

Pawnee Community Unit School District #11

Wednesday, August 19th, 2026

6:00 p.m. – Closed Session, Unit Office

7:00 p.m. – Regular Session, Library



The regular session was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were: Boblitt, Clarke, Guess, Morell, Megginson, and Simpson, with Ward absent.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Communications

4.1 Student Council Updates - Student Council representative reported that the Homecoming theme will be "Summer Lovin", a take on the movie *Grease*. Homecoming week is August 28 through September 5, 2026. The events included are the lock-in on Friday, August 28, the king and queen announcement between volleyball games on Monday, the parade on Wednesday followed by the powderpuff game and bonfire, the cookout and games on Friday, and the dance on Saturday.

4.2 Public Comment-Opportunity for Visitors to Address the School Board

- No comments

5. Consent Items

5.1 Adoption of Consent Agenda Items

5.2 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, July 15, 2026

5.3 Treasurer/Financial Report

5.4 School District Accounts Payable

5.5 School Activity Account Reports

5.6 FOIA Requests

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented: Megginson

Second: Guess

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

Absent: Ward

6. Personnel Consent Agenda Items

6.1 Adoption of Personnel Consent Agenda Items

6.2 Resignation of Paraprofessional - Kim Bechtel

6.3 Resignation of Paraprofessional - Sue Masters

6.4 Resignation of Custodian - Stan DeSart (Effective November 20, 2026)

6.5 Resignation of Teacher - Brian Wilson

6.6 Resignation of Teacher - James Dambacher

6.7 Resignation of Technology Director - Brandon Goodall

6.8 Resignation of JH Scholastic Bowl Sponsor - Brian Wilson

6.9 Resignation of High School Assistant Football Coach - Greg Downs

6.10 Resignation of High School Assistant Girls Basketball Coach - Kristi McTaggart

- 6.11 Employment of Paraprofessional - Kameron Nichols
- 6.12 Employment of Paraprofessional - Jamey Hibbs
- 6.13 Employment of Teacher - Sarah Bingenheimer
- 6.14 Employment of Permanent Substitute - Zach Brewer
- 6.15 Employment of Permanent Substitute - Lanae Clarke
- 6.16 Employment of Technology Director - Chris Wherley
- 6.17 Employment of Jr. Beta Club Sponsor - Lanae Clarke
- 6.18 Employment of High School Assistant Football Coach - Taylor Ferry
- 6.19 Employment of High School Football Volunteer Coach - Kaiden Watts
- 6.20 Employment of Volunteer Videographer - Evan Smith
- 6.21 Employment of Volunteer High School Girls Basketball Coach - Kristi McTaggart

Motion to adopt the Personnel Consent Agenda as presented: Guess

Second: Megginson

Ayes: Megginson, Simpson, Boblitt, Guess, Morell

Abstain: Clarke

Absent: Ward

7. New Business

7.1 Tentative Budget Presentation - Treasurer Hamilton presented the tentative budget. Projected revenue is \$10.771 million, a 2% decrease from the prior year due to the bond. Projected expenses are \$11.008 million, a 10% decrease largely due to the absence of major building renovation costs. Approximately 75% of revenue comes from corporate tax, levy, and facilities tax, leaving limited flexibility. Budget distribution: 54% salaries and benefits, 8% purchased services, 5% supplies, 14% capital outlay, and 19% other objects. The IMRF rate is decreasing from 10.83% to 9.09%, partially offset by salary increases. Revenue has remained relatively flat since 2021 while expenses have been creeping up. The budget must sit for 30 days before the board can vote to adopt it at next month's meeting.

7.2 Discussion of Activity Accounts and Outside Organizations - Superintendent Gehrs recommended removing outside organizations from district activity accounts. The auditor and other superintendents have advised against holding outside activity accounts because the district bears liability without control over how funds are raised, spent, or managed. The proposed model would have these organizations operate independently and donate funds directly to the school when desired. Donations can be accompanied by written documentation specifying how the funds should be used. The district would retain full control once funds are received. No formal action was taken; this was a discussion item for possible action next month. Organizations would be given sufficient transition time before being moved out of district accounts.

7.3 Discussion and Approval of Bowling Team Participation - A request was discussed to allow students to participate in bowling with Taylorville through a co-op arrangement. Athletic Director Lucas contacted Taylorville, whose AD indicated the matter needed to go to their superintendent, and a response had not yet been received. The board approved the co-op participation preemptively so that if Taylorville approves, the district is ready.

Motion to approve the Bowling Team Participation: Megginson

Second: Morell

Ayes: Guess, Clarke, Boblitt, Simpson, Megginson, and Morell

Absent: Ward

7.4 Approval of 2026-2027 Senior Trip - The trip is scheduled from Wednesday, April 21 to Wednesday, 28.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Senior Trip: Guess

Second: Simpson

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

Absent: Ward

7.5 Consideration and Action on Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Allowing the Director of Technology Additional Vacation Time

Motion that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Pawnee Community Unit School District #11 and the Technology Director regarding additional vacation time, as presented: Morell

Second: Guess

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

Absent: Ward

7.6 Consideration and Action on Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Allowing the District Secretary Additional Vacation Time

Motion that the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Pawnee Community Unit School District #11 and the District Secretary regarding additional vacation time, as presented: Guess

Second: Simpson

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

Absent: Ward

8. Administrative Reports (Enclosed in Packet)

8.1 Superintendent's Report

8.2 JH/HS Principal Report

8.3 Grade School Principal Report

8.4 Athletic Director Report

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Morell

Second: Simpson

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

Absent: Ward

Board President's Signature

Board Secretary's Signature