

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2
1110 3RD STREET
FULTON, IL 61252
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

February 22, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on February 22, 2022, at Fulton High School.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Eric Fish, Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Chris Barnett. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Virginia Petersen, Recording Secretary.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Principals: Robert Gosch and Jeffrey Hoese. Assistant Principal/AD: Patrick Henrekin

Additions to the agenda. Dr. Hogue added IASB Northwest Division Dinner meeting in April.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

There was no communication from the RBEA.

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum. There was no public comment.

Principal reports. Mr. Hoese reported the removal of the mask mandate has had a positive effect in the Elementary School. Covid cases are minimal at this point and the nurses are able to concentrate on nursing duties rather than Covid. Mr. Hoese presented Rocco to the Rescue to the cohort during the Mastering School Leadership virtual program. The school improvement team has been busy researching math curriculum. Mr. Gosch indicated his school improvement team has also been researching math curriculum. Mr. Gosch is concerned about the number of students opting to homeschool. Several students are able to work and complete online classes on their own schedule. Mr. Gosch is looking into the possibility of starting an "Options" program at the high school to ensure these students receive their high school diploma.

Member Orman-Luker reported on behalf of the River Bend Educational Foundation. Bruce Fritz will be the Speaker at the dinner on March 5, 2022. The Foundation discussed gift cards for the staff to show their appreciation for all their hard work the past couple of years and dealing with the pandemic.

Dr. Hogue reported on the February 22, 2022, Buildings and Grounds committee meeting. Members present included Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, Jay Ritchie, Gary Wolfe, and Dr. Hogue. Bray Architects are still working on finalizing bathroom renovation plans. The timeline for the project if the plan can be finalized will be bids due April 28, 2022, start work in May to be completed in two phases. Phase one will be May through July and Phase two will be July through September. Estimated renovation costs

remains between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Summer projects will include installation of cabinets at River Bend Middle School (\$24,000) and additional cabinets and tables for the Art room at Fulton High School (\$14,000). Three summer workers will be needed to help with the projects and cleaning. The timing for addressing the automatic door closures has not been determined. Estimated cost is \$21,000 using Health Life Safety funds. The security cameras and video recording devices are in need of updating. Estimated cost is \$45,000 for recording devices and \$25,000 for cameras. The high school is looking at moving the office to the teacher's lounge which is right inside the north door. The existing office will be transformed into additional office space for counselors and others as needed. Dr. Hogue will finalize details and contact the architect for cost estimates.

Dr. Hogue informed the group the IASB Northwest Division Dinner meeting is April 6, 2022, in Dakota. Dr. Hogue is unable to attend, but will make arrangements if anyone would like to attend.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board enrollment is down four students this month. Some students moved out of the district and others dropped to homeschool.

Dr. Hogue indicated Covid cases reported for students and staff has dropped significantly. Rapid testing is down to three or four tests a week. It has been an emotional lift in the buildings with masks now being optional.

Dr. Hogue indicated a finance plan for bonds is in place to seek Health Life Safety Bonds to pay for the bathroom updates at the high school. Projected cost for the four bathrooms is \$500,000 to \$600,000. The process will begin in March with the bonds being sold in June.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the consent agenda including the January 19, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the January 27, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes as printed; January Treasurer's report; and February Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$263,521.82, subject to audit.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue reviewed the 2022-23 Public School Calendar. The school year begins Monday, August 15, 2022, with students beginning August 17, 2022, with the last student attendance day on May 24, 2023. High School graduation will be on May 21, 2023. Conferences will be Wednesday, November 9, 2022, and Thursday, November 10, 2022, in between Election Day and Veterans Day. Winter break would be December 19 – 30 and spring break will be March 27-31 to coincide with the WACC calendar.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the 2022-23 Public School Calendar as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

The Covid Mitigations and Metrics Plan was tabled due to the Appellate Court upholding the order issued by Judge Grischow that stated school districts could no longer require that masks be worn nor exclude student who were considered close contact quarantines.

Dr. Hogue recommended modifying the curriculum at the middle school to include two math classes and one English class in 7th grade. ELA scores have been increasing over the years and, as a district, improvements have been made to the math curriculum. The addition of a math class will be used to strengthen the student's foundational math skills.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve modifying the curriculum at the River Bend Middle School to include two math classes and one English class at the 7th grade level. Roll Call Vote:

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended moving the June 15, 2022, Board Meeting to June 8, 2022, due to a scheduling conflict.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve changing the June Board meeting from June 15, 2022, to June 8, 2022, and authorize Dan and Jane to approve the June bills once they are compiled. Roll Call Vote:

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

There was no closed session.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the following personnel items:

- *Hired Tara Rhoades as 5th Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School beginning the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Hired Brianna Stuart as 6th Grade Teacher at River Bend Middle School beginning the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Hired Amanda Robertson as Fulton Elementary School Night Custodian effective January 27, 2022.*
- *Approved Colleen Temple as 7th Grade Volleyball Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Approved the resignation with the intent to retire of Jackie Pessman, Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective the end of the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Approved the request of a one-year leave of absence as it pertains to Brianne Price for the 2022-23 school year with estimated return the 2023-24 school year.*
- *Approved the resignation with the intent to retire of Dale Wiersema, Transportation Director, effective June 30, 2022.*
- *Approved the resignation of Andrea Weller, Freshman Volleyball Coach, effective the end of the 2021-22 school year and continue as a Volunteer Assistant Volleyball Coach beginning the 2022-23 school year.*

- *Approved the resignation of Benjy Grant as Boys' Track Coach at River Bend Middle School effective immediately.*
- *Approved the resignation of James Prombo, 7th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach at River Bend Middle School, effective the end of the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approved Adam Hamstra and David Curley as Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coaches at Fulton High School for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approved Derek Germann as Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach at Fulton High School for the 2021-22 school year.*

Roll Call Vote:

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 6:30 P.M., at the Fulton High School.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 P.M. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.



Dan Portz, President
Board of Education
River Bend Unit District #2
Whiteside County



Eric Fish, Secretary
Board of Education
River Bend Unit District #2
Whiteside County