

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124
JANUARY 21, 2009, 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of January 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, January 21, 2009, 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, Melissa Bosnich, Eric Heagy, Tracey Jaegle, Sandy Spelich, Mary Leone, Cinnamon Bosnich, Debbie Rounds, Tara Duncan, Chris Kelsey, Cynthia Vaske, Tom Greathouse, Courtney Balestri, Jake Been, Michelle Moore, Kevin McCanna, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the meeting agenda of January 21, 2009. **ROLL CALL:** Gustat, Pillai, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Renk, Etheridge, and Leonatti voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- December 17, 2008 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- December 17, 2008 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

Eric Heagy presented the quarterly treasurer's reported as of December 31, 2008. He reported that the district's cash management accounts currently have a balance of approximately \$2.4 million dollars with an average rate of return of 2.32%, while the Certificate of Deposit investments are earning an average

rate of return of 3.15%. Mr. Heagy also reviewed investment concentration, noting the district recently added Amcore Bank to its depositories with a \$1,000,000 Certificate of Deposit earning 3.47% interest. Mr. Heagy reported that despite current economic conditions the district continues to do very well with its investment returns and expects we should continue to earn around the 3.0% mark in the near future.

Principals' Reports

Sara McDonald reported that kindergarten report cards were recently revamped and thanked Sherri Pannier, Sue McKnight, Jeanine Sonnenberg and Stephanie Lippert for their efforts in putting together the new online kindergarten report card.

Melissa Bosnich reported the Northview to Washington transition team has been working very hard at figuring out what needs to be done next year. Mrs. Bosnich announced that the winners of the Geography Bee at Northview were fifth graders Jake Peruba in first place, Jacob Selquist in second place, and Margaret Braun in third place. Mrs. Bosnich also reported that the "Bosnich Bucks" incentive program continues to be a success and will be featured in an article in the NewsTribune.

Lori Madden reported that eighth grade came from behind to win the Accelerated Reader competition for the second quarter. For their efforts, the class will be rewarded with a free period to play music or watch a movie, while the eighth grade teachers will have an extended lunch period on the same day. Ms. Madden announced the All School Spelling Bee competition will be Thursday, January 29, at 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium. She also announced the Scholastic Honors Banquet will be held on Wednesday, March 11, at 6:00 p.m. at Celebrations 150 in LaSalle.

Presentation of Proposed 2009-2010 School Calendar Options

Mr. Cross presented two options for the 2009-2010 school calendars for the Board's consideration which have later start dates than usual due to the construction of the new Parkside Middle School. Calendar "A" has a start date of August 31, 2009, eliminates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, retains the full Spring break of six off days, and has a final report card day of June 3, 2010. Calendar "B" has a later starting date of September 8, 2009, also eliminates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, cuts Spring break back to two off days, and has a final report card day of June 7, 2009. Winter break would remain the same on both calendars. Mr. Cross pointed out that the district would apply for a waiver and celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday during school as is done now with Veterans Day. Mr. Cross would recommend the district adopt Calendar "A" and only use Calendar "B" in the event that construction is not completed in time for the earlier start date. Mr. Cross said he will distribute the calendars to the staff this week for their feedback before making a final recommendation at the February meeting.

Building Transition Team Reports and Discussions

Members of the Roosevelt to Northview and Northview to Washington Transition Teams were on hand to present some of their findings and recommendations to the Board. Tara Duncan reported that space and storage is the main concern of kindergarten and first grade staff moving to Northview. It was recommended that coat hooks with shelves above them or lockers be installed in the kindergarten and first grade hallways at Northview. Chris Kelsey addressed traffic flow concerns with the addition of preschool at Northview. Cindy Vaske reported the committee suggested removing some old carpeting, tile, and making improvements in the boys' bathroom. Mrs. McDonald also recommended which playground equipment should be kept, removed, or retrofit for the younger children moving to Northview.

