

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
AUGUST 22, 2019, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of August 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 Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members Josanne Bruins, Simon Kampwerth, Austin Taylor, Vice President Patti Leynaud, and President Mark Lamboley.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Kim Vezzetti, Brandi Anderson Maier, Sara McDonald, Rollie Copeland, Robin Copeland, Rachel Pett, Jade Hubinsky, Molly Leone, Jessica Beem, Alison Roetker, Michaela Copeland, Dawn Ladzinski, Annie Baumgarten, Allie Baumgarten, Gage Baumgarten, Dana Berg, Lisa Donnell, Jessica Stuart, Michele Meyer, Melissa Cass, Lexy Rebholz, Addyson Rebholz, Cassie Milus, Mallori Fahler, Bill Newkirk, and Mike Vezzetti.

ABSENT: Members Rob Ankiewicz and C.G. Pillai.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Leynaud, to approve the meeting agenda of August 22, 2019. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Kampwerth, Leynaud, Lamboley, Bruins, and Taylor. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. Cross reported that there are currently seven new faculty members for the 2019 school term, along with five new support staff members. In addition, there are two long-term substitute teachers for this year and two support staff members who were hired in spring of last year. Mr. Cross explained that some of the new hires were the result of the shuffling of eleven internal faculty and support staff movements.

Those present for introductions included new district school psychologist Brittany Godsey, new Parkside staff members including 7th grade science teacher Jade Hubinsky, special education teachers Michaela Copeland and Molly Leone, administrative assistant Jessica Beem and interpreter Alison Roetker. Northview School staff members introduced were 4th grade teacher Annie Baumgarten, special education teacher Cassie Milus, preschool teacher Mallori Fahler, long-term substitute special education teacher Michele Meyer, and teacher aides Lisa Donnell and Jessica Stuart. Each were introduced by their respective building principals along with mentors Dawn Ladzinski and Rachel Pett from Parkside School, and Dana Berg, Melissa Cass, and Lexy Rebholz from Northview School. New faculty and staff members briefly shared their background information with the Board and audience.

Member Ankiewicz joined the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- July 18, 2019 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- July 18, 2019 Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Taylor, Leynaud, Lambole, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2019 District Financial Statements, Independent Audit, Annual Financial Report and Shared Services and Outsourcing Report

Bill Newkirk of Newkirk and Associates presented the Fiscal Year 2019 Audit Report. He reviewed the revenues, expenditures and fund balances for the fiscal year and reported that all of the numbers are the same as reported by the district at the end of June 30, 2019. He commended Superintendent Mark Cross and bookkeeper Jeanine Sonnenberg for their thorough preparation and availability of documentation needed to complete the audit, and stated that he had no findings or concerns to report.

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, 2019. The earnings net of fees was in the amount of \$98,219 with a cash return of 2.08 percent for FY19. The beginning balance on July 1, 2018 was \$2,493,733 and contributions were made in the amount of \$6,692,291, including bond proceeds of \$880,155. Distributions from the fund were in the amount of \$6,350,000 while the average monthly distribution was \$529,167. The ending market value of the account under management on June 30, 2019 was \$2,940,985. Net earnings since the inception of the investment account are \$409,492.

Administrative Reports

Northview School

Mrs. McDonald reported:

- Some buses have been running late due to the sharing of LP bus routes for the first week of school. Mrs. McDonald reported that a bus route from each building is at student capacity. She plans on monitoring the routes and will make adjustments as needed. She believes once athletic schedules and Project Success programs begin, less children will be riding the buses.
- The preschool classes are at capacity at the start of this school year with about 30 children on a waiting list. She and Jennifer Znaniecki, parent coordinator for the preschool program, are busy updating information for the preschool grant compliance.

Parkside School

Mrs. Anderson Maier reported:

- She has had a very smooth transition with the help of faculty, staff and students. She has offered and met with several staff members prior to the school year and is planning to visit as many classrooms as possible at the start of the year and will focus on getting to know the students.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cross reported:

- After a recent phone conference, Moody's Investors Service has affirmed an A1 bond rating and also removed the "negative outlook" that accompanied the rating due to our improved financial condition. Mr. Cross explained this is a very good rating and will be important to borrowing costs should the district issue bonds again in the future.
- Mr. Cross provided walk through sessions at each school for members of the Peru Fire Department following a recent crisis planning meeting. He believes the department is much better prepared in the event of an emergency.
- Mr. Cross reviewed the 2019-20 Employee FTE history. There was an increase of one certified staff for the new life skills room at Parkside, a hearing interpreter, a part-time individual teacher aide and an administrative assistant. There are a total of 123 employees in the school district.
- Mr. Cross reviewed a proposal he received from Ficek Electric for the replacement of phones at Parkside School. The proposal of \$12,570 is preliminary as the staff wants to verify needs across the building, and he said he would update the Board before proceeding with any replacement.
- Mr. Cross asked Board members to R.S.V.P. if they are interested in attending the October 1, 2019 Starved Rock Fall Division meeting at Waltham School. Member Kampwerth reported that the Starved Rock Division of IASB is the only division hosting events at no cost to districts in an effort to see if district participation has increased.
- Mr. Cross shared two documents providing information since the inception of Evidence Based Funding. The Percent of Adequacy document provides the increase in funding for districts in the Starved Rock Region.

2019-20 Enrollment Report

Mr. Cross reviewed the 2019-20 preliminary enrollment report, which shows a slight decline in enrollment this year, although still higher than recent years. He believes the enrollment numbers will likely not change much before the numbers become official as of October 1.

Update Regarding Summer Maintenance Projects

Mr. Cross reported that summer maintenance projects are complete. Among some of the larger projects, the projector screen has been installed in the gymnasium at Parkside. The rock climbing wall at Northview was installed and awaits the "rocks" for the wall. Vissering completed the concrete pavement infill, the installation of the swale for water drainage and the concrete bollards near the main entrance. Basketball hoops were also installed outside the west playground at Northview School.

Fiscal Year 2019 Report of Contracts Exceeding \$25,000

Mr. Cross explained that this report lists all contracts over \$25,000 as well as any collectively bargained contracts. The informational report is required to be presented and posted on the website annually.

Fiscal Year 2019 Report of Salary, Compensation and Benefits

Mr. Cross presented and reported on the Salary, Compensation and Benefits report which is also required to be posted on the district's website by October 1 of each year. This information is also reported to the Illinois State Board of Education and the Regional Office of Education.

Presentation of Recommended Additions, Deletions and Modifications of Board of Education Policy Numbers: 2:110; 2:140; 2:230; 4:20; 5:180; 6:40; 6:340

Mr. Cross reported that most of the changes to the policies presented are minimal. Although he feels no need for the Policy Committee to meet, Mr. Cross asked the Board to review the policies carefully and provide any feedback prior to the September Board of Education meeting at which time they will be formally adopted.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2019 District Financial Statements, Independent Audit, Annual Financial Report and Shared Services and Outsourcing Report

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Leynaud, to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 District Financial Statements, Independent Audit, Annual Financial Report and Shared Services and Outsourcing Report as presented. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Initial 10 Year Health Life Safety Survey for Parkside Middle School

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the initial 10 year Health Life Safety Survey for Parkside Middle School. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, Taylor, Leynaud, and Lamboley. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Shared Speech Pathologist Services

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve an intergovernmental agreement for shared Speech Pathologist services. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Kampwerth, Leynaud, Lamboley, Ankiewicz, and Bruins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Vice President Leynaud, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. for the discussion of information regarding the employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Leynaud, Lamboley, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to return to Regular Session at 8:40 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Bruins, Taylor, Leynaud, and Lamboley. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Resignations

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Leynaud, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the resignation of Emily Graham as first grade teacher at Northview School effective immediately. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the resignation of Heather Linnig as reading teacher at Northview School effective immediately. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the resignation of Trina Schmollinger as teacher aide at Northview School effective immediately. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Requests for Retirement

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Leynaud, seconded by Member Kampwerth to approve a request of retirement from kindergarten teacher Chris Goodman effective at the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Employment of Recommended Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the employment of Cassie Milus as a special education teacher at Northview School for the 2019-20 school year. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Leynaud, to approve the employment of Mallori Fahler as a preschool teacher at Northview School for the 2019-20 school year. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Vice President Leynaud, to approve the employment of Lisa Donnell as a teacher aide at Northview School for the 2019-20 school year. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the employment of Abby Smith 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 2019-20 school term, whichever comes first. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended 2019-20 Extracurricular Assignments

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Vice President Leynaud, to approve the recommended 2019-20 extracurricular assignments for the 2019-20 school year. AYE 5, NAY 0, ABSTAIN 1. **The motion carried 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Mark Lamboley, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary