

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
February 20, 2025 Rescheduled for
February 25, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Motion was made by Hogg and seconded by Jeffords to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 1/16/2025; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. Mr. Fritch discussed the Brown Electric and Joseph Vinci bills. The members had some other questions and with no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

There were no visitors in attendance.

Under Administrative reports, Mrs. Allen reported on the following; 1) Student Involvement/Sports; a) Jr High Volleyball; i) Regionals begin March 18; b) Boys 5th/6th grade basketball is underway; 2) Assemblies/Activities/Projects; a) Judge Presser was here on 2/12 and read to both 1st grade classes; b) School Improvement Early Dismissal, 2/14 with Valentine Parties; i) Building level meeting with teachers; 1) Discuss IAR test incentives; 2) Math meeting with grades 3-JH and K-3; c) Mrs. Dunning's 4th grade "Quest for a Million Pennies" is still underway; i) As of 2/23, they've collected \$4,839.03; ii) Class will be at the radio station on 3/23 at 10:15 AM for final reveal; d) We celebrated our 100th day of school on 2/24; PTO will recognize February's Student of the Month on Feb 27; and 3) 2023-2024 Enrollment as of February 15 is 311 students, 2024-2025 Enrollment as of February 24 is 304 students.

Mr. Graves reported the following: 1) The Pirates and Lady Pirates basketball teams have concluded their seasons; 2) Eli Presser will be signing a letter of intent to receive a basketball scholarship from SIC Friday the 28th of February at 9 am in our library; 3) Congratulations to Bella Fasolo on reaching the 1000 point milestone; 4) FBLA and NHS have started their Penny Pinch Drive; 5) Softball tryouts will be March 3rd; 6) We will be giving the ACT April 10th. He also added they will be giving the Pre-ACT to the Sophomores and Juniors; 7) Prom is being planned for April 26th; and 9) Enrollment: 144

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Projects on going; a) Southeastern Illinois Electric workers are just waiting for the field to dry before they install the lights; b) Septic system is still on pause awaiting the parts to arrive; c) High School roof over the Snack Shack is getting patched along with some other areas. We will need to look at getting a new roof for the high school and gym/kitchen areas at the elementary in the near future; d) Gas lines and regulators for the ag shop and science lab areas are needing to be moved. They were originally installed in a place that is now not up-to-code, might have to bid that out with the architects; and 2) During the Superintendent's meeting on Tuesday, they discussed a new program that is being piloted in the northern schools in grades K-4 that is for at-risk students, whether it be social, emotional, financial, etc. This program will provide them an advocate to help with finding support they need. The District would pay the ROE around \$60,000 for this advocate but we would hire this person. After the first year of the program, the District would then only pay \$5-6,000. The ROE would provide an instructional coach to help implement the program.

Motion to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Wallace and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:27 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 8:23 pm.

Statement of Economic Interest were distributed to members and asked to please complete and return to Paula Baker.

Mr. Fritch explained that it is time for bids for our services. Motion to authorize superintendent to solicit bids for services (dairy products, tires, trash, and pest control) was made by Wallace and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch stated in keeping with past practice, he recommended promotion and graduation ceremonies be set for May 8th and 9th. Motion to set 8th Grade Promotion for May 8, 2024 to begin at 6 pm and High School Graduation for May 9, 2024 to begin at 6 pm was made by Wallace and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes. Mr. Fritch reminded members their group picture will be before High School Graduation.

President Aly stated the Amended 2024-25 School Year calendar would be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Fritch presented the 2025-26 school year calendar and stated it is basically the same as this year's calendar and explained the few differences. Motion to approve 2025-2026 SY calendar as presented was made by Wallace and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Abby Clanton as Assistant High School Softball Coach was made by Hogg and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for Jr. High Baseball Coach and Jr. High Assistant Baseball Coach was made by Hogg and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Nathan Ryder for Track Coach was made by Hogg and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call votes: all ayes.

Motion to post for Jr. High Science Teacher was made by Hogg and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call votes: all ayes.

Motion to post for 1st Grade Elementary Teacher was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch distributed the PRESS policy updates 110 summary of changes and discussed some of the updates/changes being made in the policies. The entire set of policies were not printed due to there being so many. This is the first reading of the policy updates 110.

Motion to approve out-of-state field trip for K-2 to attend a play at the Carson Center in Paducah, KY on March 26th was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve overnight field trip for the FFA to attend Ag Legislative Day in Springfield, IL in March, date TBD was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch explained the April meeting needs to be rescheduled since it is scheduled during Spring break. Motion to reschedule April meeting to Tuesday, April 22nd, due to Spring break was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Old Business, Member Schuchardt asked how often sports teams get new uniforms. Mr. Fritch stated there is a rotation for each sport that is every 6 years. Jr. High softball is up this year for new uniforms. President Aly had a letter from Mrs. Sheyann Broadway asking the Board for a donation to help with the vinyl decals for the front of the schools. The Board agreed to make a donation. Mr. Fritch stated she is also working on getting a 1,000 Point Club banner for the high school gym.

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, March 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library. All members present voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Bronwyn Aly, President
Board of Education

Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education