

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
May 20, 2026, 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 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Superintendent Ryan Linnig, Sara McDonald, Brent Ziegler, Heather Baker, Beth Wellers- Starved Rock Media, Kate Kolczaski, Anna Gruenwald, Maddy Pearson, Abby Kotecki, Timothy Freed, Brittney & Ryan Moutray, and Jessica Maggio and the district's Young Author Winners and their families.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION: Moved by Alison Goode, seconded by Jessica Skolek, to approve the regular meeting agenda of May 20, 2026. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Kampwerth, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RECOGNITION OF YOUNG AUTHOR AWARD WINNERS

Mr. Ziegler and Mrs. McDonald introduced the district's Young Author Award recipients to the Board. Several of the recipients shared excerpts from their award-winning pieces with the Board, and all students were presented with certificates by Board President Rob Ankiewicz in recognition of their accomplishments.

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. McDonald was in attendance at her final Board meeting. The Board members presented her with a quilt made from special Northview t-shirts collected throughout her career on behalf of the Board and the District.

Tim Freed, Anna Gruenwald, and Brittany Moutray each addressed the Board regarding the 2026–27 cross-category restructure.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- April 15, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- April 15, 2026 Executive Session Minutes
- May 8, 2026 Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
- May 12, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- May 12, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting Executive Session Minutes

- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Career Exploration Presentation

Mrs. Kolczaski and Mrs. Kotecki provided the Board with a Career Exploration presentation. The presentation explained the need for students to gain early exposure to careers, build real-world skills, and make informed decisions when choosing high school classes and planning for life beyond the classroom.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. McDonald Reported:

- Preschool registration for next year is progressing well, with space still available for additional students.
- The district completed Preschool grant applications and expects to receive approximately \$580,000 in funding for PreK programs.
- Kindergarten registration currently includes 75 students.
- The Summer Book Bag Program will provide books and reading activities to 119 students over the summer.
- Fourth grade students participated in a Law Day mock trial presented by local attorneys.
- PreK–4 students will visit the Peru Public Library to learn about summer reading opportunities.
- Fourth grade students will visit Parkside to prepare for the transition to 5th grade.
- The 4th Grade Awards Program will be held on May 27th.
- The Northview Fun Run will be held on May 28th to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

- Current enrollment at Parkside is 415 students.
- Staff continue working with students and families on grades, attendance, and end-of-year expectations. Current attendance rates remain slightly higher than last year.
- Teachers are preparing schedules, intervention groups, and curriculum planning for the 2026–27 school year.
- Spring assessment data showed academic growth in several grade levels in both reading and math.
- Track and Field sectionals were held in May, and the Scholastic Bowl team had a successful season, winning the SRC Tournament and Regionals.
- Parkside Young Authors were recognized at the regional banquet for their writing achievements.
- The 5th/6th and 7th/8th Grade Honors Banquets celebrated students earning high academic honors.

- Staff were recognized and appreciated during Teacher Appreciation Week by the Student Council, PTA, Board of Education, and local businesses.
- Upcoming events include the Awards Assembly, Graduation, State Track Meet, Laps for Life/PBIS Cookout, and the final day of school on May 29.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Van Sale: The ROE agreed to buy the Dodge Caravan for \$14,500
- Preschool Transportation: A grant increased by \$67,169. This covers salaries and leaves enough (\$12,200) to bring back morning pick-ups and afternoon drop-offs for the 2026-27 school year. Midday routes cannot be added back, and funding isn't guaranteed after next year. If the Board rejects this, the money will be used for non-essential upgrades like furniture or playgrounds.
- The finance committee is recommending the following fee increases:
 - Student Breakfast: \$1.75 to \$1.85
 - Student Lunch: \$2.70 to \$2.80
 - PE Shirt: \$9.00 to \$11.00
 - New Extracurricular Fee: \$25.00 per activity
- Transportation (Fund 40): Increase by \$20,000 to cover a van purchase.
- Tort (Fund 80): Increase by \$21,700 to cover the cost of Blue Point pendants
- Parkside Sound System Upgrade proposal was presented to the Board.
- The 2026-27 Board of Education meeting schedule is ready for review, and no changes are being recommended for Board committee assignments.
- PSIC Workers Comp / Property Casualty: The combined renewal cost has increased by 6%
- Andy Wozniak submitted a \$3,500 proposal to remove grass, install a weed barrier with washed rock, and bury three gutter downspouts at Northview.
- The district is looking to replace its outdated "zSpace" virtual learning program with a new program called "VictoryXR" for grades 6–8. (5th grade will keep using the current system).
- To help with next year's special education restructure, 3 out of 4 teachers are enrolled in a 3-day Autism/Structured Teaching training this June. Teachers will also receive training on the "Unique Curriculum," which is the district's evidence-based system for cross-categorical classrooms.

FIRST READING OF PRESS ISSUE 121 MARCH 2026 POLICY UPDATES

This is the first reading with few substantive changes.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Updates to the strategic plan were provided to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Recommended FY'27 Transportation Services & Equipment Sales

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the recommended FY'27 transportation services and equipment sales as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Taylor, Goode, Kampwerth, Skolek, Miller, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None.
The motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Updated Local Wellness Policy & Triennial Assessment

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve updated Local Wellness Policy and Triennial Assessment as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Kampwerth, Atkins, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended 2026-27 Technology Purchases

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the 2026-27 technology purchase recommendations. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Goode, Taylor, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, and Skolek. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended 2026-27 Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the 2026-27 Board of Education regular meeting schedule as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Skolek, Miller, Goode, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended 2026-27 Board Committee Assignments

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the 2026-27 Board Committee assignments as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Kampwerth, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended 2026-27 Registration Fees

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by member Skolek, to approve the 2026-27 registration fees as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Skolek, Miller, Goode, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Establish Date, Time, & Location for the FY'26 Amended District Budget Hearing

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by President Ankiewicz, to hold the FY'26 amended budget hearing on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 6:00 pm at Parkside School in the Choral Room. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Miller, Skolek, Goode, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Parkside Sound System Proposal

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the Parkside sound system proposal as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Skolek, Goode, Taylor, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of 2026-27 PSIC Renewal Pricing & Loss Information

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the 2026-27 PSIC renewal as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Miller, Ankiewicz, Goode, and Skolek. Member Taylor abstained. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Proposal for Grade Repairs & Rock Installation

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the proposal for grade repairs and rock installation as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, Taylor, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Proposal for STEM Program

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Miller to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. for the Discussion of Information Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Miller, Taylor, Skolek, Goode, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Miller to return to Regular Session at 7:56 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Miller, Skolek, Goode, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Resignation

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to accept the resignation from Hailey Bickett at the end of the 2025-26 school year. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Miller, to accept the resignation from Alexis Robinson at the end of the 2025-26 school year. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to accept the resignation from Kelly Dinges at the end of the 2025-26 school year. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Goode, to accept the resignation from Lynda Kasik as an assistant track coach at the end of the 2025-26 school year. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of FMLA Request

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Miller to approve the FMLA request from Gina Stark as presented. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Specific 2026-27 Employment Recommendations

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the 2026-27 employee assignments as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Skolek, Kampwerth, Goode, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the updated contract for Kim Strube, Director of Student Support Services as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Kampwerth, Taylor, Miller, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the recommendation to employ Katie Bates as a 7th grade math teacher at Parkside Middle School commencing the 2026-27 school term. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Goode, Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary