

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

May 22, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on May 22, 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, Kyle Folk, Andrew Meyers, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, Mary Simmons; Absent: Travis Temple; 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: Paige Emerson, Lora Fish, Jeremy Leitzen, Bob Outzen, Lisa Outzen, Lucas Outzen, Chad Piercy, Evan Piercy, Monica Piercy; Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Jeff Parsons and Assistant Principals: Ray Borgman and Kelli Parsons.

President Portz led all present in a relationship and culture building activity where everyone took a turn sharing what animal they would be in the morning without their coffee, energy drink, breakfast, etc.

Dr. Hogue added Live Streaming of Board of Education meetings to the agenda under Superintendent's Report.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the agenda as amended. 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.

Principal Reports. Mr. Parsons introduced the two 4th Quarter Overall Steamers of the Quarter, Lucas Outzen and Evan Piercy. Both students shared the same advice for underclassmen, stay true to yourself, do not worry about what others think and follow your own path. Lucas will be attending Sauk Valley Community College through the Impact Program for Welding. Evan will be attending the University of Iowa for Pharmacy.

Mr. Hoese shared the elementary school will have all teaching vacancies filled going in to the summer. Mr. Henrekin shared that ALL Day was a huge success and shouted out Mrs. Huizenga and Ms. Loncar for going above and beyond to make the day enjoyable for all. Mr. Henrekin shared the middle school only has one student who will need credit recovery classes after the school year in order to advance to the next grade. Mr. Parsons shared that all high school seniors completed graduation requirements.

Paige Emerson shared survey data with Dr. Hogue that he will share with board members regarding student culture and PACT/ACT testing. Member Simmons shared she would like to

coordinate a way for Paige to talk with other Student School Board Liaisons to share ideas and see how other schools are utilizing their student liaisons.

Dr. Hogue reported on the May 22, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting.

- Review of Treasurer's Report
 - The overall percent of revenue and expenditures is skewed as compared to last year at this time because budget amendments need to be completed and will be part of the June board meeting
 - Costs continue to rise and revenue continues to decline. This trend was shared at a recent IASBO QC meeting shared by ISBE finance officer Matt Seaton. He suggests looking for ways to save money down the road.
 - The district needs to be monitoring costs and look for areas to save. When teachers retire, we need to consider replacing them.
 - If possible, the district would like to use \$2,000,000 of the combined reserves to invest with Central Bank. This year the district earned approximately \$85,000 in interest income with investments. Dr. Hogue will meet with Karrie Kenny at Central Bank to determine next year's investment rates.
- Levy Review
 - The EAV grew \$410,000 from the October predicted amount to the March rate setting amount. The change in predicted EAV brought in an additional \$14,000 because the district ballooned the levy.
- Bonding for Construction Projects
 - The committee discussed using alternate revenue bonds to pay for a portion of the construction costs. The district could commit \$300,000 to repay bonds once the current set of bonds are paid off.
 - The committee suggests financing the project for 25 years versus the 15 or 20 year options.
 - Committee members would like to prioritize space over seating – adding classrooms over seats in the gymnasium.

Dr. Hogue shared that registration for the Triple I Conference in Chicago opens on June 2nd. Members Portz and Simmons would like to attend.

Dr. Hogue shared that the district will continue to monitor enrollment numbers to determine if classes need to be split.

Dr. Hogue shared that at the last Strategic Plan meeting the committee members decided on the five success indicators. The next steps will be to decide what the expectations are for each indicator.

Dr. Hogue shared that the community meeting about the expansion project went well and the district has already received some valuable feedback. Veregy will put together projected expenses for the district for the next ten years to present at the August board meeting.

Dr. Hogue, Mr. Hoese, and Lora Fish shared information about Reading and Math Intervention Software the elementary school would like to use next school year. The elementary school would like to use multiple products under the Renaissance umbrella which will help them compile all testing information on students. These programs will create learning pathways for each student based on where they test.

Dr. Hogue shared that he received a request to have the board meetings live streamed. Members shared concerns regarding possible disruptions occurring during the meeting due to people knowing that it was being live streamed. Members also discussed the possibility of a delay, or recording the meeting to post for viewing after.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the April 16, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, April Treasurers Report, and May Bills Recommended for Payment in the amount of \$291,388.89, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of new curriculum at Fulton Elementary School. They will be using Inquisitive for Science and Heggerty Writing for grades K-3.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the new curriculum at Fulton Elementary School of Inquisitive for Science at a cost of \$702 and Heggerty Writing for K-3 at a cost of \$12,405. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of renewal of the Activity Fund, Treasurer, and General Obligation bonds which is a yearly requirement.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Portz, to approve the Envision Insurance Group proposal for a one-year Activity Fund Bond with a premium of \$125 with a limit of \$100,000 for Rachel Snyder, a one-year Activity Fund Bond with a premium of \$100 with a limit of \$50,000 for Stacy Bueno, a one-year Treasurer Bond with a premium of \$1,993 with a limit of \$2,000,000 for Jennifer Griser, and a one-year General Obligation Bond with a premium of \$329 with a limit of \$388,000 for Jennifer Griser. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approving high school library books as excess goods and dispose of in an appropriate manner. The high school is weeding out books that are no longer being checked out to make room for new books.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Falls, to approve declaring excess library books as surplus goods and dispose of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approving the request of four high school students to graduate early.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Portz, to approve the request of four high school students to graduate early. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended seeking bids for fuel for the 2025-26 school year.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to authorize the superintendent to seek fuel bids for the 2025-26 school year. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the changes to the Fulton High School student and athletic handbooks. Mr. Parsons shared the cell phone policy changes at the high school would allow students to use their phone during passing period and at lunch time. Otherwise, the cell phone must remain in the student's locker or in the cell phone holder in the classroom they are in. Mr. Parsons also shared the high school would like to allow all students the privilege of leaving for 5th hour as long as all requirements are met. These requirements include a minimum grade allowed for each class. After discussion with the board members, it was decided that students would be allowed to leave if they had a grade of at least C or higher in all classes, along with the other requirements.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the Fulton High School Student and Athletic Handbook changes as amended. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of increasing breakfast and lunch prices for the 2025-26 school year due to a predicted increase per the Illinois State Board of Education

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve increasing the price of breakfast to \$1.90, K-5 lunch to \$3.30, 6-8 lunch to \$3.45, 9-12 lunch to \$3.55, adult breakfast to \$2.75, and adult lunch \$4.00. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the co-op agreement for the milk bid with Enyeart Milk and increase the milk price for the 2025-26 school year.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the co-op agreement for the Enyeart Milk bid and increase milk price to \$0.55 for the 2025-26 school year. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the third reading of updates to Policy 6:20 – School Year Calendar and Day and adopt as policy.

It was moved by Member Portz, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the third reading of updates to policy 6:20 – School Year Calendar and Day and adopt as policy. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, abstain

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, nay

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the board the district received \$522.10 from PTO for outstanding milk balances for Kindergarten and 1st Grade students.

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

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

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

- *Approve the internal transfer of Kearston Norman from 3rd Grade Teacher to 2nd Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School, effective the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Thomas Eden as 6th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Sean VanKampen as Night Custodian at Fulton Elementary School, effective May 19, 2025.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Natalie Orwitz as 3rd Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of AJ Champion as Assistant Wrestling Coach at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Aaron Kuebel as Assistant Wrestling Coach at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Maynome Cartee as Night Custodian at Fulton High School, effective May 12, 2025.*

- Approve the following Volunteer High School Volleyball Coaches for the 2025-26 school year: Jean Wilkin, Delaney Reed, Ally Reed, Teegan Germann, Marilyn Harrison, Tiffany Smith, Kearston Norman, and Erica Matroni.
- Approve the resignation of Corrine Leonhardt as Paraprofessional at River Bend Middle School, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year.
- Approve the recommendation to hire Josephine Helm as 1st Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the resignation of Jared Dickman as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective May 15, 2025.
- Approve the recommendation to hire Amanda Fosdick as Fulton High School Girls Wrestling Coach for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the resignation of Jenna Jones as Fresh/Soph Softball Coach for Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2024-25 school year.
- Approve the recommendation to hire Marlene VanBuskirk as Night Custodian at Fulton High School.
- Approve Ally Curley as Volunteer High School Volleyball Coach for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the recommendation to hire Zach Ryder as Fulton High School Assistant Football Coach for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the following Volunteer High School Golf Coaches for the 2025-26 school year: Kyle Jackson, Andy Meyers, and Ryan Voss
- Approve the following Volunteer High School Football Coaches for the 2025-26 school year: Dave Curley, Aaron Kuebel, Josh Knuth, and Derek Germann
- Approve the internal transfer of Kayleigh Bonheur from Classroom Paraprofessional to Library Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the recommendation to hire Corrine Leonhardt as Library Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the recommendation to hire Kraig Schipper as Paraprofessional at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year.

Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, 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 9:37pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Falls, 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 10:06pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Portz, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 10:07pm. 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