Minutes for Regular Called Meeting

Pope County CUSD #1

Board of Education

J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library

June 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Aly and the following members were present: Fatheree, Jeffords, Simmons, Hogg, and Aly. Kizziar and Schuchardt were absent.

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

Motion was made by Hogg and seconded by Fatheree to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 5/15/2025; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; and 5) Accept Resignation from Sheyann Broadway as JH Softball Head Coach. Mr. Fritch stated there were no bills out of the ordinary this month. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Fritch reported the following on behalf of Mrs. Allen; 1) Student Involvement/Sports; a) Jr High volleyball and basketball open gyms are underway; 2) Summer Maintenance; a) Custodians are working on yearly maintenance/cleaning; b) QNS has been in/out of our building; 3) Back to School Planning; a) Year-end data reports for the 2024-25 school year are complete; b) Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS)/Response to Intervention (RTI) scheduling is underway; c) Registration; i) Online registration will begin July 21; 1) Parents/guardians will need to download the app if using their phone or use a chromebook/computer; ii) In-person registration – chromebooks will be available in the library; 1) Wednesday, July 23 from 9:00 – 2:00; 2) Thursday, July 24 from Noon – 5:00; d) 2025-2026 Start Dates; i) August 7 – Teacher Inservice; ii) August 8 – Teachers and aides from Noon – 6:00; 1) Open House from 4:30 – 6:00; iii) Students August 11, 2:00 dismissal; 4) 2022-23 Elementary/Jr High School Enrollment: EOY Enrollment 311 students; 5) 2023-2024 Elementary/Jr High Enrollment: EOY Enrollment 311 students; and 6) 2024-2025 Elementary/Jr High Enrollment: EOY Enrollment 306.

Mr. Fritch reported the following on behalf of Mr. Graves; 1) Summer open gyms are going for both girls and boys basketball as well as volleyball; 2) FFA attended the state convention last week in Springfield and got to take in a host of sights while there; 3) The 2025-2026 master schedule for classes is near completion; 4) QNS has been working on computers and other devices getting them ready for next school year; 5) The janitors have been busy with yearly cleaning and maintenance; 6) In person Registration is set for August 4-5, 8:30 – 1:30; 7) The secretaries have been training for launching online registration. The plan is to pilot it this coming school year; and 8) Please see attached form for 25-26 Handbook changes/updates.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Door replacement project is rolling along; 2) Septic System project is near completion. It is currently all connected and running properly, landscaping is all that is left to complete; and 3) Our office is completing year-end duties.

Motion to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Jeffords and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:20 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 8:56 pm.

Motion to renew IHSA annual membership was made by Hogg and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to appoint Paula Baker as Board Treasurer effective July 1, 2025 was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to appoint Charlee Poole as Board Secretary effective July 1, 2025 was made by Fatheree and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Bond effective July 1, 2025 was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

President Aly stated they were tabling the hiring of a HS Social Studies teacher until next month.

Motion to hire Betty Hughes as Individual Aide was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Marley Candell as Individual Aide was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Gracie Markus as Special Education Aide was made by Hogg and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Nathan Ryder for HS Cross Country Coach was made by Jeffords and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: Fatheree, Jeffords, Simmons, Aly; all ayes; Hogg abstained.

Motion to terminate at-will employee, Denny Berger, was made by Fatheree and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

President Aly stated the Board needed to return to closed session for discussion of employment. Motion was made by Fatheree and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 9:02 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Hogg and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 9:17 pm.

Motion to post for JH Softball head coach, JH Student Council Sponsor, and HS Pep Club Sponsor was made by Jeffords and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch distributed proposals of the non-certified salary schedules with $1.00 and $0.50 raises for comparison. Motion to approve the 2025-2026 salary schedule for non-certified employees at $1.00 per hour was made by Hogg and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch stated we are required to increase the price of adult meals to meet the recommended price by the State. We are a CPE School, which means all students eat free. This increase would only affect the adults eating breakfast and/or lunch. He proposed meal prices: breakfast - $3.10, lunch - $4.60, and entrée - $3.00. Motion to approve pricing of breakfast - $3.10, lunch - $4.60, and entrée - $3.00 of adult meals was made by Hogg and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch distributed the changes/updates for the Elementary/JH and High School Handbooks from Mrs. Allen and Mr. Graves. He stated the majority of changes/updates are for commonality in wording of standards, rules, and regulations among both schools. Motion to approve the Elementary and High School Student Handbooks for the 2025-2026 SY was made by Jeffords and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Old Business, motion to approve the amended 2024-2025 FY budget as presented was made by Fatheree and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

With no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords to adjourn the meeting until the next meeting to be held on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library. All members present voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.

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Bronwyn Aly, President Paula Baker, Secretary

Board of Education Board of Education