**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting**

**Pope County CUSD #1**

**Board of Education**

**J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library**

**August 21, 2025 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Motion was made by Fatheree and seconded by Simmons to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 7/17/25; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports 5) Accept Resignation from Amy Cain as bus driver and Tracy Walter for school year 2028-2029 as Prek Teacher’s Aide. Mr. Fritch stated that he would like to thank Ms. Tracy for her time and passion put into the school. President Aly also thanked her for her dedication and time. With no further comments, roll call vote: all ayes.

Board Member Jeffords entered the meeting.

Under Administrative Reports, Mrs. Allen reported: 1) baseball and softball season at the Elementary School has started. As well as cross country tryouts being held, with Jr. High Baseball tryouts coming up soon; 2) Custodians and summer help have been busy getting the building ready for students; 3) Online registration went very well, taking place during July 23 through July 25. Special thank you to Ms. Hannah, Ms. Charlee, and Mrs. Jennifer for helping; 4) Open House on August 8 was a huge success. Ms. Hannah brought back Blessings in a Backpack. Teachers reported meeting nearly all of their students and families; 5) Baseline Aimsweb testing is underway; 6) 2025-26: End of year enrollment: 295 students.

Mr. Graves reported: 1) First year of online registration, 1/3 of high school students registered, while the rest did in person; 2) Open house held August 8, decent turnout for first year. In attendance, were Shawnee CC, SIC, WKCTC, and The National Guard; 3) Spirit card sales are in full swing at the cost of $10; 4) Volleyball and cross country have started with baseball starting in September; 5) Scholarship information, as well as workforce and military recruiters are scheduled to come in; 6) Currently offering 15 classes that are dual credit courses; 7) Continuing curriculum development, as well as linking the curriculum to the learning standards; and 8) Hosted “Grill and Chill” at lunch for the staff and students. Special thanks to ALL the faculty and staff involved in prep, cooking, and donations.

Mr. Fritch started by thanking all of the employees for their hard work to get ready for back to school. Hannah Sims for bringing back Blessings of Backpacks, and to our community for helping with donations. 1) Septic phase is almost done, they are finishing the fencing and seeding; 2) The door project is waiting on the arrival of the doors; 3) Library floor is currently in deliberation, and ensured that it would be taken care of; 4) Budget summary; Education fund has a loss due to low enrollment, which lowers our EBF funding. We were also switched from a Tier 1 school to a Tier 2 school, which also has lower funding. In the building fund the septic project hurt our cash flow. Overall the fund balances are healthy, but moving forward we will have to offset the cost of the education fund loss.

Motion to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Fatheree and seconded by Jeffords. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:20 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Jeffords and seconded by Kizziar. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 9:40 pm.

Motion to approve and display the tentative FY25-26 District Budget was made by Simmons and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve September 25, 2025 at 6:45 pm for a Public Hearing for adoption of the 2025-2026 Budget was made by Kizziar and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to appoint Ben Slavin to the current board vacancy ending April 2027 was made by Fatheree and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve Tabitha Wilson as the Jr. High Girls Basketball Coach was made by Jeffords and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve Sam DeCaro as the High School Scholar Bowl Sponsor was made by Jeffords and seconded by Simmons.

Motion to approve School Board Donation to PTO in the amount of one thousand dollars was made by Kizziar and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to accept quote from School InSites for School District Website Host was made by Simmons and seconded by Fatheree. Roll call vote: all ayes.

No old business to discuss at this time.

With no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Fatheree and seconded by Schuchardt to adjourn the meeting until September 25, 2025 at 6:45 pm for a Public Hearing on the FY26 Budget and regular meeting to be held on Thursday September 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm in the J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 pm.

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Brownwyn Aly, President Charlee Poole, Secretary

Board of Education Board of Education