

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting  
Pope County CUSD #1  
Board of Education  
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library  
Tuesday, November 16, 2021  
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President Hogg at 7:01 p.m. The following members were present: Kizziar via Zoom, Aly, Schuchardt, Wallace, Simmons, and Hogg. Walker was absent.

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

A motion was made by Aly and seconded by Schuchardt to approve the consent agenda including the following items; 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 10/21/21; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Report; 5) Publication of Annual Statement of Affairs. Mr. Fritch stated the laptop bags were purchased with the library grant Mrs. Hosfeldt received and the first payment to Baysinger for Phase III for the door and window project is included. There were also some added expenses for the State Cross Country Meet. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) Progress reports for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter were sent out on November 15<sup>th</sup>; 2) Mrs. Reed posted a recording of our students in grades 3-4-5 singing a tribute for Veterans Day on the

Elementary Facebook page; 3) Picture re-takes and clubs/sports pictures will be taken on November 22<sup>nd</sup>; 4) Mrs. Reed is still in the planning stages for the Elementary Christmas program. The plan at this time is to video the different grades and post it on the YouTube page and the Facebook page; 5) We will recognize our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Lady Pirate basketball player and her parents at the game on December 8<sup>th</sup>; and 4) Current Enrollment 328 as of November 15<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Graves reported the following; 1) 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 week progress reports were mailed November 15<sup>th</sup>; 2) Boys and Girls Basketball open this month with the girls this Thursday and the boys on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; 3) Sport pictures and retake day is November 23<sup>rd</sup>; 4) The cheerleaders are hosting a pep rally for the girls and boys basketball teams on November 22<sup>nd</sup>; 5) The Speech Team won 5<sup>th</sup> overall in a large school competition with several individual top 10 placements; 6) Ahry Comer placed 7<sup>th</sup> in state for Cross Country; 7) FFA Convention was held in late October; 8) Art Club participated in the sidewalk chalk event in Harrisburg; 9) Caps and gowns for the Seniors and class rings for the Sophomores have been ordered; 10) FCA is going to host a can-good drive that will run until the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks; and 11) Enrollment: 181.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Would like to commend the Speech Team and Mr. and Mrs. Hosfeldt. They have done a tremendous job with our students and are competing against the larger schools with placing 5<sup>th</sup> overall; 2) Ahry Comer is pretty amazing and has been named Southern Illinois Runner of the Year and named All-State; 3) The doors and windows project will be starting anytime; the supplies have been ordered; 4) The high school gym floor has been sampled and no asbestos was found.

The project is being lined up; and 5) HVAC in the high school gym has been redesigned with the units moved; design is almost finished and rebidding will begin soon.

A motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Schuchardt to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Aly and seconded by Schuchardt to return to regular session. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 9:46 pm.

Mr. Fritch stated the tentative tax levy was included in the packet and directed the members to the pages pertaining to the levy. He is proposing the levy remain at the 4.99%, as in the past, and will create close to \$100,000 in new funds. He also mentioned the tax rate comparison sheet showing we have the second lowest tax rate in southern Illinois. Motion to approve intent to levy taxes and to display tentative tax levy was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for high school English teacher was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to post for high school Social Science teacher was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

**Motion to hire Gene Fatheree for part-time behind the wheel driver's education instructor for the 2021-22 SY was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion to hire Chad Nally as Jr. High Basketball Assistant Coach was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**No action was taken on the agenda item for consider imposing disciplinary action against an at-will non-certified employee, up to and including termination of employment.**

**Motion to approve FMLA request as of today's date, November 16, 2021, was made by Simmons and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion to bid \$8,500 on New Simpson Hill School District school bus was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion to purchase full-page yearbook ad and full-page Anchor ad was made by Aly and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Mr. Fritch gave a legal briefing and update on the Health Care Right of Conscience Act stated it passed and will take effect for us next school year. If this is brought to the floor in regular session and it passes again, it will take effect immediately. If this is forced on our employees, this could have a major effect on the District putting the administration in a bind if employees decide to walk. The COVID-19 Paid Administrative Leave Act is waiting to be signed by the Governor. If he signs, this would retro back to the beginning of this school year and employees be given back sick days taken for COVID leave.**

**With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting to be held on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:13 pm.**

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**Jeremy Hogg, President  
Board of Education**

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**Paula Baker, Secretary  
Board of Education**