

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

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of November 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, November 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 Lambole, Jeff Sheppard, Vice President Jim Renk, and President Jyll Leonatti. **ABSENT:** Member C. G. Pillai.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Julie Brown, Lori Madden, Melissa Bosnich, Eric Heagy, Lucy Frasco, Dillon Schwartz, Jason Reviglio, Jonah Ravnika, Eric Woodshank, Rachel Hunt, Andrea Burkart, Abby Smith, Lindsey Mayper, Laken Wilke, Tom Foust, Philip Whaley, David Woodshank, Deb Woodshank, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the meeting agenda of November 18, 2009. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Sheppard, Renk, Gustat, Kampwerth, Lambole, and Leonatti. **NAYS:** None. **ABSNET:** Pillai. **The motion carried 6-0, Absent 1.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

RECOGNITION OF IMEA STUDENTS AND MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Parkside music teachers Philip Whaley and Tom Foust introduced band and chorus students who were selected to participate in the IMEA District II Music Festival at Augustana College. Mr. Whaley explained the IMEA selection process and noted students making IMEA are considered the best in their district. IMEA students rehearse with others in their district and participate in a concert on the same day with a guest conductor. This year Peru students far surpassed the number of students making IMEA when compared to other students in IMEA District II. Mr. Foust also reported an increase in enrollment in music at Parkside, noting that half of the students are enrolled in band, chorus, or both. The band enrollment has increased from 53 to 72 students, which Mr. Foust attributes to bringing the fifth grade into the middle school.

CONSENT AGENDA

In the extra bill listing that was handed out, Mr. Cross pointed out the district bid out a total of \$2.25 million dollars from the various funds and received rates of returns ranging from 1.21% to 1.8%, with maturity dates ranging from seven to ten months.

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

- October 21, 2009 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- October 21, 2009 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes

- November 10, 2009 Finance Committee Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Lamboley, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Pillai. **The motion carried 6-0, Absent 1.**

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2009 District Financial Statements and Independent Audit

Lucy Frasco presented the annual audit report and presented an overview of the Financial Statements and Independent Certified Public Accountants' Reports for Peru Public Schools prepared by Wilcoxson & Associates, Ltd. Mrs. Frasco reviewed revenues, expenditures and fund balances for fiscal year 2009 and reported that all of the numbers are the same as reported by the district bookkeeper at the end of June 30, 2009. She reported a loss in the Transportation Fund due to the district not receiving an additional \$28,000 in revenue from the state prior to the end of the fiscal year. The IMRF Fund also showed a loss, but there is still a good solid cash balance in that fund. The Capital Projects Fund had an expected loss due to the construction of the new school. Mrs. Frasco noted the federal stimulus money the district received was just a wash as it replaced state aid money the district should have received anyway. Mrs. Frasco reported the district had a very clean audit overall with no internal control findings.

Presentation of the Tentative 2009 Tax Levy

Mr. Cross presented the Tentative 2009 Tax Levy which he previously presented to the Finance Committee. The proposed levy is based on a net assessed valuation of \$193,000 and an estimated tax rate of \$2.9653 per \$100 of assessed valuation, keeping the tax rate almost identical to what it was the previous year. Mr. Cross indicated we are keeping our tax rates as low as possible, while still collecting enough in the operating funds to cover increases in salaries and benefits as well as other inflationary expenses. A Truth-in-Taxation Hearing will not be required when the final levy is presented for approval at the December 16, 2009 Board of Education Meeting because the tax levy increase is not more than five percent.

Principals' Reports

Mr. Cross reported that Sara McDonald was absent from the meeting due to illness, and her written report was included in the Board packet.

Melissa Bosnich reported that the first Literacy Leadership Team met with grade level representatives to discuss best practices in reading instruction, how to help students reach their highest potential, and how to best relay that information to the rest of the staff. Many students and parents attended Family Reading Night at Washington School and enjoyed the many activities which featured the theme of Reading Across the World. Mrs. Bosnich also reported an excellent turnout for the annual parent breakfast and lunch day at Washington School.

Lori Madden reported Parkside recently completed five days of hosting visitors at Parkside, beginning with the Veterans Day Assembly on November 11. The band, chorus, and eighth grade language arts students put on a terrific performance for the students, staff, and community members in attendance. On November 12 and 13, parent teacher conferences were held at Parkside. Expo teachers greeted parents at the entrance to pass out surveys for their feedback, and the results will be compiled as part of Parkside's school improvement plan. Finally, on November 16 and 17, during American Education Week, parents and grandparents were invited to have breakfast or lunch with their students and also encouraged to visit classrooms on those days.

Member Kampwerth asked the principals if the district is focusing on writing as well as reading, noting that teachers expressed concerns that the Rigby series is weaker in writing. Mrs. Bosnich said that writing is incorporated in the series, but that we do need to supplement it. Ms. Madden said we have been focusing on writing for the last couple of years, and noted that every curriculum needs to be supplemented in some way.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cross reported that the Peru Rotary Club, together with several other area Rotary clubs, delivered dictionaries to area third grade students for the second year in a row. Area Rotary members, under the coordination of Member Simon Kampwerth, delivered 432 books to sixteen area schools. The Rotary is planning to expand the program even further into Bureau County schools in the future.

Mr. Cross distributed recommendations of the IASB Delegate Assembly for the review of Board Members Mark Lambole, Delegate and Jeff Sheppard, Alternate. Board members appointed delegates from around the state will attend the assembly at the IASB Joint Annual Conference and vote on certain IASB resolutions and proposals. Mr. Cross noted the IASB is considering supporting legislation which would forbid public school employees from striking.

Mr. Cross reviewed previous discussions with the Board regarding the construction of secured entrances in the lobbies of Northview and Washington Schools, and recommended the district pursue this project for the summer of 2010. Also under consideration is the modification of the former superintendent's office at Washington into a possible principal's office suite. Mr. Cross hopes to apply for a Life Safety Amendment to cover the cost of the secured entrances. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Cross and the Building and Grounds Committee should begin to explore these options with the architects, who will need to begin the project design soon. Jake Been suggested the project should be ready to bid by February in order for it to be completed in the summer. Mr. Cross said a final decision could be made on these projects up until the time of the bid opening, but the district would still incur the costs of the architect fees.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Amendment to the Sales Tax Intergovernmental Agreement Between Peru Public Schools District 124 and the City of Peru

Mr. Cross reported the purpose of the amendment is to clarify some legal points in the document. He is still waiting to hear back from the City of Peru, but he expects the Peru City Council will approve the same amendment.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the Amendment to the Sales Tax Intergovernmental Agreement Between Peru Public Schools District 124 and the City of Peru. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Kampwerth, Gustat, Lambole, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Pillai. **The motion carried 6-0, Absent 1.**

Approval of Agreement between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and Peru Public Schools District 124 Regarding Reimbursement of Expenditures for the School-Based Health Services Program

Mr. Cross explained that the agreement is a standard document which the Board of Education must approve in order for the district to continue to participate in the Medicaid and Fee-for-Service claims programs.

MOTION: Moved by Member Lambole, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the Agreement between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and Peru Public Schools District 124 Regarding Reimbursement of Expenditures for the School-Based Health Services Program. **ROLL**

CALL, VOTING AYE: Lamboley, Renk, Sheppard, Leonatti, Gustat, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Pillai. **The motion carried 6-0, Absent 1.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, and Lamboley. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Pillai. **The motion carried 6-0, Absent 1.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 7:48 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Requests for Leave of Absence

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the request for leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 for Courtney Balestri. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Superintendent's Contractual Agreement

The motion to approve the superintendent's contractual agreement was tabled until December due to the absence of Member Pillai.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Lamboley, to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Julie Brown, Board Secretary