

Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

August 18, 2025

A public tax rate hearing for the tax levy to be set for 2025-2026 school year was held at 6:45 P.M. on August 18, 2025. Board members Parrott, Sanders, Smallwood, Eckhoff, Siercks, and Casey were present, Eichler was absent. Also present were Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, Elizabeth Eckhoff and Michelle Smith. Mr. Smith recommended the following tax rates be set for the 2025-2026 school year: General Fund - \$3.2115; Special Revenue Fund -0-; and Debt Service Fund - \$.7349. Total tax rate of \$3.9464. After discussion the tax rate hearing was closed.

Call to Order

Board members present for the regular meeting on August 18, 2025 were, Parrott, Sanders, Smallwood, Eckhoff, Siercks, and Casey. Eichler was absent.

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

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

- a. August 18, 2025 board agenda
- b. June 23, 2025 regular meeting minutes
- c. June 23, 2025 executive meeting minutes
- d. Payment of Bills
- e. 2025-2026 Tax Levy
- f. Ethics Resolution
- g. Special Education Local Compliance Plan
- h. West Central Special Services Cooperative

Copies of the August 18, 2025 agenda, the June 23, 2025 regular meeting and executive minutes, and pages 1 and 2 of the July 21, 2025 and August 18, 2025 bills were mailed to board members prior to the meeting and were available for the public at the meeting. A separate page 3 of August bills was available at the meeting. The tax rate hearing was held prior to the regular meeting and the recommended tax rates are \$3.2115 for general fund (Fund 1) and .7349 cents for debt service fund (Fund 3) for a total rate of \$3.9464 for the 2025-2026 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 were discussed. After questions, a motion was made by Eckhoff, seconded by Smallwood to approve all items included in the consent agenda as listed above. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Administrator Reports

Mr. Smith shared information regarding the updates on the playground renovations. We are still waiting on additional equipment that is to arrive the week of September 6<sup>th</sup>. Once the equipment arrives, installers will come and then the rubber flooring will be poured. The hope is to have the playground completed by the first to mid-October. Once the playground is complete, a fence will be installed around it for

safety. The preschool playground is complete. We now have Rick Grunden certified as a bus trainer for future needs for drivers. Mr. Smith discussed the trees that were removed from the front of the school due to roots getting into the foundation, hope is once things settle top soil will be added and grass planted.

Mr. Curtis reported that current enrollment is at 241 with classes starting tomorrow, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Curtis shared the new regulation, Senate Bill 68, stating no cell phones or use of various electronics during the school day, from the first school bell to the last school bell of the day. Mr. Curtis also shared information regarding Senate Bill 63, the allowing of home-schooled students to participate in regular school activities and sports. In the past the home-schooled student was required to attend 2 hours per day to participate, and now they are no longer required to attend to participate. FFA recently held the annual children's barnyard at the State Fair. Currently we have 20 kids playing football, 15 kids for football cheer and 17 kids for volleyball. Volleyball will be participating in a jamboree on August 28<sup>th</sup> at Northwest. Currently we have moved to an 8-man football team, and have scheduled 7 games at this time for the season. The football jamboree will be held Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Braymer. Currently we will use temporary lines for the 8-man games on the field. All the JH teams (football, cheer and volleyball) have started practicing this week with games beginning in September.

Mrs. Eckhoff reported that current student enrollment is 278. Kindergarten orientation was the first week of August and the newest Cardinals are eager to be in the classroom. ESY also took place the first week of August. Staff have been training on Top Score Writing curriculum that will be introduced this school year grades K-6 as well as Star Reading and Math learning and testing platforms. Several staff members participated in CPI training during the workdays prior to the start of the school year. The circus is coming to Lincoln on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and PTO will sponsor Goodies with Grandparents on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### Executive Session

A motion was made by Smallwood seconded by Eckhoff at 7:44 P.M. to go to executive session for personnel matters (RSMo 610.021 (3 & 13)). Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Casey-yes; Siercks-yes; Eckhoff-yes; Smallwood-yes; Eichler-absent; Sanders-yes; and Parrott-yes; Total vote 6 yes, 0 no.

#### Adjournment

At 8:08 PM the board returned to open session.

There being no further business a motion was made by Sanders, seconded by Casey to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 P.M. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education