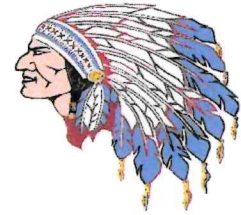


Pawnee Community Unit School District #11

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

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

7:00 p.m. - Regular Meeting, Library



1. Requested closed session

2. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Clarke called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

Members absent: Morell, Ward

Administrators Present: Edmonds, Hennemann, Goodall, Hamilton, Gehrs, and Brown; Lucas was absent

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-please stand if able

Info: 4. Communications

4.1 Recognition of High School Cheerleaders - Coach Fulton and the Pawnee cheerleading squad were recognized for their performance at the Queen of Hearts competition held at Pleasant Plains. This was the team's second consecutive year competing and winning at the event. The squad earned first place in the Porter break routine division, second place in the halftime routine division, and won Best Overall Crowd Cheer. Additionally, three members - Emma, Lily, and Giada - won the Hang Drill competition. Coach Fulton noted that a large community turnout made a significant difference, with attendees commenting that Pawnee appeared to have brought the whole town.

4.2 Recognition of High School Girls' Basketball Players - The girls'basketball team was recognized for achieving the school's first-ever 20-win season. Coach Tribler and the coaching staff were recognized first, followed by individual players. Coach Tribler noted that coaching the co-op team has been a blessing to all three schools and has helped build a culture of basketball in the community. The coach emphasized that the achievement was three years in the making.

4.3 Student Council Updates - Logan Skinner reported that the March meeting had been held that day. The spring fundraiser, Trivia Night, will be held Saturday, April 18, 2026, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and trivia beginning at 6:00 pm. Teams of up to eight people will compete for \$10 per person. The Distinguished Alumni Award for graduation was discussed. Community members wishing to nominate a former Pawnee graduate who has made positive contributions to their community, city, state, or other areas are asked to fill out a nomination form available in the high school office or by emailing Jennifer Harris.

4.4 Presentation of SASED Cooperative Agreement - Mark Strawn, Director - Mark Strawn presented information on the process for school districts wishing to employ their own special education teachers. Currently, 13 member districts are part of SASED, with Auburn serving as the administrative district where all board decisions are formally approved. Ball Chatham, and Rochester have since pulled out as standalone districts. Strawn explained that originally, SASED hired all special education staff across member districts. In the mid-2000s, the articles of agreement were revised to allow districts to employ their own teachers and speech therapists. Two options exist: hiring all staff at once or through attrition (new hires only become district employees as current SASED staff retire or resign). The December 1st deadline before the intended school year is the notification date for districts choosing this transition. If done all at once, an April 15th notification deadline applies for individual staff members, who receive the right of first refusal to either transfer to the home district or remain with SASED and be placed elsewhere. Both unions must sign off, and tenure rights and sick days transfer with the employee.

4.5 Public Comment-a representative of the Pawnee Education Association spoke regarding the 6.4 proposed dismissal.

Action 5. Consent Items

5.1 Adoption of Consent Agenda Items (Action)

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda Items

Motion: Boblitt

Second: Simpson

Ayes: Simpson Megginson Guess Clarke Boblitt

5.2 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, February 26, 2026

5.3 School District Accounts Payable (Bill List)

5.4 School Activity Account Reports

Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion: Simpson

Second: Boblitt

Ayes: Megginson, Simpson, Clarke, Boblitt, Guess

Action 6. Personnel Consent Agenda Items

6.1 Adoption of Personnel Consent Agenda Items (Action)

Motion to separate each of the number 6 agenda items.

Motion: Megginson

Second: Simpson

Ayes: Megginson Guess Clarke Boblitt Simpson

6.2 Employment of HS Baseball Assistant Coach - Andrew West

Motion: Simpson

Second: Guess

Ayes: Clarke Boblitt Simpson Megginson Guess

6.3 Resignation of JH Beta Club Sponsor - Abigail Walls

Motion: Guess

Second: Megginson

Ayes: Clarke Guess Boblitt Simpson Megginson

6.4 Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Full-Time Teacher in Last Year of Probationary Service - Upon returning from executive session, the board approved the 6.4 resolution.

Motion: Clarke

Second: Simpson

Ayes: Boblitt Simpson Megginson Guess Clarke

INFO 7. Treasurer's Report

7.1 Update on district finances - Treasurer Jill Hamilton presented the financial report. Key highlights: The district is generally on track with the budget. The 1% sales tax has increased, likely due to tariff-related activity. It is projected to generate an additional ~\$92,000 above the budgeted \$613,000 for the facilities tax fund (used for infrastructure repairs, SRO costs, and bonded debt). The district currently carries no bonded debt. Corporate personal property replacement tax is at 67.8% received against a budget timeline of approximately 75%, which is slightly behind but not a significant concern. Interest income from bank accounts is decreasing due to both declining cash balances and a slight rate reduction from 4.6% to 4.4%. The district is working to improve financial reporting through the TeacherEase software system. Two non-budget financial concerns were noted: 1. Proposed state legislation that would make paraprofessionals eligible for unemployment benefits during the summer months. If passed and all paraprofessionals claimed, the cost could reach approximately \$4400 per week for approximately 10 weeks (~\$44,000 total). The legislation has not yet been enacted. 2. An IMRF accelerated payment of approximately \$12,000 is due in May, triggered by salary increases in the last three years before an employee's retirement. A budget amendment will be required, though funds are available within the IMRF budget line.

8. New Business

8.1 Update from Pawnee Community Education Foundation - There was none

8.2 Discussion and approval of the 2027*2028 School Calendar

Motion: Guess

Second: Simpson

Ayes: Simpson Megginson Guess Clarke Boblitt

8.3 Acceptance of Bid Proposals and authorization to proceed with the High School Gym Project based on the recommendation of O'Shea Builders - The board discussed and voted on a bid from O'Shea Builders for the high school gym renovation project. The base bid was \$626,770. The project includes a new gym floor, new baskets, new bleachers, new pads, new scoreboards, and new lighting. Four alternate bid items were identified but not all included in the primary vote: Alternate 1: Tuck pointing (cracks in the walls) - \$16,094; Alternate 2: Standard gym windows (Kelly Glass) - \$32,762; Alternate 3: Caldwell anti-glare window system - \$42,644; Alternate 4: Grade 2 vs. Grade 3 naval flooring option - saves ~\$3,100. Discrepancy was noted between the window bid numbers on the front bid summary page and the back page of the bid documents. The board discussed whether window replacement could be deferred until the Health Life Safety survey is complete to potentially fund windows through that mechanism. The board voted to approve the O'Shea Builders bid for \$626,770 plus alternate A2 (standard windows) up to \$32,762, for a total project cost of approximately \$659,532.

Motion to move that the Board of Education accept the bid proposals for the High School Gym Project and authorize the administration to proceed with the project based on the recommendation of O'Shea Builders, in accordance with the submitted specification and bid results.

Motion: Clarke

Second: Guess

Ayes: Megginson Guess Clarke Boblitt Simpson

8.4 Resolution authorizing the issuance of General Obligation School Bonds (Alternative Revenue Source), in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 pursuant to the Local Government Debt Reform Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, for the purpose of altering, renovating, repairing, and equipping the Pawnee Elementary and High School Building and improving the site thereof. - The superintendent presented a recommendation to issue an alternate revenue bond to finance current and near-term capital projects without depleting cash reserves further. Context: After the last audit, the district had 1.9 years of cash reserves on hand. With the current projects, reserves are estimated to drop to approximately 1.5 years. The board's target is approximately 2 years of reserves. The alternate revenue bond does not require voter approval and does not affect the tax rate. It is backed by the district's existing 1% sales tax revenue stream (~\$613,000-\$615,000 annually, currently trending higher). The district currently has no bonded debt. The district's EAV is \$110 million, with a 13.8% debt ceiling equaling approximately \$15,263,498. Two bond amount options were presented: \$850,000 option: annual payment of ~\$194,000 from the 1% sales tax fund, leaving ~\$384,000/year available from the sales tax fund. The superintendent recommended a 3- year term at up to \$1 million (using \$1.25 million as the authorized ceiling to allow flexibility, similar to mortgage pre-approval). The proceeds would cover the gym project, a sanitary piping project (running from the cafeteria to the nurse's station - corroded pipes requiring replacement,, with associated flooring replacement in hallways), and the upcoming weight room project to be presented next month. The board voted to authorize issuance of general obligation school bonds (alternate revenue source) not to exceed \$1.25 million pursuant to the Local Government Debt Reform Act of the State of Illinois, for the purpose of renovating, repairing, and equipping Grade School and High School buildings and improving the sites thereof.

Motion to authorize the issuance of General Obligation School Bonds (Alternative Revenue Source), in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 pursuant to the Local Government Debt Reform Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, for the purpose of altering, renovating, repairing, and equipping the Pawnee Elementary and High School Building and improving the site thereof.

Motion: Clarke

Second: Guess

Ayes: Guess Clarke Boblitt Simpson, Megginson

9. Administrative Reports (Enclosed in Packets)

9.1 Superintendents 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

10. Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Guess

Second: Simpson

Ayes: Clarke Boblitt Simpson Megginson Guess



School Board President's Signature

15 April 26

Date



School Board Secretary's Signature

4/15/26

Date