

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

March 20, 2024

The Bond Hearing of the Board of Education of River Bend CUSD #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on March 20, 2024, at the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Bond Hearing to order at 6:30pm. Member Simmons was appointed Secretary Pro-Tem. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary Pro-Tem, the following board members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Andrew Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons; Absent: Eric Fish; Others Present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary. Also in attendance were those listed below under introduction of guests.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz informed those present of the district's intention to sell bonds for the purpose of paying for construction costs at Fulton Elementary School. President Portz asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the district's intent to sell the bonds. There being none, President Portz asked for a motion to adjourn the Public Bond Hearing at 6:32pm.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the Public Bond Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell \$4,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:33pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary Pro-Tem, the following board members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Andrew Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons; Absent: Eric Fish; Others Present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Grace Dykstra, Jennifer Dykstra, Shane Dykstra, Aaron Hackett, Annaka Hackett, Christy Hackett, Jeremy Leitzen, Steven Olson, and Rick Viskocil, Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Jeffrey Parsons and Assistant Principal: Kelli Parsons.

Additions to the agenda. There were no additions to the agenda.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyers, 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 one wishing to speak during public forum.

(Member Fish entered at 6:35pm)

Principal Reports. Mr. Parsons introduced the two 3rd Quarter Overall Steamers of the Quarter, Annaka Hackett and Grace Dykstra. Both students are very involved in activities and athletics and their recommendation to underclassman is to get involved. Mr. Parsons informed the board the teachers' lounge is ready for use thanks to Mr. Snyder and his construction class as well as the teachers who stayed after school to get everything arranged.

Mr. Henrekin shared that having the fourth section of eighth grade students has worked very well this year. The middle school would like to continue with four sections of eighth grade next year, as well as split the seventh grade students into four sections.

Mr. Hoese shared that the Family Fun Night was very well attended.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the River Bend Educational Foundation Meeting held on March 12, 2024. The Academic Excellence dinner was well attended and the culinary students made a fabulous meal. The foundation approved mini grants in the amount of \$7,878 dollars and approved just over \$2,000 in Martin Estate grants.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2024.

- Dr. Hogue discussed the purpose of the 5 Essentials Survey. One of the members asked if administration could see individual rankings. Mr. Hoese indicated that administration can only see overall data.
- Dr. Hogue explained the budget detail pages for the Title I, IIa, and IV Grants that he provided to the committee members and asked for input using Title funds for FY25.
- Dr. Hogue shared this is the last year for ESSER Grant Funds to help support the summer learning classes and trips. He asked the committee for their input on continuing with the activities and the possibility of increasing the cost parents pay. Committee members stated their children look forward to the classes and they feel the fee to parents could be increased.
- Dr. Hogue informed the committee that the district is looking at a different Student Information System to potentially replace PowerSchool. Multiple committee members agreed there was a need for a more user friendly system.
- Dr. Hogue reminded committee members of the feasibility study presentation the following evening regarding the Thomson detachment and annexation. Committee members asked for a reminder to be sent out to parents as well. Dr. Hogue also informed the committee information about the study would be shared with those unable to attend after. Committee members shared concerns about adequate space for an increase in student population and staffing needs.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2024.

- The current treasurer's report was reviewed. Revenue continues to flow in at a steady pace similar to last year. Categorical payments and tax levy dollars will arrive in April.
 - Expenditures are on pace with last year's spending. At this point, the transportation fund is the only fund that may need support through an EBF check. A decision to add an EBF check to transportation will be made in April or May.

- Tort funds for next year may need additional funds as the City of Fulton would like to see the School Resource Officer (SRO) pay contributions from the district increase from 75% to 99%. An amount of the price increase is not known at this time. The city is having difficulty manning all of their needed positions and having the SRO's pay be completely paid by the school will help with their staffing.
- A budget amendment will be necessary and will be presented at the April board meeting. Rachel supplied a projected amendment. Revenue will increase by \$395,000 and expenses will increase by \$1.1 million. \$700,000 of the \$1.1 million is early payments for the FES construction project. The \$700,000 will be repaid to the district using bond proceeds in July when the district receives the funds.
- The preschool construction bid came in at \$354,000 and will be paid for with Ed Fund dollars. The PFA Grant funds will be used to pay for some of the flooring, paint, and furniture.

Dr. Hogue shared enrollment remains steady.

Dr. Hogue introduced Steven Olson and Rick Viskocil with Veregy, they are both onsite managers for the elementary school construction project. Steven and Rick informed the board that everything is going well and on schedule. They have bi-weekly meetings with the administration to keep them updated on the progress as well. Steven and Rick also informed the board the student internship program has started and is going well, they are both enjoying the process.

Dr. Hogue shared that he is talking with a superintendent of a district that is currently working on their District Strategic Plan. Dr. Hogue will share information on the process as he receives it. The hope is to have multiple planning sessions as opposed to a one-day meeting like the district has done in the past. Dr. Hogue will share with the board members examples of District Strategic Plans to look at as the district continues to plan for their own planning day.

Dr. Hogue will share with the board the high school's letter to students and parents about continued expectations regarding students being on school grounds outside of school hours.

Dr. Hogue informed the board the elementary school would like to hire a part-time custodian. Mrs. Parsons shared that cleaning duties for part of the elementary school are already shared with the middle school and with the addition of four classrooms, there would be areas not getting the attention needed. Mrs. Parsons also shared with the board the struggles of not having any sub custodians available. When a custodian at the elementary school or middle school is out ill, this requires the custodian from the other building to help fill in with cleaning the high priority areas only. The administration feels the addition of a part-time custodian would help eliminate this gap in cleaning as well.

Mr. Hoese and Mrs. Parsons presented new Social Studies curriculum for K-5 students. The committee of teachers have selected two different curriculums they would like to use. For K-2 students, they would use Studies Weekly and 3-5 students would use Savvas.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the January 24, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes; January 25, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes; January Treasurers Report; and February Bills Recommended for Payment in the amount of \$206,218.06 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue presented the 2024-25 Risk Management Plan and recommended it for approval.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the Risk Management Plan for 2024-2025 as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended advertising for lawn care bids for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Meyers asked if a district employee could be trained and certified to perform these duties as opposed to going out for a bid. Dr. Hogue agreed to look into the cost of this.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to authorize the superintendent to advertise for bids for lawn care. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Consolidated District Plan. Once the plan is submitted and approved by the State Dr. Hogue can begin working on Title grants for next school year.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the District Consolidated Plan as presented and submit to ISBE for consideration. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Title I District Plan for school wide usage at Fulton Elementary School. School wide support allows for Title 1 funds to be used for all students at Fulton Elementary School.

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

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Membership for the 2024-2025 school year at no cost to the district.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the IHSA Membership for the 2024-2025 school year at no cost to the district. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the district to sell \$4,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for construction costs at Fulton Elementary School.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the public hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education of the District to sell \$4,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Preschool construction bid from Larson & Larson Builders for \$354,600. This was the only bid received.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the Preschool construction bid as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the River Bend Education Association (RBEA) and the Board of Education to increase bus driver extra-curricular duty pay. Dr. Hogue informed the board that currently the bus driver extra-curricular duty pay is not aligned with the amount paid to coaches and sponsors. Bus driver extra-curricular duty pay will be increased to their regular wage.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the River Bend Education Association and the River Bend Board of Education to increase bus driver extra-curricular duty pay to the drivers' regular wage. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the board the district received \$5,000 from America's Farmers Grow Communities from Bayer Fund for Food Preparation Knowledge and \$750 from Kiwanis for the Fulton High School Key Club.

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

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

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

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Lily Harlan as River Bend Middle School Girls Track Coach for the 2023-24 school year.*
- *Approve Jay Ritchie as a Volunteer Track Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2023-24 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Alanna Ganzer, night custodian at River Bend Middle School, effective February 28, 2024.*
- *Approve the resignation of Laura Spillane, Math Teacher at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2023-24 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Neal Luker as Play Director at Fulton High School.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Emilee Droegmiller as Play Director at Fulton High School.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Sam Stephan as Night Custodian at River Bend Middle School, effective March 20, 2024.*
- *Approve the resignation of Shawn Price as River Bend Middle School Wrestling Coach, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Dustin Sullivan as River Bend Middle School Wrestling Coach for the 2024-2025 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Neal Luker as part-time teacher at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Sam Howard as Science Teacher at Fulton High School for the 2024-2025 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Neal Luker as Thespians Sponsor at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year.*
- *Approve the unpaid leave of absence request of Breanna Kastelic, effective March 20, 2024 through the end of the 2023-24 school year.*
- *Approve closed session minutes dated February 20, 2024.*
- *Approve the contracts for first, second, third, and fourth year teachers as follows:*
FOURTH YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer Tenure beginning 2024-2025

Brubaker

Sarah

Business / HS

Meurs

Carolyn

Family & Consumer Science / HS

Snyder

Jamie

5th Grade / E

THIRD YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer 4th Year contract beginning 2024-2025

Hanson	Christine	1 st Grade / E
Kurtz	Dawna	Preschool / Prek
Long	Sarah	Art / E
Roos	Elizabeth	2 nd Grade / E
Tenboer	Anthony	Cross Categorical / E

SECOND YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer 3rd Year contract beginning 2024-2025

Facio	Megan	Guidance / HS
Gardner	Katherine	Kindergarten / E
Mabaga	Taylor	Cross Categorical / M
Maloney	Caitlin	2 nd Grade / E
Mussman	Haylee	Math / HS
Pflederer	Jaime	Interventionist / E
Rhoades	Tara	5 th Grade / E
Stuart	Brianna	Math / M
Whitney	Samantha	Cross Categorical / E

FIRST YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer 2nd Year contract beginning 2024-2025

Bacidore	Joseph	Math / HS
Bobb	Brianna	Speech Language Pathology / D
Case	Madison	1 st Grade / E
Hartman	Travis	Cross Categorical / E
Iben	Jeanelle	4 th Grade / E
Pestka	Valerie	English / HS
Wessels	Jared	Cross Categorical / HS
Williams	Heidi	Science / HS

- Approve the following coaches for the 2024-2025 school year:

Level I

Varsity Basketball (B) - RJ Coffey

Varsity Basketball (G) - Mike Menchaca

Varsity Cheer - Haylee Mussman

Level II

Soph Basketball (B) - Ryan Voss

Soph Basketball (G) - David Smither

Asst Wrestling - AJ Champion

Fresh Basketball (B) - Mitch VanZuiden

Speech Team - Alison Phillips

Level III

7th Grade Basketball (B) - Thomas Eden

8th Grade Basketball (B) - Mike Ankrom

8th Grade Basketball (G) - Jen Pepper

Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

There was no closed session.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

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

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