

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting  
Pope County CUSD #1  
Board of Education  
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library  
December 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

**Motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Kizziar to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 11/14/2023; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. Mr. Fritch discussed some bills. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.**

**At this time, Olivia Hansen, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) President, addressed the Board with the happenings of the club. She stated what trips they have been on this year and what they are planning for the rest of the year. She thanked the Board for allowing them to go on their trips and for their support.**

**Under Administrative reports, Mrs. Allen reported on the following: 1) Student Involvement/Sports; a) Student Council has arranged dress up days to get us in the Christmas spirit all month; b) PTO recognized November Students of the Month on December 1: Inclusiveness; c) Spelling bee was held on December 1: 1<sup>st</sup> place: Eli Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Bryer Duncan, 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Luke Vinyard; d) 2<sup>nd</sup> semester behavior incentive drawing were held on 12/12 and 12/13; e) Cannon Bramlet won an essay contest from Withers Broadcasting Co, Airpods, \$115 in gift cards, cup and pencils; f) Christmas Programs were held on Thursday, December 14, PK-2 at 8:30, 3-5 at 10:00; g) Student Council dance will be held on December 15; h) 8<sup>th</sup> Grade recognition, Girls basketball was scheduled for**

12/13 and Boys basketball and cheerleading is scheduled for 1/4; 2) Faculty/Staff/Building Information; a) District catered lunch scheduled for December 15; b) Early dismissal for Christmas break, 12/15 at 11:30; c) Teacher In-service on January 2 with lunch provided by district; d) Little GEC girls tournament will be held January 2, 3 and 5 at Pope Co HS; e) Little GEC boys tournament will be held January 16, 17 and 18 at Pope Co HS; and 3) Enrollment as of 12/15 is 300.

Mr. Graves reported the following: 1) Finals were yesterday and concluded today, December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>; 2) 2nd 9 Weeks ends December 15<sup>th</sup>. Grade cards will go out January 4<sup>th</sup>; 3) Choir hosted their Christmas Concert in the Community Room on December 12<sup>th</sup> and have performed on WSIL for Sounds of the Season; 4) The Student Council went to shop for Angel Tree on December 12<sup>th</sup> and bought for 4 children; 5) NHS hosted a successful Blood Drive with the Red Cross; 6) Mr. Ditterline reports a successful trip to the cadaver lab in St. Louis; 7) We will have PTO night at the January 6<sup>th</sup> ball games; 8) Homecoming parade and festivities will be held downtown on January 11<sup>th</sup>; 9) The Christmas Extravaganza returns tomorrow to the High School; 10) MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!; and 11) Enrollment: 170

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Permits have been submitted to the EPA for the wastewater project. Asaturian is trying to speed up the process. We also have to have IDOT permits to bore under the highway, which have been signed and submitted. Once permits are acquired, the bid process can begin. Asaturian is going to go ahead and secure the equipment needed; 2) Fire Alarm System at the high school failed the inspect in October. Baysinger has been called to start the process of getting a new system. Health Life Safety funds will cover the cost of the new system but will be a major expense; 3) Eighteen new laws will go in effect on January 1 that will impact the school districts. The non-certification staff wage bill is making a comeback in the General Assembly. If the bill passes, staff will start out at \$20 per hour. There would be a ramp over time to reach the wage but it would be costly to the district, not enough funds to cover \$250,000 just for the individual aides; 4) Elverado and Cobden want to join the GEC. They will be voting on it in January. We already play them in sports but other districts are concerned with traveling that far. GEC conference tournament would have to change as well; and 5) ROE 20 has a new school security advisor beginning in

January. He will be making his rounds to all the districts to survey their security needs.

Motion to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Kizziar and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:50 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Kizziar and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 9:18 pm.

Mr. Fritch stated the board meetings have been on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library in the past. A motion to approve the 2024 board meeting dates as presented was made by Wallace and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch briefly touched on the tax levy reminding the members what was discussed at last month's meeting. A motion to approve the tax levy was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch explained with the minimum wage increase, we need to increase substitute teacher pay to coincide. He proposed \$125 per day. Motion to raise substitute teacher pay to \$125 per day was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch distributed the Wellness Policy which is tailored to meet the needs of Pope County School District. He stated this policy will meet the requirements of the kitchen audit. Motion to approve Wellness Policy as presented was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to accept the resignation of Kirstin Asbury as individual aide was made by Hogg and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

**With no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Jeffords and seconded by Wallace to adjourn the meeting until the next meeting to be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library. All members present voted aye.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.**

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**Bronwyn Aly, President  
Board of Education**

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**Paula Baker, Secretary  
Board of Education**