

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting  
Pope County CUSD #1  
Board of Education  
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library  
Thursday, May 17, 2018  
7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Hansen and the following members were present: Schuchardt, Wallace, Simmons, Clay, and Hansen.**

**Coen and Hogg were absent.**

**Motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Schuchardt to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: all yeas.**

**Motion was made by Clay and seconded by Simmons to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve minutes of Board meeting on 3/8/18, 4/19/2018, 5/3/2018, 5/9/2018; 2) Approve closed session minutes; 3) Approve bills for payment; and 4) Accept Financial Report. After questions regarding bills, roll call vote: all yeas.**

**Coen entered the meeting at 7:02 pm.**

**Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) The last day for the Pre-K students will be this Friday – May 18<sup>th</sup>. They will have their Pre-K Picnic will be on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at Noble Park; 2) The Kindergarten program will be on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30; 3) We will have a workshop for**

staff members on May 30<sup>th</sup> – The workshop will focus on working with students with disabilities; 4) The collection of plastic caps and lids brought in by the students, staff, and community has produced in excess of 2500 lbs. We have used the amount brought in to secure 3 - 6 ft benches and an adult picnic table with the possibility of an additional bench. I want to thank Mrs. Reed for heading up this program and bagging the huge amount of lids. Mrs. Reed and I would also like to thank the students, staff and community for their donations of caps and lids; 5) The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have their parent-organized trip to Holiday World on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>; and 6) Current enrollment is 382 as of May 10<sup>th</sup>. The caps and lids collection may continue next year. President Hansen shared the Youth League is allowing the freshmen class of 2022 the running of the concession stands during the summer to use toward their Project Graduation when they graduate.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) Baseball Regionals are at Pope County. The boys lost to Crab Orchard tonight; 2) Softball Regionals are at Cobden. Our team advanced to the championship and will play Saturday; 3) Boys and Girls basketball teams have several things scheduled for the summer; 4) John Bremer advanced in the Ag Mechanics welding competition at U of I at Champaign. He won the contest and is the Illinois FFA Ag Welding State Champion! We also have two students that received full scholarships to SIC for welding, John Bremer and Kyle Kunath; 5) Natalie Bonnell has been selected as the 18-19 FFA Section President; 6) Jordyn Swinford has been selected as the 18-19 FFA Section

Sentinel; 7) Janitors are set to begin summer work; and 8) Enrollment: Freshmen – 36, Sophomores – 41, Juniors – 31; and Seniors – 30 with the total being 138.

Dr. Bleyer reported on the following: 1) I have ordered the new Epson projectors for the classrooms. The installers will be here in July, and it will take about two weeks for installation. There will be training for the teachers during the two day workshops prior to the beginning of student attendance; 2) The state is more current this year on funding. We have received most of our funding on time, and it appears that the drama from last year will be averted; 3) Our District insurance, Egyptian Trust, will be increasing premiums by 9.5%. The Trust has implemented seven tiers for Districts and is based on usage. 9.5% is the highest tier this year. They maintain that this is an adjustment and expect lower increases next year; 4) The Honor's Banquet was once again successful. I want to thank everyone that was involved in the preparation for the event. It was a true team effort. I also want to thank the Rotary for providing and cooking the pork for the Banquet.

Motion to enter closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Simmons and seconded by Coen. Roll call vote: all yeas. Board entered at 7:11 pm.

**Motion to return to regular session was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Board returned at 7:32 pm. Roll call vote: all yeas.**

**President Hansen recognized Mr. Wade Swinford to explain the 3 Circles Grant and Mr. Swinford introduced Mr. Dean Dittmar. Mr. Dittmar explained the purpose of the grant is to obtain quality Ag teachers and to compensate them for 400 hours of their time beyond the regular school year. This is a matching grant that the State will pay and the other part to be paid by donation. The donation has already been secured and the hours already logged. No District monies will be used to fund this grant. A motion was made by Coen and seconded by Wallace to approve the MOU with PCEA. Roll call vote: all yeas.**

**Dr. Bleyer highlighted line items in the budget and discussed the amendments. He also pointed out the State and Federal line items have been funded and are paid up-to-date. Some of these were previous year payments that were received this year. Grants were also awarded more funding and transportation payments, including an extra payment. These factors have all been helpful in the influx of funds in the budget. Dr. Bleyer explained the deficit in expenses is only at \$-6,000 and thanked all the District employees for their effort in keeping expenses low. After all the Board members had a chance to view the amended budget, a motion to display the tentative amended budget for FY 2017-18 was made by Clay and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all yeas.**

A motion to approve overnight field trip for the FFA to attend the State Convention in June was made by Clay and seconded by Coen. Mr. Swinford stated his wife would be the female chaperone and 12 – 13 students would be attending this year. Roll call vote: all yeas.

A motion to hire and approve contract with Mr. Bailey Climer as Interim Superintendent was made by Simmons and seconded by Clay. Roll call vote: all yeas.

Under Old Business, President Hansen stated the Goals Committee has not met yet and would set a meeting date once the quotes come in for the elementary doors and windows. He also stated the Safety Committee has added members, Patty Ferrell and Krysta Graves. They will get a date scheduled for a meeting soon.

Other School Business, Member Simmons asked Mr. Fritch about the bell system in the high school. He stated it was not working and they have to ring the bell by hand. He stated the bell system is so antiquated that no one is able to work on it. The intercom system is also antiquated and he would like to see about getting an intercom system with a bell system built in to replace both systems. The Board asked him to get some quotes together and the Goals Committee would consider the replacement of the system.

**Member Schuchardt asked if many forms were returned regarding the road. Dr. Bleyer stated he received several and have all been sent to Senator Shimkus' office. The Board thanked Dr. Bleyer for sending the form out and making everyone aware of the issue.**

**Member Coen asked if Millstone has fixed the dirt in front of the school that was tore up last year when replacing the water line. Mr. Blankenship said they have completed it and the dirt is leveled out.**

**Mr. Dean Dittmar thanked the Board for their time and allowing him to speak. He also distributed the 2017 Illinois Agricultural Education Report to all members.**

**A motion was made by Clay and seconded by Wallace to adjourn the meeting until the next scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library with a Public Hearing on the Amended Budget to begin at 6:45 pm. All members present voted yea.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.**

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**Michael Hansen, President  
Board of Education**

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**Paula Baker, Secretary  
Board of Education**