

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting  
Pope County CUSD #1  
Board of Education  
J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library  
March 19, 2026 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Aly and the following members were present: Slavin, Fatheree, Kizziar, Simmons and Schuchardt. Member Jeffords was absent.

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

Motion was made by Slavin and seconded by Schuchardt to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 2/19/26; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; 5) Accept Resignations; and 5) IHSA Membership Renewal. Mr. Fritch thanked Mrs. Debbie Wiley for her on and off employment over the years and under bills for payment he stated that the final door payment from the grant went through. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Recognition of visitors and Correspondence, President Aly introduced Della Allen and The PCEA.

Speaking on behalf of the PCEA, Jessica Wagner, stated that the Union had a few ideas to share with the board. She said there is a good chain of command presently, but they would like to have the opportunity to speak with the board to keep good lines of communication and being able to actually talk in person. They came up with an option of having a few board members, 2 or 3 elementary/Jr. high teachers, 2 high school teachers and an admin that would rotate with each meeting. They have seen other schools do this option, and it seemed to be going well. She then stated that with upcoming financial changes, particularly to the Kindergarten classroom possibly combining, that the committee could possibly help come up with ways to help the budget. She said that out of 22 voting members, they all oppose combining Kindergarten. She said that it would be good to get opinions from the ground level up to the board members.

Member Slavin asked what is the committees vision? Wagner responded, for the board members to get a classroom standpoint on certain topics. With no further questions, continued on to Administrative Reports.

Board Member Jeffords arrived at 7:12.

Under Administrative reports, Mrs. Allen stated 1) March 20<sup>th</sup> the Easter Bunny will be visiting; 2) School Improvement/Early Dismissal on March 23; 3) IAR testing for grades 3-8 will start on March 30. Due to the weather, it was pushed back; 4) ISA testing for grades 5 & 8 will be given after spring break; 5) April 2 there will be a 2:00 dismissal and Spring Break begins 6-10<sup>th</sup>; 6) Freshman orientation will be held April 13; 7) April is Child Abuse Prevention month, the Illinois Child Abuse Prevention Center will be here on April 13. The Casa representative will make a declaration to 5<sup>th</sup> grade as they put pin wheels out front to bring awareness; 8) Dental Safari will be here April 17; 9) Rotary Banquet will take place April 23; 10) Current enrollment is 304.

Mr. Graves reported 1) February 20<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Green took his class to Paducah for the Paducah Symphony; 2) February 27<sup>th</sup> was our annual visit from the Fire Marshall; 3) February 27<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Markovic and art students went to Marion High School for Trash the Runway. We took 1<sup>st</sup> place in most of the awards categories. He highlighted Jessie Crawford's teams dress, it was a peacock and they designed it so that it would move, it was a crowd pleaser; 4) February 28<sup>th</sup> FFA went to Goreville for livestock judging; 5) March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sr. Cap and gown pictures along with baseball and softball; 6) March 4<sup>th</sup> was Accuplacer Testing with SIC; 7) March 4<sup>th</sup>, Student Council attended the Little Egypt District of Student Councils District Meeting hosted at SIUC. Four students brought home the Pillar Award: Jakob Eckert-Community Service, Ruby Hall-Encouragement, Bella Fasolo- School Pride, and Hunter Steele-Dedication; 8) March 6<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ended; 9) March 7 was the IHSA solo ensemble contest; 10) Current enrollment is 129.

Mr. Fritch started off with: 1) Septic System had an EPA violation, a renewal needs updated and should be in the clear; 2) During the fire alarm inspection, the elementary had some issues with outdated alarms in the boiler room. Health Life Safety doesn't say it is outdated, will see what further notifications say; 3) Sand filter at the grade school is having drainage issues. Should take some grading, and riprap to fix the sinkhole, awaiting a quote. Kizziar asked how often the permit needed to be renewed. Fritch answered, yearly.

With no further reports or questions a motion was made to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment. Motion was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:23 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Fatheree . Roll call vote: all ayes. Returned to regular session at 9:52 pm.

Under New Business, a motion was made to approve the bid from Prairie Farms for dairy products for FY 26-27 from Kizziar and seconded by Slavin. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve the bid from Best One Tire for tires for FY26-27 was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve bids from Enviro-Tech for pest control for the FY26-27 was made by Jeffords and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve the bid from Bulldog for trash removal for the FY26-27 was made by Simmons and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve the bathroom renovation bid by Zeller Construction of Marion was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve the abatement portion of the Jr. High bathroom renovations by Spectrum Environmental was made by Fatheree and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

The bid for the roof renovation was tabled due to needing more information.

Motion to approve Ohio and Wabash Regional Vocations System Intergovernmental Agreement and Policies was made by Slavin and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve the purchase of 2 to 4 Off Lease buses was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve the FY27 Consolidated District Plan as presented was made by Simmons and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve the use of a yellow bus for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion trip was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve High School Pope County Pirates Trap Shooting Club was made by Fatheree and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve the overnight FFA Illinois Agriculture Legislative Day to Springfield, IL on 3/23-3/24/26 was made by Slavin and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Aleya Jackson as individual aide was made by Jeffords and seconded by Slavin. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for Jr. High Girls Cheer Head Coach was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for Jr. High Girls Basketball Head Coach was made by Fatheree and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Old Business Schuchardt made a motion to approve the Health Life Safety Survey as presented and seconded by Slavin. Roll call vote: all ayes.

With no further business a motion was made by Schuchardt to adjourn meeting until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 7:00pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library and seconded by Jeffords. Time adjourned 10:41pm.

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Bronwyn Aly, Board President

Board of Education

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Charlee Poole, Secretary

Board of Education