

**Minutes for Regular Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Thursday, February 18, 2016
5:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by President Clay and the following members were present: Hansen, Richerson, Collier, and Clay. Hogg, Coen, and Simmons were absent.

Board member Coen entered the meeting at 5:05 pm.

A motion was made by Richerson and seconded by Collier to amend the agenda to include the following; 1) resignation of Nicole Pochay as individual aide, 2) post for employment, 3) leave request of Chelsea Jennings for the remainder of the school year, 4) volunteer coaches for 5th and 6th grade basketball, and 5) volunteer assistant coaches for softball. 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 Meeting on 1/14/16 and 1/28/16; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. After some questions regarding the bills, all members present voted yea.

Under Administrative Reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) The PARCC test will take place between March 8th and April 8th; 2) The Engaged New York Math program has been printed off and was given to the teachers during the teacher's meeting last week; 3) The High School Student Council gave \$100.00 to the Elementary School Library to go toward the purchase of some new books; 4) Pre K spring pictures are scheduled for March 3rd (all other grades will be on April 8th); 5) Jennifer Broadway is working on Vision screenings on Kindergarten, 2nd, and 8th grades. She has almost completed the Hearing screenings for Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. She also does screenings before IEP meetings; 6) Mrs. Reed and her Choir are working on a Choir Musical to be presented on March 24th; 7) The 3rd quarter grading period will end on March 11th and report cards will go out on March 16th; and 8) Current Enrollment 386 of February 10th. The new Math curriculum was distributed about a week ago and the teachers are working on implementing it next school year.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) English III and Algebra II classes have been taking the PARCC practice tests to prepare for the upcoming assessment; 2) Cast List for spring play has been announced. The play will be held May 13th at 7 pm; 3) Boys basketball team begins regional play Monday, February 22nd at Goreville and will play Cobden at 7:30 pm; 4) Girls basketball team finished the season last week; 5) Spring is not far off. Baseball and softball begin practice on March 1st; 6) Scholar Bowl Team is currently: J.V. 6-7 Varsity 9-10. They will participate in a Masonic Tournament at Cobden on Saturday, February 20th. We

will also be hosting the Scholar Bowl regional tournament this year for the first time ever with nine teams coming on March 7th; 7) Emily Billington won 1st in SAR writing contest Statewide and receives a \$1,000 scholarship at an Award Ceremony in May in Springfield, IL; 8) WYSE team members participated in a contest at SIC. Pierce Bowman and Emma Wasson placed 3rd in Physics, Jackie Clardy placed 3rd in Biology, and Emily Billington placed 1st in English; 9) Allie Hughes has applied and interviewed for Secretary of the Little Egypt District Student Council and looks like she will get elected; 10) 2/3 of the library books have been cataloged; and 11) Current enrollment is Freshman – 36, Sophomores – 40, Juniors – 43, and Seniors – 35, total – 154.

Mr. Bleyer reported on the following: 1) The Governor's recent Address was directed toward education and fully funding GSA and Early Childhood. If the formula goes to 100% funding this will cause a cost shift to the Districts. The pension is also being looked at with possibly more of the cost being put on the Districts. There will be more to come soon; 2) The HVAC replacements have been completed and heat that been restored. I want to thank the students and staff of the high school for being patient with the process. I also want to thank Jeremy Hogg for hauling in the industrial heating unit that provided enough heat to keep the building warm; 3) The District Improvement Plan has been submitted through Rising Star were approved by the ISBE. This now puts us in a better position to compete for grants and awards moving forward. We are working on grants for the kitchen and playground equipment. The Ag grant has also been

submitted and waiting to hear back; and 4) Now that the WIFI has been upgraded, we will be continuing the upgrade of our computers and continue to replace the desktops with laptops. All of these transitions will use federal grant Title I funds.

A motion to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance and evaluations was made by Richerson and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea. Board entered executive session at 5:25 p.m.

A motion was made by Richerson and seconded by Collier to return to regular session. All members present voted yea. Board returned at 6:51 p.m.

Under New Business, the Statements of Economic Interest were distributed and returned completed forms.

A motion to authorize the Superintendent to solicit bids for services (diesel, fuel, bakery products, dairy products, tires, trash removal, and pest control) was made by Collier and seconded by Richerson. All members present voted yea.

A motion was made to set 8th Grade Promotion for May 19, 2016 to begin at 7 pm and High School Graduation for May 20, 2016 to begin at 7 pm was made by Hansen and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

A motion to reschedule the May Board meeting to Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 7 pm due the 8th Grade Promotion was made by Hansen and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

A motion was made by Richerson and seconded by Collier to accept the resignation of Mrs. Nicole Pochay as individual aide effective February 19, 2016. All members present voted yea.

A motion to post for individual aide was made by Richerson and seconded by Collier. All members present voted yea.

A motion to accept the leave request of Mrs. Chelsea Jennings for the remainder of the school year was made by Coen and seconded by Richerson. All members present voted yea.

A motion to approve girls coach, Mrs. April Hogg, and boys coach, Mr. Kelly King, for the 5th and 6th grade basketball was made by Richerson and seconded by Hansen. All members presented voted yea.

A motion to approve Mr. Mike Hall and Mrs. Krysta Graves as volunteer assistant coaches for the 2016 high school softball season was made by Richerson and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

A motion to approve Mrs. Ashley Bowles Adams as volunteer assistant coach for the 2016 high school softball season pending certification was made by Collier and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

Under Old Business, Superintendent Bleyer was asked to bring a possible contract for Mrs. Cathy Broadway to the next Board meeting.

Under Other School Business, Superintendent Bleyer discussed with the Board the District's contract with QNS. After some discussion, a motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Coen to post for a possible IT position and an IT maintenance and service contract. All members present voted yea.

President Clay appointed Kevin Richerson, Michael Hansen, and himself to the Negotiation Committee for the teacher contracts.

Board member Richerson brought to the Board his recommendation to purchase a memorial brick from the SIC Foundation for the Memorial Fountain that will be built on the campus of SIC in memory of the Leap Year Tornado and its victims. A motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Richerson to purchase an 8x8 memorial brick for \$350.00 and for the high school student council members to decide what goes on the brick. All members present voted yea.

President Clay discussed with the Board the possible expansion of the restrooms at the ball fields with a concession stand and storage area. They have asked Doug Hopkins for an estimate and waiting to hear from him.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn until the next regular scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 7 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library was made by Collier and seconded by Richerson. All members present voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

**Allen Clay, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**