

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
JULY 21, 2021, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of July 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 Patti Leynaud, on Wednesday, July 21, 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, Josanne Bruins, Simon Kampwerth, Vice President C.G. Pillai, and President Patti Leynaud. **ABSENT:** Members John Atkins and Austin Taylor.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Jamie Craven, Board Secretary Kim Vezzetti, Rita Strickler, Eric Heagy, Hanna Sprog, Stephanie Simpko, Jennifer Ebner, Autumn Spears, Lynn Thompson, Aaron Buffo, Tina Buffo, and Lexy Rebholz.

Member Taylor joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Vice President Pillai, to approve the regular meeting agenda of July 21, 2021. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Ankiewicz, Pillai, Leynaud, Bruins, Kampwerth, and Taylor. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Atkins. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent Aaron Buffo made public comment sharing his concerns regarding a mask mandate for the upcoming school year. He requested the mask mandate would be optional for students, stating the school's job is to educate students, not make medical decisions.

Parent Jennifer Ebner made public comment sharing her concerns regarding her rights as an Illinois citizen. She requested the school district do what is right for children by allowing each family to make their own personal decision regarding a mask mandate.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- June 16, 2021 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- June 16, 2021 Executive Session Minutes
- July 13, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- July 13, 2021 Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

District Treasurer Eric Heagy presented the quarterly Treasurer's report. He reported the weighted average rate of return on all deposit accounts yields 0.26 percent. The roughly \$2.9 million in brokered accounts with Vezzetti Capital Management have a net return of 0.20 percent year to date, while the roughly \$1.8 million in the cash management accounts with Peru Federal Savings Bank have a rate of return of 0.36 percent. The total investment concentration in both accounts is roughly \$4.7 million at the end of the fourth quarter of FY21.

IASB Informational Update

Member Kampwerth shared that the Joint Annual Conference attendance and exhibitor numbers are up, and hotels are preparing for the large numbers. He mentioned utilizing the National School Board Association for advocacy in Washington, stating the governor is not wanting to approve any mandates.

Superintendent's Report

- Mr. Craven reported that the summer school Jump Start program will begin next week at both buildings.
- Mr. Craven shared details regarding the SHIELD testing program which will be implemented at both schools. This will lessen quarantine times for those being tested weekly.
- Mr. Craven stated the custodial staff is ahead of schedule with summer cleaning.

Review of FY21 Year End Budget

Superintendent Craven gave a brief overview of the FY21 year-end budget and will present the FY22 budget at the August board meeting.

Presentation of 2021-22 Student Handbook Revisions

Minimal changes were made in the student handbook this year. A few Parkside course changes were updated and minor details pertaining to Covid were added.

Update and Discussion Regarding 2021-22 Return to School Plan

Superintendent Craven discussed the Return to School Plan stating the governor does not plan to support a mask mandate. Mr. Craven will recommend to the transition committee to start the year with masks being required for all staff and students with plans to re-evaluate positivity trends and IDPH guidance in five weeks. If the trend is positive, the hope is to start removing some of the mitigation layers.

Presentation of Recommended Additions, Deletions and Modifications of Board of Education Policy Numbers: 1:20; 2:10; 2:30; 2:130; 2:240; 5:10; 5:30; 6:100; 6:145; 6:160; 6:235; 6:255; 6:260; 7:280; 8:90

Mr. Craven presented the latest updates from the June 2021 PRESS edition. Most of the policies reflect updated footnotes and references with no major changes. The policies will be ready for adoption at the August 18, 2021, regular Board of Education meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Employee Handbook

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the Employee Handbook as presented. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of District Organizational Chart

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the District Organizational Chart as presented. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Substitute Handbook

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the Substitute Handbook. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended 2021-22 Student Handbook Revisions

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the recommended 2021-22 Student Handbook revisions. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of 2021-22 Paid Lunch Fees

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve the 2021-22 paid lunch fees. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Ankiewicz, Bruins, Kampwerth, Pillai, and Leynaud. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Atkins. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Establishment of Date, Time and Location for FY22 Public Budget Hearing

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to establish Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Parkside School as the date, time, and location for Fiscal Year 22 Public Budget Hearing for Peru Elementary School District 124. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:47 p.m. for the discussion of information regarding the employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel; for discussion of information related to employee salaries, benefits, and issues related to collective bargaining; for discussion of purchase, lease, or acquisition of real estate property; and for the review and consideration of release of executive session minutes of meetings held on the following dates, with exceptions as noted in minutes in which the need for confidentiality remains: January 20, 2021; February 17, 2021; March 10, 2021; March 17, 2021; April 28, 2021 (1); April 28, 2021 (2); May 3, 2021; June 16, 2021. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Bruins, Taylor, Pillai, and Leynaud. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Atkins. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to return to Regular Session at 7:13 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Bruins, Taylor, Pillai, Leynaud. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Taylor, seconded by Vice President Pillai, to approve the resignation of Rachel Pett as a teacher at Parkside School. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to employ Chris Lamboley as a district nurse for the 2021-22 school year. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Taylor, to employ Carol Ploch as a preschool teacher at Northview School for the 2021-22 school year. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to employ Alexia Donovan as a teacher at Parkside School for the 2021-22 school year. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the retirement of Dawn Ladzinski at the conclusion of the 2021-22 school year. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the working agreement with the Peru Educators' Association. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Ankiewicz, Taylor, Pillai, Leynaud, Bruins. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Kampwerth. **The motion carried 5-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Pillai, seconded by Member Taylor, to authorize the destruction of verbatim audio records from executive sessions held prior to January 1, 2020 per the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to review and release the Executive Session Minutes of meetings held on the following dates with exceptions as noted in minutes in which the need for confidentiality remains: January 20, 2021; February 17, 2021; March 10, 2021; March 17, 2021; April 28, 2021 (1); April 28, 2021 (2); May 3, 2021; June 16, 2021. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Pillai, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Aye 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Patti Leynaud, Board President

Rita Strickler, Board Secretary