

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2

1110 3RD STREET

FULTON, IL 61252

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

November 17, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on November 17, 2021, at Fulton High School.

Vice President Orman-Luker called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Chris Barnett, Eric Fish, Jane Orman-Luker, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Andy Meyers and Dan Portz. 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: Craig Hafner, Jeremy Leitzen, and Ashley Wiebenga. Principals: Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, and Kathleen Schipper. Media: Jerry Lindsay, Cityone.com.

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

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

RBEA had nothing to report.

Vice President Orman-Luker asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum. Ashley Wiebenga asked to speak to the Board regarding the treatment of her son at school. On several occasions racial slurs have been used to address her son at school. Her son is becoming increasingly distraught and does not want to go to school. Mrs. Wiebenga is asking the Administration to be proactive and not reactive when it comes to the implementation of policies. Dr. Hogue indicated there are resources and support for her son. The school district will address the problem.

Principal reports. Mr. Hoese reported the Elementary School had 94% attendance at parent/student conferences. Nick Proud was the speaker for professional development during the early release today. The number of remote learners due to Covid is becoming a challenge for teachers.

Mrs. Schipper indicated the 7th Grade Boys' Basketball season was put on pause until November 30, 2021, due to the number of positive covid cases. Mrs. Schipper and Mrs. Frohling took four students to the Future Teachers Conference at the Illinois State University. It was a positive experience and the students shared what they learned during the ride home.

Member Orman-Luker reported on behalf of the River Bend Educational Foundation. The Foundation met on October 19, 2021, and approved \$5,521 for fall mini grants and \$1,106 for Martin Estate requests. The Foundation also met on November 9, 2021. The group selected Bruce Fritz as the speaker at the Academic Excellence Dinner on March 5, 2022. The annual fund raising campaign is well under way.

Dr. Hogue reported on the November 17, 2021, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting. Members present included Chris Barnett, Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, Jay Ritchie, and Gary Wolfe. A large part of the meeting was discussion of the bathroom renovation project at the high school. The committee requested an additional bathroom on the second floor. The boiler at the middle school needs to be replaced. Dr. Hogue will submit a Health Life Safety amendment for \$50,000 to pay for the new boiler. The new boiler will be installed during winter break. The Regional Office of Education building inspection indicated that doors should all have automatic door closures. Gary is obtaining bids for this project and Dr. Hogue will develop a plan to complete the work in 3 to 5 years.

Dr. Hogue reported on the November 17, 2021, Finance Committee Meeting. Members present included Robert Gosch, Craig Hafner, Jane Orman-Luker, Rachel Snyder, and Darryl Hogue, Superintendent. Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer’s report. Dr. Hogue reviewed the new TRS Supplemental Savings Plan. The savings plan required by TRS and the legislation will begin in January for existing TRS members and will requires a great deal of communication to staff. TRS has provided very little information to its members. Dr. Hogue feels the members need to know more and will share the Employer update provided by TRS with the members. Dr. Hogue provided an update on the Fulton High School bathroom renovation and Fulton Elementary STEM space. The final price for the bathroom renovation has not been determined. Reserve funds from 1% and Operation and Maintenance Fund can be used to cover the cost. The facilities grant in the amount of \$50,000 will also be used for this expenditure. The Fulton Elementary STEM space will be evaluated after the bathroom project has been completed. Dr. Hogue indicated the ESSER III grant has been updated to include staff retention awards estimated at \$75,000. The grant was also updated to cover the cost of 18 Smart/video projection boards for Fulton High School estimated at \$36,000.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board enrollment is holding steady at 897.

Dr. Hogue informed the board the school report cards are available for viewing on the district webpage and at the website 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 indicated the number of students doing remote learning is increasing due to family covid exposures and becoming more difficult for teachers to manage. Dr. Hogue is preparing a survey to send home to families to gather input on how to handle the increased amount of time it is taking teachers to support both in person and remote students. The principals are talking with their teachers to determine what type of support they need.

Dr. Hogue will present a Memorandum of Understanding in closed session that supports using ESSER III funds for staff retention.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the October 20, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; October Treasurer’s Report; and November Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$1,138,557.13, subject to audit.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

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 Barnett, to approve the tentative 2021 Tax Levy at 9.91% increase and set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 15, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. Roll Call Vote:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Member Barnett, yea</i> | <i>Member Ritchie, yea</i> |
| <i>Member Fish, 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 \$43,156. This is an increase of \$5,239 from last year.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve the Workman’s Compensation Insurance proposal submitted by IPRF for an annual premium of \$43,156. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board estimated expenses for Board Member requires pre-approval.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the estimated Board Member expenses for the Triple I conference in the amount of \$1,420 for Mary Simmons and \$499 for Jane Orman-Luker. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the boiler at the River Bend Middle School needs to be replaced. Dr. Hogue recommended Health Life Safety funds be used for this expense.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve a Health Life Safety Amendment #21 to pay for a new boiler at the River Bend Middle School in the amount of \$55,750.00. Roll Call Vote:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Member Barnett, yea</i> | <i>Member Ritchie, yea</i> |
| <i>Member Fish, 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 2021 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 2021 to pay debt services on the General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2021.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended declaring eight (8) teacher desks, four (4) filing cabinets, ten (10) old smart boards, teacher chairs that are not in good shape, and other small items in the shed that are not being used as surplus goods.

It was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by Member Ritchie, to declare surplus goods as presented and dispose of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the district received gifts from Central Bank-Fulton, JT Cullen and the River Bend Educational Foundation in the amount of \$500 each for Robotics and \$2,000 from the Albany Food Pantry for snacks, milk and the backpack program.

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

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

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

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Lori Swift as Cook’s Helper at Fulton Elementary School effective immediately.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Kearston Norman as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School beginning November 8, 2021.*
- *Recommendation to hire Olinda Pataska as Assistant Nurse/Covid tracking beginning November 15, 2021.*
- *Approve the resignation of Diane Green, van driver, effective December 17, 2021.*
- *Recommendation to hire David Sheckler as van driver effective January 4, 2022.*
- *Approve Jay Butt, Sam Grant, Cole Grant, and Tyler Fleetwood as Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coaches at Fulton High School for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approve Adam Hamstra and Cody Sanderson as Volunteer Assistant Boys’ Basketball Coaches at Fulton High School for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approve Xavia Seesser as Volunteer for Robotic for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Dan Mahoney as Assistant Wrestling Coach, effective immediately and approve him as a Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approve Russell McCallister as Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2021-22 school year.*

Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

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 8:03 P.M. Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

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

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve the closed session minutes dated October 20, 2021, as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Member Barnett, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 6:30 P.M., at the Fulton High School.

It was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by Member Fish, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 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