

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Thursday, August 18, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President Hogg at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Aly, Schuchardt, Wallace, Simmons, and Hogg. Kizziar and Walker 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 Wallace and seconded by Simmons to approve the consent agenda including the following items; 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 7/21/22 and 8/10/22; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. Mr. Fritch stated some bills out of the ordinary are to the architect fees for the gym project, payment #3 to the contractor for the gym floor, and student services paid to Hardin County School. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

President Hogg recognized Tim and MeLisa Beane, visitors. At this time, they had no comments.

Under Administrative reports, Mrs. Allen reported the following: 1) The school year is off to a great start! I've unofficially observed all but a few classrooms and everything appears to be going well; 2) Teacherease: making progress getting demographic information entered. Ms. Cathy says it will be great once it's all set up; 3) Registration went well. Current enrollment is 313 students. Ms. Cathy and Ms. Jennifer did an outstanding job! Katrina Snell and 19 area churches donated lots of school supplies for our students during registration. They also donated cases of shampoo and soap for our hygiene closet. Shotgun Eddy's, Legacy Excavating, and Not-So-New recently donated additional school supplies for students/classroom use. The principal's fund received \$1,050 to go towards incentives for our students (\$50 from Shotgun Eddy's and \$1,000 from Marilyn Faulkner); 4) Sports: A) JH baseball and softball had their first games on Aug 15; a) Class S baseball regionals begin Sept 16-27; b) Class S softball regionals begin Sept 20-27; B) JH cross country has started practicing and has their first meet Sept 2; 5) Assemblies: A) Sherriff Suits and Jason Olson will have an assembly on Aug 19 @ 8:15 with students in grades 6-8 to discuss the ramifications of making inappropriate comments/threats to other students/staff; B) Extreme Team will be at the Elementary/JH on Sept 13. The team utilizes feats of strength to promote anti-bullying, the importance of making good decisions, respect and so forth; 6) Building maintenance/projects: A) Scotty Hargrove reported: a) Ms. Roper's classroom has a new condensate pump; b) Installed a new thermostat in the kitchen; c) Almost done with Mrs. Hogg's installation – air conditioning works, he's finishing the line hide cover and trimming out the ceiling tile to hide the pump and refrigerant lines; B) Mr. Dewayne installed 4 new wall fans in the kitchen.

Mr. Graves reported the following; 1) Registration was held and went well. A special thanks to Ms. Tresa and all those that helped; 2) The baseball team, cross country team, and our volleyball team have been practicing. Volleyball season kicks off the end of this month while baseball and cross country are set to start in September; 3) The gym renovation looks fantastic and the students seem to be very excited about it; 4) The janitors have completed the library overhaul with the new book shelves; 5) Ahry Comer was chosen again as the Section 618 player of the week becoming the first athlete to achieve the accomplishment twice in one season; 6) The teachers and secretary are transitioning well with the new Teacherease system; 7) Enrollment: 175.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) After finally receiving the audit, ISBE has approved it and we received recognition with a 4.0. Thank you to Margie and Paula for the great work they do in keeping the books; 2) The Pre-K program received the Gold Standard after their audit. Great job to our Pre-K teachers and aides for a job well done; 3) The bleachers should arrive Monday and the gym will be open. The HVAC is running and almost complete. There are some more lights to be installed behind the air ducts; 4) Thank you to all employees for a great start to the school year; 5) The elementary gym HVAC unit has died and the quote for a new unit came in at \$146,000 with a 20-week lead time on getting the unit; 6) The HVAC unit for the community room, kitchen, and AD office needs replaced. We will be getting the architect involved for that project; 7) This year we have more direct certified students, around 40%, and would qualify for free lunch for all. Planning on starting the application process on Monday and if approved, we could start in September with free lunch again.

At this time, Tim Beane asked if the school would be getting another Safety Resource Officer. MeLisa Beane asked if there had been any active shooter trainings and/or drills. Mr. Fritch stated all the teachers have had training and know what to do in an active shooter situation. We are working on getting a SRO for the district. We are also getting a new security camera system and key fobs for the outside doors. Safety is a concern of the district and we are trying to make both buildings as secure and safe as possible.

A motion was made by Schuchardt 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 7:25 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 7:57 pm.

Mr. Fritch reported on the tentative FY 2023 budget. He distributed a budget summary and pointed out key areas of the cash flow and ending balances. Hogg questioned the transportation fund and Mr. Fritch stated that the transportation fund is holding steady. With no further discussion, a motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Aly to approve and display the tentative FY 2023 budget. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to reschedule September Regular Board meeting to September 22nd was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve September 22, 2021 at 6:45 pm for a Public Hearing for adoption of the FY 2023 budget was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Phillip (Chris) Ditterline as E-Sports sponsor was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Jake Lane for Speech Team sponsor was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: Schuchardt, Wallace, Simmons, and Hogg, all ayes; Aly abstained.

Motion to hire Kristy Holmes as Jr. High Assistant Baseball Coach was made by Aly and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve employee A's unpaid leave request through November 27, 2022 was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for anticipated HS scholar bowl sponsor was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Old Business, Mr. Fritch distributed a handout to help explain the 10 years of experience in regards to placement on the salary schedule clause in the teacher contract. He further explained how omitting this clause would impact the teachers and the district. Motion to amend teacher contract to omit 10 years of experience in regards to placement on the salary schedule; this is not retroactive, current teachers impacted will be placed on the previous 21-22 salary scale for official salary determination was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: Aly, Schuchardt, Wallace, and Simmons, all ayes; Hogg abstained.

Other School Business, Schuchardt asked if there was any movement on the SRO. Aly stated the county commissioners stated at the meeting, they were willing to open communications and help in any way they could to get an SRO at the school. They also advised that we need to work with Sherriff Suits and the Sherriff's Department. Jason Olson, State's Attorney, advised we need to contact Hardin County Superintendent and Harrisburg Superintendent for information on obtaining a SRO since they have them in their districts. The commissioners also stated that if a person was found with the right credentials, they would allow Sherriff Suits another deputy to be posted at the school.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting to be held on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library with a Public Hearing to be held at 6:45 pm on the tentative budget was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

**Jeremy Hogg, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**