

Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

August 21, 2023

A public tax rate hearing for the tax levy to be set for 2023-2024 school year was held at 6:45 P.M. on August 21, 2023. Board members Parrott, Rutherford, Sanders, Smallwood and Eckhoff were present. Yearout and Eichler were absent. Also present were Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, Becky Eifert and Michelle Smith. Mr. Smith recommended the following tax rates be set for the 2023-2024 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 21, 2023 were, Parrott, Rutherford, Sanders, Smallwood and Eckhoff. Yearout and Eichler were absent.

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

Vice President Parrott 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 no citizen’s comments.

Consent Agenda Copies of the August 21, 2023 agenda, the July 17, 2023 regular meeting and executive minutes, and pages 1 and 2 of the August 21, 2023 bills were mailed to board members prior to the meeting and were available for the public at the meeting. A separate page 3 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 2023-2024 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. The Back to School Re-Entry Plan was stated and discussed by Mr. Smith. After questions, a motion was made by Rutherford, seconded by Smallwood to approve all items included in the consent agenda as listed above.

- a. August 21, 2023 board agenda
- b. July 17, 2023 regular meeting minutes
- c. July 17, 2023
- d. Payment of Bills
- e. 2023-2024 Tax Levy
- f. Ethics Resolution
- g. Special Education Local Compliance Plan
- h. West Central Special Services Cooperative
- i. Back to School Re-Entry Plan

Tracy Needy, Parents as Teachers, arrived at 7:08PM

Parents as Teachers Tracy Needy shared information with the board regarding Parents as Teachers and discussed the current events of the program. She stated that she is currently serving six (6) families in the Lincoln R2 district.

Tracy left the meeting at 7:15PM

Construction Report Mr. Smith shared information regarding current construction. Walls are currently being placed, the concrete for the gym floor has been poured, in the coming weeks the focus will be on the masonry walls, concrete cap at the locker room and continued mechanical, electrical, and plumbing rough-in.

Administrator Reports Mr. Smith shared information regarding the north parking lot expansion. He stated that he spoke to Dennis Paul with Septagon and the earliest was going to be October or later to get bids and work completed for the expansion. A change order was put in place by Septagon for Do-Rite Construction to expand the north parking lot. Mr. Smith also shared information regarding recent meetings with all the bus drivers to make sure routes will run as smooth as possible for new and returning students.

Mr. Curtis commented that the high school staff were anxious to start the new school year. Student enrollment currently is at 253 with classes starting tomorrow, August 22nd. Faculty returned last week on Wednesday, August 16th; 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. New staff members as well seem eager to get the year started. The football jamboree was held last Friday, August 18th with a good turnout, the football season kicks off with a home game this Friday, August 25th at 8PM due to heat against Lone Jack. Volleyball begins their season on August 29th at home against Warsaw and Appleton City games begin at 5:30PM. All the JH teams (football and volleyball) have started practicing with games beginning in September.

Mrs. Eifert reported that current student enrollment is 263. Kindergarten orientation was this past week and the newest Cardinals are eager to be in the classroom. ESY took place the first week of August. New interactive smart boards were installed over the summer for all classrooms to assist teachers and students with instruction as well as Title services.

Executive Session A motion was made by Smallwood seconded by Rutherford at 7:38 P.M. to go to executive session for personnel matters (RSMo 610.021 (3 & 13)). Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Eckhoff-yes; Smallwood-yes; Eichler-absent; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-yes; Yearout-absent. Total vote 5 yes, 0 no.

Adjournment At 7:58 PM the board returned to open session.

There being no further business a motion was made by Smallwood, seconded by Eckhoff to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

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