

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
August 19, 2026, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of August 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, August 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Superintendent Ryan Linnig, Megan Baltikauski, Abby Schenck, Claudia Carbajal, Hannah Muehlschlegel, Katie Bates, Heather Hardin, Katie Meyer, Lisa Goddard, Beth Rich, Vanessa Martinez, Amber Klein, Brent Ziegler, Heather Baker, Sarah Wick, Emily Gallagher, Allison Nichols, Dinelle Freschi, Tim Freed, and Brittany Moutray.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION: Moved by Jessica Skolek, seconded by Simon Kampwerth, to approve the regular meeting agenda of August 19, 2026. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Skolek, Kampwerth, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

Mrs. Baker and Mr. Ziegler introduced new faculty and staff members to Peru ESD 124 for the 2026-27 school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- July 15, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- July 15, 2026 Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements
- Fiscal Year 2026 Report of Contracts Exceeding \$25,000
- Fiscal Year 2026 Report of Salary, Compensation and Benefits

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Administrator Reports

Mrs. Baker reported:

- **Staff & School Culture:** Northview staff created and voted on this year's school theme, creating a welcoming and positive school environment. We also welcomed four new staff members: Emily Leffelman, Assistant Principal; Dr. Abby Schenck, EL Coordinator; Emily Gallagher, PreK-4 Music Teacher; and Abby Kotecki, Behavior Interventionist.

- **Enrollment:** Current Northview enrollment is 537 students, including PreK through 4th grade and Foundations programs.
- **PBIS:** The PBIS Universal Team met on August 5 to establish clear expectations, develop positive reinforcement strategies, and use data to guide behavioral supports. This work supports SIP Goal #4 focused on SEL, staff wellness, student success, and reducing chronic absenteeism.
- **Community Partnerships:** Northview received generous school supply donations from the St. John's Masons Lodge and Peru Hy-Vee, demonstrating strong community support.
- **Open House:** Open House was well attended, with students and families meeting teachers, touring the school, and dropping off supplies. Staff are excited to welcome students for the new school year.
- **Transportation:** Bus routes have been streamlined through collaboration with Johannes, including PreK transportation. Approximately 430 students ride district buses, with the PreK route serving 28 students in the morning and 22 in the afternoon.

Mr. Ziegler reported:

- **Enrollment:** Parkside currently has 428 students: 104 fifth grade, 112 sixth grade, 109 seventh grade, and 103 eighth grade.
- **School Opening:** Open House on August 12 was well attended. Staff used August 12–13 Institute Days to finalize preparations for the first day of school on August 14.
- **Academics:** Student rosters have been updated for curriculum resources and district assessments. FastBridge testing will begin the week of August 31, followed by MTSS meetings to monitor academic, social, and behavioral needs. Parkside continues to focus on attendance, student motivation, standards-aligned curriculum, and SEL.
- **Professional Learning:** PLC work for 2026–27 will focus on school improvement goals, state standards, assessment data, and curriculum alignment. IAR results show continued growth in ELA, while math scores have plateaued. The school will prioritize increasing math instructional time and collaborate with the ROE Math Coach for additional instructional strategies.
- **Athletics & Activities:** Girls softball and boys baseball are underway, each with 18 participants. Softball is currently 2–2, while baseball will play its first game Saturday. Girls basketball tryouts will begin in September, and student clubs will launch for the new school year. Student Council has also released the Parkside spirit wear link.

Superintendent's Report

- **Enrollment:** Detailed enrollment trend charts will be provided once fall enrollment is finalized and reported to ISBE.
- **Facilities:** Northview landscaping/drainage work has experienced delays but is expected to be completed soon, weather permitting. Both school roofs sustained no leaks during recent storms.
- **Evaluator Training:** The annual Approved List of Evaluators will be completed, with evaluator training scheduled for August 26 focusing on compliance, consistency using the Danielson rubric, and improving student learning.
- **Transportation:** Two additional staff members will obtain licenses to serve as backup drivers for the district van route.
- **Annual Board Reports:** Assistant Principals will provide two annual updates on K–8 Reading and Math goals, with a continued focus on instructional consistency across grades. MTSS staff will also provide an annual overview of services, student data, and intervention effectiveness.
- **PRESS Policies:** No substantive changes are included. Updates primarily reflect legal references, unchanged policies, or required five-year review to maintain district compliance.

Strategic Plan Report

Updates to the strategic plan were provided to the Board.

Presentation of the Tentative FY'27 Budget

Mr. Linnig presented the Board of Education with the tentative FY27 budget and addressed all questions from the Board regarding the proposed budget.

Mr. Linnig recommended that the public budget hearing be held on September 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parkside Choral Room.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2026-27 Evaluators for Certified and Non-Certified Staff

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the 2026-27 evaluators for certified and non-certified staff as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Miller, Skolek Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Adoption of Illinois Department of Transportation Serious Safety Hazard Resolution

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the adoption of the IDOT Serious Safety Hazard resolution for the 2026-27 school year as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Adoption of PRESS Issue 122 Updated Policies

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the adoption of PRESS Issue 122 updated policies as recommended. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Taylor, Skolek, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of the Tentative FY'27 Budget and to Set the Public Hearing for September 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the tentative FY'27 budget as presented and to set the public hearing on the date and time as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:39 p.m. for the Discussion of Information Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Kampwerth, Miller, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to return to Regular Session at 7:07 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Employment Recommendations

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the recommendation to reassign Allison Nichols as a special education teacher for grades 5-6 transitions at Parkside Middle School commencing the 2026-27 school term. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Miller, Skolek, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Updated 2026-27 Extracurricular Assignments

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the recommendation to approve the 2026-27 updated extracurricular assignments as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Skolek, Miller, Taylor, Ankiewicz, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Retirement

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek to approve the retirement notice from Amy Perona. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Skolek, Miller, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Resignation

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Alison Goode as a Board Member of Peru ESD 124. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Taylor, Miller, Ankiewicz, Taylor, and Skolek. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. AYE 5, NAY 0. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary