

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

June 18, 2025

The Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on June 18, 2025, in the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:31pm. Upon roll call by the Secretary, the following board members were Present: Kyle Folk, Andrew Meyers, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, Mary Simmons, and Travis Temple; Absent: Elizabeth Falls; Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Nicole Bowers, Paige Emerson, Stacy Gates, Assistant Superintendent: Kelli Parsons, Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Jeff Parsons, and Assistant Principal: Aimee Marten.

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

There being no further discussion it was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to adjourn the Budget Hearing at 6:35pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion Carried.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:35pm. Upon roll call by the Secretary, the following board members were Present: Kyle Folk, Andrew Meyers, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, Mary Simmons, and Travis Temple; Absent: Elizabeth Falls; Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

President Portz led all present in a relationship and culture building activity where everyone took a turn sharing what is one weird talent they wished they possessed.

Dr. Hogue added Wrestling Space Update, Strategic Plan Update, Financial Information, and Insurance Update to the Superintendent's Report.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the agenda as amended. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

President Portz asked Ms. Stacy Gates if there was any information the RBEA would like to share. Ms. Gates stated there was nothing to share at this time.

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

Mrs. Parsons introduced Nicole Bowers, the candidate chosen by the hiring committee for the Assistant Principal position at the high school. After some discussion between the board members and Mrs. Bowers, the recommendation to hire was approved.

Principal Reports. Mr. Hoese and Mr. Henrekin had nothing to add to their board reports. They shared their data from the Fast Bridge testing for the 2024-25 school year. This is the first year using Fast Bridge, both are hopeful to see more trend data after testing in the 2025-26 school year. These tests will help teachers identify what areas students are struggling in.

Mr. Parsons also did not have anything to add to his report, he did want to highlight attending the FFA conference the previous week and how impressed he was with the student led conference. Mr. Parsons also thanked Ms. Gates, Ms. Frohling, and Mrs. Heyvaert who have been helping students with credit recovery classes this summer to keep them on track to graduate on time.

Paige had no student information to report due to it being summer break.

Dr. Hogue reminded board members of the Triple I Conference in Chicago. Members Portz and Simmons will be attending along with Dr. Hogue, Mrs. Parsons, and Ms. Griser.

Dr. Hogue shared that the district enrollment at the end of the school year was down slightly from the start of the school year.

Dr. Hogue shared the construction survey results from the public meeting. Of those that responded to the survey, the majority were in favor of all options – the middle school gymnasium, an addition of a multi-use space at the high school, and the remodeled auditorium space with additional practice gymnasium at the high school. The next step will be to send information out to the community and be present at back to school events to continue to gather feedback.

Dr. Hogue reminded board members of the Board Retreat on Monday, June 23rd at 5:00pm being held at the district office.

Dr. Hogue shared information on an Alternate Revenue Bond.

Dr. Hogue shared with board members a potential building space that could be rented to use for practice space. The building would need around \$24,000 in upgrades to be in compliance for school usage and the lease would be \$27,000 per year. Board members asked for additional cost information regarding utilities for the potential lease space. Another option would be to purchase storage containers to put at the high school to store off season equipment and convert the current storage space and team room into a practice area.

Dr. Hogue shared some images showing the success indicators chosen by the Strategic Plan Committee that were created by Owen Brubaker. The first day back to school for teachers will be spent sharing the indicators and then they will begin to develop benchmarks to measure each indicator.

Dr. Hogue shared with the board members the CD invested at Central Bank was able to be renewed at 4.5%. The district earned just over \$200,000 in interest between all investments in FY25.

Dr. Hogue shared with board members he will be meeting with the insurance committee in the next couple of weeks. Due to the high cost of claims, there is a predicted 24.3% increase in premium for health insurance. The district's current insurance broker is looking at different options to try and decrease the percentage increase in premiums. Dr. Hogue shared that he has also spoken with a company that offers a co-op with other school districts to help manage the increasing premium costs. If the district joined the co-op, the premium increase would be 14.9% this year.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the May 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, May Treasurers Report, and June Bills Recommended for Payment in the amount of \$320,928.48, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the 2024-25 Amended Budget.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the 2024-25 Amended Budget with revenues in the amount of \$24,629,147.59 and expenditures in the amount of \$25,146,563.27. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of school district funds for FY26 until the budget is adopted. This will allow the district to utilize funds until the budget is approved.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Temple, to approve School District expenditures for funds to defray necessary and proper expenses and liabilities of the School District incurred for education, operations, maintenance, transportation, site and construction purposes of the District for Fiscal Year 26, until which time the Annual Budget of the District is adopted in conformity with applicable sections of the Illinois School Code. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended a board member be designated as the person to review, accept, and sign FY25 audit reports. Member Portz is typically the board member designated for this.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Meyers, to name Dan Portz as the designated person to review, accept, and sign-off on the financial statements of the District which includes the audit report, the annual financial report to the State, and the Data Collection Form on behalf of River Bend CUSD #2. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended authorizing Members Portz and Meyers to approve the July Bills Recommended for payment once the report is ready due to there being no July Board of Education Meeting.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Temple, to authorize Member Portz and Member Meyers to approve July Bills Recommended for Payment, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the board there were two fuel bids received. Gold Star FS, the district's current fuel supplier, submitted a bid for \$0.20 over rack rate and River Valley Coop submitted a bid for \$0.22 over rack rate. Dr. Hogue recommended continuing with Gold Star as the district's fuel supplier for the 2025-26 school year.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the bid submitted by Gold Star FS for \$0.20 over rack rate for all fuel types. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue shared that the policy committee met and is recommending approval of the first reading of select policy updates. Majority of the updates are in response to changes in Title IX and mandatory five year review of policies with no changes.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the first reading of select policy updates: 2:260, 2:265, 4:15, 4:80, 4:120, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:100, 6:150, 6:235, 6:310, 7:10, 7:20, 7:50, 7:60, 7:70, 7:180, 7:185, 7:190, 7:200, 7:210, 7:250, 7:255, 7:270, 7:310, 7:315, 7:340, and 8:30. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, abstain</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approving an increase in the price of gym uniforms by \$0.50 for the shirt and \$0.50 for the shorts.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve increasing the cost of PE Uniforms by \$0.50 per shirt and \$0.50 per short. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the board the district received \$552 from Boonstra Heating for the high school softball team.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Temple, to approve gifts to the district as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the following personnel items:

- *Approve the resignation of Marlene VanBuskirk as Night Custodian at Fulton High School, effective May 27, 2025.*
- *Approve the resignation of Ray Borgman as Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at Fulton High School, effective June 30, 2025.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jared Wessels as Freshmen Football Coach at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the transfer of Allison Grant from part-time night cleaner to full time night cleaner at Fulton High School, effective June 6, 2025.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Mathias Paisley as night cleaner at Fulton High School.*
- *Approve the resignation of Camerin Huizenga as Sophomore Volleyball Coach at Fulton High School.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Ally Curley as Sophomore Volleyball Coach at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve Camerin Huizenga as Volunteer Volleyball Coach at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Nicole Bowers as Fulton High School Assistant Principal, with a three-year contract and starting salary of \$74,000, effective July 1, 2025.*
- *Approve the Superintendent salary increase of \$6,800 for FY26*
- *Approve the Fulton High School Principal salary increase of \$3,800 for FY26*
- *Approve the Fulton Elementary School Principal salary increase of \$3,700 for FY26*
- *Approve the Building and Grounds Director salary of \$50,000 for FY26*
- *Approve the Transportation Director salary increase of \$2,900 for FY26*
- *Approve the Cafeteria Manager salary increase of \$1,200 for FY26*
- *Approve the Technology Director salary increase of \$2,700 for FY26*
- *Approve the Business Manager salary increase of \$3,100 for FY26*
- *Approve the District Executive Assistant salary increase of \$3,000 for FY26*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire the following coaches/sponsors for the 2025-26 school year:*

Level I

Varsity Track (B) - Mike Ankrom

Varsity Track (G) - Lynn Schipper

Varsity Baseball - Brent Dykstra

Varsity Softball - Derek Germann

Strength & Conditioning - Jared Wessels

Level II

Play Director - Emilee Droegmiller

Band Director - Shawn Anton

Choir Director - Shawn Anton
Asst Track (HS) - Kyle McLuckie
Fresh/Soph Baseball - Thomas Eden

Level III

District Webmaster - Emily Phillips
Middle School Track (B) - Chris Ketelsen
Middle School Track (G) - Elizabeth Mote
Middle School Band - Shawn Anton
Middle School Chorus - Shawn Anton
Junior Class Sponsor - Val Pestka
HS Scholastic Bowl - Joe Bacidore
HS Student Council - Stacey Gates
Media Pub - Sydney Schutte
Robotics - Caleb Hesse

Level IV

Costume Coordinator (HS) - Cam Simmons
HS Yearbook - Christy Hackett
Senior Class Sponsor - Mike Ankrom
Thespians - Emilee Droegmiller
Sophomore Class Sponsor - Haylee Mussman
Freshman Class Sponsor - Jennifer Smith
Middle School Asst Track - Sarah Powell
Middle School Pep Club - Megan Facio
Middle School Student Council - Adrien Loncar/Ashley Huizenga

Level V

National Honor Society - Emily Phillips/Emilee Droegmiller
Key Club - Mike Ankrom
Middle School Yearbook - Jackie Wiersema

Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

There was no closed session.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Meyers, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

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

Mary Simmons, Secretary
Board of Education
River Bend CUSD #2
Whiteside County