

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting  
Pope County CUSD #1  
Board of Education  
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library  
July 15, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President Hogg and the following members were present in person: Walker, Aly, Schuchardt, Wallace, Simmons, and Hogg; via Zoom: Kizziar.**

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

**Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Schuchardt to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 6/22/2021; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; and 5) Accept Resignations from Carlin Flannery as Jr. High Math Teacher and Joe Sushinski as High School Science Teacher. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Under Administrative reports, Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Custodians have been working on cleaning, painting, and getting the buildings ready for school to begin; 2) I have been working on multiple grants as well as the annual transportation claim; 3) We will need to schedule a special meeting the week of July 26<sup>th</sup> to finalize hiring our open teaching positions and to approve a return to**

school plan. We must approve a return to school plan to be eligible for the ESSER III funding; 4) Reopening for 21-22: a) The IDPH/ISBE has fully adopted the CDC guidance for K-12 schools; b) The CDC guidance provides recommendations or “should do”. The CDC guidance does not mandate COVID mitigation in the school building. Layers of mitigation are entrusted to the local school board/administration working in conjunction with the local health department to tailor your COVID 19 mitigations to your district; c) The only mandate in the new CDC guidance is that face masks have to be worn on all forms of public transportations, including school buses, for all populations. Vaccinated or unvaccinated.; d) I have participated in two webinars about the CDC guidance this week, both hosted by school attorneys, one of them was our own school attorney. Both were very similar; e) Facemasks- After reviewing the latest data from IDPH, issued last Friday, we have two active cases in our county. Last year we had limited to no spread associated with the school. I would recommend that if we continue this same trend that we begin our school year with facemask wearing being optional for all students and staff. The school would reserve the right to impose more strict mitigation strategies. Such as mandatory facemask wearing, if COVID 19 cases increase the community or within the school setting; f) At the special meeting we will need to pass a resolution, provided by our school attorney, spelling out the processes; g) Other Mitigation Strategies- We will keep several of our current practices in place for the upcoming year. These will be listed in the new return to school plan; and 5) There have been some interest in not allowing cell phones in the classrooms.

Other schools are moving in this direction with the help of a device called a Yondr pouch. This is a lockable pouch that stores a cell phone. If a student wants to have their cell phone at school, students will secure their phones in a personally assigned Yondr pouch. Students will remain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. High school students, will be allowed to use their cell phones during lunch time. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times. At the end of the school day, students will open their pouch using an opening station. If there is an emergency, parents are advised to call the school office. Mr. Graves will be getting more information and costs associated with this initiative.

Motion to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:26 pm.

Motion to return from closed session was made by Walker and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 7:56 pm.

Under New Business, motion to approve authorize superintendent to prepare FY 2022 budget was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

**Motion to approve the 2021-2022 SY Remote Learning plan as presented was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Walker. Mr. Fritch added that seventeen Juniors are credit deficient and are failing, remote learning doesn't work. With no other comments, roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion to hire Debbie Smith as Individual Aide was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker. Roll Call vote: all ayes.**

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

**Motion to hire Debra Wiley as Special Education Aide was made by Walker and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion to hire Abby Clanton as Individual Aide was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: Walker, Kizziar, Aly, Schuchardt, Wallace, Hogg; all ayes, Simmons abstained.**

**Motion to hire Abby Clanton as Jr. High Softball Assistant Coach was made by Aly and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: Walker, Kizziar, Aly, Schuchardt, Wallace, Hogg; all ayes, Simmons abstained.**

**Motion to reassign Kisty Arnold to Jr. High Math Teacher was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion to reassign Amanda Evenson to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher was made by Aly and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion to hire Janice Wallace as High School cheer sponsor was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: Walker, Kizziar, Aly, Schuchardt, Simmons, Hogg; all ayes, Wallace abstained.**

**Southern Seven Head Start lease agreement has been tabled. Lease has not be received.**

**Under Other Business, motion to call a special board meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 27 at 7 pm was made by Simmons and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**With no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Walker and seconded by Schuchardt to adjourn the meeting until the next special called meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library. All members present voted aye.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.**

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**Jeremy Hogg, President  
Board of Education**

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**Paula Baker, Secretary  
Board of Education**