

Pleasant Hill CUSD #3

November 19, 2025

Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Education of Pike and Calhoun Counties, Unit District No. 3, met in regular session on November 19, 2025 in the all-purpose room at Pleasant Hill Elementary School 501 E. Quincy Street (business address) 319 E. Mosier Street (physical address). The meeting was called to order by President Steve Hammitt at 6:00 p.m. Members present answered roll call as follows:

Present: Traci Buchanan, Shawn Carpenter, Braden Damon, Steve Hammitt, Tracey Harrison, Aaron Rodhouse
Absent: Sydney Crowder

Administration present included Superintendent Kylee Orr and High School Principal Ryan Lowe.

President Steve Hammitt led the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Traci Buchanan gave an invocation.

Public Comments:

- Hannah Rodhouse commented she has tried to work with the district related to matters involving a student but has not received a response from the administration. She is frustrated by the administration's lack of response and believes certain staff are being protected.
- Brittany Smith commented she does not believe Title I services are being properly provided and her child is not receiving proper instruction in reading. She has provided information about different screening/learning programs to the District but they have not been implemented. She is also concerned about bullying.

Routine Consent Agenda: The Board approved the Consent Agenda. The motion was made by Member Damon. Roll Call vote:

Aye Votes: Buchanan, Carpenter, Damon, Hammitt, Harrison, Rodhouse
Nay Votes: None

Motion carried.

Motion No. 1 by Member Damon, seconded by Member Harrison, to approve the Consent Agenda. Members present answered roll call vote as follows:

Aye Votes: Buchanan, Carpenter, Damon, Hammitt, Harrison, Rodhouse
Nay Votes: None

Motion carried.

There was no correspondence.

Principal Lowe and Superintendent Orr gave reports for the schools and District. Mr. Lowe reported on the upcoming college day and the CEO class. Superintendent Orr discussed the need to adopt a Risk Management Plan for 2026-2027, which will include a personnel group. The District is also in the process of a 5-year review of its policies.

Member Damon gave a report informed the Board of a meeting with Omni Energy Group attended by himself, Member Shawn Carpenter, and Superintendent Kylee Orr in regard to District Building Improvements. He reported that Omni suggested beginning improvements on the outside of building first in order to waterproof and then to work the way in. Member Damon reported that Omni will develop a five-year plan for the District and is working on that currently.

Board Discussion and Action:

The Board approved Motion No. 2 by Member Damon and seconded by Member Hammitt, to approve the Risk Management Plan for the 2026-2027 school year. Member present answered roll call vote as follows:

Aye Votes: Buchanan, Carpenter, Damon, Hammitt, Harrison, Rodhouse (6 Aye)

Nay Votes: None (0 Nay)

Absent: Crowder (1 Absent)

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Policy 1:30 on School District Philosophy and Mission Statement.

The Board had no discussion regarding a first reading of the following Policy Updates:

- 2:120, 2:130, 2:150, 2:270
- 4:10, 4:30, 4:80
- 5:10, 5:20, 5:90, 5:100, 5:200, 5:280, 5:300
- 6:20, 6:40, 6:60, 6:130, 6:160, 6:220, 6:300, 6:310, 6:315, 6:320
- 7:10, 7:40, 7:70, 7:90, 7:140, 7:150, 7:180, 7:190, 7:290, 7:315, 7:325, 7:340
- 8:30, 8:80

Superintendent Orr presented the tentative tax levy. Superintendent Orr reviewed last year's tax rates which she stated were not "maxed out" or were not at the level approved by voter referendum. She stated she estimated the EAV with a 17% increase in order to capture all levy dollars the District is entitled to. She announced that the total aggregate tax levy for tax year 2025 would be \$2,431,999.00. She stated she did not request as many dollars in the IMRF or Social Security Fund due to a current surplus. She stated this would give community members a break on a tax increase caused by an increased EAV. She stated that she requested additional dollars in the Tort Fund to cover expenses included in the District's Risk Management Plan. Finally she stated that the Bond rate did have a slight increase due to the Bond payment restructure from the previous spring. Overall the percent increase over last year is reported to be 19.32% Superintendent Orr stated a truth in taxation hearing would be held.

Superintendent Orr reported the District had received their Illinois School Report Card designation and was excited to report the District had been designated as Commendable once again after spending a year at Targeted status.

The Board approved Motion No. 3 by Member Damo and seconded by Member Harrison, to adjourn to closed session at 6:34 p.m. for the purpose of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Members present answered roll call vote as follows:

Aye Votes: Buchanan, Carpenter, Damon, Hammitt, Harrison, Rodhouse (6 Aye)

Nay Votes: None (0 Nay)

Absent: Crowder (1 Absent)

Motion carried.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:16 p.m.

Actions Following Closed Session:

The Board approved Motion No. 4 by Member Damon, seconded by Member Carpenter, to approve to hire Maxwell Hayes as K-8 Physical Education Teacher. Members present answered roll call vote as follows:

Aye Votes: Buchanan, Carpenter, Damon, Hammitt, Harrison, Rodhouse (6 Aye)

Nay Votes: None (0 Nay)

Absent: Crowder (1 Absent)

Motion carried.

The Board approved Motion No. 5 by Member Harrison, seconded by Member Damon, to approve to hire Blondale York as full time paraprofessional. Members present answered roll call vote as follows:

Aye Votes: Buchanan, Carpenter, Damon, Hammitt, Harrison, Rodhouse (6 aye)

Nay Votes: None (0 Nay)

Absent: Crowder (1 Absent)

Motion carried.

The Board adjourned at 9:14 p.m. by approving Motion No. 6 by Member Carpenter and seconded by Member Hammitt. Members present answered roll call vote as follows:

Aye Votes: Buchanan, Carpenter, Damon, Hammitt, Harrison, Rodhouse (6 Aye)

Nay Votes: None (0 Nay)

Absent: Crowder (1 Absent)

Motion carried.

President

Secretary