

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

March 18, 2026

A Waiver Hearing conducted by the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on March 18, 2026, in the District Office Conference Room. The purpose of this hearing was to hear testimony regarding the application for a Physical Education Waiver.

President Portz called the Waiver Hearing to order at 6:30pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Kyle Folk, Andrew Meyers, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, Mary Simmons, and Travis Temple. Absent: none. 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 asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum regarding the application for a waiver to 105 ILCS 5/27-6 regarding students in grades K-8 not being required to have Physical Education class everyday but instead to allow students the opportunity to participate in Art, Music, Health, and STEM activities on a rotating basis with Physical Education class. There were no comments from the public or Board of Education members.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Folk, to adjourn the waiver hearing at 6:32pm. Voice Vote, all yea.

A Public Hearing conducted by the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on March 18, 2026, in the District Office Conference Room. The purpose of this hearing was to hear testimony regarding the intent of the Board of Education to sell bonds in the amount not to exceed \$12,250,000 for the purpose of paying claims against the District and the intent of the Board to sell \$3,600,000 school fire prevention and safety bonds of the District.

President Portz asked the board members if there were any questions or comments, there were none. President Portz asked Secretary Simmons if there was any written testimony to present, there was none. President Portz asked if there was any public comment, written or oral, there was none.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:33pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, in the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:34pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Kyle Folk, Andrew Meyers, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, Mary Simmons, and Travis Temple. Absent: none. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Kelli Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary, and Paige Emerson, Student Liaison.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Stacy Gates, Michele James, John Lambert, and Jeremy Leitzen; Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Jeff Parsons; Assistant Principals: Nicole Bowers and Aimee Marten.

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

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the agenda as amended. 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.

The elementary, middle, and high school principals had nothing to add to their reports. Member Folk asked the elementary school about the uptick in discipline. Mr. Hoese indicated the weather and lack of recess time has affected student behavior negatively. Mr. Hoese informed the board members he also looked at the discipline for the same time line last school year and saw the same trends.

Paige shared that she met with Mr. Parsons and Mrs. Bowers to discuss the process of selecting the next student liaison. After discussion they felt the next student liaison would only need a couple of months of shadowing at board meetings to be able to take over.

Member Simmons shared highlights from the River Bend Education Foundation Meeting.

- The Academic Excellence dinner was well attended and everyone enjoyed having Brent Houzenga as the speaker.
- The Foundation collected over \$25,000 in donations this year.
- Constellation will be sponsoring the Summer Enrichment Classes and One Day Trips.
- The Foundation approved over \$13,000 in Mini Grants for teachers.

Mrs. Parsons shared some highlights from the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting:

- The committee discussed the title grant funds and how they will be spent.
- The committee discussed fan behavior at sporting events - students and adults - and potential discipline.

Dr. Hogue shared some highlights from the Finance Committee meeting:

- The treasurer's report was reviewed.
- Bonding items were reviewed.
- The Technology Spending plan was shared with a new replacement cycle for chromebooks and smartboards.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Meyers, 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 and student suspension review at 7:32pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, 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 and student suspension review at 8:36pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Meyers, to uphold the discipline of Student 2025-A. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue shared that enrollment went up by three students. When looking at numbers for next school year, the high school will be gaining more incoming freshman students than those graduating and the middle school will have fewer sixth grade students coming in than eighth grade students exiting.

Michele James and John Lambert with Veregy shared the roofing proposal contract with the board members. The final bid came in at just over \$2 million dollars, which is a significant decrease from predicted costs. The work will begin in April or May, depending on the weather, and be finished before summer. They also shared a 30% drawing update for the middle school gymnasium. Veregy will continue to meet with the middle school to finalize options. The hope is to go out for bids and have a final contract approved in May or June with groundbreaking in July and building completion in September or October of 2027.

