

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

September 20, 2023

The Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend CUSD #2, Whiteside County, Illinois were held on September 20, 2023, at the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:34pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following board members were present: Eric Fish, Andrew Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons, Absent: Elizabeth Falls. 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: Brianna Bobb, RJ Coffey, Jeanelle Iben, Jeremy Leitzen, Kelli Parsons, Kathleen Schipper, Lynn Schipper, and Bill Wilkin, Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Jeffrey Parsons, and Media: Jerry Lindsey, cityone.com.

President Portz asked for questions or comments from the public or the Board regarding the budget. There were no questions or comments from the public or the Board. Dr. Hogue indicated that figures have been updated slightly since the initial proposed budget in August. The budget is sitting balanced and is a good starting point for the district.

*There being no further discussion it was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the FY 24 Budget Hearing at 6:37pm. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.*

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:37pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following board members were present: Eric Fish, Andrew Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons, Absent: Elizabeth Falls; Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

Additions to the agenda. Dr. Hogue added to the superintendent's report an update on the Preschool Grant and Curriculum for the Preschool.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, 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. Hoese introduced his new staff that were unable to attend the August board meeting; Brianna Bobb, Speech Language Pathologist and Jeanelle Iben, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. Mr. Hoese presented Reading Recovery information from the 2022-23 school year to the Board. The students

showed growth throughout their time in Reading Recovery. The goal of Reading Recovery is to provide focused 1:1 attention in hopes to prevent further intervention down the road.

Mr. Parsons recognized two students, Khadija Elahmady and Owen Brubaker, who have been honored by the College Board of Education for earning a GPA of 3.5 or above and excelling in standardized tests. The Steamer Suite team met with Central Bank to talk about renewing their sponsorship. The district will put together a presentation in hopes to secure another three-year sponsorship with Central Bank.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board of the IASB Northwest Division Hybrid Meeting taking place on October 4, 2023 in Prophetstown. The speaker this year is Jim Burgett on the topic of "The Art of School Boarding". Members Falls, Orman-Luker, Ritchie, Dr. Hogue, and Mrs. Parsons would like to attend the meeting in person. Member Simmons will join virtually.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Annual Safety Meeting held on August 24, 2023. The district was able to arrange for a drug dog to make a few visits to the schools. Principals will send out an announcement to parents and students to make them aware. The secured entrances have been completed at the middle and high schools. Visitors will now enter into a vestibule area and be directed into the office before being allowed access to the rest of the building. Officer Leitzen will continue to perform safety audits and report back to the administration any findings. A tracer/audit form is also being created to have more staff members perform safety checks throughout the year. These checks will be broken down by areas and frequency. A full district evacuation and reunification drill has been planned for all staff. This will take place on the district early dismissal day on November 15, 2023.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the River Bend Educational Foundation meeting held on September 12, 2023. The Foundation received a sizeable anonymous donation that will be used for nursing scholarships, as well as being invested for future scholarships. The Academic Excellence dinner date has been set for Saturday, March 2, 2024, a guest speaker has not been decided on yet.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Facilities Committee Meeting held on September 20, 2023.

- Michele James provided updated drawings for the elementary school addition. There were a few small changes made including the addition of a bathroom and moving a storage closet access. Some of the playground equipment may need to be updated if the old equipment is not able to be reused after moving. The district will also look at adding more cameras on the playground area as it will be moved further away from the building with the addition. There will need to be some lighting changes made at the middle school when the large classroom is converted into a smaller classroom and conference room. Currently that large room operates on one large set of lights.
- The City of Fulton provided an update on expanding the parking at the elementary school. If there is drainage added, the entire grass area at the south end of the building can be converted to parking instead of just adding parking around it like originally planned for.
- Dr. Hogue provided an update on the MGT film. A representative from the company came to the district and measured all areas where the film would be applied. The cost to the district would be approximately \$60,000.
- The district has the opportunity to apply for a \$50,000 matching maintenance grant with the State of Illinois. Dr. Hogue presented two options for use of this grant, use towards the cost of the MGT film for the windows and doors or sidewalk upgrades at the elementary and high schools.

The board feels we would benefit more from using the maintenance grant for the sidewalk upgrades and paying for the window film out of reserve funds.

- Dr. Hogue informed the committee there is the need for more asbestos abatement at the high school. After the cabinets were removed in the old office at the high school more asbestos tiles were discovered. There is also still one hallway in the bottom floor of the high school that needs abated.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on September 20, 2023.

- The treasurer's report was reviewed. The district is looking fiscally healthy, fund reserves increased by \$900,000.
- Dr. Hogue is recommending the district increase the bond levy to \$800,000 in the next cycle. This would cause a slight increase in the tax rate but would allow the district to pay off the bond a year earlier.
- The district will go out for bids for an audit company after last school year's audit is complete.
- The district is looking at leasing versus buying options for new busses. Prices have gone up since the district's previous lease. At this time, financially it would be best for the district to lease the buses with the possibility of purchasing one or two at the end of that lease.

Dr. Hogue shared with the Board that enrollment is up 35 students.

Dr. Hogue shared with the Board the first semester professional development plan. The main focus will be continuing with the Capturing Kids Hearts training. Support staff will be trained on Capturing Kids Hearts in the afternoon of the district early dismissal on October 11, 2023.

Dr. Hogue introduced RJ Coffey, Lynn Schipper, and Bill Wilkin, representatives from the Hall of Fame committee. The committee is currently working on the third class of inductees. The committee would like to have somewhere in the commons outside the East gym to be able to recognize the Hall of Fame inductees. They are proposing removing four of the current trophy cases and using that area for the Hall of Fame plaques. The current cases would be reorganized and Regional plaques would be secured on the opposite wall from the trophy cases. The cost to the district would be minimal as members of the Hall of Fame committee have agreed to donate their time to help with removal of the trophy cases. The committee is anticipating the wall will need to be repainted once the cases are removed.

Dr. Hogue shared the first Steamer Success Indicator that the district will be focusing on is School Attendance. Chronic truancy is an issue across the country, not just within our district. The principals will work on contacting families sooner when attendance issues are noticed.

Dr. Hogue shared a contract letter of intent from Veregy. The letter helps to ensure the district follows through with the construction plans and that Veregy is not out all of their time and money they have put forth putting the project together. The district attorney read through the letter and the Board is comfortable with Dr. Hogue signing and returning the letter to Veregy.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that the district has been tentatively approved for the Preschool For All Expansion grant. This will allow the district to expand the preschool and be able to offer an additional class. The grant also requires an upgrade to the preschool curriculum. The preschool team has decided on the HighScope Curriculum.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the consent agenda including the August 9, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes and September 13, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes; August Treasurer's Report; and September bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$204,130.98, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote:*

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

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue presented the FY 24 budget and recommended approval.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish to approve the FY24 budget with total revenue in the amount of \$12,196,546.00 and total expenditures in the amount of \$12,182,057.00. Roll Call Vote.*

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

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of posting the 2023-24 projected administrative compensation report and the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report for school year 2023 on the website.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve posting the 2023-24 projected administrative compensation report and the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report for the school year 2023 on the website. Roll Call Vote.*

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

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue informed the Board only one bid was received for snow removal from Jody Bielema. Mr. Bielema has done the snow removal for the district for several years. The bid for the 2023-24 school year is the same as last school year.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish to approve the bid for snow removal submitted by Jody Bielema at a rate of \$625 per plow and \$825 per plow if eight inches of snow or more. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, 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 Fish, to approve the first reading of select policy updates: 2:80, 2:170, 4:45, 4:100, 5:230, 6:10, 6:190, 6:240, 7:275, 7:305, and 7:330. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended closing the Class of 2023 Activity account at the high school, with a remaining balance of \$1,782.34, and divide between the Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve closing the Fulton High School Class of 2023 Activity account with a remaining balance of \$1,782.34 and transfer \$700.00 to the Class of 2024, \$361.34 to the Class of 2025, \$361.00 to the Class of 2026, and \$360.00 to the Class of 2027. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended removing Bob Gosch from the Fulton High School Activity Account and adding Jeff Parsons. The bank requires board action for account changes.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve removing Bob Gosch from the Central Bank High School Activity account and adding Jeff Parsons. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommending declaring old locker room lockers and text books as surplus goods to be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to declare old locker room lockers and text books as surplus goods and to dispose of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Feasibility Study between River Bend and West Carroll provided ISBE will pay for the study. The West Carroll Board of Education has also approved a Feasibility Study with the same stipulation.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve a Feasibility Study be completed, provided ISBE covers the cost of the study. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended extending the working hours of the district nursing staff from 6.5 hours per day to 7.0 hours per day.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Portz, to approve extending the working hours for district nursing staff from 6.5 hours to 7.0 hours. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the District received \$500 from the City of Fulton for the FHS Shop Class, \$1,000 from the Paul Parker memorial for the Hall of Fame, and \$1,000 from Gateway Credit Union for the FHS Caring Closet.

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

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

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

- *Approve the resignation of Jennifer Ludin as Reading Interventionist at Fulton Elementary School, effective August 11, 2023.*
- *Approve the resignation of Kenny Temple as mower for the district, effective August 16, 2023.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Allison Grant as Night Cleaner at Fulton High School, effective August 28, 2023.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Mark Burggraaf as mower for the district, effective August 29, 2023.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Caleb Hesse as K-8 Technology Support Specialist, effective September 11, 2023*
- *Approve the following Bass Fishing Volunteer Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year: Grant Ganzer, Mike Kramer, and Scott Kunau.*
- *Approve the internal transfer of Jaime Pflederer from 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher to Interventionist, effective upon filling the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher position.*
- *Approve the resignation of Kearsten Brewer as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective September 29, 2023.*

- *Approve the Fulton Elementary School Assistant Principal contract and salary of \$70,000, prorated to begin September 21, 2023, for Kelli Parsons for FY24.*
- *Approve the resignation of Bailee Spencer as paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective September 29, 2023.*

*Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm. 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