

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members John Atkins, Justin Miller, Austin Taylor, Vice President Simon Kampwerth, Jessica Skolek, and President Rob Ankiewicz. Alison Goode entered at 6:21 p.m.

Others Present: Superintendent Ryan Linnig, Board Secretary Megan Baltikauski, Brent Ziegler, Sara McDonald, Evelyn Terry, Natalie Rebholz and their families, and Emily Leffelman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION: Moved by John Atkins, seconded by Simon Kampwerth, to approve the regular meeting agenda of March 18, 2026. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Kampwerth, Miller, Skolek, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Linnig welcomed Emily Leffelman as the new Northview Assistant Principal, effective July 1. He also recognized the 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams for their outstanding seasons, with the 7th grade team finishing as Regional Champions and the 8th grade team earning second place at regionals. Additionally, Mr. Linnig recognized the 2026 Excellence in Education recipients—Jessica Urbanc, Jade Hubinsky, Mindy Davis, and Gina Stark—who will be honored at a banquet on May 7 in Ottawa.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT IPA WINNERS

Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Ziegler recognized their 2026 Student IPA winners and their families. Evelyn Terry and Natalie Rebholz were in attendance for the recognition. Two additional winners, Kyden Jackson and Finn Paulissen, were also recognized but were unable to attend.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- February 18, 2026 Executive Session Minutes
- March 12, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- March 12, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting Executive Session Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. McDonald Reported:

- Kindergarten Pre-Registration: 71 students are on the list; staff are following up with families to complete paperwork.
- Attendance Incentive: 160 PreK–4 students enjoyed the AttenDANCE party; 10 students received prizes.
- March Book Madness: Students vote on favorite books in a bracket-style competition.
- IAR Testing: Began March 16 for grades 3 and 4.
- Orland Park Dental Clinic: Served 124 students, including all full-day PreK children, with checkups and sealants provided.

Mr. Ziegler Reported:

- IAR Testing: Administered March 17–19. Staff received training on March 6, including mandatory video/sign-offs. Grade-level incentives are available, and parent letters with test-taking tips and motivational suggestions will be sent home this week.
- Attendance: Overall absenteeism is lower than last year, currently at 4%, though illness-related absences remain high. Attendance incentives were held last Thursday and Friday, with messages sent to parents thanking them for their support.
- An update on extracurricular activities was also provided.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- We propose selling/trading the 2019 Chevy Express 3500 and 2019 Dodge Caravan to purchase a 2020 10-passenger Ford Transit van, with a net cost of \$6,500–\$9,500 after trade-ins.
- The 2026–27 calendar is unchanged except for spring break alignment with elementary schools.
- Food service contracts for SOAR, the Academy, and Menta are recommended for a 20% increase, with delivery to SOAR and the Academy ending, and occupational/physical therapy services are proposed for a 2.5% increase.
- Legislation HB 4416/SB 3286 would allow educational support personnel to collect unemployment during school breaks starting June 1, 2026, and the District is evaluating the impact.
- Blue Point installation is underway, and once complete, Mrs. Uebel's photo with the main unit will be shared via social media, the website, and media, with Board and administration encouraged to participate.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Updates to the strategic plan were provided to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2026-27 Agreement for Physical & Occupational Therapy Services

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the 2026-27 agreement between Sprout Educational Services and Peru ESD 124 for physical and occupational therapy services as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins, Skolek Goode, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. Member Miler abstained. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of 2026-27 Contracts for the Provision of Food Services for the L.E.A.S.E. SOAR Program; ROE #35 Academy Program & the MENTA Group

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by Member Miller, to approve 2026-27 food service contracts for the provision of food services for the L.E.A.S.E. SOAR Program; ROE #35 Academy Program and the MENTA Group as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, Taylor, Goode, Atkins, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of 2026-27 School District Calendar

MOTION: Moved by Member Goode, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the 2026-27 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 District Vehicle Purchase

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:39 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, Miller, Taylor, Skolek, Goode, Kampwerth, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to return to Regular Session at 7:12 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Kampwerth, Goode, Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Resignations

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

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

Approval of FMLA Request

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to accept the FMLA request from Carly Bowman. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Specific Employment Recommendation

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the recommendation to employ Emily Leffelman as Assistant Principal at Northview Elementary School commencing the 2026-27 school term. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Updated 2025-26 Extracurricular Assignments

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Goode, to approve the updated 2025-26 extracurricular assignments as presented, which reflect Molly Leone as Head Track Coach. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Re-Employment of Recommended Non-Tenured Faculty for the 2026-27 School Term

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the recommendation to re-employ the non-tenured faculty for the 2026-27 school year as presented. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Non-Certified Salary Increases for the 2026-27 School Term

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the non-certified salary increases for the 2026-27 school term as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Taylor, Ankiewicz, Miller, Atkins, Goode, and Skolek. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Certified Staff Contracts & Salary Increases for the 2026-27 School Term

MOTION: Moved by Member Skolek, seconded by member Atkins, to approve the certified staff contracts and salary increases for the 2026-27 school term as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Skolek, Atkins, Ankiewicz, Taylor, Kampwerth, Miller, and Goode. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Approval of Settlement Agreement

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. AYE 7, NAY 0. **The motion carried 7-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary