

Peru Central

Cross-Campus Web-based Update

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD ACTION THIS WEEK

At the reorganization & regular monthly meetings of **Tuesday, July 13, 2010** the Board of Education:

- A. Elected Rod Driscoll as President & Donna LaRocque as Vice President of the Board.
- B. Received a comprehensive briefing on the status of summer 2010 EXCEL capital project work, from Mike Harris, BCA Vice President & Architect, along with Steve Shockley, BCA project manager for this Peru CSD capital project.
- C. Adopted the 2010-2011 edition of the school district's safety plan, following a brief public hearing on the proposed annual update.
- D. Received the tenth annual Peru CSD goals booklet, which provides ready reference to particular documents associated with 2010-2011 and longer-term district goals.
- E. Authorized the school district to contract with Atlantic Testing Laboratories [ATL] for abatement-related monitoring, sampling and testing.
- F. Sustained the school district's agreement for services with the law firm of Stafford-Piller-Murnane-Plimpton-Kelleher-Trombley.
- G. Authorized the school district resume the NYSSBA school policy quarterly update service, to assist the Board and school district with maintaining & updating the policy handbook.
- H. Authorized reduced expenditures for 2010-2011 club advisor stipends, as part of follow-up on the 2010-2011 budget plan which calls for \$19.4M in cost reductions from the school year that just ended. There were no 'easy choices'. Each stipend below is a 'tough choice' reflecting tough economic times and reduced state aid revenues. The following faculty advisor extra-duty stipends will not be in place for 2010-2011: drama club [separate from the high school musical], national junior honor society, middle school quiz bowl, plastic model club, swing choir director, swing choir accompanist.

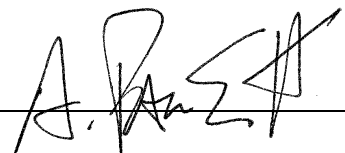
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FROM A. PAUL SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

accompanist, football games band director, summer camp band director, ski club, book club, guitar club, lip synch director and lip synch assistant director.

- I. Partnered with Saranac CSD, to allow interested & eligible girls from that district to be part of the Peru CSD girls' swim program, at no cost to Peru CSD. A booster club would be established at Saranac CSD to fund any and all added costs associated with having those additional girls be part of our swim program. Number of such available 'seats' on the swim teams would be determined by the Peru CSD athletics coordinator. This partnership would be similar to the long-standing and successful partnership associated with ice hockey.
- J. Approved the request from the grounds department & athletics coordinator to re-locate a section of the outer fence surrounding the feature field & track to a different location on campus. Doing so will reduce costs & time for maintenance of that area, streamline checking of gates for proper locking of that area and re-use that section of fence parallel to the K-5 bus block area, where the ground slopes down to the Intermediate School playing fields.
- K. Sustained into 2010-2011 the full-time ARRA 'stimulus monies' reading teacher position established fall 2009. Use available Title I ARRA carryover monies to fund that position.
- L. Sustained the IDEA federal grant-funded part-time clerical position for pre-school special education & section 504 documentation & tracking, at twelve hours per week for 2010-2011.
- M. Established an 18-hour per week part-time Medicaid clerical position, in response to a recent retirement. The level of federal & state-mandated requirements for school districts continues to increase. This part-time position would respond to those increased requirements and the recent retirement of the full-time CSEA clerical team member who had been responsible for these duties.
- N. Determined Peru CSD was unable to engage with the state's 'Part A' retirement incentive for eligible employees, associated with Chapter 105 of the Laws of 2010 Retirement Incentive, calling for a certain percent of reduced costs, over time, inclusive of the school district incurring added expenses that pay for the incentive costs for such early retirement of eligible employees.
- O. Approved a successor agreement between the Board and the Superintendent of Schools for the period of July 2010 through June 30, 2014.

The July 13th **Superintendent's Report** is attached.



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RECOGNIZING DECADES OF LEADERSHIP BY SUPERINTENDENT JAMES HUTCHINSON

It's anticipated there will be a moment of silence tonight, followed by public recognition of long-time Superintendent of Schools James E. Hutchinson, who died Thursday, July 8th. He served as chief school administrator at Peru Central from 1951 as 'district principal', until 1963, when he became Superintendent of Schools, following the school district's re-designation as an 'independent school district'. His service as Superintendent continued until the end of June 1972, when he retired from active service. His engagement with this community's school board spanned the time when Peru Central was transformed from a modest rural school district to a progressive, comparatively large rural school district, associated with Peru Central's expanded mission: providing a solid public school education to the children of the men & women in the Air Force, who served at Plattsburgh Air Base. Except for the original Peru Central School [our intermediate school], Superintendent Hutchinson was engaged with the design and construction of each facility on our campus: the extension to the original building [now our primary school], the 1963-vintage junior-senior high school building [now our middle & high school] and the transportation facility. If we were to pick up the telephone and phone, at random, a long-term Peru CSD resident or long-term Peru CSD retiree, and ask about Jim Hutchinson, it's highly likely the individual would have very favorable memories of him. Jim Hutchinson was a veteran of World War II, serving with the Army Signal Corp in Germany. He taught algebra, and English at Morrisonville, before teaching at the two-room Schuyler Falls village school, according to a 1972 Press-Republican news story. He was quoted in that story as predicting growth of regionalism, where clusters of school districts would handle matters that were [are] the domain of individual school districts. Given the extended economic downturn we're experiencing statewide & nationally, and the associated scarcity of resources statewide, Hutchinson's 1072 forecast of expanded regionalism seems a topical issue, rather than a twenty-eight year old comment.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SUSTAINED 2009-2010

Continuous improvement of student achievement was sustained throughout 2009-2010. Two specific snapshot illustrations: Primary grades student achievement as measured by literacy development, and high school student achievement as measured by New York State Education Department Regents Examinations.

Peru CSD primary grades student achievement has risen year to year in recent years, as measured by percent of students at benchmark achievement by the end of the school year. Kindergarten: 73% in 2008, 77% in 2009 and 78% in 2010. 1st Grade: 63% in 2008, 68% in 2009 and 73% in 2010. 2nd grade: 51% in 2008, 55% in 2009 and 61% in 2010. Literacy development continues as 'Job #1'.

Peru CSD high school student achievement 2009-2010, as measured by Regents exams, improved over 2008-2009 student achievement levels in eight of twelve test areas: integrated algebra, geometry, chemistry, English, global history & geography, US history & government, physics, and earth science. Peru CSD student performance on Regents exams is customarily competitive, regionally and with similar schools statewide.

STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH CLINTON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONTINUES INTO 2010

Our strong partnership with Clinton Community College, located within our school district, offers students an array of eighteen dual-enrollment college/high school courses. Many 11th and 12th grade students graduate from Peru CSD with a Regents diploma, plus a SUNY college transcript, reflecting completion of SUNY college coursework on our campus, while in high school. We had 195 student registrations for dual-enrollment during the 2009-2010 school year. We offer six advanced placement [AP] courses, too.

In recent years, one of the most frequent comments I receive from parents is appreciation for providing their child with access to dual-enrollment coursework, particularly given the economic and educational advantages such coursework offers. I thank the school board for long-standing support of our dual-enrollment partnership. I thank our faculty members for broad & solid engagement as adjunct faculty members via this partnership,

and I thank our administrative team leading and supporting our growing array of dual-enrollment courses. Special appreciation to our students – and their parents/guardians - for active engagement with this program.

MANAGEMENT BY FACTS & ADVANCING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The good work – and our mission – continue forward. One of our Peru CSD core values is visionary district leadership, complemented with 'management by facts'. Fact is, advancing student achievement from one year to the next will continue as our top priority area of focus for 2010-2011. Publicly reporting on grade-span progress with year-to-year gains in student achievement is the top district goal for 2010-2011. That's an important part of meeting & exceeding state-mandated annual yearly progress.

That's prime focus for continuous improvement at each and every progressive school district, Peru CSD included.

APPRECIATION FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE FROM BUILDINGS & GROUNDS TEAMS

Another important & timely matter for this month's report is expressing appreciation to our custodial, grounds and maintenance teams for exemplary service during the month of June.

Those teams removed & temporarily relocated equipment, furniture & supplies from dozens of grades 7-12 classrooms and other program spaces, to prepare for summer 2010 EXCEL capital project renovations & modernization of those program spaces.

EXCEL CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE TONIGHT

BCA Vice President Mike Harris joins us tonight, offering an update on our EXCEL capital project. The school board is slated to tour the cafeteria, staff dining room, business office and district office areas that are in the midst of being renovated & modernized.

Among those items also slated for summer 2010 recess renovation & modernization are the auditorium, high school gymnasium, high school guidance office, various middle & high school classrooms, the orchestra & band rooms for the middle-high school, the tennis courts and exterior lighting poles.

VARIOUS KEY ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES BEING RE-ASSIGNED TO REFLECT REDUCTION

Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics Cathy Phillips retired last month. Several key administrative duty assignments will be re-assigned and re-distributed, as part of Peru CSD having one less administrator on campus.

Next month's regular meeting will include a set of specific recommendations for various key duties associated with medical & nurse team administrative leadership & coordination.

Also slated for next month will be a specific recommendation to meet Commissioner's Regulation §135.4(c)(4)(iii), requiring designation of an individual to perform various 'director of physical education' duties for each school district operating a high school. Such duties are providing leadership and supervision for the class instruction, intramural activities and interschool athletic competition in the total physical education program. Where there are extenuating circumstances, a member of the physical education staff may be designated for such responsibilities, upon approval of the Commissioner. School districts may share the services of a Director.

Our new Athletics Director Larry Ewald started service July 1st. He's off to a solid start of service.