**Minutes for Budget Hearing Meeting**

**Pope County CUSD #1**

**Board of Education**

**J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library**

**September 25, 2025 6:45 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 6:52 p.m. and the following members were present: Jeffords, Schuchardt, Simmons, and Aly. Kizziar and Fatheree were absent.

No comments from the public

Per Mr. Fritch our budget is better than last year, the money has been allocated for grants. Our biggest account is the Education Fund; this fund will need to be worked on next year with budgeting. This fund took the biggest hit.

The operations/maintenance fund supported the door project, and septic project. This fund also took a big hit.

Board Member Fatheree entered the meeting.

Member Jeffords asked if the door project was on a grant? Mr. Fritch responded that it was on a maintenance grant, the state covered 50 and the school covers the other 50. She also asked about using an architect for the project, Mr. Fritch stated that because of the cost being over a certain amount, an architect has to be used.

President Aly asked about money that the school pays to other districts, if any districts paid into our school. Mr. Fritch reported that we pay for some students to attend other districts, and we do get grants that get allocated to certain areas.

With no further comments, that concluded the Hearing Proclamation by President Aly.

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Bronwyn Aly, President Charlee Poole, Secretary

Board of Education Board of Education

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting**

**Pope County CUSD #1**

**Board of Education**

**J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library**

**September 25, 2025 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Aly and the following members were present: Fatheree, Jeffords, Schuchardt, Simmons, and Aly. Kizziar was absent.

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

At this time Ben Slavin administered the Oath and was seated as a newly appointed board member.

President Aly welcomed him to the board, and stated that hearing the Oath is a reminder to each of them the reason why they are here.

Motion was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Fatheree to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 8/21/25; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; 5) Accept Publication of Certified Staff Salary and Benefits Report-SY2025; and 6) Accept Notice of Retirement. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Administrative reports, Mrs. Allen stated: 1) JH baseball and softball are in post season, with cross country underway; 2) Several teachers are participating in a book study through ROE; 3) Progress report reminders announced September 5; 3) Coordinated and scheduled yearly mandatory safety drills for the school year; 6) Fall Aimsweb benchmark testing is complete; 7) 2nd, 3rd & 4th grade will see “Pinocchio” at SIC on Sept 26; 8) PTO September Student of the Month will be recognized on Sept 30; 9) Pre-K screening is scheduled for Oct 6; 10) The Elementary/JH Amazon give away day is scheduled for Oct 8; 11) Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Oct 9; 12) ROE Teacher Conference @ Eldorado will be held on Oct 10; 13)Pre-K is going to Johnston City Pumpkin Patch & Marion Park on Oct 15; 14) Current enrollment is 292.

Mr. Graves reported: 1) Spirit Cards are on sale for $10; 2) Progress reports went out September 5; 3) Picture day was held September 10 with Wagner Group. Special thanks to Mrs. Hershey; 4) Conducted a fire drill, bus evacuation drill, and intruder drill. The Fire Department will be here October 8 to conduct a fire drill; 5) Section 25 FFA Bow Shoot was held September 23 at Little Creek Archery in Eddyville; 6) FBLA and Student Council hosted their ‘Movie Night’ last night. The event moved to the gym due to rain; 7) October 8 is the end of the 1st Quarter; 8) Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for October 9; 9) The Eldorado Teacher Conference is October 10; 10) Amazon Drop Day and the Good 4 Community Program is back this year and will be held October 3 in the community room; 11) Current Enrollment is 136.

Mr. Fritch started off giving Sheyanne Broadway a shout out for all of the building improvements and supplies purchased through the SIFTC Grant; 1) PreK program along with Ms Susan, Ms.Sarah, and the aides in the room will receive the Gold Circle of Quality Award. This is an astounding accomplishment. Congratulations for your hard work; 2) Door project is scheduled to meet in the upcoming week to set a start date; 3) Septic project is waiting on seeding, after the rain, that should be wrapping up; 4) KD Landworks widened the cross country track, this was a big improvement. Thanks to Kevin Hughes for helping us; 5) Due to the rain the high school roof is leaking again, architecture is in the process of the design phase; 6) Baysinger will be finishing up the 10 year Health/Life/Safety Plan, followed by planning the financial aspect of it.

Motion made to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Simmons and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:33.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Fatheree, seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes. Returned to regular session at 8:45.

Motion to adopt the FY 25-26 District Budget as presented was made by Simmons and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve Lacy Broadway for Volunteer Jr. High Assistant Cheer Coach was made by Jeffords and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for High School JV Basketball Coach was made by Fatheree seconded by Slavin. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve FMLA Request was made by Simmons and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve overnight, out-of-state field trip to Indianapolis, IN on October 28-31, 2025 to attend the National FFA Convention as requested by Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Swinford was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Other School Business, President Aly discussed school subcommittees. Her along with Vice President Schuchardt, met with the Health and Wellness Committee to discuss: 1) Policy updates; 2) Ending of Snap-Ed program taking away our nutritional education in the classrooms; 3) Food procurement/local farm guidelines; and 4) Future planning of one prepared from scratch meal one time a week, as well as the salad bar brought back.

President Aly also discussed the upcoming roof project. She would like a consultation explaining the bond process and information on the possibility of solar panels to offset cost.

Newly appointed member Slavin asked if we were a part of the Illinois Medicaid Reimbursement program, Mr. Fritch stated we are currently implementing that program.

With no further comments, motion was made by Fatheree and seconded by Schuchardt, to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

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Bronwyn Aly, President Charlee Poole, Secretary

Board of Education Board of Education