

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

April 20, 2022

The School Fire Prevention and Safety Bond Hearing of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on April 20, 2022, at Fulton High School.

President Portz called the School Fire Prevention and Safety Bond Hearing to order at 6:30 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Chris Barnett, Eric Fish, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Andy Meyers. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Virginia Petersen, Recording Secretary. Also in attendance were those listed below under introduction of guests.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the River Bend School District's intent to sell \$600,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds. Dr. Hogue indicated the Bond proceeds will be used for the Fulton High School bathroom renovation. The architect has indicated there could be delays due to supply chain challenges. Timelines will be shared after the bids are awarded to contractors in May.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Barnett, to adjourn the School Fire Prevention and Safety Bond Hearing at 6:32 P.M. Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on April 20, 2022, at Fulton High School.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Chris Barnett, Eric Fish, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Andy Meyers. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Virginia Petersen, Recording Secretary.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Principals: Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoes and Kathleen Schipper. Media: Jerry Lindsey, Cityone.com. Guests: Elise Bowen, Russ Damhoff, Jodie Dornbush, Jane Eads, Elizabeth Falls, Eric Fitzwater, Magen Folk, Kyle Folk, Amanda Fosdick, Jill Hamstra, Kevin Hamstra, Seth Hartman, David Huizenga, Joey Huizenga, Traci Huizenga, Breanna Kastelic, Nicole Kershner, Deanna Leonhardt, Sue Ottens, Eric Pessman, Sara Pessman, Lee Salazar, Kara Spooner, Seth Spooner, Brent Stoecker, Angela Stone, Carrie VanZuiden, Clint VanZuiden, and Bill Wilkin

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

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

There was no communication from the RBEA.

Mr. Gosch introduced March Steamer of the Month, Joey Huizenga. One of the teachers who nominated Joey said this, “Joey is a student who is polite, respectful, personable, and kind. It is apparent to me, and other members in our community, that Joey genuinely cares about people. I have many students who excel academically, but Joey’s kind nature puts him a step above, and to me, that means more than anything. Being dedicated and bright will get you far in life, but being dedicated, bright, and kind will get even farther.”

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum.

Eric Pessman said a book that parents felt was inappropriate for high school students was brought to the Board’s attention in October and a decision on what to do with the book has still not been made. The book has the “F” word throughout the book, speaks against Christianity, speaks against white people, has explicit sexual content, gay sex, teacher’s swearing, illegal immigration, and criticizes boarder control personnel. He also characterized Mr. Gosch as being okay with the content.

Sara Pessman stated the book is full of immorality. She challenged the Board to take their job seriously and know when mandates are laws or recommendations of laws. The Board needs to go through the trenches and stand up for what is right.

Brent Stoecker would like a decision made on the book.

Magen Folk indicated the parent’s hearts are in this and disagree with some of the curriculum being taught. Families are the most important stakeholders of the district. She was also concerned about a student meowing and protested to rumors about litterboxes being placed in the restrooms at the middle school.

Kyle Folk made recommendations concerning curriculum and asked questions about the curriculum selection process. He also asked how the success of the curriculum is measured.

Seth Hartman passed out a letter written by his mother.

Dr. Hogue indicated the book being challenged is not being used during the ongoing evaluation. It is difficult to ban a book and the evaluation is ongoing with a decision to be made in the near future.

The Curriculum presentation occurred next in the library.

Mrs. Leonhardt and Mr. Salazar presented a Power Point highlighting the Science Curriculum Adoption Committee’s reasons for their recommendation. The primary reason was McGraw Hill aligns with the Next Generation Science Standards and is integrated, meaning, all three disciplines are covered all three years in middle school.

Mrs. Kastelic, Mrs. Stone, Ms. Dornbush, and Mrs. Spillane presented the Math Curriculum adoption. Mrs. Kastelic presented a Power Point explaining the selection process. K-5 selected Bridges in Mathematics primarily because it is comprehensive and hands on. 6-12 selected Amplify Math primarily because it is task based and discourse-rich. Both curriculums received a green light on Education Reports.

Expected outcomes include: Greater alignment with standards, early emphasis on students as problem solvers, and curriculum that supports effective math teaching practices.

Principal reports. Mr. Hoese has no additions to his board report. Mrs. Schipper distributed the summer enrichment schedule and has had seventy-three students sign up for classes to date. Last year approximately 100 students attended and Mrs. Schipper is expecting 150 this year. Mr. Gosch reported the Farm to Table project is underway with an outside area designated for a garden. Mr. Gosch updated the Board on the Alternative Path to a High School diploma. The staff is supportive of the program, as long as, appropriate criteria is met. A special diploma will be created for students who have earned 16 credits. The Board still has concerns this is lowering the standards at Fulton High School to obtain a diploma. Dr. Hogue indicated this is an opportunity to keep students in school and obtain an alternative diploma. Mr. Gosch would like to start the program next year and give students a chance to receive an alternative diploma without jeopardizing the Fulton High School 28 credit diploma. Mr. Gosch will check with area employers to verify an alternative diploma meets job qualification requirements.

Member Orman-Luker reported on behalf of the River Bend Educational Foundation. At the Foundation meeting on April 11, 2022, the foundation approved \$10,000 for summer enrichment field trips.

Dr. Hogue reported on the April 20, 2022, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. Members present included Jeffrey Hoese, Robert Gosch, Gary Wolfe, and Darryl Hogue. The Committee reviewed the list of summer projects presented by Gary Wolfe and prioritized items and discussed budgets for each of the projects. The Fulton High School secured entrance project will be evaluated by the business office to determine if 1% facility tax funds can cover the cost. Bray Architects will be going out for bid for the Fulton High School bathroom project next week and will secure contractors to complete the work. The work will be completed in two phases. The first phase will begin this summer and the second phase is to begin late summer or early fall. Completion of the fall phase will be done when students are out of the building. Due to custodial shortages, additional summer workers will be necessary to complete the summer cleaning. The district is purchasing new chairs and desks for Fulton High School and Fulton Elementary School. The old furniture will be offered to other schools and the public. Many other schools in the state are doing similar furniture removal and schools are not claiming the used furniture. The principals will provide a list of materials that will need to be identified as surplus goods so that the desks and chairs can be distributed to others.

Dr. Hogue reported on the April 20, 2022, Finance Committee meeting. Members present included Jane Orman-Luker, Rachel Snyder, and Darryl Hogue. Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer's report. Overall, most funds have increased amounts as compared to last year at this time. Levy revenue will not be received until the end of June. Rachel and Dr. Hogue will evaluate the use of 1% facility tax funds to cover the estimated cost of \$42,000 to install an exterior door for the secure entrance at the high school. 1% fund reserves may be used to pay for the project this summer, rather than waiting until next summer. The Community State Bank CD has expired and the interest earned will be transferred to the Education Fund. Dr. Hogue received the official levy last week and the EAV increased by \$600,000 from the October estimate which generated \$24,000. The Finance Committee reviewed the items amended for the budget. Due to grant dollars being unknown in September the budget had to be amended to reflect grant expenditures and revenue. PMA has provided the Bond Dollar Term sheet which provides financial information to any prospective buyers of the bonds.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board enrollment is down five students this month. Three high school students dropped to homeschool.

Dr. Hogue presented the Comprehensive Health Education Program which outlines what is required in the policy. The Counselors and Health Education Instructors listed the current health education curriculum being used in the classrooms. This document is required to be placed on the web page and parents may opt out of any or all of the curriculum.

Dr. Hogue shared the projects to be completed this summer including: Cabinetry will be updated at the middle school and in the Fulton High School art room; replace four aging electrical panels; begin work on the high school bathroom project; remove and assemble furniture; install bottle filling fountains; replace flooring in the high school entrance hallway; and possibly begin work on the secured entrance at the high school.

Dr. Hogue recommended adding a fourth section of 1st grade for the 2022-23 school year. The current kindergarten class has seventy-seven students and went through the pandemic. Reading and math scores have not progressed from the fall to the winter testing as compared to other grade levels in past years. Title I and ESSER funds can be used to offset the cost for one or two years. The effectiveness and the cost of the fourth section will be evaluated each year. The board is supportive of this and official action will occur in May.

Dr. Hogue reminded the Board the River Bend Middle School Promotion is May 19, 2022, and Members Portz and Meyers will be in attendance. Fulton High School Graduation is May 22, 2022, and Members Orman-Luker, Portz, and Simmons will be in attendance. The ceremonies will be held at Fulton High School.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the consent agenda including the March 23, 2022, Regular Board Meeting and April 11, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes as printed; March Treasurer’s report; and April Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$197,994.33, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the 6-8 Science Curriculum as presented.

It was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve 6-8 Science Curriculum “Inspire Science 6-8 Integrate: A Middle School Science Curriculum” publisher McGraw Hill in the amount of \$31,516.64 for six years beginning the 2022-23 school year. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the K-5 and 6-12 Math Curriculum as presented.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve 2022-23 registration, extra-curricular fees, and meal prices 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 Orman-Luker, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of IHSA Membership for the 2022-23 school year at no cost to the district.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the IHSA Membership for the 2022-23 school year at no cost to the district. 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 Orman-Luker, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) 2022-23 membership for Middle School track, wrestling, and golf at an annual fee of \$925. Roll Call Vote.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the Illinois Elementary School Association 2022-23 membership for Middle School track, wrestling, and golf at an annual fee of \$925. 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 Orman-Luker, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>

Motion Carried.

Approval of Treasurer’s Bond was tabled until next month when related cost will be available.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the apparent low bid for Lawn Care submitted by Spring-Green.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the bid submitted by Spring-Green Lawn Treatment in the amount of \$980 for the high school football field and \$1099.90 for treatment of the school lawns. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, 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, and a student matter at 8:45 P.M. 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 Orman-Luker, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to move 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, and a student matter at 9:15 P.M. 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 Orman-Luker, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>

Motion Carried.

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

- Hire Taylor Whitney as Transportation Director beginning the May 23, 2022, with his official contract starting July 1, 2022.*
- Approve Adrien Loncar as River Bend Middle School Student Council Co-Sponsor for the 2022-23 school year.*
- Approve the resignation with the intent to retire of Al Schuitema, Van Driver, effective May 24, 2022.*
- Approve the resignation with the intent to retire of John Marcum, Bus Driver, effective May 24, 2022.*
- Approve the resignation of Lauren Beveroth, Speech Pathologist, effective the end of the 2021-22 school year.*
- Approve the following Volunteer Assistant Volleyball Coaches for the 2022-23 school year: Marilyn Harrison, Annie Weller, Brooke Huizenga, Delaney Reed, Jean Wilkin, Jessica North, Kaitlin Bruggenwirth, Liz Sanquist, and Kearston Norman.*
- Approve resolution for dismissal of Educational Support Personnel Employee for reasons other than reduction-in-force.*

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 Orman-Luker, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the March 23, 2022, Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes and April 11, 2022, Special Meeting Closed session minutes as printed. 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 Orman-Luker, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>

Motion Carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 6:30 P.M., at the Fulton High School.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M. 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