

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

12664

The Board of Education met for a Tax Rate Levy Hearing on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 5:45 p.m. in the Board Room at the Board of Education Office, 201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: Mrs. Carrie Dixon, President
Mr. Anthony J. Mondaine, Vice President
Mrs. Denise Fears, Treasurer
Mrs. Jill Esry, Director
Mr. Blake Roberson, Director
Mrs. Brandi Prunte, Director
Ms. Wendy Baird, Director

Also Present: Dr. Dale Herl, Superintendent
Dr. Lance Stout, Dr. Cindy Grant, Dr. Randy Maglinger, Dr. Pam Boatright, Dr. Tony Robinson, Mrs. Leslie Hochsprung, Mrs. Sherry Potter, Mr. Todd Theen, Mr. Kevin Lathrom, Mr. Greg McGhee, INEA, ICTA/MSTA, PTA, staff members, patrons, and Ms. Annette Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Carrie Dixon, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Ms. Annette Miller. Mrs. Dixon welcomed everyone on behalf of the Board of Education and stated the purpose of this meeting was for a public hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 Tax Rate Levy. Mrs. Dixon turned the meeting over to Dr. Herl.

Dr. Herl asked if anyone wanted to speak regarding the proposed 2024-2025 Tax Levy Rate. No one responded.

Dr. Herl said he understands that people are concerned with the recent assessed valuation issues. He explained that the School District does not have anything to do with this process. Dr. Herl then reviewed the proposed Tax Rate Levy for the 2024-2025 school year. He shared a recap of the District's Tax Levy history and Assessed Valuation. This year's estimated Assessed Valuation is \$1,558,861,301 compared to last years' of \$1,635,110,960 shows that the District lost \$7,624,966. The overall proposed Levy for 2024-2025 is \$5.2371 compared to \$5.1171 for the 2023-2024 year. Last year the District voluntarily rolled the Levy back 32 cents from the 2022-2023 year of \$5.4371. The Administration is recommending a Tax Rate Levy for the 2024-2025 school year of \$4.3190 for the Operating Fund and \$0.9181 for the Debt Service Fund for a total of \$5.2371 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation. The District submits the Tax Rate Summary to the County Clerk's Office and then to the State Auditor's Office annually, using the State's forms for their approval.

The Board of Education expressed appreciation for the School District being good stewards of the District's funds.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Denise Fears made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Wendy Baird and unanimously approved by the Board of Education


Secretary


President

The Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Board of Education Office, 201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: Mrs. Carrie Dixon, President
Mr. Anthony J. Mondaine, Vice President
Mrs. Denise Fears, Treasurer
Mrs. Jill Esry, Director
Mr. Blake Roberson, Director
Mrs. Brandi Prunte, Director
Ms. Wendy Baird, Director

Also Present: Dr. Dale Herl, Superintendent
Dr. Lance Stout, Dr. Cindy Grant, Dr. Randy Maglinger, Dr. Pam Boatright, Dr. Tony Robinson, Mr. Dean Katt, Mrs. Leslie Hochsprung, Mrs. Sherry Potter, Mr. Todd Theen, Mr. Kevin Lathrom, Mr. Greg McGhee, INEA, ICTA/MSTA, PTA, staff members, patrons, and Ms. Annette Miller.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Carrie Dixon, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Ms. Annette Miller. Mrs. Dixon welcomed everyone on behalf of the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl spoke regarding the recent threats that were sent through SnapChat to surrounding school districts. He said this is a safety issue for all schools and the threats are taken seriously but the districts have to work with various entities when issues like this arise. He said the School District worked with the Independence Police Department and the FBI as these threats are considered a felony. He said the District sent a message to students, families, and staff on Monday regarding the threats and the District working with the IPD. The District has to wait on the IPD and FBI to gather more information. The threats did not come from an Independence School District student. He urged people not to use social media in forwarding threats if they receive them. The individuals should contact the IPD and the School District regarding the threats. He also asked parents to talk with their students on how to appropriately use social media. If students use social media inappropriately, there are consequences.

Denise Fears made the motion to amend the September 10, 2024 Agenda to include Student Issues in the Executive (Closed) Session. The motion was seconded by Anthony J. Mondaine and approved by the Board of Education as follows: (Pages 12666-12668)

Ayes: Carrie Dixon
Anthony J. Mondaine
Denise Fears
Jill Esry
Blake Roberson
Wendy Baird

Nays: Brandi Prunte (Page 12667)

There were no requests from District citizens or employees to address the Board of Education.

Brandi Prunte made the motion, second by Jill Esry, that the Board of Education approves the September 10, 2024 Consent Agenda as printed. Dr. Herl reported the Bills for September total \$16,226,516.13 and the District needs to let bids for 1) Addition to Weight Room at George Caleb Bingham Middle School, and 2) Replacement of Windows at Korte Elementary School and Clifford H. Nowlin Middle School.

1. Minutes – August 13, 2024
2. Approval of September 10, 2024 List of Bills totaling \$16,226,516.13.
3. Approval to Let Bids for the Additional to the Weight Room at George Caleb Bingham Middle School
4. Approval to Let Bids for the Replacement of Windows at Korte Elementary School and Clifford H. Nowlin Middle School

The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Herl shared that the District has had a great start to the 2024-2025 four day instructional week this year. The number of teacher absences is down and the student enrollment is up this year. The District will start this week removing enrolled students that have not yet attended school. The K-12 enrollment for 2024-2025 is 13,924, 2023-2024 was 13,837, 2022-2023 was 13,416 and when COVID hit in 2019-2020 it was 13,985. Dr. Herl provided ADA (Average Daily Attendance) information for the first three weeks of 2024-2025 was 12,481; 2023-2024 was 12,321; and 2022-2023 was 12,352. He reported that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is \$100,000,000 short in revenue already. Dr. Herl and three Board members (Carrie Dixon, Denise Fears, and Brandi Prunte) attended the MSBA Region 4 meeting at Platte County R-III School District on September 4th.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District of Independence
Tuesday, September 10, 2024

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE, 201 NORTH FOREST AVENUE.

5:45 P.M. – Special Board of Education Meeting – Tax Rate Levy Public Hearing

6:00 P.M. – Regular Board of Education Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

I. Approval of Agenda.

II. Request of District Citizens or Employees.

III. Consent Agenda (Action)

The matters listed under Item III. Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by the Board of Education and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussions of the items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be listed as the first item under the appropriate section of the Regular Agenda.

1. Minutes of Board Meeting – August 13, 2024

2. Approval of Bills (III. 2.)

Authorize the transfer of monies from the Incidental Fund to the Teachers Fund to meet the Teachers Fund obligations for the month and further approve the September 10, 2024 list of bills totaling \$16,226,516.13 as printed.

3. Approval to Let Bids for the Addition to the Weight Room at George Caleb Bingham Middle School.

4. Approval to Let Bids for the Replacement of Windows at Korte Elementary School and Clifford H. Nowlin Middle School.

IV. Superintendent's Report/Miscellaneous.

V. New Business.

1. Presentation on Building Renovation/Remodeling Projects.

2. Approval of Proposed 2024-2025 Tax Rate Levy.

3. Approval of 2024-2025 Transportation Routes.

4. Approval to Purchase Chromebooks.

5. Approval to Purchase All-in-One Computers.

6. Approval for Declaration of Surplus Items.

VI. Motion to Adjourn to Closed Session (Mo State Statutes 610.021)

The Next Regular Board of Education Meeting is Scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Immediately Following Regular Meeting
**Closed Session Meetings will be held at Central Office, 201 North Forest Avenue,
Independence, Missouri**

- I. Approval of Minutes of Executive Session held: (Action)
1. August 13, 2024.

II. Closed Session for:

Personnel – § 610.021(3), RSMo. Actions related to the hiring, firing, disciplining or promotion of a District employee when the performance or individual merit of this employee is considered.

1. Personnel Recommendation #3

It is recommended that the: (II. 1.)

Certificated personnel requests for leaves of absence, resignation, or retirements be approved as listed.

Certificated personnel listed on the enclosed attachment be employed for the 2023-2024 school year.

Certificated personnel listed on the enclosed attachment be employed for the 2024-2025 school year.

Legal Matters – § 610.021(1), RSMo. Litigation including privileged communications between the Board, its representatives, and its attorneys.

Real Estate – § 610.021(2), RSMo. The Lease, purchase or sale of real estate where public knowledge of the details of the proposed acquisition might adversely affect the District's interests

Students – § 610.021(6), RSMo Scholastic probation, expulsion, discipline, or graduation of identifiable persons, including records of individual test or examination scores subject to the provisions of the Board's student records policy and regulations. (Amended 9-10-2024)

III. Adjournment.

9/10/24

I am voting no to approve the agenda this evening for a few reasons...

According to Board Policy G-170-B, Any member of the Board may request items to be placed on the agenda. I requested items be placed on the agenda, but the request was denied. Unfortunately, I do not feel there is another opportunity to have a public discussion of my topics.

According to Board Policy G-180-B, "Any member may submit a written explanation of his or her vote that will be attached to the minutes or stored with the minutes."

Therefore, I am attaching an explanation for my no vote to approve the agenda.

I recently became aware of some inconsistencies in our transfer policy and its implementation, which may be leading to inequities. Historically, the transfer process has generally been smooth and beneficial for many families, helping them navigate childcare needs, address special circumstances, or allow district employees to have their children attend the same school where they work.

However, this year, there was an instance where a family's transfer request was denied on the grounds that they "didn't meet criteria." The communication throughout the transfer application process was unclear, and the family faced unnecessary complications that seemed contrary to the student's best interests. Even after appealing the decision, the family did not receive a clear explanation for the denial.

It's crucial that we provide transparent reasons for transfer denials and ensure that our policy and its implementation are equitable. I would like to review the current policy and its implementation to ensure that district leadership is communicating effectively and to make certain that we are not unintentionally creating additional barriers for families who may already be at a disadvantage.



They all agreed that it was a very good session and they enjoyed the networking activity. Dr. Herl said that enrollment reaches capacity at the elementary level periodically. Dr. Grant discussed the process that is used when in-district transfers are requested. She stated that there is a form for parents to complete and give to their current building principal listing the building they are requesting to have their child(ren) attend. The principals review the form and approve or deny the request based on their buildings/class enrollments. The Admissions office is notified and they send the approval or denial letter to the parent(s). If a request is approved, the parents are responsible for transportation. If an in-district transfer request is appealed then it goes to Leslie Hochsprung if elementary and to Dr. Randy Maglinger if it is secondary.

Several new business items were presented for the Board of Education's consideration.

Greg McGhee provided an update on District projects. He said it was a busy summer with: 1) concrete and asphalt projects at several elementary, middle, and high schools; 2) replacement of a retaining wall by Central Office; 3) new playground at Three Trails Elementary School; 4) updated the transaction window access at Spring Branch and Santa Fe Trial Elementary Schools; 5) Nowlin Middle School's floors received epoxy coatings; 6) fence projects were completed at four elementary schools; 7) the track at William Chrisman High School was redone; 8) Jim Bridger Middle School's science classrooms were remodeled, the 51 year old gym floor was replaced, and the Henley Aquatic pool has new platforms; 9) the roof at Blackburn Elementary School was replaced; 10) kitchens at Glendale and William Southern Elementary Schools were remodeled; 11) new lights were installed at Glendale Elementary School; 12) the metal and wood shops at Truman High School were updated; 13) Independence Academy received hallway updates and four classrooms were converted into seven classrooms; and 14) additional updates were done at George Caleb Bingham Middle School's gymnasium, and Hanthorn Early Childhood Center's hallways.

Denise Fears made the motion, second by Anthony J. Mondaine, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, or his designee, to set the Tax Rate Levy at \$5.2371, with the Operating Tax Levy of \$4.3190 and the Debt Service of \$0.9181 for the 2024-2025 school year and to authorize the Superintendent, or his designee, to submit the Estimate of Required Local Taxes to the Jackson County Clerk. A Tax Rate Levy Public Hearing was held at 5:45 p.m. and Dr. Herl explained the 2024-2025 Tax Rate Levy process. Dr. Herl thanked the Board of Education for their support of the Tax Levy. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Page 12670)

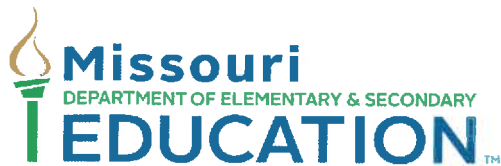
Brandi Prunte made the motion, second by Wendy Baird, that the Board of Education approves the 205 Transportation Routes for the Independence School District for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Stout said there were 202 routes last year. He said Transportation is down three routes now but there are four drivers currently in training. The Administration recommends approval of the 205 Transportation routes for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Denise Fears made the motion, second by Blake Roberson, that the Board of Education approves the quote from CDWG under the Education Plus (Missouri Schools) (022-G) Contract to purchase 800 Chromebooks for a total cost of \$235,832.00. Dr. Stout said these Chromebooks come with an eight year license agreement and a three year warranty. The new Chromebooks are needed due to breakage, non-returned Chromebooks, etc. Middle school students will check out Chromebooks in the morning and check them back in at the end of the school day. The Administration is recommending approval to purchase 800 Chromebooks for \$235,832.00. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Blake Roberson made the motion, second by Brandi Prunte, that the Board of Education approves the purchase of 165 Dell All-in-One computers for \$192,885.00 under the Education Plus (Missouri Schools) (022-G) Contract. Dr. Stout explained that these computers will replace the current computers used by District office staff which are more than four years old. The computers will save space and are compatible with Windows 11. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Jill Esry made the motion, second by Anthony J. Mondaine, that the Board of Education approves declaring for surplus the list of attached items pursuant to Section 177.091 R.S.M.o. Dr. Herl said the Administration brings the lists of surplus items quarterly to the Board for their consideration. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education. (Pages 12671)

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, the motion was made by Denise Fears, second by Jill Esry, at 6:44 p.m. to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for legal, personnel, and real estate issues. The motion was approved by the Board of Education as follows:



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Division of Administrative and Financial Services

ESTIMATE OF REQUIRED LOCAL TAXES

(Submit to county clerk of each county where district has assessed valuation on or before September 1)

To County Clerk (Name): **Mary Jo Spino**

Name of County: **Jackson**

County District Code: **048-077** District Name: **Independence School District 30**

Mailing Address: **201 N. Forest Avenue
Independence, MO 64050**

Telephone Number: **816-521-5300** Fax Number: **816-521-2806**

In compliance with Section 164.011, RSMo, we the undersigned, hereby submit an estimate of the amount of school money necessary to maintain the public school for a term of **12** months, and certify that the data shown are correct.

Name of President of Board of Education: **Carrie Dixon**

Signature of President of Board of Education: *Carrie Dixon* Date: **9/11/2024**

Name of Secretary of Board of Education: **C. Anette Miller**

Signature of Secretary of Board of Education: *C. Anette Miller* Date: **9/11/2024**

Assessed valuation in this county as certified in accordance with Section 137.245, RSMo, or amended prior to September 1. **\$1,558,861,301**

Year Beginning **July 1, 2024** Year Ending **June 30, 2025**

Length of school term authorized is: Number of days **155** and **1,131.50** hours in session.

