

Peru Central

Cross-Campus Web-based Update

HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHOOL BOARD ACTION TUESDAY NIGHT

At the regular monthly meeting of **Tuesday, June 9, 2009** the Board of Education:

- A. Commemorated recent and upcoming retirements of Peru CSD employees, many of whom have provided decades of valued public service to the rural school community and children we serve.
- B. Hosted the ninth annual spring recognition of distinctive and exemplary achievement among students and district employees.
- C. Accepted the generous donation from the Peru Fire Department of a twenty-foot telescoping flagpole and American flag for use at the announcing booth associated with the Peru CSD feature field.
- D. Approved the varsity swim team merger request from Saranac CSD to add three swimmers to our varsity swim program for the 2009-2010 school year, with the participation-based cost for this merger to be paid by Saranac CSD.
- E. Set Tuesday, July 14, 2009 for the annual reorganization meeting, regular monthly meeting and ninth annual governing team retreat.
- F. Completed a third reading and adopted the updated 5000 section [students] of the Peru CSD policy manual, as part of updating of the entire Peru CSD policy manual.
- G. Authorized the school district add an additional 2009-2010 school year section of fourth grade, based on actual student enrollment spring 2009 and forecasted enrollment for September 2009.
- H. Completed a first reading of an updated 6000 [fiscal management] section and an updated 7000 [facilities] section of the Peru CSD policy manual. Second readings and adoption of these two sections are slated for the July 2009 meeting.
- I. Approved the 2009-2010 school year extension of the partnership between Peru CSD and this region's BOCES for the Perkins Title I grant, intended to strengthen this BOCES region's career and technical education programs via infusion of school district federal grant monies earmarked for that particular program.
- J. Authorized the Superintendent of Schools to transition Peru CSD cell phone plans from Unicel to successor company AT&T, as part of updating Peru CSD cell phone plans later this calendar year, following the divestiture of Unicel from being a cell carrier for this region.

JUNE 11, 2009


FROM A. PAUL SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- K. Approved the transportation agreement between Peru CSD and the Town of Plattsburgh associated with the Plattsburgh Recreation Department's summer swim program, effective June 29 through August 7, 2009.
- L. Approved the transportation agreement between Peru CSD and the Town of Peru associated with the Peru Youth Commission's summer swim program, effective July 6 through July 31, 2009.
- M. Gathered member perceptions regarding the results of the May 19, 2009 voluntary voter exit poll, administered by the Peru High School National Honor Society.
- N. Approved each of the four revision options offered to the Board by the Superintendent of Schools, associated with the Board's budget advisory committee.
- O. Approved the June 3, 2009 request to establish a modified cross-country team for the fall 2009 season, in the event that August 2009 participation numbers warrant the additional coach position.
- P. Sustained current student breakfast prices and student lunch prices into next school year. Prices for staff meals will be increased for 2009-2010. Details will follow in a separate note.
- Q. Authorized the school district pilot during 2009-2010 a supervised academic study hall tenth period supervised via a teaching assistant at the high school for incoming ninth graders identified as particularly at risk for facing challenges at the start of their high school program. This pilot is one action in response to 2009-2010 district goal 1.5: Continue piloting innovative approaches to providing extra support and encouragement to 8th and 9th grade students identified as particularly 'at risk' with the transition from eighth grade studies in middle school to ninth grade studies at the high school, in regard to successful completion of ninth grade studies and solid progress toward graduation.
- R. Authorized the Superintendent of Schools to engage with the appropriate parties to launch the development phase of a potential summer 2009 extension to the Peru CSD academic summer camp for 8th and 9th grade students identified as 'at risk' of not completing high school. The focus is establishing a model for providing an academic summer camp experience offering an alternate avenue to completing at least some science work equivalent to about one-half of a course credit. If the Superintendent determines there is mutual agreement and understanding between and among the high school administration, faculty association and the district office, the Superintendent is authorized to post for and move ahead with piloting such a program summer 2009. This proposal responds to 2009-2010 district goals 1.1 and 1.5.

A copy of the June 9, 2009 Superintendent's Report is attached.

JUNE 11, 2009


FROM A. PAUL SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

BUDGET PROPOSITION AND TRANSPORTATION PROPOSITION APPROVED BY VOTERS

57% of the 847 voters who participated in this year's annual vote on the proposed spending plan supported that proposition. 59% supported the transportation proposition. That enables Peru CSD to move ahead with requisitioning three replacement school buses. Such support is very much appreciated.

Five more voters participated in this year's annual voluntary voter exit survey than last year's survey [176 in 2009 vs. 171 in 2008]. A greater number of voters who indicated they voted 'no' on the budget participated in this year's survey [51 in 2009 vs. 31 in 2008].

The intent of that exit poll survey was to collect information regarding voter selections at the ballot box, why they voted as they did, where they obtained information regarding the budget proposal, and general perceptions of voters regarding Peru CSD instructional programs, support operations, focus on continuous improvement and modernization of the consolidated central campus. Some voters did not respond to each question, yet most did respond to each question.

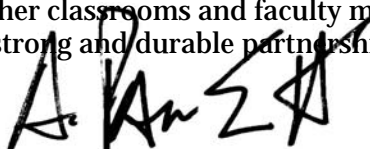
83% indicated they are generally pleased with instructional programs at Peru CSD [up five percent from one year ago]. 75% are generally pleased with Peru CSD support operations [up fourteen percent from one year ago], and 80% are generally pleased with Peru CSD's focus on continuous improvement [up eight percent from one year ago]. 78% are generally pleased with the focus on modernization of the campus [up eleven percent from one year ago].

APPRECIATION FOR ANOTHER PRODUCTIVE SCHOOL YEAR

I offer appreciation to Peru CSD faculty teams, support staff teams, students, volunteers, operations supervisors, administrators and the governing team, associated with our eighth full year of continuous improvement across campus. Accomplishments and 'return on investment' since July 2008 include:

- Strengthened curriculum and professional practice across the grade spans;
- Increased student achievement and success at each grade span with particular programs;
- Revised district policies associated with administration and instruction;
- Updated fiscal accountability practices and protocols;
- Two additional curriculum development audits via peer-based audit team engagement;
- Enhanced support services associated with cafeteria, custodial, transportation & maintenance;
- Bolstered administrative protocols for recruitment of faculty members, featuring high standards for collaboratively constructing the profile of 'the ideal candidate', a brief workshop for all faculty volunteering to serve on an ad-hoc interview team, and providing a consistent set of practices and protocols for interviewing candidates and offering perceptions regarding those candidates;
- Expanded use of co-teaching from Primary grades into Intermediate grades for 2009-2010.

Our ongoing partnership with SUNY Plattsburgh continues next school year, associated with Peru CSD faculty members sponsoring student teachers at each grade span. Although we will not be sponsoring student teachers next school year in the particular classrooms where we are launching the co-teaching model next year, our other classrooms and faculty members will continue to be eligible for sponsoring student teachers. This strong and durable partnership with SUNY continues, to the benefit of all.



Respectfully submitted by A. Paul Scott, Superintendent of Schools