

**Peru Central**

# **Cross-Campus Web-based Update**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHOOL BOARD ACTION TUESDAY NIGHT**

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At the regular monthly meeting of **Tuesday, February 10, 2009**, the Board of Education:

Welcomed High School Entrepreneurs Club for School Store President Evan Tomkowitz, featured for this month's report on extra-curricular student activities, leadership development and service. Mike Zerrahn is faculty advisor.

Recognized the collective good work by the Board of Education, students, faculty, support staff, school volunteers, operations supervisors, administrators and the support of the community-at-large for the legacy of solid public school programs and services at Peru Central School District. This was recently evidenced through the fall 2008 first annual administration of Peru CSD continuous improvement stakeholder perceptions surveys. Nationally in year 2008 according to the 40<sup>th</sup> annual PDK/Gallop National Poll, 72% of parents assigned an 'A' or 'B' to their child's public school. At Peru Central during fall 2008, 100% of the 149 primary school parents who completed surveys assigned an 'A' or 'B' to Peru Primary School; 98.4% of the 126 intermediate school parents who completed surveys assigned an 'A' or 'B' to Peru Intermediate School; and 94.7% of the 79 high school parents who completed surveys assigned an 'A' or 'B' to Peru High School. One continuous improvement goal for fall 2009 is gathering completed surveys from at least 100 parents of middle school students.

Commended Peru CSD faculty members Holley Christiansen, Deborah Daly and Kathy Lawliss for their service this semester associated with the internal curriculum audit of Regents course sections associated with the grades 9 & 10 global history & geography program. That curriculum audit report was released last month.

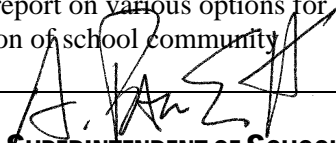
Commended Peru CSD faculty members Bruce Beauharnois, Mark Hamilton and Peter McCormick for their service this semester associated with the internal curriculum audit of the grades 7 & 8 middle school social studies program. That curriculum audit report is slated for release later this month. The Board also expressed appreciation to the grades 7-12 social studies department for extensive engagement and good partnership with the curriculum audit teams, throughout the fall 2008 semester for the Peru CSD internal curriculum audit process.

Expressed appreciation regarding increased energy conservation to the many faculty members, support staff members, administrators and operations supervisors who assisted Peru CSD and the information technology network support team in the major power-downs this school year.

Commissioned a May 2009 voluntary voter exit survey, with the May 2008 exit survey as the benchmark document.

Adopted Resolution #1 of February 2009 on Maximizing School District Resources [attached].

Commissioned the Superintendent of Schools to provide a June 2009 report on various options for summer 2009 governing team consideration regarding further expansion of school community



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

engagement throughout the budget development process. The Superintendent will do so with an eye toward adding open-invitation public forums and additional other community-outreach strategies for future budget development seasons.

Approved the Superintendent's proposal for the district office to establish a by-request email subscription service for school community members to receive via a to-be-developed Peru CSD listserv regularly scheduled emails and bulletins on Peru CSD matters, such as budget development updates, media releases, monthly Superintendent's reports and periodic other reports.

Received the eighth annual mid-year report on progress toward district goals.

Discussed the first annual report on stakeholder perceptions survey summary charts.

Examined Snapshot reports from teacher team coordinators, highlighting current program strengths, continuous improvement initiatives and recent use of instructional resources.

Received the February 2009 bulletin on policy updating, outlining constituent comment regarding the updated 5000 section [students] recommended by the NYSSBA and being 'fine tuned' to better reflect current Peru CSD policy, as part of the school district's first comprehensive updating of the district policy manual since 1991. The Superintendent of Schools extended the January 2009 constituent comment period through the second week of February 2009, to reflect requests from some constituents for additional time to examine the various draft policies. The 'fine tuned' 5000 section will be provided to the Board of Education for second reading and adoption as part of the March 2009 regular monthly meeting.

Authorized a March 2009 field trip by up to approximately 20 or 24 High School Chorus students to Ithaca College, to participate in the Ithaca College Gospel Choir Invitational, which is a 'by invitation' event for exceptional high school student musicians statewide, from a very diverse set of school districts statewide. Ithaca College has offered to donate the cost of Peru CSD school bus transportation to and from this extraordinary event. Approved the contract with Adirondack Healthcare Associates for 2008-2009 school year service with school physician services, as follow-up to the July 2008 continued appointment of the school physician.

