

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124**  
**February 18, 2009**

**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, February 18, 2009, 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, Jim Renk, Vice President Bob Etheridge, and President Jyll Leonatti. ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, District Secretary Kim Vezzetti, Lori Madden, Melissa Bosnich, Sara McDonald, Lois Edgcomb, Taylor Martin, Maggie Braun, Grace May, Sophie Flodstrom, Susan May, Lauren Spelich, Abby Happ, Keith Camenisch, Kathleen Camenisch, Lisa Scholle, Thomas Scholle, Tammy Carey, Amanda Fugara, Jane Charbonneau, Debra Tuptee, Betsy Braun, Matthew Braun, Steven Braun, and Jeff Dankert.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the meeting agenda of February 18, 2009. Voting Aye: Etheridge, Gustat, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, and Leonatti; Voting Nay: None. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Secretary Vezzetti read a thank you note from Kate and Bob Kolczaski for the plant sent following the birth of their baby girl.

Melissa Bosnich introduced student teachers Sara Fowler, Brenda Hartman and Mandy Fugara in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, respectively. Sara McDonald also introduced 1<sup>st</sup> grade student teacher, Stacie Koncor and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student teacher, Debra Tuptee.

**MRS. EDGCOMB AND THE PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB**

Mrs. Edgcomb had students of the Environmental Club introduce themselves. There are currently 30 students participating in the club. Club member Grace May is participating in a state-wide poster competition sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The poster theme is "Trees are Terrific in Cities and Towns."

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- January 21, 2009 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- January 21, 2009 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Report

- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

## **REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **Principals' Reports**

Ms. Madden reported AIMSWeb testing was administered by sixth grade staff to help identify those students who need intervention. Progress reports were mailed home to parents of those students currently not reaching promotion. These students will now receive extra help during their normally scheduled expo classes. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball teams will both play for Starved Conference championship on February 19 in Ottawa. For the second time, Mary Lindenmeyer has been named a 2009 IMSA Award of Excellence Recipient – for Teacher Recognition. She was nominated this year by former student, Karen Luo.

Mrs. Bosnich also reported of Aims Web testing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. She commended Chris Kelsey for receiving a grant for \$650 she applied for from Illinois Valley Fine Arts Trust Re-grant program. The grant will help fund an assembly next year entitled The Chicago Voice Exchange. Courtney Balestri, special education teacher, collected box tops for education for which the money earned went to restock Hubbard's Cupboard and Bosnich Bucks in February.

Mrs. McDonald reported that two second grade students were recognized at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Starved Rock IPA Student Recognition Breakfast on Thursday, February 19. The students were chosen by for good citizenship, respect for others, and classroom performance. Mrs. McDonald also explained the procedure and result for choosing Rigby as the new Core Reading Program for the district.

### **Finance Update**

Mr. Cross discussed the recently passed Economic Stimulus package and shared some areas of education funding the plan could impact. Mr. Cross discussed the Home Rule ½ cents sales tax revenues, which he stated will finish a little higher than projected despite the downturn in the economy. Mr. Cross publicly thanked Mayor Baker and the city council of Peru for all of their cooperation with the success of the sales tax agreement. A handout was distributed on the Parkside School Aggregate Debt Service for the General Obligation Bonds. The districts investments continue to remain healthy. The combined interest rates for current CD investments averages around 3%. Finally, the district's financial profile rating maintains its "recognition" status at 3.70. Mr. Cross explained that the 4.0 rating was not achieved due to the long term debt margin now in place from the bond issuance for the construction of Parkside School.

### **Update and Discussion Regarding Parkside School Project Design**

Mr. Cross updated the Board on the progress of construction at Parkside. The interior masonry will be completed in the coming weeks, while ceiling structures for hanging the tiles in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade wings is almost done. Mr. Cross said there were not many loose ends remaining as far as building design.

### **Update and Discussion Regarding Building Transition Planning, Construction, Renovation and Asbestos Abatement Work for Northview and Washington Schools**

Asbestos Abatement bids for Northview and Washington schools have been received and reviewed by our consultant from Midwest Environmental Consulting Services, Inc. The vast majority of the cost for the projects will be funded through the Life Safety Fund and the remainder from the Operations and Maintenance Fund. There is a possibility some of the cost could be funded by an energy grant Mr. Cross is currently working on.

A handout was distributed on proposed tentative summer transition timelines beginning on June 1, Teacher Institute Day through August 31, the 2009-10 opening day. Other information Mr. Cross shared with the Board regarding “The Big Move” includes a sample inventory sheet for all faculty and staff. The inventory sheets were compiled by Michelle Moore and Dave Jackson of Healy Bender, who recently inventoried our current three buildings. The faculty and staff members were asked to review their sheets and instructions were given for coding the inventory. The next transition team meeting will be Thursday, March 5.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **Approval of Recommended Bids for Summer 2009 Asbestos Abatement Work for Northview and Washington Schools**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the recommended bids for summer 2009 asbestos abatement work for Northview and Washington schools. Voting Aye: Pillai, Gustat, Lamboley, Renk, Etheridge, Leonatti, and Kampwerth; Voting Nay: None. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

##### **Approval of Recommended Tentative Budget for Summer 2009 Construction and Renovation Work for Northview and Washington Schools**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the recommended tentative budget for Summer 2009 construction and renovation work for Northview and Washington schools. Voting Aye: Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, Etheridge, Leonatti, and Gustat; Voting Nay: None. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

##### **Resolution Providing for the Abatement of Certain Taxes Levied for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2008, and General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2009 of Peru Elementary School District Number 124, LaSalle County, Illinois**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to pass a resolution providing for the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal of and interest on general obligation bonds (alternate revenue source), series 2008, and general obligation bonds (alternate revenue source), series 2009 of Peru Elementary School District Number 124, LaSalle County, Illinois. Voting Aye: Etheridge, Kampwerth, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, Lamboley, and Pillai; Voting Nay: None. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

##### **Approval of Date and Time for the 2009 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Renk, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the date and time of Wednesday, May 27, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. for the 2009 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

##### **Approval of the Final 2008-09 School Calendar**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to approve the final 2008-09 school calendar. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

##### **Approval of the Proposed Early and Late Start 2009-10 School Calendar**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Renk, to approve the proposed early and late start 2009-10 school calendar. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Motion by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Lamboley, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel. Voting Aye: Gustat, Lamboley, Etheridge, Leonatti, Kampwerth, Pillai, and Renk. 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 9:04 p.m. AYE: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

## **ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **Approval of Resignations**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the resignation of Lois Edgcomb as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Environmental Club sponsor at the end of the 2008-09 school term. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to approve the resignation of Dan Burkart as the 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball coach at the end of the 2008-09 school term. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

### **Approval of Request for Leave of Absence**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to approve the request for leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1994 for Dana Dawson. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion Carried 7-0.**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Renk, to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. Aye: 7; Nay: 0. **Motion carried 7-0.**

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Jyll Leonatti, Board President

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Kim Vezzetti, District Secretary