Dr. Hogue shared that the superintendents that are part of the health insurance coop met to discuss options for a continued coop or for districts to go out on their own with a broker.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the consent agenda, including the February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, February Treasurer's Report, and March Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$413,467.47 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the resolution to transfer funds from Working Cash to the Transportation Fund. The funds will be used to purchase two school buses coming off of lease as well as the activity bus.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the resolution to transfer funds from Working Cash to the Transportation Fund in the amount of \$72,000. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Accelerated Kindergarten Placement procedure.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the Accelerated Kindergarten Placement procedure as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended advertising for lawn care bids for the 2026-2027 school year.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to authorize the superintendent to advertise for bids for lawn care. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Title 1 District Plan for schoolwide usage at the elementary school.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the Title 1 District Plan for school wide usage at Fulton Elementary School. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) membership for the 2026-2027 school year at no cost to the district.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the IHSA Membership for the 2026-2027 school year at no cost to the district. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Physical Education Waiver to 105 ILCS 5/247-6 and submit to ISBE for consideration. This will be the last time the district will need to submit this waiver since the addition of the gymnasium at the middle school will allow for Physical Education class to take place daily.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the Physical Education Waiver and submit to the Illinois State Board of Education for consideration. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the 2026-2027 Risk Management Plan. There were no major changes to the plan. The only changes made were in the distinction from culinary arts classes to agriculture classes.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the 2026-2027 Risk Management Plan as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the roofing contract presented by Veregey.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the roofing bid contract with Veregey for \$2,001,132.00. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the District Consolidated Plan.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the District Consolidated Plan and submit to ISBE for consideration. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue shared that the district received \$500 from Fulton Kiwanis for Key Club. President Portz read a letter from IASB thanking the district for hosting the Northwest Division meeting. The district was presented an American flag and a \$400 certificate to use towards a board self-evaluation course with IASB.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Folk, to accept gifts to the district as amended. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

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

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Maynome Cartee as Night Custodian at Fulton High School, effective February 26, 2026.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Baseball Coaches for the 2025-2026 school year: Austin Smith, Andy Meyers, and Kraig Schipper.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Softball Coaches for the 2025-2026 school year: Buddy Bueno, Jim Collachia, Jenna Jones, and Kelsey Gammon.*
- *Approve the following contracts and offer tenure as follows:*

Offer Tenure Beginning 2026-2027

<i>Facio, Megan</i>	<i>Guidance/H</i>
<i>Stuart, Brianna</i>	<i>Math/M</i>
<i>Bacidore, Joseph</i>	<i>Math/H</i>
<i>Wessels, Jared</i>	<i>Cross Categorical/H</i>
<i>Williams, Heidi</i>	<i>Science/H</i>
<i>Howard, Samuel</i>	<i>Science/H</i>
<i>Iverson, Candi</i>	<i>3rd Grade/E</i>
<i>Norman, Kearston</i>	<i>2nd Grade/E</i>
<i>Vandendooren, Abbey</i>	<i>Special Education/E</i>

Third Year Non-Tenure Teachers - Offer 4th Year Contract beginning 2026-2027

<i>Eden, Thomas</i>	<i>History/M</i>
<i>Pestka, Valerie</i>	<i>English/H</i>
<i>Temple, Colleen</i>	<i>ELA/M</i>

Second Year Non-Tenure Teachers - Offer 3rd Year Contract beginning 2026-2027

<i>Osborn, Zach</i>	<i>Math/H</i>
<i>Rolston, Shelby</i>	<i>Math/M</i>
<i>Smith, Tiffany</i>	<i>4th Grade/E</i>

First Year Non-Tenure Teachers - Offer 2nd Year Contract beginning 2026-2027

<i>Davidson, Riley</i>	<i>5th Grade/E</i>
<i>Helm, Josephine</i>	<i>1st Grade/E</i>
<i>Kampe, Kayla</i>	<i>Special Education/E</i>
<i>Manon, Sydney</i>	<i>1st Grade/E</i>
<i>Mitchell, Lindsey</i>	<i>1st Grade/E</i>
<i>Orwitz, Natalie</i>	<i>3rd Grade/E</i>

- *Approve the following coaches/sponsors for the 2026-2027 school year:*

Level I

Varsity Basketball (B) - RJ Coffey

Varsity Basketball (G) - Mike Menchaca

Varsity Wrestling (B) - Shawn Price

Varsity Cheerleading (Fall & Winter) - Haylee Mussman

Level II

Sophomore Basketball (B) - Ryan Voss

Sophomore Basketball (G) - David Smither

Assistant Wrestling - Aaron Kuebel

Wrestling (G) - Amanda Fosdick

Freshman Basketball (B) - Mitch VanZuiden

Freshman Basketball (G) - Adrien Loncar

Speech Team (High School) - Alison Phillips

Level III

7th Grade Basketball (B) - Thomas Eden

7th Grade Basketball (G) - Elizabeth Wessels

8th Grade Basketball (B) - Mike Ankrom

8th Grade Basketball (G) - Jen Pepper

Middle School Wrestling - Dustin Sullivan

Level IV

6th Grade Basketball (B) - Kraig Schipper

6th Grade Basketball (G) - Taylor Mabaga

Middle School Scholastic Bowl - Adrien Loncar

Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 6:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Portz, seconded by Member Folk, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm. 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