

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
November 14, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Board President Hansen and the following members were present: Schuchardt, Wallace, Simmons, Clay, Hogg, and Hansen. Coen was absent.

Motion was made by Clay and seconded by Simmons to approve the agenda.

Roll call vote: all yeas.

Motion was made by Hogg and seconded by Wallace to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 10/19/2017; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; 4) Accept Financial Reports; and 5) Accept Resignation of Kim Boaz as bus driver.

Roll call vote: all yeas.

Under Recognition of Visitors, President Hansen recognized the Senior and Freshman Civics Class Proposal Committee addressing the Board regarding their Civics Project. The committee comprised of Emily Adduci, Jayden Smith, Trenton Huston, Gwen Bowman, Allie Hughes, and Maggee Bleyer presenting their trash cans on the levy project to help beautify the area down by the Ohio River. Each member of the committee presented a portion of the presentation

explaining all the aspects of the project. Businesses and private individuals will be able to sponsor a trash can and have their name put on the lid. The goal is to purchase all materials for the project locally to support local businesses.

Advertisements will be put in the newspaper, on the school website, and on Facebook providing more information about the project and how to donate. A Go Fund Me account has also been started on Facebook. The Civics class will continue the Hometown Heroes Project each year with the Seniors and Freshmen. This project will also be used as a leadership opportunity for the Seniors to guide the Freshmen in becoming leaders. President Hasnen thanked and commended the committee on a job well done and stated they will all grow from this experience. He asked that they come back at the end of the year and report on the outcome of the project.

Member Coen entered the meeting at 7:28 pm.

The Board then recognized Jessi Hall, Softball Coach, to discuss the softball field complex project. She asked the Board if they would make a decision on the softball field project so they could have it ready by the first of March. She asked that dugouts, concession stand/press box, bleachers, and the infield that Baysinger proposed at the last meeting all be considered for approval. She would like to see a field and softball complex that the team and fans would be proud of and take pride in. President Hansen stated they are waiting on bids from Baysinger to see pricing on the project. He stated he thought they would

have bids for this meeting and asked Dr. Bleyer to find out when the bids would be ready. The Board will call a special meeting to go over the bids once they receive them. Dr. Bleyer added that most school districts bond out the funding of a project of this size. He also added that they might want to look at other projects the district needs. There are some needs at the elementary school, original exterior doors and windows that need to be replaced. Member Coen asked that they pull the list of improvements out that was developed three years ago and prioritize the repairs and start looking at starting the projects now while the interest rates are down. Blankenship added that replacing the doors and windows would save on energy costs and save money in the long run. The Board will decide what capital of improvements is needed along with the softball field project and how to fund the projects at a special called meeting to be held in December.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) Progress reports for the 2nd quarter will be sent out on November 16th; 2) Parent/Teacher conferences went well. We had 405 parent contacts involving 271 students, the most we have ever had; 3) Mrs. Reed and our students in grades 3-4-5 presented a Veteran's Day tribute on November 9th and was an awesome program. Thank you Mrs. Reed for a job well done; 4) Picture retakes and clubs/sports pictures will be taken on November 15th; 5) Student in grades 3-5 will perform their Christmas program on December 19th and the program for students in grades K-2 will take place December 20th. Both programs will start at

1:3- pm and will be in the Elementary gym. The Winter Choir Program will take place in the High School gym on December 14th; 6) Spelling Bee will take place on November 16th at 1:00 pm; 7) We will recognize our 8th grade basketball players and parents on December 11th for the girls and December 12th for the boys; and 8) Current enrollment as of November 14th is 390. This is up from last year. Member Schuchardt asked about the AC unit in the teacher's lounge. Mr. Blankenship stated that the old portable unit stopped working and they replaced it with a new unit today. The original AC unit has not worked for several years. They called a company several years ago to come in and all they did is extend the duct work from the library in to the teacher's lounge but it did not work due to no air intake in that room. They are looking at a split unit that is mounted on the wall that would provide AC and heat. They are energy efficient units and work well. They are looking at these units to replace all the old AC units throughout the building. Member Coen asked about the new water line and if they were going to come back and clean up their mess. Mr. Blankenship stated it is the contractors responsibility for cleanup and we have been told they are returning to complete it. Member Coen asked if Dr. Bleyer could write a letter to Millstone requesting a time line for the cleanup.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) FFA teams have been in competition and doing well; 2) Cross Country – Boys qualified as a team for the sectional Keely Clay and Amy Weaver qualified as individuals; 3) Quad state choir at Murray State – 800 students that audition/200 selected we had 8 Pope County students

represented; 4) Boys basketball begins the season on November 20th at the Crab Orchard Turkey Tournament; 5) Girls basketball begins the season on November 14th at the Meridian Lady Bobcat Classic playing Dongola; 6) Christmas Concert December 14th at 6:30 in the high school gym; 7) Date in question – Concert Choir and Madrigal Cast has been selected by WSIL Channel 3 to participate in recording – Sounds of the Season; 8) Madrigal performance will be December 15th at 7:00 pm and December 16th at 1:00 pm; 9) Scholar Bowl season has begun and Varsity is 4-1; 10) Progress reports go out on November 16th; 11) Picture retakes and sport pictures will be on November 16th; and 12) Enrollment: Freshmen – 37, Sophomore – 41, Juniors – 32, and Seniors – 31, Total is 141. Mr. Fritch also added the Board asked him to get the number of students involved in extra-curricular activities, currently there are 113.

President Hansen asked Mrs. Hosfeldt how the bingo turned out and she reported the raised just over \$1,000. The event had a great turn out and plan on doing it again. Mr. Fritch stated Mrs. Hosfeldt and Mrs. Graves are doing a great job in their classes and with the Civics project. Member Schuchardt asked about the sound system in the high school gym if there is any way we can improve it. Mrs. Hosfeldt stated we need about \$3,000 worth of work to make the sound better for everyone that uses the system. The shape of the room is the problem but could be better with the purchase of some sound boards installed in the ceiling. Dr. Bleyer state they are looking in to some sound barriers.

Dr. Bleyer reported the following: 1) The lead testing for our elementary wing and the cafeteria has been completed. The fountain in the gym had an elevated reading. I shut off its' access until the problem was isolated. Since the other lines were clear, we knew that there had to be some other problem. A valve was isolated and replaced. I had the fountain tested once again, and it came back all clear. I have added the letter that has been sent home to the parents/guardians and posted on our website; 2) We received most of our funding from last fiscal year. We are still awaiting \$34,000. As far as this year, we are receiving last year's levels. ISBE is suppose to inform districts of the new funding levels in January; and 3) Our IL-Empower School Improvement Team is regularly meeting to address the standards and indicators for the improvement rubric. This has afforded us with a great opportunity to meet and collaborate on the District culture and climate. I have also met with the two student council's president and vice-president to engage them in the collaborative process. I am extremely proud of the involvement of the faculty and the students. We will be sharing our experiences with ISBE when they visit on November 28th. Member Schuchardt commended Dr. Bleyer on getting the District up-to-date on technology but has heard some complaints on the external CD drives not working properly. Dr. Bleyer stated if anyone needs a new one, just contact him. Member Coen suggested there be some technology training offered as professional development. Mrs. Hosfeldt added that the wifi in the high school buildings was not working properly and she has had to run Ethernet cables to the laptops in the library so the students could use them. Dr. Bleyer stated QNS has found that

our switches are the problem and we need new ones. Once the switches get replaced, it should elevate the problems with the wifi. Member Wallace asked if we were getting our monies worth from QNS. Dr. Bleyer stated our rate is determined by the number of computers. President Hansen suggested we write a letter of intent to bid out the IT services.

Motion to enter executive session for the purpose of personnel was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all yeas. Board entered executive session at 8:40 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Simmons and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all yeas. Board returned at 9:19 pm.

Dr. Bleyer distributed the tentative 2017 tax levy and explained to the Board it will be 4.99% as in the past year. The EVA increased to \$2,000,000 from last year. No action was needed.

Motion to post for a full-time bus driver was made by Coen and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all yeas.

Motion to approve FMLA as requested was made by Clay and seconded by Coen. Roll call vote: Schuchardt, abstained; Wallace, Simmons, Coen, Clay, Hogg, and Hansen, yeas.

Motion to cover ½ of the cost (\$1,250) of pitching machine with the Pope County Youth League covering the other portion of the cost to be used by the District and the League was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all yeas. President Hansen added as a trustee on the Pope County Youth League, he wanted to share some recent donations the League has made to the school; \$1,000 toward the high school cheerleader uniforms, purchased a yearbook ad, purchased a chair for the basketball team, half the cost of the softball field backstop, just to name a few. Hansen stated he is proud of what the League has done to help the school.

Under Old Business, Dr. Bleyer stated he contacted HealthWorks in Paducah regarding their drug testing policy. They charge \$60 per test, \$200 site fee, they would randomly select the names, notify by E-reporting to the District, have a medical resource officer to administer the test, secure the test site, allow 3 hour to provide a sample and if no sample is given it is a refusal, and they have never been in a school setting only businesses. After much discussion, the Board agreed the age of the random drug testing would be high school age only. The Board continued the discussion with policy of the drug testing; will drug counseling be offered if test positive, who will pay for counseling, sample size,

what company will do testing, what punishment for a positive test. This is what the Board will have to develop and once passed, will have to stand behind it and enforce it.

With no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Clay to adjourn the meeting until the next scheduled meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library. All members present voted yea.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.

**Michael Hansen, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**