

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

November 17, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on November 17, 2025, in the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:37pm. Upon roll call by the Secretary, the following board members were present: Kyle Folk, Andrew Meyers, Dan Portz, Jay Rithie, Mary Simmons, and Travis Temple, Absent: Elizabeth Falls. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Kelli Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Stacy Gates, Michele James, John Lambert, Jeremy Leitzen, and 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 their favorite Thanksgiving food dish.

There were no additions to the agenda.

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

The elementary school had nothing to add to their report. Member Portz commended the elementary school on having 95% parent attendance for Parent/Teacher Conferences. The middle school had nothing to add to their report and there were no questions from board members. Mrs. Bowers shared that the high school almost doubled their goal for the food drive. She was also able to secure a pizza party from Casey's for the winning grade level. Member Ritchie thanked all the schools for their hard work during the food drive.

The high school presented updates to their course handbook. They are looking for approval to the changes at the December meeting. Member Meyers asked if the GPA requirement to attend Whiteside Area Career Center (WACC) was set by the high school or WACC, Mr. Parsons stated it is set by WACC.

Paige was not present at the meeting but had shared social media survey results. Member Folk asked about the survey comment regarding students receiving more education about social media. Mr. Parsons and Mrs. Bowers both confirmed that the high school SWIM classes and Health classes cover this topic.

Member Simmons shared information from the November River Bend Education Foundation Meeting. The foundation had an eye glasses fund that was able to provide new eye glasses for three students. The foundation also provided a donation to the United Way to help with the weekend meals they are providing to low income families in the area.

Mrs. Parsons shared some highlights from the Facilities Committee meeting.

- Veregy reviewed the construction plans for the new gymnasium at the middle school.
 - The construction timeline was discussed, pending board approval at the regular meeting. Once approved, narrowing down the scope would be next with hopes to finalize and go out for bids in April 2026, then board approval in May 2026, with construction being finalized in September 2027.
 - The next steps are to select a committee to meet and plan out the building. Veregy suggested that the committee meet every two weeks.
 - HLS update items were discussed as to whether or not they could be included along with the new construction.
- Maintenance Grant Update
 - The district will use maintenance grant funds to finish the HLS door project at the high school. Hartz Lock will start this during winter break.
- Summer Project Planning
 - Mrs. Parsons will work with Mr. Marten and his construction classes on building storage sheds to replace the storage containers.
 - There are a couple of areas at the high school that need flooring replaced.

Mrs. Parsons shared some highlights from the Finance Committee meeting.

- Review of Treasurer's Report
- Bob Lewis with PMA reviewed bonding options
 - This would be a multi-step bonding process; the district would receive the funds in January or February and invest until needed in July.
 - The committee asked for other options; PMA will have other scenarios ready for discussion later in the week at the Triple I Conference.
- Bus Lease options were reviewed

Dr. Hogue shared that overall enrollment remains steady.

Kyle DeMus with Benning Group, LLC joined the meeting remotely to share information on the fiscal year 2025 audit. Overall it was a clean audit with only a few items to note. The district's ISBE financial score is a 3.45 out of 4.0

Michel James with Veregy shared a timeline for the new middle school gymnasium construction. Dr. Hogue will be sharing a letter of intent for construction with the board for approval. Once the letter has been approved, Veregy will meet with the middle school from now until February/March 2026 to finalize the design. The final design would be presented for approval in March/April and then Veregy would go out for bids. Ground breaking would begin in June with the project being completed for use in August or September 2027. The project construction costs do not include equipment for the weightroom, the district will look for grants to help offset these costs.

Mrs. Parsons shared the proposed levy with the board members. The district will move forward with the 12% option to capture all available funds.

Dr. Hogue shared that the first negotiation committee meeting will take place on December 15th at 4:00pm. Members Portz, Simmons, and Temple will serve on the committee.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the consent agenda, including the October 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, October Treasurer's Report, and November Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$1,333,626.96, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the tentative 2025 Tax Levy and to set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the tentative 2025 Tax Levy and set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 17, 2025. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit Report by Benning Group, LLC.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approving the resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay debt service on the District's General Obligation School Bonds (Alternative Revenue Source), series 2021.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay debt service on the District's General Obligation School Bonds (Alternative Revenue Source), series 2021. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Maintenance Grant. The district will use funds from the Maintenance Grant to upgrade fire doors at the high school as part of the Health, Life, Safety survey that was done. By using grant funds, the district can replace all the doors at one time instead of spreading the project out over a number of years.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the IASB School Maintenance Project Grant Application and submit to ISBE for consideration. Roll Call Vote.

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the electricity bid from Rock River Energy. The district's current electricity contract is good until September 2026, however the fall is the ideal time for the district to seek bids for the next contract. Dr. Hogue shared bids from multiple companies that were submitted by Rock River Energy. The board members would like to go with a three year contract with the company Aggressive, as they had provided the lowest bid for the three years.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the electricity bid from Rock River Energy with Aggressive for three years. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the first reading of select policy updates. Member Folk questioned if policies 3:10 and 6:210 should be updated to include the district's own language regarding the superintendent's review and if the success indicators should be added. It was decided policy 3:10 did not need more specific guidelines added. Dr. Hogue will look into 6:210 and other policies that may be more appropriate to add the success indicators.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the first reading of select policy updates: 2:120, 2:150, 2:270, 3:10, 3:50, 3:60, 4:10, 4:30, 4:80, 4:110, 4:140, 4:150, 4:160, 4:170, 4:190, 5:10, 5:20, 5:90, 5:100, 5:120, 5:185, 5:190, 5:200, 5:220, 5:280, 5:300, 6:20, 6:40, 6:60, 6:130, 6:135, 6:140, 6:160, 6:210, 6:220, 6:235, 6:240, 6:260, 6:270, 6:280, 6:300, 6:310, 6:315, 6:320, 7:10, 7:70, 7:130, 7:140, 7:150, 7:180, 7:190, 7:250, 7:290, 7:310, 7:315, 7:340, 8:30, 8:100. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approving the Letter of Intent with Veregy to move forward with construction for the middle school gymnasium.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the construction Letter of Intent with Veregy. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of Fulton High School's Credit Recovery policy.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Folk, to approve Fulton High School's Credit Recovery policy. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue shared that the district received a \$2,491 Safety Grant from Illinois Public Risk Fund (IPRF) and \$507 from First Reformed Church for the high school yearbook fund, Static.

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

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approving broken furniture and cleaning equipment as surplus goods and to dispose of in an appropriate manner.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Portz, to approve broken furniture and non-working cleaning equipment as surplus goods and dispose of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

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

- *Approve the following as Volunteer Wrestling Coaches for the 2025-26 school year: Evan McCallister, Seth Spooner, Ben Fosdick, and Jeremy Fosdick.*
- *Approve the resignation of Amanda Champion as one-one-one paraprofessional at Fulton High School, effective October 17, 2025.*
- *Approve the following as Volunteer Boys Basketball Coaches for the 2025-26 school year: Adam Hamstra and Jeremy Reynolds.*
- *Approve Ally Reed as Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Mitch VanZuiden as Director of Buildings and Grounds, effective November 17, 2025.*
- *Approve the six week maternity leave request of Megan Facio, starting December 9, 2025 with a return date of January 20, 2026.*
- *Approve the nine week maternity leave request of Ashley Huizenga, starting January 5, 2026 with a return date of March 9, 2026.*
- *Approve the resignation of Alli Grant as Night Custodian at Fulton High School, effective November 10, 2025.*
- *Approve the resignation of Addison Crowley as Night Cleaner at Fulton High School, effective November 10, 2025.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Peyton Manning as Night Custodian at Fulton High School.*

Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

There was no closed session.

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

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Ritchie, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. 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