

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
April 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President Aly and the following members were present: Kizziar, Schuchardt, Hogg, Simmons, Wallace, and Aly. Jeffords was absent.

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

Motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Hogg to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 3/18/24 and 3/21/24; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. Mr. Fritch pointed out the invoices for SIU for the CORE group, which will be reimbursed through a grant from IDNR and Farmer Environmental for the air quality testing at the elementary. Members questioned some other invoices from Sutton's Plumbing, Home Depot, and Sanders. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Ethan Cunningham and Jude Stalions presented a proposal to the Board to reduce the use of plastics in the district. They had a handout of the PowerPoint they shared and explained how much plastic is being used and wasted during breakfast and lunch daily by students and staff. They had a cost breakdown of the plastic, proposed how to reduce the cost, and suggested how to use the cost savings. They showed examples of posters they would like to use to raise awareness within the district. Board members had a few questions for them which started some discussion. Mr. Fritch explained the kitchen recently received an audit to which the State stated they have to make some changes in the way food is being served, which requires some use of plastics. Members stated they would find some ways to help them and thanked Ethan and Jude for a job well done.

Under Administrative reports, Mrs. Allen reported on the following; 1) Student Involvement/Sports; a) Jr. High Track; i) Last meet is scheduled for April 29 at West Frankfort; 2) Assemblies/Activities/Projects; a) PTO will recognize April's Student of the Month on Wednesday, May 1 along with 8th grade May Student of the Month (since they'll graduate on May 9); b) Elementary/Jr High and High School sold a total of 424 bags of popcorn, profiting \$1,272; 3) Upcoming Events; a) 4th Quarter Progress reports were sent out March 28; b) 5th and 8th Grade Science Assessment incentive pancake breakfast is TBD; c) Pre-K screenings were held on April 12; d) U of I Ag Center Trips; i) April 18 – Grades K-3; ii) April 19 – Grades 4-5; e) Freshmen orientation is scheduled for April 19; f) School improvement 2:00 dismissal on Monday, April 22; g) Kindergarten pre-registration April 22-26; h) Rotary Banquet April 26; 4) Important Dates in May; a) May 3: PTO Fun Day; i) Rented inflatables for the students; ii) Dorrisville Fun Food Ministry; b) May 3: Student Council dance (rescheduled from April 19); c) May 6-10: Current donations for Teacher Appreciation Week; i) The Chocolate Factory; ii) Banterra Bank; iii) Pope County PTO; d) May 9: 8th grade graduation; e) May 23: Last day of Pre-K; f) May 24: Last day of Kindergarten/Kindergarten graduation at 9:00 am; g) May 30: Last student attendance day; and 5) Elementary/Jr High School Enrollment; a) 2022-2023: April 20, 316 students; b) 2023-2024: April 18, 314 students.

Mr. Graves reported the following: 1) The SAT was given on April 11th. It was all online this year and it went well; 2) PSAT 10 was held today for Sophomores; 3) The Illinois Science Assessment is April 23rd; 4) Senior Semester Exams are May 6th and 7th. Freshman-Junior Exams are the 27th and 28th; 5) Award/Scholarship Recognition Day for Seniors is May 1st at 9 am; 6) Prom is April 27th at Bramlet Farms; 7) 8th Grade Orientation is tomorrow April 19th; 8) Graduation is May 10th at 6pm. Student pictures begin at 5:15, Board of Education picture at 5:40, and graduate group picture outside at 5:45. This will be the last year for Lifetouch pictures; and 9) Enrollment: 170. Hogg asked about the PSAT 9 and 10. Mr. Graves stated PSAT 9 is for freshmen and 10 is for sophomores, which have different options for testing benchmarks. Jeffords asked about SAT/ACT prep being offered. Mr. Graves stated there is prep being offered for SAT along with online resources. ACT is not a requirement in Illinois at this time, but may change back. SAT is totally online now and hoping we can get results back quicker than the paper test which was usually 1-1 ½ years before we received them. Wallace asked if they could take the test more than once. Mr. Graves stated they can and it has to be at a national testing site.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Air quality test in the elementary building has been completed. Mr. Fritch had a handout of the test results and directed members to page 2. There is no airborne mold in the building of any concern. Considering the building and its age, the numbers are very low; 2) Wastewater project is ready to go out to bid. Pre-bid meeting is April 23 and bids will be open April 30. We might need a special called meeting to vote on bid before the next scheduled meeting; 3) Shout out to the boys, Ethan and Jude, for a job well done on their proposal to the Board. A good life lesson and keep up the good work.

Motion to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Wallace and seconded by Kizziar. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:31 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 8:46 pm.

Motion to approve superintendent to amend the 2023-24 budget was made by Wallace and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to set date for Public Hearing on 2023-24 Amended Budget for Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 6:45 pm was made by Hogg and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to authorize Superintendent Fritch to prepare 2024-2025 Budget was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Tiffany Hynes as Jr. High cheer sponsor for the 2024-25 SY was made by Kizziar and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Tiffany Jarvis as Jr. High Cross Country coach for the 2024-25 SY was made by Wallace and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for K-2 Special Education teacher was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve Teacher Contract for 2024-25 SY as presented was made by Jeffords and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: Jeffords, Kizziar, Simmons, Aly; all ayes, Schuchardt, Hogg, and Wallace; abstained.

Mr. Fritch explained only two bids were received for the fire alarm installation in the high school. There are funds in the Health Life Safety budget for this project. Motion to accept the low bid of \$187,000 from Waller Electric for the high school fire alarm installation was made by Wallace and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch explained the floors in the Jr High bathrooms and hallway is in need a renovation. He distributed an estimate for epoxy coating for the bathrooms and the hallway separately. After some discussion, motion to approve floor renovation for the Jr High bathrooms and west hall main entrance was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

There was no Old Business to discuss at this time.

Under Other School Business, President Aly recommended that more discuss take place regarding Ethan and Jude's proposal of plastic usage in the district. She thanked them again for their presentation and stated they did a wonderful job. Mr. Fritch stated he will talk to the kitchen staff to get more information. The Board tabled this item until the next meeting.

With no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Jeffords and seconded by Simmons to adjourn the meeting until the next meeting to be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library with a

Public Hearing on the Amended Budget beginning at 6:45 pm. All members present voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

**Bronwyn Aly, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**