

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2018, 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the month of October of the Board of Education of Peru Elementary School District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Choral Room at Parkside School, 1800 Church Street, Peru, IL, by Board President Mark Lamboley, on Wednesday, October 17, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Lamboley led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Members Rob Ankiewicz, Josanne Bruins, Simon Kampwerth, Patti Leynaud, C.G. Pillai, Vice President Jim Renk, and President Mark Lamboley.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Superintendent Mark Cross, Kim Vezzetti, Lori Madden, Sara McDonald, Sherri Pannier, Brandi Anderson Maier, Amanda Cabrera, Lindsay Ferrari, Cecelia Ferrari, Tanya Knowles, Bailey Knowles, Morgan Knowles, Melissa Preston, Eric Heagy, Mike Vezzetti, and Brynn Twait.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Leynaud, to approve the meeting agenda of October 17, 2018. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Pillai, Leynaud, Renk, Lamboley, Ankiewicz, Bruins, and Kampwerth. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was no public comment, correspondence, or announcements this evening.

**RECOGNITION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION, FACULTY AND STAFF**

**Introduction of New Faculty and Staff Members**

New faculty and staff members were present for recognition. Preschool teacher Melissa Preston was introduced by her mentor, Lindsay Ferrari. Teacher Aides Amanda Cabrera and Tanya Knowles were introduced by Principal McDonald. Each of them briefly shared their background information and the Board welcomed them.

**Recognition of Board Members for IASB Training**

Mr. Cross was pleased to share the Illinois Association of School Boards member training and recognition. Mr. Cross reported that Member Ankiewicz has reached a Level II status and Members Kampwerth, Pillai, and Renk have maintained Master Board Member Status. Simon Kampwerth also serves on the IASB Board of Directors, representing the Starved Rock Region. Mr. Cross commended the entire Board for their on-going dedication and commitment to their positions and to their involvement with the Illinois Association of School Boards.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- September 20, 2018 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report

- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Renk, Lamboley, Ankiewicz, Bruins, Leynaud, and Pillai.  
 NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

## **REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **Quarterly Treasurer's Report**

District Treasurer Eric Heagy presented his quarterly report. He reported the weighted average rate of return on all deposit accounts yields of .41 percent. The roughly \$6.8 million in brokered accounts with Vezzetti Capital Management have a weighted average return of .41 percent year to date, while the roughly \$1.5 million in the cash management accounts with Peru Federal Savings Bank have a rate of .55 percent. The total investment concentration in both accounts is roughly \$8.3 million dollars at the end of the first quarter of FY19.

### **Presentation of Vezzetti Capital Management Investment Fund Performance Report**

Mike Vezzetti of Vezzetti Capital Management reviewed the district's fund performance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. The earnings net of fees was in the amount of \$48,530 with a cash return of 1.13 percent for FY18. The beginning balance on July 1, 2017 was \$2,790,050 and contributions were made in the amount of \$5,529,258 and distributions were in the amount of \$6,306,381. The average monthly distribution was \$489,754. The ending market value of the account under management on June 30, 2018 was \$2,493,733. Net earnings since the inception of the investment account are \$310,686.

### **Administrative Reports**

Mrs. McDonald reported:

- The Preschool For All classrooms are now full. Preschool teachers and Mrs. McDonald are working with their respective coaches from the Illinois State Board of Education as required for the new grant. The teachers' coach helps with the learning standards, and Mrs. McDonald's coach helps with compliance for the program. She also reported that the first PreK parent event/field trip was held on October 4, and there were 70 parent/guardians who attended the event.
- Mrs. McDonald complimented Mrs. Kelsey and the fourth grade students for their participation and performance in the recently held IASB event at Northview School.

Ms. Madden reported:

- Ms. Madden reported on the decline of participation in extra-curricular events at Parkside School, including sports, clubs and Project Success. She believes some students are involved in other activities outside of school. It was agreed that most causes for this are other interests of students outside of school. Administrators will continue to work on ways to get students more involved in activities going forward.
- The annual Variety Show will be held on October 18 at Parkside School under the direction of Vocal Music teacher Natalie Verucchi.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Cross reported:

- Mr. Cross commended Board Member Simon Kampwerth for once again steering the annual Rotary Dictionary project. Dictionaries are provided to approximately 5,000 third grade students in our area, including the third graders at Northview Elementary School.

- Mr. Cross reviewed the district's full-time equivalent staff numbers. There are an additional three certified and 2 non-certified staff members for FY19. He also mentioned the potential hiring of a part-time aide for a recently enrolled student in the district's Autism program.
- Mr. Cross reviewed the Evidence Based Funding Spending Plan based on this year's budget. The plan allows for districts to prioritize where they will spend the funds they need. At this point, he feels the district has not received enough new funding as a Tier 2 district for it to make an impact, but is hopeful that this will change in the future.
- Mr. Cross plans to schedule a Finance Committee meeting prior to the presentation of the tentative 2018 Tax Levy at the November 13, 2018 regular Board meeting. Committee members Lamboley, Renk and Pillai and Mr. Cross will meet to also discuss the district's bonding authority for up to \$900,000 in working cash funds, and whether or not it will be prudent to access these funds going forward. This will likely also be discussed at the November meeting.

### **2018-19 Fall Enrollment Report**

Mr. Cross presented the official fall enrollment report as of October 1, 2018 is 977 including preschool, and without preschool it is 871. The largest class sizes are in Kindergarten, fifth and sixth grades. Mr. Cross feels the district enrollment trend is back to level with slight growth anticipated, which could impact future class sizes similar to what happened with the current kindergarten class.

### **Review and Discussion Regarding Potential Board Protocols**

This Board will discuss Board protocols at a later date.

### **Presentation of the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Legislation**

Director of Special Services Brandi Anderson Maier and principals Sara McDonald and Lori Madden presented on the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). ESSA is very different and allows for new subgroups that are accountable for more than just academic proficiency. Administrators reviewed the four tiers in which schools, rather than districts, will be designated in the summative designation. Ultimately, the new ESSA legislation is intended to be helpful for schools to ensure every child is learning. Details and implications of the federal law were reviewed in detail. Details of ESSA were also reviewed with staff at the recent Institute Day.

### **Presentation of the 2018 Illinois Report Card on Student Achievement Data, Student and Staff Demographics and School District Finances**

The 2018 Illinois Report Card is not available at this time and will be presented at the November 13, 2018 regular Board meeting.

### **Update Regarding City of Peru Sales Tax Collections and Debt Service Abatement**

Mr. Cross reported that city sales tax collections were at their highest for the months of March, April, May and June this past year. The half cent home rule municipal sales tax was implemented effective January 1, 2008 for the purpose of paying bonds for the construction of Parkside School. The total amount of sales tax collected since that time is approximately \$20 million, which is far above what the district requires to pay the bonds. The City of Peru keeps the excess funds, which through through June 30, 2018 is on track to average approximately \$1,893,760 per year since inception.

### **Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Proposed Peru Downtown Tax Increment Financing District Redevelopment and Project Area**

Mr. Cross reviewed with the Board of Education how tax increment financing districts work, and some of the details of the proposed down TIF redevelopment project that is being proposed by the City of Peru. Both Mr. Cross and President Lamboley plan to attend an upcoming City Finance Committee meeting to learn more details and get answers to several questions. Some of the questions include the size of the final

TIF in terms of assessed valuation, how removing residential properties will work and determining how to handle the future increments as the value of the TIF grows over its minimum 23 year lifespan.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **Approval of Recommended Contract Extension for Snow Removal Services**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the recommended contract extension for snow removal services by Stuart Tree Service as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, Leynaud, Pillai, Renk, and Lamboley. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. for the discussion of information regarding the employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Kampwerth, Leynaud, Renk, Lamboley, Ankiewicz, and Bruins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

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

#### **ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

##### **Approval of Student Discipline for 2018-19 Student A**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the transfer of 2018-19 Student A, a student determined to be eligible for expulsion, to the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education Safe Schools Program in lieu of expulsion from October 17, 2018 for no less than the period ending February 22, 2019 and no later than through the conclusion of the 2019-20 school term, with a possible return to Parkside Middle School on Monday, February 25, 2019 for the third trimester of the 2018-19 school term based upon the outcome of the placement meeting to be conducted in February of 2019. This is for the reasons set forth in the Board findings regarding 2018-19 Student A, which have been made available for public review during this open session, and which are incorporated herein by this reference. ROLL CALL VOTING AYE: Pillai, Kampwerth, Leynaud, Renk, Lamboley, Ankiewicz, and Bruins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

##### **Employment of Recommended Personnel**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the employment of Taylor McDonald as an individual aide at Northview School based on changes in the district's needs, the departure of the current student for which employed to assist, or at the conclusion of the 2018-19 school term, whichever comes first. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

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Mark Lamboley, Board President

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Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary