. The data includes enrollment for current grades K-8, tracking grade 8 from their kindergarten year to present. The four-year projection sees a steady enrollment of approximately 935 students district-wide.

Update and Discussion Regarding Parkside School Project Design

Jake Been and Toni Diaz of Healy Bender & Associates presented the Board with an aerial view map of Parkside which includes the current space available for athletics/physical education. The area adjacent to this is currently one of the City of Peru's parks. There was some discussion about how long it would be until that space will be needed for our students.

The Board was given samples of three different types of terrazzo tile. They hope to have some larger samples available soon.

Three options of ceramic tile patterns for the girls and boys restrooms were presented. It was agreed upon Option 3, with the addition of the type B accents in each corner of the rooms.

Colors for stage curtains were narrowed down to charcoal, red or black. The front material of the curtains is velour and the architect will contact the manufacturer to determine the material backing of the curtains. There was also discussion which way the front or back of the curtain should face in the cafeteria, which is also the stage.

Healy Bender & Associates is offering a proposal for professional design services associated with Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment including design, selection and layout; preparation of detailed drawings and specifications; bidding and award; and contract administration services. In addition, they could also provide a type of inventory for existing buildings.

Mr. Cross proposed a "Building Transition Team" at all three schools, composed of 8-10 members including principals, teachers, custodians, and parent/community members. He explained the numerous steps of transitioning and how important it will be for everything to run smoothly.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of FY09 Illinois School Library per Capita Grant Application

MOTION: Moved by Member Rend, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the Fiscal Year 2009 Illinois School Library per Capita Grant Application. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

Adoption of Resolution to Waive the Limitation on Administrative Cost Caps for FY09

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Lamboley, to adopt the resolution to waive the limitation on administrative cost caps for Fiscal Year 2009. Voting Aye: Etheridge, Lamboley, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, and Pillai ; Voting Nay: None . **Motion Carried 7-0.**

Appointment of Board Secretary Representatives to Receive the Nomination Papers for April 7,

2009 Board of Education Election: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Renk, to appoint Kim Vezzetti and Beth Swingel as Board Secretary representatives who may also receive nomination papers for the April 7, 2009 Board of Education election. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

Approval of Proposal to Provide Professional Design Services for Furniture, Fixtures and

Equipment for Parkside School: Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve Healy Bender and Associates to provide professional design services for furniture, fixtures and

equipment for Parkside School. Voting Aye: Etheridge, Lamboley, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, Pillai, and Renk ; Voting Nay: None . **Motion Carried 7-0.**

Adoption of Resolution to Approve Recommended Third Party Administrator for Employee 403(b)

Plans: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Gustat, to adopt the resolution to approve Citizens Financial Advisors as the third party administrator for the 403(b) plan for Peru Public Schools: Voting Aye: Kampwerth, Gustat, Leonatti, Pillai, Renk, and Etheridge ; Voting Nay: None ; Abstain: Lamboley. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Motion by Member Gustat, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:01p.m. to discuss the potential purchase, sale, or lease of real estate, including the establishment of price for sale or lease of real estate. Voting Aye: Gustat, Etheridge, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, and Leonatti. Voting Nay: None. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Motion by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to return to Regular Session at 10:04 p.m. AYE: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Request for Leave of Absence

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the request for leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1994 for Kate Kolczaski. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

Approval of Request for Early Retirement

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Renk, to approve the request for early retirement for Mary Leone at the end of the 2009-10 school term. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Renk, to approve the request for early retirement for Lynne Smigel at the end of the 2010-11 school term. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the request for early retirement for Jane Mason at the end of the 2010-11 school term. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Lamboley, to adjourn at 10:06 p.m. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, District Secretary