

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Thursday, August 20, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President Hansen at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Walker, Aly, Wallace, Hogg, and Hansen. Schuchardt and Simmons were absent.

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

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Hogg to approve the consent agenda including the following items; 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 7/16/20 & 7/30/2020; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; and 5) Accept Resignations; Matt Fulkerson, Jr. High Baseball Assistant Coach. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Member Schuchardt entered the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) Softball and baseball seasons are under way. They played their first game this past Monday; 2) Pre-School Fall Screenings are scheduled for October 7th; 3) We have received donations of

school supplies from area churches, organizations, and individuals. I want to thank all who have made the donations, especially Dixon Springs Baptist Church, who organized the supply drive during registration. The people who assisted with the supply drive did an incredible job and put in a lot of volunteer time to help our students; 4) So far, the students, parents, and staff have all been adjusting to the new regulations. The Lunch at the Elementary is working. It is set up on a in and out rotation where we keep our numbers down while they are eating; and 5) As of August 19th, the enrollment consisted of a total of 336 students. This breaks down to 252 in-person (75%) and 84 remote (25%).

Mr. Graves reported the following; 1) The baseball team is set to kick off their fall season on September 5th; 2) Cross Country tryouts are Monday, August 24th; 3) Outdoor registration was held and seemed to have went well; 4) We have segmented off the hallway to help the flow of students better; 5) The janitors had the building and grounds ready for the return to school. The old Spanish room has been repainted and converted into an extra eating area; 6) We have converted over to block schedule and have instituted locker and restroom breaks throughout the day to limit the movement of classes in the building. But we have also added outdoor mask breaks for the teachers and the students; 7) There are currently two lunch breaks this year split into three different areas to provide for social distancing; 8) E-Learning, book, and packet pick up is Monday; 9) It is great to see the SRO's around the building. They have been a pleasure to have and work with; and 10) Enrollment is 168, Current E-Learners is 25%, 42 with 8 receiving packets.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) We have three SROs this year with all of them carrying a weapon. They will be attending a training in Carbondale; 2) Thank you to Sheriff Suits and his staff for helping with the daily traffic. The traffic has picked up since more parents are dropping and picking up their kids. The bus capacity is well within the scope of regulations; and 3) Would also like to thank the teachers and support staff for going above and beyond and to the principals for an outstanding job as well. We have a great team of administrators and we are heading in the right direction for a successful school year.

A motion was made by Walker and seconded by Wallace to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:16 p.m.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker to return to regular session. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 7:44 pm.

President Hansen took this opportunity to address the teachers that were present at the meeting. He asked to their thoughts on the re-opening of school. Mrs. Patty Ferrell spoke on behalf of the elementary building teachers and Mrs. Graves on behalf of the high school building teachers. President Hansen stated the Board is willing to work with the teachers to make this a more manageable plan. He suggested the committee get together and brainstorm for possible solutions. He suggested maybe making every 2nd and 4th Friday a remote learning day for all students so teachers could use that day for

planning. If that isn't enough, maybe every Friday. With all the safety measures in place that have to be done for the safety of the students and staff, there is no good answer to all the issues. We can take it week by week, with weekly evaluations and adjust the schedule to help make teaching more manageable. E-Learning days can be added in the calendar and still be attendance day. We have an influx of students that want to be here. We will work together to make this more manageable for everyone.

Mr. Fritch reported on the tentative FY 2021 budget. He distributed handouts of the summary pages and detailed account lines. Mr. Fritch directed them to the funds that were in the negative and discussed the projected ending balance. The driver's ed car has been having issues and was not put in the budget to be replaced but needs replaced. A motion was made by Hogg and seconded by Wallace to approve and display the tentative FY 2021 budget. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to reschedule September Regular Board meeting to September 24th was made by Wallace and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to approve September 24, 2020 at 6:45 pm for a Public Hearing for adoption of the FY 2020-2021 budget was made by Walker and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Bailey Climer as Academic Advisor was made by Hogg and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Amber Presser as Instructional Aide was made by Hogg and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Laura Bates as Individual Aide was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Shayla Ferrell as Title I Aide was made by Hogg and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Tomisceia Clardy as full time Supplemental Aide was made by Wallace and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Mary Lou Hynes as part time Supplemental Aide was made by Hogg and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Tiffany Jones as part time Supplemental Aide was made by Hogg and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Joey Owens as Jr. High baseball assistant coach was made by Hogg and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to hire Phillip Hosfeldt as High School Student Council Sponsor was made by Hogg and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Under Old Business, Mr. Fritch stated Mrs. Lisa Reed has applied for a grant for technology upgrades the Board discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Fritch also stated he has applied for a grant as well. To have 1:1 Chromebooks the District would have to purchase around 350-400. It would be recommended to purchase all new Chromebooks. If ordered now, they have a ship date sometime after Christmas. These are really hard to get right now. We have had 30 on order for about two months and they have been backordered another 8 weeks. The wifi in the buildings have been upgraded with the CARES grant funds. President Hansen stated we should keep pressing and applying for grants.

Mr. Fritch reported the hardware hasn't come in for the doors and windows replacement project. The factory has shut down due to COVID. The glass and doors have come in but still waiting on the hardware.

Mr. Fritch stated he received a bid from B.W. Builders on the softball concession stand that is \$46,137.00 including a press box. President Hansen asked to keep this on file and will save for a later date.

Other School Business, Member Hogg asked about sports. Mr. Fritch stated softball and baseball is happening now and cross country is set to start. Basketball has not been approved for return to play for now. IDPH has to approve the plan and it looks like they may go with Plan C which is to push the season back until January – March. They will have something out in early November.

Mrs. Graves presented the Hometown Heroes update on last year's project. The sign installation on the outside of the gym will cost more than expected due to the size. We are going to have it professionally installed and lights installed so it will be lite at night. The indoor gym sign designs have been sent to us and will let the students decide on the design. The T-shirts have come in and we are working on getting them out to people. We would like to do a project this year with the freshmen and seniors since the seniors were the freshmen class that we started with three years ago.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting to be held on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library with a Public Hearing to be held at 6:45 pm on the tentative budget was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Michael Hansen, President
Board of Education

Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education