

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**  
**April 27, 2022, 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the month of March of the Board of Education of Peru Elementary School District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Learning Resource Center at Parkside School by Board President Patti Leynaud, on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: President Patti Leynaud, Members Josanne Bruins, Simon Kampwerth, Rob Ankiewicz and John Atkins.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Jamie Craven, Megan Baltikauski, Eric Heagy, Phil Whaley and Jacob Been.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the meeting agenda of April 27, 2022. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Atkins, Bruins, Leynaud, Kampwerth and Ankiewicz. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Phil Whaley spoke on behalf of the upcoming 58<sup>th</sup> annual Illinois Valley Band-O-Rama Festival which is scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2022 and Saturday, April 30, 2022 at Parkside. We are very excited to get to have an in-person Band-O-Rama again for the first time since 2019 and for Parkside to host it for the first time since 2014! Band-O-Rama begins with our Festival of Bands concert on Friday night at 7:00 PM in the gymnasium. Our Concert Band will be performing as well as the Concert Bands from Spring Valley JFK, Oglesby Washington, and LaSalle Lincoln. Band-O-Rama continues with the Solo and Ensemble Contest on Saturday featuring approximately 100 band students from Peru Parkside, Oglesby Washington, LaSalle Lincoln, Spring Valley JFK, and Waltham schools. The Contest begins at 8:30 AM and concludes with the Awards Presentation around 12:00 PM in the gymnasium. We are expecting a full house with no restrictions. The kids are very excited.

Mr. Whaley also gave mention to the Musical- Broadway Remix on behalf of Mrs. Verucchi. As we are all aware, the Musical was moved to a new date. Despite the slight postponement, it was well received and the gym was three quarters of the way full! He once again stated how wonderful it is to be able to do in person events with our students.

Member Simon Kampwerth, President of the Illinois Association of School Boards gave mention to his weekend in Raleigh, NC and was honored to be one of 22 states to sign this declaration. Illinois was elected to serve as Chair of the COSSBA Transitional Steering Committee until January 2023. COSSBA is a non-partisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote, and strengthen state school boards associations as they serve their local school districts and board members. Membership and participation in COSSBA are voluntary and open to all state school boards associations.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- March 16, 2022 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- March 16, 2022 Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer’s Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, Bruins, Atkins and Leynaud. NAYS: None.  
**The motion carried 5-0.**

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

Eric Heagy presented his Quarterly Treasurer’s Report Board. At this time, rates are lower on the bonds and are receiving a short-term dip with negative returns. In time this should level out. Member Kampwerth had asked if there is anything that the District can do due to prepare for the economy downturn. Mr. Heagy stated that as objects reprice, we need to look at how we invest whether it be short-term or long term. The question is, how long is it going to take for inflation to level out? It comes down to inflation and will those objects come back.

Jacob Been with Healy Bender Patton and Been Architects presented the Domestic Boiler Replacement Final Draft and Bid Documents to the Board.

Mr. Craven presented the Fiscal Year 2022 Amended Budget Summary to the Board. Illinois School Code mandates that each school district prepare a tentative budget and make it available for the public for a minimum of 30 days and hold a public hearing to formally adopt the budget prior to the end of the first quarter each fiscal year.

### **Administrative Reports: Northview School**

- During the week of March 28-April 1st; Northview held our Scholastic Book Fair for the students. We continue to have very profitable book fairs that support our school library as well as teacher classroom libraries! We promote this like crazy and the kids love the book fair. I have not been able to get one parent to coordinate this book fair for me like in the past, so there are many parents that help out in many different ways. Mainly I coordinate it and then PTC moms get volunteers to work it! We sold **\$14,725 in books**. We get 60+% of that in books – so right around **\$7000.00 of free books!** That is a lot of extra books in the classrooms and library.

- We also held our Family Reading Night during book fair week. The theme this year was a Superhero Theme “Reading Gives You Super Powers”. We had a fabulous turn out at Family Reading Night. We held two different sessions with parents/students visiting based on their last name. We did this to try to make sure it was not over-crowded and that everyone felt safe. It was busy for 2.5 straight hours, so I’m glad we planned it this way. We have a committee of teachers that organize the Family Reading Night and plan fun reading activities during the night. Some of our BOE members even read as guest readers that evening. Thank you Simon, Austin, Rob, and Mr. Craven for reading that night.

- PTC (Parent Teacher Club) also held their first in-person event since 2020. They had a Family Bingo Night on Friday, April 1st at Parkside School. I believe I heard there were 250 people in attendance. It’s always a fun and pretty simple event to raise money!

- On Tuesday, April 5th; we held the 1st and 2nd Grade Spring Music Concerts. We had 2nd Grade beginning at 6:00 p.m. and 1st Grade beginning at 6:45 p.m. This was our first in-person live music concert since December 2019. It was also our “newish” music teacher’s first live concert. Ms. Breyne did a fantastic job with the students. She learned a lot and the teachers and I guided her through some things to make it easier for her, the students, and the teachers. Overall, it was a huge success. The 1st Grade Concert was standing room only!

- On Wednesday, April 6th; our PBIS team held a Culver’s Night in Peru to help support our PBIS fund. We had teachers and staff work the event and let me tell you – it was a bit crazy from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Long lines in the drive-up, long lines inside. We profited \$650+ and all that money goes to support our PBIS incentives we provide to our students throughout the year.

