

Board of Education  
Pawnee Community Unit School District #11  
Wednesday Jan 21, 2026  
5:00 p.m. - Closed Session, Unit Office  
7:00 p.m. - Regular Session, Library

**1. Requested closed session**

**2. Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

Members present: Clarke, Guess, Morell, Megginson, Simpson, and Ward

Members absent: Boblitt

Administrators present: Edmonds, Gehrs, Hennemann, Hamilton, Lucas, Brown

Administrators absent: N. Goodall and B. Goodall

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - please stand if able**

**Info: 4. Communications**

4.1 Student Council Updates- Reported successful winter carnival week with dress-up days and a dance held Saturday, January 10th. The student council is planning to host a trivia event scheduled for April.

4.2 Public Comment- Nothing was presented.

**Action: 5. Consent Agenda**

5.1 Adoption of Consent Agenda Items

5.2 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, December 17, 2025

5.3 School District Accounts Payable (Bill List)

5.4 School Activity Account Reports

5.5 Adoption of Press Policy Issue #120

**Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented**

**Motion: Guess**

**Second: Simpson**

**Ayes: Ward, Simpson, Morell, Megginson, Guess, and Clarke**

**Action: 6. Personnel Consent Agenda Items**

The board approved employment of multiple coaching positions, including HS Head Football Coach, Josh Talley, several assistant football coaches(Sean Bard, David Giamurrocu, Greg Downs), and volunteer coaches (J.D. Roesch, Quinn Allen, Nick Montrey, Darron Houston, Austin Curtis) Additional appointments included high school football cheerleading coach Brianna FFulton, JH softball coach Melanie Schutt, junior high track coach Sarah Bome, and various volunteer assistant coaches for track, cheerleading, and baseball. Two resignations were approved: JH head baseball coach Chris Hennemann and JH assistant softball coach Becky Galloway.

**Motion: Approve the personnel consent agenda item as presented**

**Motion: Morell**

**Second: Ward**

**Ayes: Megginson, Guess, Simpson, Ward, and Clarke (Ward noted a cousin relationship but voted yes since the position was unpaid).**

**Abstain: Morell - due to hiring himself as a volunteer baseball coach**

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Revenue and expenses are tracking on budget. Corporate tax collection stands at 62.89%, typical for this time of year. Investment rates are declining when reinvesting, but maintaining good balances. Revenue exceeded expenses by \$748,000 at the month's end. Corporate tax redistribution was explained to cover ongoing projects. Questions arose about new windows for the high school gym, which are part of upcoming health life safety projects to be completed before gym floor installation.

## **8. New Business**

8.1 Pawnee Community Education Foundation

8.2 Pre-K Community Open House-Discussion centered on allowing community members to tour the Pre-K facility on either January 31st or February 7th for a couple of hours on Saturday. Concerns were raised about scheduling conflicts with volleyball tournaments on January 31st regarding parking availability. The board ultimately decided on January 31st, expecting modest attendance with potentially more visitors due to tournament activity.

8.3 Approval of 2026-27 School Calendar-The calendar was developed through collaboration between administration and union president Heather Sammonds. The schedule aligns more closely with other districts (CACC, SASSED Central) for transportation efficiency and instructional days, though spring breaks and parent-teacher conference dates differ. The calendar also follows non-certified employee holidays. Teachers voted on options, specifically choosing between two days off in February versus one day off in March, with March break being mandatory per union requirements.

8.4 Discussion and approval of IHSA Bylaws-Lucas presented significant changes affecting the district. The 'right to play act' (Proposal 11) allows high school student-athletes to participate in two sanctioned non-school events and one unsanctioned event during their high school season, requiring school registration and approval. The dead week moved from rotating August dates to July 4th week. Football playoff expansion from 32 to 48 teams per class creates bye weeks and earlier season start, affecting practice schedules despite playing eight-man football. These changes impact travel team participation and family vacation planning. Softball season moved up with practices starting February 23rd and contests March 9th, one week earlier than baseball (March 2nd practices). Video review process introduced for flagrant contact ejections in football, allowing IHSA staff to review and potentially overturn referee decisions, addressing the shorter football season impact compared to other sports.

8.5 Discussion and approval of district provided health insurance for bus drivers-Superintendent requested policy approval to offer health insurance to bus drivers working less than 30 hours, as current regulations prevent coverage manipulation. Two drivers currently work approximately 15 hours weekly (3 hours daily). The district would offer up to \$730 monthly (standard amount for all employees), with employees responsible for costs exceeding that amount. Discussion revealed complexities around prorating benefits, minimum hour requirements, and potential expansion to other part-time employees like custodians or cafeteria workers. Concerns were raised about providing equal benefits regardless of hours worked and where to establish minimum thresholds. Motion was tabled to allow investigation of available carriers before making policy decisions.

Motion: To table the approval of health insurance for bus drivers

Motion: Megginson

Second: Guess

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

#### 9. Administrative Reports

#### 10. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Motion: Guess

Second: Simpson

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