

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

December 15, 2021

The Truth in Taxation Levy Hearing of the Board of Education of River Bend Unit District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois was held on December 15, 2021, at Fulton High School.

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

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public comment. There was no public comment.

Dr. Hogue indicated he increased the Estimated Assessed Valuation (EAV) figure by 9.91% in order to capture all the dollars the district is entitled to in case the EAV goes up in March from the figure he was given in October.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to adjourn the public hearing at 6:31 P.M. Voice Vote, all 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 December 15, 2021, at Fulton High School.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Eric Fish, Andy Meyers, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Chris Barnett and Jane Orman-Luker. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Virginia Petersen, Recording Secretary.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Principals: Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, and Kathleen Schipper. Media: Jerry Lindsey, Cityone.com.

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

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the agenda as presented. 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 public comment.

Principal reports. Mr. Hoese had no additions to his Board report. Mr. Gosch provided more details on the new course addition for school year 2022-23 entitled Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing CAD/CAM. This course introduces students to Lincoln Torchmate CAD/CAM software and Visual Machine Designer Driver software used in the plasma cutting process. Mrs. Schipper indicated the School Improvement Team has several activities planned for the second semester and will be focusing on Digital Citizenship. There have been some issues online that are being addressed and the team felt it important to continue to educate the students about Digital Citizenship. Mrs. Schipper stated the last minute 8th grade field trip allowing students to walk across the new I-74 bridge was a huge success. It was a once in a lifetime experience for the students and staff who attended. The School Improvement Team is also discussing curriculum changes from two English classes to two math classes. Mr. Salazar will be moving to Science next year and they may replace his position with a person with more math credentials.

Dr. Hogue, Mr. Gosch, Mary Simmons and Jane Orman-Luker attended the IASB Triple I conference in November. Dr. Hogue and Mr. Gosch presented on Bridges from School to Work. Dr. Hogue attended presentations on race, was able to meet with PMA and discuss bonding opportunities in the future, and was able to review evaluation tools for superintendents and principals. Mary and Jane indicated the conference provided a lot of information for school board members on how to use resources available at the Regional Office of Education and effective communication with the community.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board enrollment is starting to slowly increase and is up five from last month to 902. There is normally movement in and out of the district at semester. It will be interesting to see what the enrollment will be in January.

Dr. Hogue indicated that positive Covid cases are finally starting to decline. November was rough and the high school was very close to having to revert back to remote learning. There was a shortage of test kits for a time but a shipment was received this week. The challenge continues to keep remote students engaged and learning. The high school has adjusted their schedule to address issues, the middle school has hired a substitute to work with students returning to school, and the elementary is frustrated but continues to work with students to get them back on track after being out of school for extended periods of time.

Dr. Hogue met with PMA Financial advisors and provided several options to the Board. The Board agreed a \$100,000 short term loan to pay off bonds earlier was the best option. This would create opportunities for financing the high school bathroom project and elementary school STEM space without using existing reserves and without increasing the tax rate. The high school bathroom project is estimated at \$600,000 to upgrade and provide ADA restrooms.

Dr. Hogue presented the second semester Professional Development schedule. The focus is on competency based education and curriculum alignment across all grade levels.

Dr. Hogue congratulated Virginia Petersen on her nomination for the IASB Holly Jack award that honors School Board Secretaries. Virginia was not the recipient of the award, but her nomination letters highlighted her career at River Bend.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the consent agenda including the November 17, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; November Treasurer’s report; and December Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$385,524 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 recommended approval of the 2021 Tax Levy with a 9.91% increase. This will allow the district to receive funds if the Estimated Assessed Valuation were to increase from the predicted value given in October.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the 2021 Tax Levy as presented with estimated total levy extension, without bonds, of \$5,710,700 and direct the Board President and Secretary to sign, and authorize the recording secretary to process the required documents with the County Clerk. 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 Memorandum of Understanding between River Bend CUSD #2 Board of Education and River Bend Education Association to use ESSER III funds for staff retention. Full-time employees will receive a retention award in the amount of \$500 and part-time employees will receive \$250.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between River Bend CUSD #2 Board of Education and River Bend Education Association to use ESSER III funds for staff retention. 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.

The Policy Committee met on December 10 and 15, 2021, and recommends approval of the first reading of select policy updates. Dr. Hogue indicated this is one of the largest policy packets the Policy Committee has ever had to review.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the first reading of select policy updates: 2:20, 2:105, 2:110, 2:120, 2:150, 2:220, 2:260, 3:40, 3:50, 3:60, 4:60, 4:80, 4:110, 4:120, 4:150, 4:160, 4:170, 4:175, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:30-AP2, 5:50, 5:90, 5:100, 5:120, 5:125, 5:150, 5:185, 5:200, 5:210, 5:220, 5:250, 5:260, 5:330, 6:15, 6:20, 6:50, 6:60, 6:120, 6:130, 6:135, 6:180, 6:300, 6:310, 6:320, 6:340, 7:10, 7:20, 7:30, 7:50, 7:60, 7:70, 7:80, 7:150, 7:160, 7:180, 7:190, 7:190-AP4, 7:200, 7:210, 7:240, 7:250, 7:260, 7:290, 7:310, 7:315, 7:340, 7:340-AP1, 7:345, 8:70, 8:100. 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.

The Board will meet on January 26, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at the River Bend District Office for the Superintendent’s Evaluation.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the Special meeting date on January 26, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at the District Office for the Superintendent’s Evaluation. Voice vote, all 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 the resignation of Lindsey Steele, Baker at River Bend Middle School, effective December 3, 2021.*
- *Approve the resignation of Kimber Stoecker, Para Professional at Fulton Elementary School, effective November 30, 2021.*
- *Approve the resignation of Christa Curley, 7th Grade Volleyball Coach at River Bend Middle School, effective December 15, 2021.*
- *Recommendation to hire Michayla Martin as Para Professional at Fulton Elementary, effective December 2, 2021.*
- *Recommendation to hire Jared Wessels as Para Professional at Fulton High School, beginning immediately.*
- *Recommendation to hire Jewel Howard as Baker at River Bend Middle School effective immediately.*
- *Recommendation to hire Lee Salazar as Science Teacher at River Bend Middle School beginning the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Approve Aaron Kuebel as Assistant Volunteer Wrestling Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approved David Curley as Assistant Volunteer Baseball Coach at Fulton High School for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Recommendation to approve resolution for dismissal of Educational Support Personnel Employee for reasons other than reduction-in-force.*

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 Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the November 17, 2021, closed session meeting minutes 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.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 19, 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 7:51 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