

**Minutes for Regular Meeting  
Pope County CUSD #1  
Board of Education  
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library  
Thursday, March 17, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Clay and the following members were present: Hansen, Hogg, Coen, Simmons, Richerson, Collier, and Clay.

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

A motion was made by Hogg and seconded by Coen to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 2/18/16; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; and 5) renew IHSA membership. After some questions regarding the bills, all members present voted yea.

Under Administrative Reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) PARCC testing is underway; 2) Pre-K screenings are re-scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>; 3) Spring pictures for K-8 are scheduled on April 8<sup>th</sup>; 4) Kindergarten Pre-registration will be April 8<sup>th</sup>; 5) Jr. High Choir will be doing a musical for the students on March 24<sup>th</sup>; 6) We have several classes from grades 1-5 taking part

in the Stewardship program between April 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Dixon Springs Ag Center; 7) Current Enrollment is 383 as of March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bleyer reported the following for Mr. Fritch: 1) We are currently taking the PARCC test for Algebra 2 and English 3 students; 2) The end of third quarter is March 11th. Grade cards will be mailed on the 16<sup>th</sup>; 3) Baseball and Softball seasons are in full swing; 4) Scholar Bowl team hosted the Regional Tournament on March 7th. Vienna won the tournament; 5) We had 2 students finish with a Division I (Superior) at the IHSA Music Contest- Those students were: Hilary Hughes and Cameron Hill; 6) Regional art show is on April 15<sup>th</sup>; 7) FFA Tractor Show is on April 9<sup>th</sup>; 8) Enrollment: Freshman- 36, Sophomores- 39, Juniors- 42, Seniors- 34, total 151. Also reported was: 1) Jacob Rison placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall in Algebra I at the ICTM competition which qualifies him to compete at the State level at U of I. The team placed 2<sup>nd</sup>; 2) Taylor Hall and Natalie Bonnell placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the team FFA interview competition and will be competing at the District level on April 28<sup>th</sup>; 3) Emily Billington entered a writing contest and still waiting on the scores but hopeful she placed in the top 10; and 4) Allie Hughes was elected as Secretary of the Little Egypt District of Student Councils.

Mr. Bleyer reported on the following: 1) Superintendent Report

The politics surrounding the state budget and the future of education in the state of Illinois continues to be precarious. Every day is a new challenge. In one week, the governor proposed full funding of General State Aid, a zeroing out of

the entire Agriculture budget for schools, and a desire to change the funding formula for education. That is three different funding approaches in one week. On Thursday, March 10th there were committee hearings on education funding. These hearings may have influence on the upcoming budget. As this week progresses, I may have new information at the meeting; 2) We have organized a District Leadership Team that is made of all administrators and a mixture of elementary and secondary teachers. This Team met with members of Center of School Improvement on March 4th for an all day school co-interpretation meeting. At this meeting, we focused on internal and state data to better align our curriculum and pedagogy to address weaknesses in the district. We saw significant gaps in mathematics and student attendance while seeing strength in reading. Although we already knew this information, it was nice to compile and organize the data; 3) All high school staff have now been supplied new laptop computers. I will now finish with replacing all remaining desktops and improving remaining lab and increasing laptop carts. This will enable more student accessibility. Since I replaced our last QNS technician, we have had much better communication and support services. I was able to move the renewal of our QNS contract from 120 to 30 days out. This will give us more time to analyze their services for the remainder of the year; and 4) In April, I have a performance contracting group, GRP, which specializes in school renovations coming to analyze our facilities. This group works on schools all over the state. They will be able to detail what areas that are in critical need for repair, replacement, or renovation, and provide us with a blueprint moving forward for our facilities.

**A motion to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel and personnel employment was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea. Board entered executive session at 7:20 p.m.**

**A motion was made by Richerson and seconded by Coen to return to regular session. All members present voted yea. Board returned at 8:23 p.m.**

**Under New Business, a motion to approve the bid from Lewis Bakery for bakery products for the 2016-17 SY was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea.**

**A motion to approve the bid from Prairie Farms for dairy products for the 2016-17 SY was made by Hogg and seconded by Richerson. All members present voted yea.**

**A motion to approve the bid from Enviro-Tech for pest control for the 2016-17 SY was made by Collier and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.**

**A motion to approve the bid from Raben Tire for tires for the 2016-17 SY was made by Hansen and seconded by Hogg. All members present voted yea.**

**The Board decided to rebid the fuel and rebid the trash pick up as a 3-year bid.**

A motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Simmons to approve the overnight trip for Student Council members to attend the State Convention in Springfield, Illinois on May 5-7. All members present voted as follows: Hansen, Hogg, Coen, Simmons, Collier, and Clay; yea, Richerson abstained.

A motion to hire Sarah Simmons for individual aide for the remainder of the 2015-16 SY was made by Richerson and seconded by Hansen. All members present voted as follows; Hansen, Hogg, Coen, Richerson, Collier, and Clay; yea, Simmons abstained.

A motion to approve Resolution 16-03-17A authorizing the dismissal of the following full-time educational support personnel: Amanda Evenson, Candice Lemon, Robbie Reeder, Chelsea Jennings, Kathryn Jolly, Shannon Markus, James Forthman, Amber Presser, Amanda Rawlings, and Julie Roper was made by Richerson and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

Under Old Business, a motion to renew Mr. Blankenship's contract as Elementary Principal and Mr. Fritch's contract as High School Principal was made by Coen and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted as follows: Hansen, Coen, Simmons, Richerson, Collier, and Clay; yea, Hogg abstained.

Under Other School Business, Superintendent Bleyer reported he has asked another contractor, Mr. Jergens, for a quote on building the concession stand. He also stated he has asked SEIEC for a bid on the electrical. Both have been onsite and we are waiting on the quotes.

Board member Coen, addressed the Board regarding the 1% sales tax that he recommends the District consider. With two counties passing it in the recent election, this is something that this District needs to look at. With all the renovations and improvements needed in our buildings, this would cover the cost of the projects. Member Coen made a motion to form a committee to look into the 1% sales tax. Superintendent Bleyer added that this money could only be used for construction and the Board could set the timeframe whether it is a 15 year or a sunset provision. It would be a Board decision to get it on the ballot for November. With the State continuously cutting school funding, this would cover the loss of funds. Board will wait for the survey from GRP detailing what areas are in critical need for repair, replacement, or renovation. Motion fails for lack of second.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn until the next regular scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 7 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library was made by Richerson and seconded by Simmons. All members present voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

---

**Allen Clay, President  
Board of Education**

---

**Paula Baker, Secretary  
Board of Education**