

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
November 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Motion was made by Hogg and seconded by Kizziar to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 10/17/2024; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; 5) Accept Resignation of Patrick Presser, Jr. High Baseball Coach; and 6) Accept Notice of Retirement. Mr. Fritch discussed the septic project engineering invoice from Asaturian Eaton. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Administrative reports, Mrs. Allen reported the following: 1) Student Involvement/Sports; a) PTO recognized October Students of the Month on 11/1: Caring; b) Veteran's Day program was held on Friday, Nov 8 at 9:30; i) Grades 3-5 and Jr. High Choir; (1) Special thank you to Mr. Green, Mrs. Reed and Mr. Rister for all of their planning and preparation; (2) Big thanks to Ms. Jackson and Mrs. Markovic for their work on the display wall; c) Jr. High Student Council dance on 12/14; 2) Faculty/Staff/Building Information; a) Picture retake day is 11/20; b) The district is providing a catered lunch on 11/20; c) Deer Day/Thanksgiving Break is 11/22-11/29; d) Spelling Bee is scheduled for 12/6 at 8:30; e) Christmas programs are scheduled for 12/19; i) K-2 at 8:30; ii) 3-5 & Jr High Choir at 10:00; f) Early dismissal on 12/20 at 11:30; and 3) Enrollment for 2023, 303 students and 2024, 304 students.

Mr. Graves reported the following: 1) Progress Reports went out November 8th; 2) Blood Drive with the American Red Cross was held November 12th; 3) A special thank you to Mrs. Mary Bowles (Sheyann Broadway's Grandmother) for mending our curtains on the stage; 4) Re-takes, Clubs, and Sport pictures are tomorrow (November 20). A special thank you to Ms. Hershey; 5) The Deer Pageant(s) will be held in the high school gym Thursday (November 21st) and Friday (November 22nd) evening; 6) Ms. Wilson and Mr. Swinford are attending the BUILD Conference November 24th-26th. They will be taking 2-4 students with them to ISU; 7) Ms. Sheyann has been accepting scholarships that are due by the end of December for Seniors; 8) We hope everyone has a wonderful Deer Day and fantastic Thanksgiving Break!; and 13) Enrollment: 145.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) ISBE sent an email stating we are a targeted school for low scores in Special Education. We will be put on a 4-year improvement plan with the first year being the planning period. We will receive grant funds to help with this process; 2) Fire alarm project is complete; 3) Septic project is 80% complete. We are waiting on pumps, grinders, and control panels which are scheduled to be delivered in January. They are setting electrical lines and getting all other aspects prepared. All the ESSER III funds have been expensed on this project; 4) Softball field lights are nearing installation. SEIC have delivered the light poles. This is all due to the generosity of the donors and SEIC local workers; 5) Last week we received Title I additional allocation, around \$30,000 will need to be expensed. Looking to purchase 12 more promethean boards to replace the remaining Smartboards, Wonders Reading online 6-year subscription for the elementary, and Chromebook charging stations in the high school; and 6) Will have PRESS policy updates next month, these updates will be adopted as Board Policy.

Motion to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Jeffords and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:23 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Simmons and seconded by Kizziar. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 7:49 pm.

Mr. Fritch distributed the tentative tax levy and explained it is at 4.99% like in the past. With the new building construction and land selling higher, our EAV is up from last year. It always comes in on the conservative side but will still increase our new money. We still have the 4th lowest tax rate in southern Illinois. A motion to approve the tentative tax levy for display as presented was made by Simmons and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch explained there is another 50/50 maintenance grant available. The Building Committee met to discuss. Member Wallace discussed the building problems that the committee saw during a walk-thru of the buildings; roofs, bathrooms, locker/shower rooms, HVAC, doors. With prioritizing these options, they decided HVAC and doors replacement would come first. Mr. Fritch stated new roofs are needed on both buildings. We can use Health Life Safety funds for roof replacement or we can look at bonds. Several options are available in finding funds. We will also look in a different direction for architects for future projects. Motion to approve the School Maintenance Grant HVAC and doors replacement project as recommended was made by Hogg and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

The Administrative contracts are tabled until the December meeting.

Motion to approve Gusten Wallace as volunteer assistant coach for 4th– 6th grade basketball as requested by Coach Patrick Presser was made by Simmons and seconded by Kizziar. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve Adam Broadway as volunteer assistant coach for 4th– 6th grade basketball as requested by Coach Patrick Presser was made by Kizziar and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve Ryan Fritch as volunteer assistant coach for high school basketball as requested by Coach James Simmons was made by Kizziar and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

There were no field trip requests at this time.

Motion to bid for fuel was made by Simmons and seconded by Kizziar. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve FMLA request was made by Kizziar and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

With no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Kizziar to adjourn the meeting until the next meeting to be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library. All members present voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8: pm.

**John Wallace, Acting President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**