

**Minutes for Regular Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Thursday, April 21, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm by President Clay and the following members were present: Hansen, Hogg, Coen, Simmons, Richerson, and Clay. Collier was absent.

A motion was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons to approve the agenda. All members present voted yea.

A motion was made by Coen and seconded by Richerson to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 3/17/16; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; and 5) Accept resignation of Mrs. Kathy Brickhaus. All members present voted yea.

Under Administrative Reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) Letters concerning possible retentions have been mailed; 2) Progress reports went out on April 18th; 3) Kindergarten Pre-registration took place today, April 18th; 4) Aimsweb Spring screenings for K-3 will take place this week; 5) Our Primary and Intermediate classes were able to take advantage of the Stewardship program held at Dixon Springs Ag Center; 6) 8th grade promotion

letters will soon be mailed to the parent of our 8th grade students; 7) PTO is planning a Spring Fling day on May 6th; 8) The 8th grade will be going to Springfield on May 10th. This trip was first planned for February, but was canceled due to snow; and 9) Current enrollment 387 as of April 14th.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Progress reports were mailed on the April 15th ; 2) April 20: Seniors planning on attending SIC will go for orientation and registration; 3) April 25: Rotary Banquet will be held at 6:00 in the high school gym; 4) April 27: Drama Club fundraiser: Fazoli's Dinner; 5) April 28: FFA Banquet will be at 6:00 in the high school gym; 6) April 30: Prom is scheduled in the Bonan Business Center in Harrisburg. Doors open at 5:30. Promenade at 6:00. Dance 7:00-10:00; 7) May 6: NHS induction ceremony in the community room at 6:00; 8) May 6: NHS Blood drive in the Library 11:00 to 2:00; 9) May 11: Awards Day at 9:00am in the high school gym; 10) May 13: Spring Play will be held at 7:00pm in the High School Gym; 11) May 17: Spring Concert in the High School Gym; and 12) Enrollment: Freshman-36, Sophomores-39, Juniors-42, Seniors-34; TOTAL: 151. Mr. Fritch added that Kyle Kunath placed 1st in small engines and will advance to State.

Mr. Bleyer reported on the following: 1) The Facilitating Coordination in Agriculture Education awarded the District the Improving Agriculture Education Programs matching grant. The IAEP grant award the district \$10,000 and the District will match with \$5000. This will allow for \$15,000 in upgrades to our

Agriculture program. I have already had electrical upgrades made to the shop.

I will also have the lighting improved, two welding booths built, and install a new ventilation system; 2) We have applied for the “2016 Grants in Place” from the

Rural School Association. We are seeking funding to refurbish our greenhouse.

These grants are small in nature but do not have to be matched. I am also applying for more grants addressing libraries, playgrounds, science, and math;

3) Last week, the GRP group inspected our facilities and grounds. They will have recommendations to for the District for moving forward with maintenance.

I hope to have that information for the next Board meeting; 4) On the budget

front, it is an all out war in Springfield. This information may change, but as of

time I wrote this report: a) The Assembly passed a state budget, but the

Governor has not signed it; b) The Governor submitted his education budget, but

it has not been entertained by the Assembly; c) Senate Bill 231 was approved

out of committee and is awaiting debate in the Senate; d) Speaker Madigan has

introduced an amendment to the state constitution that would change the

language in regards to the state’s obligation to funding education; 5) Last week,

I attended a Super Regional Community Conversation on School Funding

Reform. State Senator Andy Manar presented SB 231 to the audience. It was

well attended and information was relevant to school budget concerns. SB 231

is a school funding reform bill that scraps the old General State Aid formula and

lessens funding obligations tied to property taxes; and 6) The Governor’s school

funding budget is based on fully funding the current GSA formula. This may

sound great, but it also accounts for average student enrollment for the

previous three years, student enrollment that are categorized as free and reduced, and adjustments in the Equalized Assessed Value of the property in the district. We have seen a reduction in total enrollment with most of those being free and reduced, and we have not levied to the threshold that the state deems to be making a maintenance of effort. Therefore, our district would see a reduction in aid.

A motion to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance was made by Hogg and seconded by Richerson. All members present voted yea. Board entered executive session at 7:22 p.m.

A motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Coen to return to regular session. All members present voted yea. Board returned at 7:48 p.m.

Under New Business, a motion to approve authorization for Superintendent Bleyer to amend 2015-16 Budget was made by Richerson and seconded by Hogg. All members present voted yea.

A motion to set date of June 16, 2016 at 6:45 pm for Public Hearing on the 2015-16 Amended Budget was made by Hogg and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

A motion to set date of June 16, 2016 at 6:30 pm for Public Hearing on Resolution 15-04-21 regarding the transferring of money was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea.

A motion to approve authorization for Superintendent Bleyer to prepare 2016-17 Budget was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea.

A motion to approve proposed 2016-17 School Year Calendar was made by Coen and seconded by Hansen. All members present voted yea.

At this time, Mr. Bleyer distributed the proposed PRESS updates and explained the changes to the Board. No action needed at this time.

A motion was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons to post for a Middle school English/Language Arts Teacher. All members present voted yea.

A motion to post for a bus driver was made by Richerson and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

A motion to approve FMLA request by Ms. Cathy Jackson for two weeks at the beginning of the next school year was made by Simmons and seconded by Hogg. All members present voted yea.

A motion to approve the use of a bus for Project Graduation trip to Harrisburg, Illinois was made by Coen and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea.

Under Old Business, a motion to approve bid from Bulldog for trash pick up for 3 years beginning 2016-17 SY was made by Hansen and seconded by Hogg. All members present voted yea.

A motion to approve bid from Southern FS for fuel for the 2016-17 SY was made by Richerson and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn until the next regular scheduled meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 7 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library was made by Simmons and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

**Allen Clay, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**