

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**  
**MARCH 20, 2024, 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the month of March 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 School by Board Vice President Rob Ankiewicz, on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Members Josanne Bruins, Alison Goode, Simon Kampwerth, Austin Taylor, and Vice President Rob Ankiewicz. ABSENT: Member John Atkins and President Patti Leynaud.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Jamie Craven, Megan Baltikauski, Brent Ziegler, Sara McDonald, Beth Rich, Jason Haskell, and the 2024 student IPA winners and families.

**MOTION:** Moved by Simon Kampwerth, seconded by Josanne Bruins, to approve the meeting agenda of March 20, 2024. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Bruins, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Goode. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**RECOGNITION OF STUDENT IPA AWARD WINNERS**

Principals Sara McDonald and Brent Ziegler recognized the 2024 student IPA award winners. Keegan McLane and Carson Lutes were recognized as the two Northview recipients. Arley George and Griffin Kellett were recognized as the two Parkside recipients. These students were chosen by staff as possessing positive character traits such as being leaders in the classroom, respectful to peers and teachers, and a strong worth ethic that defines the excellence of our student body.

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Member Kampwerth stated that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual COSSBA national conference was well attended. The 2025 conference will take place in Atlanta and the 2026 conference will take place in Louisville.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- February 19, 2024 Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes
- February 21, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- February 21, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- February 21, 2024 Executive Session Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

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

### **Review of District Strategic Plan Goals**

Mr. Craven shared the draft District Strategic Plan Goals with the Board for review and discussion. The Board requests to schedule another meeting to finalize the goals.

### **Administrative Reports:**

#### **Northview School**

Mrs. McDonald reported:

- Kindergarten pre-registration was held on February 20, 2024. So far, there are 77 students on the kindergarten list.
- March Book Madness began on February 27, 2024.
- Family Bingo Night, sponsored by the PTC was held on March 1, 2024, with about 350-375 people in attendance.
- March 14, 2024, Northview hosted another PreK screening with L.E.A.S.E. with 10 Peru students who were screened. All 10 of them are pre-registered for the PreK program next year.
- Family Reading Night is on March 19, 2024.
- Opera For the Young, sponsored by the Peru Education Foundation is March 20, 2024.

#### **Parkside School**

Mr. Ziegler reported:

- IAR Testing will take place the week of March 25<sup>th</sup> with the emphasis to motivate students to try their best.
- The Assessment Committee met on March 12<sup>th</sup> to assess the use of Fastbridge as a Progress Monitoring tool as well as its use as a standards-based assessment tool.
- Monthly meetings are held with the Building Leadership Team and Attendance Committee. Topics revolve around the school improvement plan goals pertaining to academic, social, attendance, and social emotional.
- Parkside 8<sup>th</sup> Grade volleyball is playing in Pana at the IESA state tournament. Thus far, they earned a Parkside Tournament Championship, Starved Rock Conference Championship, Regional title, sectional title, and hopefully a chance at a state trophy.
- The Teen Showcase, sponsored by Mrs. Kolczaski was on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Craven reported:

- Principal Sara McDonald has been recognized with the Illinois Principals Association's highest honor, The Herman Graves Award. This Award was established in 1991 to recognize outstanding service to the IPA.
- District Architect Jacob Been and Mr. Craven met for the Northview Maintenance Grant Project Bid Opening and met with Jim Dziarnowski regarding the 10 Year Health Life Safety Audit. Items on the audit that were discussed would be addressed over the spring and summer.
- The district may have to amend the 2023-24 Budget to reflect revenue and expenditures relating to Federal ESSER dollars that remain in our budget and overall budgetary changes.
- The Peru Education Foundation's Trivia Night was on March 16<sup>th</sup> and very well attended.
- Mr. Craven presented the 2024-25 Contracts for the Provision of Food Services for L.E.A.S.E., The Regional Safe School Program, and the MENTA Group. There will be a 15% increase in meals.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Approval of the 2024-25 Agreement for Physical and Occupational Therapy Services**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the agreement with Sprout Educational Services for the 2024-25 school year. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Goode, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **Approval of the 2024-25 Contracts for the Provision of Food Services for L.E.A.S.E. Circuit Breaker School; The Regional Safe School Program; and the MENT Group**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the 2024-25 contracts for the provision of food services as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Kampwerth, Bruins, Goode, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **Approval or Rejection of Northview Maintenance Grant Project Bids**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to reject all bids for the Northview Maintenance Grant Project. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Kampwerth, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Goode. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:51 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: Bruins, Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, Goode, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

## **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to return to Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Kampwerth, Taylor, Goode, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

## **ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **Approval of Resignations**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the resignation of Angelina Gebhard as a Paraprofessional for Parkside Middle School effective March 6, 2024. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the resignation of Justine Gonzalez as a Kindergarten teacher at Northview Elementary at the conclusion of the 2023-24 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **Approval of Non-Renewal Recommendation**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the recommendation to not renew Eleanor Cullinan for the 2024-25 school term. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Bruins, Ankiewicz, Kampwerth, and Goode. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

### **Re-Employment of Recommended Non-Tenured Faculty for the 2024-25 School Term**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the re-employment of the following staff for the 2024-25 school term:

- **Fourth Year (re-employment results in tenure):** Julie Chasteen, Erika Echeverria, Jessica Heiberger, & Tara Washkowiak

- **Third Year:** Alexia Donovan
- **Second Year:** Connor DeWalt, Sara Fowler-Haag, Alyssa Stuart, & Hailey Bickett
- **First Year:** Chloe Cinotto, Carlie Kowalski, Natalie Lindig, Lisa Michael, Christian Parry, Leslie Rudnicky, & Meghan Vasin
- **Accelerated Tenure:** Alexia Donovan

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

#### **Approval of Employment**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Taylor to approve the recommendation to employ Mary Lindig as the Northview Media Center Clerk at Northview Elementary for the 2024-25 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Taylor to approve the recommendation to employ Brittany Muller as the Bilingual/ESL Elementary Teacher for Peru Elementary School District 124 for the 2024-25 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Bruins to approve the recommendation to employ Chloe Cinotto, current 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Northview to fill the internal 1<sup>st</sup> grade position for the 2024-25 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Approval of Request for Retirement**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the request for retirement of Carol Happ, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Northview Elementary at the conclusion of the 2026-27 school term. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Approval of 2023-24 Updated Extracurricular Assignments**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Goode to approve the 2023-24 Updated Extracurricular Assignments. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Taylor, to adjourn at 7:03 p.m. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

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Patti Leynaud, Board President

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Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary