

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
August 20, 2025, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of August 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, August 20, 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, Alison Goode, Justin Miller, Jessica Skolek, Austin Taylor, Vice President Simon Kampwerth, and President Rob Ankiewicz.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Ryan Linnig, Megan Baltikauski, Brent Ziegler, Sara McDonald, Beth Rich, Abby Kotecki, Kim Strube, Lisa Kohr, Jenny Calhoun, Wendy DePhillips, Emma Constantine, Thea McNamara, Madi Redfern, and Makayla Connor.

MOTION: Moved by John Atkins, seconded by Austin Taylor, to approve the regular meeting agenda of August 20, 2025, 2025. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Taylor, Skolek, Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Miller and Goode. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

School Safety and Security:

Member Atkins reported that extra patrols will be present at Northview and Parkside during the first week of school to ensure student and staff safety.

Assessment Updates:

Superintendent Linnig shared an article noting that the State Board will be updating the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) cut scores, which will impact student performance in reading, math, and science. The new cut scores will more accurately align with other states and college and career readiness.

Board Development:

Member Taylor informed the group that the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) division meeting will be implementing new onboarding measures for incoming board members, aimed at improving training and orientation.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. Ziegler and Mrs. McDonald introduced all new faculty and staff members joining Peru ESD 124 for the 2025-26 school year to the Board of Education and everyone in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- July 16, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- July 16, 2025 Executive Session Minutes
- July 25, 2025 Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports 337-509-0646 number
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements
- Fiscal Year 2025 Report of Contracts Exceeding \$25,000
- Fiscal Year 2025 Report of Salary, Compensation, and Benefits

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Taylor, Goode, Ankiewicz, Skolek, Atkins, and Miller.
NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Administrative Reports

Mrs. McDonald Reported:

- As of August 14, 2025, total enrollment at Northview is 557 students. Kindergarten enrollment is 69, marking the smallest kindergarten class we've had in many years.
- Mrs. McDonald commended the dedication of Northview teachers, noting how much time and effort they invested in preparing over the summer.
- PreK screenings were held on Friday, August 8th, with the LEASE PreK team conducting the evaluations. A total of 20 students were screened. As of August 15th, 102 PreK students are enrolled.
- Northview Open House took place on Monday, August 18th from 5:00–6:30 p.m. This event provided students and families with an opportunity to tour the building, drop off supplies, and meet their teachers ahead of the new school year.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

- Parkside Enrollment (as of current count): 413 students
- Parkside Open House took place on Monday, August 18th from 5:30–7:00 p.m. This event allows students and families to tour the building, meet teachers, and get ready for the upcoming school year.
- Parkside continues to prioritize student achievement by focusing on several key areas: improving attendance, increasing student motivation, implementing a standards-aligned curriculum, and supporting social-emotional learning (SEL). SEL resources are delivered by Olivia Wojcik, classroom teachers, and the building support staff.
- Effective communication with students and families remains essential in fostering strong partnerships for learning. In addition, community engagement plays a vital role in strengthening our programs and enhancing overall student development.

Superintendent's Report

- A list of recommended evaluators for both certified and non-certified staff is included in tonight's agenda for board approval.
- A copy of the IDOT Serious Safety Hazard Resolution is also included. This resolution is completed annually to identify students who live within a 1.5-mile radius of the schools but qualify for transportation due to the presence of specific safety hazards.

- There are no changes to the proposed PRESS Policies as presented in the July meeting.
- A review of the district's 12-year enrollment history was presented through a spreadsheet and a trend graph. The 2025-26 data is preliminary as we are still receiving last minute registrations. Additionally, we have distributed an enrollment projection survey to families and the community to help gather data and insights regarding future enrollment trends.

Strategic Plan Update

The Strategic Plan Progress Monitoring tracker has been updated with updates under Goal 1, Strategy 1.2, Goal 2, Strategy 2.1, Goal 2, Strategy 2.3, and Goal 3, Strategy 3.1, Strategy 3.3, and Goal 4, Strategy 4.1. Looking ahead, district goals may include implementing job shadowing opportunities for 8th grade students as part of a broader focus on career exploration and strengthening community partnerships. An enrollment projection survey was developed and sent out to families in the district as well as shared on social media to provide some data to help us gauge enrollment and a better plan for facilities needs over the next 5 years. Mr. Linnig has been meeting weekly with the head custodians to review projects included in the 5-year plan at each building as well as regular projects to be completed. A tentative budget has been developed and we are in the process of exploring and evaluating cost saving measures to reduce the deficit.

Presentation of the Tentative FY'26 Budget

A copy of the FY26 tentative budget summary, including charts outlining revenue sources and expenditure breakdowns by account numbers, was presented to the Board of Education. Adjustments to the budget will continue over the coming weeks prior to its finalization. Mr. Linnig recommends holding the FY'26 budget hearing on September 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Learning Resource Center at Parkside Middle School.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2025-26 Evaluators for Certified and Non-Certified Staff

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the 2025-26 evaluators for certified and non-certified staff as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Goode, Taylor, Skolek, Atkins, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Adoption of Illinois Department of Transportation Serious Safety Hazard Resolution

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the adoption of the Illinois Department of Transportation Serious Safety Hazard Resolution as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins, Miller, Taylor, Skolek, Goode, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Parent Student Handbook & Staff Handbook Addendum

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the Parent Student Handbook and Staff Handbook addendum as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Atkins, Kampwerth, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Adoption of PRESS Issue 119 Updated Policies

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the adoption of PRESS Issue 119 updated policies as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Kampwerth, Miller, Skolek, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Goode. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of the Tentative FY'26 Budget and to Set the Public Budget Hearing for September 24, 2025, at 6:00PM

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve approve the FY'26 tentative budget as presented and to host the public budget hearing on September 24, 2025, at 6:00pm in the Learning Resource Center at Parkside Middle School. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Atkins, Ankiewicz, Taylor, Kampwerth, Goode, and Skolek. Nays: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. for the review and consideration of release of exedcutive session minutes of meetings held on the following dates, with the exceptions as noted in minutes in which the need for confidentiality remains, for the discussion of information regarding the employment, performance, or dismissal of employees, discussion of litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed, and/or is probable or imminent. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Kampwerth, Goode, Skolek, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Skolek, to return to Regular Session at 7:25 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Skolek, Miller, Taylor, Goode, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**Approval of Resignation**

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the resignation from Mandi Cofoid. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary