

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 124
SEPTEMBER 23, 2009, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of September of the Board of Education of Peru Public Schools District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Choral Room at Parkside School, 1800 Church Street, Peru, IL, by Board President Jyll Leonatti, on Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at 6:01 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, Jeff Dankert, Rachel Pett, Heather Smigel, Lynne Smigel, Julie Peffley, Jennifer McCollum, Shelley May, Tammy Carey, Michelle Smudzinski, Lexy Rebholz, Cassie Rissman, Sharon Wedic, Lindsay Ferrari, Lisa Goddard, Linda Swain, Mary Covert, Jamie Peel, Kate Kolczaski, Kathy Mueller, and Beth Derango.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Cross announced that Item 9.9, Discussion of the Fifth and Sixth Grade Athletic Program, would be added to the agenda.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the meeting agenda of September 23, 2009, with the addition of Item 9.9, a discussion of the fifth and sixth grade athletic program. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Kampwerth, Lamboley, Gustat, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Brown read a thank you note from Jane Charbonneau expressing her appreciation for the plant sent in remembrance of her husband.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. Cross reported that Peru Schools hired 15 new faculty and staff members for the 2009-10 school term, and those present were introduced by their mentor or their principal. Jennifer McCollum, who serves as a Title I teacher at Washington in the morning and a Reading Recovery teacher at Northview in the afternoon, was introduced by her mentor Shelley May. Sara McDonald introduced the new preschool staff at Northview, including teachers Alexis Rebholz, Lindsay Ferrari, part-time teacher Carrie Rissman, and Sharon Wedic, who serves as a preschool aide in the morning and health aide in the afternoon. Melissa Bosnich introduced Lisa Goddard, new fourth grade teacher at Washington and Mary Covert, new gifted instructor at Washington and Parkside. Lori Madden introduced Linda Swain, new special education aide at Parkside. Other new faculty members at Parkside were introduced by their mentors, including new fifth grade teacher Michelle Smudzinski introduced by her mentor Tammy Carey, reading specialist Julie Peffley introduced by Lynne Smigel, seventh grade language arts teacher Rachel Pett introduced by her mentor Heather Smigel, fifth grade special education instructor Beth Derango introduced by her mentor Kathy Mueller, and part-time Spanish teacher and part-time aide Jamie Peel was

introduced by her mentor Kate Kolczaski. Jeanine Kellen, new technology instructor at Parkside, was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment and will be introduced at the October Board of Education meeting. All of the new staff members or their mentors spoke briefly about their backgrounds before coming to Peru Public Schools.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION AND HEARING FOR THE FY2010 DISTRICT BUDGET

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to enter the Public Budget Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2010 district budget for Peru Public Schools. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Renk, Kampwerth, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, Leonatti, and Gustat. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Cross presented the budget for Fiscal Year 2010 and pointed out changes that were made since the tentative budget was presented at the August 19, 2009 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Cross reviewed the summary sheet showing the projected revenues and expenditures in the district's nine funds. He pointed out for the first time in recent years we are showing a budget deficit in the Education Fund of \$334,884. The main reason for the projected deficit is the increase in staff salaries and benefits, especially the addition of the preschool program and all of the equipment included in getting the program started, with little hope of getting any revenues from the state in the form of a preschool grant. Other reasons include a reduction in the district's state aide, loss of other federal and state grant money, and less revenue from the district's investments. Mr. Cross pointed out that the deficit in the Capital Projects, the Operations and Maintenance, and the Fire Prevention and Safety Funds are planned deficits due to the construction of Parkside and the major renovation projects at Northview and Washington schools. Mr. Cross said that expenditures will be monitored very closely this year but noted that the district still has healthy fund balances to cover the expected deficits.

There were no questions or comments from the public during the Public Budget Presentation.

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Gustat, to exit the Public Budget Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2010 for Peru Public Schools. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Lamboley, Gustat, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, and Kampwerth. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- August 19, 2009 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- August 19, 2009 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Report
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Principals' Reports

Lori Madden reported the breakfast program has been going very well at Parkside, with about 40-50 students eating per day. She also reported the drop-off and pick-up procedures for students will be changed to improve the traffic flow and for the safety of the students. Buses will now drop off and pick up students in the front of the school at the Church Street entrance while parents will switch to the

Shooting Park Road entrance at the rear of the school. Ms. Madden also reported AimsWeb testing has been completed for fifth and sixth grades at Parkside.

Melissa Bosnich reported that Washington second, third, and fourth grade students have also completed AimsWeb testing for reading fluency and comprehension to identify students who will need reading intervention. Also, students have begun MAP testing in reading, language arts, and math which provides a lot of data to determine who needs services in those areas.

Sara McDonald reported that 50% of the parents attended Meet the Teacher Night at Northview; however, the low attendance may be partly due to the Preschool Orientation that was previously held where 80% of the parents attended. Mrs. McDonald also reported that training was offered in August to teachers for the new Rigby reading series which is now being used in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. Mrs. McDonald said while most teachers seem to like the new series, it is a change in philosophy which takes a while to get used to. More training is planned at the end of September which will hopefully alleviate any concerns teachers may have with the new program.

Transportation Report

Mrs. McDonald presented a Transportation Report showing a breakdown of the numbers of students riding buses to all three of the district's buildings. She reported that only two of the buses at Parkside are overcrowded at this point; however, not all of the students signed up are using the buses due to the nice weather we have been having. If overcrowding becomes a problem, an attempt will be made to reroute some of the buses. Mr. Cross said we might have to consider adding another bus if we can't reroute the buses. Overall, Mrs. McDonald said bus service has been going pretty smoothly other than a few minor issues which are normal at the beginning of any school year.

Mr. Cross also presented a listing of the 2009-10 crossing guards showing all of their locations in the district. It was noted that the Peru Police have also been very helpful in monitoring the schools during the busy drop off and pick up times.

(Introduction of New Staff Member)

Mr. Cross introduced new part-time custodian Jack Tipton at Washington and Parkside who arrived late due to just finishing his shift at Washington. Mr. Tipton spoke briefly about his background and said he is very excited with his new position with the district.

Breakfast Program Report

Mr. Cross presented a Breakfast Program Summary showing the number of meals served and average participation in the breakfast program at all three schools. He reported that participation in the program has steadily climbed from the beginning of the school year. The program will be advertised on the district's website and the principals will continue to promote the program through their individual newsletters to parents.

2009-10 Enrollment Report

Mr. Cross presented the 2009-10 Enrollment Report, which currently stands at 946 students in grades kindergarten through eight and 1,050 students with preschool included in the count. He noted this is the highest enrollment in recent history, as 931 was our previous high. Mr. Cross will present the complete enrollment at the October Board of Education meeting after completion of the Fall Housing Report.

Jump Start Summer School Report

Mrs. McDonald reported on the shortened Jump Start Summer School Program which was 10 days rather than 15 days due to the summer moves and renovation projects in the district. Mrs. McDonald reported that 78 out of 136 recommended students attended the program and 39 students rode the bus. She

reported that attendance rate was excellent, even at the junior high level. Teacher feedback suggested that class size should be limited to 12 students and first priority should be given to students who receive no special services in the year, followed by students who receive minimal services, and lowest priority should be to students who receive special education services. It was noted that special education students do receive summer school services through the Extended School Year Program when it is part of their IEP.

Bright Futures Preschool Program Report

Mrs. McDonald reported that the preschool program is going very well and the three teachers we hired are doing an excellent job. We have five sections of preschool with seven students still on the waiting list due to transportation issues. Mrs. McDonald said she would like to hold two openings in the afternoon for possible move-in students; however, the Board directed her to fill every opening and increase class size if necessary for students who transfer in to the district.

FY09 Salary, Compensation and Benefit Report

Mr. Cross presented a Salary, Compensation and Benefit Report for administrators for FY09. He reported that State Code now requires the report to be posted on a school district's website by October 1, 2009, and the district is in compliance with this requirement.

Final Update Regarding 2009 Construction and Renovation Projects

Mr. Cross presented a wrap up of the construction and renovation projects at all three buildings and discussed a few of the remaining projects to be completed. At Washington, Ficek has been working on the security cameras in the front and back of the school, the fence will be extended between the property and the new neighbors, and an acoustic problem due to the new floor in the art room will need to be corrected over the Christmas break. Mr. Cross reported that some of the floors at Northview will need to be restriped because the wax was not allowed to set up properly and dark streaks and rust spots appeared where furniture was moved in too quickly. Also, Metcalf Martin is still working on the boiler at Northview. Mr. Cross reported there is still a long list of issues at Parkside, including the scoreboard, library shelves, and the oval tables on the stage which need to be replaced because they are too heavy and awkward for movement for cleaning and maintenance purposes. Mr. Cross noted the tables were special ordered, so they cannot be returned or traded in for different tables. The south parking lot at Parkside will need to be resealed and striped for parking spaces next spring or summer.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Athletic Program

With the addition of fifth grade students at Parkside School, Ms. Madden and Mr. Cross asked the Board's directive on whether to include them in the athletic program. Ms. Madden reported that about half of the teams we play currently have fifth graders playing on the sixth grade teams, while most schools don't have a fifth grade only team. The Board discussed several options, including adding a fifth grade only team, including the fifth grade on the sixth grade team where both grade levels could try out and be mixed on the "A" and "B" teams, and an option of keeping the grade levels separate whereby the "A" team would be made up of sixth graders only while the "B" team would be made up of fifth graders only. After considerable discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to keep the grade levels separate on a sixth grade "A" team and a fifth grade "B" team. The main concern is safety and supervision when large numbers of students have gone out in the past. Students will have to try out for the teams which will be limited to 15 members each. Those who don't make the team will be encouraged to participate in an organized competitive intramural program, something most schools do not offer. Sixth grade girls basketball has already started, so the new procedure will start with fifth and sixth grade boys basketball. The same procedure will be used for volleyball, however, it was decided that fifth graders will not be included in track and baseball at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of the Peru Public Schools District 124 Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the Peru Public Schools District 124 Fiscal Year 2010 Budget as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, and Lamboley. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Recommended Equipment Purchases

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the purchase of Parkside patio furniture from Wasau Tile at a cost of \$19,740, Parkside fitness equipment from LifeFitness at a cost of \$30,252.87, Northview dishwasher from Lipperts at a cost of \$7,421.98, and Parkside scorer table, folding chairs, and podium from JVPro at a cost to be determined. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Lamboley, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, Pillai, and Sheppard. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Declaration of Surplus Equipment and Establishment of Date for Public Auction

Although this item was approved at the August meeting, Mr. Cross reported the list was not all-inclusive and he recommended the motion be approved again. The declaration includes Exhibit A, the equipment the district is donating to the City of Peru, and Exhibit B, the list of equipment for the auction. It was suggested to set a minimum price of \$5,000 on the portable classroom and \$2,000 on the John Deere lawnmower.

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the Resolution Regarding the Declaration and Sale of Surplus Equipment, as well as establish Saturday, October 3, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. for the auction of surplus equipment. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Sheppard, Leonatti, Gustat, Kampwerth, Lamboley, and Renk. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Service Agreement with Johnson Controls

Mr. Cross reported that he is still waiting for a corrected service contract from Johnson Controls, as the initial agreement that he received included Parkside, Washington and Northview. Mr. Cross noted it will not be necessary to include Parkside in the service agreement due its boiler being under warranty. He recommended that the Board accept the Johnson Controls agreement pending the receipt of a satisfactory contract for Washington and Northview, due to the priority service and maintenance the district has received from Johnson Controls in the past.

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the 2009-10 Service Agreement with Johnson Controls pending receipt of a satisfactory contract for Washington and Northview. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Renk, Kampwerth, Gustat, Lamboley, Pillai, Sheppard, and Leonatti. NAY: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of 2009-10 ISBE Application for Recognition of Schools

Mr. Cross reported that the Application for Recognition of Schools must be approved by the Board on an annual basis prior to being sent to the Illinois State Board of Education.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the 2009-10 ISBE Application for Recognition of Schools for Parkside, Washington, and Northview Schools. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of IVCH Health Clinic for Employees of Peru Public Schools

Mr. Cross reported the IVCH Health Clinic for district employees will be held on October 27 at Washington, October 28 at Northview, and October 29 at Parkside, and recommended an increase in the

district's cost by \$10 to \$140 per employee. Mr. Cross reported this is a very beneficial program in which a majority of the district's employees participate.

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the Illinois Valley Community Hospital Health Clinic for employees of Peru Public Schools. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Lamboley, Kampwerth, Pillai, Sheppard, Renk, and Leonatti. NAY: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Appointment of Delegate and Alternate for the IASB Resolution Committee

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Sheppard, to appoint Member Lamboley as Delegate and Member Sheppard as Alternate for the Illinois Association of School Boards Resolution Committee at the 2009 Joint Annual Conference. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Regular Transportation Contract Extension

Mr. Cross reported that Illinois Central School Bus proposed extending the district's regular transportation contract for three years at a 1.4 percent increase per year. After a review by our attorneys, Mr. Cross reported that the contract can only be extended for one year at a time. Mr. Cross recommended that we accept the contract extension for one year, subject to the terms of the current contract. It was noted that if another bus company requests a bid for the district's transportation services then we must put it out to bid.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the contract extension for regular student transportation services with Illinois Central School Bus, subject to the terms of the agreement as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Sheppard, Lamboley, Pillai, Renk, Leonatti, and Gustat. NAY: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was decided there was no need to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Recommended Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the employment of Cassie Rissman as a half-time Bright Futures Preschool teacher at Northview School, retroactive to her start date of September 11, 2009 for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the employment of Sharon Wedic as a Bright Futures Preschool and student health aide for the 2009-10 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Lamboley, seconded by Member Pillai, to employ Jason Thompson and Dinelle Wood as co-sponsors of the Parkside Ranger Club. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Requests for Leave of Absence

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Lamboley, to approve the request for leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 for Rhonda Becker-Ghiachetto. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Sheppard, to approve the request for leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 for Somer Moore. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the request for leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 for Sarah Wick. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Sheppard, to adjourn at 9:44. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Julie Brown, Board Secretary