

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Thursday, August 19, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President Hogg at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Walker, Aly, Schuchardt, Wallace, and Hogg; via Zoom: Simmons and Kizziar.

A motion was made by Walker and seconded by Aly to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly to approve the consent agenda including the following items; 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 7/15/21, 7/27/21, and 8/9/21; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; and 5) Accept Resignations; Mary Lou Hynes and Kelly Kennedy, bus drivers. Mr. Fritch stated the bills are higher due to the start of the school year with more supplies needed and some speech services were given over the summer. Hogg asked how many students were doing remote learning, which Mr. Fritch commented that we have two at the elementary and two at the high school. They will start on Monday. Hogg also asked about late fees due to U.S. Bank. Paula explained they have charged those due to the payment getting in late and have tried to get them forgiven but would only forgive one of the charges. President Hogg asked if we could pay ahead a month so not to incur late fees. Walker left the meeting at 7:04 pm. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes. Walker returned at 7:11 pm.

President Hogg recognized Ella Aly, high school student, to present her 4-H Leadership Program. Ella discussed her program she is wanting to implement within the school. Ella stated she ran for a State committee, which turned out to be a National committee, and was 1 of 6 4-H member in Southern Illinois on the Future Community Leaders Team. The committee had to develop an action plan to implement within their community. They have chosen to start workshops with the schools to help give teens a voice and to get them involved in their community. She has enlisted the help of Jacob Lemon, a former student of PCHS and who also works in Dale Fowler's office, to promote these workshops. 4-H Coordinators will provide these workshops to all students that would like to participate in the after school program. There are currently only seventeen members in our local 4-H and would like to see the enrollment increase. With the help of this program, students can get more involved in the community and be a part of 4-H if they choose, but is not required to participate in this program. She asked the board if she could bring the program in to the school and use the library or the community room. President Hogg asked if there would be adult supervision and Ella stated the 4-H Coordinators would be at the workshops. President Hogg stated that this would be a great program and to contact Paula for scheduling.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) Softball and baseball seasons are under way. They played their first game this past Monday; 2) Pre-School Fall Screenings are scheduled for October 28th; 3) We have received donations of school supplies from area churches, organizations, and individuals. I want to thank all who have made the donations, especially Dixon Springs Baptist Church, who

organized the supply drive during registration. The people who assisted with the supply drive did an incredible job and put in a lot of volunteer time to help our students. This program has really helped so many families in our area and cannot express enough how thankful we are to the people that make this possible; 4) We are doing lunches basically like we did last year We are using plastic guards to divide the table and are using assigned seating; 5) Cheer pre-tryout practice will be on August 23, 24, and the 26, with the try-outs being on the 28; 6) We have new Chrome Book computers in our Library lab and our Jr. High computer lab; 7) I want to thank Travis, Kala, and Andrew Bonnell for refinishing our Elementary sign. They furnished all the materials and labor to complete the sign as a donation to Hometown Heroes, who had agreed to pay for the refinishing; 8) We are still lacking in the area of substitutes. We have very few substitutes for all areas available at this time; and 9) As of August 19th, the enrollment consisted of a total of 324 students. This is subject to change as we are still getting and transferring students.

Mr. Graves reported the following; 1) Registration was held and went well. A special thanks to Ms. Tresa, Mrs. Graves, Mr. Hosfeldt, and Mr. Lane; 2) Mr. Climer has worked diligently to get new students enrolled and schedules made; 3) The baseball team, cross country team, and our new volleyball team have been practicing and working very hard. Volleyball season kicks off the end of this month while baseball and cross country are set to start in September; 4) The janitors had the building and grounds ready for the return to school. They are continuing with their COVID cleaning schedules throughout the day and evening; 5) We have gone 1 to 1 this year and students now have Chromebooks assigned to them to assist with their work; and 6) Enrollment is 177 and by the end of the week, we could be around 180.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Would like to commend all our employees for a great start to this school year. Everyone has done a great job; 2) There are currently 29 school districts, which of 7 are in southern Illinois, that have been placed on probation by ISBE due to not following the mask mandate. An email was sent from ISBE wanting proof that we are following the mandate, which a reply was sent with a copy of our Return to School Plan; 3) We are getting \$58,000 in new funds from Tier funds; 4) ISBE has released another \$50,000 Matching Maintenance Grant. We have been discussing replacement of the high school gym floor. We have enough funds in reserves and other lines, that some funds could be moved if needed to complete the project; and 5) Our yearly audit is next week. Margie and Paula have been gathering documents and expect all to go well.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:37 p.m.

A motion was made by Aly and seconded by Walker to return to regular session. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 8:41 pm.

Mr. Fritch reported on the tentative FY 2022 budget. He thanked Margie for her help with getting the budget ready. He distributed the summary pages and detailed account lines. Mr. Fritch directed them to the funds that were in the negative and discussed the

projected ending balances. He added that ESSER II funds were included but ESSER III were not. He stated the ending balances were in good shape. Wallace asked how many days we could operate with cash on hand. Mr. Fritch state our auditors give us that number and we will know after the audit next week. With no further discussion, a motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly to approve and display the tentative FY 2022 budget. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to reschedule September Regular Board meeting to September 23rd was made by Walker and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve September 24, 2021 at 6:45 pm for a Public Hearing for adoption of the FY 2022 budget was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch discussed the Drivers Education Agreement with Hardin County High School. They do not have a Driver's Education Teacher for this year and asked us to help them out. Mr. Fritch has discussed with Mr. James Forthman to do remote learning classroom with the students at Hardin County for the book portion of the class. Hardin County School would pay him a stipend for his services. Mr. Forthman has agreed to teach this class. No action required of the Board.

Motion to post for two full-time bus drivers was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for part-time Special Education Coordinator was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Carol Warfield as Individual Aide was made by Aly and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Leighann Quinlan as full-time individual aide was made by Simmons and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

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

Motion to hire Chad Nally as volunteer assistant Jr. High baseball coach was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Patrick Presser as volunteer 3rd and 4th grade boys basketball coach was made by Walker and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Old Business, Wallace asked the board members if they wanted to keep pursuing a School Resource Officer or go without one this year. Members Hogg and Simmons both stated that we fought hard to get one and would like to keep pursuing to fill the position. We are required to have a retired police officer holding a retired badge and a card to carry a weapon. The idea was brought up to hire someone that could carry a Taser and work as a security guard. Mr. Fritch stated he will discuss with our attorney and see what that would entail. President Hogg asked that this be on the agenda for the September meeting for further discussion.

Member Wallace asked about track. Mr. Fritch stated he has talked with Mr. Forthman and he is willing to work with the students that want to compete in track.

Other School Business, Wallace asked what was going on with the water leak in the library. Mr. Fritch stated it is condensation from the air conditioning unit. Kevin has worked on it but cannot find the issue. We will call someone to fix the issue. Mr. Fritch added they would like to see the library carpet and all the old bookshelves removed and replace with vinyl flooring with the bookshelves along the walls under the windows. This summer we received some used desks and chairs for the library from Vienna school.

Mr. Fritch discussed ESSER III funds and how he proposes to spend the funds. Hardin County school was able to get a pump station approved in their ESSER II grant so we are going to put \$500,000 in our ESSER III grant for a new pump station. The EPA recommended to us that we need to pump our sewage to the city lagoon but with COVID

last year, we were not able to get with the city council for their approval. We would have to pay them a monthly fee for the service but we would not have any upkeep.

Walker asked about the electrical in the softball concessions. Mr. Fritch said that still need to be completed and will call on someone to get an estimate.

Mr. Fritch also stated that George Smith has helped our janitors with changing all the old lighting over to LED lighting. Southeastern Illinois Electric Coop does not have any grants to cover the cost so we are gradually changing the lights over as they stop working properly. The LED lighting bypasses the ballast.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting to be held on Thursday, September 23, 2021 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 Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Jeremy Hogg, President
Board of Education

Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education