

# Peru Central

# Cross-Campus

# Web-based Update

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD ACTION THIS MONTH

At the regular monthly meeting of **Tuesday, February 9, 2010** the Board of Education:

**Discussed** the topic of how to give consideration to employee letters of intent to retire, given the financial challenges ahead for Peru Central School District.

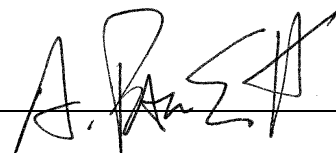
**Considered** the long-standing interest in reducing employment via attrition, rather than via other methods, to the extent that doing so is feasible.

**Determined** that whereas, Peru CSD has received and accepted letters of retirement from certain employees; and whereas, collective bargaining representatives have indicated that certain employees may wish that Peru CSD permit them to delay their date of retirement; and whereas, Peru CSD is willing to consider such requests for a limited period of time; it is therefore resolved:

The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to enter into appropriate memorandum of agreement with collective bargaining representatives of such employees, whereby Peru CSD will agree to consider written requests to rescind such retirements for a limited period of time, not to extend beyond March 1, 2010, and that no other such requests will be considered thereafter.

Also, the Board of Education:

- A. **Congratulated** Peru High School Model UN participants **Marcus McLean** and **Lydia Price**: UN High Commissioner for Refugees; **Lauren Brockbank** and **William Price**: UN Development Programme; **Stephanie Omlin**: UN Human Rights Council; **Tim Broadwell** and **Keegan Parrotte**: UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development; **Justus Ruff** and **Zach St. Louis**: UN Environment Programme. Peru CSD represented Romania at this year's Model UN. As usual, Peru CSD students did a very good job representing their country's positions, while helping to lead their various committees to consensus.
- B. **Commended** student **Lydia Price** for top quality academic achievement associated with her earning finalist status and earning a Certificate of Achievement with the 2010 competition for National Achievement Scholarships. She earned that recognition by demonstrating outstanding academic performance already, and demonstrating outstanding potential for future academic success.
- C. **Congratulated** student **Sarah Connelly** for top quality academic achievement associated with her CD-based documentary of the Peru Marching Band. She offered a well-crafted voice-over narrative complemented by a variety of newsprint archives, photographs and video clips, spanning across decades. Her project was constructed as part of course requirements for English 12, associated with teacher Julia Miller.



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FROM A. PAUL SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- D. **Recognized** the distinctive public service provided to children and to music teachers across New York State, by Peru CSD music teacher **Marcia Peck**, who since year 2002 has been a member of the New York State School Music Association Awards & Recognition Committee. The NYSSMA commented on Marcia Peck's high standards and her diligent statewide volunteer service she provides for students and their music teachers, statewide.
- E. **Commended** senior auditor **Holley Christiansen**, senior auditor **Karen Irwin**, auditor **Bette Crowningshield** and auditor **Johnna Hill**, who served as our fall 2009 semester curriculum audit team. They engaged with the Superintendent of Schools to generate a solid, fact-based internal audit of our school district's grade three and grade four social studies programs. This curriculum audit team gathered, sorted and examined extensive sets of program data about the third grade and fourth grade social studies curriculum, as it is delivered, written and assessed. The curriculum audit team then identified and described in clear fashion any notable gaps between the **ideal expectations** for the delivered, written and assessed curriculum via the Peru CSD curriculum audit criteria, and **what was actually found**, regarding the delivered, written and assessed social studies curriculum in grades three and four. Throughout the multi-month curriculum audit process, the curriculum audit team provided the grade three and grade four teacher teams with early-morning debriefing sessions, following each day of on-site data gathering. Responses from the grade three and grade four teacher team coordinators are published within the report.
- F. **Received** a progress report on crafting a 2010-2011 preliminary first draft budget.
- G. **Examined** the cross-campus update: State Aid Cut of \$197M slated for Peru CSD.
- H. **Discussed** the meeting notes from the budget advisory committee – January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- I. **Examined** the results of the January 25<sup>th</sup> public forum perceptions surveys.
- J. **Received** a snapshot report on spending categories, current year budget.
- K. **Discussed** the snapshot report entitled 'What is fund balance?'
- L. **Examined** the regional report on BOCES career-tech tuition seats.
- M. **Received** the February 2010 snapshot report on expenditures & revenues.
- N. **Re-examined** the voter exit poll results of May 2009.
- O. **Commissioned** a May 2010 voter exit poll using 2009 as the benchmark.
- P. **Received** a snapshot report on staff briefings already underway across campus.
- Q. **Examined** and discussed a plan of approach to the Governor's Budget Proposal.
- R. **Commissioned** the Superintendent to craft a preliminary draft budget that reflects a balanced approach to the Governor's proposal and legislative action underway.
- S. **Adopted** the Peru CSD Plan for School-Based Shared Decision-Making, with minor revisions as proposed by the Superintendent and the District Level Team that completed the state-mandated biennial review of that plan.
- T. **Authorized** the Superintendent to sign the routine update of the long-standing agreement with CSEA in Albany for the CSEA vision plan.
- U. **Received** the Superintendent's annual winter report on recruitment protocols.
- V. **Approved** at the standard per-mile rate the request of the Clinton County American Legion to contract with Peru CSD for school bus transportation associated with the Legion's trip for various high school junior boys throughout the region, to attend a special Boy's Town event at Morrisville College, sponsored by the American Legion.

- W. **Established** the set of Title I ARRA Stimulus Program extra-duty assignments, as posted January 25, 2010, as part of using stimulus dollars to promote increased student success. Due date for applications was the afternoon February 5<sup>th</sup>, after the meeting agenda was published and distributed.
- X. **Authorized** a second modified boy's basketball team and a coach, for the winter 2010 season only, based on high interest among boys. The situation is very similar to what prompted the school board to authorize an additional girl's modified soccer team & coach for the fall 2009 season only.
- Y. **Established** governing team representation at the March 4, 2010 6 PM Regional Dinner Meeting of the BOCES region's School Boards Associations at Cricket's Restaurant in Peru, featuring Tim Kremer, Executive Director of the New York State School Boards Association, and Attorney Jaci Kelleher, outlining "Do's and Don'ts for Boards of Education in Executive Session".

**Attached** is the February 9<sup>th</sup> **Superintendent's Report** to the Board, including the Tuesday afternoon addendum to that report.

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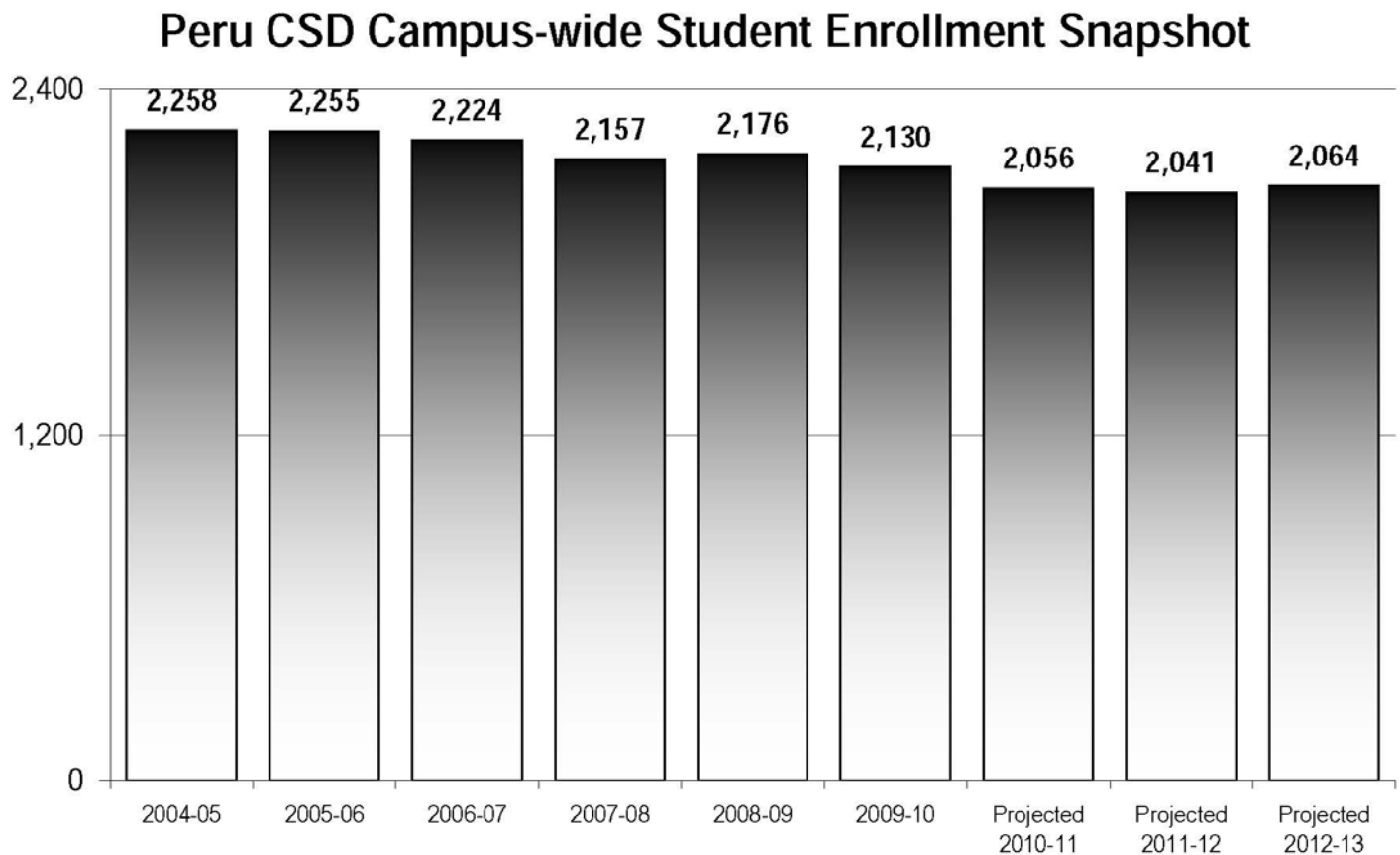
**FEBRUARY 9, 2010**

  
**FROM A. PAUL SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

## STATE & LOCAL 'RACE TO THE TOP' GRANT APPLICATION

Our school district is among 300 school districts requested by the State Education Department to consider minor revisions to our January 2010 Race to the Top [RTTT] 'memorandum of agreement'. An attorney from the State Education Department telephoned me last week and detailed for me the few particulars the Department requested be changed. RTTT is a federal initiative earmarking \$4.35B in competitive grant funds to encourage and reward states that set conditions for education innovation and reform, as part of setting conditions for significant improvement in student achievement, success and graduation rates. NYS Commissioner of Education David Steiner requested all Superintendents to sign a draft 'memorandum of agreement' to participate in all of or a substantial portion of the improvement initiatives outlined in the Empire State's RTTT grant proposal. Peru CSD's 'memorandum of agreement' includes a few added statements, intended to add a measure of clarity and context. The initial Peru CSD 'memorandum of agreement' was emailed to the State Education Department Thursday, January 7th. I anticipate submitting a modestly revised RTTT 'memorandum of agreement' this week.

## STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT PERU CSD



The chart above portrays student enrollment from fall 2004 through the current school year, along with projected student enrollment for the next three school years.

Student enrollment will be of particular focus this winter and spring, in regard to class sizes in various elementary grades & secondary grades course sections.

## **EXCEL PROJECT UPDATE AND TEMPORARY RE-LOCATION OF SOME OFFICES SPRING 2010**

The bid process for the March 2008 voter-approved EXCEL project to address priority areas for renovations, modernization, safety upgrades, energy efficiencies and associated facilities improvements is underway. Architect Mike Harris, Vice President of BCA, the school district's architectural & construction management firm, is slated to meet with the school board tonight and discuss the bid process & upcoming summer 2010 construction phase.

Peru CSD will be re-locating business office staff & operations to the community room, April through July 2010, associated with the April 2010 launch of the construction phase involving the auditorium, district office, business office and staff dining room. Modernization of those areas will launch in the spring, to allow contractors extra time to focus on classroom spaces during the nine-week summer recess.

The Superintendent of Schools and district clerk will relocate to the elementary grades facility, April through July 2010, as part of allowing contractors a 'head start'.

As a result of putting 'on hold' any further abatement of floor tile until the end of June 2010, the construction phase schedule now calls for most of the classroom renovations for grades 7-12 will take place summer 2010. The construction phase schedule now calls for most of the renovations for grades K-5 to take place summer 2011. One helpful byproduct of that timetable is having adequate space across campus for spring & summer 2010 relocation of business office & district office functions.

Temporary relocation of the district office to the elementary grades facility allows the district clerk and me remain on campus, even while renovation work is underway spring 2010. Our annual vote and election is during the time of renovations work. That is also the peak time of the calendar year for the annual recruitment season and annual district-authorized curriculum project work by teacher teams.

I'll value the opportunity to be 'hosted' on a temporary basis within the elementary grades portion of our campus, as the EXCEL project work launches spring and summer 2010.

As a teacher by trade, I humbly forecast our elementary grades 'hosts' will be pleased when the district office returns to its customary location mid-summer 2010, just as a family is pleased to host relatives for a summer visit, and then pleased to see them return home at the end of their visit.

## **REDUCING COSTS & INCREASING SCHOOL DISTRICT EFFICIENCY**

Engaging this region's chief school officers in collaborative construction of an annual set of regional 'talking points' is part of my role as this BOCES region's representative for the New York Council of School Superintendents' Legislative Committee. The February 2010 set of regional 'talking points' focuses on a dozen practical ways for legislators and other state leaders to help reduce costs and increase school district efficiency.

I encourage the Board of Education to consider a March 2010 formal resolution that would move these recommendations forward, in formal fashion, to the Governor, Board of Regents and the Legislature.

## **WINTER 2010 COMMUNITY REPORT SLATED FOR RELEASE TONIGHT**

The customary winter [February] edition of the Peru CSD Community Report is slated for distribution this week. Advance copies of that report are slated to be available tonight, for all attending the Board's meeting.

### **NO ADDITIONAL SCHOOL CUTS IN THIS AFTERNOON'S AMENDMENTS FROM THE GOVERNOR**

Mid-afternoon today, Governor Paterson released his "21-day" amendments to his proposed state budget. By law, the Governor may submit amendments to his budget up to 21 days after its original submission. Although some amendments could be described as technical in nature rather than substantial, there are a few notable aspects of the Governor's amendments

The scope of his cuts to public education remain 'as is', not deeper than last month. For Peru CSD, that translates into a state aid cut of \$1.97M as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Federal fiscal relief: The Governor now includes \$1.06B in enhanced federal relief he forecasts will be provided by the new federal budget. Conversely, if those new federal funds don't appear, deeper cuts would be required across many sectors of state-funded services, programs and aid categories statewide.

Reducing efficiency grants: The Governor reduced this funding category in half, from \$10M to \$5M.

Red Cross: Partial restoration by increasing the budget \$1.1M, for a resulting \$3.3M.

Additional details are available on the Web at:

[http://www.budget.state.ny.us/pubs/press/2010/pressRelease10\\_21DayAmendments.html](http://www.budget.state.ny.us/pubs/press/2010/pressRelease10_21DayAmendments.html).

### **FIVE YEARS OF FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AUDITING: 733 COMPREHENSIVE AUDITS**

Also mid-afternoon today, State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli released a comprehensive report on the completion of public accountability auditing of the state's 733 public school districts and BOCES. In his introductory message, the Comptroller indicates most school districts are generally well run, based on audit results across the past five years, yet there are many opportunities for improvement in the years ahead.

DiNapoli is directing audit teams to begin their next five-year cycle of public accountability audits with a focus on identifying efficiencies and cost reductions in administrative staffing, employee benefits, transportation and other operational areas. The report is available on the Web at:

<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/press/releases/feb10/020910.htm>

Respectfully submitted by A. Paul Scott, Superintendent of Schools

