

Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

December 16, 2024

Board Members Present Board members present for the regular meeting on December 16, 2024 were, Yearout, Parrott, Rutherford, Eichler, Smallwood and Eckhoff. Sanders was absent.

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

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

Amendments to the Agenda Mr. Smith added bus lease renewals.

Citizens Comments There were no citizen’s comments.

Consent Agenda
a. December 16, 2024 board agenda
b. November 18, 2024 regular
c. November 18, 2024 executive meeting minutes
d. Payment of Bills
Copies of the December 16, 2024 agenda, the November 18, 2024 regular and executive meeting minutes, and pages 1, and 2 of the December 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 December 16, 2024 bills was presented at the meeting. After questions and discussion, a motion was made by Smallwood, seconded by Rutherford to approve all items in the consent agenda as listed above. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Administrator Reports Mr. Smith shared information regarding the playground updates. The current large playset to be updated for add on and to be ADA the estimated cost is \$25,740, a bongo climber and ABC item for the preschool area would add an additional \$8,564, he is still waiting on swing set information, and quotes for removing gravel and adding the rubber mulch and rubber pour in pathway. Mr. Smith would like permission to order the changes for the large playset and the bongo climber and preschool ABC, motion made by Parrott, seconded by Smallwood to approve Mr. Smith to proceed with the changes. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Smith also shared we have two (2) board seats open, currently we have had three (3) respondents. Mr. Smith reminded board members about the filing dates for the upcoming election, December 10, 2024 through December 31, 2024 are the open dates for filing. Open positions are for Yearout and Rutherford.

High school principal Mr. Curtis reported attendance is currently at 93.71% with 248 students enrolled. This year’s musical will be Annie. FFA held their annual poinsettias sell out of the greenhouse this past week. Varsity and JV Girls and Boys Basketball seasons are off to a good start, JH basketball has also started. Otterville basketball tournament will begin this week, with girls playing tonight

and boys playing tomorrow night. JH basketball 12th annual tournament is currently going on with 8 teams playing over 4 days. Boys’ basketball took 2nd in the Warsaw basketball tournament and the Girls took consolation. The annual Christmas music concert will be at 1PM on Friday December 20th and is open to anyone to attend in the gym. NHS will begin selling raffle tickets in January to help the Lincoln Care Center obtain new recliners for residents.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Curtis shared information they each have been receiving from community and players on changing to 8 man football. Mr. Smith stated they would like to continue putting the word out to get more feedback about moving to 8-man for school year 26/27.

Elementary principal Mrs Eckhoff stated attendance of elementary students remained at 95.7% with 290 students enrolled. Elementary K-3 music Christmas concert was last week and the performance was wonderful. Grinch day is this Thursday and students will be shown the Grinch movie in the new gym, parties will be Friday, December 20th at 2PM in each elementary classroom. Staff return after the Christmas break on Monday, January 6th and will have a full work day ahead.

Bus Lease

Mr. Smith discussed the bus leases coming due at the end of the school year. Mr. Smith has received numbers from Midwest Transit to purchase a new International bus, the cost is \$147,311 and to lease a new International bus is \$24,995 annually. A motion made by Parrott, seconded by Rutherford to give permission to Mr. Smith to make the best decision for leasing verses buying depending what interest rates would be for financing. Motion carried 6 yes 0 no.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Smallwood seconded by Rutherford to go to executive Session at 7:45 P.M for personnel matters (RSMo 610.021 (3 & 13). Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Eckhoff-yes; Smallwood-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-absent; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-yes; and Yearout-yes; Total vote 6 yes, 0 no.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made by Rutherford seconded by Smallwood to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 P.M. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education