

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124  
MARCH 18, 2009, 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the month of March 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, March 18, 2009, at 6:08 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, Sherri Pannier, Jake Been, Michelle Moore, and Jeff Dankert.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the meeting agenda of March 18, 2009. **ROLL CALL:** Pillai, Gustat, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Renk, Etheridge, and Leonatti voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Secretary Brown read a note from Coach Lynda Kasik and members of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team thanking the Board and Administration for their support and for transporting the team via charter bus to the volleyball state tournament.

Lori Madden congratulated the sportsmanship and outstanding play of both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball teams during the season. Ms. Madden presented a letter she received from a fan of the opposing Mason City team during the 7<sup>th</sup> grade state tournament who also commended the girls for their excellent sportsmanship.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- February 18, 2009 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- February 18, 2009 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- March 10, 2009 Technology Committee Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

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

### **Principals' Reports**

Lori Madden reported that Washington School has been planning curriculum and ordering new textbooks for the upcoming school year, including health textbooks for a new fifth and sixth grade health class, and reading books for a novel-based literature curriculum.

Melissa Bosnich reported that Northview students will be participating in a nation-wide simultaneous reading of the Gettysburg Address at 9:30 a.m. on February 12 in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record.

Sara McDonald commended Roosevelt teachers for the excellent job in implementing the Guided Reading intervention program in their classrooms during this school year and commended them for their efforts. Also, Mrs. McDonald reported that the Family Bingo-Spaghetti Night was well attended by both Northview and Roosevelt students and thanked the Parent Teacher Club for sponsoring the annual event.

### **Preschool Report**

Mrs. McDonald presented a report which described past history of the district's paid preschool program and her concerns for reinstating a tuition-based preschool in the district. The report also included research on districts that currently have tuition-based preschools, at-risk grant-funded preschools, or a combination of the two. Mrs. McDonald said that very few districts have a paid preschool only program and that "blending" at-risk students with regular preschool students is considered best practice and has become very popular. Mrs. McDonald recommended that the Board consider a grant-funded at-risk preschool for 120 three and four-year olds in the 2009-10 school year, and then consider adding a paid preschool the following year. Mrs. McDonald reviewed the at-risk factors that would qualify students for the program and announced that April 21-22 has been set for screening for the program, with the assistance of the LEASE preschool team. She said that students not qualifying as "at risk" would be able to fill in any spots that were open, but stressed the importance of serving the neediest students first.

After considerable discussion and exploring different options, Mrs. McDonald was directed to do further research into offering a preschool program that would be available to all Peru students. During the planning stages of the new middle school, many community members who responded to a task force questionnaire chose reinstating the preschool as a top priority for the school district. Therefore, the Board's overall consensus was that preschool should be available to all students in the district. Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Cross will continue to research and explore the possibilities of blending a grant-funded at-risk program with a tuition-funded or district-funded program. Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Cross will report their findings at the April 1 Special Board meeting.

### **Financial Report**

Mr. Cross presented a Construction Draw Schedule which includes monthly disbursements and earnings from the district's Bond Proceeds Account with Vezzetti Capital Management. Mr. Cross reported the account currently shows earnings of \$113,477 and hopes it will end in the \$200,000 range for total interest earned, but he noted the account is drawing down very quickly with monthly construction payments.

Mr. Cross also presented a report showing the monthly revenue on the half cent sales tax collected by the City of Peru during 2008. The total collected was \$1,859,174 and the city will pay the district's share of \$1.349 million by December 15, 2009. This will cover the district's first debt service payment of \$1.227 million plus 10 percent, and the city will keep the extra remaining amount per the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peru.

### **Technology Committee and Coordinator Report**

Sherri Pannier reviewed minutes of the Technology Committee Meeting of March 10, 2009. She reported that the District-Wide Technology Plan will have to be revised next year. Also, new internet safety laws will go into effect for grades three through twelve, and the Board will need to approve a plan before the start of the 2009-10 school year. Ms. Pannier reported that there will be no major computer purchases for the 2009-10 school year, but there will be a need for a couple of new printers and three or four LCD projectors.

Mr. Cross and Ms. Pannier also reviewed the letter of recommendation from the District's Technology Consultant Frank Kristoff of Sentinel Technologies. Mr. Cross stressed that the recommended bids were those that both met our criteria and were the lowest bid. Based on these criteria, Ficek Electric was the recommended bidder for the Voice over IP Telephone System at \$27,268. Although CDW-G did not initially meet the criteria for the audiovisual systems, they did come back and meet the criteria and were the lowest bidder at \$88,974. CDW-G was also the lowest responsible bidder for the network switching and wireless access point infrastructure at \$191,305. Mr. Cross noted that once the bids are approved, our technology consultant will go through each project with the winning bidder and make sure everything is done to specifications.

Ms. Pannier also reported the technology committee has looked at the need for additional mobile labs due to the extra grade level and also recommended two Smartboards at each grade level at Parkside.

### **Presentation and Review of Recommended Reading Series for Peru Public Schools**

Sara McDonald distributed a cost proposal for the reading series recommended by the Reading Curriculum Committee. Mrs. McDonald reported that the committee's recommendation is for the Rigby Literacy by Design series because of its overall focus on improving student learning and achievement. She noted the series supports a balanced approach that teaches students at their level, which works well with RTI and Guided Reading and also focuses on ELL learners. Mrs. McDonald and the administration recommended the Board accept grand total proposal of \$82,363.93. This includes all books, programs and teacher guides.

### **Update and Discussion Regarding Parkside School Project Design and Planning for the Purchase of Necessary Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment**

Mr. Cross reported that he and Lori Madden met with Michelle Moore for several hours during the day for the purpose of finalizing some furniture and equipment selections. Selections that were made and presented to the Board for their approval included office furniture, team center chairs, teacher desks, tables and chairs for the art room, science rooms, and library, and library lounge chairs. Mr. Cross said the material that was chosen for the curtain divider between the stage and cafeteria is no longer available and a replacement material from another manufacturer was chosen.

The pros and cons of using cafeteria tables with fixed seats or movable seats were also discussed, as well as options for different sizes and shapes of the cafeteria tables. Mrs. Moore will provide renditions of the cafeteria space showing various options of using both round and oval shaped tables before the Board makes a final decision.

Mr. Cross reported that the music stands and chairs for the band room will need to be replaced, and Band Director Phil Whaley will request a manufacturer for those items. Mr. Cross also pointed out that we still need to furnish the Fitness Room which will be costly, but that should not be a problem as we are still well under budget. Bid Documents for Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment will be presented to the Board on April 1 for final approval.

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

District Architect Jake Been presented a Draft of the 2009 Renovation Work for Northview School and Washington School and briefly reviewed specifications and bidder responsibility criteria that will go into the bid documents. Mr. Been noted that one general contractor will be responsible for both buildings with a completion date of August 17. He briefly reviewed renovation plans at Northview, and presented samples of floor tile designs for the hallways. Mr. Been recommended the bid documents include the removal of exposed pipes in bathrooms located in some of Northview's classrooms. Due to the expense, the Board decided against the architect's recommendation to enclose the pipes in a pipe chase in a closet on the backside of in the bathrooms. As an alternative, the pipes will be left exposed in the bathrooms and insulated. It was also decided that the display case will be removed from the hallway, with tackboard installed in the recessed area. Mr. Been said due to the unknown condition of the wall behind the display case, it may be necessary to add a change order to complete the work. Mr. Been also reviewed the work to be completed by the contractor at Washington School, and the work that could be completed by the district's custodial staff. It was decided that the custodial staff could move the circulation desk to the new library and also remove the shelves in the art room before the construction project begins. Options for using either VCT floor tile or an epoxy floor for the art room floor were also discussed, but a final decision was not made. Final Bid Documents will be presented at the April 1 Board of Education meeting for approval.

Further discussion on these agenda items was postponed for a future Board of Education meeting.

### **Discussion Regarding Board of Education Policy 8:25 – Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Entities**

The Board discussed and reiterated its policy of not distributing materials to students, under any circumstances, from any organization or activity unless it is a not-for-profit organization. Mr. Cross must approve all materials provided by non-school entities that are distributed to students.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Approval of Recommended Bids for Parkside Technology Purchases**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Renk, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the bid of Ficek Electric for telephone systems at Parkside at a cost of \$27, 267.12; to approve the bid of CDW-G to provide audiovisual components at Parkside at a cost of \$88,973.87; and to approve the bid of CDW-G to provide networking and wireless components at Parkside at a cost of \$191,304.93. ROLL CALL: Renk, Gustat, Lamboley, Pillai, Etheridge, Leonatti, and Kampwerth voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Adoption of Recommended Reading Series for Peru Public Schools**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Pillai, to adopt Rigby's Literacy by Design as our K-5 Reading Series as recommended. ROLL CALL: Etheridge, Pillai, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, and Lamboley voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Approval of Parkside Construction Change Order**

Mr. Cross presented a change order to provide site modifications to a concrete walk, ramp, pavement, and curb as recommended by the City of Peru for \$25,075 and a change order to provide a terrazzo mascot in the Parkside's lobby for \$12,485, for a total of \$37,560.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve Parkside Construction Change Orders as presented. ROLL CALL: Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, Etheridge, Leonatti, and Gustat voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **Approval of the Peru Public Schools District 124 403(b) Plan**

Mr. Cross explained that it was still necessary to approve the formal Peru Public Schools District 124 403(b) Plan even though all of the components of the plan were already approved by the Board at its December meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by member Pillai, to approve the Peru Public Schools District 124 403(b) Plan. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **Establishment of Date, Time, and Location for Special Board of Education Meetings Regarding Discussion and Action on Parkside School Project Design and Northview and Washington School Transition and Construction Planning**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to approve Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Washington School Library as a Special Board Meeting to further discuss Preschool planning and to approve Northview and Washington School Bid Documents; to approve Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Washington School Library as a Regular Board of Education Meeting to replace the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2009; and to approve Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library at Washington School as a Special Board of Education Meeting for accepting bids for construction projects at Northview and Washington Schools and as its reorganizational meeting following the April 7, 2009 Board of Education Election.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Motion by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, 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 information related to employee salaries benefits, and issues related to collective bargaining; and to discuss the potential purchase, sale, or lease of real estate, including establishment of price for sale or lease of real estate. ROLL CALL: Kampwerth, Pillai, Etheridge, Leonatti, Gustat, Lamboley, and Renk voted Aye. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**MOTION:** Motion by Member Renk, seconded by Member Gustat, to return to Regular Session at 11:12 p.m. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **Employment of Recommended Personnel**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the employment of Todd Harzheim as a technology intern during the summer of 2009. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to approve the employment of Dinelle Wood as a musical choreographer for the 2008-09 school term. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Approval of Resignations**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the resignation of Stacie Jermenc effective at the conclusion of the 2008-09 school term. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the resignation of Amanda Morris effective at the conclusion of the 2008-09 school term. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **Approval of Retirements**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the early retirement of Ellyn Hylla effective at the conclusion of the 2011-12 school term. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **Re-Employment of Non-Tenured Staff for 2009-10**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the re-employment of non-tenured faculty for the 2008-09 school term as follows:

Fourth Year (re-employment results in tenure): Sue Atilano, Carolyn Bryant, Dan Burkart, Melissa Johnson, Tara Duncan, Tara DeFosse, Chris Goodman, and Lori Turczyn

Third Year: Dana Dawson, Brandi Anderson-Maier, Courtney Balestri, Justin Sullivan, Debbie Pletsch, Melissa Cass, and Abby Trigg

Second Year: Heather Smigel, Angie Groezinger, Jason Thompson, Wes Miller, Jennifer Pettinger, and Tony Cerveny

First Year: Dinelle Wood, Sarah Hurlburt, Rhonda Becker-Giachetto, Tom Foust, and Pamela Cronkright

Part-Time: Lynn Siska

Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **Re-Employment of Building Principals for 2009-10**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Pillai, to re-employ Washington Principal Lori Madden, Roosevelt Principal Sara McDonald, and Northview Principal Melissa Bosnich for the 2009-10 school term. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **Employment of 2009 Summer Custodial Personnel**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Etheridge, seconded by Member Lamboley, to employ Lore Jones, Holly Buczkowski, Sharon Strauch, Diana Pattelli, Tammy Carey, Justin Sullivan (1/2 Time) and Wes Miller (1/2 Time) as summer 2009 custodial personnel. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal of Non-Certified Personnel (Teacher Aide)**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Renk, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal of Ann McIntyre as a teacher aide at Northview School at the conclusion of the 2008-09 school term. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Etheridge, to adjourn at 11:15 p.m. Aye: 7, Nay: 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

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Jyll Leonatti, Board President

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Julie Brown, Board Secretary