

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Thursday, December 16, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President Hogg at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Kizziar via Zoom, Walker, Aly, Wallace, Simmons, and Hogg. Schuchardt was 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 Simmons and seconded by Aly to approve the consent agenda including the following items; 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 11/16/21; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Report. Mr. Fritch stated the Macbooks were purchased by Mrs. Hosfeldt with the library grant funds. The Lary's Electric bill was for the repair of a panel in the kitchen that houses the fire alarm system. Mr. Blankenship explained the breaker had blown and caused the panel damage. The water bill is on hold because it has doubled this month so we expect there is a leak somewhere. Millstone is coming out to check the meter. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) Mrs. Reed will be posting recordings of the different classes (K-5) playing a Christmas song to provide

a Christmas program; 2) 2nd quarter grade reports will go out on January 4th; 3) The 8th grade boys and the 8th grade cheerleaders will be recognized on Thursday, January 6th; 4) The Jr. High girls basketball GEC tournament is scheduled to start on January 4th. Our girls achieved the 1st place ranking and will play Galatia in the first round. Their regional tournament will begin on January 11th when they play Shawnee at home. The game time is being arranged; 5) The boys are scheduled to start their GEC tournament around January 13th and their regional is set to start around January 25th; 6) A new Math program is in the works for next year. The Math committee/teachers have decided on the Saxon Math program. The new curriculum will be paid for through an ESSER Grant; 7) The janitors will be replacing filters in all heat/air units, touching up some paint, removing the floor tiles and painting the floor in the Jr. High girls' restroom, buffing the hall floors during Christmas break, and repairing the sneeze guards for the lunch room; and 8) Current Enrollment 327 as of December 14th.

Mr. Graves reported the following; 1) Finals are today and tomorrow (December 16th and 17th); 2) 2nd 9 Weeks ends December 20. Grade cards will go out January 5; 3) Due to learning exclusions because of COVID, roughly 25 students will be taking their finals in January when they return; 4) The Speech Team has placed 4th overall in the last two tournaments at Waterloo and Mt. Vernon; 5) The girls basketball team, with the help of multiple donors, raised almost \$500 for disaster relief. They were able to make 30 care packages for delivery Saturday to Mayfield and will then play in the Paducah CCA Tournament; 6) Choir had a great turnout for their Christmas Concert; and 7) We have had two state recognized scholars, Natalie Hall and Vance Hertter; and 11) Enrollment: 181.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) A TikTok video has been circulating nation-wide to encourage public school violence on December 17th. A message was sent by the Illinois State Superintendent's office and our insurance company warning of the video. A notification letter has been posted on our social media pages to our parents. Sherriff Suits was called and he is sending out a deputy to be at the schools all day tomorrow as a precaution; 2) I attended a webinar on Friday with IDPH and the Illinois Superintendent of Schools regarding COVID in the school systems. Masking is not going away any time soon, but they are trying to eliminate contact tracing by the schools. We have seen an increase in cases since Thanksgiving break with students, teachers, and staff. I called Southern Seven Health Department and was told the essential worker guidelines are still in place so unless someone is showing symptoms, they can still come to work; 3) I would like to thank John McKinley for getting gravel delivered to the school for the drive going to the old tennis courts and for his time and equipment with spreading it; 4) Now that we have reached the half way point of the school year, I would like to thank all the teachers, non-certified staff, and principals for all their hard work this year. This year has been more challenging than last year.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:15 p.m.

Member Schuchardt entered the meeting and closed session at 7:21 pm.

A motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Aly to return to regular session. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 7:48 pm.

Mrs. Baker distributed the tentative board meeting dates for 2022 with keeping the meetings at 7 pm on the third Thursday of the month. The November meeting date is a conflict with a board member so it was changed to Monday, November 14th. Motion to approve 2022 Board meeting dates was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch stated the tax levy has been on display in the Unit Office and asked if there were any questions. With no questions, a motion to adopt the tax levy was made by Simmons and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Raeghan Goins for high school English teacher was made by Walker and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch distributed the bid sheet for the high school gym HVAC system. We received two bids, one from Heartland Mechanical for \$630,000 and one from A&W Plumbing and Heating for \$793,000. Mr. Fritch also explained the changes made to the project with the moving of the units, adding lighting, the removal of the stairs in the back of the gym, and masonry work to block the exit. He proposed to pay for the out-of-pocket expenses

with the ESSER grants. He distributed budget detail sheets from ESSER II and III explaining where the funds would come from. The other option would be moving working cash to the building fund. After some discussion, the board asked for an itemized bid sheet for both bids. Once this is reviewed, the board will make a decision on how to proceed. The Board asked Mr. Fritch to amend the ESSER II grant and submit the ESSER III grant to include the out-of-pocket expenses for this project. This item was tabled until more information is received.

Mr. Fritch distributed an updated estimated of probable cost for the high school gym floor project, \$303,060. The architect called the company the volleyball standards were purchased from and found out they need to be set in concrete. It also includes the removal and installation of new bleachers. The bids for this project will be ready for the January board meeting.

Mr. Fritch explained we have an agreement with the Ohio and Wabash Valley Regional Vocational System which provides us funding for our Business and Agriculture programs in the way of teacher salary and classroom supplies. We have to renew our intergovernmental agreement with them every five years. Motion to approve the Ohio and Wabash Valley Regional Vocational System Intergovernmental Agreement was made by Walker 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, January 20, 2022 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 8:27 pm.

**Jeremy Hogg, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**