

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
October 15, 2025, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of October 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 Middle School by Board President Rob Ankiewicz, on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members Alison Goode, Justin Miller, Jessica Skolek, Austin Taylor, Vice President Simon Kampwerth, and President Rob Ankiewicz. ABSENT: John Atkins.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Ryan Linnig, Megan Baltikauski, Brent Ziegler, Sara McDonald, PTA members Tara Wright and Kassy Holloway, Parkside Coaches Christian Parry and Bill Steve, the Parkside Baseball team and their family members.

MOTION: Moved by Justin Miller, seconded by Jessica Skolek, to approve the regular meeting agenda of October 15, 2025, 2025. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Skolek, Kampwerth, Goode, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no public comment, correspondence, or announcements at this time.

RECOGNITION OF THE PARKSIDE BASEBALL TEAM

The Peru ESD 124 Board of Education proudly welcomed the Parkside Baseball Team, along with their coaches and families, to recognize their outstanding achievement of earning a 2nd place finish at the state tournament. Representatives from the PTA also joined in celebrating the team's success by presenting special gifts in their honor. We are extremely proud of the players, coaches, and supporters for their hard work, dedication, and the way they represented Peru 124.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- September 24, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- September 24, 2025 Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

Although unable to attend the meeting, District Treasurer Eric Heagy provided the board with the district's quarterly treasurer's report for review. Any questions may be directed to Eric at a later time.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. McDonald Reported:

The Peru Fire Department assisted with the most recent fire drill held on October 8th, which went smoothly and provided valuable practice for staff and students. On October 10th, a Teacher Institute Day took place, during which K–4 teachers participated in an i-Ready Math training session led by Curriculum Associates.

Planning is underway for the Veterans Day Program scheduled for November 11th. This annual event continues to be a highlight for our community and is always well received.

Family Math Night is set for October 16th, providing families with an opportunity to engage in math activities together.

Additionally, the newly formed MTSS/Data Committee has been meeting more frequently to develop updated protocols for determining when students should access reading and math interventions.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

Monthly grade updates continue to be sent to parents to ensure consistent communication and transparency regarding student progress. Recently, the 8th-grade students traveled to LP to take the Pre-ACT tests.

Attendance for the first trimester is currently at 96.2%, showing an improvement over the 2024 figure of 95.6%.

At Parkside, two fire drills have been completed. The intruder drill is scheduled for October 17th. Parents will be notified in advance of the drill, including a reminder on the morning of the practice, to maintain open communication and transparency regarding student safety procedures.

Professional development opportunities were also offered, as Parkside staff had the option to attend two seminars hosted by the LaSalle County ROE, supporting continued growth and collaboration among educators.

Parkside athletics and activities are in full swing. The boys' baseball team performed exceptionally well in the state tournament, while girls' basketball and cheerleading practices are already underway. Additionally, the Student Council is actively preparing for Red Ribbon Week, and the Parkside Talent Show is scheduled for October 30th.

FALL BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Ziegler provided the Board with an update on the initial K-8 Fastbridge fall benchmark assessments administered to students in math and reading. The student scores were compiled at the district level and compared to national-level results. The district assesses again in the winter and spring and will report the results to the Board to show progress throughout the year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Linnig reported:

Principals Week, observed October 19–25 as designated by Governor Pritzker, with October 24 recognized as Principals Day. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Ziegler and Mrs. McDonald for their dedicated leadership to the students, staff, and community of Peru Schools.

The district audit has been delayed due to the federal government not yet releasing the 2025 Compliance Supplement through the Office of Management and Budget. Once it is released, Bill Newkirk will reach out to proceed.

The City of Peru has awarded the district \$18,015 through the IMEA LED Energy Efficiency Grant. The district is still waiting for ISBE to release the \$50,000 Maintenance Matching Grants, which are expected to open on October 16.

Key Builders recently let go of their project manager and have requested the opportunity to address outstanding issues regarding the Northview Door Project, by sending a crew on October 10 and October 13.

Stuart Tree Service submitted an updated proposal for snow removal services at both Parkside and Northview, reflecting an increase of 3.9%.

The ROE Health Life Safety visit was on October 7th and resulted in an overall positive report.

As a follow-up from last month's meeting, the discussion regarding the IASB Delegate Assembly was continued to consider the appointment of a delegate and an alternate to review and discuss the proposed changes.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Strategic Plan Progress Monitoring Tracker has been updated with progress under the following goals and strategies:

- Goal 1: Strategies 1.2
- Goal 2: Strategies 2.3
- The Career Exploration Committee met on October 9th to discuss the structure and focus for grades 5-8 and how it can be integrated into the Parkside schedule.
- The City of Peru awarded Peru Schools \$18,015.45 in IMEA Energy Efficiency Grants to pay a portion of the costs to replace the Parkside gym lights and exterior lighting.

FY26 FALL ENROLLMENT REPORT

Overall enrollment totals 983 students in grades PreK-8. The district received a net increase of 3 students from the end of August to the end of September. Enrollment continues to increase in the PreK program.

FY26 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEE HISTORY AND PROJECTION

The total FTE is 139.05, an increase from 137.75 in 2025. A copy of the report filed with ISBE was provided to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Delegate and Alternate for the IASB Delegate Assembly

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Miller, to appoint Alison Goode as the delegate and John Atkins as the alternate for the IASB Delegate Assembly. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Miller, Skolek, Taylor, Goode, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended Contract for Snow Removal Services

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the proposal from Stuart Tree Service as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Taylor, Kampwerth, Ankiewicz, and Miller. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. for the discussion of information regarding the employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, and discussion of litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed, and/or is probable or imminent. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Kampwerth, Goode, Skolek, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Miller, to return to Regular Session at 7:20 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Miller, Goode, Skolek, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Employment Recommendation

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the recommendation of Jeffrey Barnes as the 3rd shift custodian at Parkside. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary

