

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

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 Choral Room at Parkside School, 1800 Church Street, Peru, IL, by Board President Jyll Leonatti, on Wednesday, October 21, 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, Jeff Sheppard, Vice President Jim Renk, and President Jyll Leonatti.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Julie Brown, Lori Madden, Sara McDonald, Melissa Bosnich, Ashley Heagy, Eric Heagy, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the meeting agenda of October 21, 2009. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Brown read a thank you note from Julie Miller for the flowers sent in remembrance of her father.

PUBLIC HEARING TO WAIVE THE FY10 ADMINISTRATIVE COST CAP LIMITATION

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to enter the public hearing to waive the FY10 administrative cost cap limitation. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Sheppard, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Cross explained that a school district's budgeted administrative expenditures may not increase more than five percent over the prior year's actual administrative expenditures. Because our district did budget more than five percent, the Limitation of Administrative Cost Worksheet and a resolution approved by the Board of Education must be filed with the Illinois State Board of Education. The five percent limitation will then be waived for Fiscal Year 2010. Mr. Cross said the reason the cost cap exceeded the five percent limit in the budget is due to moving half of Sherri Pannier's salary to the Dean of Students designation, which is included in certain relevant administrative expenditures line items.

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Gustat, to exit the public hearing to waive the FY10 administrative cost cap limitation. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Lamboley, Gustat, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Cross reported that after this month's payment to Vissering, there is only one more general contractor payment left for the new school construction to be paid out of the Capital Projects Fund. The final payment will include change orders and a credit in the district's favor. Other large payments remaining to

be paid from the Capital Projects Fund include furniture and equipment, flooring in the fitness room, and concrete bicycle pads. Mr. Cross also pointed out some of the larger bills in the regular bill listing to be paid from the Operations and Maintenance Fund, including Johnson Controls and Metcalf-Martin Plumbing, to wrap up some of the summer maintenance work in the other buildings. He also pointed out a very large bill from the City of Peru covers nearly two months of electrical and water service at Parkside, and noted steps have been taken to lower the bill in the coming months. The interior lights and the outdoor sign at Parkside have been adjusted to shut down earlier in the evening hours, the weekend schedule has been reprogrammed, and the number of outdoor lights left on at night will be decreased in order to cut down on the electrical costs.

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

- September 23, 2009 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Sheppard, Pillai, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, and Lamboley.
NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer Eric Heagy reported the current weighted average rate of return of the district's cash management accounts, certificates of deposit, and bond proceeds account is 1.21%, which is still much higher than the current treasury bill rate. When asked about investing the certificates of deposits for longer terms, Mr. Heagy said rates usually increase by no more than .5% from one to two years; therefore, he did not feel that longer term investments would be beneficial to the district at this time because we would be locking the investment in at a lower rate in the event the recession ends and rates do go up. Mr. Heagy also reported that the district's investment concentration is pretty evenly spread among the local financial institutions that bid on its investments.

Principals' Reports

Sara McDonald reported over 300 grandparents visited Northview School on October 15 and 16 for classroom visitation and snacks in the gymnasium. Preschool enrollment now stands at 108 students, with no students currently on the waiting list. Eleven teachers from the district are attending a two-day literacy seminar at Illinois State University focusing on where the district is going from whole group reading to differentiating instruction and small group reading, and by making sure that gifted students are getting enriched, average students are getting challenged, and low students are getting the instruction they need.

Melissa Bosnich reported that Washington School also had a very successful Grandparents Day on October 16, and will plan to expand the event next year due to the huge turnout on that day. The first fire drill at Washington was very successful with the younger students exiting the building in under two minutes. Problem solving meetings have been scheduled to help students with academic, social, or behavioral problems, and teachers meet by grade level to discuss data and ways to help the students. In order to help with the transition to the new reading program, Mrs. Bosnich is setting up teacher visitations to other districts where the reading series has been in place for a couple of years.

Lori Madden reported that for the first time the district is providing reading instruction at the middle school level. Julie Peffley, the new reading specialist at Parkside, provides reading intervention for

students at every grade level during study hall or social studies classes. Parkside has a new reading series in fifth grade, and a new literacy based series in sixth through eighth grades as well. Ms. Madden reported that Accelerated Reader is done very differently this year with goals being individualized for students. Parkside students were treated to an assembly featuring technology to make sound effects and music to kick off Red Ribbon Week. Students will participate in a variety of activities during the week to promote a drug-free lifestyle.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cross reported on several issues which are still being worked on at Parkside. The scoreboards in the gymnasium are being changed from wireless to hard-wired and each scoreboard will have its own master switch. The scoreboards should be fixed in time for the upcoming championship of the Starved Rock Conference Tournament. Mr. Cross said they are finding in newer schools it is difficult to make wireless scoreboards work because of all of the other wireless components in the building. Mr. Cross reported there was a similar problem with the wireless alarm system that the subcontractor could not work out. Ficek is now going to hardwire the alarm system and outsource Infinity for monitoring the system. In the art room, Mr. Cross said the kiln room required a different heat detector that was installed in the room, even though there is adequate ventilation for the kiln. There are still problems with the Terrazzo flooring that need to be worked out, and also with the sealer on the gym floor. The gym floor is scheduled to be resealed on December 22. Carpet installers were in the building today working on fixing various imperfections. Most of the furniture has finally been delivered, including the cafeteria tables, library shelves, and storage shelving, but we are still waiting for delivery of some teacher desks, chairs, and chairs for the library. Some items still to be completed at Parkside include the installation of the carpet in the fitness room, and shades in the offices and some of the classrooms. Mr. Cross said his goal is to have a perfect building by the end of the year.

