

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
OCTOBER 21, 2020, 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 gymnasium at Parkside School by Board President Mark Lambole, on Wednesday, October 21, 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, Dawn Ladzinski, Eric Heagy, Jake Been, and Bill Newkirk.

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Leynaud, to approve the meeting agenda of October 21, 2020. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Leynaud, Lambole, Ankiewicz, Bruins, Kampwerth, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Kampwerth reported that he distributed 12,000 masks which were provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards at no cost. Mr. Craven thanked Mr. Kampwerth and reported the masks were given to the district's school nurse and Principals' offices.

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 Member Bruins has reached LeaderShop Member II status, Member Ankiewicz has reached Master Board Member status and Members Kampwerth, Pillai, and Lambole have maintained Master Board Member Status. Simon Kampwerth also serves on the IASB Board of Directors, as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association of School Boards. 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 Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- September 16, 2020 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- September 16, 2020 Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2020 District Financial Statements, Independent Audit, Annual Financial Report and Shared Services and Outsourcing Report

Bill Newkirk of Newkirk and Associates presented the Fiscal Year 2020 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, 2020. 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.

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 0.18 percent. The roughly \$7 million in brokered accounts with Vezzetti Capital Management have a net return of 0.08 percent year to date, while the roughly \$2.1 million in the cash management accounts with Peru Federal Savings Bank have a rate of return of 0.51 percent. The total investment concentration in both accounts is roughly \$9 million dollars at the end of the first quarter of FY21.

Administrative Reports:

Northview School

Mrs. McDonald reported:

- Parents were recently given an option to have their remote students return to in-person blended learning. An additional 53 students joined the blended learning which leaves 87 students continuing virtual learning. The Preschool, Autism and Life Skills rooms will be attending school five days a week beginning October 23.
- MAP and fall assessments/benchmarking began this week. This data will be used to schedule Problem Solving meetings with grade level teachers to identify and discuss at-risk students.
- Teachers met for the second time for math curriculum training. Mrs. McDonald added the district is fortunate to have our new second grade teacher, Olivia Boucek, who had been using the curriculum at her prior district, to support our teachers.

Parkside School

Mrs. Anderson Maier reported:

- Sixteen students returned to in-person blended learning. Parents and teachers of remaining virtual learners are adjusting with this mode of learning very well. Paraprofessionals continue to help at-risk students who are struggling beyond the school days.
- The IESA guidelines now permit open gyms for fall/winter sports programs. The number of participants per sport and the frequency of practices is limited. Choral and band members may now meet inside with some limitations as well.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Craven reported:

- The 2020 ISBE report card will not be available until the end of October. The report card will look quite different this year without spring testing data.
- Stuart Tree Service has agreed to maintain their fees for this year at last year's rate for snow removal.
- Currently, there have been no cases of Covid traced back to the district buildings. Based on current local and regional data, Mr. Craven is not recommending any changes in our current

format of in-person learning. However, he would like the Board's approval to extend the school day to 1:55 p.m. at Parkside and 2:05 p.m. at Northview to add instructional minutes to the school day beginning with the second trimester.

2020-21 Fall Enrollment Report

Mr. Craven reported that the final fall enrollment numbers have not changed much since last reported in September. Enrollment in Kindergarten through 8th grade has dropped from 863 students last year to 850 this year. The overall enrollment for Preschool through 8th grade has dropped from 963 students last year to 912. Preschool has seen the most significant loss of 38 students this year likely due to the fact there is no virtual learning platform for preschoolers.

Report Regarding Tentative 2020 Tax Levy

Superintendent Craven shared preliminary 2020 Tax Levy information. He reported good news in that the overall Equalized Assessed Valuation is estimated at a 2.9% increase this year. If this sustains, the district will be able to operate at a \$3 tax rate with the rate of \$3.23 when including the Debt Service fund. Mr. Craven will take a closer look at the IMRF and Social Security funds prior to the formal presentation at the November meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Resignation

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the resignation of Lisa Tomsha as food service employee effective October 22, 2020. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Appointment of Delegate and Alternate for the IASB Virtual Delegate Assembly

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

Approval of Recommended Contract Extension for Snow Removal Services

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

Approval of Recommended Roof Repair and Maintenance Program Costs Proposal

District architect, Jake Been was present to report on the bids received for roof repairs and maintenance program costs proposals for Northview and Parkside Schools. After discussion, the Board agreed to have the recommended repair work done at both schools this year. The Board will wait until FY21 to begin an annual maintenance program for the roofs at both schools.

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Leynaud, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the recommended roof repair costs proposals from Sterling Commercial Roofing and R. B. Crowther Company as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Leynaud, Bruins, Kampwerth, Pillai, Taylor, Lamboley, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2020 District Financial Statements, Independent Audit, Annual Financial Support and Shared Services and Outsourcing Report

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 District Financial Statements, Independent Audit, Annual Financial Support and Shared Services and Outsourcing Report. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Bruins, to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Mark Lamboley, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary