

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Thursday, August 18, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President Clay at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Hansen, Hogg, Simmons, Richerson, and Clay. Coen and Collier were absent.

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

Board member Coen entered the meeting at 7:04 pm

A motion was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons to approve the consent agenda including the following items; 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 7/21/16; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; and 5) Approve Leave of Absence. Member Richerson asked who was requesting leave, and then made the motion to approve the consent agenda. All members present voted yea.

At this time the Board recognized Mrs. Beth Clanahan who brought comments from a group of concerned citizens regarding the Department of Justice guidelines on transgender student rights. She began with thanking the Board and Superintendent Bleyer for their time and allowing their comments to be heard. She stated over 300

citizens signed the petition that was distributed showing the community is watching and wants the best for our students. The group is in support of a policy that she asked the Board to consider which was written by the Alliance Defending Freedom that gives all students, regardless of reason, privacy protection. Mr. Derek Adams also addressed the Board asking for support of the policy from the Alliance Defending Freedom. The Board then heard from Mr. Ron Isaacs, a local attorney, regarding the legal side of the issue. He suggested the Board should table the issue or take no action at this time and wait for the ruling on a case currently being heard in the Supreme Court. There are eleven states suing the Obama Administration regarding this issue. By tabling this issue, it would allow for a new administration to take office and determine the issue.

Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) Softball and baseball seasons are underway; 2) Pre-School Fall Screenings will take place on September 30th; 3) We have received some donations of school supplies from area churches and individuals; 4) Dewayne Hill has done a good job preparing the building for start of school; 5) We had an Engaged NY Math workshop for all Math teachers on the morning of August 10th; 6) All the teachers have been set up with EdLeaders Network accounts to help them complete their mandated trainings; 7) SIC has contacted us to hang a banner in the Elementary gym and they will pay us \$75 the first year and \$150 the next years; and 8) Current enrollment is 377.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) School Pictures will take place on September 16th, 2016; 2) New Curriculum: Test Prep Math, Creative Writing, Civics; 3) Cross Country begins August 31st @ Murphysboro Invitational; 4) Boys Fall Baseball begins September 2nd @ Century; 5) Project finished in the agriculture classrooms and shop

areas. Mr. Swinford's classes will be building the two new welding booths and building classroom tables; and 6) Enrollment: Freshmen- 45 Sophomore- 38 Junior- 37 Senior- 42 TOTAL- 162. I would like to thank custodians Kevin Jennings and Jason Wilson for their work in getting the school ready for the first day of attendance. I would also like to thank our student worker Kyle Stafford for his work as well. Mr. Fritch also reported the roof on the high school gym is again leaking. He shared his concerns of the leak causing unsafe conditions for the students during ball games. Additionally, the boards may warp from all the water on the floor. The patching is no longer working and the problem is getting worse. The Board agreed to have Superintendent Bleyer get some professionals to come look at it and get bids on repairs or replacement.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Bleyer reported the following: 1) Construction was successful on the two classrooms at the high school. The rooms look great and should be sound for a long time. On the other hand, I am having two rooms in the high school checked for air quality due to mold issues. I had evacuated one room until further notice. This is being caused by heavy moisture in the air and the inability to air out the buildings. Mr. Bleyer added that initial tests showed the air quality is fine and opened up one of the rooms. We are having both rooms cleaned but only one room had mold. I am awaiting test results from Baysinger Architects before clearing the remaining room.; 2) The U.S. Supreme Court assumed the transgender student case out of Virginia and put a stay on the lower court's ruling to allow the use of opposite sex bathrooms, locker rooms, and overnight accommodations. Therefore, the U.S. Supreme Court will now make the final decision on this matter. There is no timetable for such a decision, or if they will even hear the case. In the meantime, all other transgender rights pertaining to pronoun usage and first names are to remain in effect.

A motion was made by Richerson and seconded by Coen to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel employment, personnel performance, and student issue. All members present voted yea. Board entered closed session at 7:25 p.m.

A motion was made by Richerson and seconded by Hansen to return to regular session. All members present vote yea. Board returned at 7:57 p.m.

Mr. Bleyer distributed copies of the tentative budget and pointed out key areas of importance. After some discussion, a motion to approve the Tentative FY 2016-2017 Budget for display for 30 days was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea.

A motion to set the date for the Public Hearing for adoption of FY 2016-2017 Budget to September 22, 2016 at 6:45 p.m. was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea.

A motion to approve the Lease Agreement with Southern Seven Head Start was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea.

Superintendent Bleyer distributed copies of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and thanked Ms. Clayton, Mr. Graves, Mr. Evenson, and Mrs. Jenkins for an amicable negotiation process. A motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement was made by Hansen and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

Motion to hire Shannon Markus, James Forthman, Sarah Simmons, Amber Presser, Amanda Rawlings, and Kathryn Jolly as individual aides for the 2016-17 SY was made by Hogg and seconded by Hansen. All members present voted yea.

At this time Board Member Hansen addressed the crowd and thanked everyone for coming and sharing their comments and concerns. The Board welcomes and appreciates their input and opinions. If there are every any questions or concerns, feel free to call a Board member, principal, or the superintendent. President Clay also thanked everyone for coming and stated anyone can call him or stop by his house anytime if they have any questions. Board Member Richerson added the Board will not be taking any action on this issue at this time. The policy that has been in place for a long time will stay in place. The same policy that was used last year will stand for this year. The same policy as upheld by the IHSA regarding sports will stay in place.

Motion to award a stipend for sponsorship of the Science Club was made by Hansen and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea.

Motion to approve Robbie Reeder as a sub bus driver pending proper certification was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea.

Motion to post for K-8 daytime custodian was made by Hogg and seconded by Richerson. All members present voted yea.

Motion to approve Mrs. Ashley Adams, Mr. Mike Hall, and Mr. Red Stafford for volunteer assistant coaches for the 2016 Junior High softball season was made by Hansen and seconded by Richerson. All members present voted yea.

Motion to approve Mr. Robbie Reeder for volunteer assistant coach for the 2016 Junior High baseball season was made by Richerson and seconded by Hogg. All members present voted yea.

Motion to approve Mr. James Lewis, Mr. Chuck Hughes, and Mr. Brett Campbell for volunteer assistant coaches for the 2016 high school baseball season and Mr. Chris Walker pending certification was made by Simmons and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

Under Old Business, Board member Richerson asked for more information regarding the increase of workday from 7 to 7.5 hours for unit secretary and bookkeeper and hourly rate increase for 11-month secretaries. Board would like updated job description and cost to the district. Both items were tabled.

Under Other School Business, Board member Richerson gave an update on the softball field and it should be ready for play by Monday if it stops raining and dries out. Turface will be added to help dry it out and get it game ready. A gate will be added in the section of fence that was removed for the equipment to enter the field.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library with a Public Hearing at 6:45 pm was made by Hansen and seconded by Richerson. All members present voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Allen Clay, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**