

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
April 22, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Aly and the following members were present: Jeffords, Kizziar, Schuchardt, Simmons, and Aly. Hogg and Wallace were absent.

A motion was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Simmons to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: all ayes.

President Aly recognized the registered visitor, Mr. John Fatheree, and congratulated him and incumbents, Kathy Simmons and Blake Schuchardt, on being elected to the Board of Education.

President Aly read the election results provided by County Clerk, Ms. Darci Garling. A motion was made by Kizziar and seconded by Jeffords to adopt and ratify election results of April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election. Roll call vote: all ayes.

President Aly recognized outgoing member, Mr. John Wallace, thanked him for his time and service to the District.

Member Simmons made a motion to appoint Bronwyn Aly as President *pro tem*, seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes. President *pro tem* administered the oath and seated newly elected Board member John Fatheree.

Adjourned *sine die*.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President *pro tem* Aly and the following members were present: Fatherree, Jeffords, Kizziar, Schuchardt, Simmons, and Aly. Hogg was absent

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

President *pro tem* Aly asked for nominations for the office of president. Kizziar nominated Bronwyn Aly, seconded by Simmons. Aly being the only candidate nominated for the office of president, hereby declares her elected by acclamation and directs the secretary to so record in the minutes.

President Aly asked for nominations for the office of vice president. Simmons nominated Blake Schuchardt, seconded by Jeffords. Schuchardt being the only candidate nominated for the office of vice president, the chair hereby declares him elected by acclamation and directs the secretary to so record in the minutes.

President Aly asked for nominations for the office of closed session secretary. Schuchardt nominated Kathy Simmons, seconded by Jeffords. Simmons being the only candidate nominated for the office of closed session secretary, the chair hereby declares her elected by acclamation and directs the secretary to so record in the minutes.

President Aly asked for nominations for the office of WOVSED Board Representative. Schuchardt nominated Rebecca Jeffords, seconded by Simmons. Jeffords being the only candidate nominated for the office of WOVSED Board Representative, the chair hereby declares her elected by acclamation and directs the secretary to so record in the minutes.

A motion to appoint Margie Bowman as Treasurer was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Kizziar. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion to appoint Paula Baker as Secretary was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion to adopt/reaffirm the Board of Education Meeting Schedule was made by Kizziar and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion to affirm Board Member Code of Conduct/Ethics was made by Kizziar and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion to adopt existing Board of Education Policies was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion to adjourn was made by Simmons and seconded by Kizziar. Roll call vote: all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Regular meeting was called to order at 7:23 pm by President Aly and the following members were present: Fatherree, Jeffords, Kizziar, Schuchardt, Simmons, and Aly. Hogg was absent.

Motion was made by Kizziar and seconded by Schuchardt to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion was made by Kizziar and seconded by Jeffords to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 3/20/2025; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; and 5) Accept Resignations, Abby Clanton, teacher and Sandra Lamb, Individual Aid. Mr. Fritch stated one bill from QNS is for the Verkada sign-in system. The scoreboard receivers also came in at a higher price than originally quoted. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Administrative reports, Mrs. Allen reported the following: 1) A special “thank you” to Mrs. Broadway for all of her work raising money for our door decals that were installed over spring break– they look great!; 2) Pre-K screenings were held on March 21; 3) 4th Quarter Progress reports were sent home on April 4; 4) Easter Bunny was here on April 11 (PK - 1st grade); 5) 5th and 8th Grade Science Assessment incentive pancake breakfast; 6) Star Lab will be at our school on April 23; 7) U of I Ag Center Trips: April 24 (K-3) & April

25 (4-5); 8) Kindergarten pre-registration April 21-25; 9) Rotary Banquet will be held on April 24 @ 6:00; 10) PTO Mother/Son Glow Dance on April 25; 11) Freshman orientation is scheduled for April 30; 12) May 1: 8th grade incentive trip (Ross Cottom Lanes, Domino's & DQ); 13) Date TBD: 6th/7th grade incentive trip to Dixon Springs then The Chocolate Factory; 14) May 2: PTO Fun Day; 15) May 6: PTO will recognize April & May Students of the Month; 16) May 10: Student Council dance; 17) May 5-9: Teacher Appreciation Week; a) May 5: Pope County PTO; b) May 6: Banterra Bank; c) May 7: Pleasant Valley Catering; d) May 8: The China Palace; e) May 9: The Chocolate Factory; 18) May 8: 8th grade graduation @ 6:00 PM; 19) May 21: 3-5 grade incentive trip (Ross Cottom Lanes, Harrisburg Park/Domino's & DQ); 20) May 21 or 22: Last day of Pre-K; 21) May 23: K-7 Talent Show; 22) May 23: 8th Grade Trip to STL; 23) May 27: Last day of Kindergarten/Kindergarten graduation @ 9:00 AM; 24) May 28: 3rd grade field trip to the library to see Awesome Animals; 25) May 29: Last student attendance day; and 26) Elementary/Jr High School Enrollment: a) 2023-2024, April 18, 314 students; b) 2024-2025, April 22, 304 students.

Mr. Graves reported the following: 1) The ACT was given on April 10th. It went really well. A special thank you to Ms. Sheyann and the rest of the staff for making it run smoothly. I'd also like to thank Ms. Kala and the kitchen staff for being accommodating with lunch; 2) Rotary Banquet is Thursday, April 24th at 6 pm; 3) Prom is April 26th at Bramlet Farms. Theme is 'Cloud 9.' Promenade starts at 6 pm; 4) 8th Grade Orientation is April 30th 5) Award/Scholarship Recognition Day for Seniors is May 1st at 9 am; 6) Senior Semester Exams are May 6th and 7th. Freshman-Junior Exams are the 27th and 28th; 7) Graduation is May 9th at 6pm. Student pictures begin at 5:15, Board of Education picture at 5:40, and graduate group picture outside at 5:45; 8) We would like to thank all whose who donated to make the window coverings happen for both the GS and HS; and 9) Enrollment: 144.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Pre-K is due for their state audit this week; 2) Update on maintenance grant projects; a) Doors replacement project had two bids with the low bid coming in at \$111,000 from a company out of Marion, IL. Since we only have \$75,000 to spend on the project, we will go back to the drawing board and try to get a lower cost. We might not be able to get all the doors replaced we had hoped to at this time; b) Part for the septic system should be in around May 10th and hope to be up and running by the end of May. They will complete the project with landscaping; 3) We are in desperate need of a new roof on the high school building. Several leaks in different areas are causing major problems. To help fund this project, we are looking at issuing bonds and getting it on our Health/Life/Safety 10-year inspection. This will also help us access funds for the project. There will be more information at the next meeting;

and 4) Teacher's contract negotiations are needed and the committee will be Jeffords, Aly, and Kizziar. The committee is looking to meet next week.

Motion to enter executive session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Simmons and seconded by Kizziar. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered at 7:57 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 9:57 pm.

Under New Business, Mr. Fritch explained the Consolidated District Plan, a hundred or more-page document, is done yearly as a requirement for our federal grants. Motion to approve Consolidated District Plan was made by Kizziar and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch explained our current equipment threshold is at \$500. Any purchase over \$500 have to be inventoried, audited, and put on the depreciation schedule. With increasing the equipment threshold to \$5,000, it's saves from having to do this with highly purchased items, such as, Chromebooks, smart panels, laptops, etc. With the increasing costs of all goods, Mr. Fritch recommended the Board raise the threshold to \$5,000. A motion was made by Kizziar and seconded by Jeffords to increase the equipment threshold from \$500 to \$5,000 per the Superintendent's recommendation. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Hannah Sims as Elementary Secretary was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Jessica Wagner as Interventionist teacher was made by Kizziar and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Hannah Simpson as Kindergarten teacher was made by Kizziar and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Tina Blanchard for JH Science teacher was made by Kizziar and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve FMLA request as discussed in closed session was made by Simmons and seconded by Kizziar. Roll call vote: all ayes.

There were no field trips to approve at this time.

With no further business to be discussed, a motion to adjourn meeting until the next regular scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library was made by Simmons and seconded by Schuchardt.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 pm.

Bronwyn Aly, President
Board of Education

Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education