

**RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2**  
**1110 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET**  
**FULTON, IL 61252**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE FINAL MEETING, REORGANIZATION MEETING, AND**  
**REGULAR APRIL BOARD MEETING**

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

April 26, 2023

President Portz called the Final Meeting to order at 6:30pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following members were Present: Eric Fish, Andrew Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons; Absent: Chris Barnett. 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.

The Board acknowledged the canvassing results of the ballots as presented by the County Clerk for the April 4, 2023 election.

Board of Education, four-year term:

*Andrew Meyers	485
*Elizabeth Falls	452
*Jay Ritchie	429
*Mary Simmons	389
Christina Harris	341
Abra Richards	238
Timothy Manon	114
*Elected	

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum. No one spoke as part of public forum.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the Board of Education of the River Bend CUSD #2 "sine die" (per definition – without a day for future action) at 6:35pm. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.*

On behalf of the Board, Superintendent Hogue took nominations for president pro-tem and secretary pro-tem.

Member Ritchie nominated Member Portz as President Pro-Tem. There being no other nominations, Member Portz was elected President Pro-Tem by proclamation.

Member Portz nominated Member Fish as Secretary Pro-Tem. There being no other nominations, Member Fish was elected Secretary Pro-Tem by proclamation.

Upon roll call by the Secretary Pro-Tem the following members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Eric Fish, Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons.

The nomination and election of officers for a two-year term was as follows:

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to elect Dan Portz for the Office of President of the Board of Education for a two-year term. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Member Dan Portz was declared President.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to elect Jane Orman-Luker for the Office of Vice President of the Board of Education for a two-year term. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Member Orman-Luker was declared Vice President.

*It was moved by Member Portz, seconded by Member Ritchie, to elect Eric Fish for the Office of Secretary of the Board of Education for a two-year term. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Member Fish was declared Secretary.

The school board members took the Oath of Office for School Board Members.

Regular School Board meetings shall be held on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm, except for the months where the second or fourth Wednesday is scheduled.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyers, to schedule the River Bend CUSD #2 Regular School Board Meetings at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office located at 1110 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fulton, IL 61252 as follows: July 19, August 9, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20, 2023, January 24, February 21, March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 19, 2024. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

President Portz established the following committees:

**Finance:** Member Orman-Luker and Member Meyers

**Negotiation:** Member Fish, Member Orman-Luker, Member Portz, and Member Simmons

**Transportation:** Member Portz, Member Meyers, and Member Simmons

**Policy:** Member Orman-Luker and Member Ritchie

**Facilities:** Member Falls and Member Ritchie

**Insurance:** Member Fish and Member Orman-Luker

**Wellness:** Member Portz

**Foundation:** Member Orman-Luker

**Citizen’s Advisory:** Member Falls and Member Simmons

**District Improvement:** Member Falls and Member Simmons

**Workforce Collaboration:** Member Falls and Member Orman-Luker

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to designate Central Bank, Fulton, IL; Community State Bank, Fulton, IL; Morton Community Bank, Albany, IL; and Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus as the depositories for River Bend CUSD #2 funds. 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 Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to designate Benning Group LLC, as the auditor for River Bend CUSD #2. 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 Orman-Luker, to appoint Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick, and Kohn and Ward, Murray, Pace, and Johnson as Legal Counsel for River Bend CUSD #2. 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 Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to appoint Richard L Johnson Associates, Inc and Bray Architects as architect for River Bend CUSD #2. 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 Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to accept all policies, acts, and deeds of the previous Board of Education. 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 Simmons, to adjourn the reorganization meeting at 7:07pm. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.*

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:07pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Eric Fish, Andrew Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons; Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

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

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.*

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Eric Bormann, Jerrica Bormann, Jeremy Leitzen, Tim Manon, Kelli Parsons, Daken Pessman, Sara Pessman, Abra Richards, Kathleen Schipper, Kole Schipper, and Carson Wherry; Media: Jerry Lindsey, cityone.com; Principals: Bob Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Assistant Principal: Jeffrey Parsons.

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. Member Orman-Luker thanked Mr. Hoese for his presentation at the City Hall meeting in support of a STEAM room at the Drives building.

Mr. Henrekin shared the middle school is planning another incentive day for students on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The middle school is looking to change their daily schedule to a six period teaching schedule. A majority of the middle school staff is in support of this change. The middle school is also looking to revamp their student of the quarter award process and will be using Capturing Kids Hearts Steamer Traits to help in the student selection.

Mr. Gosch introduced three Overall Steamers of the Quarter. Jerrica Bormann and Daken Pessman received 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Overall Steamers and Kole Schipper received 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Overall Steamer. Mr. Gosch applauded Mrs. Pepper for organizing the earth day celebration where students removed over 1,600 pounds of garbage from around the schools, throughout town, and along the bike path. The high school plans to make this an annual event.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the River Bend Educational Foundation meeting held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. This was the foundation's last meeting of this school year. The foundation

approved Martin Grant requests for seven teachers and the scholarship committees met and decided on student winners for the different Foundation Scholarships.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Facilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

- Michele James from Veregy provided an overview of adding three classrooms, a conference room, and a gymnasium at the middle school. The cost of adding the three classrooms would range from \$1.6 million to \$2.1 million; the cost of adding the gymnasium would range from \$6.3 million to \$6.7 million; and the cost of adding the conference room would range from \$150,000-\$170,000.
- Summer Projects: Installing a secured entrance at the middle school; replacing doors in the walkway between the elementary school and the middle school, replacing the kitchen door at the elementary school, and replacing a back entrance door at the high school; new flooring will be installed on the bottom floor at the high school; new playground equipment will be built at the preschool; and an updated girls locker room space at the high school.
- The district has received two grants to assist with the culinary classroom upgrades at the high school to make the space a certified commercial kitchen.
- The school district will continue to work with the City of Fulton to resolve the water collection issue on the south side of the high school.

The next Facilities Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 3:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

- The treasurer's report was reviewed.
- The district had a CD that expired in April with Community State Bank and will be considered for renewal.
- The amended budget was reviewed; a budget hearing will be scheduled for June 21, 2023.
- EAV has increased and the district will be able to capture all available funds to the district in the levy.
- Dr. Hogue will meet with PMA to discuss bond cost for funds for the addition of classrooms and a gymnasium at the middle school.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 5:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that enrollment has dropped by four, with students transferring to being home schooled and getting their GED. The district has had inquiries from many families in the Thomson, IL area for information on transferring to the River Bend school district.

Dr. Hogue reminded the Board the River Bend Middle School promotion will be on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00pm, Members Meyers and Portz will be in attendance. Fulton High School graduation will be on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 2:00pm, Members Meyers, Orman-Luker, and Portz will be in attendance.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the March 22, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes; March Treasurer’s report; and April Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$364,254.85 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the 2023-24 student registration, extracurricular, meals, fees, and prices. Parents will continue to save \$5 for early registration. Breakfast and lunch prices stayed the same, a ten cent increase was needed for the milk.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker to approve the 2023-24 student registration, extracurricular, meals, fees, and prices as presented. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the bid submitted by Spring-Green for treatment of the high school football field and lawns around each school.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the bid submitted by Spring-Green in the amount of \$940.00 for the high school football field and \$1,180 for treatment of school lawns. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, nay</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, nay</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended removing Virginia Petersen from all Community State Bank and Central Bank accounts and adding Jennifer Griser.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve removing Virginia Petersen from all Community State Bank and Central Bank accounts and adding Jennifer Griser. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended removing Virginia Petersen as Treasurer and appointing Jennifer Griser as Treasurer beginning July 1, 2023, at an annual stipend to be determined.

*It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to remove Virginia Petersen as Treasurer and appoint Jennifer Griser as Treasurer beginning July 1, 2023, at an annual stipend to be determined. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Treasurer’s Bond as presented.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the proposal from Nixon Insurance Agency, Inc for a Treasurer’s Bond with an annual premium of \$1,993 with a limit of \$2,000,000 for Jennifer Griser. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the new ELA curriculum from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for Fulton Elementary School. After multiple discussions between the sales representative, Dr. Hogue, and Mr. Hoese, the shipping costs for the new curriculum were able to be decreased to an acceptable amount.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the ELA Curriculum from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for Fulton Elementary School at a cost of \$36,471.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the 2022-23 tentative amended budget, and to set the budget hearing for Wednesday, June 21, 2023.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers to approve the 2022-23 tentative amended budget with total revenues of \$12,646,165 and total expenditures in the amount of \$12,922,800.27 and set the budget hearing for June 21, 2023 at 6:30pm. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the 2023-24 Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) membership for middle school track, wrestling, and golf with an annual renewal fee of \$645.00 and the 2023-24 IESA membership for elementary school wrestling with an annual renewal fee of \$300.00

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the 2023-24 IESA membership for the middle school track, wrestling, and golf at an annual fee of \$645 and the 2023-24 IESA membership for elementary school wrestling at an annual fee of \$300. Roll call vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the first reading of select policy updates.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Orman-Luker to approve the first reading of select policy updates: 2:110, 3:40, 4:60, 5:30, 5:90, 5:125, 5:150, 5:170, 5:260, 6:135, 6:230, and 8:20. Roll Call Vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the district received \$700 from Kiwanis for Key Club for the Kids vs Hunger Campaign and \$5,000 from America’s Farmers Grow Communities on behalf of Don Temple.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to accept Gifts to the District as presented. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the following personnel items:*

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jenna Jones as Fresh/Soph Softball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Aaron Kuebel as Fresh/Soph Baseball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Russel McCallister as Fulton High School Assistant Wrestling Coach, effective the end of the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Russel McCallister as Fulton High School Varsity Wrestling Coach for the 2023-2024 school year.*
- *Approve the internal transfer of Ryan Dail from Fulton Elementary School Technology Support Specialist to Fulton High School Technology Support Specialist, effective the end of the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Approve the leave of absence, due to military deployment, of Elizabeth Mote for the 2023-2024 school year.*



- Approve the resignation, with intent to retire, of Ellen Loncar, effective June 9, 2023.
- Approve the resignation, with the intent to retire, of Marvin Starzak, effective August 4, 2023.
- Approve the resignation of Michayla Martin as paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary school, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- Approve the resignation of Brianne Price as Interventionist at Fulton Elementary School, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- Approve the resignation of Christie Houzenga as High School English teacher, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- Approve, with regret, the resignation with the intent to retire of Lora Fish, Math Interventionist at Fulton Elementary School, at the end of the 2025-26 school year under the terms of Article VII, section 7.2 of the collective bargaining agreement.
- Approve, with regret, the resignation with the intent to retire of Michelle Rausenberger, Health and Physical Education teacher, at the end of the 2025-26 school year under the terms of Article VII, section 7.2 of the collective bargaining agreement.
- Approve the following coaches for the 2023-2024 school year:

**LEVEL I**

Varsity Basketball (B) - RJ Coffey  
 Varsity Basketball (G) - Mike Menchaca  
 Varsity Cheerleading – Haylee Mussman

**LEVEL II**

Sophomore Basketball (B) - Ryan Voss  
 Sophomore Basketball (G) – David Smither  
 Freshmen Basketball (B) - Mitch VanZuiden  
 Speech Team (HS) - Alison Phillips

**LEVEL III**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball (B) - Thomas Eden  
 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball (B) - Mike Ankrom  
 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball (G) - Jennifer Pepper  
 Middle School Wrestling - Shawn Price  
 Scholastic Bowl (HS) - Breanna Kastelic

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, 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, collective bargaining matters, or a student matter at 8:42pm. Roll Call Vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

*It was moved by Member Fish, 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, collective bargaining matters, or a student matter at 8:53pm. 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.*

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.*

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

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