

Benton County R-2 School District

Minutes – Regular Meeting

August 17, 2020

A public tax rate hearing for the tax levy to be set for 2020-2021 school year was held at 6:45 P.M. on August 17, 2020. Board members Mehrens, Yearout, Rutherford, Sanders, Eichler, and Koll were present, Parrot was absent. Also present were Kevin Smith, Marc Spunaugle, Becky Eifert and Michelle Smith. Mr. Smith recommended the following tax rates be set for the 2020-2021 school year: General Fund - \$3.54; Special Revenue Fund -0-; and Debt Service Fund - \$.50. 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 17, 2020 were Mehrens, Yearout, Rutherford, Sanders, Eichler, and Koll. Parrott was absent

Also present were Kevin Smith, Marc Spunaugle, Becky Eifert and Michelle Smith.

President Mehrens 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 at the meeting.

Consent Agenda Copies of the August 17, 2020 agenda, the July 20, 2020 regular meeting minutes, and page 1 of the August 17, 2020 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 \$3.54 for general fund (Fund 1) and 50 cents for debt service fund (Fund 3) for a total rate of \$4.04 for the 2020-2021 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. After questions, a motion was made by Yearout, seconded by Rutherford to approve all items included in the consent agenda as listed above. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

- a. August 17, 2020 board agenda
- b. July 20, 2020 regular meeting minutes
- c. July 20, 2020 Payment of Bills
- d. 2020 - 2021 Tax Levy
- e. Ethics Resolution
- f. Special Education Local Compliance Plan
- g. West Central Special Services Cooperative

2015 General Obligation Refunding Bonds A motion was made to approve the resolution authorizing the redemption of the \$225,000.00 principal amount of general obligation refunding bonds, series 2015 and authorizing the publication of notice of redemption by Eichler, seconded by Sanders to approve prepayment. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Policy and Regulation Updates

Mr. Smith summarized the proposed policy and regulation updates as recommended by MCE. After discussion, a motion was made by Yearout, seconded by Sanders to approve Policy 1300; Policy 1301; Policy 2640; Policy 2763; Policy 5205; Policy 5330; Policy 6145; Regulation 1300; Regulation 1301; Regulation 2870; and Regulation 6145 - Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Administrator Reports

Mr. Smith shared the information regarding Mr. Huffman, the high school part time foreign language teacher, due to the pandemic, he is needing to resign for this school year 20/21. A motion was made by Rutherford, seconded by Eichler to accept the resignation as presented. Roll call vote of motion carried as follows: Koll-yes; Eichler-yes; Parrott- absent; Sanders-yes; Rutherford-yes; Yearout-yes; and Mehrens-yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 nays.

Mr. Smith shared information regarding a potential replacement for the part time foreign language teacher position should student enrollment increase for classes.

Mr. Smith shared information regarding the Greenhouse project previously presented to the board from Brandi Maddux HS Ag teacher, the grant has been approved. The grant will cover the majority of the cost. Initial cost to the district could range from \$60-90,000.00, but very hopeful it will be much less once completed. Options were given to wait for another year when revenues are more predictable. After discussion, a motion was made by Rutherford, seconded by Eichler to move forward with the grant approval for the greenhouse construction. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Smith shared that the concrete work for the parking lot is still on hold, hoping to have it fixed this week. Ron's painting will be in this week to paint the front of the high school building and light poles in the parking lot. It has been non-stop with meetings over COVID and surrounding schools for moving forward. The hope is if positive cases arise with the current back to school plan that we have in place, we can isolate/quarantine the positive cases and keep healthy students in the classroom. Teachers return this week on the 19th with workdays for the 19th, 20th and 24th. Classes resume on the 25th with the return of students to the classroom. We are going to do the best we can to keep our teachers and students in the classroom this year.

Information was shared regarding the MSHSAA guidelines that have been set recently to allow an alternative fall sports schedule. Mr. Smith shared that these guidelines are geared toward the school districts that have been forced to not play. We can keep fall sports as they are currently scheduled until we cannot. The district has until September 11th to accept the MSHSAA guidelines if we choose to do so. Spectators are allowed at events, and guidelines will be stated that social distancing be followed, we are also working on video taking / playing for sports for those that do not wish to attend games. Although MSHSAA recently changed their guidelines and are allowing virtual students to participate in school activities and programs, the district will use their local control and require students to attend in

school learning in order to participate. Mr. Smith states that coaches are excited and willing to work with health department guidelines that have been set in place.

Mr. Spunaugle commented that the high school staff were anxious to start the new school year. Student enrollment currently is at 244 with classes starting August 25th. Faculty meetings will begin August 19th; teachers are looking forward to the year. Fall sports are under way and going good. Mr. Spunaugle had texted Miss Maddux about the greenhouse approval and she sent a message back to the board thanking them for the opportunity.

Mrs. Eifert reported that there are 235 elementary students currently enrolled. Kindergarten orientation was for 4 days this past week and went really well, students kept their masks on and no issues presented themselves; Breakfast this school year will be served in the classrooms and lunch shifts will trade between in class or in cafeteria, or outdoors if weather allows. Classrooms and teachers are ready for the new year.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made by Eichler, seconded by Sanders to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 P.M. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education