Reporting from the Northview to Washington Transition Team, Mary Leone addressed concerns about the lack of storage space at Washington. Courtney Balestri spoke about the need for a Life Skills area for special education students, which ideally would be located in the current principal's office area due to its central location and access to running water and ramps. The committee's original report included completely renovating the principal and administration offices; however, due to time constraints in

completing the extensive renovations, Mrs. Bosnich presented a revised report which would postpone the renovation of the principal and administration offices until the summer of 2010. Mrs. Bosnich's recommendations for the upcoming summer include dividing the current art room into two rooms which would be used for a Reading Specialist and the Title I teacher. She also recommends the library be converted into a music room, the music room be converted to an art room, and the Synergistic Lab be converted to a library. Mrs. Bosnich also reviewed storage cabinets, shelving, and playground needs at Washington School.

District Architect Jake Been discussed a major asbestos abatement project recommended for the upcoming summer at Northview. The proposal includes removing asbestos from all areas except the gymnasium and some of the office space. Also, all galvanized pipe in the ceiling would be removed and replaced. Mr. Cross noted that the asbestos work can be paid for from the Life Safety Fund. In addition, he reported we have greatly increased the Operations and Maintenance balance in the last four years in anticipation of this change. Architects will present a cost on all recommended proposals before the Board makes any final decisions on renovations at Washington and Northview.

Update and Discussion Regarding New Middle School Project Design

Mr. Cross presented an update on Parkside change orders and reported we have spent just over \$43,000 on Change Order No. 1. Change Order No. 2, which includes site demolition of the park and pavilion, will be presented at a future Board Meeting for approval. The following change items were also presented for Board discussion and authorization to proceed:

- Upgrading trees from 2" to 4" diameter at a cost of \$35,750 – the consensus was no.
- City proposed elevation changes and added storm sewer line at \$25,075 – the consensus was yes.
- Red locker custom color at an additional \$18,000 – the consensus was yes.
- Terrazzo mascot at an additional \$12,000 – the consensus was yes.
- Change to Smartboards – to be determined.
- Mascot or school name on gym safety mats – need a cost, to be determined.
- Eliminate towel dispensers and waste receptacles at a deduction of \$2,227 – the consensus was yes.
- Eliminate four electronic hand dryers at a deduction to be determined – the consensus was yes.

The Board came to consensus on interior paint colors and followed all the recommendations as presented by designer Michelle Moore. Member Gustat expressed her preference for using brighter colors in the classrooms, while pointing out that had been discussed in past meetings. The Board followed also followed the recommendation of Jake Been to match the interior door frame color to the rubber base, although Vice President Etheridge felt the interior door frame color should match the interior window frame color instead, although the Board decided to keep the color the same. The Board also chose other interior design elements, including terrazzo field color, lights for the library area, and sconces on the outside of the library door.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Certified Seniority List for 2008-09

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Renk, to approve the 2008-09 Certified Seniority List as presented. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Support Staff Seniority List for 2008-09

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to approve the 2008-09 Support Staff Seniority List as presented. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Proposal to Provide Technology Consultant Services

Mr. Cross presented a proposal for \$18,000 from Sentinel Technologies, Inc. to provide technology consulting and bid management services for the new middle school. Mr. Cross reported he has met with the consultant, along with Lori Madden, Sherri Pannier, and Jake Been, and feels the services to be provided will be well worth the cost.

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve Sentinel Technologies as the provider for technology consultant services at Parkside School. **ROLL CALL:** Etheridge, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, and Kampwerth voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Bid to Provide Mowing Services for 2009-2010

Mr. Cross recommended the Board approve the low bid of King Landscape to provide mowing services for the district with one modification, that the mowing services be for the 2009 season only.

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Renk, to approve King Landscape to provide mowing services for the district for the 2009 season only. **ROLL CALL:** Pillai, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth and Lamboley voted Aye. Etheridge voted Nay. **The motion carried 6-1.**

Establishment of Date, Time, and Location for Special Board of Education Meeting Regarding New School Project Design

A date was not established for a Special Board Meeting..

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Motion by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel; to discuss the potential purchase, sale, or lease of real estate, including the establishment of price for sale or lease of real estate; and for the semi-annual review of Executive Session Minutes. **ROLL CALL:** Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, Etheridge, Leonatti and Gustat voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Motion by Member Renk, seconded by Member Lamboley, to return to Regular Session at 10:30 p.m. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of Approval of Release of Executive Session Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to continue to keep the Executive Session Minutes closed due to the need for confidentiality. **AYE: 7; NAY: 0. The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to adjourn at 10:31 p.m. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Julie Brown, Board Secretary