

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2
1100 3RD STREET
FULTON, IL 61252
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUGUST BOARD MEETING

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

August 5, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on August 5, 2025, in the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30pm. Upon roll call by the Secretary, the following board members were Present: Elizabeth Falls, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, Mary Simmons, and Travis Temple; Absent: Kyle Folk and Andrew Meyers; Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Kelli Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary, and Paige Emerson, Student Liaison.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Riley Davidson, Stacy Gates, Josephine Helm, Michele James, Kayla Kampe, John Lambert, Jeremy Leitzen, Sydney Manon, Lindsey Mitchell, Natalie Orwitz, Tim Phelps; Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Jeff Parsons; Assistant Principals: Nicole Bowers and Aimee Marten.

President Portz led all present in a relationship and culture building activity where everyone took a turn sharing something fun they did this summer.

Dr. Hogue added Dental Insurance Update to the Superintendent's Report.

It was moved by Member Falls, seconded by Member Simmons, 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.

Mr. Hoese introduced the new elementary school teachers - Sydney Manon, Lindsey Mitchell, and Josephine Helm will be teaching first grade, Kayla Kampe, former River Bend employee, is returning and will be in the special education department, Natalie Orwitz will be teaching third grade and Riley Davidson will be teaching fifth grade.

The principals did not have anything to add to their reports. Member Falls asked the principals if there was a policy in place to govern student use of AI. Dr. Hogue indicated that the district is waiting for more direction from the State of Illinois, however, the district does have policies in place regarding using AI and plagiarism. Dr. Hogue also shared that the teachers have been attending AI trainings to learn how to help their students use AI effectively.

Dr. Hogue shared the enrollment estimate for the 2025-2026 school year as of August 1st. Enrollment is up compared to the end of the 2024-2025 school year due to a small graduating class and a

large incoming kindergarten class. The district will continue to monitor class sizes and the potential to add sections.

Dr. Hogue and Mrs. Parsons shared a slide show that will be presented to staff on opening day highlighting the strategic plan work.

Dr. Hogue shared the first semester professional development schedule. The first semester will be spent focusing on success indicators, special education, and conducting a reunification training.

Michele James, John Lambert, and Tim Phelps from Veregy presented a twenty year overview of building upgrades and maintenance items that the district will need to plan for. They broke the recommendations down into three phases which span the years 2026-2046. The first item they recommend is for the district to have an infrared scan done of the roofs to see if a full tear off and replacement is needed or if they can just have a coating put on them. Many of the recommendations from Veregy are items that are a part of the district's normal upkeep and budgets. Veregy also indicated there is potential to consider the cost of these recommendations into the potential referendum for the new additions. Dr. Hogue and Mrs. Parsons will be at the open houses, Meet the Steamers, and home games to provide more information to the community and answer any questions about the potential new additions. Member Portz would like to have another community informational meeting in September about the potential new additions.

Dr. Hogue gave a financial overview of FY25. He highlighted that the district went through one million in reserves in the Ed Fund due to increased insurance costs, increased salaries, and the additional preschool class.

Dr. Hogue shared that dental insurance premiums would potentially be increasing. The district's insurance broker has offered different plan options in an attempt to keep costs down. A survey has been sent out to staff for input on preference of lower premiums or access to in network dentists.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the consent agenda, including the June 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, June Treasurer's Report, and authorize Dan Portz and Andrew Meyers to approve August Bills recommended for payment, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

Closed session minutes were reviewed. Minutes dated January 28, 2025 were recommended to be opened and to retain closed session minutes dated May 22, 2025 at this time due to the need for confidentiality to exist to all or part of the minutes. It was recommended to dispose of audio tapes from closed sessions on August 9, 2023, September 13, 2023, and October 18, 2023.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Falls, to open closed session minutes dated January 28, 2025 and to retain the closed session minutes dated May 22, 2025 at this time due to the need for confidentiality to exist to all or part of the minutes. It was recommended to dispose of audio tapes from closed sessions on August 9, 2023, September 13, 2023, and October 18, 2023. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the tentative FY26 Budget, and to set the date for the FY26 Budget Hearing on September 17, 2025.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the FY26 Tentative Budget for public review with total revenues in the amount of \$13,478,840.41 and total expenditures in the amount of \$13,036,662.32. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of a new activity account at Fulton High School for the Class of 2029.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the new activity account at Fulton High School for the Class of 2029. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended closing the Class of 2025 student activity account at Fulton High School and dividing the remaining balance between the classes.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Falls, to approve closing the student activity account at Fulton High School for the Class of 2025 with a remaining balance of \$24.12 and split as follows: \$6.03 to the Class of 2026, \$6.03 to the Class of 2027, \$6.03 to the Class of 2028, and \$6.03 to the Class of 2029. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended seeing bids for snow removal for the 2025-26 school year.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Simmons, to direct the superintendent to seek snow removal bids for the 2025-26 school year. Vice Vote, All yea, Motion carried.

The policy committee recommended approval of the second reading of select policy updates and to adopt as policy.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the second reading of select policy updates and adopt as policy: 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.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approving the stipend request for an Assistant Golf Coach at the high school due to increased participation numbers.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by member Falls, to approve the stipend request for an Assistant Golf Coach at Fulton High School. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

The policy committee recommended approval of the first reading of select policy updates.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the first reading of select policy updates: 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 2.10, 2.80, 2.130, 2.240, 3.30, 4.50, 4.55, 4.180, 7.40, 7.90, 7.130, 7.140, 7.300, 7.325, 8.80. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of joining the LaSalle County Area Purchasing Cooperative (LCAPC) for cafeteria food purchases. This will allow the district to join with other area districts and receive discounts on food purchases.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Temple, to approve joining the LCAPC for cafeteria food purchases. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the documents for joining the Illinois Scholastic Cooperative, this is the districts new insurance broker.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the resolution authorizing the acceptance of the contract and by-laws document of the Illinois Scholastic Cooperative (ISC) and authorizing membership in the ISC. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Fulton Elementary School Handbook changes. These changes are in response to the Model Student Handbook from the Illinois Principal Association.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the changes and additions to the Fulton Elementary School Handbook as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue shared the district received \$500 from the National FFA Foundation for the Fulton High School FFA.

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

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

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

- *Approve the resignation of Rachel Hullinger as Night Cleaner at Fulton High School, effective July 25, 2025.*
- *Approve the internal transfer of Wayne Hook from Van Driver to Bus Driver for River Bend Schools, effective July 15, 2025.*
- *Approve the resignation of Joey Young as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective immediately.*
- *Approve TJ Westphal as Volunteer Football Coach at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Amanda Champion as Paraprofessional at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Cheer Coaches at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year: Katlyn Morine, Merlin Butt, and Michael Sweeney.*
- *Approve Angie Eacker as Volunteer Volleyball Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire the following as Paraprofessionals at Fulton Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year: Abbey Binkley, Justine Dann, Grace Heyvaert, and Allie Wiersema*
- *Approve the maternity leave request of Caitlin Maloney, effective August 12th through September 1st.*

Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Falls, to move into closed session for the purpose of discussing matters concerning the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors or volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body at 8:48pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Falls, seconded by Member Simmons, to come out of closed session for the purpose of discussing matters concerning the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors or volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body at 9:00pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 6:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Falls, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. 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