

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
OCTOBER 20, 2021, 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 Learning Resource Center at Parkside School by Board President Patti Leynaud, on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Jamie Craven, Rita Strickler, Sara McDonald, Brandi Anderson Maier, Eric Heagy, Mike Vezzetti, Bill Newkirk, and John Vezzetti.

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the meeting agenda of October 20, 2021. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Taylor, Pillai, Leynaud, Ankiewicz, Bruins, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A thank you note was received from the family of Heather Baker.

RECOGNITION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mr. Craven was pleased to share the Illinois Association of School Boards member training and recognition. Mr. Craven reported that President Leynaud has reached Master Board Member II status, Member Taylor has reached Master Board Member I status and Member Kampwerth has maintained Master Board Member Status. Mr. Craven 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 Member Atkins, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- September 22, 2021 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- September 22, 2021 Executive Session Minutes
- September 27, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2021 District Financial Statements, Independent Audit, Annual Financial Report and Shared Services and Outsourcing Report

Bill Newkirk of Newkirk and Associates presented the Fiscal Year 2021 Audit Report, stating the district was subject to a Single Audit this year due to the district receiving over the \$750,000 threshold in federal grant money. He stated the district was in compliance on all requirements for Title I and IDEA Programs which were reviewed. He reviewed the revenues, expenditures and fund balances for the fiscal year. He commended bookkeeper Jeanine Sonnenberg and the district office staff 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, 2021. The earnings net of fees was in the amount of \$41,115 with a cash return of .30 percent for FY21. The beginning balance on July 1, 2020 was \$2,963,759 and contributions were made in the amount of \$6,143,000. Distributions from the fund were in the amount of \$6,205,000 while the average monthly distribution was \$517,083. The ending market value of the account under management on June 30, 2021 was \$2,916,206.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer, Eric Heagy presented the quarterly report. He reported the weighted average rate of return on all deposit accounts yields 0.11 percent. The roughly \$7.1 million in brokered accounts with Vezzetti Capital Management have a net return of 0.04 percent year to date, while the roughly \$2 million in the cash management accounts with Peru Federal Savings Bank have a rate of return of 0.34 percent. The total investment concentration in both accounts is roughly \$9.1 million dollars at the end of the first quarter of FY22.

IASB Informational Update - Resolution Review

Member Kampwerth summarized a few important resolutions presented in the IASB Resolutions Committee Report. The board decided to have further discussion at the November board meeting regarding the resolutions and to give recommendations to the appointed delegate at that time.

Presentation of District Usage of American Recovery Act Plan

Mr. Craven summarized the stipulations for the submission of the ESSER III grant, stating an expenditure plan must be presented and approved by the board. With roughly \$1.8 million expected in ESSER III funds, the district has drafted a three year spending plan. A draft of the spending plan was presented and will be posted on the district website.

Administrative Reports:

Northview School

Mrs. McDonald reported:

- Peru teachers were involved in the first Illinois Virtual Teacher Institute Day on October 8, 2021. This was presented by Paris Schools and it was very well received. Ron Clark was the keynote speaker, who had a very invigorating and energetic speech challenging the teachers. There were also breakout sessions throughout the day with a wide variety of topics.
- Project Success and Academic Assistance programs will begin earlier than past years to help students who are struggling. Small groups will be utilized to help with academic assistance, rather than just homework completion. There will be two days per week for Math support and two days per week for ELA support.
- Northview is planning a Virtual Family Math Night in late October as well as a Virtual Veteran's Day Program for November 11.

Parkside School

Mrs. Anderson Maier reported:

- With the Project Success program now underway at Parkside, the numbers for academically at risk students have gone down slightly.
- During PLC time, Parkside teachers are currently working on curriculum guides per course. The curriculum guides will help identify which standards are being addressed and their corresponding timeframes. Once the curriculum maps are finished, the teams will be diving into district and state assessment data to identify which areas are strengths and which areas need further improvement.
- Parkside students are excited to return to live performances this month, which include LP Band Night and the Variety Show. The Veteran's Day program in November will be live-streamed.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Craven reported:

- The proposal from Stuart Tree Service for snow removal has increased about 12.5% overall for the coming year, which is due to increased fuel prices and labor costs since 2019. Last year there was no increase in prices for these services.
- The district nurses, Kim Lamps and Chris Lamboley, have done an outstanding job implementing the SHIELD program, and will soon be starting the BinaxNOW Test-to-Stay program. The district is wanting to hire a part-time Health Aide to help assist with the increased duties with these programs.

2021-22 Fall Enrollment Report

Mr. Craven reported the final fall enrollment numbers have not changed much since last reported in September. The overall enrollment for Preschool through 8th grade has increased from 912 students last year to 943 this year. There has been no major fluctuation in the average class sizes.

Report Regarding Tentative 2021 Tax Levy

Mr. Craven shared preliminary 2021 Tax Levy information. He reported that the overall Equalized Assessed Valuation is estimated at a 4.93% increase this year. If this sustains, the district will be able to operate at a \$3.01 tax rate with the rate of \$3.23 when including the Debt Service fund. Mr. Craven will share the formal presentation at the December meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Delegate and Alternate for the IASB Virtual Delegate Assembly

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to appoint Member Bruins as the delegate and Member Taylor as the alternate delegate for the IASB Delegate Assembly. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Recommended Contract for Snow Removal Services

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

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2021 District Financial Statements, Independent Audit, Annual Financial Support and Shared Services and Outsourcing Report

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 District Financial Statements, Independent Audit, Annual Financial Support and Shared Services and Outsourcing Report. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Preliminary Proceedings in Connection with the Issuance of General Obligation School Bonds of up to \$2,000,000 of Working Cash Fund Bonds and Paying for Costs Related Thereto, as Amended

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to adopt the Resolution authorizing preliminary proceedings in connection with the issuance of general obligation school bonds of up to \$2,000,000 of working cash fund bonds and paying for costs related thereto, as amended. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins, Bruins, Taylor, Pillai, Leynaud, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the District Usage of American Recovery Act Plan

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Vice President Pillai to approve the district usage of American Recovery Act Plan as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Ankiewicz, Pillai, Leynaud, Atkins, Bruins, Kampwerth, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the Tentative 2021 Tax Levy

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Pillai, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the tentative 2021 Tax Levy as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Atkins, Bruins, Kampwerth, Taylor, Leynaud, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:34 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, Kampwerth, Taylor, Pillai, Leynaud, Ankiewicz, and Atkins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to return to Regular Session at 7:57 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Ankiewicz, Atkins, Kampwerth, Taylor, Pillai, and Leynaud. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Request for Retirement

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the request for retirement of Sharon Strauch, paraprofessional at Northview School, effective at the conclusion of the 2021-22 school year. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the request for retirement of Rita Strickler, district office administrative assistant, effective December 17, 2021. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Employment

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Atkins, to employ Chrystal Hancock as food service employee at Parkside School, effective October 12, 2021. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to employ Amy Lund as part-time paraprofessional at Northview School for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to employ Julie Plut as part-time district health aide for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to employ Megan Baltikauski as administrative assistant in the district office, effective November 8, 2021. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Working Agreement with the Peru Educators' Association

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the practices of testing, reporting, and quarantining as related to Executive Order 88 with the Peru Educators' Association. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Taylor, Pillai, Leynaud, Ankiewicz, and Bruins. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Kampwerth. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Working Agreement with Custodial Service Employees, Service Employees International Union Local 138

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the practices of testing, reporting, and quarantining as related to Executive Order 87 with the Custodial Service Employees, Service Employees International Union Local 138. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Atkins, Bruins, Taylor, Pillai, and Leynaud. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Working Agreement with Food Service Employees, Service Employees International Union Local 138

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the practices of testing, reporting, and quarantining as related to Executive Order 87 with the Food Service Employees, Service Employees International Union Local 138. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Taylor, Pillai, Leynaud, Ankiewicz, Bruins, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Bruins, to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Patti Leynaud, Board President

Rita Strickler, Board Secretary