

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124
DECEMBER 17, 2008, 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of December of the Board of Education of Peru Public Schools District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Board Conference Room at Washington School, 1325 Park Road, Peru, IL, by Board President Jyll Leonatti, on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, at 6:01 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, Jim Renk, Vice President Bob Etheridge, and President Jyll Leonatti. **ABSENT:** None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Julie Brown, Lori Madden, Sara McDonald, Jake Been, Toni Diaz, Kevin McCanna, Jeff Dankert, and Melissa Bosnich.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the meeting agenda of December 17, 2008. **ROLL CALL:** Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, Etheridge, Leonatti, and Gustat voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING FOR THE 2008 LEVY YEAR

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Renk, to enter the Truth in Taxation Hearing for the 2008 Levy Year. **ROLL CALL:** Gustat, Renk, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Etheridge, and Leonatti voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Explanation of 2008 Tax Levy

During the formal hearing, Mr. Cross presented the final 2008 tax levy. He noted there was little change from the tentative tax levy that was presented at the November 19, 2008 Board of Education Meeting. Based on a net assessed valuation of \$188.5 million, we would have a total extension of \$5,529,100, excluding Bond and Interest. Mr. Cross pointed out that the increase in the tax levy, excluding Bond and Interest, is 6.72% more than last year, which requires a Truth in Taxation Hearing. Based on projections of financial conditions, including state aide payments, Mr. Cross said the increase will be needed for staffing needs, and increases in salaries and benefits. To help offset the increase in assessed valuation, the overall tax rate will drop from approximately \$2.96 to \$2.93 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Mr. Cross noted the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments from the community. The announcement of the hearing was posted in the local newspaper per statute. No comments from the community were received during the public hearing.

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to exit the Truth in Taxation Hearing for the 2008 Levy Year. ROLL CALL: Lamboley, Kampwerth, Pillai, Renk, Etheridge, Leonatti, and Gustat voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Correspondence was read from staff members thanking the Board for the luncheon served during American Education Week and for the gift of a holiday pie; the family of former 7th grade science instructor Jay Baznik sent a note of thanks for the plant sent in his remembrance; a note of appreciation was read from the third grade team for continuing to provide the Jon Jordan Plains Indian program as part of their curriculum, and the Board was presented with personal thank you notes from Northview's third grade students describing what they learned from the presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- November 19, 2008 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- November 19, 2008 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

ROLL CALL: Kampwerth, Renk, Pillai, Etheridge, Leonatti, Gustat, and Lamboley voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Update and Discussion Regarding New Middle School Project Design

The following updates were presented by Jack Been and Toni Diaz regarding the new middle school project:

- Jack Been presented the landscaping plan for the new middle school that is already included in the contract. Mr. Been indicated the plan includes a significant amount of shrubbery which is mostly concentrated around the main entrance and the patio area. While the Board was satisfied with the size of most of the plantings, Mr. Been was asked to get a price on upgrading the 2" diameter maple trees to 4" diameter maple trees.
- Mr. Been presented four proposals to upgrade the parking lot and driveway design, which is currently based on IDOT standards, which includes a 12" stone base and 3" of asphalt. The options included adding an additional 3" layer of asphalt and using concrete instead of asphalt. Due to the high cost of the upgrades and Mr. Been's recommendation that the current plan is very good and above minimum standards, the Board decided against the upgrades.

Member Lamboley left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- Mr. Been presented two proposals for hiring a Technology Consultant for the Parkside project. The proposals are \$5,700 for planning assistance only and \$21,600 for planning and bid specs. The proposal for planning and bid specs will be presented for approval at the January 21, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

- Mr. Been presented samples for the two-sided stage curtains. The stage curtain on the gymnasium side will be grey on the front and black on the back. The curtain on the cafeteria side will be red on the front and black on the back. As a result, if there is a presentation in the gymnasium or the cafeteria, there will be a black backdrop from either side.

Mark Lamboley returned to the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

- Toni Diaz presented larger samples of the terrazzo floor that the Board had previously chosen.
- Jake Been presented three options for interior paint colors, which included one field color and three accent colors. He also presented a diagram showing where some of the accent colors would be used. The consensus of the Board was option #3, which was the boldest of the color selections. Mr. Been will prepare a rendering of the interior design of the building using the colors that were chosen.
- Mr. Been presented three proposals for demolition work at the Parkside project site. The consensus of the Board, with Vice President Etheridge dissenting on the demolition of the pavilion, was that the Board should accept Proposal 1B. In addition to the demolition of the pavilion, the proposal also includes demolition of the playground, basketball court, and restroom facility. The proposal will be submitted for approval at the January 21, 2009 Board of Education meeting. Vice President Etheridge said that the City of Peru should be contacted to see if they want the pavilion before it is demolished.
- Mr. Been reported that Change Order #2 includes a clock in the Music Room and a change from VCT to carpet in the Synergistics Room. The second change order will be presented at the January 21, 2009 Board of Education Meeting.

