

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the month of April 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 Patti Leynaud, on Wednesday, April 24, 2025, 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, Alison Goode, Simon Kampwerth, Austin Taylor, and President Patti Leynaud.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Superintendent Jamie Craven, Megan Baltikauski, Brent Ziegler, Sara McDonald, Eric Heagy, Jessica Skolek, and Ryan Linnig.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

At the close of her term, Board President Leynaud addressed her fellow board members with gratitude and reflection. She began by sincerely thanking each member for their dedication, collaboration, and shared commitment to the district's mission over the past few years. As she steps down, she conveyed her full confidence in the board's continued success. Her message closed with warm wishes for the future and a deep sense of pride in what they had accomplished together.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CERTIFIED RESULTS OF THE APRIL 1, 2025 ELECTION**

Mr. Craven presented the certified results of the April 1, 2025 School Board Election in a document received from LaSalle County Clerk Jennifer Ebner. The clerk's office serves as the Canvassing Board for LaSalle County and certified total votes for all candidates for members of the Board of Education and proclaimed a total of 2,334 voters cast ballots in Peru Elementary School District 124.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to acknowledge the certified results of the April 1, 2025 Election. AYE, 6, Nay 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Ankiewicz, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn sine die. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, Atkins, Goode, Taylor, and Leynaud. Nays: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

## **REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Appointment of the Superintendent as President Pro Tempore**

Patti Leynaud nominated Superintendent Jamie Craven as President Pro-Tem. There were no other nominations. Superintendent Craven was acclaimed the President Pro-Tem.

### **ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Members Rob Ankiewicz, Alison Goode, Simon Kampwerth, Austin Taylor, and Jessica Skolek.

### **Oath of Office for Newly Elected or Re-Elected Board of Education Members**

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

### **Election of Board of Education President**

President Pro-Tem, Jamie Craven called for nominations for Board President. Mr. Kampwerth nominated Rob Ankiewicz. With no other nominations, Mr. Ankiewicz was acclaimed the Board President.

### **Election of Board of Education Vice President**

President Ankiewicz called for nominations for Board Vice President. Mr. Ankiewicz nominated Simon Kampwerth. With no other nominations, Mr. Kampwerth was acclaimed the Board Vice President.

### **Appointment of Board of Education Secretary**

**MOTION:** Moved by Goode, seconded by Kampwerth, to reappoint Megan Baltikauski as Secretary of the Board of Education of Peru Elementary School District 124. Aye, 5, Nay 0.  
**The motion carried 5-0.**

### **Appointment of Board of Education Treasurer**

**MOTION:** Moved by Goode, seconded by Taylor, to reappoint Eric Heagy as the Treasurer of Peru Elementary School District 124. Aye 5, Nay 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **Establishment of Board of Education Committee Membership**

President Ankiewicz requested that we revisit the committee membership assignments at another time.

### **Establishment of Regular Board of Education Meeting Dates**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by President Ankiewicz, to establish the Board of Education meetings for 2025-2026 to be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center at Parkside School on the following dates;

Wednesday, July 16, 2025  
Wednesday, August 20, 2025  
Wednesday, September 17, 2025  
Wednesday, October 15, 2025  
Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Wednesday, January 21, 2026  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026  
Wednesday, April 15, 2026  
Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Aye, 5, Nay 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **Establishment of Application Deadline for Open Board of Education Seats**

President Ankiewicz called for application deadline dates for the open Board of Education seats. Vice President Kampwerth suggested to post the vacancy notice on April 25, 2025 with an application deadline on May 9, 2025. With no other suggestions, the application deadline for the open Board of Education seats was established.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Goode, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. Aye 5, Nay 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **Enter into Regular Meeting**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Goode to enter into the regular meeting of April 24, 2025. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Goode, Skolek, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- March 19, 2025 Community Meeting Minutes
- March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 19, 2025 Executive Session Meeting
- April 3, 2025 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Goode, Taylor, and Skolek. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **Quarterly Treasurer's Report**

Eric Heagy provided the district's quarterly treasurer report to all in attendance. All funds are in a positive surplus with only 3 bonds coming due this year.

#### **PACE Framework Update**

Mr. Ziegler provided the Board of Education with an update on PACE framework, aimed at assessing students' career readiness as they transition from junior high to high school. One future goal is to incorporate this framework into the Parkside School Improvement Plan.

#### **Administrative Reports**

##### **Mrs. McDonald's reported:**

- The SEL Hub Team completed the work needed with their ROE coach to have an action plan for the 2025-26 school year. The three areas that they targeted were: 1)

cultivating a trauma-responsive learning environment; 2) enhancing our trauma-informed programming; and 3) continue to prioritize staff wellness. Of the three areas, Mrs. McDonald answered questions from the Board about cultivating a trauma-responsive learning environment.

- Kindergarten numbers for the 2025-26 school year to date are 66 students which is down compared to past numbers.
- Northview ROE Excellence in Education members, Olivia Boucek and Matt Guenther were recognized along with the Shaw Local Radio's February Teacher of the year, Carol Happ. Mrs. Happ is now in the running for Shaw Local Radio's Teacher of the Year Grand Prize.

#### **Mr. Ziegler Reported:**

- Attendance continues to be promoted with monthly recognition and incentives.
- The SEL committee recently met with our ROE coordinator to develop our goals for the next school year. Ratings from staff, along with input from the committee were provided to organize a new plan of action.
- PLC monthly meetings with the Building Leadership and Attendance Committee continue to be held with an emphasis on student awareness of career and college pathways through existing curriculum practices and new opportunities.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

##### **Mr. Craven Reported:**

- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is held during the week of May 5 to show appreciation to all teachers, administrative assistants, and staff. The district will provide lunch one day and the PTC traditionally provides lunch as well.
- Summer work items include installing exterior lights at Northview, some parking lot repair work at Parkside and typical summer maintenance and repair. A lighting estimate to replace the Parkside Gym lights was discussed as well. This project will be put on hold under Mr. Linnig comes aboard. Other items discussed were the 10 Year Health Life Safety report as well as the 5-Year Facilities Plan.
- All of the board action items were discussed.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

There were no updates on the strategic plan to provide at this time.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **Approval of 2025-26 Student Registration**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the 2025-26 student registration fees as presented. There is no change in fees from this current year.

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Taylor, Skolek, Kampwerth, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None.

**The motion carried 5-0.**

##### **Approval of 2025-26 Bids for Bakery & Milk Products**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the 2025-26 bids from Alpha Baking Company and Prairie Farms for bakery and milk products for the 2025-26 school year as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Goode, Taylor, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of 2025-26 Illinois Elementary School Association & Membership Fees**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the 2025-26 IESA membership fees as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of 2025-26 eRate Proposals**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the 2025-26 eRate proposals as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Taylor, Goode, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of 2025-26 Technology Purchases**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the 2025-26 technology purchases as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of 2024-25 Final School District Calendar**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the 2024-25 final school district calendar to reflect the use of two emergency days. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Goode, Taylor, Ankiewicz and Skolek. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Van Replacement**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Vice President Kampwrth, to approve the purchase of a 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan from Princeton Auto Group priced at \$19,855.70. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Kampwerth, Skolek, Taylor, Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Parkside Parking Lot Repairs**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the quote from SKI Sealcoating & Maintenance to complete patch work on the Parkside parking lots. The board did not approve the bid to seal coat and stripe the lot at this time. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Taylor, Goode, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:21 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: Goode, Kampwerth, Skolek, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to return to Regular Session at 7:40 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Skolek, Ankiewicz, Goode, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **Re-Employment of Recommended Non-Tenured Faculty for the 2025-26 School Term**

**MOTION:** Moved by member Goode, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to re-employ Sarah Fowler-Haag for the 2025-26 school term. Upon further review, as a third-year teacher, Sara qualifies for both accelerated and portable tenure.

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Kampwerth, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Skolek. NAYS: None.

**The motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Approval of Resignation**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by member Goode, to approve the resignation notice from Wes Miller. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the resignation notice from Glenn Hall. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the resignation of Chad Bartolucci effective April 4, 2025. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the resignation notice from Paige Champlin. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Employment Recommendations**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the recommendation to employ Isabel Soto as a bilingual paraprofessional at Northview Elementary for the remainder of the 2024-25 school term and employ her for the 2025-26 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek to approve the recommendation to employ Mikayla Connor as a Second Grade Teacher at Northview Elementary commencing the 2025-26 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Goode to approve the recommendation to employ Olivia Wojcik as a Social Worker at Parkside Middle School commencing the 2025-26 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek to approve the recommendation to employ Wendy DePhillips as an Assistant Principal at Parkside Middle School commencing the 2025-26 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0**

#### **Approval of 2025-26 SEL Contract**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the 2025-26 SEL Contract between Jamie Taylor and Peru ESD 124 commencing the 2025-26 school term. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Kampwerth, and Ankiewicz. Member Taylor abstained. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 4-0.**

**Approval of Retirement Request**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by member Taylor, to approve the retirement request from Jeanine Sonnenberg. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

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Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

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Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary