

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

August 10, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on August 10, 2022, at Fulton High School.

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

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda. Dr. Hogue added investment options and Unity Christian School lunch agreement under informational items.

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

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Megan Frick, Kate Gardner, Christie Houzenga, Devin Kuehl, Jeremy Leitzen, Caitlin Maloney, Jaime Pflederer, Tara Rhoades, Abra Richards, Brianna Stuart, and Samantha Whitney. Principals: Patrick Henrekin and Jeffrey Hoese. Assistant Principal/AD: Jeffrey Parsons. Media: Jerry Lindsey, Cityone.com.

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.

(Member Barnett entered at 6:35 P.M.)

Principal's reports. Mr. Hoese said the Fulton Elementary School is ready for the new year to begin and the teachers have been working in their classrooms. Mr. Henrekin indicated his building is ready as well to start the new year and he is excited about his new role as principal.

Mr. Hoese introduced his new staff members present at the meeting including Kate Gardner, Kindergarten; Caitlin Maloney, 2nd Grade; Jaime Pflederer, 1st Grade; Tara Rhoades, 5th Grade; and Samantha Whitney, 1st Grade.

Mr. Henrekin introduced his new staff member present at the meeting Brianna Stuart, 6th Grade Math. Taylor Mabaga will be the new Special Education Teacher, however, she was unable to attend.

Mr. Parsons introduced his new staff members at the meeting including Megan Frick, Counselor and Christie Houzenga, English. Haylee Mussman, Math, was unable to attend.

President Portz welcomed all the new staff members to the district and encouraged them to seek other staff members and administration if they have any questions. Dr. Hogue indicated all the new staff are involved in the District’s mentor program.

Dr. Hogue indicated the district is up one student from the end of the 2021-22 school year. Students are still registering so the number should increase next month.

Dr. Hogue shared the opening day activities. The staff will start with breakfast at the middle school. New staff will be introduced, Mrs. Schipper will review Steamer Success Indicators, Dr. Allen will present on “Viewing Education Through the Lens of Humanity and Equity”, and representatives for the health field will do training on managing and understanding seizures in the educational setting. During lunch representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield will be available to answer questions. The remainder of the day will be spent in the buildings as well as all on day two.

Dr. Hogue updated the Board on the summer building projects. Hartz Lock has installed the doors, minus the windows, for the new secured entrance at the high school. The new electrical boxes and automatic door closures have been installed. The bathroom project has experienced some delays and will not be complete by the start of school. The old bathrooms will remain open until the new ones are completed.

Dr. Hogue updated the Board on investment opportunities. Central Bank has offered 2.4% on a CD that would mature on June 15, 2023. Dr. Hogue and Rachel recommend investing \$1.7 million. Dr. Hogue recommended going with the local establishment, Central Bank, since the offer from PMA was not much different. The estimated interest gained from this investment is \$40,000. The \$350,000 money market account at Community State is due to expire and Dr. Hogue is asking for another good rate to reinvest.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that Unity Christian School has asked to enter into a contract with River Bend to prepare school lunches. Unity Christian has lost staff and are not able to provide their own service. Mrs. Collachia, Cafeteria Manager, said the cafeteria staff would be able to prepare the extra lunches. The draft contract would produce an approximate profit to River Bend of \$25,000 to \$35,000 annually. The Board suggested a flat fee which would not vary with the number of lunches served. The Board would also like Dr. Hogue to check with the health department on regulations of transporting meals. An escalation clause should be included should food prices increase dramatically. The Board also wanted to check on River Bend’s liability. Dr. Hogue will check with the state on examples of contracts throughout the state involving public and private school meal preparation contracts.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the July 20, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; July Treasurer’s Report; and authorize Dan Portz and Jane Orman-Luker to approve the August Bills Recommended for Payment subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the first reading of the Books/Materials Selection and Reconsideration Policy 6:260-AP1. Member Barnett requested that a member from the clergy replace one of the two teachers on the Reconsideration Committee. The Board provided their opinions on adding a clergy member on the Committee. One of the Board’s concerns was the possibility of excluding views of some people. What religious denomination do you choose? Does this comply with the separation of church and

state policies? Member Barnett would like one voice on the committee that would support those that have voiced their concerns the most on the material available to students. Member Fish questioned if having a Board Member on the committee does in turn represent the community. Dr. Hogue reiterated all that has been done to make book and material selection more transparent. Dr. Hogue is willing to contact the ministerial association to gain their input on serving on this committee.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Portz, to approve the first reading of the Books/Material Selection and Reconsideration Policy 6:260-AP1 as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, nay

Member Simmons, yea

Member Fish, nay

Member Portz, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that since the district is still using ESSER/ARP III funds an updated Return to Learn plan is required. The updated Return to Learn Plan is very similar to the pandemic practices being used the end of the 2021-22 school year.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons to approve the River Bend CUSD #2 Return to Learn Plan as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue indicated the Policy Committee recommends approval of the second reading of select policy updates. There were significant changes to the medical policy including the addition of an Anaphylactic Response Policy. Linda Rogis, Nurse, was involved in the review of these policies.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve select policy updates and adopt as policy: 2:230, 3:70, 4:10, 4:70, 4:180, 5:40, 5:70, 5:80, 5:110, 5:130-AP, 5:240, 6:70, 6:80, 6:140, 6:290, 6:330, 7:15, 7:60-AP2, 7:270, 7:285, and 7:285-AP. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue presented the FY 23 tentative budget. The overall projected difference in revenues and expenses is a negative \$306,226.27. Dr. Hogue indicated the Estimated Assessed Valuation has not changed much from last year and he will have more information in October. He also indicated that predicting early tax money is a challenge. The District has moved to Tier I in Evidence Based Funding which will produce an increase from \$60,000 to \$112,000. Dr. Hogue is expecting the negative difference will work itself out like it did this past year.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the tentative FY 23 budget for public review with total revenues in the amount of \$12,116,559 and total expenditures in the amount of \$12,422,785.27 and set the budget hearing for September 21, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. at the Fulton High School. Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of a new activity account for the Class of 2026 at Fulton High School.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the new activity account for the Class of 2026 at Fulton High School. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended seeking bids for snow removal for the 2022-23 school year.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to direct the Superintendent to seek snow removal bids for the 2022-23 school year. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended three double ovens and one stove be declared as surplus goods and disposed of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to declare three double ovens and one stove as surplus goods, and disposed of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the district received \$500 D.S. Flikkema Grant for “All About Reading and Decodable Text” and \$1,100 from EASY for extra-curricular fees.

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 Simmons, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

There was no closed session

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

- *Approve Mildred Woods as Cook’s Helper at Fulton Elementary School beginning the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Approve Wayne Hook as Van Driver for the afternoon preschool take home route beginning the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Approve Mark Burggraaf as Bus Driver for Bus #5 beginning the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Approve Taylor Mabaga as Special Education Teacher at River Bend Middle School beginning the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Monica Piercy as Freshman Class Sponsor effective immediately.*

Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 6:30 P.M., at the Fulton High School.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 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
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