Principals' Reports

Sara McDonald acknowledged Roosevelt teacher Debbie Pletsch, who wrote a grant for just under \$300 to help purchase equipment for her classroom. Mrs. McDonald also reported on the progress of the Transition Team and the District Reading Curriculum Committee.

Lori Madden acknowledged staff members for helping out on the gift drive this year, including Mary Jo Sonnenberg, Lynda Kasik, and Julie Miller at Washington School, Sally Kampwerth at Northview School, and Tara Duncan at Roosevelt School. Ms. Madden also reported on the progress of Washington's Transition Team.

Mr. Cross noted that the Transition Teams are going really well at all three buildings, and it is their goal to report back to the Board of Education at the meeting on January 21, 2009.

Melissa Bosnich arrived at the meeting late due to Northview's Winter Concert being rescheduled at the same time as the Board meeting because of inclement weather conditions the previous evening. She reported that the concert went very well and was well attended. Mrs. Bosnich also reported that the "Bosnich Bucks" behavior incentive program has been very well received by Northview students.

Reports and Information from the 2008 Joint Annual Conference

Several Board members reported on conferences they attended at the 2008 Joint Annual Conference. Member Pillai, who represented our district as Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Resolution Committee, reported on some interesting resolutions that were voted on at the conference.

One resolution, which he voted against, said that board members should be paid mileage to attend board meetings.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of Resolution for Approval of the 2008 Tax Levy

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Gustat, to adopt the Resolution for Approval of the 2008 Tax Levy as presented. ROLL CALL: Etheridge, Gustat, Renk, Leonatti, Kampwerth, Lamboley, and Pillai voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing The Issuance of General Obligation Bonds

Kevin McCanna, president of Speer Financial, Inc., presented the results of the district's \$9,500,000 General Obligation Bond sale. Mr. McCanna reported that two bids were received, and he recommended that the Bonds be awarded to the low bidder of BMO Capital Markets GKST, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, at an interest rate of 4.5128%. Mr. McCanna also reported that the District received a very good A3 rating from Moody's Investors Service, reflecting the District's modest tax base but overall stable financial health due to sound financial management and healthy reserve levels.

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2009, of Peru Elementary School District Number 124, LaSalle County, Illinois. ROLL CALL: Etheridge, Kampwerth, Leonatti, Gustat, Lamboley, Pillai, and Renk voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0 at 8:41 p.m.**

Approval of Bid to Provide Mowing Services for 2009 and 2010.

Mr. Cross recommended that the Board table the approval of the bid to provide mowing services for the district until the January 21, 2009 Board of Education Meeting.

Approval of Peru Public Schools Response to Intervention (RtI) Plan

Sara McDonald reported that each district has to implement an RtI Plan which is based on School Report Card data. The purpose of the plan is to analyze and see what we need to work on. Our district's goal is to improve reading instruction, especially to low income, disadvantaged students, and ELL learners, and to increase parental involvement. Mr. Cross acknowledged Mrs. McDonald and School Psychologist Brandi Anderson-Maier for their hard work on completing this project for our district.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the Response to Intervention (RtI) Plan for Peru Public Schools. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Motion by Member Renk, seconded by Member Gustat, to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel; to discuss information related to employee salaries, benefits, and issues related to collective bargaining; to discuss the potential purchase, sale, or lease of real estate, including the establishment of price for sale or lease of real estate. ROLL CALL: Renk, Gustat, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Etheridge, and Leonatti voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Motion by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Lamboley, to return to Regular Session at 10:04 p.m. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Principal Job Description and Evaluation Instrument

The recommendation to approve the Principal Job Description and Evaluation Instrument was tabled.

Approval of Superintendent's Contractual Agreement Addendum

The recommendation to approve the Superintendent's Contractual Agreement Addendum was tabled.

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Solicitation of Offers for the Sale of the Modular Mobile Classroom.

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Pillai, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Solicitation of Offers for the Sale of the Modular Mobile Classroom. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to adjourn at 10:06 p.m. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Julie Brown, Board Secretary