Approved the contract with Clinton County Department of Social Services for January 2009 through December 2009.

Established a temporary full-time teaching assistant position for a newly enrolled kindergarten child with special needs, with the prospect of reducing special needs service as the youngster makes strides in the kindergarten environment.

Authorized the establishment of the Peru Fire Department Auxiliary Scholarship and accept their donation of \$1,200 to fund two scholarships per year for the next three years.

Authorized the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Transportation Agreements with the Champlain Valley Educational Services to support the Special Education Program and CV TEC Programs. These are cooperative transportation agreements that Peru Central School District maintains on an annual basis at a rate that is determined by the District.

Tabled until the March 2009 meeting the follow-up report the Board requested regarding the following aspects of the field trip to China proposal received last month: Chaperones & supervision; liability coverage; financial accountability; access & equity matters and the link between the trip and the instructional program.

Placed that proposed field trip to China on the March 2009 regular monthly meeting agenda.

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**FEBRUARY 12, 2009**

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

# PERU CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## ADOPTED RESOLUTION OF FEBRUARY 10 2009 ON MAXIMIZING SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOURCES IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

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**Whereas**, Public school districts that serve the less wealthy rural communities across the state are focused on the Governor's December 2008 Executive Budget proposal; and

**Whereas**, The state budget proposal will put many less wealthy rural communities and school districts in an unfortunate position of either having local residents vote to significantly increase the property tax share of school costs, or vote in a manner that will most likely diminish their local community's public education programs and services; and

**Whereas** the increase in property tax would be dramatic in less wealthy rural school districts, since a greater portion of the revenues for such rural school districts consists of state aid, in contrast to more wealthy school districts, where state aid is a significantly smaller portion of school district revenues; and

**Whereas** contingency budget caps fail to consider increased costs required for sustaining solid, basic public education programs in the state's less wealthy rural communities; therefore

**Be it resolved**, that the Board of Education strongly urges the Legislature to act decisively and promptly, by providing the following measures to help school districts maximize school district resources:

- A. Do not allow further legislative mandates placed on school districts, without a complete accounting of the fiscal impact on local governments, which must include full documentation, local government input and proposed revenue sources to fund the new mandates;
- B. See to it that new State Education Department regulatory mandates contain a complete accounting of the fiscal impact on local governments/school districts, which must include full documentation, local government input and proposed revenue sources to fund the new regulatory mandates;
- C. Commission the State Comptroller to publish an annual public report which includes the cumulative cost to localities of complying with all new regulatory mandates and all new legislative mandates;
- D. Call for and 'stay the course' with having the State Education Department significantly centralize and streamline school district compliance reporting;
- E. Cap local school district expenditures for special education services, and have the State accept more financial responsibility for this state-mandated programming;
- F. Have the State pick up the entire cost of placing children referred to State schools for the blind and deaf;
- G. Have the State pick up the entire high cost special education excess cost aid categories whether public,

BOCES or private;

- H. Fully fund and require each BOCES to undertake a study to determine how to implement a regional school transportation system in the BOCES region with the objectives of maximizing cost efficiencies and conserving fuel;
- I. Repeal the Wicks Law or dramatically increase its thresholds for school districts;
- J. Assess the consequences of temporary state aid incentive programs such as RESCUE and EXCEL on capital project costs for school districts and their communities;
- K. Allow any group of school districts and other local governments or agencies to share a function if at least one of the school districts has the power to perform it; and

**Be it further resolved,** that the Board of Education requests the Superintendent of Schools to forward a copy of this adopted resolution to every Superintendent of Schools in this BOCES region, requesting each school district's Superintendent forward a copy of this adopted resolution to that school district's Board of Education; and forward a copy of this adopted resolution to the BOCES Superintendent to share with this region's BOCES.

*I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the resolution acted upon by the Peru Central School District Board of Education in public session, February 10, 2009.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Paul Scott", written over a horizontal line.

*A. Paul Scott, Superintendent of Schools*

**APPROVED**