

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
November 18, 2025, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of November 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 Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

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

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

MOTION: Moved by Simon Kampwerth, seconded by John Atkins, to approve the regular meeting agenda of November 18, 2025, 2025. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins, Miller, Skolek, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Linnig would like to recognize two staff members for recent honors. Sally Kampwerth has been nominated for the Illinois Teacher of the Year Award, reflecting her dedication to students and our school community. Heather Baker has been nominated for the Human Graves Award through the IPA, acknowledging her leadership and commitment to our district. We congratulate both Sally and Heather on these well-deserved nominations.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Skolek to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- October 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- October 15, 2025 Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. McDonald Reported:

- Project Success for grades 3–4 began on October 21.
- A special thank-you to the Rotary Club for delivering dictionaries to all 3rd-grade students. We appreciate this support each year and always look forward to their visit.
- A BPAC meeting was held on November 3; the next meeting is scheduled for May.
- The Northview Veterans Day Program was once again very well attended and well received. Thank you to Ms. Lindig, Northview's music teacher, for preparing the students and leading another wonderful performance.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

- Parkside continues to see improved attendance, and this will remain a focus as we move into parent-teacher conferences.
- The Career Exploration Committee has met three times so far this school year and has developed a preliminary plan for grade-level objectives as we design and refine our PACE model.
- Our School Report Card designation has been released, and Parkside earned a Commendable status.
- The Veterans Day Program was once again a tremendous success and very well received by students, staff, and community members.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Linnig Reported:

- Mr. Linnig complimented the Veterans Day programs at Northview and Parkside, noting excellent student performances, strong community attendance, and numerous compliments. Staff and students were commended for their efforts.
- American Education Week is November 17.
- Illinois School Board Appreciation Day is November 15. Mr. Linnig expressed gratitude to the Board for their time, dedication, and commitment to student and school success.
- Risk Management Plan: Included in the packet for annual approval prior to levy adoption. No changes are recommended. The plan justifies eligible expenses paid from the Tort/Liability Fund.
- Discipline Improvement Plan: Required after the 2022–23 school year due to minority suspension rates being in the top 20% statewide. The District fell below the threshold in 2023–24 and 2024–25. If below the threshold for a third consecutive year, submission will no longer be required. The committee met November 10, and the action plan requires Board approval.
- Johannes Contract Extension: Proposal for a 1-year extension at 4.25% (negotiated down from 5%). Board approval recommended.

2024-2025 SCHOOL REPORT CARD UPDATE

Mr. Linnig provided the Board of Education with a link to the Illinois School Report Card for their review of the district data. Both Northview and Parkside received a Commendable designation.

PRESENTATION OF THE TENTATIVE 2025 TAX LEVY

Mr. Linnig provided a review the EAV, estimated extension, exemptions, abatement savings, and the tentative levy. Current estimates show the tax rate holding steady, with a slight change from \$3.19735 to \$3.19721. With an estimated 6.51% increase in EAV and a levy request over 5%, we must post notice and hold a truth-in-taxation hearing at the December meeting.

The FY26 Budget summary was included to provide required fund balance information. The abatement resolution is also included; this year's sales tax agreement with the City of Peru allows the District to abate \$1,556,899, reducing the tax rate by about \$0.60.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

- BPAC & Staffing: Mrs. Baker led the Northview Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee on Nov. 5; EL Coordinator hiring expected Nov. 18.
- Career Exploration & MTSS: Committees are developing grade-level objectives, integrating career exploration, and standardizing district-wide MTSS supports (academic focus 2025–26, social-emotional 2026–27).
- Facilities & Grants: Awaiting ISBE/IMEA grants to upgrade Parkside facilities and security systems; Northview entrance repairs completed.
- Finance & Tax Levy: 2025 Tentative Tax Levy to be presented; rate expected to remain nearly unchanged. FY26 budget includes ongoing cost-saving measures.
- Surveys & Reporting: Fall culture and climate surveys shared with leadership; Annual Statement of Affairs reporting streamlined for FY25, reducing costs and administrative time.

FIRST READING OF PRESS ISSUE 120 UPDATED POLICIES

Due to the large number of policies under review, PRESS Issue 120 – Updated Policies Sections 2–5 was provided for first reading and review and will be recommended for adoption at the December meeting. The remaining Sections 6–8 will be presented for first reading in December with final adoption in January.

2025 JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE REVIEW & PLANNING

The conference itinerary and related materials were provided to the Board of Education for review.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the Tentative 2025 Tax Levy and to Set the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing for December 17, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the tentative 2025 tax levy and recommended date and time of the truth-in-taxation hearing as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Kampwerth, Skolek, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Adoption of the Resolution Providing for the Abatement of Certain Taxes Levied for the Payment and Principal of and Interest on the General Obligation Bond Series 2015 and General Obligation School Refunding Bonds (ARS), Series 2022B

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the tax abatement resolution as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Skolek, Taylor, Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the 2025-2026 District Risk Management Program

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the 2025-2026 District Risk Management Program as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Kampwerth, Atkins, Skolek, Ankiewicz, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of the 2025-2026 Discipline Improvement Plan

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the 2025-2026 Discipline Improvement Plan as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Kampwerth, Atkins, Taylor, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Transportation Contract

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Skolek to approve the transportation contract as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Skolek, Miller, Kampwerth, Taylor, 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 6:52 p.m. for the discussion of information regarding the employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, and discussion of litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed, and/or is probable, and discussion of student discipline. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Kampwerth, Skolek, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to return to Regular Session at 7:11 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Kampwerth, Taylor, Miller, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Specific Employment Recommendation

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the recommendation of Abby Schenck as the Bilingual/EL Teacher for Peru ESD 124 commencing the 2026-2027 school term. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0**

Approval of Employee Resignation

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the resignation of Colleen Schmidt at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school term. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0**

Approval of FMLA Request

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the FMLA request from Madison Pearson. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Skolek, to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary