

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
May 21, 2025, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of May 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 Middle School by Board President Rob Ankiewicz, on Wednesday, May 21, 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 Alison Goode, Simon Kampwerth, Austin Taylor, Jessica Skolek, and President Rob Ankiewicz.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Jamie Craven, Megan Baltikauski, Brent Ziegler, Sara McDonald, Heather Baker, Kim Strube, Matt Janko, Shanna Cawley, Carolyn Freed, Kortney Hamm, Kyle Hamm, and the Northview and Parkside Young Author Winners and families.

MOTION: Moved by Simon Kampwerth, seconded by Alison Goode, to approve the regular meeting agenda of May 21, 2025, 2025. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Goode, Ankiewicz, Skolek, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

APPOINTMENT AND OATH OF OFFICE FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

MOTION: Moved by Alison Goode, seconded by Jessica Skolek, to appoint John Atkins for a 2-year seat on the Board of Education. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Simon Kampwerth, seconded by Alison Goode, to appoint Justin Miller for a 2-year seat on the Board of Education. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Goode, Taylor, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Per the Illinois School Code, newly appointed, elected and re-elected school board members are required to sign the Oath of Office for Elected Board Members. The oath was read by appointed board members John Atkins and Justin Miller and by current members, Rob Ankiewicz, Simon Kampwerth, Jessica Skolek, Alison Goode, and Austin Taylor.

RECOGNITION OF YOUNG AUTHOR AWARD WINNERS

Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Ziegler presented this year's Young Author Award winners to the Board of Education. Mrs. McDonald introduced winners by grade level and had two students read excerpts. Mr. Ziegler announced all winners from Parkside and also had two students share their excerpts.

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matt Janko addressed the Board to discuss the autism program at Northview.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- April 24, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- April 24, 2025 Executive Session Minutes
- May 14, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
- May 14, 2025 Executive Session Minutes
- May 15, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
- May 15, 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, Ankiewicz, Goode, Skolek, Atkins, and Miller.
NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. McDonald's reported:

- Currently there are 86 students registered for Bright Futures Preschool for next year. Of those 86, 55 are returning 2nd year PreK students and 31 are brand new.
- The Summer Book Bag Committee will be sending 116 summer book bags that will be going home with students this summer.
- The Northview SIP Committee continues to work hard at analyzing test score data in Math and ELA.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

- Attendance continues to be promoted with monthly recognition and incentives. In April, Parkside had 316 students with 1.5 or fewer absences.
- Professional development has been focusing on scheduling for the 2025-26 school year. In addition, Math PLC has designed grade level interventions for the state of the school year.
- Scholastic Bowl brought home a 2nd place trophy at the Starved Rock Conference Tournament.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2024-25 AMENDED BUDGET

Mr. Craven provided the Board with a 2024-25 budget update. Final adoption of the 2024-25 amended budget will occur during a budget hearing prior to the regular June meeting.

PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION CHANGES FOR 2025-26

Mrs. Baker and Mr. Craven presented the Board with proposed transportation changes submitted by Johannes Bus Service. In the end, the Board decided to postpone the discussion.

FIRST READING OF PRESS ISSUE 118 APRIL 2025 POLICY UPDATES

Mr. Craven presented the policies that are up for review in PRESS Issue 118.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Craven provided strategic plan updates which include the following:

- BPAC meeting was held on May 8th with a great turnout.
- Northview hired an EL paraprofessional.
- LP Career Center Visit for Parkside students.
- A meeting with the City of Peru is pending for discussion and review of the financing options for creating additional classroom space at Northview.
- Technology purchases for the 2025-26 school year were approved at the April meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Craven Reported:

- As a reminder, 8th grade graduation is on May 28th at 7:00 p.m.
- This year's final budget will reflect some expenditure changes and line item adjustments. We will amend both the Education Fund and Transportation Fund.
- The 2025-26 PSIC renewal reflects an on overall 13% increase.
- Mr. Craven recommends that the Board approve a three-year contract with Curriculum Associates for the district's iReady Math program. This program was adopted in 2020 and the district has seen considerable improvement in Math scores since its adoption. The total amount will be \$121,511.50 but paid in annual installments as noted below:
 - First invoice of \$60,775.75 due this year (July 2025 budget)
 - Second invoice of \$30,387.87 for the 2026-27 school year (July 2026 budget)
 - Third invoice of \$30,387.87 for the 2027-28 school year (July 2027 budget)

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2025-26 PSIC Renewal Pricing and Loss Information

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

Approval of Curriculum Associates Three Year Proposal

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the three year proposal from Curriculum Associates as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Goode, Kampwerth, Miller, Atkins, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Skolek to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:17 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. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Skolek, Goode, Kampwerth, Taylor, Miller, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to return to Regular Session at 8:12 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Kampwerth, Skolek, Ankiewicz, Goode, Miller, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of 2025-26 Extracurricular Assignments

MOTION: Moved by member Goode, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the 2025-26 extracurricular assignments as presented. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Employment Recommendations

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the recommendation to employ Emma Constantine as an 8th grade science teacher at Parkside Middle School commencing the 2025-26 school year. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0**

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Miller to approve the recommendation to re-employ Gina Riva as a full-time permanent substitute at Northview Elementary for the 2025-26 school year. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0**

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek to approve the recommendation to re-employ Kelly Dinges as a full-time permanent substitute at Parkside Middle School for the 2025-26 school year. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0**

Approval of 2025-26 Full-Time Substitute Salary Increase

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the full-time substitute salary increase as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Kampwerth, Goode, Skolek, Miller, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Retirement Request

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the retirement request from Dio Rios, effective November 21, 2025. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary