A public tax rate hearing for the tax levy to be set for 2022-2023 school year was held at 6:45 P.M. on August 15, 2022. Board members Parrott, Rutherford, Sanders, Eichler, Koll and Smallwood were present. Yearout was absent. Also present were Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, Becky Eifert and Michelle Smith. Mr. Smith recommended the following tax rates be set for the 2022-2023 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 15, 2022 were, Parrott, Rutherford, Sanders, Eichler, Koll, and Smallwood. Yearout was absent.

Also present were Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, Becky Eifert and Michelle Smith.

President Yearout 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, James Denny was present for the meeting.

Consent Agenda

- a. August 15, 2022 board agenda
- b. July 19, 2021 regular meeting minutes
- c. July 19, 2021
- d. Payment of Bills
- e. 2020 2021 Tax Levy
- f. Ethics Resolution
- g. Special Education Local Compliance Plan
- h. West Central Special Services Cooperative
- i. Library Report
- j. Back to School Re-Entry Plan

Copies of the August 15, 2022 agenda, the July 18, 2022 regular meeting and executive minutes, and page 1 of the August 15, 2022 bills were mailed to board members prior to the meeting and were available for the public at the meeting. A separate page 2 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 2022-2023 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. The Library Report was given by Mr. Smith for Dana Lynde, School Librarian. The Back To School Re-Entry Plan was stated and discussed by Mr. Smith. After questions, a motion was made by Rutherford, seconded by Eichler to approve all items included in the consent agenda as listed above. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

School District Security

Mr. Smith shared information with the board regarding security for the district. He has been talking with Nightwatch Security who handles our security cameras to install key cards for our entry doors. Mr. Smith discussed hiring a SRO, School Resource Officer, for the school district. A grant has been applied for by the City of Lincoln, a grant decision may not be available until September 30<sup>th</sup>, with funding

not possibly beginning after the first of the new year. Mr. Smith suggested that if the district is to hire a SRO for the school year, we may not want to wait until a grant is approved as it may not be approved or funded. Duties of the SRO were discussed to more than just an officer on staff during the school day. Any SRO that would be hired would need to be linked to either the City of Lincoln Police Department, Benton County Sherriff Department, or other law enforcement agency. After a discussion a motion made by Sanders, seconded by Koll to hire a SRO for the school district for the 2022/2023 school year. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

## **Administrator Reports**

Mr. Smith shared information regarding the back entry doors (HS Hallway and locker room hallway), Dugan is currently working on the replacement of these doors. Already replaced is the back door on the little gym. Main entry doors will be started with key cards, back doors will remain locked with a key at this time. Doors should be fully installed by first day of school. Mr. Smith shared information regarding information from DESE Food Service, the original extension of 30 days for Seamless Summer is no longer. We have applied for the CEP program for free meals, but all families are being asked to complete the Free and Reduced lunch applications, as we do not know when DESE will be approving or denying these applications. A Notice to Bidders is being published in the Sedalia Democrat and Benton County Enterprise for Pre-Engineered Metal Building Contractors for the new gym construction. Volleyball coaches have approached Mr. Smith regarding the uniform shorts, the coaches would like to change these to a spandex style short that is made of longer and thicker fabric. Mr. Smith has asked the coaches to look at options, and bring the options back to him for approval.

Mr. Smith shared information regarding a phone call received today, regarding the lot next to the two lots just purchased. The owner would like to sell the lot to the district for 30K. After discussion by board members, a motion was made by Smallwood, seconded by Eichler to allow Mr. Smith to offer up to 20k for the property. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays

Bus Drivers will be attending the annual driver training tomorrow at Morgan County school district on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, and staff return on Thursday, August 18th. Back to School night is Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30-7PM. Staff have already been in their rooms working, he feels that we are off to a good start. He also shared that a memo has gone out to all staff regarding appliances in their classrooms are no longer allowed, this is mainly per our district insurance.

Mr. Curtis commented that the high school staff were anxious to start the new school year. Student enrollment currently is at 246 with classes starting August 24<sup>th</sup>. Faculty meetings will begin August 18<sup>th</sup>; teachers are looking forward to the year, he has been meeting with staff members individually to be sure everyone is ready for the new year. FFA is currently holding the barnyard at the state fair with Brandi Rath in charge, student council recently held a blood drive that had a decent turnout, and high school band recently held a camp to get band students back and

## Benton County R-2 School District

## Minutes – Regular Meeting

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ready for a new school year. There will be a football jamboree here at Lincoln on Friday, August 19th with football starting the season with an away game, August 26th, at Lone Jack. Volleyball begins their season on August 30th away at Appleton City.

Mrs. Eifert reported that current student enrollment is 263. Kindergarten orientation was this past week and the newest Cardinals are eager to be in the classroom. ESY has been also taking place the last week. The Drama camp was recently held and had a great turnout for the Seusical production.

James Denny left at 7:46PM

**Executive Session** 

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

Adjournment

At 8:10PM the board returned to open session.

There being no further business a motion was made by Eichler, seconded by Rutherford to adjourn the meeting at 8:10P.M. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

President, Board of Education Secretary, Board of Education