

Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

January 19, 2026

Board Members Present	Board members present for the regular meeting on January 19, 2026 were Parrott, Sanders, Eichler, Eckhoff, Siercks, and Casey. Smallwood was absent  Also present was Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, Elizabeth Eckhoff and Michelle Smith
Call to Order	President Parrott called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
Amendments to Agenda	Mr. Smith added Brooke Williams with OPAA presentation to the agenda and budget amendments.
Citizens Comments	Brooke Williams with OPAA was present. Nichole Aery was present to present documentation to board documents and to observe.
Consent Agenda	Copies of the January 19, 2026 agenda, the December 15, 2025 regular meeting minutes, the December 15, 2025 executive meeting minutes, and pages 1 and 2 of the January 19, 2026 bills were mailed to board members prior to the meeting and were available for the public at the meeting. After questions and discussion, a motion was made by Eichler, seconded by Eckhoff, to approve all items in the consent agenda as listed above. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.
OPAA, Brooke Williams, Director of Food Service	Brooke Williams, OPAA Food Service Manager, discussed the current program currently in our district for students and staff. She discussed the OPAA community engagement program that recently this school year, OPAA donated the Veterans breakfast catering. She discussed the CACFP program for after school meals that are handed out for after school tutoring and sports. She discussed a growth plan for the current program, along with current breakfast and lunch offerings. Currently OPAA is serving 38% of our student's breakfast, 70% of our student's lunch, and 5% CACFP after school meals for our students. She would like to expand on the CACFP program and has plans to speak with the Athletic Director and Principals.
Budget Amendments	Mr. Smith reviewed the listing of the proposed budget amendments for 2025-2026. Motion by Eichler seconded by Sanders to approve the budget amendments as presented. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

# Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

January 19, 2026

## Construction Project

Mr. Smith shared with the board High School and Elementary vestibule entrances blue prints from Septagon and Porter, Berendzen and Associates. He shared the estimated construction cost of \$420k. He shared information received from LJ Hart, the district's bonding company, a 10-year note, with payback option of Principal and Interest two times each year. This is a no tax increase using our current tax levy amounts to make payments. A motion made by Eckhoff, seconded by Casey for Mr. Smith to move forward for the construction of the entrances. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

## Administrator Reports

Mr. Smith shared that our current Food Service is up for renewal, bid requests have been posted in the paper for bidders to reach out on January 16<sup>th</sup> and again on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. He is currently working on the 2026/2027 school calendar, but awaiting on SFCC to state when they will begin for CTC. He plans to have the calendar option for the board next Month. The new handicap bus is currently at the Blue Bird factory awaiting on cameras. As soon as the bus is in and licensed, it will be placed on a route. Our current trip bus, is awaiting service due to several warning lights on the last trip. Concrete for out back from 4-6 hallway to the playground will hopefully get done in the next few weeks. Currently we have used one (1) snow day for the 25/26 school year. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, the state minimum wage increased to \$15 per hour. Mr. Smith mentioned that this potentially places workers close to workers that have been in district for years. He stated the same happened with the teacher state minimum salary for new teachers compared to teachers who have been on staff many years. He stated that we have to follow the state ruling of minimum wage, but based on our current budget we cannot change budget until the next school year, and he will be meeting with staff to discuss this. Mr. Smith reviewed CSIP progress and items that are being worked on. Mr. Smith shared that we have five (5) filers for the three (3) seats open for board members, Susyn Sanders, Casey Rutherford, Whitney Schnakenberg, Adam Scott, and Andrew Beeman, we will have an election on April 7, 2026.

## Executive Session

High school principal Mr. Curtis reported attendance is currently at 93.2% with 233 students enrolled. JH Basketball recently played a noon game at Green Ridge, that JH Students were able to all attend, students enjoyed this. High School and JH basketball boys and girls are both having good season, the conference tournament schedule should be out later this week.

Elementary principal Mrs Eckhoff stated attendance of elementary students remained at 95% with 302 students enrolled. Cox Health will be conducting vision and hearing screenings for grades PK – 3 with parental permission on January 27<sup>th</sup>, Valentine parties will be held on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Owen will kick off his Heart Challenge in February.

A motion was made by Siercks seconded by Eckhoff to go to executive session at 7:46P.M. for personnel matters (RSMo 610.021 (3 & 13). Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Casey-yes; Siercks-yes; Eckhoff-yes; Smallwood-absent; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Parrott-yes; Total vote 6 yes, 0 no.

Board members returned from executive session at 8:17 P.M.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made by Eichler seconded by Eckhoff to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 P.M. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

---

President, Board of Education

---

Secretary, Board of Education