

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124
AUGUST 19, 2009, 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of August 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, August 19, 2009, at 6:07 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

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

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the meeting agenda of August 19, 2009. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Renk, Gustat, Sheppard, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Kampwerth and Lamboley. **The motion carried 5-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- July 15, 2009 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- July 15, 2009 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Sheppard, Pillai, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Kampwerth and Lamboley. **The motion carried 5-0.**

PRESENTATION OF THE PERU DISTRICT 124 FISCAL YEAR 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Mr. Cross presented the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 and reviewed the various funds represented in the budget. The Education Fund, which is the largest of the district's nine funds, projects a deficit of \$433,361. The second largest fund, the Operations and Maintenance Fund, which is used to run the buildings and pay custodial staff, projects a deficit of \$758,585. Mr. Cross pointed out the deficit in the Education Fund is expected due to additional staff members hired, the reinstatement of the preschool program for the 2009-10 school year, as well as concerns with state reimbursements and payments. The

deficit in the Operations and Maintenance Fund is a planned deficit due to the extensive summer renovation projects at Northview and Washington. Mr. Cross said the district will still end Fiscal Year 2010 with healthy fund balances in both the Education and Operations and Maintenance Funds. Mr. Cross reviewed the remaining funds and also pointed out the five-year history of revenues and expenses represented in the tentative budget. The budget will be updated to keep it as accurate as possible before it is presented for approval at the September 23, 2009 Board of Education budget hearing and meeting.

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Student Registration Report

Mr. Cross reported the first student registration conducted at Parkside School was very successful and commended the custodial staff, the summer custodial crew, the secretarial staff, and the administration for their efforts in preparation for the day. The district gained 72 new students on registration day, while the district typically picks up 35-45 new students at registration. Mr. Cross will provide an enrollment report at the September 23, 2009 Board of Education Meeting.

Bright Futures Preschool Program Report

Sara McDonald presented an update of the Bright Futures Preschool Program showing the number of students officially enrolled and registered for preschool. The district can currently serve 80 students with its two full-time preschool teachers, but there are 32 students still on a waiting list. Mrs. McDonald reported it would require one more section of preschool and an additional half-time preschool teacher in order to meet the needs of all of the students. Mrs. McDonald said it is still possible the state could reinstate the preschool grant program, and the district's program is set up so that it will remain eligible for the grant by serving a minimum balance of at-risk students as well as both three-year old and four-year old students. Due to the importance of the program, the Board authorized Mrs. McDonald to proceed with hiring another part-time preschool teacher in order to meet the needs of all of the students in the district.

Mr. Cross and Mrs. McDonald informed the Board that there have been some parental complaints because their students were not included on the bus routes, particularly those attending Washington School and living north of Shooting Park Road. It was reported the situation is being resolved and some of the bus routes serving Parkside and Washington are being rerouted to serve those students.

Update and Discussion Regarding Grand Opening and Open House

The Grand Opening and Open House at Parkside School will include a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the school at 5:00 p.m. to be followed by several speakers, including Ms. Madden, Mr. Cross, and President Leonatti. There will be a continuous picture slide show of the Parkside construction project on a screen in the gymnasium, and cookies will be served in the cafeteria. Mr. Cross will prepare an agenda and program for the event, which will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Update and Discussion Regarding Construction and Renovation Projects

Mr. Cross updated the Board on all of the district's construction and renovation projects. At Northview, the old playground equipment has been removed, the cubbies have been installed in the kindergarten hallway, and the new floors look great after receiving their final coats of wax from the custodial staff. At Washington, the playground equipment is in, the fencing has been installed, and the house the district purchased adjacent to the school has been demolished. At Parkside, the fitness equipment, cafeteria tables, and teachers desks are due to arrive soon, and the landscaping is currently underway. Mr. Cross commended the custodial staff, the summer crew, and the cafeteria personnel who have been working at all locations to get everything ready for the start of the new school year.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the Peru District 124 Fiscal Year 2010 Tentative Budget

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the Peru District 124 Fiscal Year 2010 Tentative Budget as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Sheppard, Renk, Pillai, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Kampwerth and Lamboley. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Establishment of Date, Time, and Location of the Fiscal Year 2010 Public Budget Hearing

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Pillai, to establish Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parkside School Conference Room as the date, time, and location of the Fiscal Year 2010 Public Budget Hearing. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Declaration of Surplus Equipment and Establishment of Date for Public Auction

The motion to declare various classroom, office, and other school equipment listed on Exhibit B was tabled in order to give staff members the opportunity to go through the equipment that is in storage at the Roosevelt building before it is put up for auction. Mr. Cross will secure an auctioneer and set a date for the auction which will be put on the agenda for approval at the September 23, 2009 Board of Education Meeting.

Mr. Cross recommended the Board approve the Resolution Regarding the Declaration and Sale of Surplus Equipment listed on Exhibit A only, which includes the shelter/pavilion located on Church Street at the former city park located on property owned by Peru Public Schools, and the playground equipment currently located on the northeast side of Roosevelt School, 2233 6th Street, Peru, Illinois.

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the Resolution Regarding the Declaration and Sale of Surplus Equipment included on Exhibit A as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Renk, Sheppard, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Kampwerth and Lamboley. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Internet Safety Curriculum in Accordance with Public Act 95-0869

Mr. Cross explained that by law an Internet Safety Curriculum for grades 3 through 8 is now required to be approved before the start of the school year.

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the Internet Safety Curriculum as presented in accordance with Public Act 95-0869. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Equipment Purchases

The motion to approve equipment purchase fitness equipment, outdoor furniture, scorer table, podium and folding chairs for Parkside and a dishwasher for Northview was tabled until the September Board Meeting so that Mr. Cross could obtain details and prices on the items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Sheppard, seconded by Member Pillai, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. for the discussion of information regarding the appointment, employment, performance, or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel; and for the discussion of information related to security procedures, personnel and equipment for the safety of students, staff, the public and public property. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Sheppard, Pillai, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Kampwerth and Lamboley. **The motion carried 5-0.**

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:46 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Resignations

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the resignation of Jennifer Cohen as a part-time Spanish instructor and part-time teacher aide at Parkside School. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Recommended Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the employment of Jamie Peel as a part-time Spanish instructor and a part-time teacher aide at Parkside School for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the employment of Lisa Goddard as a fourth grade teacher at Washington School for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Pillai, to adjourn at 8:47. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Julie Brown, Board Secretary