

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting  
Pope County CUSD #1  
Board of Education  
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library  
November 17, 2015  
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 6:57 pm by Board President Clay and the following members were present: Hansen, Hogg, Coen, Richerson, Collier, and Clay. Simmons was absent.

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

Motion was made by Hogg and seconded by Coen to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 10/15/15 and 10/27/15; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. After some discussion regarding the bills, all members present voted yea.

At this time the Board recognized Mrs. Brandi Robinson. Mrs. Robinson addressed the Board with some concerns regarding the changes in the bus route for bus #10. She discussed the 20-30 minutes extension to the route, earlier pick-up times with later drop-off times, added discipline problems on the bus and asking why the change occurred with little to no notice. She asked that the Board give some answers regarding the reasoning for the change, if not at

this meeting, at the next meeting. Mr. Rodney Crimm also addressed the Board with his concerns for his preschooler that is the 1<sup>st</sup> to get picked up in the mornings and the last to get off in the afternoons, which is an hour and half bus ride, adding he felt this was too long for a preschool age student.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) Progress reports for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter are planned to go out November 19<sup>th</sup>; 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Discovery Assessment for grades 4-8 is scheduled to be completed by December 11<sup>th</sup>; 3) Parent/Teacher conferences went well. We had 334 parent contacts involving 259 students down from the previous year; 4) Elementary Christmas program is planned for grades K-12 on December 17<sup>th</sup> and for grades 3-4-5 on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Both programs will start at 1:30 p.m. and will be in the Elementary gym. The Winter Choir Program will take place in the High School gym on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.; 5) Spelling Bee will take place on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.; 6) 8<sup>th</sup> grade player recognition will be on December 14<sup>th</sup> for the girls basketball players; and 7) Current enrollment is 372 as of November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) FFA Trap team has been in competition – Individuals have done very well; 2) Boys basketball begins the season on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Crab Orchard Turkey Tournament; 3) Girls basketball begins the season on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Meridian Lady Bobcats Classic. The girls lost to Shawnee the first game and play again Wednesday; 4) Christmas Concert will be December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the high school gym; 5) On December

1<sup>st</sup> the Concert Choir and Madrigal Cast has been selected by WSIL Channel 3 to participate in recording the Sounds of the Season; 6) Madrigal performance will be December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm; 7) Scholar Bowl season has begun; 8) I would like to thank Mrs. Jessica Wagner for taking the High School Shrimp Fest volunteers to Grover Webb's farm; 9) Progressive reports go out on November 19<sup>th</sup>; 10) Picture retakes and sport pictures will be on November 19<sup>th</sup>; and 11) Enrollment is currently: Freshman, 36; Sophomore, 41; Juniors, 44; and Seniors, 36, total 157.

Mr. Bleyer reported the following: 1) To this point, there has been no movement on the Illinois budget. As everyone knows, this is putting a tremendous strain on governmental and social services throughout the state. However, the two political parties seem fine with the impasse and are not making any attempts to reconcile. As of today, the census is that nothing will be decided until after the first of the new year; 2) The PARRC Test scores from last school year have been distributed to the school districts, but ISBE has asked districts to hold the scores due to a lack of reliability; 3) After listening to concerns from Kim Smith, driver of bus 5, about the deterioration of Burden Falls road, I inspected the road. It was truly in horrible shape. I spoke with Shawnee National Forest Supervisor Allen Nicholas about the condition of the road, and he assured me that the road would be repaired. As of two weeks ago, the road has been repaired. I want to thank Supervisor Nicholas for upgrading revisions; 4) We are currently revision our school improvement plan through Rising Star and through

Center of School Improvement. The revisions will more tightly align us to the state and federal standards and improve our ability to secure grants. I want to thank the two principals and Lisa Reed for their work on these important revisions; and 5) I am extremely pleased with the ongoing efforts of our entire faculty and staff in relation to our special education programs. The data generated from our district demonstrates the effectiveness of our programs and the care for the students. During Mr. Bleyer's report, he showed pictures of Burden Falls Road, the low tunnels that the Ag students are building for growing plants and vegetables, the new batting cage doors the Ag students installed, and information pertaining to the district special education status.

Motion to enter executive session for the purpose of personnel employment and performance was made by Coen and seconded by Hogg. All members present voted yea. Board entered executive session at 7:44 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Hogg and seconded by Richerson. All members present voted yea. Board returned at 10:32 pm.

Mr. Bleyer distributed three tax levy options and discussed each one explaining what it would mean for the District. The Property Tax Freeze that the State is proposing would freeze the tax levy for 3 years. This could mean a loss of funds for the District over the next three years. After much discussion, Coen made a motion to approve intent to levy taxes but not to exceed 11.93% and to display

tentative tax levy. Board members had more discussion and Board member Coen rescinded his previous motion and made a motion to approve the higher tax levy. More discussion followed and Coen amended his motion to approve but not to exceed 11.93% tax levy without the balloon payment and seconded by Hogg. All members present voted as follows: Hogg, Coen, Collier, Clay; yea; Hansen, Richerson; nay. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt PRESS updates was made by Hansen and seconded by Coen. All members present voted as follows: Hansen, Hogg, Coen, Collier; yea; Richerson, Clay; nay.

Motion to approve the 2015-16 School Improvement Plan was made by Richerson and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

Motion to approve out-of-state field trip to the Carson Center in Paducah, KY for 5th grade classes to see the performance of Into the Wild with Jack Hanna as requested by Mrs. Elaine Bramlet and Ms. Kelly Clark was made by Collier and seconded by Coen. All members present voted yea.

Motion to hire Mrs. Amanda Rawlings for Individual Aide was made by Hansen and seconded by Hogg. All members present voted yea.

**Motion to accept the retirement letter of Anna Werner effective today was made by Coen and seconded by Hansen. All members present voted yea.**

**Motion to post for head cook was made by Coen and seconded by Hogg. All members present voted yea.**

**Motion to post for Individual Aide was made by Collier and seconded by Richerson All members present voted yea.**

**With no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Richerson to adjourn the meeting until the next scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library with a Tax Levy Hearing to be held at 6:45 pm. All members present voted yea.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:23 pm.**

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**Allen Clay, President  
Board of Education**

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**Paula Baker, Secretary  
Board of Education**