Mr. Cross reported Roosevelt School had a successful auction and the sale to L.E.A.S.E. will go forward effective October 30, 2009, after the resolution is approved at the meeting tonight. Arrangements are being made for the playground equipment that was donated to the city of Peru to be picked up, and after the removal of the mobile classroom, Mr. Cross will make arrangements to have Pohar fill the empty space.

Mr. Cross reported that he and the principals have discussed sending correspondence regarding the H1N1 flu virus to staff and parents. Also, the district has posted information and links to the CDC guidelines, and teachers are stressing good habits in the classroom. So far the district is maintaining a very good overall attendance rate of 94%.

Fall Housing Enrollment Report and History

Mr. Cross distributed a brief enrollment report showing the average class size for each grade level. The fall housing total without preschool is 949. Enrollment including preschool is 1053. Mr. Cross said we are definitely on an uphill trend and pointed out that eighth grade grew by 18 students from kindergarten, while sixth grade grew by 17 students from last fall. Table 2 on the report shows average enrollment change annually by class, which shows that on average classes grow by 2.62% per year.

Presentation of 2009 School Report Cards, 2009-10 School Improvement Plans and Annual Report on Student Achievement and Progress in Peru Public Schools

Sara McDonald reviewed Roosevelt School's 2009 School Report Card for grades K-2. She reported that 80.2% met or exceeded State AYP standards in reading while 88.4% met or exceeded standards in math. She noted that reading is always a little weaker than math due to the ELL and Special Ed population. Mrs. McDonald said we will continue to focus on the reading curriculum, professional development for our teachers, and continue the use of data to make sure we drive instruction. Also, we will continue to make sure we have interventions for those students who need tier 2 and tier 3 interventions. In the future,

Mrs. McDonald noted we want to involve our preschool parents as much as possible by including them in more school activities and making home visits. Mrs. McDonald also reviewed her school improvement plan which focuses on three areas, including literacy, technology, and professional development.

Melissa Bosnich reported that Northview School's 2009 School Report Card for grades 3-5 shows ISAT scores are increasing, but we always want to strive to do better. She said she wants to track students' progress as they go through each grade level through the eighth grade and believes the new approach to teaching reading at their individual level will help them make more progress. Mrs. Bosnich also wants to focus more on writing. Mrs. Bosnich noted that our district does test 100% of its students while some districts only test 95% which does impact your scores and AYP. Mrs. Bosnich's school improvement plan will continue to focus on literacy, behavior improvement programs, parent communication, and problem solving especially at the tier 3 level for students who need interventions.

Lori Madden reviewed Washington School's 2009 School Report for grades 6-8. She said she was very happy with the progress and steady growth we have made in the last five years, especially in the area of math, which has been one of our school improvement goals for the last couple of years. Ms. Madden reported that up to 92% met or exceeded standards in reading and math, while at the same time the economically disadvantaged population has increased. The major goal of Ms. Madden's school improvement plan will be reading in grade 5, and literacy-based instruction in grades 6-8. Another goal is to create a positive school environment and treat everyone the same and in a positive way. Other goals at Parkside include the use of data-driven instruction to improve overall instruction, and in the area of technology to make sure we are maximizing the use of all of the technology we have.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of FY10 NCLB Consolidated Grant Application

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the FY10 NCLB Consolidated Grant Application as presented. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of FY10 Illinois School Library per Capita Grant Application

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the FY10 Illinois School Library per Capita Grant Application. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Adoption of Resolution to Waive the FY10 Administrative Cost Cap Limitation

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Vice President Renk, to adopt the resolution to waive the FY10 administrative cost cap limitation. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Lamboley, Renk, Sheppard, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, and Pillai. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Recommended Bid for Snow Removal Services

Mr. Cross reported that three bids were received for snow removal services, with the lowest total bid of \$425 per district-wide removal going to Stuart Tree Service.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve Stuart Tree Service to provide snow removal services for the 2009-10 and 2010-2011 winter seasons as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, Lamboley, Pillai, and Sheppard. NAY: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Vice President Renk, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss the potential purchase, sale, or lease of real estate, including the establishment of price for sale or lease of real estate; and to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel. ROLL

CALL: Gustat, Lambolely, Renk, Leonatti, Kampwerth, Pillai, and Sheppard. No Nays. **The motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:51 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with the LaSalle/Putnam County Educational Alliance for Special Education (L.E.A.S.E.) Cooperative for the Sale of School District Real Property Located at 2333 Sixth Street, Peru, IL

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adopt the resolution authorizing the Agreement with the LaSalle/Putnam County Educational Alliance for Special Education (L.E.A.S.E.) Cooperative for the Sale of School District Real Property Located at 2233 Sixth Street, Peru, Illinois. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Kampwerth, Gustat, Lambolely, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. NAY: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Resignations

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lambolely, to approve resignation of food service employee Jacqueline Morrell, effective October 5, 2009. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the resignation of cheerleading coach Alicia Vezzetti effective immediately. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Employment of Recommended Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Lambolely, to approve the employment of Trina Schmollinger as food service employee for the remainder of the 2009-10 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the employment of Jamie Peel and Julie Peffley as Scholastic Bowl coaches at Parkside for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the employment of Lynda Kasik as 5th grade boys basketball coach at Parkside for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the employment of Lori Turczyn as 8th grade volleyball coach at Parkside for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Requests for Leave of Absence

The motion to approve a request for a leave of absence was tabled.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Gustat, to adjourn at 8:53. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Julie Brown, Board Secretary