

Cross-Campus Web-based Update

HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHOOL BOARD ACTION TUESDAY NIGHT

At the regular monthly meeting of **Tuesday, September 9, 2008**, the Board of Education:

Hosted the eighth annual brief, informal reception for newly appointed and recently recruited district employees, intended to greet them and allow them to introduce themselves to the Board and the school community.

Discussed the September 9, 2008 Superintendent's Report.

Completed a first reading of the 4000 [instruction] section of the various policies recommended by the New York State School Boards Association [NYSSBA] as part of the school board's comprehensive updating of the Peru CSD Policy Handbook.

Revised the preliminary draft timetable for governing team engagement with officers and advisors of extra-curricular clubs and activities.

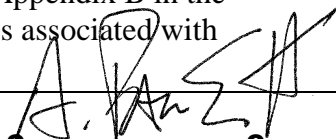
Received a snapshot report on the results of the summer 2008 Peru CSD administrative examination of the K-12 physical education program's minutes-per-week of physical education classes.

Set Tuesday, September 23rd at 3:30 PM as the meeting date for the finance committee of the school board.

Authorized the Superintendent of Schools to sign the agreement with SUNY Plattsburgh for hosting of a school psychology graduate student on the Peru CSD campus during 2008-2009, pending final review.

Authorized the school district to add one section of French class at the high school, based on actual student enrollment, thereby establishing a new full-time probationary appointment position, recruiting and advertising for that new full-time position in the weeks ahead, and abolishing the 80% part-time French position, once a finalist candidate is appointed by the Board to the new full-time position. In recent years, actual student enrollment had allowed for an 80% part-time position, rather than a full-time position. The school board further authorized the school district to compensate the 80% part-time French teacher for an additional 20% of time, in response to that individual teaching the additional French class section throughout the recruitment process.

Authorized the school district to establish - for the fall 2008 season only - an assistant girls JV soccer coach position with a stipend of 0.495 [\$1,544] from Appendix B in the bargaining agreement with the faculty association. This request is associated with



unforeseen changes in the fall 2008 soccer program coaching staff, coupled with the need to ensure adequate supervision and coaching service.

Adopted the bond Resolution dated September 9, 2008. The resolution authorizes the issuance of up to \$11,571,300 in serial bonds and the expenditure of \$1,050,700 for the District's General Capital Reserve Fund to finance the District's capital improvement project, which was approved by proposition held on March 12, 2008.

Authorized the school district to establish an extra-curricular student club for the high school store, Entrepreneurs Club, as one more step in aligning practices at Peru Central High School with updated guidelines from the NYSED and the Comptroller's Office, regarding high school extra-curricular student activities. Formerly, the school store was run and managed as part of a business education class. Via the Entrepreneurs Club, students will have increased access to and engagement with running the school store. The school board authorized the faculty advisor stipend associated with this club to be at the rate of 0.66 [\$2,059] from Appendix B in the bargaining agreement with the faculty association.

Authorized the Superintendent of Schools to sign a Transportation Agreement with the Champlain Valley Educational Services. This is a cooperative transportation arrangement that Peru Central School District maintains on an annual basis at a rate that is determined by the District.

Various reports were examined during public session, including:

- A. Timetable of public reports for 2008-2009;
- B. Annotated copy of the governing team's goals for 2008-2009;
- C. The timetable and the associated snapshot report template for this school year's governing team engagement with extra-curricular club presidents;
- D. The cover memorandum highlighting the NYSSBA's proposed policy updates for the 4000 [instruction] section of the Peru CSD policy handbook.
- E. Start of classes preliminary enrollment report;
- F. Fiscal accountability update;
- G. Model Classrooms 2008;
- H. Curriculum audits timetable and associated communications protocol;
- I. Peru CSD core values & performance objectives;
- J. EXCEL project design development September 9th update;
- K. Administrative examination of K-12 physical education classes;
- L. Team planning at the middle school.

The school board expressed appreciation to the various recently recruited district employees who were able to join the Board and others last night for the annual reception.



FULL-SIZE SECONDARY GRADES CLASSROOM USE REFLECTS MULTIPLE PRIORITIES

Secondary grades student enrollment at Peru CSD is forecasted to peak next year, based on the October 2007 ten-year enrollment projections for Peru CSD. From 2009 forward, secondary grades student enrollment is forecasted to vary modestly from year to year, ranging from a highpoint of 683 students fall 2009, to a low point of 648 students in fall 2012, then to 675 students in 2017.

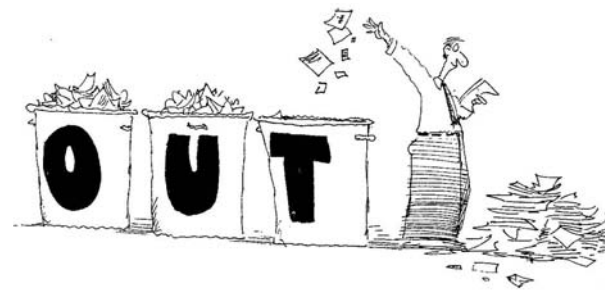
Peru CSD programs reflect increased academic standards, more stringent graduation requirements and expanded federal regulations and state guidelines for regular education and special education. Peru CSD programs are all stronger than they had been years ago. Meanwhile, administrators are faced with multiple priorities competing for available classroom space. From a **student enrollment** standpoint, there is adequate full-size classroom space. Student enrollment in secondary grades at Peru CSD has been relatively stable in recent years. From a **classroom scheduling** standpoint, administrators assign classroom space to reflect the more rigorous academic expectations, which feature additional academic intervention classes and special education classes. Such additional classes co-exist with other essential aspects of our instructional program, such as health and history and elective courses.

To assist administrators with this situation, I offered the **community room**, for daytime use by upper level high school classes. The portion of the community room nearest the high school main entrance features full-size space, flexible seating and can be equipped with suitable information technology to support upper level high school level instruction on school days. After period ten each school day, that space can quickly revert back to community room use, via the folding wall.

Later this month, I'll be requesting faculty members submit ideas & suggestions regarding assignment of full size classrooms for second semester and beyond. The intent is to assist administration with balancing multiple priorities for assignment of classroom space, grades 6-12. The faculty association has offered to engage with administrators on this topic of assigning classroom space. That's appreciated and we'll do so.

DE-CLUTTERING OF THE CAMPUS CONTINUES

In recent years at Peru CSD, the school board has authorized several 'yard sales' of district property identified as broken, no longer usable or surplus. That's been valued. District employee de-cluttering and streamlining of our desktops, drawers, program spaces and operations areas helps Peru CSD 'make space' for the various supplies, materials and equipment we're using now and will need in the years ahead.



PERU CSD AND CVES HOSTING CLEANING PROFESSIONAL & AUTHOR DON ASLETT

On October 14, 2008, the date of this year's regional Superintendents' Conference Day, Peru CSD and this region's BOCES will be hosting Don Aslett, a cleaning professional who authored various best-seller books on de-cluttering such as "Clutter's Last Stand", "Not For Packrats Only", "The Office Clutter Cure".

Aslett will provide a morning workshop for teachers, administrators and support staff on the 14th, an afternoon workshop that same day for the region's custodial cleaning teams, and a 7 PM courtesy presentation [no fee, no donation] that night in our auditorium for all interested parents and other residents of our school community focused on this topic of de-cluttering. The cartoon above is from page 79 from "Office Clutter Cure".

Don Aslett would suggest clutter crowds our home basements, school storage rooms, our attics and our personal growth. At his presentations, he offers practical strategies for individuals, teams and organizations to reduce clutter. He's a cleaning professional with a timely message and practical suggestions.

The district office will engage the PTOs, print and broadcast media to share the news regarding this upcoming 7 PM courtesy presentation for the community.

INCREASED COST OF FUEL HIGHLIGHTED IN NATIONAL REPORTS

USA Today, **Education Week**, the **New York Times** and various **regional newspapers** across the state and nation have published front page news stories and feature articles on energy conservation, higher per gallon cost of diesel fuel, and how school districts are responding to those increased costs and calls for energy conservation. A September 2008 feature story in **District Administration** journal reports that:

- 44% of school districts plan to cut back on field trips;
- 15% of school districts are reducing consumption of fuel, via consolidation of bus runs and eliminating or modifying extracurricular offerings or sports;

As a rural school district, bus transportation is a component of all regular programs and many extracurricular programs. The transportation budget reflects that. At Peru CSD, last school year's budget for school bus fuel was **\$165,000**. This school year's budget for school bus fuel is **\$200,000**. This is a budget increase of **\$35,000** which is an approximately **21% increase** over last school year's budget.

Fall 2008 budget discussions will certainly include these topics of fuel conservation and budgeting for transportation next school year and beyond.

UPDATING PERU CSD PROTOCOLS FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION

Last week, as part of the welcome back message to all district employees, I said they will be invited to attend one of what will be a series of 'district meetings' across campus to gather district employee suggestions for further reducing energy consumption and responding to increasing costs for fuel and transportation. That set of meetings will start later this month.

These 'district meetings' will include transportation services, special education, elementary grades, secondary grades, buildings & grounds, information technology, athletics and cafeteria services. I have already tasked the information technology coordinator with pinpointing strategies to allow for after-hours shutdown of all computer network workstations, screens and printers on campus, other than essential network devices, such as central servers and building temperature management systems.

Overall, this fall 2008 series of meetings is to gather practical suggestions from Peru CSD administrators, operations supervisors, faculty, support staff and volunteers.

Those suggestions will become the backbone of an updated set of Peru CSD protocols for significant expansion of Peru CSD energy conservation [and associated cost conservation] this semester and beyond.



Respectfully submitted by A. Paul Scott, Superintendent of Schools