

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Thursday, October 21, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

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

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

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker to approve the consent agenda including the following items; 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 9/23/21; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Report. Mr. Fritch stated the IXL Learning and Renaissance bills are paid with Title I funds. The food bill is higher due to purchasing extra food and the increase in costs. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) 1st quarter grade cards went out on October 7th; 2) The Parent-Teacher Conferences took place on Thursday, October 7th. We did the conferences the same way as last year to cut down on in-person contact for the teachers. The teachers made phone calls to the parents who had signed up and to parents of student who had D's and F's; 3) We did our fire drill

with fire department participation on October 13th. We are required to do one per school year with the fire department; 4) The Jr. High Cross Country teams wrapped up their season. Girls' and boys' basketball seasons are underway with the girls playing their first games at the New Simpson Hill Tournament. The boys will have their first game next Thursday at Gallatin County; 5) The 8th grade parent group will be doing the concession stands for the boys' and girls' games; 6) Mrs. Reed and I have discussed ways to possibly have a Christmas Program for the lower grades and stay within the COVID guidelines; 7) The fall Pre-K Screenings will take place on October 28th. The Pre-K will not be in session that day; and 8) The current enrollment is 322, down by one from last year.

Mr. Graves reported the following; 1) We won a \$29,917 technology grant for the library. Congratulations to Mrs. Laura Hosfeldt for her hard work; 2) Hometown Heroes has brought in over \$6,000 in the last two weeks for their project; 3) We had 28 seniors attend the college fair at SIC; 4) FBLA has hosted two hat days with all proceeds going to help two families in need; 5) Art Club attended the Sidewalk Chalk competition today at Harrisburg; 6) We have started class ring and cap and gown order forms; 7) Vance Hertter was covered in the Southern Illinoisan for Cross County; 8) Ahry Comer and MaKenna Welter finished 1st and 4th in the Girls GEC CC Meet. Vance Hertter and Masin Presser finished 3rd and 9th in the Boys GEC CC Meet. The GEC Meet was hosted here this year; 9) We have completed our first fire drill with the fire department; and 10) Enrollment is at 180. Mr. Graves also mentioned that FCA has started back up and they have a good number of students participating. Some of the students are musically inclined and play music outside on the front lawn during their meetings. They are also starting an Instagram Page.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) ROE #20 workshop was a very good experience for our teachers. Over 90 professional development opportunities were presented that day; 2) Gov. Pritzker is attempting to tighten up the Health Care Right of Conscience Act and make it non-applicable to persons not wanting to be vaccinated or weekly tested. Rumor is the assembly could act on it anytime this week or next during the veto session. Not sure what this will entail for us in the future; 3) Mrs. Hosfeldt received a grant through the Illinois Secretary of State's office for the library. The grant is for almost \$30,000. Congrats to her on a job well done; 4) I received notification that we are eligible for a FY22 grant for technology. This grant can only be used for closing the digital divide and going 1:1. We have \$43,000 to spend on Chromebooks for next school year. We will start in the junior high and work our way down as far as the money will take us; 5) School Maintenance Grant (gym floor replacement) was approved by the ROE and sent on to ISBE for final approval. Still pending approval by ISBE; and 6) I will begin working on the Tax Levy for next month's meeting. Just received the tax rate worksheets for all schools in our area, and large portion of Illinois. We have the second lowest tax rate.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:17 p.m.

A motion was made by Walker and seconded by Schuchardt to return to regular session. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 8:06 pm.

Motion to make a donation of \$2,500 to the Hometown Heroes was made by Walker and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for part-time behind the wheel driver's education instructor for the 2021-22 SY was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve Eddy Mayhall as volunteer assistant high school cross country coach for the 2021-22 SY was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve Holly Comer as volunteer assistant high school cross country coach for the 2021-22 SY was made by Walker and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve stipend pending grant approval from ISBE for Special Education Coordinators and teachers as presented was made by Walker and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve FMLA request was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

**Jeremy Hogg, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**