

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting  
Pope County CUSD #1  
Board of Education  
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library  
December 17, 2020  
7:00 p.m.**

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

**Motion to approve the amended agenda to include the appointment of acting board secretary was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**President Hogg administered oath and seating of new Board member, Randall Kizziar.**

**Motion to appoint John Wallace as acting board secretary due to the absence of current board secretary due to COVID-19 for the 12/17/2020 board meeting was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion was made by Aly and seconded by Schuchardt to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 11/17/2020; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) We will be having another round of Pre-K Screening on January 15<sup>th</sup>; 2) Mrs. Reed will be posting recordings of the different classes (K-5) playing a Christmas song to provide some type of Christmas program; 3) 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter grade reports will go out on January 11<sup>th</sup>; 4) We received 125 Samsung Tablets with cases from the Meritain Health grant that Mrs. Reed completed in August; 5) Janitors have finished installing the bottle filling fountains; 6) Current numbers: 274 in-person (85%) and 49 remote (15%); and 7) Current enrollment 323 as of December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Mr. Graves reported the following: 1) Semester Exams ended today (17<sup>th</sup>); 2) Picture retake day was held December 8<sup>th</sup>; 3) Report Cards go out January 11<sup>th</sup>; 4) Multiple classes at PCHS have made Christmas cards for area nursing homes; 5) Hometown Heroes is only a couple thousand dollars short of their goal for the sign, but money is still trickling in. They are now collecting books for their Little Free Libraries. Their social media campaign will begin in the spring semester; 6) On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Student Council bought gifts for 2 boys and 2 girls on the Pope Co Angel Tree. All items on the list were purchased; 7) The Speech Team has scored 34 ribbons and medals for the 2020-2021 season so far, which is more than the combined finalists from the last two years. They have also scored their first team trophy during the last tournament, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Small Team category; 8) FBLA attended FaithAlive in Vienna and worked to organize clothing and food donations for area distribution as well as helped distribute**

some of those items. Seniors that attended qualify for a chance to receive a \$1000 scholarship in the spring; 9) Mrs. Hall took students on a Secret Santa shoe shopping trip on the 15<sup>th</sup>; 10) Mrs. Hosfeldt held a student audio recording of *Christmas Carol* on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. An online copy of the recording will be ready on the 19<sup>th</sup>; and 11) Enrollment: 170. Remote Learners: 35% (59). Packets: 31. E-Learning: 28.

Mr. Fritch reported on the following: 1) Governor announced on Tuesday that he would be making 700 million in cuts to the current budget. Proposed freezing the next round of maintenance grants (40 million) that were set to be distributed in FY 21. I have heard rumor of potential cuts to our mandated categorical payments which includes transportation. Rumor is that we potentially may not get two of our four transportation payments this year. If that happens we will need to transfer money from working cast to offset this. EBF dollars are supposed to remain whole for this year; 2) We received an additional allotment of \$46,913 of our Title Grant for this fiscal year. I am looking at offsetting at least one aide salary with this additional money, and placing the rest in supply and materials; 3) Region wide concern for high numbers of students failing classes this school year. This has become such an issue that our ROE is looking into credit recovery programming. Also, SIC is interested in partnering with all local high schools to help with students in grades 9-12; 4) Push by all state education associations and unions to postpone mandated testing this year; 5) COVID-19 vaccine approval. Not sure when it will be available for our use. Have heard that

teachers have been identified as one group of individuals that may get the vaccine sooner. I am not sure as we progress towards next year if we will have mandatory vaccination to attend public school. I am sure those talks will be happening in the future; 6) Adjusted our end of the semester calendar to allow for the fixing of the septic line at the grade school. We have scheduled Steve Crabb (weather permitting) to begin diffing on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully what he finds on the 18<sup>th</sup> can then be fixed on the 21<sup>st</sup>; 7) The Back to School Committee met on December 4<sup>th</sup>. It was decided by the committee that the remote learning Fridays were needed to be continued during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. We sent out notice to parents via letters, social media, Herald Enterprise, and posting on the school website.

Motion to enter executive session for the purpose of personnel employment, performance, and procedures was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered executive session at 7:43 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Walker and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 8:34 pm.

Motion to approve 2021 Board meeting dates was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

**Mr. Fritch distributed the tentative tax levy that was introduced at last month's meeting. A motion to adopt 2020 tax levy was made by Walker and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion to approve application for Waiver of Administrative Cost was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Mr. Fritch distributed the new PRESS updates for Board Policy Manual. A motion to adopt Board Policy Manual PRESS updates as presented was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Under Other School Business, a motion to provide all employees with a one time COVID bonus for all of the extra work this year was made by Aly and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: Kizziar, Aly, Simmons; ayes, Walker, Schuchardt, Wallace, and Hogg abstained. Motion passed.**

**With no further business to be discussed, Schuchardt declared to adjourn the meeting until the next scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library. All members present voted aye.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.**

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**Jeremy Hogg, President  
Board of Education**

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**John Wallace, Acting Secretary  
Board of Education**