

The Benton County R-2 School District board members continued the meeting in executive session on January 16, 2023 beginning at 7:41PM. Board members present were Yearout, Parrott, Rutherford, Sanders, Eichler, Koll and Smallwood.

Kevin Smith, Adam Curtis, and Michelle Smith were also present. Becky Eifert was absent.

Mr. Smith shared applications for the Special Education Director that he has received. Interviews have been held recently with Mr. Smith, Mrs. Eifert, Mrs. Strathman and Mr. Curtis. After discussion, Mr. Smith recommends Jennifer Smith be hired as the 2023/2024 Special Education Director. A motion was made by Parrott, seconded by Sanders to accept the recommendation. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Smallwood-yes; Koll-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-yes; and Yearout-yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Smith shared resignation letter from Elyse Starke, teacher, and Jessica Lindsay, Paraprofessional effective immediately. A motion made by Parrott, seconded by Smallwood to accept resignations as presented effective immediately. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Smallwood-yes; Koll-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott- yes; and Yearout-yes; Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Smith shared the letter of resignation/retirement from Sheryl Jarrett for the end of school year 2022/2023. A motion was made by Sanders, seconded by Smallwood to accept the resignation/retirements as presented for the end of the current school year 2022/2023. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Smallwood-yes; Koll-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott- yes; and Yearout-yes; Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Smith recommended the hiring of Ashley Brown for Academic Bowl Sponsor for the remainder of the 2022/2023 school year. A motion was made by Eichler, seconded by Smallwood to accept the resignation/retirements as presented for the end of the current school year 2022/2023. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Smallwood-yes; Koll-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott- yes; and Yearout-yes; Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Smith recommended the hiring of Katelynn Berube as a Paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2022/2023 school year. A motion was made by Sanders, seconded by Koll to accept the recommendation. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Smallwood-yes; Koll-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-yes; and Yearout-yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Becky Eifert arrived at 8:09PM

At 8:12 P.M., Mr. Smith excused himself from the meeting.

At 8:17P.M., Mr. Curtis and Mrs. Eifert excused themselves from the meeting so the board could conduct the annual evaluation of the Superintendent.

The board discussed the superintendent’s evaluation.

Board members considered extending Kevin Smith’s superintendent contract for the 2025-2026 school year. It was the consensus of board members that Mr. Smith has met or exceeded all performance expectations in each performance area. A motion was made by Rutherford, seconded by Koll to extend Kevin Smith’s superintendent contract for the 2025-2026 school year beginning on July 1, 2025 with the salary to be determined prior to July 1, 2025. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Smallwood-yes; Koll-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-yes; and Yearout-yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

At 8:21P.M., Mr. Smith was called back into the meeting and was informed of the contract offer.

There being no further business for executive session a motion was made by Parrott, seconded by Eichler to adjourn the executive session at 8:25P.M. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Smallwood-yes; Koll-yes; Eichler-yes; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Parrott-yes; and Yearout-yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education