

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
NOVEMBER 17, 2020, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of November of the Board of Education of Peru Elementary School District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in person and via zoom in the gymnasium at Parkside School by Board President Mark Lambole, on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members Rob Ankiewicz, Josanne Bruins, Simon Kampwerth, C.G. Pillai, Austin Taylor, Vice President Patti Leynaud, and President Mark Lambole.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Jamie Craven, Kim Vezzetti, Sara McDonald, Brandi Anderson Maier, Katie Budnick, and Dawn Ladzinski.

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the meeting agenda of November 17, 2020. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Pillai, Kampwerth Taylor, Leynaud, Lambole, Ankiewicz, and Bruins. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you notes were received from Chris Kelsey and Tracey Jaegle for the gifts they received for their recent retirement.

REPORT ON IASB VIRTUAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Member Bruins reported on the IASB Delegate Assembly which was held virtually this past Saturday. The assembly went smoothly and lasted a total of 39 minutes. Member Kampwerth added that the short length of time of the virtual meeting was very productive and could begin a new trend.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- October 21, 2020 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Administrative Reports:

Northview School

Mrs. McDonald reported:

- Approximately 95% of parents have scheduled their zoom parent/teacher conferences online via PTC Fast. As in the past, parents who are unable to attend these meetings will be contacted for a phone conference.
- Although there was a lot of preparation by teachers and staff, the first day of full remote learning went fairly well. Mrs. McDonald was pleased with the amount of students who zoomed into PE, Art and Music.

Parkside School

Mrs. Anderson Maier reported:

- Teachers and staff at Parkside have been prepared for the transition to full remote since the beginning of the school year. Attendance for the day averaged between 80% and 90%. Mrs. Anderson Maier credited the administrative assistants for their efforts in keeping up with the attendance for each class period.

Co-presidents from the PEA added that staff still have some anxiety about in-person learning, in particular those special education classrooms that are unable to adhere to PPE guidelines which are the most at risk.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Craven reported:

- Superintendent Craven recognized School Board members for School Board Recognition Day. He congratulated them for being student-centered and supportive of the staff and community. In addition, he praised them for their active participation at the local and state level.
- Due to the lack of testing during the Stay At Home order, the Illinois Interactive Report Card has no data for student growth. However, information regarding school finances and demographics are updated on the report card. Mr. Craven plans to share district level testing results from this fall at the regular December meeting.
- Mr. Craven has asked the Board to consider discussing the district's Strategic Plan this spring. It is his hope that by spring the district will be better prepared to update the plan. The Board agreed that they would like to wait until spring to discuss the plan.
- The district is at the end of their three-year and additional two-year extension for the transportation contract with Illinois Central School Bus. Currently there are five area districts under the contract. It is the hope to add an additional seven to nine districts which would help with the bidding process. Mr. Craven plans to have the bid package prepared by mid-December, out to bid by mid-January, with bids back and ready for approval by the regular February meeting.

Presentation of the Tentative 2020 Tax Levy

Mr. Craven reported that there have been no changes since he presented an overview of the 2020 Tax Levy at the regular October Board meeting. The proposed estimated tax levy without debt service to be published is 4.9%. He anticipates the actual extension without debt service will be 3%.

Review of District Risk Management Program

The district has had a Risk Management Plan in place for the past several years. Mr. Craven credited former district Superintendent Mark Cross for the development of the district's plan. The plan lays out percentages in different job categories in the district's Tort Fund to be levied. He explained that while some of the allowable percentages could be somewhat higher, he is comfortable leaving them as is. He stated that most importantly, the district needs to be very transparent because the Tort Fund does not have a cap and is unrestricted.

Return to Learn – Remote Learning Options

Mr. Craven reiterated to the Board that the primary metric for returning on November 30, and remaining in-person blended learning until the winter break, is the ability to staff each building on a daily basis. He has asked staff to continue to report any illness or quarantine to him and administrative assistant Rita Strickler. He would like the Board to consider remote learning the week after the winter break. He feels the ten days beyond New Year's would be an appropriate length of time to remain remote. The Board collectively and verbally supported this request.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Resignation

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the resignation of Sarah Tomkins as a paraprofessional at Parkside School effective November 13, 2020. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Employment of Recommended Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the employment of Rebecca Wicinski as a cafeteria employee at Northview School. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the Tentative 2020 Tax Levy

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the tentative 2020 Tax Levy as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Kampwerth, Taylor, Leynaud, Lamboley, Ankiewicz, and Bruins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the District Risk Management Program

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the District Risk Management Program as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Bruins, Kampwerth, Taylor, Leynaud, Lamboley, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Authorization to Pursue Regular Transportation Bids

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the authorization to pursue regular transportation bids. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Bruins, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:58 p.m. for the discussion of information regarding the employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Bruins, Kampwerth, Taylor, Leynaud, Lamboley, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to return to Regular Session at 7:19 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Bruins, Pillai, Taylor, Leynaud, and Lamboley. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Mark Lamboley, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary