

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124
MARCH 17, 2010, 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 Conference Room at Parkside School, 1800 Church Street, Peru, IL, by Board President Jyll Leonatti, on Wednesday, March 17, 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, Jeff Sheppard, Vice President Jim Renk, and President Jyll Leonatti. ABSENT: Mark Lamboley and C. G. Pillai.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, District Secretary Kim Vezzetti, Lori Madden, Sara McDonald, Melissa Bosnich, and Jeff Dankert.

Member Pillai entered the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the meeting agenda of March 17, 2010. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Sheppard, Renk, Gustat, Kampwerth and Pillai. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Lamboley. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- February 17, 2010 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- February 17, 2010 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- March 11, 2010 Finance Committee Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Principals' Reports

Northview Principal Sara McDonald announced that Title I/Reading Recovery teacher Shelley May has been chosen as the 2010 recipient of the Anne Roffol Excellence in Reading award through the Illinois State University Reading Recovery Training Site. Kindergarten registration begins next week. Our current preschool has 65 students who will be kindergartners next year. Representative Frank Mautino visited Northview School on March 5. He visited many classrooms and spoke with Mrs. McDonald about budget cuts, our preschool program and technology.

Melissa Bosnich reported that P.E. teacher Carolyn Bryant did a special physical education unit focusing on the games of the 2010 Winter Olympics. The students really enjoyed the unit and were treated with a special assembly where teachers competed with other teachers in several Olympic type events. She also reported that there will be changes in grade-level physical fitness. Students in grades 2-4 will participate in some sort of fitness awareness units. Students in grades 5-8 will continue to participate in both the Presidential Award and National Award for the Presidential Fitness Challenge. ISAT Testing is now completed and there were 25 make-up sessions due to student absences.

Parkside School began ISAT week with a kick-off assembly. Ms. Madden reported the number of make-up tests for ISAT at Parkside School was also up this year. The 8th grade volleyball team has for the second consecutive year won the sectional tournament and is headed to Riverton to play Carlinville on Saturday, March 20 at 2:15 p.m. The students and staff will send the team off with a Pep Assembly on Friday afternoon. This evening there will be a dress rehearsal of the 2010 Parkside musical, "The Wiz". Performances will be open to the public on Thursday and Friday evening.

Superintendent's Report

National Common Core Standards

Mr. Cross reported that Illinois is one of 48 states participating in the Common Core State Standards Initiative. Its purpose is to establish one set of educational standards for mathematics and language arts that each state could eventually adopt. The focus is on developing college and career-ready standards to be internationally benchmarked with other top-performing countries.

Peru Tax Increment Financing District

Mr. Cross reported of the on-going negotiations between the City of Peru and the local taxing bodies for the new Peru TIF. He also informed the Board that some parcels between Routes 251 and 80 are within the noncontiguous boundaries of Peru Public Schools and the proposed TIF area. Mr. Cross expects the TIF to be implemented and is pleased with the continued relationship and communication between the City of Peru and our school district. He did mention his financial concerns with TIFs in other areas and particularly any consideration of a residential TIF.

IVCH Substitute Nurses

Provisions are being made to have nurses from IVCH fill in for our school nurse when she is out of the district. Mr. Cross told the Board this is a much needed service for our district. Peru Public Schools has agreed to this contract for \$38 per hour.

District Enrollment Report

The 2009-10 enrollment growth was discussed. Six grade levels saw an increase in enrollment from the Fall Housing report of September 30, 2009 until March 12, 2010, a total of 19 new students. Grades 6 and 7 remained the same, while 1st grade and 8th grade had a combined loss of 6 students. Following a yearly trend, the middle grades of 2nd through 4th continue to see the biggest increase.

Finance Committee Report and Recommendations – A Review of the Proposed State Budget and the Impact on Peru Public Schools

Mr. Cross reported the Finance Committee met on March 11. He discussed the impact the proposed State Budget will have on our operating funds. General State Aid is the biggest revenue in the education fund received from the State of Illinois. It is calculated based on the foundation funding level, average daily attendance, local school district poverty rate and local property wealth. The district may see a decrease in the education fund of approximately \$600,000. Some recommended revenue enhancements were discussed by the committee. Member Renk informed the Board that the district has not raised registration

fees in several years and the fees could be increased from \$50 to \$75 per year for the 2010-11 school year. A 3-tiered tuition for the preschool program may help boost revenue an estimated \$45,000. Mr. Cross has discussed with the L.E.A.S.E. office the idea of taking in tuition students to our current special education program. This would potentially help generate up to \$95,000 in revenue in the education fund. Budget reductions include not replacing one full-time teacher retiring at the end of this school year, eliminating one half-time preschool teacher and two full-time teacher aides, and reducing classroom and office supply budgets throughout the district. These cuts could mean a savings of \$145,000. Each of these items were analyzed by the Finance Committee and are recommended to the Board for approval. Mr. Cross said the revenue enhancements combined with the budgetary decreases would help improve the budget \$250,00 to \$300,000, although a significant budget gap will remain and will be covered for the coming year by existing fund balances.

Update and Discussion Regarding Project Design and Budget for Summer 2010 Construction and Renovation Work for Northview School

Although the estimated budget for the summer construction and renovation work was trimmed down by Healy Bender & Associates, the Board decided to set this project aside at this time due to the uncertainty of state funding. The Building & Grounds Committee will rather review a list of summer projects to bring for approval at the April Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Board of Education Secretary

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to appoint Kim Vezzetti as Secretary of the Board of Education of Peru District 124. Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of 2010-11 Student Registration Fees

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the recommended 2010-11 student registration fees. Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the Final 2009-10 School District Calendar

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the Final 2009-10 School District Calendar. Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of 2010 Recommended Budget Reductions

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the recommended 2010 budget reductions. Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Project Design and Budget for Summer 2010 Construction and Renovation Work for Northview School

Establishment of Date, Time and Location for 2010-11 Board of Education Meetings

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to establish the Board of Education meetings for 2010-11 to be held at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, July 21, 2010
Wednesday, August 18, 2010
Wednesday, September 22, 2010
Wednesday, October 20, 2010
Wednesday, November 17, 2010
Wednesday, December 15, 2010
Wednesday, January 19, 2011
Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Wednesday, March 16, 2011
Wednesday, April 13, 2011
Wednesday, May 18, 2011
Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent 1. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:06 p.m. to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel and to discuss information related to employee salaries, benefits, and issues related to collective bargaining. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Kampwerth, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk and Leonatti. ABSENT: Lamboley. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Member Pillai left the meeting at 7:07.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Gustat, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 2. **The motion carried 5-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Resignations

Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the resignation of Julie Brown as Secretary of the Board of Education of Peru District 124. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Renk, Sheppard, Leonatti, Gustat and Kampwerth. NAYS: None, ABSENT: Lamboley and Pillai. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Requests for Retirement

Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the request for retirement from Parkside teacher Linda Carls, effective at the conclusion of the 2012-13 school year. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Kampwerth, Sheppard, Renk and Leonatti. NAYS: None, ABSENT: Lamboley and Pillai. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the request for retirement from Parkside secretary Denise Soberalski, effective at the conclusion of the end of Fiscal Year 2010. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Kampwerth, Sheppard, Renk and Leonatti. NAYS: None, ABSENT: Lamboley and Pillai. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of 2010-11 Employee Salaries

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the Non-Union Salaries for Fiscal Year 2010 as recommended and presented by the Board Finance Committee. Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 2. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Employment of Recommended Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, Seconded by Member Sheppard, to employ Cassie Rissman as a kindergarten teacher at Northview School for the 2010-11 school term. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Sheppard, Renk, Gustat and Leonatti. NAYS: None, ABSENT: Lamboley and Pillai. **The motion carried 5-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, Seconded by Member Gustat, to employ Jeanine Sonnenberg as district bookkeeper of Peru District 124 for Fiscal Year 2011. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:

Sheppard, Gustat, Kampwerth, Renk and Leonatti. NAYS: None, ABSENT: Lamboley and Pillai. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Re-Employment of Non-Tenured Staff for 2010-11

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the re-employment of non-tenured faculty for the 2010-11 school term as follows:

Fourth Year (re-employment results in tenure): Dana Dawson, Brandi Anderson-Maier, Courtney Balestri, Justin Sullivan, Debbie Pletsch, Melissa Cass and Abby Trigg.

Third Year: Wes Miller, Heather Smigel, Jason Thompson, Jennifer Pettinger and Tony Cerveny.

Second Year: Dinelle Wood, Rhonda Becker-Giachetto, Tom Foust, Tracey Jaegle and Sarah Krich.

First Year: Michele Smudzinski, Beth Derango, Alexis Rebholz, Lindsay Ferrari, Julie Peffley, Mary Covert, Jeanine Kellen, Jennifer McCollum, Rachel Pett, Jamie Peel and Lisa Goddard.

Part-Time: Lynn Siska Aye: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Re-Employment of Building Administrators for 2010-11

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to re-employ Parkside Principal Lori Madden, Washington Principal Melissa Bosnich, and Northview Principal Sara McDonald for the 2010-11 school term. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Sheppard, Kampwerth, Renk, Leonatti and Gustat. NAYS: None, ABSENT: Lamboley and Pillai. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Notices of Non-Renewal of Probationary Teachers

Due to the hiring of Cassie Rissman as kindergarten teacher, there is no need to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Notices of Non-Renewal of Probationary Teachers.

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Notices of Non-Renewal of Non-Certified Staff

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Renk, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Notices of Non-Renewal of Linda Swain as a teacher aide at Parkside School and Sharon Wedic as teacher aide/health aide at Northview School and Parkside School at the conclusion of the 2009-10 school term. Aye: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2. **The motion carried 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Renk, to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 2. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, District Secretary