

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

February 19, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on February 19, 2020, at the River Bend District Office.

Mary Simmons was appointed Secretary Pro-Tem.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary Pro-Tem the following members were present: Chris Barnett, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Eric Fish and Andy Meyers. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Virginia Petersen, Recording Secretary.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Melinda Hodge, Shelby Hodge and Dee Willoughby. Principals: Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, and Kathleen Schipper. Assistant Principal/AD: Patrick Henrekin, RBEA: Craig Hafner. Media: Jerry Lindsay, Shaw Media and Winona Whitaker, Clinton Herald.

Additions to the agenda. Dr. Hogue added to the Superintendent's report an update on Chromebook purchases.

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

Mr. Gosch introduced January Steamer of the Month Shelby Hodge. One of the teachers that nominated Shelby said this, "Shelby's work ethic and infectious kindness make it easy to nominate her for Overall Steamer of the Month. She is always there to greet you with a smile and will lend an ear when times are tough. Her work as a BLIND leader has made a huge impact on her freshman mentees, and she has joined Choir this year. Shelby's ability to balance leadership and academics are admirable to many and will help her out as she continues with her education after FHS."

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's reports. Mr. Gosch reported there was a small turnout for the Competency Based Education town meeting. Students were on hand to discuss what they did and did not like about the program and answer questions. Mr. Gosch is in the process of creating a website to further educate parents on the program. An overview of the program will be presented at Freshman registration Thursday night. Mrs. Schipper informed the Board the math curriculum meeting was very productive and several recommendations were made which Mrs. Kastelic will present at the March Board meeting. Mr. Hoese

indicated the Administrators Academy he has been attending has been very productive. Mr. Hoese informed the Board that Digital Storytelling is where students write their own book that is then compiled into one book that all students had a part in writing.

Dr. Hogue reported on the February 19, 2020, Building and Grounds Committee Meeting. Members present included Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, Jay Ritchie, Kathleen Schipper, Mari Sanders (RBEA) and Gary Wolfe. Also in attendance was Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Dana Bennett, Principal Intern. Dr. Hogue reviewed bond cycle for Alternate Revenue Bonds. The group compiled a tentative list of projects for the next bond cycle:

- a. Middle School gym - \$3-4 million
- b. High School boiler
- c. Expand High School gym
- d. Personal fitness space - \$850,000
- e. Auditorium
- f. Kitchen spaces
- g. Controlled entrance at the high school – Convert Teacher Lounge to Office

Summer staffing options were discussed, primarily the need for help with painting. Playground destruction and construction plans are in the process. The group reviewed the summer project list provided by Gary Wolfe.

Dr. Hogue reported on the February 19, 2020, Finance Committee Meeting. Jane Orman-Luker, Rachel Snyder, Dana Bennett and Darryl Hogue were in attendance. Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer's report. The transportation fund is back in the red with the state owing the district \$64,000. Dr. Hogue and Rachel provided finance projections for FY 21 that support a new Technology Integration Specialist. Dr. Hogue has started planning the next bond cycle. Dr. Hogue will check with David Pistorius, First Midstate, to determine if Alternate Revenue Bonds may be combined with regular bonds. The Buildings and Grounds Committee started a list of projects to be considered for the next bond cycle.

Member Orman-Luker reported on behalf of the River Bend Educational Foundation. The Foundation is doing final preparation for the Academic Excellence Dinner. Nick Proud will be the speaker. The Foundation is looking at assisting teachers who wish to obtain National Board Certification or the credentials necessary to teach dual credit courses.

Dr. Hogue reminded the Board of the Northwest Division Dinner meeting on March 10, 2020, in Milledgeville, IL. Dr. Hogue would like to invite the principals and Jeremy Leitzen to this meeting since the topic is school safety.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board enrollment is holding steady. He is hoping for a larger Kindergarten class coming in next year. Kindergarten sign-up is March 9, 2020.

Dr. Hogue has met with teachers regarding the Technology Integration Specialist K-12. The teachers are excited about the position with the only concern being scheduling and sharing. The first quarter goals and technology priorities have been defined. Dr. Hogue will bring a recommendation for this position to the Board in March.

Dr. Hogue, Mrs. Schipper, Mr. Hoese, and Mrs. Kastelic visited Belvidere District 100 to see how they implement Competency Based Education at the elementary and middle school levels. The next step is to take teachers to Belvidere to observe the program and develop a training guideline. Belvidere has offered their instructional coaches who have already been on this journey to assist River Bend as they proceed with

this transition. The principals indicated the students were engaged and could explain everything they were doing. The middle school teachers are excited about the Habits of Work grade that is a component of Competency Based Education.

Dr. Hogue introduced Dee Willoughby, Unity Christian School representative. Mr. Willoughby indicated that Unity is building a new school in Iowa and in not going to keep the old school once it is no longer being used. Unity has an interest in seeing the building used for public use or education purposes and wanted to know if River Bend had any interest in the building. The Board appreciated the offer and will have the Building and Grounds Committee tour the building and make a recommendation to the Board.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the price of Chromebooks is going up March 1. The current Chromebooks are five-years old so by purchasing Chromebooks now the district will keep the rotation current and save money. Dr. Hogue indicated pretty much all schools are using Chromebooks but he will verify with the neighboring schools what devices they are using.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the consent agenda including the January 20, 2020, Special Meeting and January 22, 2020, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; January Treasurer’s Report; and February Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$122,784.44, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the 2020-21 Public School Calendar. The school year begins Monday, August 17, 2020, with students beginning August 19, 2020, with the last student attendance day on May 24, 2020, and Teacher Institute on Tuesday May 25, 2021. High School graduation will be a week earlier than normal on May 23, 2021. Conferences will be Thursday, November 5, 2020, and Friday November 6, 2020. The high school will have an abbreviated conference schedule and host a curriculum night in the spring. Veteran’s Day will be a school day since it falls in the middle of the week. Casimir Pulaski Day will also be a school day. The winter Teacher Institute Day will be the Monday after winter break on January 4, 2021.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve the 2020-21 Public School Calendar as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended adoption of a Meal Charge Policy. After the ISBE lunch/food service audit a recommendation was made to develop this policy and put it in the Parent/Student Handbook.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons to approve the first reading of the Meal Charge Policy as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the first reading of revisions to the Field Trip Policy. The revisions will allow the district to claim educational field trip mileage.

It was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the first reading of revisions to the Field Trip Policy as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended a three-year lease of a 2020 Micro Bird 25 Passenger mini bus with an annual payment of \$12,933.10 and extend the lease by one year for the Braun Entervan with an annual payment of \$8,421 with Central State Bus Sales.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve a three-year lease for one 2020 Micro Bird 25 Passenger bus with an annual payment of \$12,933.10 and extend the lease for the current Braun Entervan for one year with an annual payment of \$8,421 with Central States Bus Sales beginning the 2020-21 school year. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended changing the March Board meeting to March 9, 2020, due to Dr. Hogue not being available on March 16, 2020, and authorize Dan Portz and Jane Orman-Luker to approve the March bills recommended for payment at a later date.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve changing the March Regular Board meeting to March 9, 2020, and authorize Dan Portz and Jane Orman-Luker to approve the March Bills recommended for payment subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Barnett, 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, pending litigation; discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for the purpose of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes; and the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, at 8:35 P.M. Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Barnett, 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, pending litigation; discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for the purpose of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes; and the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, at 9:02 P.M. Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Motion Carried.

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

- Approved the resignation from Tori Wade, Technology Support Personnel, effective February 4, 2020.*
- Hired Jared Wessels as Fulton High School Fresh/Soph Baseball Coach for the 2019-20 school year.*
- Approved Travis Ray as Fulton High School Volunteer Assistant Fresh/Soph Baseball Coach for the 2019-20 school year.*
- Approve the following Volunteer Bass Fishing Coaches: Grant Ganzer, Mike Kramer, Scott Kunau, Charles Hubbard, Bob Kuehl, and Dave Franzen for the 2019-20 school year.*
- Approved Lee Salazar as Fulton High School Volunteer Assistant Trach Coach for the 2019-20 school year.*
- Approved Brooke Russell, Lynn Patten, Sue Patten, Lydia Schaver, and Mike Menchaca as Volunteer Assistant Softball Coaches for the 2019-20 school year.*
- Approved Ashley Thicksten as Scholastic Bowl Sponsor at River Bend Middle School for the 2019-20 school year.*

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Monday, March 9, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 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
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