

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124
JANUARY 20, 2010, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of January 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, January 20, 2010, 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, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the meeting agenda of January 20, 2010. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Lamboley, Sheppard, Gustat, Kampwerth, Pillai, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you notes were received from Karole Ochs, Tim Nagle, Katie Budnick, Lori Turczyn, Mary Jo Sonnenberg, Dinelle Wood, and Lynda Kasik for the staff gift of denim or polo shirts; a thank you note was received from Rhonda Giachetto and family for the plant sent following the birth of her son; and a thank you note was received from Sara Wick expressing her appreciation for the time off to help care for her mother during her illness and the plant sent in her mother's memory.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- December 16, 2009 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- December 16, 2009 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7.1 Quarterly Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer Eric Heagy reviewed the Quarterly Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2010. Mr. Heagy said the average rate of return on the district's cash management accounts is currently .92%, .14% on bond proceeds accounts, and 1.60% on certificates of deposits, for a total average rate of return of

1.28% on all deposit accounts. Mr. Heagy pointed out that the investment concentration has shifted to Centru Bank because of higher yields in the money market account.

7.2 Principals' Reports

Sara McDonald reported that the preschool screening was held recently at Northview School for the first time, and a second screening will be held in April. Mrs. McDonald also reported that the H1N1 Clinic went well at Northview School, and over 100 students were immunized.

Melissa Bosnich reported that Washington School's H1N1 Clinic also went very well. Teachers at Washington are still enjoying visits to different schools to observe and become more comfortable with the new reading series. Mrs. Bosnich also reported that MAP testing is going very well at Washington, with students earning "Bosnich Bucks" when showing improvement from their fall scores. The principals pointed out that with MAP testing you get instant data to drive instructional improvement and change; however, it will take about 5 years to start seeing real trends. The district is currently in the third year of MAP testing.

Lori Madden reported that Parkside fifth grade teachers also participated in site visits and got a lot of great ideas in the implementation of their new reading series. Ms. Madden reported she has also arranged for visits for Parkside teachers to two schools that have been very successful with getting their special education students to progress in their language programs. Ms. Madden reported that the annual Scholastic Honors Banquet has been changed to honor students for making scholastic honors on an annual basis rather than a semester basis. The date of the banquet has not yet been set, but will be held early in the month of May.

7.3 Superintendent's Report

The LaSalle County Health Department held an H1N1 vaccination clinic in our district on Tuesday, January 12. Approximately 31% of our students participated in the clinic. Many of our students have been previously vaccinated. Children age 9 or under will require a second vaccination.

The heating coil that burst in Julie Miller's office has been repaired by Dodson Plumbing at no cost to the district.

Mr. Cross reported on an upcoming board task, which is updating the Board Policy Manual. Due to numerous changes in law, Mr. Cross recommends an IASB consultant should assist in the process of updating the manual into an electronic format where it can be updated on line. Member Kampwerth asked if it was necessary to utilize the services of IASB if simple updates were needed since we use PRESS. Mr. Cross said he will review the degree of changes, but said the manual had gotten outdated over the last couple of years with other district priorities. At some point in the near future, he will email the Board Policy Committee a few dates to have a meeting after he seeks more information about the need to utilize IASB's services. Mr. Cross said his goal was to have the policy manual updated by the fall of 2010.

Mr. Cross asked the Board of Education its preference for conducting strategic planning and goal setting, including the Board's preference on how they would like to meet. They could hold a retreat or simply discuss at a regular board meeting. After some discussion, Board members agreed that a Saturday meeting for strategic planning would be a good idea. Further details will be discussed next month.

Mr. Cross and Mrs. McDonald will have information prepared for the February board meeting regarding optional funding scenarios for next year's preschool program. He said we should not bank on any state funding and therefore, need to explore different possibilities for next year. Mr. Cross is seeking direction from the Board as far as financing for this program.

Mr. Cross received many comments about the Parkside sign, which flashes the amount of money owed to our district by the State of Illinois. Additional details are also posted on the website. Mr. Cross shared that it is unlikely public school districts in Illinois will receive their payments this year, and that it appears that the state legislature may actually significantly decrease general state aid funding for fiscal year 2011.

According to ISBE, approximately 39 percent of Illinois school districts applied for Race to the Top funding. It seems that mostly the larger districts applied. The Board of Education had previously decided to not pursue the funding.

There will be a Technology Showcase on Wednesday, January 27 at 3:30 p.m. at Parkside School. All staff and Board members are welcome to watch teacher demonstrations of SMARTboards, Netbooks, and Elmos, and also a discussion of iPod touch. This information will assist teachers in finding the best method of technology use in the classroom. Mr. Cross will update the Board on the results of this meeting.

7.4 Presentation of Proposed 2010-11 School Calendar

Mr. Cross reported he made some changes on the proposed 2010-11 school calendar based on staff suggestions. Most of the neighboring districts are following the proposed calendar, including the extended Christmas vacation, with a couple of exceptions. LaSalle Peru Township High School is starting one week earlier. Mr. Cross will present the calendar for Board approval at the February 17, 2010 Board of Education meeting.

7.5 Update and Discussion Regarding Project Design and Planning for Summer 2010 Construction and Renovation Work for Northview and Washington Schools

Mr. Cross reported that he and members Kampwerth, Leonatti, and Pillai along with the building principals met with Jake Been of Healy Bender to review bid documents for summer 2010 construction and renovation work at Northview and Washington Schools. Mr. Kampwerth said the Board is looking to put a secure entrance at both buildings, along with more parking at Northview. They asked Mr. Been to come up with a cost for Options B and C, pages 2 and 3.

Option B takes out the ramp and all of the concrete will flow from the driving lane to the entrance. It will have spaces for visitors and all of the handicapped parking will be here. The existing lights will stay. Option C-Things stay the same at the front entrance. If another out lane was made, we would have to get new electrical poles. Mr. Been will come up with the cost for both of them. If we stay one way, the staff will still park in the same area and the principal, secretary and nurse would park in front. Both option B and C would provide an additional 11 new spaces for parking. Preference was stated for Option B to keep costs as low as possible as this was a simple, yet effective option to consider.

At Washington School, Mrs. Bosnich stated a preference for option D. She believes this option would best utilize the space which is already there. The secured entrance remains the same in all of the options. Mr. Cross believes the Board could use Life Safety funds for some of the costs related to the entrance installation; however, that money cannot be used for parking and office renovation. Jake Been will prepare a construction budget prior to the Board approving the bid document. The Board can ultimately decide not to do the project, or one building or the other.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Certified Seniority List for 2009-10

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the 2009-10 Certified Seniority List as presented. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Support Staff Seniority List for 2009-10

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the 2009-10 Support Staff Seniority List as presented. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Date and Time for the 2010 8th Grade Graduation

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve Wednesday, June 2, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at Parkside School as the date, time, and location for the 2010 8th Grade Graduation. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The 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

Mr. Cross explained this is the third year we have abated 100% of local property taxes because the district has sufficient money from sales tax from the city to pay the principal and interest on the Parkside School construction bonds.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:24 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 for the semi-annual review of Executive Session Minutes. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Lamboley, Kampwerth, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:01 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Peru Educators Association

Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Peru Educators Association as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Renk, Sheppard, Leonatti, Kampwerth, Lamboley and Pillai. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Consideration of Approval of Release of Executive Session Minutes

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to keep both the written and verbatim Executive Session minutes closed due to the continued need for confidentiality. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Requests for Leave of Absence

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the leave of absence request under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 for Beth Rich. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Gustat, to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Julie Brown, Board Secretary