- We are getting Jump Start Summer School all organized for students in PreK-7<sup>th</sup> grade for this summer. Permission slips were mailed out last week and teachers have applied to teach for us this summer. We even found out that we will be getting the GEERs Jump Start PreK Grant again this summer. This will help fund our PreK Jump Start at \$10,900. This grant pays for staff salaries and transportation. We will be able to serve 20 students that are entering kindergarten next year and these students are the most at risk.

### **Parkside School**

- Parkside Middle School is continuing to send out weekly messages to parents of students with either a D or F in any course. Here is the data breakdown from the last few weeks:

February 17 – 66 students

February 24 – 63 students

March 17 – 106 students

March 24 – 76 students

March 31 – 76 students

April 7 – 77 students

Any student on the AAR List (failing 2 or more subjects or failed one subject for two trimesters) at this point of the school year has a parent meeting scheduled throughout the month of March. Additionally, any student that just fell short of this list will have a detailed grade report sent home and have an individual meeting with Mrs. Bosnich and Mrs. Anderson-Maier.

- Mrs. Verucchi’s Musical was rescheduled due to an unforeseen circumstance. We are excited to announce that the musical will take place on Thursday, April 21 and Friday, April 22. Mrs. Verucchi and the students have worked so hard to prepare for their big shows. Mr. Whaley and Mrs. Verucchi are planning on bringing the students to Music in the Parks at Great America at the end of May. This is something the band and choir students look forward to each year so we are excited to be able to participate once again.
- Scholastic Bowl is nearing the end of a successful season. Mrs. Atilano and Mrs. Ochs have the team to 10 wins this season and 4 losses. The Scholastic Bowl conference tournament is set to take place on Tuesday, April 19 and Thursday, April 21.

- Parkside Middle School graduation will take place once again at Parkside on Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. Eighth students have already had their graduation pictures and are getting ready for their big night.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Craven reported:

- At this time of year, we like to show our appreciation to all our teachers, administrative assistants, and staff. During the week of May 2, the district will provide lunch on Thursday, May 5 and PTC will provide lunch on Tuesday, May 3rd. It is the least we can do to show our gratitude for all they do for our students.
- Crack Fill and Repaint Parking Lots - \$6600 Last Year (waiting on an updated bid)  
Installation of Smart Boards - will begin the week of June 7th  
Northview Roof - Staging will begin June 2nd or 3rd  
Parkside Gym Floor - Work scheduled to begin the week of June 7th  
Parkside Boiler - TBD  
Northview Gate - Working with Greg Weisbrock to Modify Existing Gate  
Northview PTC Climbing Wall (TBD)
- We will be starting some social emotional programming at Parkside through the assistance of Kassidi Guerrero from the ROE. Kassidi is the ROE Director of Student Services and Crisis Services Manager. For the remainder of this year Kassidi will meet with homeroom groups focusing on managing stress and anxiety, social relationships and social media, as well as signs and symptoms in peers. We are also working to coordinate training for faculty and staff as well as parent information forums in the fall.
- Last week Mayor Kolowski called to let the District know that the City was awarded the grant that was written last fall and that they will be extending the sidewalk along Shooting Park Road up to Sycamore Street. This is great news given that we have families that live up in that subdivision and students will now be able to access the sidewalk.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Approval of the 2022-23 Student Registration Fees**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Kampwerth, followed by a unanimous vote to table the approval of the 2022-23 Student Registration Fees at this time. ROLL CALL VOTING AYE: Bruins, Kampwerth, Leynaud, Atkins and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Approval of the 2022-23 Bids for Bakery and Milk Products**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Kampwerth to approve the bids for bakery and milk products for Peru Elementary School District as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, Leynaud, Atkins and Bruins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Approval of the 2022-23 Illinois Elementary School Association Membership and Fees**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the 2022-23 IESA membership and fees as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins, Ankiewicz, Leynaud and Bruins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Approval of the 2022-23 Mowing and Trimming Contract**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Bruins to approve the Mowing and Trimming Contract for one year (2022). ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Bruins, Atkins, Ankiewicz and Leynaud. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of the Domestic Boiler Replacement Bid**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Kampwerth to approve the final draft and bid documents for the Domestic Boiler Replacement Project as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Kampwerth, Leynaud, Ankiewicz and Atkins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of the Final 2021-22 School District Calendar**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the final 2021-22 School District Calendar as presented. AYE: 5, NAY: 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Atkins, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. for the discussion of information regarding the employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel; and discussion of information related to employee salaries, benefits, and issues related to collective bargaining. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Atkins, Kampwerth, Leynaud and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Bruins, to return to Regular Session at 7:51 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Bruins, Ankiewicz, Atkins and Leynaud. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Approval of Employment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the recommendation to employ Brent Ziegler as the Parkside Elementary Principal for the 2022-23 School Year. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Employment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the recommendation to employ Kimberly Evans as the Director of Student Support Services for Peru Elementary School District for the 2022-23 School Year. AYE 5, NAY, 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Employment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the recommendation to employ Jason Caresio as the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift Custodian at Northview School effective May 25, 2022. AYE 5, NAY, 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Request for Retirement**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the request for retirement from Sue McKnight, Peru Elementary School District Administrative Assistant, effective December 20, 2022. AYE 5, NAY, 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of FMLA Request**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Kampwerth to approve the request for FMLA from Jennifer Paszczyk, Paraprofessional at Northview, effective April 27, 2022 through the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. AYE 5, NAY, 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to adjourn at 7:54p.m. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

---

Patti Leynaud, President

---

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary