

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
September 24, 2025, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of September 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, September 24, 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.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Ryan Linnig, Megan Baltikauski, Brent Ziegler, Heather Baker, Abby Kotecki, Mike Vezzetti, and Bill Slevin.

MOTION: Moved by Simon Kampwerth, seconded by Jessica Skolek, to approve the regular meeting agenda of September 24, 2025, 2025. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Skolek, Atkins, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parkside Baseball Team State Tournament Qualification

Abby Kotecki shared that the Parkside Baseball Team has qualified for the state tournament for the first time in the history of Peru schools. A pep assembly will be held on Friday, September 26, at 10:20 AM at the Parkside gymnasium to celebrate and support the team. The Parkside Baseball Team will compete in the state tournament on Friday, September 26, at 2:30 PM at the East Side Center in Peoria.

\$10,000 School Breakfast Expansion Grant Awarded

Mr. Linnig informed the Board that Megan Baltikauski applied for and secured a \$10,000 School Breakfast Expansion Grant for the district. The funding will allow for the purchase of two updated warmers, one for Northview and one for Parkside, and the addition of a new cooler for Parkside.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION AND HEARING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 DISTRICT BUDGET

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller to enter the public budget hearing for fiscal year 2026 at 6:04 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Skolek, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Linnig presented the Fiscal year 2026 district budget, highlighting a \$320,000 deficit. The district plans to focus on controlling expenses in the upcoming year to address this shortfall. Key points from the budget overview included:

- A slight surplus in the Education Fund.

- An \$88,000 deficit in the Transportation Fund.
- Detailed explanations of FY26 revenue sources, including Evidence-Based Funding.
- A comprehensive breakdown of expenditures by fund.
- A working cash transfer totaling \$540,000 was made, consisting of \$295,000 transferred to the Education Fund and \$245,000 transferred to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. This transfer has been incorporated into the financial statements for the period.

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Taylor to exit the public budget hearing at 6:22 p.m. and return to the regular meeting. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Taylor, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, Skolek, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- August 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- August 20, 2025 Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation of Vezzetti, A STUDIO Company Annual Investment Account

Mike Vezzetti reported that this past year has been the district's best year to date, with a balance of \$487,000. He noted that the Federal Reserve recently lowered rates by approximately 0.25%, and he anticipates rates could be down a full percent within the next six months. He emphasized the importance of maintaining public trust in the management of the district's funds.

Administrative Reports

Mrs. Baker shared updates from Northview, noting that the open house held on August 18th was a busy and successful evening, with many students and parents attending to meet teachers and drop off supplies. Additional highlights include:

- Intervention groups have started.
- SEL lessons are under way, led by Jamie Taylor and Nikki Chase.
- The PTA's kickoff fundraiser raised an impressive \$28,638 for Northview.
- Several ISU student teachers will be working in the buildings this year.
- PLCs have been meeting regularly to review the four-year School Improvement Plan and explore new opportunities for growth.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

Parkside's current enrollment stands at 412 students. Key academic updates include:

- iReady Math and Fastbridge benchmarking assessments have been completed.

- ELA scores have improved, while math scores remain steady, with continued efforts focused on growth in that area.
- The initial PLC meeting focused on reviewing 2025-26 IAR statistics.
- PLC teams meet monthly to collaborate on the curriculum guidelines, making adjustments as needed to better meet the needs of our students.
- The PTA's kickoff fundraiser raised an impressive \$12,000 for Parkside.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Linnig reported:

- An enrollment summary was provided showing a net increase of one student since the August board meeting. Final enrollment numbers will be confirmed next month for ISBE EBF calculations.
- A proposal from Helm for HVAC maintenance reflects a 3% cost increase.
- In preparation for the ISBE \$50,000 Maintenance Grant Application, the recommended potential projects for board approval include:
 1. Replacing the Parkside gym lighting, upgrading select exterior lighting and improving the entry fob system.
 2. Installing new emergency exit lighting at Northview.

The scope of Parkside's exterior lighting upgrades will be finalized based on incoming proposals.

- Mr. Linnig also provided an update on the Northview exterior door project.

Strategic Plan Update

The Strategic Plan Progress Monitoring Tracker has been updated with progress under the following goals and strategies:

- Goal 1: Strategies 1.1 and 1.2
- Goal 2: Strategies 2.1 and 2.3
- Goal 3: Strategies 3.1 and 3.3
- Goal 4: Strategies 4.1 and 4.2
- Goal 5: Strategy 5.4
- The Parkside administrative team met on September 9 to discuss options for adding a foreign language course through the Illinois Virtual School Academy, pending schedule review.
- The district budget has been developed. Next steps include:
 - Completing a program cost analysis
 - Evaluating cost-saving measures and/or revenue-generating options
 - To address staffing needs, the district will use full-time substitutes to cover part-time paraprofessional roles in each building. These substitutes will also help cover absences across both schools when needed.
- Mr. Linnig chairs the VOICE Committee, working to reduce redundant reporting and mandates to improve efficiency. He was also appointed to the Area Career Center Board as the elementary school representative.
- A staff survey focused on culture and climate at Northview and Parkside will be sent out by the end of September.

IASB Delegate Assembly Discussion

The Board discussed the upcoming Delegate Assembly and considered the selection of a Delegate and Alternate.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2026 District Budget

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the adoption of the fiscal year 2026 district budget as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins, Miller, Skolek, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended Proposal for HVAC Maintenance Services

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the proposal from Helm Mechanical to provide HVAC maintenance services as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Skolek, Kampwerth, Atkins, Ankiewicz, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Maintenance Grant Application

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to authorize the district to apply for the ISBE \$50,000 Matching Maintenance Grant. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Skolek, Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:23 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 or imminent. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Kampwerth, Atkins, Miller, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Skolek, to return to Regular Session at 7:41 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Skolek, Miller, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Employment Recommendation

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the recommendation of John Spelich as the 5th grade boys' basketball coach. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0**

Approval of Employee Benefits Plan

MOTION: Moved by member Miller, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the employee benefits plan as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Taylor, Atkins, and Skolek. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary