

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124
DECEMBER 16, 2009, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of December of the Board of Education of Peru Public Schools District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Conference Room at Parkside School, 1800 Church Street, Peru, IL, by Board President Jyll Leonatti, on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members Cynthia Gustat, Simon Kampwerth, Mark Lamboley, C. G. Pillai, Jeff Sheppard, Vice President Jim Renk, and President Jyll Leonatti.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Julie Brown, Lori Madden, Sara McDonald, Melissa Bosnich, and Jeff Dankert.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the meeting agenda of December 16, 2009. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Kampwerth, Sheppard, Gustat, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, and Leonatti. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you notes were received from Tracey Jaegle, Michelle Pangrcic, Heather Smigel, Lynne Smigel, Mary Leone, and the Peru Educators Association for the lunch served during American Education Week; a thank you note was received from Somer Moore and family for the plant sent following the birth of her son; and a thank you note was received from Stephanie Lippert and family for the plant sent in memory of her father.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- November 18, 2009 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- November 18, 2009 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Renk, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, and Leonatti.
NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation of the Recommended 2009 Tax Levy

Mr. Cross presented the final 2009 tax levy and stated that there were no changes from the tentative tax levy presented at the November 18, 2009 Board of Education Meeting. The increase in the proposed tax

levy is less than five percent of the previous year's extension, which does not require a Truth in Taxation Hearing. Mr. Cross said the 2009 estimated tax rate of \$2.96 will be almost identical to the 2008 tax rate. The 2009 levy totals \$5,667,350 and is based on an estimated assessment of \$193,000.

Principals' Reports

Melissa Bosnich said the winter program was very well attended and commended music teacher Chris Kelsey and the students for doing a fantastic job. Mrs. Bosnich also reported that teachers recently visited classrooms in LeRoy in their continuing efforts to improve reading instruction with the comprehensive literacy model.

Ms. Madden reported that Parkside students recently enjoyed an assembly presentation by Dr. Cool and Pride, two Chicago-area entertainers, who use music and a high-energy performance to deliver a powerful and positive message to the students. Ms. Madden said that Parkside fifth grade teachers also visited LeRoy classrooms and picked up some good information on the balanced literacy approach.

Sara McDonald reported it was nice to present the winter concert at Northview this year, eliminating the need to travel to Washington for practices. Northview offered separate start times this year for kindergarten and first grade, which alleviated problems with parking and overcrowding in the gymnasium. Mrs. McDonald said she had a lot of positive feedback on the changes to Northview's winter concert.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cross reviewed the following topics which were included in the Superintendent's Report to the Board of Education:

"Race to the Top" Funding and ISBE Memorandum of Understanding

It was the recommendation of Mr. Cross that our district does not sign the Memorandum of Understanding in order to obtain this federal funding. Signing the memorandum would force a number of reforms on public schools, such as merit pay for teachers, which would go against current contract language. Mr. Cross reported that the majority of districts in Illinois were not likely to sign the memorandum over a number of legal concerns. He said the district's potential share of the funding is estimated to be about \$55,000 or \$55 per child, which would not be worth the hours of administrative time and money spent on legal counsel. Member Pillai stated that an opportunity for academic achievement should not be dismissed and our district should be doing some of these things even without the money. Mr. Cross responded that nothing will keep Peru Schools from doing what is best for education, and he will continue to follow this initiative for possible future participation.

New FOIA Requirements

Mr. Cross reported that he is working on implementing new Freedom of Information Act requirement procedures which will be handled in the district office.

The Illinois Economy and the State Budget

Mr. Cross and President Leonatti recently attended a presentation by Ralph Martire, Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability at the LaSalle County Superintendent's meeting. He included the power point presentation of the meeting for the Board's review.

H1N1 Clinic Update

Mr. Cross reported the LaSalle County Health Department will offer H1N1 vaccinations for students and staff in January.

Reports and Information from the 2009 Joint Annual Conference

Board members and Mr. Cross briefly discussed conferences they attended during the 2009 Illinois Association of School Boards Joint Annual Conference. Member Lamboley reported that the IASB Delegate Assembly voted to seek and support legislation forbidding public school employees to strike. Illinois is one of 13 states that currently allow school teachers to strike. Member Kampwerth reported that the 2009 conference was the most attended conference ever, with over 13,000 people in attendance.

Discussion Regarding Northview and Washington Security Entrance Design

Mr. Cross, President Leonatti, Member Kampwerth, Mrs. Bosnich, and Mrs. McDonald recently met with district architects Cliff Bender and Jake Been to develop plans for the security entrances at Northview and Washington. The biggest renovation will be at Washington if the Board decides to move the principal's office to the old administrative office suite. The architects will prepare drawings and recommendations for review by the January Board of Education meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution for Approval of the 2009 Tax Levy

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to adopt the Resolution for Approval of the 2009 Tax Levy as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Sheppard, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Resolution Authorizing Legally Required Amendments to the Peru Public Schools 403(b) Plan

Mr. Cross explained the amendments to the district's 403(b) plan are new legal requirements making rollovers into other retirement accounts easier for the employee. There is no cost involved for either the employee or the district in these changes to the plan.

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Gustat, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Legally Required Amendments to the Peru Public Schools 403(b) Plan. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Gustat, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:47 p.m. to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel; and to discuss information related to employee salaries, benefits, and issues related to collective bargaining. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Gustat, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Lamboley. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 7:45 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Issuance of a Notice to Remedy Letter to an Employee and to Authorize the President and Secretary of the Board to Issue that Notice to the Employee

Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the issuance of a Notice to Remedy Letter to an employee and to authorize the President and Secretary of the Board to issue that notice to the employee. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Renk, Kampwerth, Sheppard, Leonatti, Gustat, Lamboley and Pillai. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Employment of Recommended Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the employment of Tara DeFosse and Lynda Kasik as intramural volleyball coaches and Wes Miller and Justin Sullivan as intramural basketball coaches for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Superintendent's Contractual Agreement

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the Superintendent's Contractual Agreement for July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2014. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Requests for Leave of Absence

There were no leave of absence requests presented for approval.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Gustat, to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Julie Brown, Board Secretary