

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 16, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on November 16, 2022 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, Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons, Absent: None, Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Virginia Petersen and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretaries.

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

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

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Liz Falls, Jeremy Leitzen, Tyler Manon, Grayson Meyers, Landon Meyers, Marie Meyers, Ariana Nielsen, Kathleen Schipper, Principals: Bob Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, Assistant Principal/AD: 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 introduced the two Overall Steamers of the Quarter, Landon Meyers and Ariana Nielsen. Mr. Gosch stated that Ariana is a true example of what we look for in our students at Fulton High School. She works hard in everything she does and is a true team player. Her leadership is impeccable and her character is outstanding. Mr. Gosch stated that Landon is a hard working young man on the course and in the classroom. The way he has embraced the many opportunities given to him in community involvement has been admirable and will give him a step up against others competing in the same field in the future.

Mr. Gosch asked for Board input on providing a credit recovery option for students again after the end of the first semester. The past few years, the students have been given the opportunity for two weeks after the semester ends to make up work to earn the credit for the class. The student would still receive the F grade on their transcript, however, there would also be a P on the transcript to indicate they received credit for the class. This would only be offered to students who are sitting at a final percentage of 50 or higher in the class.

Mr. Henrekin reported that e-hall pass is going well in the 6th and 7th grades and the 8th grade students will start using it in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Henrekin has coordinated with the high school to provide students to tutor the middle school students. The high school students come to the middle school after school and stay for an hour or so. Mr. Henrekin stated the process is going very well. Dr. Hogue added that the district is able to use ESSER funds to pay the high school students for their time.

Mr. Hoese reported that the elementary school is seeing a high number of cases of RSV and Hand, Foot, and Mouth, and that the flu seems to be here earlier this year. The house system is going very well, there have been over 64,000 points earned so far. The rewards system was rolled out the previous week, some students are using all their points right away and others are saving them up. Some of the rewards the students can use their points towards are a guest appearance in the announcements, having their joke read during announcements, and 3D printed items. Mr. Hoese reported that while the early morning reading interventions are going well, the elementary school is seeing an increase in the number of students needing both reading and math interventions.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that Jane Orman-Luker received an Establish Board Leader recognition from the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the River Bend Educational Foundation meeting held on November 15, 2022. The Academic Excellence dinner has been scheduled for Saturday, March 4th at 6:00pm. The high school foods class will be catering the dinner. Fulton High School graduate Ryan Reynolds and current strength and conditioning assistant and Sports Science Director for the Kansas City Chiefs will be the guest speaker. The Foundation approved one Martin Estate request for Mr. and Mrs. Anton to attend the ILMEA conference.

Dr. Hogue reported on the November 16, 2022, Building and Grounds Committee Meeting. Chris Barnett, Bob Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, Jeff Hoese, Jeff Parsons, Jay Ritchie, Gary Wolfe, and Darryl Hogue were in attendance.

1. Alex Kopp presented on the new bleachers for the high school gym.
 - a. The new bleachers will meet new code requirements for wheelchair spaces and aisle spaces for safe egress.
 - b. The current bleachers will be taken apart mid-April and the new bleachers will be installed late April through early May. This will save the district \$10,000 over a summer install.
 - c. The wood from the existing bleachers will be given to the high school construction class to repurpose and create projects to be used as a fundraiser.
2. Hartz Lock will start installing the new door locks at the elementary and middle schools over Christmas break. These new locks will allow the teachers to lock the doors from inside the classroom.
3. Four bids were received to remove the asbestos tiles in the high school weight room hallway. The bids ranged from \$12,355 to \$55,000. The committee recommended moving forward with the bid from DEM for \$12,355 to complete the work.
4. Through the use of the Pre School for All Grant and 1% funds, the preschool will be replacing an old wooden structure play set with a new composite based play set and also replace the existing swing with a new four seat swing. NuToys provided a bid for the work that totals about \$28,000 and will be put up this summer.
5. CTS provided a solar panel review. The solar panel project would cost 4.3 million and would include 2.6 million worth of roof repairs so that the solar panels can be supported.

The next Building and Grounds Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 3:30pm.

Dr. Hogue reported on the November 16, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting. Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Rachel Snyder, and Darryl Hogue were in attendance.

1. The treasurer's report was reviewed
 - a. Categorical payments are up to date from the State through the first quarter
 - b. November is the final month of tax levy collections
 - c. CPPRT Funds have been strong; the October payment was \$183,000

- d. Fund balances continue to be healthy
- e. Funds may need to be transferred from working cash to transportation to cover the expense of one or two new vans
- 2. Levy Recommendations – three levies were presented, flat, 4.5%, and 9.5%. The 9.5% levy was forwarded so that capturing available funds is possible if the EAV were to increase from the predicted value and the rate setting value that is determined in March by the county.
- 3. Long Term Projects
 - a. Meeting with PMA bond advisors at Triple I Conference this coming weekend to discuss roofs and a new gym at the middle school
 - b. CTS provided a solar panel review. The project would cost 4.3 million and would include a 2.6 million towards roof repair to support the solar panels.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 5:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that enrollment has increased to just over 900 students. The districts already large first grade class continues to see new students added.

Mrs. Schipper presented on the 2022 Annual Summative Designation and the 2022 School Report Card. All three schools received a Commendable designation. For K-8 buildings, to receive an Exemplary designation they would need to have received a score of 82.28 or higher. The elementary school received a 71.28 and the middle school received a 67.13. For high schools, one would need a 90.93 or higher for an Exemplary designation, Fulton High received an 86.98. The Board would like to see how we compare to neighboring districts. Mrs. Schipper stated she would compile that information and send it to the Board. The district’s chronic absentee and chronic truant rates are an area of concern for all three buildings. The admin team will be looking at ways to increase student attendance.

Dr. Hogue informed the board that he, along with Member Orman-Luker and Member Simmons, will be meeting with PMA this upcoming weekend at the Triple I Conference to discuss future bonding options.

Dr. Hogue updated the Board on the visit with a team from ISBE regarding Special Education. The district learned that when a special education student receives a Certificate of Completion versus a Diploma those students negatively affect the graduation rate. There was also discussion regarding the accuracy of reporting number of minutes spent in regular education classrooms versus special education classrooms.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the October 19, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes and October 26, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes as printed; October Treasurer’s report; and November Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$1,143,083.77 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote:

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| <i>Member Barnett, 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 presented levy options of a flat rate, 4.92% increase, and 9.57% increase. The Board recommended the 9.57% increase so that if the Estimated Assessed Valuation changes the district will capture all available funds.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the tentative 2022 Tax Levy and set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 14, 2022 at 6:30pm. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Barnett, 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 a resolution needs to be passed abating the taxes levied for the year 2022 to pay debt service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternative Revenue Source) in order to use 1% facility funds to make the bond payment for construction projects.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2022 to pay debt service on the District’s General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Barnett, 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 an increase in the travel meal stipend for staff and students. The current amount is \$25 per day, the recommended increase will allow up to \$50 for staff per day and \$30 for students per day.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett to increase the travel meal stipend to \$50/day for staff and \$30/day for students. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Barnett, 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 from 3M a \$2,750 STEM Grant.

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

<i>Member Barnett, 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 Barnett, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the following personnel items:

- *Approve the resignation of Jewel Howard as middle school baker, effective November 28, 2022.*
- *Approve the twelve week FMLA/Maternity leave of Megan Facio, starting January 3, 2023 and ending March 27, 2023.*

Member Barnett, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker to approved the closed sessions minutes dated October 19, 2022 and October 26, 2022 as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 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 8:38pm. 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
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