

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
December 17, 2025, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The truth-in-taxation public hearing on proposed tax year 2025 levy for school year 2026-2027 was called to order in the Choral Room at Parkside Middle School by Board President Rob Ankiewicz, on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members John Atkins, Justin Miller, Alison Goode, Austin Taylor, Vice President Simon Kampwerth, and President Rob Ankiewicz. ABSENT: Jessica Skolek.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Ryan Linnig, Megan Baltikauski, Brent Ziegler, and Sara McDonald.

MOTION: Moved by Justin Miller, seconded by John Atkins, to approve the truth-in-taxation levy hearing agenda on December 17, 2025. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Atkins, Kampwerth, Goode, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Simon Kampwerth, seconded by John Atkins, to enter into the truth-in-taxation hearing at 6:01 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins, Miller, Goode, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

TRUTH IN TAXATION LEVY HEARING IN THE YEAR 2025 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

The tentative levy for tax year 2025 was presented at the November meeting by Mr. Linnig. There have been no changes, and Mr. Linnig recommends approval of the final levy as presented. There were no questions from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no public comment, correspondence, or announcements at this time.

MOTION: Moved by John Atkins, seconded by Justin Miller, to exit the truth-in-taxation hearing at 6:02 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Kampwerth, Goode, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of December of the Board of Education of Peru Elementary School District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Choral Room at Parkside Middle School by Board President Rob Ankiewicz, on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members John Atkins, Justin Miller, Alison Goode, Austin Taylor, Vice President Simon Kampwerth, and President Rob Ankiewicz. ABSENT: Jessica Skolek.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Ankiewicz led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION: Moved by Alison Goode, seconded by John Atkins, to approve the regular meeting agenda of December 17, 2025, 2025. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Atkins, Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Taylor, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no public comment, correspondence, or announcements at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- November 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- November 18, 2025 Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Taylor Atkins, Goode, Ankiewicz, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

IASB JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

The Board engaged in discussion regarding their participation in the Joint Annual Conference last month, including the sessions attended. It was noted that the conference offered a significant amount of valuable information and had the largest attendance to date.

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. McDonald Reported:

Parent-teacher conferences were very well attended, with a 94.5% parent participation rate. The second-grade team successfully implemented standards-based report cards. Winter concerts were also well attended. Ms. Lindig was commended for her outstanding work.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

Academic and at-risk reports continue to be reviewed consistently. Students have been enrolled in Project Success when recommended. Staff are encouraging students to remain motivated and finish strong before winter break. Attendance remains a primary focus, with letters sent to families regarding multiple student absences, while also recognizing students for good attendance. Parent-teacher conferences reflected a 71% parent participation rate. PLC teams are preparing for winter benchmark testing, and the Career Exploration Committee will meet again on January 5, with their template nearly finalized.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Linnig Reported:

Mr. Linnig recommended that the 8th grade graduation be held on May 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parkside Gymnasium. The district continues to work on restructuring its MTSS framework to ensure a district-wide approach, with the goal of implementation effective July 1 to address academic needs. During the following fiscal year, the district will work to address behavioral and social-emotional needs. Transportation costs continue to be a concern.

Meetings have been held with the administrative team to discuss options for managing special education transportation, including the use of district vehicles and staff. A meeting with Mrs. Baker and Johannes is being scheduled to discuss potential route changes to help reduce costs on regular routes. The second reading of the updated PRESS Issue 120 policies, Sections 2–5, is being recommended for adoption, with no substantial changes to these policies.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The district hired an EL Coordinator for the 2026–27 school year. Mr. Ziegler and Mrs. Meyer met with LP regarding the development of the Career Exploration program. The \$50,000 matching grant was formally approved on December 5. The tax levy requires a Truth in Taxation hearing due to a 5% increase in EAV; if estimates are accurate, the tax rate based on the requested levy will remain nearly the same as 2024. Mr. Linnig is tentatively scheduled to host the IVAC Education Day at Parkside on January 26.

FIRST READING OF PRESS ISSUE 120 UPDATED POLICIES SECTIONS 6-8

Due to the large number of policies under review, PRESS Issue 120 – Updated Policies Sections 6–8 was presented for the first reading with final adoption in January.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of the Resolution for Approval of the 2025 Tax Levy

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the recommendation to adopt the 2025 tax levy as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Goode, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the Date, Time, and Location for the 2026 8th Grade Commencement Ceremonies

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the recommendation to host 8th grade graduation on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parkside Gymnasium. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Taylor, Kampwerth, Atkins, Ankiewicz, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Adoption of PRESS Issue 120 Updated Policies Sections 2-5

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve recommendation to adopt PRESS Issue 120 updated policies, sections 2-5 as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins Miller, Atkins, Taylor, Goode, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. for the discussion of information regarding the employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or district legal counsel. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Kampwerth, Goode, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Taylor, to return to Regular Session at 6:52 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Taylor, Kampwerth, Miller, Goode, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Specific Employment Recommendation

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the recommendation of Mikayla Connor as a 3rd grade teacher for Northview Elementary commencing the 2026-2027 school term. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary