

Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

September 21, 2026

Board Members Present Board members present for the regular meeting on September 21, 2026 were Parrott, Sanders, Smallwood, Siercks, Casey, Scott, and Schnakenberg

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

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

Amendments to Agenda There were no amendments to the agenda

Citizens Comments Nichole Aery was in attendance, there were no citizens comments.

Consent Agenda
a. September 21, 2026 board agenda
b. August 17 2026 regular meeting minutes
c. August 17, 2026 executive minutes
d. Payment of Bills
e. Reimbursement rates
Copies of the September 21, 2026 agenda, the August 17, 2026 regular meeting minutes and executive meeting minutes, and pages 1 and 2 of the September 21, 2026 bills were mailed to board members prior to the meeting and were available for the public at the meeting. An additional page 3 for September 21, 2026 bills was presented at the meeting. After questions and discussion, a motion was made by Siercks seconded Smallwood to approve all items in the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Nichole Aery Public Address Mr. Smith introduced Mrs. Nichole Aery to address the board. Mrs. Aery would like to ask questions of the board members regarding our school leadership and concerns of administration and student athletes in the district. She will continue her questions in closed session.

Policy & Regulation Updates Mr. Smith summarized the proposed policy and regulation updates as recommended by MCE. After discussion, a motion was made by Siercks seconded by Casey to approve Policy 1300; Policy 1320; Policy 1432; Policy 1435; Policy 2100; Policy 2875; Policy 4110; Policy 4630; Policy 4860; Policy 4875; Policy 5410; Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

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Superintendent
2026/2027 Search
Process

Mr. Smith spoke to the board about the search process for a superintendent for the 2027-2028 school year. Mr. Smith will post the opening on Mo Teaching Jobs this week, applications due by October 23rd, staff interviews the week of November 2nd, with board interviews the week of November 9th. Plan is to have a contract offered at the November 16th board meeting. Mr. Smith suggested to start minimum salary at \$105K with a two (2) year contract.

Administrator
Reports

Mr. Smith shared information regarding the vestibule construction that is nearing completion. It was missed in design of the elementary vestibule entryway to add heat and air in the area, he has received a quote of \$7-12K to add heat and air. At this time, we will leave the entryway as is. Mr. Smith shared information from DESE board meeting last week where they have voted against the state department funding and will submit a budget request to the state by October 1st, the current funding proposal is approximately \$270M less than the amount required to fully fund the formula. Mr. Smith shared that we have added seats to our Bus 78 which is also a handicap bus, it will now seat 22 and be used for trips and an alternate.

Mr. Curtis shared that current high school enrollment is 225 with attendance at 94.7% currently. Mr. Curtis shared that the year is off to a good start, he shared that teachers are going the extra mile to help our students and it's a great thing to see and hear about. Recently our students recognized the 9-11 events from 25 years ago and both students and teachers participated, it was a great event. Our band recently marched in the Cole Camp parade on September 10th. Five students recently made all district choir. FFA students recently ended their fund raiser for their national convention which is at the end of October, Esports continues to grow, HS Volleyball is 2-5 currently, conference is October 7-10, we play at home tomorrow night, HS Football is 0-4 currently, each game has been close, our cheerleaders are doing a great job at each game, JH Volleyball is currently 3-3, JH Football is currently 2-0.

Mrs. Eckhoff shared that current elementary enrollment is 275 with attendance at 96.2%. Goodies with Grandparents was held Friday September 11th and well attended. Elementary recently held a Title parent night to help parents understand what teachers and parents together can do to help their students. PTO trash bag fundraiser ends this Friday, September 25th. Parent Teacher conferences will be Thursday, October 29^h. Star reading assessments are a coming up with mid quarter grades, and school pictures are Monday, September 28th.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Scott, seconded by Sanders to go to executive session at 7:56pm (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.

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Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made by Siercks, seconded by Casey to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 P.M. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education