

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
February 18, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Hogg and the following members were present in-person: Aly, Wallace, Hogg; via Zoom: Kizziar. Walker, Schuchardt, and Simmons were absent.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Simmons entered the meeting via Zoom at 7:07 pm.

Motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 1/21/2021; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. Roll call vote: all ayes.

President Hogg stated the Board had received two Thank You cards; one from the Family of Larry Flynn and one from the Family of Virginia Shewmaker.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IRA) testing is currently scheduled to take place between March 15th and April 23rd. The ISA – Science Assessment is currently scheduled to start between March 15th through May 14th. The State of Illinois has stated they will ask for a waiver if one is offered by the U.S. Department of Education. There has not been an update since Feb. 5th. This waiver should cover all required state testing; 2) We will not be doing Spring Pictures this year; 3) The 3rd quarter grading period will end on March 12th, but due to the number of missed days due to winter weather that date is going to be needed to be adjusted; 4) Our Jr. High Boys were able to get in 3 games before the weather hit. As of now, the regionals are scheduled for March 8th. We have been live streaming all the home games and they can be found on the Pope County Athletic Department's Youtube page; 5) The Jr. High girls should start their season on March 8th and their regionals are scheduled for April 12th; and 6) Current Enrollment 333 as of February 17th. President Hogg commented that the streaming of the games were working out well and hoped it will continue. Mr. Fritch added they are looking at a camera system and subscription service that would offer revenue and ads for the District.

Mr. Graves reported the following: 1) Progress Reports went out on February 5th. We have also started discussion about extending the third quarter due to the weather; 2) The Athletic Department has created a Youtube Channel to live stream home games and record and upload away games; 3) The Girls Basketball

team has played a couple games while the Boys are yet to open; 4) The University of Chicago 5 Essentials Survey will be completed by students and faculty upon return to school; 5) The Speech Team ended their season with five students placing in Sectionals. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Hosfeldt being named the Southern Illinois Speech and Acting League Coaches of the Year for the 2020-2021 season; and 6) Enrollment: 170. Remote Learners: 27% (46). Packets: 21. E-Learning: 25.

Mr. Fritch reported on the following: 1) We received the 185 Chromebooks that we ordered with the Digital Equity Grant. QNS will have to image them and install the correct software, licensing, and firewall protection. We expect to get them up and going for the start of next school year. The high school will be 1:1 next school year; 2) Received an additional \$50,000 in Title I allocation. I will amend the grant and use this money to pay for an instructional aide at the grade school and to purchase new Teacher computers at the High School; 3) ROE Compliance visit schedule for tomorrow has been canceled due to the weather and we will reschedule for some time in March; 4) Governor Pritzker outlined his budget yesterday. Schools are supposed to receive the same EBF funding as last year with no increase or decrease. So this will be three years in a row at the same state funding level; 5) Received some information this week that may require board action next month; 1. TRS - enter into an agreement with TRS for a supplemental retirement program. 2. Legislation passed requiring our district to enter into a binding contract with an outside source that houses sensitive

information about students and employees. This would be our student management software company, our financial services company, and possible WOVSED our special ed cooperative. I will work to compile more information about this before our next meeting; 6) I would like to thank the custodians for getting on the parking lots and blading all of the snow and ice; 7) I would also like to commend our athletic director, James Forthman, on the job he has done this year. He has had to do a lot of extra work in a short amount of time with filling schedules and hiring officials, and now with all of the snow cancellations it has gotten even more difficult; 8) I would also like to thank Mr. Blankenship and Mr. Graves on getting the live streaming of the games up and going. They put a lot of work in to getting this accomplished; and 9) We are going to be receiving more COVID funds that could possibly go toward the HVAC system in the High School gym.

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 7:23 pm.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 8:05 pm.

Under New Business, President Hogg asked all members to complete the Statement of Economic Interest and return to Paula.

Mr. Fritch distributed the fuel bid summary. Southern FS was the only bid received. After some discussion, a motion to accept the firm fuel bid from Southern FS was made by Wallace and seconded by Kizziar. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Member Simmons lost connection on Zoom and returned via phone.

A motion to authorize Superintendent to solicit bids for services (bakery products, dairy products, tires, trash, and pest control) was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion to set 8th Grade Promotion to May 14, 2021 to begin at 5 pm and High School Graduation for May 15, 2021 to begin at 5 pm was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes. Details will be determined at a later date to adjust for COVID-19 guidance changes.

Under Old Business, Mr. Fritch distributed the Annual Financial Report and a letter from the auditors and discussed some key points. The District received a perfect 4.00 recognition and thanked Margie and Paula for doing a fantastic job with the District finances. Mr. Fritch pointed out we have 207 days cash on hand and our long term debt is at 7.5 million. A motion to approve the Annual Financial

Report as presented was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Other School Business, Mr. Fitch stated we need to post for a head Jr. High Baseball Coach. A motion to post for a Jr. High Baseball Coach was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes.

With no further business to be discussed, Wallace made a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next scheduled meeting to be held on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library, seconded by Aly.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

**Jeremy Hogg, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**