

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

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

**Motion was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Walker to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion was made by Walker and seconded by Simmons to approve the consent agenda including the following: 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meetings on 2/18/2021; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Under Visitors and Correspondence, Aly recognized the Hometown Heroes committee to give an update on their current project. Jayden Smith, Hannah Pegg, Jillian Jones, and Makenna Millis presented to the Board. They also wanted to thank the Board for their donation and support of the Hometown Heroes.**

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) IAR State Testing is in progress, hopefully to be completed by Spring break; 2) The Illinois Science Assessment will be scheduled after IAR is finished; 3) The Jr. High girls have started their basketball season. Their season will run into the middle of April with their regionals taking place the week of April 12<sup>th</sup>; 4) The Jr. High boys have finished their season. They had two players named to the All-Conference team. Eli Presser was named to the 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Conference and Ethan Burkhead was named to the 2<sup>nd</sup> team All-Conference; 5) Mrs. Dunning's class organized a St. Jude's Penny Drive to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. With the help from other classes and individuals they have raised \$5262.00 with a 5-gallon bucket of coins to be counted; 6) 11 more students are returning to in-person learning for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter; 7) Current numbers; 304 in-person (91%) and 30 remote (9%); and 8) Current Enrollment 334 as of March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Graves reported the following: 1) 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ends March 19<sup>th</sup>/grades will be posted March 24<sup>th</sup>; 2) Homecoming is March 18<sup>th</sup> (livestream on YouTube Channel); 3) Accuplacer will be given on March 23<sup>rd</sup>; 4) SAT/PSAT will be given April 13<sup>th</sup>; 5) Boys and Girls Basketball has come to a close. Our girls won the GEC Tournament!! We have had 4 players named to the All GEC Teams. Keerstin Fritch (Captain), Elyse Ibata, Shelby Hogg, and Deakin Lindgren; 6) FFA had 3 members compete in Proficiency Awards at section level with Rem Curry advancing to district sheep production and Cassidy Bean advancing to district

in Goat production. Kassidy will be competing at the state level. Kassidy is currently ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the State; 7) Choir won 4<sup>th</sup> overall in State for Class D vocals, and 7<sup>th</sup> overall in State for Orchestra/Piano. Heading into April's competition, we are currently ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in State of overall program, and we've currently strategizing and rehearsing in the hopes to place in the top three; 8) Scholar Bowl placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the GEC; and 9) Auditions for the 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade musical *Frozen* will be held next week. Current enrollment is 165 with 23% remote learning.

Mr. Fritch reported the following: 1) ESSER II funds are expected to come in around \$575,000; 2) ESSER III funds are projected to be 2.2 times the ESSER II funds which would put us around 1.2 million dollars; 3) IDPH has come out with new COVID guidelines somewhere between Phase 4 and Phase 5; 4) Care Act will be expiring March 31<sup>st</sup> unless they extend it. This will end the 80 COVID hours available for staff and teachers who test positive or have to quarantine; 5) ROE Compliance visit was today and went very well. I would like to thank Paula Baker for doing a great job; 6) We have received \$28,000 more dollars from our Flow-Through Grant that has to be spent by July 1<sup>st</sup>; 7) Looking to return next school year to full in-person and only offering remote learning to those who can provide a doctor's note. This will require Board action at next month's meeting.

**Motion to enter executive session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker.**

**Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered at 7:34 pm.**

**Motion to return to regular session was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 8:06 pm.**

**Under New Business, Board reviewed the bids that were received and after some discussion, a motion to accept bid from Lewis Bakeries for bakery products for the 2021-2022 SY was made by Walker and seconded by Hogg. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Motion to accept bid from Prairie Farms for dairy products for the 2021-2022 SY was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**The bid for tires was tabled.**

**Motion to accept bid from Enviro-Tech Termite & Pest Control for pest control for the 2021-2022 SY was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**The bid for trash removal was tabled.**

Mr. Fritch presented the amended 2020-2021 SY calendar to reflect emergency and Act of God days used this year. A motion was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Wallace to amend the 2020-2021 SY calendar as presented. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch presented the proposed 2021-2022 SY calendar. A motion to approve the 2021-2022 SY calendar as presented was made by Hogg and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch discussed the ESSER II priorities with the Board and explained, with a handout, a list of priorities of how to spend the \$575,000. He explained this money has to be tied to educational loss and/or COVID. The architect will be here tomorrow to develop a plan for the replacement of the rest of the doors and windows at the elementary, some doors in the high school building, and the high school gym HVAC system. We are also getting a quote from QNS for 75 Chromebooks for the elementary. Mr. Fritch asked for input from the Board on how they would like the funds to be spent, reminding them we will be receiving the ESSER III funds in the amount of around 1.2 million.

Mr. Fritch stated due to the increase in minimum wage, the bus driver extra trip and weekend/holiday needs to be increased to reflect the new rate of \$11.00. He proposed that the driver would get their normal hourly rate while driving the bus with students to and from and the minimum wage rate of \$11.00 while sitting. A

**motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons to pay bus drivers driving extra trips normal hourly wage rate while driving students to and from and pay \$11.00 per hour and \$11.75 for weekends/holidays for the time they are not driving. Roll call vote: all ayes.**

**Mr. Fritch stated that he received an email from the PSIC lawyer this afternoon that the Letter of Intent to Bid, which was sent in February, was not received by the correct person and did not meet the criteria of the agreement. Mr. Fritch explained that we will not be able to request bids until 2022-2023 SY. This item was tabled.**

**With no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting to be held on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library. All members present voted yea.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.**

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**Bronwyn Aly, Acting President  
Board of Education**

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**Paula Baker, Secretary  
Board of Education**