

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting  
Pope County CUSD #1  
Board of Education  
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library  
January 21, 2021  
7:00 p.m.**

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

**Motion to approve the agenda was made by Walker and seconded by Wallace.  
Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 12/17/2020; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; 5) Approve destruction of Closed Session Meeting CDs more than 18 months old; and 6) Accept resignation of Brett Lewis as Jr. High baseball coach. After some discussion on the bills, roll call vote: all ayes. President Hogg asked if they could get a report on the past year's WOVSED billing at the next meeting.**

**President Hogg stated the Board had received a Thank You card from all the bus drivers for the monetary gift they received in December. Mr. Blankenship also**

presented a Thank You card from all the elementary teachers and staff to the Board.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) We are in the process of the Aimsweb testing for the Winter benchmark; 2) Progress Reports for the 3rd quarter are scheduled to go out on February 5<sup>th</sup>; 3) Mrs. Dunning's 4th grade class is accepting donations for the St. Jude Quest for One Million Pennies; 4) Mrs. Bevis and Ms. Flannery are running an After-The-Holidays food drive; 5) We had a Winter Screening for Pre-K last Friday; 6) The girls and boys basketball teams are starting to participate in open gyms; 7) Current numbers: 292 in-person (88%) and 41 remote (12%). Current Enrollment 333 as of January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Graves reported the following: 1) Presented a Thank You card from all the high school teachers and staff for the generous gift; 2) The custodial staff had the building clean and well sanitized upon our returning. They have gone above and beyond this year in keeping our building going and our students and faculty safe; 3) Report cards went out on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>; 4) Boys and Girls Basketball are scheduling and preparing to host open gyms; 5) The staff sends their thanks and gratitude for the generous Christmas gift; 6) FBLA is hosting a month long fundraiser for a young boy with cancer and are also partnering with Mrs. Dunning's class for the St. Jude Penny Drive. Also on February 11<sup>th</sup>, they will be going back to Faith Alive for more food and clothing pantry work; 7)

Speech Team came in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the small team division last weekend, coming in 8<sup>th</sup> overall out of 19 teams! This weekend is the last regular season tournament of the year, and then they have to prepare for Regionals on February 6<sup>th</sup>; 8) \$4500 Back to Book Grants has been spent. We used \$4499.26 of the money. The high school was able to purchase 220 new books, a mix of fiction and nonfiction; 9) Through the work of Mrs. Hosfeldt, we received another \$1500 library grant (Library Book Selection Service Endowment Fund); and 10) Enrollment: 170. Remote Learners: 25% (43). Packets: 19. E-Learning: 24.

Mr. Fritch reported on the following: 1) ESSER Cares Grant has released more funds and the District is projected to receive an additional \$575,000 to be spent in this fiscal year. We are still waiting to hear when these funds will be released and the stipulations of spending. If possible, we could spend these funds on transportation or septic system; 2) The State went from Tier 2 to Phase 4 over the weekend; 3) Sherriff Suits found out two of our SROs got dismissed from training after the second day due to not having the proper experience in law enforcement. Sherriff Suits is trying to get this worked out. Our SROs have a year and a half to get this training completed. Aly added that our students feel safer having them present on school grounds. Hogg stated they are good to have but need to be able to do something, should need be. Mr. Fritch stated he feels they are not 100% legal and we may be walking a gray line. They are not sworn officers of the law but our lawyers and State's Attorney agree they are legal as SROs; and 4) 80 hours of COVID time was given to employees if they had.

to be quarantined in lieu of using personal time, which expired December 31<sup>st</sup>. Private sectors have extended this to March 31<sup>st</sup> but will be labeled as Administrative Leave of Absence. Schuchardt asked if the septic was repaired. Mr. Fritch stated that it is fixed and no problems have occurred. The bottom of the clay pipe was broken which caused the problems. Schuchardt asked if the wifi had been updated in the school. Mr. Fritch stated it has been updated in both buildings but we need more bandwidth coming into the school. Once this is achieved, we can upgrade our phone system without the internet slowing down. Mr. Fritch is looking into E-rate funds to help cover the cost.

Motion to enter executive session for the purpose of personnel employment, performance, and procedures was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered executive session at 7:34 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 8:18 pm.

Under New Business, a motion to approve closed session minutes and recommendation of minutes to become public record was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch distributed the PRESS updates on Board Policy along with a cheat sheet of those changes. Mr. Fritch stated the biggest change was the legislative

changes in the sexual harassment policies. The administration attending a meeting on these changes during the summer. A motion to adopt Board Policy Manual PRESS updates as presented was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch explained with the increase in the minimum wage as a January 1<sup>st</sup>, our substitute teacher pay rate needs to be increased to reflect and met the requirements of the new rate. An increase of \$25 will carry the District through until 2025 to meet the minimum wage rate of \$15 per hour. Motion to approve an increase in pay for substitute teachers from \$80 to \$105 per day to reflect the increase in minimum wage was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: Kizziar; abstained; Walker, Aly, Schuchardt, Wallace, Hogg; all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Fritch stated we still have not received our Annual Financial Report from our auditors due to COVID and related issues. He did email an electronic copy but are still waiting on hard copies. We should have them for the next meeting. This item was tabled.

Mr. Fritch stated that last year the Board had decided to bid fuel in January to hopefully get a better price for the coming year. Our current bid expires January 31<sup>st</sup>. A motion to authorize superintendent to solicit bids for fuel was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

**With no further business to be discussed, Schuchardt made a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library, seconded by Wallace.**

**All members present voted aye.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.**

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**Jeremy Hogg, President  
Board of Education**

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**Paula Baker, Secretary  
Board of Education**