

**Minutes for Special Called Meeting  
Pope County CUSD #1  
Board of Education  
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library  
Via Pope County High School Facebook Live  
Thursday, April 30, 2020  
7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting was called to order by President Hansen at 7:00 pm and the following members were present in person: Aly, Wallace, Hogg, and Hansen; present via phone: Walker, Simmons, and Schuchardt.**

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Hogg and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**President Hansen started the meeting with stating that our Governor has ordered the schools to continue with remote learning through the end of the school year. Illinois schools will not be in session the remainder of this school year per the Governor's order. With that being said, the Board has the task of deciding how to execute graduations and all end of year events. Mr. Fritch distributed a letter from the Illinois State Board of Education Superintendent of Schools. The letter stated, "in-person graduation ceremonies of any kind are not allowed at this time. This directive extends to drive-thorough graduation ceremonies or events where students come in small groups to the school or another location for a photo or to walk across a stage. The Governor's extended stay-at-home order prohibits group gatherings". Mr. Fritch distributed the**

options they have for graduation ceremonies. The first option has been eliminated due to the order from the Superintendent of Schools, which was to have an in person ceremony with only the graduate and a set amount of guests come in individually to the gym to with their name being read, walk across the stage and receive their diploma, and exit the gym. Then the next graduate would enter. We would record all graduates walking across the stage and put together a graduation video with valedictorian speeches, principal's message, roll call, etc. which all graduates would receive a copy via email. Option 2 is an all virtual ceremony. We will distribute caps and gowns and diplomas to the students. We will have the parents take a picture of the graduates with their caps and gowns holding their diploma and email to us. We will put together a graduation video with all the valedictorian speeches, principal's message, roll call with pictures, etc. Option 3 would be to postpone for a later date. President Hansen added that option 3 was not good due to the uncertainty of what will come and how long the order will be in place. He added that he felt option 2 would be the best way to recognize our graduates and will be in social media history forever. Mr. Fritch added that Mrs. Hosfeldt will be developing the graduation videos with all images, recorded speeches, Top Ten, and scholarship recipients. After some discussion, the Board agreed option 2 would be the best choice. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> and High School Graduation will be on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Fritch will start getting the plan in motion and students notified. President Hansen added he appreciates Mrs. Hosfeldt and everyone who can help with getting this accomplished. Mr. Fritch stated that the company we get our

diplomas from in Kentucky, has shut down and we have not received the high school diplomas yet. As soon as we receive them, they will be mailed out to the graduates. We will send them something to hold for their graduation pictures.

President Hansen stated that Mr. Fritch has a schedule for pickup of student belongings, book return, and bill payments. Mr. Fritch distributed a copy of the schedule. Both buildings will have cones out to keep 6 feet distance and measures in place to follow the guidelines recommended by the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health. Some teachers have already packed up student belongings in bags for easy pickup. The schedule will be posted on all social media outlets. Mr. Fritch stated that remote learning will continue until the last schedule day of school. The last round of remote learning packets will not require textbooks. The end of year events such as the Rotary Banquet, Awards Day, FFA Banquet, and Prom have all been canceled due to the order prohibiting group gatherings. Class awards will still be given and mailed out to the students.

President Hansen asked how the remote learning was going. Mr. Fritch stated it is going well. We have about 75 % of high school students working online and the other 25% doing the packets. Mr. Fritch stated we are getting some direction on how the final grades will look since this last quarter is pass/incomplete. It will not hurt the students' grades but might look different than in the past.

President Hansen asked how the meal program was going. Mr. Blankenship stated he is very impressed with the cooks and they are doing a great job. They are cooking and preparing TV trays that students can pop in the microwave and have a good meal.

President Hansen recognized the Music Department and students on their 3<sup>rd</sup> Place State trophy by showing off the trophy. This is the first time in school history that we have placed on a State level in any program. Congratulations to Mrs. Hosfeldt and the students on a job well done.

Member Hogg asked about the grants for remote learning. Mr. Fritch stated \$1,600 grant has been applied for but no word yet. \$146,000 has been allocated to Pope County but we have not received any yet. This is part of the Care Grant that is part of Title I Grant. Since the Governor wants to incorporate more elearning/remote learning, this will help improve our IT infrastructure and computers available to students. Mr. Fritch stated we do not know what the future holds for the next school year and how it will look starting back in August. He added the teachers need to be thinking about remote learning for next school year. Member Hogg asked how the driver's ed students will get caught up on their driving time. Mr. Fritch stated they will finish up the students with permits and get their required driving time in, whether it is with Mr. Forthman, Mr. Fritch, or Ms. Clayton, offering evenings, Saturdays, or whenever time is available. They will develop a plan to get the students completed.

Mr. Fritch added the Maintenance Grant project is scheduled to begin May 10<sup>th</sup> on the elementary doors and windows. They have five scheduled and will add 10 more for a total of 15 units completed. There will be seven left to complete at a later date.

Member Walker asked about the Hometown Heroes project. Mrs. Graves, present at the meeting, stated they have the sign designs set and chosen but due to the shut-downs, the designs are on hold. Her and Mrs. Hosfeldt will get the designs turned in once the business opens again. Mr. Hosfeldt will get the inside marquees installed and running. All TVs have been purchased and are at the school. The money is still in the bank account waiting for the project to continue as planned. Once things are back open, they will resume the project and plan an unveiling of some kind with the students and public.

Member Aly asked if there could be some sort of elearning survey completed by the parents to get a better picture of who has internet available at home. Mr. Fritch stated a form is being developed for parents to complete during registration in the fall. This will help us determine what the District can do to help those that do not have internet at home. This time of remote learning has brought to light the challenges of elearning for our rural District.

President Hansen added he read about a grant offered by FEMA for funds occurred resulting in the Governor's order. The extra postage cost of sending out the remote learning packets might qualify. President Hansen stated he would email Mr. Fritch the grant link.

With no other business, a motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Hogg to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting to be held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library. Roll call vote: all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

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Michael Hansen, President  
Board of Education

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Paula Baker, Secretary  
Board of Education