A separate vote was cast in accordance with Sections 164.121, 164.131, 164.141, 164.151, RSMo, to provide for a bond issue (where applicable). Yes No **x**

Tax Rate ^a

Fund	Tax Rate Ceiling	Unadjusted Levy ^b	Actual Tax Levy (Adjusted Levy ^c)	Prop C Roll Back
1. Incidental ^d	\$ 4.4124 441.24 ¢	\$ 4.3190 431.90 ¢	\$ 4.3190 431.90 ¢	\$ -
2. Teachers	0.00 ¢	\$ - 0.00 ¢	\$ - 0.00 ¢	\$ -
3. Debt Service ^e	\$ 1.1143 111.43 ¢	\$ 0.9181 91.81 ¢	\$ 0.9181 91.81 ¢	N/A
4. Capital Projects	0.00 ¢	\$ - 0.00 ¢	\$ - 0.00 ¢	N/A
Totals		\$5.2371 523.71 ¢	\$5.2371 523.71 ¢	\$ 81,639,125.19

a. Pursuant to Section 137.073, RSMo.

b. Unadjusted levy is equal to the tax rate ceiling less a voluntary reduction. It is not reduced for Proposition C Rollback.

c. Adjusted levy - Reduced by Proposition C, Section 164.013, RSMo.

d. Operating Funds tax rate ceiling.

e. Debt Service fund ceiling.

Estimated Revenue from M & M Surcharge Tax in this county: **\$ 1,500,000**

Estimated Revenue from State Assessed Railroad and Utilities in this county: **\$ 3,450,000**

Article X, Section 11(C), Constitution of Missouri provides that in any school district where the Board of Education is not proposing a higher tax rate for school purposes, the last tax rate approved shall continue and the tax rate need not be submitted to the voters.

**INDEPENDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT
INVENTORY ASSET SHEET FOR DISPOSAL/SCRAP/DONATE**


Date: 9-10-24

PUR-009

Asset Description	Quantity	Asset #	Serial #	Donate Item	Condition of Items(s)	Grant Item	Disposal/Scrap/Donate
All-In-One PC	130			No	Obsolete	No	Disposal
APC	1			No	Obsolete	No	Disposal
Bookshelf - Wood	1			No	Broken	No	Disposal
Chromebook	9			No	Broken	No	Disposal
Dee-Blast Media Blasting Cabinet	1	13004425		No	Broken	No	Disposal
EZ Door by RP Fletcher	1	13003175		No	Obsolete	No	Disposal
Ford F150 XLT 2012 - Truck# 47	1		1FTFW1EF7CF CO4050	No	Poor	No	Surplus
Grizzly Media Blaster Cabinet	1	16000457		No	Broken	No	Disposal
Ice Maker	1	23003221	230302982	No	Broken	No	Disposal
IPad	1			No	Obsolete	No	Disposal
Lap Top	133			No	Obsolete	No	Disposal
Library Book	2,939			Yes	Poor	No	Donate
Log Milling Stand	1			No	Obsolete	No	Disposal
Niagara Brake	1	13003345		No	Broken	No	Disposal
Paper Towel Dispensers - Von Drehle	1,400			No	Poor	No	Surplus
Phone	1			No	Obsolete	No	Disposal
Printer	5			No	Obsolete	No	Disposal
Projector	294			No	Obsolete	No	Disposal
Projector Touch Module	11			No	Obsolete	No	Disposal
Smartboard	85			No	Broken	No	Disposal
Table - Cream	1			No	Broken	No	Disposal
Table - Crescent	1			No	Broken	No	Disposal
Television	2			No	Broken	No	Disposal
VHS	1			No	Broken	No	Disposal

Ayes: Carrie Dixon
Anthony J. Mondaine
Denise Fears
Jill Esry
Blake Roberson
Brandi Prunte
Wendy Baird

Nays:



Secretary



President