

Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

August 16, 2021

A public tax rate hearing for the tax levy to be set for 2021-2022 school year was held at 6:45 P.M. on August 16, 2021. Board members Yearout, Parrott, Rutherford, Sanders, Eichler, Koll and Smallwood were present. Also present were Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, Becky Eifert and Michelle Smith. Mr. Smith recommended the following tax rates be set for the 2021-2022 school year: General Fund - \$3.31; Special Revenue Fund -0-; and Debt Service Fund - \$.73. Total tax rate of \$4.04. After discussion the tax rate hearing was closed.

Call to Order Board members present for the regular meeting on August 16, 2021 were, Yearout, Parrott, Rutherford, Sanders, Eichler, Koll, and Smallwood.

Also present were Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, Becky Eifert and Michelle Smith.

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

Amendments to the Agenda There were no amendments to the agenda.

Citizens Comments There were citizen’s comments at the meeting. Jennifer Brennen and Michelle Paxton were in attendance. Jennifer Brennen approached the board with her requests for the board to approve that there be no masks for the 21/22 school year and forward. Mr. Smith thanked Jennifer Brennen for speaking to the board and for her information shared and asked her to stay while the board moved forward on the agenda to discuss the re-entry for the school year.

Back to School Re-Entry Plan Review Mr. Smith shared the recent back to school letters that were previously mailed out stating that masks would be optional at that time. Mr. Smith shared the recent meeting he and other area superintendents attended at the Benton County Health Department and shared the health departments recommendations of the need to wear masks for every student and staff member vaccinated or not. As of today, August 16th, in Benton County there are 89 active cases. Also shared was information from the Kaysinger conference meeting of superintendents and at this time most conference schools are not going to start classes wearing masks. The health department agrees that wearing a mask is a touchy subject, but still recommends that all students and staff wear masks and continue social distancing. After discussion it is decided that we will re-open with no masks and leave it to be optional for students and staff members at this time. This will be monitored and if things need to change the school board will discuss at such time. All board members recently received a letter from Sarah Beaman stating her concern over wearing masks in school prior to the board meeting.

- Consent Agenda
- a. August 16, 2021 board agenda
 - b. July 19, 2021 regular meeting minutes
 - c. July 19, 2021 Payment of Bills
 - d. 2020 - 2021 Tax Levy
 - e. Ethics Resolution
 - f. Special Education Local Compliance Plan
 - g. West Central Special Services Cooperative
- Copies of the August 16, 2021 agenda, the July 19, 2021 regular meeting minutes, and page 1 of the August 16, 2021 bills were mailed to board members prior to the meeting and were available for the public at the meeting. A separate page 2 of bills was available at the meeting. The tax rate hearing was held prior to the regular meeting and the recommended tax rates are \$3.31 for general fund (Fund 1) and .73 cents for debt service fund (Fund 3) for a total rate of \$4.04 for the 2021-2022 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 was discussed. After questions, a motion was made by Parrott, seconded by Rutherford to approve all items included in the consent agenda as listed above. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

2015 General Obligation Refunding Bonds

A motion was made to approve the resolution authorizing the redemption of the \$350,000 principal amount of general obligation refunding bonds, series 2015 and authorizing the publication of notice of redemption by Parrott, seconded by Eichler to approve prepayment. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Administrator Reports

Mr. Smith shared information regarding the recent annual school audit that went very well, the final report will be out in the next few weeks. Buildings are in good shape and ready for the new school year. Bus Drivers will be attending the annual driver training tomorrow at Morgan County school district and staff return on Wednesday August 18th. Mr. Smith has recently visited with architects regarding school expansion and will be in the near future asking board members to attend with him to look at some area schools that have built new gymnasiums and classrooms.

Mr. Curtis commented that the high school staff were anxious to start the new school year. Student enrollment currently is at 236 with classes starting August 24th. Faculty meetings will begin August 18th; teachers are looking forward to the year, he has been meeting with staff members individually to be sure everyone is ready for the new year. FFA is currently holding the barnyard at the state fair with Brandi Maddux in charge, student council recently held a blood drive that had a decent turnout, and high school band recently held a camp to get band students back ready for a new school year. Stu-Co and FCCLA are currently working together to greet students as they return to school, Stu-Co will be holding the back to school bash night at the first home football game on September 3rd. There will be a football jamboree here at Lincoln on Friday, August 20th with football starting the season with an away game on August 27th at Midway. Volleyball begins their season on August 31st at home.

Mrs. Eifert reported that current student enrollment is 262. Currently one family is opting for on line learning that will be with Morgan County School district this year and a few other families returning to in class seating for learning. Teachers are ready to get students back in the classroom, Kindergarten orientation was this past week and the newest Cardinals are eager to be in the classroom.

Jennifer Brennen and Michelle Paxton left the meeting at 7:40PM

Executive Session

A motion was made by Eichler seconded by Koll at 7:40 P.M. to go to executive session for personnel matters (RSMo 610.021 (3 & 13)). Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Smallwood-yes; Koll-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-yes; Yearout-yes. Total vote 7 yes, 0 no.

Adjournment

At 8:00PM the board returned to open session.

There being no further business a motion was made by Parrott, seconded by Eichler to adjourn the meeting at 8:08P.M. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education