

**Minutes for Regular Called Meeting
Pope County CUSD #1
Board of Education
J. H. Hobbs Memorial Library
Thursday, September 24, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President Hansen at 7:01 p.m. The following members were present: Walker, Aly, Schuchardt, Wallace, Simmons, and Hansen. Hogg was absent.

A motion was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Walker to approve the agenda.

Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Aly to approve the consent agenda including the following items; 1) Approve Minutes of Board Meeting on 8/20/20; 2) Approve Closed Session Minutes; 3) Approve Bills for Payment; and 4) Accept Financial Reports. Roll call vote: all ayes.

President Hansen recognized the Hometown Heroes Proposal Committee to the meeting. The committee comprised of Makenna Millis, Gwen Bowman, Sophie Crutchfield, Jayden Smith, Hannah Pegg, and Jillian Jones, presented their Hometown Heroes project idea to the Board. This is a very special year because the seniors this year were the freshmen that started the whole thing four years ago. They have decided to do a two-part project this year in hopes they can pull it off with all the COVID regulations. The first part is to install a high quality marquee sign in the school yard to

help get school news and events out to the community. The second part is to pilot a national program called Little Free Libraries. The Little Free Library system is a nationally recognized organization that provides free book for all ages. “Take a book, leave a book” is the phrase used to sum up the program. This will be distributed throughout the rural parts of the county. President Hansen and several other members of the Board asked questions and discussed the project and what it means to be a part of Hometown Heroes. President Hansen encouraged them all to continue volunteering, being a mentor, and/or finding a mentor of their own. The biggest reward in life is giving back. The Board thanked the committee for the presentation and encouraged them to move forward and own their project. President Hansen asked that on the next meeting agenda to add the Board’s donation to the project.

Under Administrative reports, Mr. Blankenship reported the following: 1) School pictures were taken today; 2) Aimsweb testing for the Fall benchmark is finished; 3) Progress reports for the 1st quarter went out Friday, September 11th; 4) Student Council elections are over and the members have been selected; 5) The fall pre-school screenings are scheduled for October 7th and added Pre-K is smaller due to COVID so they have several openings; 6) The baseball and softball teams will be starting their regionals next week. The softball team plays Jonesboro on Monday and the baseball team plays Jonesboro on Tuesday; 7) The current enrollment is 326 as of September 23rd; and 8) Current numbers are 235 in-person (72%) and 92 remote (28%). (We have had 16 that have informally stated they will be returning to in-person after the quarter)

Mr. Graves reported the following; 1) 2019-2020 Hometown Heroes signs have been installed; 2) Spirit Card sales are going well and are still for sale (\$10); 3) Ms. Chell and the Sophomore Class would like to present the School Board free Pirate masks and a card; 4) Picture Day was held September 10th for both in person and remote learners; 5) Progress reports went out September 11th; 6) FFA Archery Shoot is September 29th at Little Creek Archery (Restrictions in place); 7) The first draft of the school newspaper, *The Anchor*, will be published September 30th; 8) Balfour will be here October 7th for Sophomores; 9) October 7th is the end of the 1st quarter; 10) Parent Teacher Conferences are October 8th and will be held via phone or virtually; 11) October 14th is the SAT for the Seniors; 12) October 17th, FFA is hosting a small tractor show at the Golconda City Park (Restrictions in place); 13) Enrollment: 170, Remote Learners: 35%, Packets: 25, and E-Learning: 35. President Hansen read a thank you card from Ms. Chell and the Class of 2023.

Mr. Fritch reported on the following: 1) COVID-19 guidance has been updated and a “New” system is in place and we are following the guidance from IDPH. Everyone is doing a great job with the guidelines; 2) Mr. Forthman is looking in to expanding track for individual competition; 3) We have received more grant funds (\$47,000) for technology, looking to purchase Chromebooks for the high school students and connectivity for homes without internet access. The tech plan would go in to place starting next year; 4) We have applied for some food service grants for the kitchen to hopefully purchase a convection oven; 5) The summer food program was extended until December 31st so every student is receiving free breakfast and lunch. Member Schuchardt asked how close we are to getting free lunch for every student under the Free Lunch Program. Mr. Fritch stated we are getting closer and currently stand at

70%. Schuchardt asked since we are going to 1-2-1 with Chromebooks in the high school, will we go to E-books and get rid of textbooks. Mr. Fritch stated we would explore that option further.

A motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Wallace to enter closed session for the purpose of personnel performance, procedures, and employment. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board entered closed session at 7:52 p.m.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Walker to return to regular session. Roll call vote: all ayes. Board returned at 8:20 pm.

Mr. Fritch distributed a handout of the budget and explained important sections. A motion to approve the FY 2020-21 District Budget made by Wallace and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion to hire Leighann Quinlan as part-time individual aide was made by Simmons and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion to hire Debbie Logsdon as full-time individual aide was made by Schuchardt and seconded by Walker. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion to hire Amber Derringer as full-time individual aide was made by Wallace and seconded by Simmons. Roll call vote: all ayes.

A motion to hire Mendi Stafford as high school cheer sponsor was made by Walker and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes

Motion to approve FMLA request was made by Walker and seconded by Aly. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Motion to purchase an ad in *The Anchor* newspaper and Pirata yearbook was made by Simmons and seconded by Schuchardt. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mr. Fritch reported that they have changed the schedule to reflect more Fridays as remote learning days. This is to give the teachers more time for remote learners, which they much appreciate. One Thursday and the remaining Fridays through December will be remote learning days. They will reevaluate in December.

Under Old Business, Mr. Fritch stated he has been assured by Randy Jones that the next phase of the doors and windows project will begin October 1st. They are completing ten more units which will leave seven.

Other School Business, President Hansen shared with the Board he has taken a job which will require him to relocate to Nashville, TN. Since he will be changing his residency, he will be resigning from the Board. He stated he would officially resign at the October Board meeting.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting to be held on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the J.H. Hobbs Memorial Library was made by Walker and seconded by Wallace. Roll call vote: all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

**Michael Hansen, President
Board of Education**

**Paula Baker, Secretary
Board of Education**