

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2

**1110 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET  
FULTON, IL 61252  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING**

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

November 18, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on November 18, 2020, at Fulton High School.

Vice President Orman-Luker ran the meeting due to President Portz being remote.

Vice President Orman-Luker called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Eric Fish, Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz (remote), and Mary Simmons. Absent: Chris Barnett and Jay Ritchie. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Virginia Petersen, Recording Secretary.

Vice President Orman-Luker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President Orman-Luker welcomed all visitors including: Jaime Frausto, Craig Hafner (remote), Michele James, Cheryl Lee, WCHD (remote), Cory Law, WCHD (remote), and Jeremy Leitzen. Principals: Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, and Kathleen Schipper. Assistant Principal/AD: Patrick Henrekin (remote). Media: Jerry Lindsay, Cityone.com (remote).

Additions to the agenda: Dr. Hogue added Cheryl Lee and Cory Law from the Whiteside County Health Department and their input on keeping schools in-person or going to remote.

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

Dr. Hogue invited Cheryl Lee and Cory Law from the Whiteside County Health Department to provide their input regarding a pause after the Thanksgiving break. They indicated the Health Department is not responsible for telling schools to stay in-person or move to remote. Each school is responsible for determining at what point they pause or change to remote which is usually determined by the positivity rate. Students may be safer at school than in other settings. There is hope a vaccine will be available soon and the district has applied for a rapid testing waiver. Dr. Hogue indicated that the positivity rate for Fulton and Albany is 13% and Whiteside County in 20%. The Board thanked Cheryl and Cory for the information they provided.

RBEA had nothing to report.

Vice President Orman-Luker asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum. There was no public comment.

Principal reports. Mr. Hoese informed the Board there are few schools doing as well as River Bend during the pandemic. Staff shortages are due primarily to quarantine requirements. The staff is doing their best to maintain in-person learning due to the fact that students learn better at school, student's mental health is better, and students are safer at school. The Fulton Elementary School currently has seventy (70) students

out due to quarantine and thirty (30) remote learners. This leaves over three-hundred (300) students on-site learning every day.

Mrs. Schipper indicated the 100<sup>th</sup> Day Welcome Back Celebration was a success. As far as a pause after Thanksgiving, Mrs. Schipper is in favor of the hybrid model. This will make social distancing easier for the week after Thanksgiving. The middle school has increased from 9 remote learners to 20.

Mr. Gosch reviewed SAT scores. There has been some discussion regarding a holiday parade to make-up for the loss of homecoming. It was determined this would be an opportunity for students to group together and may cause another outbreak. The high school is up to 54 remote learners. Dr. Hogue highlighted the new educational programs at the high school including a Welding Apprenticeship Program and looking at a FFA program to be run in conjunction with the Foods class. The High school is also hoping to qualify for the Perkins Grant in the amount of \$5,000 that is available for only down state schools. Mrs. Kastelic is still in the process of revising the math curriculum.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Fall Northwest Division Dinner meeting on October 29, 2020, that was virtual. The speaker was very good and the virtual format worked well.

Dr. Hogue reminded the Board of the IASB Virtual Summit to be held on November 20, 2020, and will take the place of the Triple I conference this year.

Member Orman-Luker reported on behalf of the River Bend Educational Foundation. The Foundation met on November 10, 2020, and approved a mini grant for a 3D printer for the Fulton Elementary School and partially funded the request for Heart Zone Monitors at the high school. The annual fund raising campaign is well under way.

Dr. Hogue reported on the November 18, 2020, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting. Jaime Frausto, Michele James, Robert Gosch, Gary Wolfe and Darryl Hogue were in attendance. CTS presented options for the boiler replacement at Fulton High School. The group agreed Option #4 was the best option and has the lowest cost. This option would replace the steam boiler with distributed hot water plants for an estimated cost of \$2,265,000-\$2,360,000. The price difference between Option #1 and #4 is \$238,000. Option #1 might have a longer life and require less maintenance than Option #4. Gary will look at installing some of the piping but will need to review the lay-out plan and material list to determine if this is feasible and to estimate the cost savings. Dr. Hogue appreciated the review of the boiler replacement options provided by Elara Engineering. Elara validated the CTS plan as well as provided other options.

Dr. Hogue reported on the November 18, 2020, Finance Committee Meeting. Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Rachel Snyder, and Darryl Hogue were in attendance. Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer's report. Dr. Hogue discussed using Title I dollars to pay for a teacher at Fulton Elementary for the second semester only. This person would support the special education overload. Dr. Hogue indicated a new boiler at the high school is estimated to cost \$2.3 million. Dr. Hogue's goal is to finance \$1.5 million, use \$300,000 from 1%, use \$100,000 from Operations and Maintenance, use \$100,000 from Health Life Safety, and use \$100,000 from Working Cash. The Bond sale process will begin in March.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board enrollment is holding steady at 902.

Dr. Hogue informed the board the school report cards are available for viewing on the district webpage and at the website [www.illinisreportcard.com](http://www.illinisreportcard.com). Dr. Hogue presented a snapshot of the data. There is not much data this year due to Covid 19 and not being able to complete state mandated assessments.

Dr. Hogue presented weekly district Covid 19 data that will be posted on the webpage. The data includes a weekly total of staff and students that tested positive for Covid 19 or have been quarantined due to exposure. The district will use November 30, 2020, as a Remote Planning Day. Students at Fulton Elementary will return full in-person the remainder of the week. River Bend Middle School and Fulton High School finish the week using the Anchor/Boat day schedule. This is to provide some separation after the Thanksgiving holiday. At this point in time, the plan to return to full in-person will begin on December 7, 2020.

Jaime Frausto and Michele James from CTS presented options for the high school boiler replacement project. They did not recommend reusing piping if Option #1 was chosen. Option #4 is a viable solution but may require more maintenance than Option #1. Michele will do more research on this to see just how much more maintenance would be required and the associated costs for Option #4. Dr. Hogue indicated the Alternate Revenue Bonds come off the payment schedule next year and another Alternative Revenue Bond could be purchased without increasing the tax rate to pay for the project.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the Stipend Committee met to discuss appropriate modifications to identify work completed and payment for coaches given the disruption to the sports and activities. A document will be created that outlines the criteria.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the October 21, 2020, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; October Treasurer’s Report; and November Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$899,299.69, subject to audit.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

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

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue presented levy options of a flat rate, 4.99% increase, and 9.91% increase. The Board recommended the 9.91% increase so that if the Estimated Assessed Valuation changes the district will capture all available funds.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the tentative 2020 Tax Levy at 9.91% increase and set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 16, 2020, at 6:30 P.M. Roll Call Vote:*

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

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Workman’s Compensation Insurance proposal submitted by Illinois Public Risk Fund (IPRF) for an annual premium of \$37,914. This is a decrease of \$3,171 from last year.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the Workman’s Compensation Insurance proposal submitted by IPRF for an annual premium of \$37,914. Roll Call Vote:*

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

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the WACC is in need of a new boiler and is asking participating schools to share in the cost. Dr. Hogue recommended Health Life Safety funds be used for this expense.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve a Health Life Safety Amendment to pay for River Bend’s portion of a new boiler for WACC in the amount of \$6,972.00. Roll Call Vote:*

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

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue informed the board a resolution needs to be passed abating the taxes levied for the year 2020 to pay debt service on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) in-order to use 1% facility funds to make the bond payment for the construction project.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the resolution abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2020 to pay debt services on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source).*

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

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the district received gifts from Central Bank-Fulton in the amount of \$500 for Robotics.

*It was moved by Member Portz, seconded by Member Meyers, to accept the gifts to the District as presented. Roll Call Vote:*

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

*Motion Carried.*

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

- *Accept the resignation of Kevin Ver Hoeven, Golf Coach at Fulton High School, effective October 26, 2020.*
- *Hire April Lund as Para Professional at Fulton Elementary School beginning November 12, 2020.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

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

*Motion Carried.*

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, 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 at 8:45 P.M. Roll Call Vote:*

*Member Fish, yea  
Member Meyers, yea  
Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Member Portz, yea  
Member Simmons, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, 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 at 9:20 P.M. Roll Call Vote:*

*Member Fish, yea  
Member Meyers, yea  
Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Member Portz, yea  
Member Simmons, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., at the Fulton High School.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 P.M. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.*

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Dan Portz, President  
Board of Education  
River Bend Unit District #2  
Whiteside County

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Eric Fish, Secretary  
Board of Education  
River Bend Unit District #2  
Whiteside County