

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
February 18, 2026, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of February 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, February 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Brent Ziegler and Sara McDonald

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION: Moved by Alison Goode, seconded by John Atkins, to approve the regular meeting agenda of February 18, 2026. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Atkins, Kampwerth, Miller, Skolek, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Linnig informed the Board that the John Ourth recipients will be recognized at the March Board meeting. He also reminded the Board of the April 30 Starved Rock Division meeting in Mendota.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- January 21, 2026 Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. McDonald Reported:

Evelyn Terry and Finn Paulissen were selected as the Student IPA winners and will be recognized at a breakfast at Streator High School on February 25. Access testing for English Language Learners has been completed. Current PreK enrollment is 129 students. Tentative FY27 kindergarten enrollment, based on current PreK students, is 63. A winter benchmark testing update was provided for grades K-4.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

Kyden Jackson and Natalie Rebholz were named Parkside's Student IPA award recipients and will be recognized at the Student Recognition Breakfast at Streator High School on February 25. Absences have recently increased due to illness. The trimester ends on February 20, and report cards will be sent home. The current attendance rate is 95.4%, reflecting a 1% increase compared to this time last year. A Career Exploration Plan meeting is scheduled for the morning of February 19. A winter benchmark testing update was provided for grades 5-8.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Linnig received a proposal from Hopkins & Associates (Granville) to compare audit services with the current auditor, Newkirk. While there are no concerns with Newkirk, Hopkins' proposal was slightly lower, and approval of Hopkins' proposal is recommended. An update to the teacher evaluation plan was made regarding a tenured teacher evaluation; the PERA Evaluation Joint Committee has approved the recommendations, which are now recommended for Board approval. An updated proposal from GETZ for annual inspection and servicing of the district's fire extinguishers was presented and is recommended for approval. An updated cost savings transportation proposal was reviewed; continuing the current special education transportation while eliminating PreK transportation is recommended for maximum cost savings with minimal impact on students and families. A summary of assessment complaints exceeding \$100,000 was reviewed. Blue Point Installation is expected to begin next week, with project completion anticipated by spring break.

PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2025 DISTRICT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, INDEPENDENT AUDIT, ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND SHARED SERVICES AND OUTSOURCING REPORT

The FY25 audit summary was provided, with no findings.

2026-2027 SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR PRESENTATION

Mr. Linnig provided the Board with the proposed 2026-2027 school district calendar.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The LED energy efficiency project at Parkside, including gym and exterior lighting upgrades, has been completed. Key fob systems at Northview and Parkside have been updated to allow interchangeable access cards; an additional access point at the end of the 4th grade hall at Northview is still pending. A contract has been executed for installation of the Blue Point Rapid Response System at both buildings, funded by a \$70,980 donation from Christine Uebel; the system is expected to be operational by the end of the 2025-26 school year. Mr. Linnig hosted IVAC members at Parkside on January 29, 2026, to discuss the District's Career Exploration program and other public education issues, providing an opportunity to share updates and build community relationships.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Fiscal year 2025 District Financial Statements, Independent Audit, Annual Financial Report and Shared Services and Outsourcing Report

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the fiscal year 2025 audit and financial reports as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:

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

Approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Proposal for Auditing Services

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Member Miller, to approve proposal for fiscal year 2026 auditing services from Hopkins and Associates. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Taylor, Miller, Goode, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Teacher Evaluation Plan Revisions

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

Approval of Fire Extinguisher and Inspection Services

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the proposal from GETZ to provide fire extinguisher and inspection services as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Kampwerth, Goode, Skolek, Atkins, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Student Transportation Service Recommendations

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the recommendation to discontinue PreK transportation services and maintain district-operated Special Education transportation routes beginning with the 2026–27 school year. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Kampwerth Skolek, Ankiewicz, Miller, Taylor, and Goode. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Miller, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:27 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. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Goode, Miller, Taylor, Skolek, Atkins, Kampwerth, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Goode, to return to Regular Session at 8:07 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Goode, Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, Atkins, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Specific Employment Recommendations

No action was taken on the employment recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary