

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
January 24, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice-President Wallace and the following members were present: Jeffords, Kizziar, Schuchardt, Hogg, Simmons, and Wallace. Aly was absent.

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

Motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 12/19/2024; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; 5) Accept Resignation Letter from Lacey Easter; and 6) Approve destruction of Closed Session Meeting CDs more than 18 months old. Mr. Fritch stated no bills out of the ordinary this month. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Administrative reports, Mrs. Allen reported on the following; 1) Happy School Board Appreciation Month; 2) Student Involvement/Sports; a) Little GEC basketball tournament, hosted by Hardin Co; i) Girls tournament was scheduled for January 7, 8, & 9; 1) Tournament was cancelled due to weather; ii) Boys tournament is scheduled for January 16, 21-23; 1) Pope Co plays at Thompsonville on 1/16; c) Jr High Regionals; a) Girls; i) Defeated Cairo on 1/14; ii) Lost to Egyptian on 1/15; b) Boys; i) Pope Co at Jonesboro on 1/28, 6 pm; ii) Winner will play #2 Cobden at 6:45 on 1/29 at Cypress; iii) Championship game will be held at Cypress on 2/1 at 12:00 pm; c) Jr High Volleyball games begin February 12; 3) Assemblies/Activities/Projects; a) Teacher in-service on 1/2 with district catered lunch; b) 2nd Quarter Report Cards were sent home on 1/3; c) Mrs. Dunning's 4th grade "Quest for a Million Pennies" is underway; d) Aimsweb Benchmark testing; i) Postponed until we return; and 4) 2024-25 Elementary/Jr High School Enrollment, January 2024 – 304 students, January 2025 – 307 students.

In the absence of Mr. Graves, Mrs. Allen reported the following on his behalf: 1) Mr. Forthman has been in the process of rescheduling ball games from the ice and snow; 2) Homecoming festivities will be as follows: a) The Bonfire has been postponed for a later date; b) Friday, we will have the parade on Main Street of Golconda at 1pm; c) The Homecoming basketball games start at 5pm with Coronation immediately following; d) Saturday the 18th, the dance will be held from 6-9pm at the grade school gym; 3) ACT training material is arriving for the spring ACT for Juniors; 4) 2nd semester begins as soon as we start; and 5) Enrollment: 144.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) This weather and driving roads has not been fun. Hopefully we will be back in school next week; 2) HVAC units are installed in the Pre-K and 1st grade classrooms. There were a few problems but all is up and running; 3) Sutton's came with the camera, dug out the line and filled with gravel to help with draining issues, in the old shop class; 4) Septic system project is at a standstill right now with the weather and waiting on parts; 5) Softball field lights installation is paused at the moment until SEIEC workers get caught up with all the work from the ice damage; 6) With snow/ice closures, all extra-curricular activities are also canceled. This has been the rule for years. As long as activities are not mandatory, and the roads are safe for travel, some activities can still take place; for example, open gym; and 7) E-Learning days can be added to the calendar but still have to be made up with in-person classes. Not all areas in the county have internet access which makes it impossible to have E-Learning days for all students. Five emergency days are built in the calendar, days we miss over that, are Act of God days which do not have to be made up.

Motion to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:15 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 7:58 pm.

Mr. Fritch recommended the closed session minutes become public record. Motion to approve closed session minutes and recommendation of minutes to become public record was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve out-of-state field trip for the FFA to attend the Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, KY, February 13, 2025 was made by Hogg and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Krysta Graves for Elementary Assistant Principal for the 2025-26 school year was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Paula Baker for bookkeeper effective July 1, 2025 was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for High School Social Studies teacher was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for Elementary/Jr. High Interventionist teacher was made by Jeffords and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for Elementary Special Education teacher was made by Hogg and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for Unit Office Secretary was made by Jeffords and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch explained we received a fuel bid from Southern FS. After some discussion, Schuchardt made a motion to accept the firm bid from Southern FS and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Old Business, Mr. Fritch had the second reading of the PRESS policy updates. A motion to adopt PRESS policy updates as presented was made by Hogg and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Other School Business, Member Schuchardt asked about the vape detectors. Mr. Fritch said it has deterred some of the vaping in the building but you have to catch them in the act. Member Jeffords asked about the trays and utensils in the cafeterias. Mr. Fritch stated they were using real trays and utensils on both sides. Breakfast in the cafeterias, versus in the classrooms, are much better as well.

With no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Simmons to adjourn the meeting until the next meeting to be held on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library. All members present voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

**John Wallace, Acting President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**