

The Benton County R-2 School District board members continued the meeting in executive session on January 20, 2025 beginning at 8:09 PM. Board members present were Yearout, Rutherford, Sanders, Eichler, Smallwood, and Eckhoff. Parrott was absent.

Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, Elizabeth Eckhoff and Michelle Smith were also present.

Mr. Smith shared retirement letter from Becky Mueller for the end of the 2024/2025 school year. Also shared resignation letters from Madelyn Mensior, Paraprofessional, and James Tolar, trip bus driver, effective immediately. After questions and discussion, a motion made by Eckhoff, seconded by Rutherford to accept the retirement letter and resignations as presented. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Eckhoff-yes Smallwood-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-absent; and Yearout-yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Smith recommended Braden Drehle for JH Softball assistant coaching. After discussion a motion made by Smallwood, seconded by Eichler to hire Braden Drehle for JH Softball assistant coach. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Eckhoff-yes Smallwood-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-absent; and Yearout-yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no.

At 8:17 P.M., Mr. Smith excused himself from the meeting.

Board members discussed with Mr. Curtis and Mrs. Eckhoff the superintendent's performance.

At 8:20 P.M., Mr. Curtis and Mrs. Eckhoff excused themselves from the meeting so the board could conduct the annual evaluation of the Superintendent.

The board discussed the superintendent's evaluation.

Board members considered extending Kevin Smith's superintendent contract for the 2027-2028 school year. It was the consensus of board members that Mr. Smith has met or exceeded all performance expectations in each performance area. A motion was made by Rutherford, seconded by Smallwood to extend Kevin Smith's superintendent contract for the 2027-2028 school year beginning on July 1, 2027 with the salary to be determined prior to July 1, 2027. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Eckhoff-yes Smallwood-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-absent; and Yearout-yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no.

At 8:20 P.M., Mr. Smith was called back into the meeting and was informed of the contract offer.

There being no further business for executive session a motion was made by Rutherford, seconded by Eichler to adjourn the executive session at 8:25 P.M. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Eckhoff-yes; Smallwood-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-absent; and Yearout-yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no.

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education

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