

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
September 23, 2026, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the month of September 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, September 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Superintendent Ryan Linnig, Megan Baltikauski, Heather Baker, and Tim Freed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MOTION: Moved by John Atkins, seconded by Jessica Skolek, to approve the regular meeting agenda of September 23, 2026. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Skolek, Kampwerth, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Linnig informed the Board that IVAC will be featuring Parkside Middle School's Career Exploration program in an upcoming article, and he also recognized the Parkside baseball and softball teams for their successful seasons.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION & HEARING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 DISTRICT BUDGET

MOTION: Moved by Simon Kampwerth, seconded by Austin Taylor, to enter the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. for the fiscal year 2027 district budget. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Taylor, Atkins, Skolek, Miller, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Linnig reported:

The FY'27 Budget is balanced with an anticipated surplus of \$26,116, or approximately 1.6% of expenditures. Without the \$299,975 Working Cash Fund transfer to the O&M Fund, the surplus would be \$31,141. Revenues are projected to increase 3.2% to \$16,193,006, while expenditures are expected to increase 1.8% to \$15,931,890. The primary savings from FY'26 to FY'27 resulted from retirements, reduced health insurance costs following plan changes, and adjustments to the PreK and special education transportation services.

MOTION: Moved by John Atkins, seconded by Justin Miller, to exit the public hearing for the fiscal year 2027 district budget at 6:14 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Miller, Kampwerth, Taylor, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- August 19, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- August 19, 2026 Executive Session Minutes
- September 4, 2026 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes
- September 16, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
- September 16, 2026 Executive Session Meeting Minutes
- September 17, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes
- September 17, 2026 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

- Financial Reports
- Monthly Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

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

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Administrator Reports

Mrs. Baker reported:

- Northview completed several safety drills, including a fire drill, medical hold, police SECURE hold, and bus evacuation drill. Staff are trained on the BluePoint system, with an intruder drill planned.
- Northview families and students raised \$23,240, which will support field trips, classroom needs, and schoolwide activities throughout the year.
- Staff are receiving support in Tier II/III math instruction, de-escalation training, music collaboration, and ROE professional learning opportunities.
- Teachers are welcoming college students for classroom observations, and older students continue to take leadership roles by assisting younger students and with daily announcements.

Mr. Ziegler reported:

- Parkside currently has 424 students. i-Ready, IXL, and FastBridge benchmarking is complete, with data being used for tiered interventions and MTSS meetings.
- Attendance is at a 96% present rate. Morning Labs, Project Success, and Extended Fridays are supporting academic needs, while the school continues to communicate with families regarding attendance concerns.
- PLC teams are analyzing IAR/FastBridge data and updating curriculum guides, alignment, and instructional practices. Math PLCs will receive monthly support from ROE 35 coaches.
- Fire and bus evacuation drills are underway, with a BluePoint/law enforcement drill planned with Peru PD and a fire drill scheduled with Peru FD.

Superintendent's Report

- Enrollment remains slightly below last year, with kindergarten and first grade being the smallest classes.
- Northview landscaping/drainage work is complete, and 1–5 year facility plans have been updated. The district is preparing projects for the \$50,000 Maintenance Grant and continuing planning for Northview learning spaces, the NV roof, and Parkside parking lot.
- District staff will participate in area-wide reunification training at IVCC on October 9 to support local schools during an emergency requiring student relocation.
- IVAC will feature Peru Schools' Career Exploration Program in its magazine. The district also continues work on strategic planning and long-term facility needs.
- The district received advance notice of a required 2026–27 school nutrition procurement review. The review will examine purchasing practices for child nutrition programs, beginning with the LaSalle Co-op and followed by ISBE verification with each participating SFA. Each SFA must maintain documented procurement procedures that comply with federal, state, and local requirements and are reviewed annually. Board Policy 4:60 – Purchases and Contracts and the USDA Code of Conduct were provided for reference.

Strategic Plan Report

Updates to the strategic plan were provided to the Board.

IASB Delegate Assembly Discussion

A copy of the proposed position statements was presented to the board for review.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2027 District Budget

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the adoption of the fiscal year 2027 district budget as presented. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Taylor, Ankiewicz, Skolek, Miller, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Recommended Proposal for HVAC Maintenance Services

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the proposals from Helm Mechanical to provide HVAC maintenance services for Northview and Parkside. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Miller, Skolek, Atkins, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Maintenance Grant Application

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Skolek, to authorize Mr. Linnig to apply for the matching school maintenance grant. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Skolek, Miller, Taylor, Atkins, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:42 p.m. for the Discussion of Information Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Employees or District Legal Counsel; Discussion of Collective Bargaining Matters Between the Public Body and its Employees or Their Representatives, or Deliberations Concerning Salary Schedules for One or More Classes of Employees; Consideration of Appointment of a Member to Fill a Board Vacancy of Public Office. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins, Taylor, Miller, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to return to Regular Session at 7:08 p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Kampwerth, Skolek, Miller, Ankiewicz, and Taylor. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of Employment Recommendations

MOTION: Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Miller, to approve the recommendation to employ Veronica Scheri as a bilingual paraprofessional at Parkside Middle School for the 2026-27 school term. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Taylor, Miller, Skolek, Ankiewicz, Atkins, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Miller, seconded by Member Skolek, to approve the recommendation to employ Katie Wallaert as a paraprofessional at Parkside Middle School for the 2026-27 school term. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Miller, Skolek, Taylor, Ankiewicz, Atkins, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Updated 2026-27 Extracurricular Assignments

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Vice President Kampwerth, to approve the recommendation to approve the 2026-27 updated extracurricular assignments as presented, reflecting Josh Morras as the 6th grade boys basketball coach. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Kampwerth, Skolek, Miller, Taylor, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Resignation

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Taylor, to accept the resignation from Yeimy Forero as a bilingual paraprofessional at Parkside Middle School. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Skolek to accept the resignation from Anna Burris as a paraprofessional at Northview Elementary. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of FMLA Request

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the FMLA request from Cindy Vaske as presented. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Approval of Appointment of a Member to Fill a Board Vacancy in Public Office

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the recommendation to appoint Mackenzie Marini as a member of the Peru ESD 124 Board of Education. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Taylor, Kampwerth, Miller, Skolek, and Ankiewicz. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Miller, to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

Rob Ankiewicz, Board President

Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary