

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124
JULY 15, 2009, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of June of the Board of Education of Peru Public Schools District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Conference Room at Washington School, 1325 Park Road, Peru, IL, by Board President Jyll Leonatti, on Wednesday, July 15, 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 Simon Kampwerth, Mark Lamboley, C. G. Pillai, Jeff Sheppard, Vice President Jim Renk, and President Jyll Leonatti. ABSENT: Member Cynthia Gustat.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Julie Brown, Eric Heagy, Bob Etheridge, Jennifer Nagle, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the meeting agenda of July 15, 2009. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Sheppard thanked members of the board for the card sent following his recent surgery.

Member Pillai reported he attended an Advance Illinois breakfast meeting, an education reform group which hosted Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Secretary Duncan spoke about ways to bring about reform in education in the state of Illinois. Some of the items discussed were National Board Certification for teachers, pay based on performance, and the establishment of more charter schools.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Cross presented an additional bill listing which included a payment in the amount of \$77,780 to Zukowski Law Offices, Real Estate Fund Account. The payment will be made if the Board approves the purchase of real estate which will be discussed later in the meeting during Executive Session.

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

- June 17, 2009 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- June 17, 2009 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Pillai, Lamboley, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer Eric Heagy presented reports for the end of the fourth quarter and the end of Fiscal Year 2009. He reported there is currently about \$3 million in the district's cash management accounts with an average rate of return of .86%, there is \$4.5 million invested in certificates of deposits with an average rate of 3.13%, and \$4.9 million in the bond proceeds account earning around 1.0% interest. Overall, the district's total cash and investments at the end of the fourth quarter were just under \$12.5 million with an average rate of return of 1.73%. Mr. Heagy reported that interest rates are likely to remain low going into the next fiscal year, which will negatively impact investment returns.

Financial Report

Mr. Cross presented a budget update through the end of FY09 and reviewed actual revenues, expenditures, and final fund balances. Mr. Cross also provided a comparison of the final balances from the district's operational funds from FY05 to the final balances in FY09, which shows the district has increased the Education Fund by 30.24%, the Operations and Maintenance Fund by 132.33%, and the Transportation Fund by 87.35%. Mr. Cross also provided an updated Parkside School Aggregate Debt Service and City Payment Schedule.

Parkside School Construction Discussion and Update

Mr. Cross presented a list of potential quotes from 13 distinguished Americans to be placed on signs and hung in the main corridor across from the library. The Board followed the suggestion of District Architect Jake Been and chose four quotes to better balance the space. The quotes chosen were from Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Benjamin Franklin, and Maya Angelou. The Board also chose a quote from Dr. Seuss which will be placed on a sign and hung in the Library. Jake Been also presented two options for patio furniture at Parkside. The consensus of the Board was Option #2, but to eliminate the trees in the plan. The Board also requested the outdoor trash containers in the plan be replaced by trash containers with lids. Mr. Been will draw up the patio plans with the changes requested by the Board.

Northview and Washington School Renovation Discussion and Update

Jake Been reported that Sickley Construction is doing a great job maintaining their construction schedule and noted that the work at Washington is nearly done. Carpet has been installed in the music room and library at Washington, and shelves are being filled with books in the library. The work at Northview is also moving along with work starting on Phase III in the north end of the building.

Mr. Cross presented a Summer 2009 Construction and Renovation Budget Update for Northview and Washington Schools totaling approximately \$953,000. He reported that over \$200,000 of the total will be paid from the Life Safety Fund while the remainder will come from the Operations and Maintenance Fund. Quesse Moving Co. will be moving furniture and boxes from Washington to Parkside on August 3, 4, and 5. The final move, from Roosevelt to Northview, will be on August 18.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Parkside Construction Change Order

Mr. Cross recommended the approval of a change order for \$13,729.98 for the change in the colored metal roof panels at Parkside. Mr. Cross explained that the change will not cost the district anything because the architects ordered the panels in the wrong color and we have been credited for that same amount on our last bill with Healy Bender.

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the Parkside construction change order in the amount of \$13,729.98. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Sheppard, Lamboley, Renk, Leonatti, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Re-Establishment of the Working Cash Fund for FY10

Mr. Cross explained the Working Cash Fund is re-established at the beginning of each fiscal year after being abolished in June when the funds are transferred to the Education Fund so that we can collect

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lambolely, to re-establish the Working Cash Fund for Fiscal Year 2010. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Lambolely, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Peru Public Schools Teacher Evaluation Plan

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to adopt the Peru Public Schools Teacher Evaluation Plan as recommended. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended Date for the Grand Opening of Parkside School

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve Tuesday, August 25, 2009, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for the Grand Opening Ceremony and Open House for Parkside School. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of IDOT Serious Safety Hazard Findings for Parkside School

Mr. Cross presented the resolution showing the dates of the Illinois Department of Transportation findings for Northview, Washington, and Parkside schools.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the Illinois Department of Transportation Serious Safety Hazard Resolution for Peru Public Schools District 124. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Lambolely, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:06 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, VOTING AYE: Renk, Lambolely, Sheppard, Leonatti, Kampwerth, and Pillai. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:55 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Resignations

MOTION: Moved by Member Lambolely, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the resignation of Angela Groezinger as a fourth grade teacher at the conclusion of the 2008-09 school term. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Renk to approve the employment of Rachel Pett as a seventh grade language arts teacher at Parkside School for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the employment of Jennifer Cohen as a part-time Spanish instructor and a part-time teacher aide at Parkside School for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Renk to approve the employment of Linda Swain as a teacher aide at Parkside School for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Vice President Renk, to employ Wes Miller as 7th grade basketball coach and Tony Cerveny as 6th grade basketball coach for the 2009-10 school year. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Real Property

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Lamboley, to adopt the resolution authorizing the purchase of real estate located at 1215 Rock Street, Peru, Illinois 61354, for a sum of \$77,780. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Lamboley, Renk, Leonatti, Kampwerth, and Sheppard. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Gustat. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Consideration of Approval of Release of Executive Session Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to continue to keep both the written and verbatim Executive Session minutes closed due to the continued need for confidentiality. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Julie Brown, Board Secretary