

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Thursday, September 23, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President Hogg at 7:01 p.m. The following members were present: Aly, Wallace, Simmons, and Hogg; via Zoom: Kizziar. Walker and Schuchardt were absent.

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

A motion was made by Aly and seconded by Wallace to approve the consent agenda including the following items; 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 8/19/21; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Report; 5) Publication of Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report SY 2021; and 6) Accept Resignation; Michelle Reeves as Jr. High Special Ed. Paula Baker reported the US Bank payment cannot be paid in advance but will make sure the payment is mailed as to not accrue any late fees. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

President Hogg recognized the Hometown Heroes to present this year's project. The Proposal Committee, Vance Hertter, Wyatt Hall, Kylie Arnold, Makenna Mills, and Shaylyn Kincade, all presented to the Board. They thanked the Board for their time and continued support. The committee explained their hardships with the project last year, what they had to overcome to get the project completed, and how this year is being planned out. This year's project will be to upgrade the Golconda City Park. They are planning on upgrading playground equipment, basketball goals, picnic tables, the caboose, and the grounds. Depending on the funds they receive, they are also planning on putting flower boxes and Blessing Boxes around Golconda as well. The Board thanked the committee for an awesome job and stated they are excited to see this project completed. They will return around Christmas to give an update on the project.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) School pictures were taken today, sports but no class pictures; 2) Aimsweb testing for the all benchmark is finished; 3) Progress reports for the 1st quarter went out Friday, September 10th; 4) The baseball and softball Little GEC All-Conference teams were announced. Tucker Nalley was named to the baseball All-Conference team and Kiera Crenshaw was named to the softball All-Conference team; 5) The Fall pre-school screenings are scheduled for October 28th; 6) Information has been sent out to the parents concerning Parent/Teacher conferences and the teachers are booking appointments. These will be in the same format as last year, via Zoom or phone calls; 7) The current enrollment is 323 as of September 21st.

Mr. Graves reported the following; 1) Spirit Card sales are going well and are still for sale, \$10. This will help pay for 2 incentive trips this year, looking to go to SIU Rec Center or ice skating in the winter and Venture River in the spring; 2) Picture Day was held September 10th; 3) Progress reports went out September 10th and grades for this year are overall better than last year with fewer Fs by 50%; 4) FFA Archery Shoot is September 28th at Little Creek Archery; 5) October 5th is the end of 1st quarter; 6) Parent Teacher Conferences are October 7th and will be held via phone or virtually; 7) Baseball, Cross Country, and Volleyball are all underway. The baseball team is currently 5-0. It's nice to see volleyball at the school and they had their 1st home game; 8) Ahry Comer has finished 1st in all 5 of the CC meets we have attended so are this year. Overall the CC team has collected 13 medals; and 9) Enrollment is at 181.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) The sex education bill that was passed recently now has an opt-out option. I am certain that this bill has some good qualities but for the most part, parents need to be teaching their children these topics at home and we will be opting out; 2) The State has also passed a bill regarding special education services for student up to the age of 22. The student can now finish out the school year in which they have their 22st birthday; 3) ESSER II, the gym HVAC system and the elementary doors and windows project will begin soon. The architect has to change the placement of the units from the roof to the back of the gym, due to the roof not being strong

enough to hold the weight; 4) ESSER III 1.3 million project is almost ready to submit. This is the big project with \$300,000 set aside for learning recovery, which will be in the form of after school tutoring and summer school; 5) All the rest of the grants have been submitted and approved; 6) We have received the 1st tax installment; 7) The school bullying policy has to be reviewed, ratified, and submitted to ISBE yearly. A committee will need to be put in place for this and the Board will need to approve the policy yearly; 8) October 8th the teachers will be attending the ROE 20 teacher institute at Eldorado; 9) Since the Governor's mandated testing and vaccination, our attorney stated that the Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act will allow employees to object to this mandate. Although our attorney states it applies to this situation as of now, it could change at any time. If the State determines that an employee is not in compliance with the mandate, they will be removed and no longer employed. If we lose too many employees, we will have to shut the doors. Most importantly, we need to keep students in school.

A motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:32 p.m.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly to return to regular session. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 9:34 pm.

Mr. Fritch presented the 2021-2022 FY Budget. With no further discussion, a motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons to approve FY 2021-2022 budget. Roll call vote: all ayes.

There was no comment on the School Resource Officer/Security Guard

Motion to approve out-of-state, overnight trip for the FFA to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN in October was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve out-of-state trip for the FFA to attend a leadership training workshop in Paducah, KY was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Rita McKinley as full-time bus driver was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Earl Werner as full-time bus driver pending proper licensure was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for Jr. High Special Education teacher was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to amend addendum to Mr. Seth Graves' contract as discussed in close session was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Mr. Ed Blankenship as Special Education Coordinator was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Mr. Seth Graves as Special Education Coordinator was made by Simmons and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Mr. Bailey Climer as Assistant Special Education Coordinator was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch distributed a \$254,700 quote from Baysinger Architects for the removal and replacement of the high school gym floor. This could be written in the maintenance grant which is a \$50,000 State reimbursement. Mr. Fritch also distributed the budget summary page and pointed out we will have the money in the budget for this project. The recommendation is to abate \$200,000 out of working cash to the building fund to cover the cost of the whole project. Motion to approve replacement of the high school gym floor school maintenance grant project was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting to be held on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.
Meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm.

Jeremy Hogg, President
Board of Education

Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education