

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
January 21, 2026, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of January of the Board of Education of Peru Elementary School District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Choral Room at Parkside Middle School by Board President Rob Ankiewicz, on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members Justin Miller, Alison Goode, Austin Taylor, Vice President Simon Kampwerth, Jessica Skolek, and President Rob Ankiewicz. ABSENT: John Atkins.
Others Present: Brent Ziegler, Sara McDonald, and Eric Heagy.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION: Moved by Simon Kampwerth, seconded by Justin Miller, to approve the regular meeting agenda of January 21, 2026, 2025. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Miller, Skolek, Goode, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Linnig shared with the Board that the ISBE accountability model has been revised following feedback received. It appears that the pushback to the newly proposed Illinois Accountability Model that would have pushed many schools from "Commendable" to "Approaching" is once again being revised. Instead of Exemplary, Commendable, Approaching, Developing, and Comprehensive, they are considering Exemplary, Approaching Exemplary, Commendable, Developing and Comprehensive.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- December 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- December 17, 2025 Executive Session Minutes
- December 23, 2025 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

Board Treasurer Eric Heagy presented his quarterly report, noting a total of \$2.2 million in the cash management account and \$11.2 million in the brokerage account. He does not anticipate

a drastic decline in interest rates, but rather a gradual decrease. Overall, the District accounts remain in good financial standing.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. McDonald Reported:

K–4 FastBridge assessments were conducted during the week of January 12. Currently, 43 students are receiving Tier 2 or Tier 3 behavioral interventions. Staff SEL efforts will focus on supporting teacher and staff mental health through a weekly “Wind Down” initiative. Student attendance continues to be a primary focus as part of the School Improvement Plan. Additionally, NV welcomed three new student teachers on January 5.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

i-Ready math diagnostics were administered in addition to FastBridge winter benchmarking on January 13. Attendance rates have increased compared to last year; however, student illness has risen over the past month. The District continues to promote attendance through monthly incentives. The January 5 Institute Day included updates on winter benchmark testing, an MTSS meeting at Northview, career readiness planning, and social studies curriculum planning. Athletics and activities are currently in full swing. A spelling bee will be held at Parkside on January 21, and the spring musical, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, is scheduled for March 20–21.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Linnig reported that Bill Newkirk of Newkirk and Associates has completed the FY25 audit, noting that delays were due to the federal government. The audit resulted in no findings. The final audit will be shared electronically with the Board of Education. Board members may direct any questions to Mr. Linnig, who will follow up with Mr. Newkirk as needed. The Board agreed that an electronic copy of the audit will suffice. As part of the annual process, seniority lists for both licensed faculty and support staff were included for Board approval. Additionally, a large number of policies are presented for review and adoption; many contain no substantive changes and are marked as “unchanged” or “updated legal references in footnotes.” Transportation costs continue to be a budget concern, and Mr. Linnig presented options for cost reduction for the Board’s consideration.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

There are no updates to provide at this time.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

The agenda and minutes were included in the consent agenda, and a summary of the Maintenance and IMEA Grant projects was shared. The Parkside lighting project is almost finished, with just two switches and a few safety cages left, which should be installed by the end of the month. Bennett, the original installer and lowest bidder, was recommended for approval so the project can be finalized, and work is being scheduled as soon as possible.

The Blue Point rapid alert system proposal and supporting information were also reviewed. The District currently does not have a system that connects directly with authorities and alerts all staff during a threat. The proposed pull station system for both Northview and Parkside would cost \$70,980 and would be fully funded by a generous donation from a member of the Peru Foundation, Chris Uebel. The Board will need to decide on an additional \$21,680 for

portable pendant alert devices, with ongoing maintenance costs remaining the District's responsibility and covered by the Tort Fund.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2025 Annual Disclosure Report for Series 2015, 2019, 2022A and 2022 Bonds for Peru Elementary School District 124

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the 2025 Annual Disclosure Report as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Skolek, Goode, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Adoption of PRESS Issue 120 Updated Policies Sections 6-8

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve recommendation to adopt PRESS Issue 120 updated policies, sections 6-8 as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Taylor, Miller, Goode, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of 2025-2026 Licensed Faculty and Support Staff Seniority Lists

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the 2025-2026 licensed faculty and support staff seniority lists as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Miller, Kampwerth, Taylor, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Rapid Emergency Response System

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the rapid emergency response proposal from Blue Point. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Skolek, Kampwerth, Goode, Miller, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Employee Access Control System

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the employee access control system proposal from Bennett Electronics. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Kampwerth, Skolek, Ankiewicz, Miller, Taylor, and Goode. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Taylor, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:17 p.m. for the Discussion of Information Regarding the Employment, Performance, or Dismissal of Employees or District Legal Counsel; Discussion of Litigation, When an Action Against, Affecting, or on Behalf of the Particular Public Body has been Filed, or is Probable; Discussion of Minutes of Meetings Lawfully held under the Open Meetings Act, Whether for Purposes of Approval by the Body of the Minutes or Semi-Annual Review of the Minutes as Mandated by Section 2.06.5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)
ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Taylor, Skolek, Miller, Kampwerth, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Member Miller, to return to Regular Session at 7:30 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Skolek, Miller, Taylor, Goode, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Authorization to Release Executive Session Minutes of Meetings Held on the Following Dates: July 16, 2025; August 20, 2025; September 24, 2025; October 15, 2025; November 18, 2025; December 17, 2025

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the recommendation to release executive session minutes from the meeting held on December 17, 2025 and retain the minutes from the previously listed dates. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Goode, Skolek, Ankiewicz, Miller, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Authorization of Destruction of Verbatim Audio Records from Executive Session Minutes Held Prior to July 1, 2024, per the Illinois Open Meeting Act, 5 ILCS 120

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the destruction of verbatim audio records from executive session minutes held prior to July 1, 2024. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Kampwerth, Skolek, Ankiewicz, Miller, and Good,. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Authorization for the Transfer of Engagement/Appointment of Legal Council

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the representation by Kriha Boucek, LLC and Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost, LLP for Peru ESD 124. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth Skolek, Taylor, Ankiewicz, Goode, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary