

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
December 19, 2024, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular 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 Learning Resource Center at Parkside School by Board President Patti Leynaud, on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members John Atkins, Rob Ankiewicz, Josanne Bruins, Simon Kampwerth, Austin Taylor, and President Patti Leynaud. ABSENT: Alison Goode

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Jamie Craven, Megan Baltikauski, Brent Ziegler, Al Mobly and Bria Fennell.

APPROVAL OF TRUTH IN TAXATION LEVY HEARING ON PROPOSED TAX YEAR 2024 AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Rob Ankiewicz, seconded by Simon Kampwerth, to approve the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing Agenda. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, Bruins, Atkins, Taylor, and Leynaud. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

TRUTH IN TAXATION LEVY HEARING ON PROPOSED TAX YEAR 2024

MOTION: Moved by John Atkins, seconded by Simon Kampwerth to enter into the Truth in Taxation levy hearing on proposed tax year 2024 at 6:01 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Kampwerth, Bruins, Taylor, Leynaud, and Ankiewicz. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Josanne Bruins, seconded by John Atkins to exit the Truth in Taxation Levy Hearing on proposed tax year 2024 at 6:03 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Atkins, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, Leynaud, and Taylor. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Simon Kampwerth, seconded by Rob Ankiewicz, to approve the regular meeting agenda of December 19, 2024. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Leynaud, Taylor, Atkins, and Bruins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bria Fennell, parent of a preschool student at Northview addressed the Board of Education regarding her child's 504 plan and an event that took place on November 14, 2024 at Northview Elementary.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- November 19, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes

- November 19, 2024 Executive Session Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

IASB JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

The Board of Education provided individual feedback on the 2024 Joint Annual Conference.

REPORTS, UPDATES AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Administrative Reports

Mrs. McDonald's report provided the following:

- Parent Teacher Conferences were held this year on two evenings prior to Thanksgiving. We had early dismissal on one day and a noon dismissal on the other. The percentage of conferences attended by parents was 95% for the General Education Teachers (there were 566 in person conferences and 20 phone or zoom conferences for a total of 586 conferences for PreK-4th grade).
- Right after Parent Teacher Conferences, we started Project Success for our students in Grades 2-4. This is an after-school homework program for students that struggle with homework completion or don't have anyone at home to help with homework. We have 7 students in this program in 2nd Grade, 3 in 3rd grade, and 13 in 4th grade.
- The First Grade Team implemented Standards Based Reporting to parents.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

- Student attendance is at 95% daily attendance.
- Parent Teacher Conferences were at a 73% attendance level for the year. District and school messages, as well as teacher invites/requests are the current form of notifying parents about conferences.
- PLC teams have met on grade level curriculum topics, as well as time committed to problem solving meetings, reviewing student data and current performances. The goal is to address, with students and parents, potential pathways to success for students.
- Our Teacher's Institute on January 6 will involve a classroom management training conducted by the LaSalle County ROE, Mrs. Sara Swartz.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Craven Reported:

- On December 13th Mr. Craven attended the mid-year liability insurance cooperative meeting. Looking to May at our renewal meeting, the board anticipates a Property/Casualty increase between 8-15% increase based on current Marketplace conditions and 5-10% in Worker Compensation based on current and outstanding cases. Our renewal meeting will be held on May 19, 2025.
- The Education Foundation meeting was held on Wednesday, December 4th. The Foundation approved four grant requests totaling \$5,850. Other agenda items included discussion regarding the March 15, 2025 Trivia Night. Just since June 2022, the Foundation has given out just under \$40,000 in Grant Requests.

- The Northview Door project underwent an inspection on December 5th with Jay Diez from Healy Bender. Some doors were not closing per code and a couple doors are still sticking. This report will be shared with Key Builders to coordinate the final work to be completed over winter break.
- On Tuesday, December 10 Jacob Been from Healy Bender met with Jim Dziarnowski and Mr. Craven to review progress on the 10 Year Health Life Safety Survey.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Craven provided the Board with a Strategic Plan update regarding the following:

- A planning meeting was held on December 3rd and a BPAC committee was formed. The committee discussed upcoming events. The next meeting will be held at the Peru Public Library in February. A May Cinco de Mayo event will be held as well.
- VOICE guest speaker IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris discussed their intended efforts to expand Career Exposure and Exploration at area schools including guest career speakers from IVCC, Career Days at IVCC, and possibly creating a position at IVCC to help facilitate Career Exploration with area schools. An informal feeder school superintendent meeting was held on December 10. There was discussion of how Spanish is being taught and the possibility of shared virtual learning or an early bird class at LP. It was agreed to explore further in a more formal meeting.
- The Tax Levy report and history was provided at the November and December meetings. A deficit reduction plan was presented and discussed at the December meeting and will be brought back to the January meeting.

PRESENTATION OF BUDGET REDUCTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Mr. Craven presented the budget reduction plan that is being recommended for consideration, with final action no later than the February 2025 Regular Board Meeting. While this year's tax levy will help next year's budget, we are being advised that EBF will remain flat and CPPRT will not be increasing either.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of the Resolution for Approval of the 2024 Tax Levy

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Bruins, to adopt the 2024 tax levy as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Ankiewicz, Bruins, Kampwerth, Atkins, Leynaud, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Date, Time, and Location for the 2025 8th Grade Commencement Ceremonies

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to approve Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 7:00 p.m. in the Parkside gymnasium to host 8th grade graduation. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Taylor, Bruins, Leynaud, and Atkins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Adoption of PRESS Issue 117 Updated Policies

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the adoption of PRESS Issue 117 updated policies as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Taylor, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, Bruins, and Leynaud. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:50 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; and discussion regarding denial of access to school property as it related to board policy 8:30. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Ankiewicz, Bruins, Taylor, Kampwerth, and Leynaud. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to return to Regular Session at 7:50 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, Bruins, Taylor, Leynaud, and Atkins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Regarding 2024-28 Appendix B with the Peru Educators' Association

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the MOU regarding the 2024-28 Appendix B with the PEA as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Ankiewicz, Atkins, Leynaud, Taylor, and Bruins. NAYS: None. Member Kampwerth abstained. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Employment Recommendations

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Kampwerth to approve the recommendation to employ Emma Happ as a paraprofessional at Northview Elementary for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year. AYE, 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Ankiewicz to approve the recommendation to employ Alexis Robinson as a paraprofessional at Northview Elementary for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year. AYE, 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Ankiewicz to approve the recommendation to employ William 'Dean' Harper as a third shift custodian at Northview Elementary. AYE, 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of FMLA Request

MOTION: Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the FMLA request from Megan Einhaus. 2024. AYE, 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Ankiewicz, to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Patti Leynaud, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary