

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

March 23, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on March 23, 2022, at Fulton High School.

Member Simmons was appointed Secretary Pro-Tem.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary Pro-Tem the following members were present: Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Chris Barnett and Eric Fish. 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: Principals: Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese and Kathleen Schipper. Assistant Principal/AD: Patrick Henrekin. Media: Jerry Lindsey, Cityone.com. Guest: Drew Dykstra, Stacy Dykstra, Regina Dykstra, Jane Eads, Liz Falls, Eric Fitzwater, Kyle Folk, Magen Folk, Lorie Hartman, Seth Hartman, Lilly Hayden, Amy Jordich, Aaron Kuebel, Jessica Kuebel, Mason Kuebel, Marie Meyers, Talan Meyers, Jeff Parsons, Kelli Parsons, Eric Pessman, Sara Pessman, Brianne Price, Shawn Price, Brent Stoecker, and Colleen Temple.

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

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

(Member Barnett entered at 6:40 P.M.)

There was no communication from the RBEA.

Mrs. Schipper introduced state wrestling qualifiers Mason Kuebel and Talon Meyers. Talon finished 4th and Mason was the state champion in his weight class. Congratulations to both young men for their outstanding accomplishments. The Board looks forward to following them during their high school career.

Mr. Gosch introduced March Steamer of the Month, Drew Dykstra. One of the teachers who nominated Drew said this, "Drew is an outstanding student, is involved in different activities including golf, baseball, and Key Club. He is a model student-athlete and has a good attitude and is a good role model. He has great character and is everything we look for in an overall Steamer of the Month."

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

Sara Pessman expressed herself by reading a poem she wrote.

Eric Pessman indicated the school setting has improved since the masks came off and that it is a proven fact all the mandates were politically driven and that there are no facts that those following the mandates were better off than those who did not. In the class at which gender identity was discussed the content was primarily due to the personal preferences of the teacher. He also discussed a post on Facebook by another teacher. He indicated the parents that are speaking up are the parents that care what is being taught in the schools.

Colleen Temple, Paraprofessional at River Bend Middle School, indicated students at this age already struggle with self-confidence. She hopes biology holds true for the students and questions whether or not classrooms are where gender identity should be discussed. She is and will continue to be an advocate for students.

Lorie Hartman stated the suggested literature is on the verge of pornography. The Board and Administration are responsible for what students are exposed to and should be held accountable for what has been done.

Magen Folk believes gender identity should be discussed in private.

Brent Stoecker asked if anyone had read the book?

Seth Hartman asked how do parents get the curriculum changed?

Dr. Hogue indicated there is a form to be completed for review by the administration. Mr. Gosch will send Mr. Hartman the form. Dr. Hogue also said the book is being evaluated.

(Member Fish entered at 8:00)

Principal reports. Mrs. Schipper indicated the Science Adoption team will be recommending McGraw-Hill, Inspire Science-Integrated at the April Board meeting. Pricing and details will be shared at the April board meeting. Mrs. Schipper is working on Summer Enrichment programs to be held June 6th through the 10th. Her hope is to add to the program by providing field trip opportunities during the summer. She has had an overwhelming response from the teachers and staff.

Mr. Gosch introduced Jeff Parsons who is being recommended as Assistant Principal/AD beginning July 1, 2022. Mr. Parsons is currently employed at Wethersfield School District and lives in Kewanee. He is excited about coming to River Bend and the opportunity to further his career and use his skills to help students both in academics and athletics.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to employee Jeff Parsons as Assistant Principal/Activities and Athletic Director beginning July 1, 2022. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion Carried.

Mr. Gosch indicated the work study program is going very well with seven students placed at four businesses. Mr. Gosch is exploring an Alternate High School Diploma Pathway as a way to keep students in school and ensure they receive their high school diploma. The Board wants to make sure this type of program does not lower the bar at Fulton High School. Mr. Gosch is targeting students that have already

chosen an alternative education means. The high school has eighteen students that have dropped out to homeschool.

Mr. Hoese indicated the Family Fun Night was a huge success with over five-hundred people attending. Mr. Hoese is looking to make it even bigger next year.

Member Orman-Luker reported on behalf of the River Bend Educational Foundation. The speaker at the Academic Excellence dinner on March 5, 2022 was Bruce Fritz and he was excellent. The whole evening was a wonderful event. At the Foundation meeting on March 8, 2022, the foundation approved \$9,120 for spring mini grants and \$1,120 for Martin Estate requests.

Dr. Hogue reported on the March 23, 2022, Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting. Members present included Kyle Folk, Jeffrey Hoese, Robert Gosch, Jeremy Leitzen, Kathleen Schipper, Mary Simmons, and Darryl Hogue. Dr. Hogue reviewed the Comprehensive Health Education Program. Students will be able to opt out of any portion of the curriculum. The district will be adding nutritional education as well. The group liked the transparency of the information and that it will be posted on the web page. Dr. Hogue and Mrs. Schipper have begun summer school planning. Last year over 100 students attended. Teachers are excited about the opportunities and Mrs. Schipper is looking at field trip days as a new option. Ideas for field trips include Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, attractions in Springfield, and state parks. Dr. Hogue invited the group to attend the next Community Cares Coalition meeting on April 6, 2022. This is a group of community members and professionals interested in addressing brain health and substance abuse.

Dr. Hogue reported on the March 23, 2022, Finance Committee meeting. Members present included Jane Orman-Luker, Andy Meyers, Rachel Snyder, and Darryl Hogue. Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer's report. Dr. Hogue indicated the district has received \$430,000 in Corporate Personal Property Replacement Taxes and \$250,000 was budgeted. Bond Process for the Fulton High School Bathroom project will begin with the hearing date set for April 20, 2022. Dr. Hogue reviewed the ESSER II and ESSER III grants. ESSER II funding was in the amount of \$420,000 and has approximately \$65,000 left to spend on curriculum purchases. ESSER III funds are just beginning to be used for retention stipend, furniture and some salaries. Dr. Hogue presented support personnel wage schedules from Morrison and Sterling. Dr. Hogue is in the beginning stages of modifying River Bend support personnel wages.

Dr. Hogue informed the group the IASB Northwest Division Dinner meeting is April 6, 2022, in Dakota. Dr. Hogue is unable to attend, but will make arrangements if anyone would like to attend.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board enrollment is down four students this month. Kindergarten sign-up has taken place and enrollment is estimated at sixty.

Dr. Hogue indicated Covid cases reported for students and staff has dropped significantly and only one rapid test has been done in March. Influenza is now going through the buildings.

Dr. Hogue shared the ESSER II and ESSER III grant expenditures. ESSER II funds are almost entirely spent and the district is just now starting to spend ESSER III dollars.

Dr. Hogue updated the board on the secure entry remodel at the high school. Hartz Lock is preparing a proposal for installing a door that will allow visitors to enter directly into the office. The teacher's work space and the hallway in front of the office will have asbestos abated March 30 and 31. New tile will be installed in this area over the summer After the abatement work is completed the construction class student

will begin estimating and planning for the remodel. The cost estimate is \$60,000 to \$70,000 compared to CTS estimate of \$350,000. Scott Johnson will come and prepare the building permit.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the consent agenda including the February 22, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; February Treasurer’s report; and March Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$232,104.86, subject to audit.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Risk Management Plan for 2022-23. No significant changes were made.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the Risk Management Plan for 2022-23 school year as presented. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended advertising for lawn care bids for the upcoming season.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to authorize the superintendent to advertise for bids for lawn care. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the district received \$5,308.20 from the River Bend Athletic Boosters for baseball, softball, and track supplies.

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

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

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by Member Fish, 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 and collective bargaining matters at 9:07 P.M. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to come 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 and collective bargaining matters at 9:55 P.M. Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea Member Orman-Luker, yea Member Simmons, yea
Member Fish, yea Member Portz, yea
Member Meyers, yea Member Ritchie, yea

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the following personnel items:

- Approved the twelve-week maternity/FMLA leave of absence for Kearsten Brewer, Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary school beginning August 15, 2022, and returning November 1, 2022.
- Approved the resignation of Michelle Rausenberger as Student Council Sponsor at River Bend Middle School effective the end of the 2021-22 school year.
- Approved the resignation of Marie Brzezinski, English Teacher at Fulton High School effective the end of the 2021-22 school year.
- Approved the resignation of Mike Gazo, Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School effective March 25, 2022.
- Hired Megan Frick as Guidance Counselor for the District beginning the 2022-23 school year.
- Hired Caitlin Maloney as 2nd Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School for the 2022-23 school year.
- Approved the internal transfer of Jessica Littlejohn from Cook’s Helper to Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School effective April 4, 2022.1
- Approved Chris Ketelsen as Boys’ Track Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2021-22 school year.
- Approved Emma Jacobs as Assistant Track Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2021-22 school year.
- Approved Jay Ritchie as Assistant Track Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2021-22 school year.
- Approved Marla Wiersema as transportation aide effective January 12, 2022.
- Approved Parker Mangelsen as grounds maintenance for the ball diamonds at an hourly rate of \$12.00 for the 2021-22 school year.
- Approved Eric Medenblik as Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach for the 2021-22 school year.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea Member Orman-Luker, yea Member Simmons, yea
Member Fish, yea Member Portz, yea
Member Meyers, yea Member Ritchie, yea

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the contracts for first, second, third, and fourth year teachers as follows:

FOURTH YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer Tenure beginning 2022-2023

BAISDEN	DAVID	Guidance / HS
BEVEROTH	LAUREN	Speech Pathologist / D
GRANT	CHRIS	Cross Categorical / HS
KASTELIC	BREANNA	Instructional Coach/Intervention / D
MOTE	ELIZABETH	Language Arts / M
PROMBO	JAMES	Math / HS

THIRD YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer Fourth Year contract beginning 2022-2023

HACKETT	CHRISTY	Business / HS
KAMPE	KAYLA	Cross Categorical / E
SALAZAR	LEE	Science / M
WIERSEMA	JACKIE	Guidance / M

SECOND YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer Third Year contract beginning 2022-2023

BRUBAKER	SARAH	Business / HS
MEURS	CAROLYN	Family & Consumer Science / HS
SPILLANE	LAURA	Math / HS
SNYDER	JAMIE	5th Grade / E

FIRST YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer Second Year contract beginning 2022-2023

HANSON	CHRISTINE	1 st Grade / E
KURTZ	DAWNA	Pre-K Special Education / PreK
LONG	SARAH	Art / E
ROOS	ELIZABETH	3 rd Grade / E
TENBOER	ANTHONY	Cross Categorical / E

Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea Member Orman-Luker, yea Member Simmons, yea
Member Fish, nay Member Portz, yea
Member Meyers, yea Member Ritchie, yea

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve the part-time teachers and coaches as follows:

PART-TIME TEACHERS

LUKER	NEAL	Drama & Community Involvement / HS	
SHAFF	DIXIE	Math / HS	If needed

Approved the following coaches for the 2022-23 school year:

LEVEL I

VARSITY BASKETBALL (B).....	RJ Coffey
VARSITY BASKETBALL (G)	Mike Menchaca
VARSITY WRESTLING	Chris Grant

LEVEL III

SOPHOMORE BOYS’ BASKETBALL.....	Ryan Voss
ASSISTANT WRESTLING.....	Russel McCallister
FRESHMEN BOYS’ BASKETBALL	Mitch VanZuiden
FRESHMEN GIRLS’ BASKETBALL	Dave Smither
SPEECH TEAM (HS)	Alison Phillips

LEVEL IV

7 th GRADE GIRLS’ BASKETBALL.....	Elizabeth Mote
8 th GRADE BOYS’ BASKETBALL.....	Mike Ankrom
8 th GRADE GIRLS’ BASKETBALL.....	Jennifer Pepper
MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING.....	George Graham
HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLASTIC BOWL	Breanna Kastelic

LEVEL V

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLASTIC BOWL.....	Elizabeth Mote
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Roll Call Vote:

Board of Education

March 23, 2022

Member Barnett, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Motion Carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 6:30 P.M., at the Fulton High School.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 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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