

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2016, 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the month of February 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 President Jim Renk, on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Members Cynthia Gustat, C. G. Pillai, Jeff Sheppard, Vice President Mark Lamboley, and President Jim Renk.

**ABSENT:** Members Rob Ankiewicz and Simon Kampwerth.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Kim Vezzetti, Lori Madden, Melissa Bosnich, Sara McDonald, and Ben Hohenstatt.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Lamboley, to approve the meeting agenda of February 17, 2016. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Pillai, Lamboley, Renk, Gustat, and Sheppard. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was no public comment, correspondence or announcements.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- January 20, 2016 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- January 20, 2016 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

**ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Sheppard, Lamboley, Renk, Gustat, and Pillai. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Member Ankiewicz joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

**REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**Principals' Reports**

**Northview School**

**Mrs. McDonald reported:**

- Fourth grade students Caitlyn Traub and Armani Mason will represent Northview School at the Starved Rock Illinois Principals Association Student Recognition Breakfast which will be held tomorrow morning in Streator.
- Mrs. McDonald is looking for a Board of Education representative to serve on this year's Handbook Committee.

### **Parkside School**

#### **Ms. Madden reported:**

- Eighth grade students Hope Beelman and Parker Swiskoski will represent Parkside School at the Starved Rock Illinois Principals Association Student Recognition Breakfast which will be held tomorrow morning in Streator.
- Ms. Madden reported on Standards-Based Grading. The main difference between the Standards-Based Grading and traditional grading is that teachers will focus on assessing students' mastery of standards rather than averaging what is turned in. Ms. Madden said the new grading system will take two to three years to fully implement.

### **Curriculum Director's Report**

#### **Mrs. Bosnich reported:**

- Mrs. Bosnich reported on the Student Growth Update conducted by the Teacher Evaluation Committee. Beginning the 2016-17, thirty percent of the teacher evaluation will be based on the Student Growth Model and seventy percent is based on professional practice. The committee has decided fifteen percent of the Student Growth Model will be based on the percentage of students who make growth based district-wide. The committee will continue to meet throughout the rest of this school year to decide on the components for the remaining fifteen percent of the Student Growth Model. This is a very complicated process that take much time to plan and implement.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Mr. Cross reported:**

- The spring IASB Starved Rock Division meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10 at Oak Ridge. Please let the office know if you are unable to attend.
- Michelle Vescogni has been named to the Peru Education Foundation Board. She is replacing the seat vacated by John McCormick.
- Mr. Cross, members of the PTC, and some staff met recently to reinvigorate and restructure the current PTC through strategic planning. The plan is to give PTC a sound framework and create a larger group of parent volunteers. An additional meeting will be held in March for the second night of strategic planning. Mr. Cross thinks the results will be new by-laws and structure for the organization, which will then function quite differently, although with similar goals.
- The ISBE Financial Profile remains in "Review" Designation status and Mr. Cross explained the profile is based on the previous fiscal year. Mr. Cross explained this is largely due to the debt from the 2008 and 2009 Parkside Bond issue which should not count against the district's long-term debt status, along with the fact that the district's cash on hand has dropped.

### **Presentation of Recommended 2016-17 School District Calendar**

Mr. Cross presented a final recommended 2016-17 school calendar, with some changes from the previous month. The district will have all three Parent/Teacher Conferences in November, stay in session on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and also extend the winter break to include the first full week of January. Mr. Cross works with neighboring districts and also does a survey with the staff and uses this feedback to help the administrative team develop the calendar. Mr. Cross said the calendar results showed a split on certain holidays and after some discussion, the Board agreed to adopt the calendar as presented.

### **Update and Discussion Regarding Long-Term Strategic Planning**

The Board will select a date in the spring to discuss how they would like to structure the Long-Term Strategic planning process.

### **Discussion Regarding Proposal and Intergovernmental Agreement for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students to Earn Algebra Credit at LaSalle-Peru Township High School**

Mr. Cross reported that there is no Intergovernmental Agreement as of yet for the proposal for students to earn algebra credit in eighth grade. Mr. Cross and Ms. Madden plan on meeting with representatives from the high school for further discussion on how this will be implemented. Several points were brought out, including cost, and Mr. Cross said he expected those details to be worked out in time to be able to make a recommendation at the March Board meeting.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Approval of the Recommended 2016-17 School District Calendar**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Lamboley, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the recommended 2016-17 school district calendar as presented. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

#### **Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students to Earn Algebra Credit at LaSalle-Peru Township High School Beginning with the 2016-17 School Term**

This item has been tabled at this time.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Pillai, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:40 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, Pillai, Sheppard, Lamboley, Renk, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Member Kampwerth joined the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:39 p.m.

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

#### **Approval of Requests for Retirement**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Lamboley, to approve a request for retirement from Principal Lori Madden effective at the conclusion of the 2018-19 school term. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve a request for retirement from teacher aide Nancy Grubich effective at the conclusion of the 2015-16 school term. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Lamboley, to approve a request for retirement from music teacher Chris Kelsey effective at the conclusion of the 2019-20 school term. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Lamboley, to approve a request for retirement from Dean of Students Sherri Pannier effective at the conclusion of the 2019-20 school term. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Lamboley, to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Aye 7, Nay 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

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Jim Renk, Board President

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Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary