

Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

August 19, 2024

A public tax rate hearing for the tax levy to be set for 2024-2025 school year was held at 6:45 P.M. on August 19, 2024. Board members Yearout, Rutherford, Sanders, Eichler, Smallwood and Eckhoff were present. Parrott was absent. Also present were Kevin Smith, and Michelle Smith. Adam Curtis and Elizabeth Eckhoff were absent. Mr. Smith recommended the following tax rates be set for the 2024-2025 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 19, 2024 were, Yearout, Rutherford, Sanders, Eichler, Smallwood and Eckhoff. Parrott was absent.

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

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  
a. August 19, 2024 board agenda  
b. July 15, 2024 regular meeting minutes  
c. July 15, 2024  
d. Payment of Bills  
e. 2024-2025 Tax Levy  
f. Ethics Resolution  
g. Special Education Local Compliance Plan  
h. West Central Special Services Cooperative  
i. Salaries

Copies of the August 19, 2024 agenda, the July 15, 2024 regular meeting and executive minutes, and pages 1 and 2 of the August 19, 2024 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 2024-2025 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. Salaries and reimbursement rates were discussed by Mr. Smith to increase substitute rates, and update Regulation 4320 for sick leave payout upon retirement or over maximum balance allowed for staff. 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.

Parrott arrived at 7:10PM

Construction Report Mr. Smith shared information regarding current construction. Mr. Smith stated that since the last board meeting the asphalt has been completed, fencing has been completed, the north sidewalk has been completed, there a few minor cosmetic fixes to be completed, all areas are open and operational. The scoreboards are being installed this week. Mr. Smith shared information regarding parent pick up and

drop off for before and after school from the new parking lot out the new gym lobby doors. Bus riders will remain in the front parking lot as in past. The weight room floor has been completed, as well as the equipment has been moved in to the new area. Mr. Smith shared the current construction balance information.

Elizabeth Eckhoff arrived 7:23PM

#### Administrator Reports

Mr. Smith shared information regarding a property on the corner of Market and Lamine, across from the school for sale, which the school could use for additional parking. The board is not interested. Mr. Smith shared that he has met with Miracle Recreation, Monet MO, for playground equipment for the preschool kids as well as some updated ADA items for special needs. The area to the north of the basketball court area, roughly a 40x60 area will have a track around the out edges for walking as well as preschool kids to ride their tricycles. Mr. Smith hopes to have numbers to the board for playground upgrades next month.

Mr. Smith shared information for the new handicap bus, this route will currently pick up one student. All other bus routes will remain the same, drivers are excited to get back to school.

Mr. Curtis commented that the high school staff were anxious to start the new school year. Student enrollment currently is at 255 with classes starting tomorrow, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Faculty returned last week on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>; teachers are looking forward to the year, he has been meeting with staff members individually and as groups to be sure everyone is ready for the new year. New staff members as well seem eager to get the year started. The digital hall pass system should be up and running by next week once all students have been assigned their individual chrome books. Currently we have 23 kids playing football, 16 kids for football cheer and 16 kids for volleyball. The football jamboree will be held Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the football season kicks off with a home game Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7PM against Tipton. Volleyball begins their season on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at Warsaw at 5:30PM. All the JH teams (football, cheer and volleyball) have started practicing with games beginning in September.

Mrs. Eckhoff reported that current student enrollment is 269. Kindergarten orientation was the first week of August and the newest Cardinals are eager to be in the classroom. ESY took place the first week of August. Staff have returned and are excited, there are 7 new staff members in the elementary. Staff have participated in several PD groups for the new up and going program for Character Strong. Overall the staff are excited to return to sessions.

#### Executive Session

A motion was made by Eichler seconded by Smallwood at 7:40 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-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-yes; Yearout-yes. Total vote 7 yes, 0 no.

Adjournment

At 8:02 PM the board returned to open session.

There being no further business a motion was made by Eckhoff, seconded by Smallwood to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 P.M. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 nays.

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education

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