

Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

August 17, 2026

A public tax rate hearing for the tax levy to be set for 2026-2027 school year was held at 6:45 P.M. on August 17, 2026. Board members Parrott, Sanders, Smallwood, Siercks, Casey, Scott, and Schnakenberg were present. Also present were Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, Elizabeth Eckhoff and Michelle Smith. Mr. Smith recommended the following tax rates be set for the 2026-2027 school year: General Fund - \$3.2118; Special Revenue Fund - 0-; and Debt Service Fund - \$.7349. Total tax rate of \$3.9467. After discussion the tax rate hearing was closed.

Call to Order Board members present for the regular meeting on August 17, 2026 were, Parrott, Sanders, Smallwood, Siercks, Casey, Scott, and Schnakenberg.

Also present were Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, Elizabeth Eckhoff, Michelle Smith, Talia Fetters and Jen Strouse with OPAA

President Parrott declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Amendments to the Agenda Mr. Smith added June board regular and executive minutes approvals to consent agenda and Substitute salary to the agenda

Citizens Comments There were no citizen's comments.

Consent Agenda

a. August 17, 2026 board agenda

b. Payment of Bills

c. 2026-2027 Tax Levy

d. Ethics Resolution

e. Special Education Local Compliance Plan

f. West Central Special Services Cooperative

g. Policy

h. Bus Routes

i. June 22, 2026 regular meeting minutes

j. June 22, 2026 executive meeting minutes

Copies of the August 17, 2026 agenda, the June 22, 2026 regular meeting and executive minutes, and pages 1 and 2 of the July 20, 2026 and August 17, 2026 bills were mailed to board members prior to the meeting and were available for the public at the meeting. A separate page 3 of August bills was available at the meeting. The tax rate hearing was held prior to the regular meeting and the recommended tax rates are \$3.2118 for general fund (Fund 1) and .7349 cents for debt service fund (Fund 3) for a total rate of \$3.9467 for the 2026-2027 school year. Board members desire to readopt board policy and regulation 0342, which includes the ethics resolution. The Special Education Compliance Plan and West Central Special Services Cooperative were discussed. Mr. Smith discussed current bus routes, and CTC Route. After questions, a motion was made by Smallwood, seconded by Sanders to approve all items included in the consent agenda as listed above. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

OPAA Mr. Smith introduced Talia Fetters, Food Service Manager, OPAA, and Jen Strause, OPAA Area Manager. Mrs. Fetters gave each board member a small boxed treat and handed each a 26/27 growth plan for the district including USDA guidelines that OPAA follows. She stated that there will be a student survey going

out in October so she can continue to build the program for students and staff.

Administration Reports

Mr. Smith shared information regarding the district's CEP program for food service. Currently for the 2026-2027 school year all students will pay for meals unless qualifying for Free or Reduced with an application or through the State Direct Certification program. We are still attempting to qualify the district for CEP with DESE. Mr. Smith touched back in regards to the household that was reported to not be living in district, reporting that the household is living in district. Mr. Smith gave a construction update, flooring and cabinets are in for the elementary area, we are waiting on the passage way windows for both office areas and electrical. The hope is both entryways are functional for the first day of school.

Mr. Curtis reported that current enrollment is at 225 with classes starting Tuesday, August 25th. Current senior class is a class of 28. FFA has been busy over the summer and currently at the Children's Barnyard at the State Fair. Last week we had schedule pickup for grades 7-12 from 9AM-2PM, this seemed to go well. State Fair has offered to host conference games for Kaysinger Athletics for Basketball, Baseball and Softball. Currently we have 14 students playing football, 18 students for football cheer and 18 students for volleyball. Volleyball will be participating in a jamboree on August 25th at 7PM. The football jamboree will be held Friday, August 21st at 5:30PM. All the JH teams (football, cheer and volleyball) have started practicing this week with games beginning in September. Quarterback club held their annual golf tournament the first week of August, this is a fundraiser that helps the athletic department for our students.

Mrs. Eckhoff reported that current student enrollment is 282. Enrollment packet drop off has gone well. We will have a Title program review this school year and Mrs. Eckhoff stated how she will be planning a few extra curriculum night for student and parents. Step Up Consulting is coming in this week to work with staff on curriculum development and with Paraprofessionals on classroom training. New Math and Reading programs beginning this year to help students achieve. Kindergarten orientation was this last week and the newest Cardinals are eager to be in the classroom. ESY also took place the week of August 10th.

Substitute Salary

Mr. Smith discussed current substitute daily rate is currently at \$120.00 per day, he would like to increase this to \$125.00 per day. After discussion a motion made by Siercks seconded by Casey to approve the substitute salary at \$125.00 per day for the 2026/2027 school year. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Scott seconded by Siercks at 7:46 P.M. to go to executive session for personnel matters (RSMo 610.021 (3 & 13). Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Schnakenberg-yes; Scott-yes; Casey-yes; Siercks-yes; Smallwood-yes; Sanders-yes; and Parrott-yes; Total vote 7 yes, 0 no.

Adjournment

At 8:20 PM the board returned to open session.

There being no further business a motion was made by Casey, seconded by Siercks to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education