

**Board of Education
Pawnee Community Unit School District #11
Wednesday, August 20, 2025
6:00 p.m. – Closed Session, Unit Office
7:00 p.m. – Regular Session - Library**

Action 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Clarke called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

Members present: Boblitt, Clarke, Guess, Megginson, Simpson, Ward

Members absent: Morell

Administrators Present: Edmonds, Hennemann, Goodall, Lucas, Gehrs and Recording Secretary Roseberry

Motion: Go into executive session for the stated purpose.

Motion: Ward

Second: Boblitt

Ayes: 6-0

Info 2. Request Closed Session

2.1 Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body or Legal Counsel for the Public Body (5 ILCS 120/2 (C)1).

2.2 Contract Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2))

2.3 Purchase or Lease of Real Property (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1))

2.4 Security (5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (7))

2.5 Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (11))

2.6 Closed Session Minutes [5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (21))

2.7 Adjournment from Closed Session to Regular Session

Motion: Adjourn closed session.

Motion: Ward

Second: Megginson

Ayes: 6-0

Call to Order and Roll Call (Regular Session)

President Clarke calls the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Members present: Boblitt, Clarke, Guess, Megginson, Simpson, Ward

Members absent: Morell

Administrators Present: Edmonds, Hennemann, Goodall, Lucas, Gehrs and Recording Secretary Roseberry

Action 3. Pledge of Allegiance – please stand if able

Action 4. Communications

- 4.1 Student Council Updates – The Homecoming theme for this year is Once Upon a Homecoming. They will be voting for August Student of the Month.
- 4.2 Public Comment (Sign Up in Advance) – None.

Action 5. Consent Items

- 5.1 Adoption of Consent Agenda Items as listed or are there items the members would like to pull to discuss individually?
- 5.2 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of July 9, 2025
- 5.3 Treasurer/Financial Report
- 5.4 School District Accounts Payable
- 5.5 School Activity Accounts Payable

Motion: Adopt the Consent Agenda Items as presented.

Motion: Ward

Second: Simpson

Ayes: Boblitt, Clarke, Guess, Megginson, Simpson, Ward

Action 6. Personnel Consent Agenda Items

- 6.1 Adoption of Consent Agenda Items as listed or are there items the members would like to pull to discuss individually?

President Clarke read the names of employees being hired and employee resignations: Amy Woods – JH/HS Art; Ellen Bilyeu – NHS Sponsor; Ellen Bilyeu – HS Sponsor; Brandt Sitze – HS Sponsor; Abigail Walls – Junior Beta Sponsor; Kylie Banning – Cafeteria; Madison Fugnitti – Volunteer Asst. Cheer Sponsor. Resignations: Hannah Wilson – JH/HS Art; Dan Barham – Dual Credit English – Teresa Hamilton – Para; Mandi Urbanckas – Para and Mona Simpson – Cafeteria.

Motion: Approve the Personnel Consent Agenda Items as presented.

Motion: Ward

Second: Guess

Ayes: Ward, Simpson, Megginson, Guess, Clarke, Boblitt

7. New Business

- 7.1 Tentative Budget Presentation – Mrs. Edmonds presented the tentative budget
- 7.2 Discussion about new HS Scheduling and Course Options
- 7.3 Updated Memorandum of Understanding for School Resource Officer

Motion: Approve the updated Memorandum of Understanding for the School Resource Officer.

Motion: Ward

Second: Boblitt

Ayes: Boblitt, Clarke, Guess, Megginson, Simpson, Ward

- 7.4 Approval of 2025-2026 Senior Trip

Motion: Approve the 2025-2026 Senior Trip Itinerary.

Motion: Ward

Second: Guess

Ayes: Boblitt, Clarke, Guess, Megginson, Simpson, Ward

- 7.5 Discussion and approval of Individual Swim Team Participation

Motion: Approve Individual Swim Team Participant, Ellie Garee.

Motion: Guess

Second: Simpson

Ayes: Ward, Simpson, Guess, Megginson, Clarke, Boblitt

7.6 Discussion and approval to hire an additional JH Assistant Baseball Coach
Motion: Approve hiring Joe Morell and Cale Hennemann with a split stipend as the 3rd JH Baseball Coach.

Motion: Simpson

Second: Ward

Ayes: Boblitt, Clarke, Guess, Megginson, Simpson, Ward

8. Old Business

8.1 Discussion about post-season access to sporting equipment/space

9. Administrative Reports

9.1 Superintendent's Report

9.2 JH/HS Principal's Report

9.3 Grade School Principal's Report

9.4 Director of Student Services Report

9.5 Athletic Director's Report

9.6 Technology Director's Report

Action 10. Adjournment


Motion: Adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.


Motion: Guess

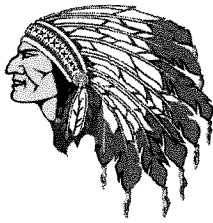
Second: Simpson

Ayes: Boblitt, Clarke, Guess, Megginson, Simpson, Ward

Next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for—
Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Pawnee School Cafeteria
6:00 p.m.—executive session
7:00 p.m. - regular session


President


Secretary



PAWNEE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #11

810 North Fourth Street, Pawnee, Illinois 62558

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Leanne Gehrs
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Blake Lucas
Athletic Director
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Superintendent's Board Update-September

Construction Update

The Pre-K construction project is slated to be complete by mid-January. There was a delay in the project due to the corroded sanitary pipes found during construction. No other issues have been reported and plumbing and electrical rough ins are complete. Wall framing is completed as well.

The Athletic Building is slightly delayed due to door framing adjustments. There are no financial changes for these adjustments.

Curriculum and Resource Additions through the Small, Rural School Achievement Grant

Pawnee CUSD #11 received \$43,602 through the U.S. Department of Education. This money can and will be used to purchase instruments to supplement our schools' band program. \$20,000 will be budgeted for our band programming. The other \$23,602 will be used for developing our entrepreneurial programming. This includes our Dave Ramsey financial curriculum and the Franklin Covey Leader-in-Me program.

Financial Software Changeover

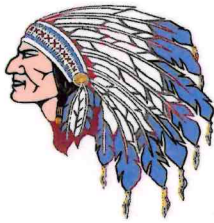
Our district is continuing to navigate the transition from SDS to TeacherEase for our financial reporting. Our unit office is continuing training to ensure that all of our bookkeeping and payroll information is accurate and documented in proper accounts. I appreciate the efforts both Staci and Jill are putting into learning this new software and ensuring that the information is correct.

Administrative Team Update

This year, administrators will be working with grade-level and content-level teams to disaggregate standardized and formative data to improve instruction. Our district just received 2024-25 assessment data, and our student proficiency is considerably low. This is reflected in all grade levels. We will be much more intentional as a whole-school team on how we hold each other accountable for student success.

One Month In

Pawnee CUSD #11 is officially in to the school routine. The staff has done an incredible job with welcoming students and getting them established in the routines. From my observations and conversations with others, for the most part, students seem pleased with the new opportunities and the overall climate in the building. Along with our veteran staff continuing to be a source of experience and familiarity, our new staff is bringing new energy and a different way of doing things.



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JH/HS Principal's Board Update

September 2025/2026

Homecoming:

We celebrated an outstanding Homecoming Week that reflected both the spirit and pride of our school community. Student participation reached new heights, and the energy throughout the week highlighted the positive shift in school climate.

Highlights included strong support for our Volleyball, Football, and Football Cheer programs, as well as the presentation of the Homecoming Court at several evening events. Students and families enthusiastically joined in a variety of activities, including the parade, "bon" (non-fire), powderpuff football, student competitions, and the always-popular Iron Man challenge. Each event was marked by healthy competition, school spirit, and a genuine sense of fun.

Overall, the week showcased not only an increase in student involvement but also the heart of our school community—students coming together to celebrate, support one another, and enjoy the traditions that make Homecoming memorable.

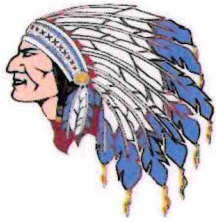
Student Reflections:

With several weeks in, student feedback regarding our recent schedule adjustments is still very positive. Many report feeling more engaged during class periods, with significantly less instructional time lost and smoother daily routines. The shortened passing periods have not presented challenges, and students are adapting well to the new flow of the day.

As part of this transition, we are also taking a closer look at homework practices to ensure they align with a traditional schedule rather than the former block model. These ongoing discussions have been highly productive and collaborative, helping us refine our approach to best support student learning. Overall, the changes have contributed to a stronger, more focused academic environment and a positive student experience.

Study Hall Update:

Through a collaborative effort between junior high and senior high teachers, a comprehensive set of teacher and student expectations for study hall has been developed. This revised approach blends the best elements of our former homeroom period—such as honor student-athlete dismissal times and opportunities for clubs to meet—with a more structured focus on academics. The result is a rigorous and supportive environment that balances student activities with meaningful time for academic progress.



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Grade School Principal's Board Update

Fall Benchmark Testing

Our reading and math interventionists have completed fall benchmarking.

- We have contacted parents and have started our intervention times. We will continue to focus on reading and math improvement in the grade school. Some strategies we are using that should help are:
 - Pushing into the younger grade classrooms to help with guided reading.
 - Using small group MTSS lessons.
 - Continue using our new phonics system.
 - Focusing on using our new math curriculum for younger grades.
 - Using Reflex math for computation and fluency.
 - We are currently serving the following number of students in each area:
 - Math – 23 / (some students also on the watch list)
 - Reading – 34 / (some students also on the watch list)

Teacher concerns about schedule changes

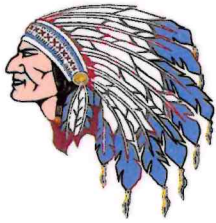
The fifth grade teachers have expressed concerns with the change of teaching assignments and schedules for this school year. I have met with these teachers to address their concerns.

Pre-K Events

The Pre-K Family Night at the Firehouse will take place on October 15

First End of the Month Assembly

Our first assembly will take place on Tuesday, September 30 at 8:30 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend these monthly award assemblies. Students will get recognized for reading awards, character awards, the Peace Keeper award, and other positive behaviors.



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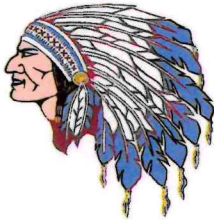
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- Resignation of Maddie Specht as 7th grade girls basketball coach
- Approval of Jon Tribler as 6th grade girls basketball coach
- Approval of Jordan Harris as 7th grade girls basketball coach
- Approval of HS girls soccer cooperative with Auburn HS

Pawnee Indian Athletic updates:

1. The JH softball season concluded last week. The girls worked and grew over the course of the season. Thank you to our coaches and families for supporting the girls this fall.
2. The JH baseball team finished a successful regular season and capped it off by winning the Unity Christian Regional! They will play St. Agnes in the Jacksonville sectional on Saturday, September 21. Best wishes to the boys and coaches!
3. HS Volleyball is off to a great start with a 7-2 record. The team is growing, developing, and competing at a high level. Keep up the good work, Ladies!
4. The HS Football team has compiled an undefeated 4-0 record through the first four weeks of the season. Keep plugging away, Boys!
5. Homecoming week has been filled with a great deal of fun, activities, and school spirit. The parade was awesome, and the band sounded awesome!



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Technology Report

- Computer lab installed - computer classes up and running
- Secured and updated licenses for
 - Fortiguard - upgrade paths researched and selected
 - Hornet Backup Software
- CrowdStrike - enrolled Pawnee CUSD with DOiT's CrowdStrike partnership program. Provides 100 free licenses for endpoint security.
 - Deployment underway. 100 licenses does not cover our needs. May need to reconsider asset distribution.
- Mountains of repairs: Chromebooks are aging and of lower quality. They have passed through many hands, and the general attitude amongst the students and staff is that there is an endless supply of all devices. Not one of our Chromebooks will survive past 6/30/2029, and it will be interesting to see how many make it that far.