

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
May 16, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

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

A 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 4/18/2024; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Board President Aly recognized members of the FFA, Hannah Choate, Andrew Bonnell, Jazzy Coram, Lily Vinyard, and Cyrus Hogg, along with sponsors, Melissa Wilson and Wade Swinford. The student members gave a presentation on their happenings and accomplishments for this school year in FFA. They introduced the current officers and the new officers taking over next year. Andrew Bonnell and Lillie Bremer have earned State Degrees, which only 2% of members acquire. They are gaining more members and reaching their goals. They thanked the Board for allowing them to go on all the trips to judging contests, trap shoots, conferences, and conventions; explaining how much they learn and grow from these experiences. The FFA members also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Board at the FFA Banquet on May 5th for their support of FFA.

Under Administrative reports, Mrs. Allen reported the following: 1) Student Involvement/Sports: a) JH open gym for girls basketball starts in June; 2) Assemblies/Activities/Projects: a) April/May Appreciation Days: Bus Driver Appreciation, Administrative Assistants, Principals, Lunch Heroes, Teacher Appreciation, School Nurse and School Speech Pathologists; b) May 1: PTO recognized 8th grade student of the month; c) May 3: PTO Fun Day & Student Council Dance; d) May 6-10: Teacher Appreciation Week; e) May 9: 8th grade graduation; f) May 16: Last day of tutoring; g) May 17: PTO will recognize this month's Student of the Month; h) May 22: 2nd Semester Incentive Drawing for PK-2; i) May 22: Last day for PK (picnic on 23rd); j) May 24: Kindergarten graduation at 9:00 am; k) May 28-29: 2nd Semester Incentive Drawing for 3-5 and 6-7; l) May 28-30: Parents can set up appointments with Kindergarten teachers; m) May 30: Last student day; n) May 31: Last teacher day; 3) Social Emotional Learning & Trauma Response Grant was approved for the 2024-2025 school year; and 4) Summer School: June 3-6, 10-13; and 5) Current enrollment 311 as of May 2023/24 compared to 315 as of May 2022/23.

Mr. Graves reported the following: 1) Senior Awards and Scholarship Day was held May 1st; 2) The Student Council attended the State Convention in Springfield, IL May 2nd-4th. While at convention, Andrew Bonnell received a Pillar Award for School Pride during the banquet ceremony; 3) Teacher Appreciation was held all last week and culminated with a meal from Shotgun Eddy's on May 10th. Snacks and food was brought to them from local businesses and individuals throughout the week. They were very appreciative; 4) Graduation for the Class of 2024 was held on May 10th; 5) Illinois Science Assessment has been completed. Special thanks to Mr. Ditterline; 6) With approval, the spring incentive trip is Friday May 24th to Atomic City in Paducah; 7) FFA Banquet was held May 5th; 8) Underclassmen semester exams will be May 28th-May 29th; 9) Student last day is May 30th and Staff is May 31st; 10) Illinois will be switching (back) to the ACT next year; 11) Boys baseball ended their season last night at Regionals. The softball team plays for the championship, May 18th at 11:00 am; and 11) Enrollment: 168.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Would like to thank the principals for the graduation ceremonies and all the work that goes in to make them a special time for our students and their families. Thank you to the county EMS and Fire Departments for the parade; and 2) We are applying for an energy efficient grant in the amount of 14 million dollars along with a consortium of schools; which, if

granted, will split grant funding for energy improvements. This could allow us to replace lighting to LED, old doors throughout the buildings, bay doors in the Ag shop, and HVAC systems at the elementary. This is a three-phase grant process. The deadline for applying is June 13th.

Motion to enter executive session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered at 7:22 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 9:27 pm.

Under New Business, motion to renew IASB annual membership was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to renew IHSA annual membership was made by Hogg and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch distributed the bid tabulation sheet from Baysinger and explained the bid details. After some discussion, motion to accept bid from Samron Midwest Contracting for \$165,462.00 as presented for the maintenance grant project was made by Hogg and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve out-of-state trip on Friday, May 24, 2024 for Mr. Graves to take incentive trip to Atomic City in Paducah, KY was made by Wallace and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve overnight trip on June 11-13, 2024 to Springfield, IL for the FFA State Convention was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch distributed a budget summary sheet explaining where the budget currently stands and the reasons for the deficits in the Education and Municipal Retirement/Social Security funds. Overall, the budget is in good shape. Motion to post amended 2023-2024 FY budget for 30 days in the Unit Office as required by statute was made by Wallace and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Nicolette Troutman for 1st grade teacher was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Ryan Dixon for custodian was made by Wallace and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for JH and HS track coaches was made by Simmons and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for full-time custodian was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to re-post for Pre-K teacher was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch discussed with the Board the plans for reducing plastic during meals. Kala Bonnell, head cook, will make changes in the kitchen to help with the reduction in plastic use. Mr. Fritch added they have also displayed posters in the elementary building to raise awareness.

There was no Old Business to discuss at this time.

Under Other School Business, Member Wallace stated they will schedule a meeting for the Building Committee to meet soon. Member Schuchardt stated the Health and Safety Committee will break for the summer.

With no further business to be discussed, a motion to adjourn meeting until the next regular scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Wallace.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 pm.

**Bronwyn Aly, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**