

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
April 15, 2026, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of April 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, April 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Superintendent Ryan Linnig, Board Secretary Megan Baltikauski, Heather Baker, Wendy DePhillips, Eric Heagy, Finn Paulissen and family, the Opera for the Young students at Northview and their families, Laura Gruenwald, Anna Gruenwald, Carolyn and Tim Freed, Kristy Robertson, and other members of the Peru ESD 124 community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION: Moved by Alison Goode, seconded by Jessica Skolek, to approve the regular meeting agenda of April 15, 2026. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Atkins, Kampwerth, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Linnig shared that the Parkside Scholastic Bowl team won the SRC Championship, and their hard work and dedication were recognized. He also noted that the 5th Grade Entrepreneur Day was a big success, with great student participation and engagement. He invited the Board to attend the second day of Entrepreneur Day on April 16th.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- March 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 18, 2026 Executive Session Minutes
- March 24, 2026 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Kampwerth, Goode, Skolek, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Quarterly Treasurer's Report

Board Treasurer Eric Heagy presented his quarterly report, noting \$2.1 million in the cash management account and \$9.6 million in the brokerage account. He reported that all funds are in the black except Operations & Maintenance, and overall district finances are trending positively.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

The Northview and Parkside principal reports were included in the board packet. Key highlights are as follows:

At Northview, the School Improvement Plan (SIP) Committee continues to meet regularly to develop a new school improvement plan for the 2026–27 school year. Current kindergarten enrollment projections for FY27 are at 74 students. Additionally, IAR testing was completed successfully.

At Parkside, efforts to promote student attendance remain a priority, with monthly recognition and incentive programs in place. IAR testing has been completed, and the building continues to hold monthly meetings with the Building Leadership Team, Career Exploration Committee, and Attendance Committee.

Mrs. DePhillips presented an ELA articulation slideshow for Northview and Parkside to the Board. The district's goal is to ensure continuity of instruction across grade levels. Vertical articulation in ELA for grades 4–5 supports a seamless progression, with fourth-grade skills serving as foundational prerequisites for fifth-grade standards.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The FY27 bread proposals were presented, reflecting increases ranging from 2.8% to 5.5%, depending on the product. The FY27 milk proposal was also reviewed, indicating an 8% increase for white milk and a 10% increase for chocolate milk.

Due to the use of two emergency days, the final student attendance day for the 2025–26 school year will be May 29.

A review of the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan, as required for all public schools, was presented. Additionally, an overview of relevant legislation, as well as the Pre-K Quality and Hardship Grant, was provided.

The Northview alternative proposal for space-saving options was presented, along with associated financing options as provided by John Vezzetti. Mr. Linnig also provided an update on the BluePoint installation. All equipment has been installed, with next steps including system testing and the development of command notification groups. A completion date for this phase is pending.

Mr. Linnig also presented proposals from Veterans Flooring for the Parkside gym floor, as well as a quote from Connecting Point for the purchase of 200 Chromebooks.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Updates to the strategic plan were provided to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2026-27 Bids for Bakery & Milk Products

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the 2026-27 bids for bakery and milk products as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Goode, Kampwerth, Atkins, Skolek, Miller, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of 2026-27 Illinois Elementary School Association Membership & Fees

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve 2026-27 IESA membership and fees as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins, Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, Taylor, and Goode. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Final 2025-26 School District Calendar

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the final 2025-26 school district calendar as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Atkins, Taylor, Ankiewicz, Miller, Kampwerth, and Skolek. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP)

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the district Cardiac Emergency Response Plan as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Skolek, Miller, Kampwerth, Goode, Atkins, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. for the Discussion of Information Regarding the Employment, Performance, or Dismissal of Employees or District Legal Counsel; Discussion of Information Related to Employee Salaries, Benefits, and Issues Related to Collective Bargaining; Discussion of Litigation, When an Action Against, Affecting, or on Behalf of the Particular Public Body has been Filed, or is Probable. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Kampwerth, Miller, Taylor, Skolek, Goode, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Skolek, to return to Regular Session at 7:47 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Skolek, Kampwerth, Goode, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Resignation

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Goode, to accept with regret, the resignation from Carmen Mata at the end of the 2025-26 school year. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Specific Employment Recommendation

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the recommendation to employ Emily Gallagher as a Music Teacher at Northview Elementary School commencing the 2026-27 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the recommendation to transfer Meghan Doll to the position of Third Grade Teacher at Northview Elementary School, effective for the 2026–27 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7–0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the recommendation to employ Gina Riva as a paraprofessional at Northview Elementary School commencing the 2026-27 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the recommendation to employ Kelly Dinges as a district substitute teacher for Peru Elementary School District 124 commencing the 2026-27 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the updated Food Service Contract for Toni Moss for the 2026-27 school term as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Skolek, Kampwerth, Taylor, Ankiewicz, Miller, and Atkins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Updated 2026-27 SEL Contract

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the 2026-27 SEL Contract between Peru ESD 124 and Jamie Taylor as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Skolek, Goode, Kampwerth and Ankiewicz. Member Taylor Abstained. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Settlement Agreement

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the settlement agreement as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, Atkins, Goode, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Skolek, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary