

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2021, 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the month of December 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 School by Board President Patti Leynaud, on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Members Josanne Bruins, Simon Kampwerth, Austin Taylor, Vice President C.G. Pillai, John Atkins and President Patti Leynaud.

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:** Rob Ankiewicz

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Superintendent Jamie Craven, Megan Baltikauski, Brandi Anderson Maier, Brittany Godsey and John Vezzetti.

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the meeting agenda of December 15, 2021. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Bruins, Atkins, Leynaud, Kampwerth, Taylor and Pillai. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board Member Kampwerth asked for the group to take a moment of silence for the recent losses received at the Peru Elementary School District.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- November 16, 2021 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills
- Required Board and Employee Travel Expense Reimbursements

**ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:** Kampwerth, Bruins, Atkins, Taylor, Pillai and Leynaud. **NAYS:** None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**IASB Joint Conference Updates**

- President Leynaud led the updates by complementing our Board of Education for their common ground as a group and feels very fortunate to be able to help the children in the District. President Leynaud stated that there was a lot of good information received from the Annual Conference. President Leynaud also expressed her sincere congratulations to Board Member Kampwerth on his new recognition as the newly elected President of the IASB.
- Board Member Atkins stated that the training at the conference was great and well put together.

- Board Member Taylor was very appreciative of the conference being put together.
- Board Member Kampwerth stated that he received a great response from other members at the conference and that it was wonderful to be able to get together. It was a good weekend.
- Board Member Bruins enjoyed her courses and said the conference was great and loved meeting the different people.
- President Leynaud also thanked Vezzetti Capital Management for their hospitality over the weekend.
- Vice President Pillai was not in attendance at the IASB Joint Conference but had asked Board Member Kampwerth if there were any issues with the large gathering indoors. Kampwerth replied that to his knowledge there were no issues and everyone was masked.

### **MTSS/Local Testing Presentation**

The School Psychologist, Brittany Godsey gave a presentation via PowerPoint to explain the Multi-Tiered System of Support Program that the District utilizes. Any and all clarification was given by Brittany and Mrs. Anderson-Mier in regards to the MTSS Program.

### **Administrative Reports**

Mrs. Anderson-Mier reported for Parkside:

- The Winter Concert – the first in two years was a success. The students were excited and really enjoyed the event.
- Parkside will not be doing a School Musical this year, but instead will be doing a Broadway Remix.

No comments for Northview.

### **Superintendent Report**

Mr. Craven reported:

- Staff recognition of Mel Bosnich who was nominated by her SRIPA Colleagues as the Starved Rock Region Assistant Principal of the year.
- Peru Education Foundation held a meeting on December 8, 2021 and gave notice of 4 grant approvals:
  - Sensory and Self-Regulation - Equipment to support the Autism Program sensory room.
  - Augmented and Alternative Communication Devices (AAC) to support our non-verbal autistic students.
  - Cricut Electronic Cutting Machine for our Pre-K program.
  - Therapy Dog Training - continued training for Katie, Julie Miller's therapy dog.
  - Parkside School's Therapy Dog, Katie is being received well. The students enjoy having her in the building.
- A Covid-19 update was presented to the Board. Mr. Craven complimented our District and Parkside Nurses for keeping the students and staff safe. Our District numbers as of 12/15/2021 are as follows:

*84 total cases since the start of this school year. (Last year at this time we had only had 11 cases - 56 total cases last year)*

*Northview Positives:  
SHIELD Positives: 27  
Cases Outside 29  
Total NV 56 (67%)*

*Parkside Positives:*

*SHIELD Positives 6  
Cases Outside 22  
Total PS 28 (33%)*

*Test to Stay 15 students kept in school (Started just before Thanksgiving)  
Binax 71 Binax swabs over the past 3 weeks with 3 confirmed positives.*

*MedCall Team Have Performed 7093 tests-not including this week.  
On average-NV sends 358 (72%) tests weekly, PS 230 (65%)*

*Staff Numbers:*

*8 Staff Positives (22 Last Year)  
32 Symptomatic or Exposed who Tested Negative  
11 Child positive or exposed/quarantine  
132 Last year - Exposed or children exposed/quarantine*

- **Report Regarding the Recommended 2021 Tax Levy:** Based on the estimated EAV provided by LaSalle County Assessor's Office, maintaining our tax rate at \$3.23, we can project a 4.8% increase in overall revenue.
- **Bond Resolution Updates- General School Obligation Bond Series 2022A and General Obligation School Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2022B:**

On October 20<sup>th</sup> the board declared the intent to proceed with passing an Authorizing Resolution to issue, not to exceed \$2 million in working cash bonds (Series 2022A). On November 16<sup>th</sup> the board held the required BINA hearing, a required public hearing for units of Government who wish to issue General Obligation Bonds. Tonight, Action item 8.2 is the formal motion to pass the Bond Resolution (Series 2022A). Action item 8.3 is a resolution to refinance the existing General Obligation Bonds (Series 2022B) in efforts to obtain a lower interest rate.

Vice President Pillai had questions about the refinance of the existing General Obligation Bond Refunding Bond (Series 2022B), asking if we get a lower interest rate, that would mean more revenue for the city. Are the tax payers getting relief? What does the district get out of refinancing of the bonds? All questions were answered by John Vezzetti and Board Members. Board Member Taylor spoke that proceeding with the bond refinancing is in his approval to save money. Board Member Kampwerth also agreed that this will be saving our tax payers money if we obtain a lower interest rate. Board Member Atkins is also spoke in favor.

- **Teacher Evaluations:** A committee of teachers and administrators have begun to look at the district's teacher evaluation tool that was established after Senate Bill 7 made sweeping changes to how teachers are evaluated and considered for RIF in 2011-2012. Both teachers and administrators feel that it is time to reexamine our tool to make the evaluation process more efficient for all parties involved. Vice President Pillai and Member Bruins request that the focus be less paperwork and more observation/evaluation during Teacher Evaluations.
- **Board of Education Policy Issue 108- Memo Press:** Mr. Craven will work on the policy updates and refer to Attorney Zukowski for discussion. This update has several matters that will need to be reviewed and addressed.
- **2020-21 Licensed Faculty and Support Staff Seniority Lists:** were distributed to staff to review and approve.

- **2021-22 Updated Extracurricular Assignments:** Sue Atilano as the new Scholastic Bowl Co-Sponsor.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Adoption of the Resolution for Approval of the 2021 Tax Levy**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Vice President Pillai, to approve the 2021 Tax Levy. ROLL CALL VOTING, AYE: Bruins, Pillai, Leynaud, Atkins, Kampwerth and Taylor. NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

### **Adoption of the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$2,000,000 taxable General Obligation School Bond, Series 2022A.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Atkins, to approve the General Obligation School Bond, Series 2022A. ROLL CALL VOTING, AYE: Kampwerth, Atkins, Bruins, Taylor, Pillai and Leynaud. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

### **Adoption of the Resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$5,900,000 taxable General Obligation School Refunding Bonds Series 2022B.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Bruins, to approve the General Obligation School Refunding Bonds. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Atkins, Bruins, Kampwerth, Taylor, and Leynaud. NAYS: Pillai. **The motion carried 5-1.**

### **Approval of the 2020-21 Licensed Faculty and Support Staff Seniority Lists**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Atkins to approve the Licensed Faculty and Support Staff Seniority Lists. AYE: 6, NAYS: 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

### **Approval of the Updated 2021-22 Extra Curricular Assignments**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Taylor, seconded by Member Bruins to approve the Extracurricular Assignments. AYE: 5, NAYS: 0, ABSTAIN: 1. **The motion carried 5-0.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Atkins, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:23 p.m. for the discussion of information regarding to the employment, performance or dismissal of employees or district legal counsel and discussion of information related to employee salaries, benefits and issues related to collective bargaining. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Atkins, Leynaud, Kampwerth, Taylor and Pillai. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

## **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Bruins, seconded by Member Kampwerth to return to Regular Session at 7:33p.m. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Bruins, Kampwerth, Taylor, Pillai, Leynaud and Atkins. NAYS: None. **The motion carried 6-0.**

## **ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **FMLA Approval**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Bruins to approve the request for the Family and Medical Leave Act for maternity leave for Dinelle Freschi, effective 3/26/2022 for approximately 8 weeks. AYE: 6, NAY: 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**Approval of Request for Retirement**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Pillai, seconded by Member Atkins to approve the request for retirement of Jim Hurst, custodian effective July 1, 2022. AYE: 6, NAY: 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**Approval of Request for a Special Board Meeting**

**MOTION:** Moved by Member Atkins, seconded by Member Kampwerth to approve the request to establish a Special Board Meeting Date and Time for the Superintendent Evaluation. Date of the Special Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. AYE: 6, NAY: 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Moved by Vice President Pillai, seconded by Member Bruins, to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. AYE 6, NAY 0. **The motion carried 6-0.**

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Patti Leynaud, Board President

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Megan Baltikauski, Board Secretary