

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2

1110 3RD STREET

FULTON, IL 61252

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

October 21, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on October 21, 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), Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Chris Barnett. 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: Kyle Demus, Benning Group. Principals: Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, and Kathleen Schipper. Assistant Principal/AD: Patrick Henrekin. Media: Jerry Lindsay, Cityone.com.

Additions to the agenda: Dr. Hogue added invitation to join the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce.

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

RBEA had nothing to report. Dr. Hogue informed the Board a Stipend Committee has been formed to meet and discuss stipends.

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 a kindergarten student that has been remote will be returning to school in first grade. This is the first situation the new policy for Advanced Placement has been implemented. Remote learners are down from 14% a month ago to 6% now. The Covid protocol is going overwhelming well and FES has had zero positive Covid cases. The staff has remained positive and the students have adjusted very well.

Mrs. Schipper indicated the middle school is down to nine (9) remote learners. Two-thirds of the student population is back to four days a week and the middle school has had only three positive Covid cases. The next challenge will be to bring all students back to five days a week. It is not as easy as it may seem because all the teacher and class schedules have to be changed accordingly. Hiring a substitute to teach remote learners has been considered but the substitute would have to teach all subjects. Another consideration was to have an outside source teach remote learners but this would create another curriculum. So far they have been able to take care of all students.

Mr. Gosch reported all students, except those choosing remote learning, are back four days a week. Students can stay until 3:00 for extra help. Two buses come back at this time and take these students home. Forty-four students and three staff members have been quarantined. The positivity rate at Fulton High School has not increased. Preparation for SAT testing went very well.

Vice President Orman-Luker thanked the Principals for all they have had to do during this trying time.

Dr. Hogue reminded the Board of the Fall Northwest Division Dinner meeting on October 29, 2020, will be virtual. The topic will be "Supporting Student and Staff Resilience in the Age of Covid."

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the IASB Virtual Summit will be on November 20, 2020, and will take the place of the Triple I conference this year. Dr. Hogue will set up a place for all that wish to participate to do together.

Member Orman-Luker reported on behalf of the River Bend Educational Foundation. The Foundation approved \$4,328 in mini grants, \$1,125 in Martin Estate requests and \$4,500 for the New Teacher Mentor Program. The annual fund raising appeal work meeting will be October 22, 2020.

Dr. Hogue asked for feedback from the Citizen's Advisory Committee instead of conducting a meeting. No feedback was returned. The committee will try to meet in January.

Dr. Hogue reported on the October 21, 2020, Finance Committee Meeting. Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Rachel Snyder (remote), Kyle Demus (Benning Group) and Darryl Hogue were in attendance. Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer's report. Kyle Demus, Benning Group, reviewed the FY 2020 Audit.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board enrollment is 903 which is up three students from the beginning of the year.

Kyle Demus, Benning Group, reviewed the FY 2020 Audit. The district financial profile score decreased from 3.90 with a designation of recognition to 3.45 with a designation of review due to expenses paid out of Bond and Interest. All funds were in the black without early tax money except Bond and Interest because of the early bond payment in June. This year the audit was done completely remote and thank you to Rachel for all the extra work required to make this happen. The only recommendation was to insure that capital outlay expenses are \$500 or more.

Dr. Hogue indicated most of the return to learn changes were covered in the Principal's reports. The challenge remains with the remote learners. The 1:00 to 3:00 time has been very helpful for students and teachers. Dr. Hogue is still researching hiring an extra teacher for the second semester to help teachers support all students. The administration is considering having remote learning days the week after winter break to reduce the chance of spreading Covid 19 after traveling and family gatherings.

Dr. Hogue has talked to Scott Johnson, Architect, who can provide an engineer to look at the boiler project at the high school. One firm would do the assessment for \$5,000 and another for \$3000. Dr. Hogue would like another set of eyes to look at the project to be sure what CTS is proposing is the right solution for the project.

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. The county is estimating the EAV will increase \$300,000 due to new construction.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce has invited the School District to join. The cost is \$484 for the year. This is an opportunity to get more involved in the community and build partnerships.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the consent agenda including the September 23, 2020, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; September Treasurer’s Report; and October Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$149,169.44, 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 FY 2020 audit report

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the fiscal year 2020 Financial Audit report as presented. 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 indicated the Policy Committee recommends approval of the second reading of select policy updates.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Ritchie to approve the second reading of select policy updates: 2:220, 2:260, 2:265, 4:180, 5:10, 5:20, 5:100, 5:200, 5:220, 5:330, 7:10, 7:20, 7:40, 7:180, 7:185, 7:190, 7:190-AP4, 7:220-AP, 7:340, and 7:345 and approve as policy. 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 changes to activity accounts.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Ritchie, to establish a Class of 2024 activity account; close the Class of 2019 activity account and move the remaining balance of \$.05 to the Class of 2024; close the Class of 2020 activity account and move the remaining balance of \$769.15, designating \$200 to the Class of 2022 and \$569.15 to the Class of 2024; and close the Tri M activity account due to lack of activity and move the remaining balance of \$80.33 to the Vocal Music activity account. 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 district received \$1,783 from the River Bend Athletic Boosters for half the cost of basketball hoops at Fulton Elementary School.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to accept gifts to the district 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.

There was no closed session.

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

- *Accepted the resignation of Jack Lemke, Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective October 23, 2020.*
- *Hired Kearsten Smith as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School beginning immediately.*
- *Approved Mike Gazo as 7th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2020-21 school year.*

Vice President Orman-Luker congratulated Dr. Hogue for being named Superintendent of Distinction. Dr. Hogue was selected by his peers in the IASA Northwest Division based on leadership, communication, professionalism and community involvement.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 18, 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 8:00 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