Board Members Present Board members present for the regular meeting on April 16, 2024 were Yearout,

Parrott, Rutherford, Sanders, and Smallwood. Eichler and Eckhoff were absent.

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

was absent.

Call to Order President Yearout declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at

7:30 P.M.

Amendments to the

Agenda

Mr. Smith added transportation bus lease renewal information to Consent Agenda

Citizens Comments There were no citizens comments made.

Certification of Election Results/Oath of Office

The attached Certifications of Election held on April 2, 2024 were read. Jason Smallwood and Angela Parrott will serve as board members for the next three years. A motion was made by Sanders seconded by Rutherford to approve the attached Certifications of Election held on April 2, 2024. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

The oath of office was administered by board secretary, Michelle Smith to Jason Smallwood and Angela Parrott and they continue as board members

**Board Reorganization** 

Mr. Smith conducted the meeting for nominations for Board President.

Smallwood made a motion to nominate Yearout for Board President. Nomination seconded by Rutherford. No other nominations were received. Motion carried 4 yes, 1 abstain by Yearout.

Yearout, then conducted the rest of the meeting as Board President.

Sanders made a motion to nominate Parrott for Board Vice-President. Nomination seconded by Rutherford. No other nominations were received. Motion carried 4 yes, 0 nays. 1 abstain by Parrott.

A motion was made by Parrott, seconded by Rutherford to appoint Michelle Smith as board secretary and board treasurer. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Consent Agenda

- a. April 16, 2024 board agenda
- b. March 19, 2024 regular meeting minutes
- c. March 19, 2024 executive meeting minutes
- d. Program Evaluations
- e. Policy 6180
- f. Payment of Bills
- g. Transportation

Copies of the April 16, 2024 agenda, the March 19, 2024 regular meeting minutes, the March 19, 2024 executive meeting minutes, and pages 1 and 2 of the April 16, 2024 bills were mailed to board members prior to the meeting and were available for the public at the meeting. An additional page 3 for April 16, 2024 bills was presented at the meeting. Mr. Smith reviewed various bills and answered questions.

Mr. Smith provided information about the ESL/LEP (English as a Second Language/Limited English Proficient) program. Students are identified on enrollment paperwork when they are new to the district or by teacher referrals if they are current students. Services are provided if needed.

The Homeless/Migrant program was discussed. Services are provided for students when necessary. Students are identified either through enrollment paperwork or referrals.

The district's Nutrition Services was discussed. The district is currently operating under the CEP program for Elementary PK-4 eat free for the 2023/2024 school year through the DESE, Free and Reduced forms are accepted for grades 5-12 under the NSLP through DESE. Breakfast participation rates have decreased to 38%. Lunch participation has decreased to 66%.

Mr. Smith reviewed policy 6180 changes for ELL (English Language Learners). Once a student is identified as needing assistance, they will be provided with appropriate programs to address their needs.

Mr. Smith shared information from Midwest Transit regarding bus 04 lease renewal, the new lease will renew at \$17,325.00 annually for five (5) years beginning July 2024.

After questions and discussion of items in the consent agenda, a motion was made by Parrott seconded by Sanders to approve all items in the consent agenda as listed above. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays

Construction Report

The sidewalk/concrete handicap area has been completed as far as it can be done until the Preschool trailer is removed, the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing have been completed with the exception of a couple of loose ends, the gymnasium floor has been completely placed and finished under the bleachers. In addition, the bleachers are being installed and the finishing of the gym floor will resume after the bleachers are completed. All other flooring has been completed with the exception of the main vestibule carpet that will be installed at a later date. A punch list walk through was performed on 4/11/2024. The list of items will be generated by the architect in the next week and Septagon will distribute to contractors to get the items completed. In the coming weeks the contractors will work towards completing the punch list, installing signage, the bleachers will be finishing up along with the gym floor. No items requiring action at this time, however next month any change orders/final directions on the playground equipment, the playground fencing, the playground surfacing, any sidewalk

improvements and any sidewalk lighting if desired must be reached by the board to allow work to begin in June or July. Mr. Smith stated that there will be a few schools coming to look at the two trailers in the next few weeks, bids will be submitted by interested parties. The hope is to have the trailers moved in June. He hopes to have the preschool classroom open on Cardinal night for visitors to see as the plan is still to have preschool moved into the new classroom the first part of May permitting the floors have been sealed and waxed and furnishings in place.

Support Staff Salaries, Extra Duty/Extended Days Schedule, and Administrative Salaries The salary information was presented by Mr. Smith for the support staff salary schedules to receive a 5% increase. Paraprofessionals and Bus Drivers will receive a step increase if applicable or remain at the current step as they move every two years according to procedures. Mr. Smith presented salary information for Support Staff and Administrative staff who do not have salary schedules to also receive a 5% increase. Mr. Smith presented information regarding Extra Duty/Extended Days schedule, shared information of other conference schools schedules and the increase our schedule needs to receive. After discussion of the salary schedules, a Motion made by Parrott seconded by Rutherford, to approve the salary information as presented for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**Administrator Reports** 

Mr. Smith shared information regarding the district owned CD at Community National Bank and Trust that has come due for renewal. The value of the CD is \$250k, current rates for renewal are just below 1%. Mr. Smith proposes to cash in the CD and deposit to the construction account to utilize the funds for remaining construction costs that the bond issue will not fund. If the funds are not needed for the construction completion, the funds will be placed back into a CD. A motion made by Smallwood, seconded by Parrott to allow the cashing of the CD for construction expenses. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Smith reported for Mr. Curtis in his absence, high school enrollment is 247 with current attendance at 92% attendance. High School currently has MAP testing going on with students taking tests on line with laptops and in the computer lab. Greenhouse will hold their annual plant sale on Saturday 4/20, FFA Banquet will be Wednesday 4/24, High School Senior Prom will be Saturday 4/27, Cardinal night is Thursday 5/2, Senior trip is Friday 5/3, High School Spring Concert is Tuesday 5/7, Baccalaureate is Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM and graduation on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM. Spring sports are going well, HS Softball recently took 2nd in the Kaysinger conference tournament, and the HS Baseball Kaysinger conference will begin Saturday 4/20. JH Baseball and Softball will be wrapping up their season soon, both teams have done well this season.

Mrs. Eifert reported enrollment is 256 with current attendance is at 95%. Students are currently preparing for online MAP testing and end of year activities and field trips are planned, students with attendance below 90% will not be allowed to participate. Kindergarten screening was recently held with 21 students screened for next year, and more anticipated to enroll over the summer. Middle School level Math students recently placed 1<sup>st</sup> place in a recent Math contest.

## Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

April 16, 2024

**Executive Session** 

A motion was made by Parrott seconded by Sanders to go to executive session at 8:24 P.M. for personnel matters (RSMo 610.021 (3 & 13). Roll call vote of motion Eckhoff-yes; Smallwood-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; carried as follows: Rutherford-yes; Parrott-yes and Yearout-yes; Total vote 5 yes, 0 no.

Board members returned from executive session at 8:54 P.M.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made by Parrott, seconded by Smallwood to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 P.M. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education