

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

March 22, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on March 22, 2023 at the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following members were present: Chris Barnett, Eric Fish, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, and Mary Simmons; Absent: Andrew Meyers and Jay Ritchie; Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

President Portz led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Jeremy Leitzen, Tim Manon, Carolyn Meurs, Kelli Parsons, and Abra Richards; 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. Mr. Gosch informed the Board that Fulton High School will be celebrating Earth Day on April 19th. Mrs. Pepper is coordinating activities both around the school buildings and around town. Mr. Parsons presented No Pass, No Play to the Board. An informational night was held for parents and a survey regarding No Pass, No Play was sent out to students, parents, and teachers. The majority of responses are in favor of No Pass, No Play. The high school will present an outline on how a student's eligibility will be affected under No Pass, No Play at the April Board Meeting.

(Mrs. Schipper entered at 7:04 pm)

Mr. Henrekin stated that the middle school's School Improvement Team has been meeting to finalize year-end events and look into changes they would like to see at the middle school next year. The middle school recently had a fun day in the afternoon where student's grades determined if they were able to participate. Mr. Henrekin stated this day went well and they are hoping to have a similar day in May.

Mr. Hoese highlighted the elementary school's Family Fun Night. There were over 200 parents and over 250 students in attendance. The book fair was also taking place at the same time and raised over \$5,000 that night alone.

Mrs. Schipper stated that SAT preparation with the juniors is going well. The students are meeting on Monday afternoons for Math prep in addition to the prep they are getting in their regular Math and English classes. Mrs. Schipper is putting together the list of summer enrichment classes and one-day field trips that will be sent to students after they return from spring break. There has been an increased interest from teachers to hold these classes and field trips this year. There are 44 class suggestions and 30 possible one-day trips.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the River Bend Educational Foundation meeting held on March 14, 2023. The foundation approved 19 grants for teachers for a total of \$7,872. The Academic Excellence dinner was well attended with over 200 people being served. The foundation was impressed with the food served by the culinary arts students.

Dr. Hogue reported on the March 22, 2023 Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting.

1. Mrs. Schipper provided an update on the Graduate Profile work. Currently, feedback is being provided on attendance. In the fall, feedback will be provided on late and missing work. PowerSchool has an additional application that can be purchased to aide in tracking attendance. However, the price is quite high. The technology team is going to look into creating our own report to aide in tracking attendance.
2. Title Grant funds will continue to be used for supporting staff intervention, professional development, and curriculum needs. ESSER grant funds will be modified to continue to support after school tutoring.
3. The district would like to use Capturing Kids Hearts promotional materials to promote and share the concepts with families. Capturing Kids Hearts Premium will include literature for parents for the district to use.
4. The swatting threat at Clinton High School was discussed. It would be helpful for the district to have reunification training.

Dr. Hogue reported on the March 22, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting.

1. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Revenue remains consistent. Rachel will check the Bond and Interest Fund to ensure the June interest payment will be covered.
2. The district will be depositing Evidence Based Funding (EBF) funds into the transportation fund to help cover costs. A gator will be purchased using O/M Funds for use by the transportation department and for the baseball, softball, and football field maintenance.
3. A budget amendment will be presented in April for approval in May.
4. The district will be having an architect coming to look at the preschool storage building to see about cost for converting it into a classroom space.
5. Energy prices were reviewed; Dr. Hogue will be recommending a three-year plan with Horizon Power and Light through Rock River Energy Services for \$61,638.16.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that enrollment has dropped slightly, with students moving and transferring to being home schooled.

Dr. Hogue invited Mrs. Meurs to present on adding a chapter of the Illinois Association of FFA at Fulton High School. Mrs. Meurs visited Bureau Valley High School to see their program. There are certain requirements Fulton High School curriculum must meet in order to have a FFA chapter. A majority of the classes currently offered cover the content required and will just need description changes. The high school will be applying for grants to help cover the costs associated with running a FFA chapter.

Dr. Hogue discussed the purchase of a gator for field preparations and maintenance. In years past, the district has leased a gator, that option is no longer available. Member Portz agreed that purchasing a gator would be the better option for the district.

Dr. Hogue presented depositing one of the two Evidence Based Funding (EBF) checks the district receives into the transportation fund. This will allow for the purchase of the 29-passenger bus that is at the end of its lease this year and the purchase of an addition van.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the consent agenda including the February 21, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as amended; February Treasurer's report; and March Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$155,609.84 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue reviewed the 2023-24 Public School Calendar. The school year begins Tuesday, August 15, 2023, with students first day on Thursday, August 17, 2023, and the last student attendance day on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Fulton High School graduation will be on Sunday, May 19, 2024. Parent/Teacher conferences will be on Thursday, November 2, 2023 and Friday, November 3, 2023. Winter break will be December 25, 2023 through January 5, 2024 and Spring Break will be March 25, 2024 through April 1, 2024 to coincide with the WACC Calendar.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker and seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the 2023-2024 Public School Calendar as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Risk Management Plan for 2023-24. The only change was an addition to custodial responsibilities regarding reducing the risk of exposure to germs that cause infectious disease through daily cleaning of all surfaces.

Member Orman-Luker asked for a change in wording regarding notification of visitors who are potentially exposed to risk.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the 2023-24 Risk Management Plan as amended. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of partial payment for Academy Course Work at Eastern Iowa Community College (EICC) for courses taken at Clinton Community College of \$1,100 per student, per year. Students have to pay out of state tuition when taking classes through EICC at Clinton

Community College. The \$1,100 is similar to the amount the district pays for students to take classes at the Whiteside Area Career Center.

Board members were concerned with the possibility that this may become a financial burden for the district if a large number of students were to take advantage of this opportunity. Dr. Hogue stated he does not feel this would become a concern, as the cost to families is still quite significant. The district will monitor the numbers to see if a limit may need to be set in the future.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve partial payment of up to \$1,100 per student, per year, for Academy Course Work at Eastern Iowa Community College for courses taken at Clinton Community College. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended advertising for lawn care bids for the upcoming season.

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

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of IHSA Membership for the 2023-24 school year at no cost to the district.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the IHSA Membership for the 2023-24 school year at no cost to the district.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the ELA Curriculum from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt at Fulton Elementary School and the ELC Curriculum from Amplify at River Bend Middle School.

Board members felt the shipping cost of the curriculum from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt was too high and would like to table approval of the elementary school curriculum until after talking with the sales representative to lower the shipping cost.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the Amplify ELA Curriculum for River Bend Middle School at a cost of no more than \$30,000. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue is seeking authorization for approval of a three-year electrical bid provided by Rock River Energy Services with Horizon Power and Light for \$61,638.16. Dr. Hogue has been in contact with Rock River Energy Services and monitoring energy prices over the past few months. Rock River Energy Services feels now is a good time to lock in prices before summer price increases.

It was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by member Orman-Luker, to authorize the superintendent to approve a three-year electrical bid provided by 4Rock River Energy Services with Horizon Power and Light for \$61,638.16. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Consolidated District Plan. Dr. Hogue will begin work on the Title grants once the Consolidated District Plan is approved.

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

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, 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 Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the Title 1 District Plan for school wide usage at Fulton Elementary School. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of a new five-year lease with Advanced Business Systems for refurbished copy machines. The new lease will include a \$264 cost for PaperCut, a program that allows printing from Chromebooks.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the proposal from Advanced Business Systems for refurbished copy machines and a leasing contract in the amount of \$23,172 annually. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the 2023-26 Contractual Agreement between the River Bend Education Association and the Board of Education.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve the 2023-26 Contractual Agreement between the River Bend Education Association and the Board of Education.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended closing the Fulton High School Class of 2022 Activity Account with a remaining balance of \$892.86 and split between the Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve closing the Fulton High School Class of 2022 Activity Account with a remaining balance of \$892.86 and split and transfer to the Class of 2024 in the amount of \$223.22, the Class of 2025 in the amount of \$223.22, the Class of 2026 in the amount of \$223.21, and the incoming Class of 2027 in the amount of \$223.21. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the resolution of reduction in force on non-tenured certified personnel.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve, with regret, the resolution regarding reduction in force of non-tenured certified personnel as it relates to Neal Luker. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, abstain

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, no

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the district received \$500 from Nelson Corp Wealth Management for the high school softball program.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to accept Gifts to the District as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the following personnel items and closed session minutes from February 21, 2023:

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Katryna Cook as paraprofessional at River Bend Middle School, effective March 1, 2023.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jessica Teal as paraprofessional at River Bend Middle School, effective March 10, 2023.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jared Wessels as Special Education teacher at Fulton High School, beginning the 2023-2024 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Jay Ritchie as River Bend Middle School Assistant Track Coach effective March 1, 2023 and approve as volunteer track coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2022-2023 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Kearston Norman as River Bend Middle School Assistant Track Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.*

- Approve Justin Jensen as volunteer assistant baseball coach for the 2022-23 school year.
- Approve the resignation of Christ Grant as Head Wrestling Coach, effective the end of the 2022-23 school year.
- Approve Learning Loss Coordinator/Curriculum Director salary increase of \$1,000 for FY24.
- Approve Maintenance and Grounds Director salary increase of \$2,100 for FY24, and a tool allowance of \$120/month.
- Approve Transportation Director salary increase of \$2,300 for FY24.
- Approve Business Manager salary increase of \$2,500 for FY24.
- Approve Fulton Elementary School Principal salary increase of \$3,100 for FY24.
- Approve River Bend Middle School Principal salary increase of \$2,950 for FY24.
- Approve Fulton High School Assistant Principal salary increase of \$2,900 for FY24.
- Approve Fulton High School Principal salary increase of \$3,300 for FY24.
- Approve the 2023-26 Superintendent contract and salary of \$147,000 for FY24.
- Approve the contracts for first, second, third, and fourth year teachers as follows:

Fourth Year Non-Tenure Teachers – Offer Tenure beginning 2023-2024

Hackett, Christy	Business / HS
Salazar, Lee	Science / M
Wiersema, Jackie	Guidance / M

Third Year Non-Tenure Teachers – Offer Fourth Year contract beginning 2023-2024

Brubaker, Sarah	Business / HS
Meurs, Carolyn	Family & Consumer Science / HS
Spillane, Laura	Math / HS
Snyder, Jamie	5th Grade / E

Second Year Non-Tenure Teachers – Offer Third Year contract beginning 2023-2024

Hanson, Christine	1 st Grade / E
Kurtz, Dawna	Pre-K Special Education / PreK
Long, Sarah	Art / E
Roos, Elizabeth	3 rd Grade / E
Tenboer, Anthony	Cross Categorical / E

First Year Non-Tenure Teachers – Offer Second Year contract beginning 2023-2024

Facio, Megan	Guidance / HS
Gardner, Katherine	Kindergarten / E
Gosch, Kelly	Speech Pathologist / D
Houzenga, Christine	English / HS
Mabaga, Taylor	Cross Categorical / M
Maloney, Caitlin	2 nd Grade / E
Mussman, Haylee	Math / HS
Parsons, Kelli	Behavior Interventionist / D
Pflederer, Jaime	1 st Grade / E
Rhoades, Tara	5 th Grade / E
Stuart, Brianna	Math / M
Whitney, Samantha	1 st Grade / E

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

There was no closed session.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

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

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

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