

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 17, 2026

The Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on June 17, 2026, in the District Office Conference Room.

President Portz called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:30pm. Member Folk was appointed Secretary Pro-Tem. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary Pro-Tem, the following members were present: Kyle Folk, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Travis Temple. Absent: Elizabeth Falls, Andrew Meyers, and Mary Simmons. 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: Stacy Gates, Jeremy Leitzen, Anna Olson, and Whitney Olson; Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoes, and Jeff Parsons; Assistant Principals: Nicole Bowers and 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.

Mrs. Parsons shared that part of the difference in budget for the Education Fund was due to a spreadsheet error in calculating salaries for the starting budget. That spreadsheet has since been fixed going forward for budgeting for FY27. Mrs. Parsons also shared that she and Rachel Snyder will be attending a budgeting workshop this summer.

There being no further discussion, it was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Folk, to adjourn the Budget Hearing at 6:38pm Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:38pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary Pro-Tem the following members were present: Kyle Folk, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Travis Temple. Absent: Elizabeth Falls, Andrew Meyers, and Mary Simmons. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Kelli Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary, and Paige Emerson, Student Liaison.

President Portz led all present in a relationship and culture building activity where everyone took a turn sharing something they are looking forward to doing this summer.

There were no additions to the agenda.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

President Portz asked 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. Henrekin introduced Anna Olson who will be one of the new Math teachers at the middle school for the 2026-2027 school year.

(Member Meyers entered at 6:53pm)

Mr. Hoese and Mr. Henrekin shared their respective buildings' FastBridge testing data. Mr. Henrekin also shared with the board members that he has a student that would like to participate in cross country track. It would be similar to how the students participate in golf at the middle school, students would be responsible for their own practice time as well as transportation to meets. Mr. Parsons and Mrs. Bowers shared information about the high school choir spring break trip to St. Louis. Mrs. Bowers also shared that she just received ACT data and plans to share results at the August board meeting.

Board members shared an interest in touring the buildings outside of the school day. Mrs. Parsons stated we would look to hold a board meeting at each building with time for a tour prior to the meetings.

Paige had no updates since the previous meeting.

Mrs. Parsons asked that board members respond to her previous email regarding board professional development opportunities. Once board members have responded, Mrs. Parsons and Member Portz will pick the best option based on board member feedback.

Mrs. Parsons shared that enrollment stayed steady most of the school year.

Mrs. Parsons shared information from 3M for an eight week course for students to train on the Festo mechatronics machines. Mr. Marten will be trained in this program first as the high school felt the ag classes were the best place to start with this program. Mrs. Parsons shared that her hope is to get this into science and technology classes as well.

Mrs. Parsons shared that the admin team, along with Officer Leitzen, attended a two day behavior threat assessment training. They were able to reexamine issues from the school year and discuss potential areas of improvement. The admin team was also able to strategize ways to be on the look out for and prevent potential escalations.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the consent agenda, including the May 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, May 20, 2026 Closed Session Minutes, May Treasurer's Report, and June Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$155,194.28 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the FY26 Amended Budget.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the 2025-2026 Amended Budget with revenues in the amount of \$26,441,366.78 and expenditures in the amount of \$15,059,310.63. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of school district expenditures of funds for FY27 until which time the annual budget of the district is adopted. This allows the district to utilize district funds until the budget is approved.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the 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 27, 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 Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended authorizing a Board of Education member to review, accept, and sign FY26 audit reports.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Folk, 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 Temple, yea

Member Portz, abstain

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the BFW Publishers curriculum for honors English at the high school at a cost of \$7,243.74.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the purchase of curriculum materials from BFW Publishers for high school honors English classes. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approving the request of two high school students to graduate early at the end of the first semester of the 2026-2027 school year.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the request of two high school students to graduate early at the end of first semester of the 2026-2027 school year. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of, and to ratify, the 2026-2029 Contractual Agreement between the River Bend Education Association and the Board of Education.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Meyers, to ratify the 2026-2029 Contractual Agreement between the River Bend Education Association and the Board of Education. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the fuel bid received from GoldStar FS for \$0.189 over rack rate. The district received two bids, the other bid was from River Valley Cooperative for \$0.25 over rack rate.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the bid received from GoldStar FS, the district's current fuel supplier, for \$0.189 over rack rate for all fuel types. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the second reading of select policy updates and to adopt as policy.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the second reading of select policy updates and adopt as policy: 2:200, 2:220, 2:250, 2:260, 2:265, 4:40, 4:165, 5:30, 5:50, 5:250, 5:330, 6:65, 6:100, 6:145, 6:170, 6:180, 7:20, 7:50, 7:100, 7:185, 7:220, 7:230, 7:240, 7:260, 7:280, 7:300, and 8:90. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the purchase of 75 computers with Dell Technologies for certified staff members.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the purchase of 75 computers with Dell Technologies for district staff at a cost of \$71,850.45. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the resolution to transfer funds from Working Cash to the Education Fund to pay for the computer purchase with Dell Technologies.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the resolution to transfer \$72,000 from Working Cash to the Education Fund for the purchase of new computers for certified staff. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the resolution to transfer funds from the Facility Tax Fund to the Bond and Interest Fund to pay the interest on the debt certificates.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the resolution to transfer \$130,000 from the Facility Tax Fund to the Bond and Interest Fund to pay the interest on the debt certificates. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the handbook changes submitted by each school for the 2026-2027 school year.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the student handbook changes for all schools as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the agricultural safety curriculum for the high school.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the purchase of agriculture safety curriculum at the high school at \$55 per student. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the technology lease agreement with Trafera for the purchase of 50 Chromebooks.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the technology lease with Trafera in the amount of \$18,450 for the purchase of Chromebooks. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of changing the name of the middle school from River Bend Middle School to Fulton Middle School.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to approve changing the middle school name from River Bend Middle School to Fulton Middle School. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended authorizing Members Portz and Meyers to approve July Bills Recommended for Payment, subject to audit, when ready by the Business Office due to there being no July Board of Education Meeting.

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

Member Folk, yea Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, abstain Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, abstain

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the Health, Life, Safety (HLS) Bond for Jennifer Griser.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the HLS Bond for Jennifer Griser in the amount of \$350,000 from Envision Insurance Group. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Members of the Veregy team joined the meeting via a google meet. Michele James with Veregy shared a presentation and went through the bidding process with board members. Ms. James shared that Veregy felt the masonry bid that was received was high and they would like to go out for rebid on that part of the project. Veregy is looking to have a kick off meeting in July, with project completion in September or October of 2027. Veregy also shared an update on the roof coating process at all the schools. Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the following subcontracts for the middle school gymnasium addition:

1. Acoustical Wall Panels (Materials Only)
 - a) Contractor: **Bush Construction**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$25,546.00**
2. Acoustical Ceilings
 - a) Contractor: **Bush Construction**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$29,980.56**
3. Civil
 - a) Contractor (Concrete): **Centennial**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$564,460.00**
 - c) Contractor (Temporary Fencing, Site Utilities, Earthwork):
Needham Excavating
 - d) Contract Amount: **\$629,700.00**
 - e) Contractor - Parking Alternate A-1 (Concrete): **Centennial**
 - f) Contractor Amount: **\$86,600.00**
 - g) Contractor - Parking Alternate A-1 (Earthwork, Paving, Striping):
Needham Excavating
 - h) Contractor Amount: **\$91,600.00**
4. Exterior Signs (Materials Only)
 - a) Contractor: **Bush Construction**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$11,500.45**
5. Fire Suppression
 - a) Contractor: **Tri-City Fire Protection**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$74,303.00**
6. Flooring (General)
 - a) Contractor: **Allied**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$95,809.00**
7. Flooring (Gymnasium Wood Floor)
 - a) Contractor: **ProStar Surfaces**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$219,000.00**

8. General Trades
 - a) Contractor: **Bush Construction**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$392,676.13**
9. Lockers
 - a) Contractor: **Bush Construction**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$49,984.00**
10. Structural Steel
 - a) Contractor: **Tri-City Iron Works**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$1,058,850.00**
11. Paint and Coatings
 - a) Contractor: **Allied/Color Inc**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$92,728.00**
12. Sports Equipment
 - a) Contractor: **Bush Construction**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$242,576.42**
13. Storefront Glass
 - a) Contractor: **Bush Construction**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$75,900.71**
14. Windows - Glazing
 - a) Contractor: **Bush Construction**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$89,112.31**
15. Other - **Masonry**
 - a) Contractor: **Otto Baum**
 - b) Contract Amount: **\$2,486,275.00**

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the subcontracts and construction management portion of the River Bend Middle School Gymnasium addition for up to \$6,316,601.58; item 15 - Other: Masonry will be excluded and rebid. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the Veregy Guaranteed Contract for the middle school gymnasium addition.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the Veregy Guaranteed Contract for the River Bend Middle School gymnasium addition for up to \$5,345,048.00 and authorize the superintendent to sign the contract pending District review. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the renovation work proposed by Veregy for the walkway between the elementary school and the middle school.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the Veregy renovation work for the corridor connecting the middle school and elementary school for a "not to exceed" amount of \$456,000 and authorizing the superintendent to sign the contract pending final District review. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the high school Choir trip to St. Louis over spring break in March 2027.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the Fulton High School Choir trip as presented, at no cost to the district. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended declaring old textbooks at the high school as surplus goods and to dispose of in an appropriate manner the following: 57 Readers Handbooks, 150 My Perspective Books, 1 Big Ideas Math Book, 25 Research Writing Books, 2 Pre-Algebra Books, 1 Write Ahead Book, 19 Writers Inc Books, 46 My Perspective Workbooks, 67 A Day No Pigs Would Die books, 96 A Night to Remember books, 2 My Perspective Teacher Edition books.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to declare old text books from the high school as surplus goods and dispose of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended declaring the Steamboat print in the district office as a surplus good and to dispose of in an appropriate manner. The print will be given to Dr. Hogue as a retirement gift from the district.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Folk, to declare the Steamboat print in the district office as a surplus good and dispose of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons shared that the district received \$13,000 from the Eric Ottens Foundation for high school boys and girls track and \$500 from Dan's Tree Service for the Hall of Fame golf outing.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Portz, to accept gifts to the district as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

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

- *Approve the resignation of Sarah Powell as Middle School Assistant Track Coach, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.*
- *Approve Bob Coffey as Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Patrick R. Lower as Math Teacher at River Bend Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Mike Menchaca as Varsity Girls Basketball Coach at Fulton High School, effective May 26, 2026.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Riley Davidson as 6th Grade Volleyball Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Emily Wilkens as Paraprofessional at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Haylee Mussman as Sophomore Class Sponsor, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Sara Gaskill as 3rd Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School, effective the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Shelby Rolston as Sophomore Class Sponsor, effective the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Anna Olson as Math Teacher at River Bend Middle School, effective the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Football Coaches at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year: Dave Curley, Josh Knuth, Brock Mason, and Adam Hamstra.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Cheer Coaches at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year: Nikki VanDellen and Kaylee Pell.*
- *Approve the internal transfer of Shane Malone from Cook's Helper at Fulton High School to Lunch Cashier at River Bend Middle School, effective the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Hannah Childers as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Chelsey O'key as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Brent Dykstra as Varsity Baseball Coach at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2025-2026 season.*
- *Approve the resignation of Jen Pepper as 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach at River Bend Middle School, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Thomas Eden as JV Baseball Coach at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2025-2026 season.*

- *Approve the Fulton Elementary School Principal salary increase of \$2,100 for FY27.*
- *Approve the Fulton Elementary School Assistant Principal salary increase of \$3,200 for FY27.*
- *Approve the River Bend Middle School Principal salary increase of \$1,800 for FY27.*
- *Approve the Fulton High School Principal salary increase of \$2,200 for FY27.*
- *Approve the Fulton High School Assistant Principal salary increase of \$3,300 for FY27.*
- *Approve the Buildings and Grounds Director salary increase of \$2,750 for FY27.*
- *Approve the Cafeteria Manager salary increase of \$1,315 for FY27.*
- *Approve the Transportation Director salary increase of \$3,285 for FY27.*
- *Approve the Technology Director salary increase of \$3,255 for FY27.*
- *Approve the Business Manager salary increase of \$3,053 for FY27.*
- *Approve the District Executive Assistant salary increase of \$2,250 for FY27.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Golf Coaches for the 2026-2027 school year: Andrew Meyers and Ryan Voss.*
- *Approve the following coaches and sponsors for the 2026-2027 school year:*

Level I

Varsity Track (B) - Mike Ankrom

Varsity Track (G) - Lynn Schipper

Varsity Softball - Derek Germann

Strength & Conditioning - Jared Wessels

Level II

Play Director - Emilee Droegmiller

Band Director - Shawn Anton

Choir Director - Shawn Anton

JV Softball - Ally Reed

Steamer Suite Sponsor - Carolyn Meurs

Level III

District Webmaster - Emily Phillips

Middle School Track (B) - Chris Ketelsen

Middle School Track (G) - Elizabeth Wessels

Middle School Band - Shawn Anton

Middle School Choir - Shawn Anton

Junior Class Sponsor - Val Pestka

High School Scholastic Bowl - Joseph Bacidore

Media Pub - Sydney Schutte

Robotics - Caleb Hesse

Level IV

Costume Coordinator (HS) - Camryn Simmons

High School Yearbook - Christy Hackett

Senior Class Sponsor - Mike Ankrom

Thespians - Emilee Droegmiller

Freshman Class Sponsor - Jennifer Smith

Middle School Pep Club - Megan Facio

Middle School Student Council - Adrien Loncar/Ashley Huizenga

Level V

Key Club Sponsor - Mike Ankrom

Middle School Yearbook - Jackie Wiersema

Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

There was no closed session.

The July Board of Education meeting has been canceled. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 6:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to adjourn the meeting at 9:27pm. 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