

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2

1110 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET

FULTON, IL 61252

BOARD OF EDUCATION

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR OCTOBER BOARD MEETING**

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

October 20, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on October 20, 2021, at Fulton High School.

President Portz 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, Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: None. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Virginia Petersen, Recording Secretary.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Kyle Demus, Benning Group, Jeremy Leitzen, Mitch VanZuiden, Nicole VanZuiden, and Owen VanZuiden. Principals: Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, and Kathleen Schipper. Assistant Principal/AD: Patrick Henrekin. RBEA: Craig Hafner. Media: Jerry Lindsay, Cityone.com.

Additions to the agenda: Dr. Hogue added Bray Architect recommendation.

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

RBEA had nothing to report.

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum. Mrs. Schipper introduced Owen VanZuiden, IESA Golf state finalist. Owen stated it was an awesome experience. The Board congratulated Owen on his accomplishments and look forward to seeing him again during his high school career.

Principal reports. Mr. Hoese informed the Board he had nineteen preschool students in the test to stay program due to a positive case at the preschool. None had to be excluded and class continued as scheduled. The Halloween parade will be Friday and held outside. Staff from the Regional Office of Education presented during the early release on RtI. The staff felt it was a good hands-on activity training.

Mrs. Schipper indicated 190 students attended the middle school fun day after school on October 12. A ski trip is still being planned in December.

Mr. Gosch indicated he has a work study student at Jewel Osco which has proven to be a very positive opportunity for the student. It is great being back in-person and building relationships with the students again. Mr. Gosch reported the SAT data of student meeting or exceeding based College Board Standards increase from 55 in 2020 to 71 in 2021. Mr. Gosch contributes the increase due to Competency Based Education and how it aligns with the state standards.

Dr. Hogue reported on the IASB Fall Northwest Division Dinner meeting on October 4, 2021, in Dixon. Dr. Hogue, Mary Simmons, and Jane Orman-Luker attended. The topic was ESSER funds and ways to spend the money. It was good information and opened up additional opportunities. Member Simmons was recognized as Master Board Member.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting on October 20, 2021. Dr. Hogue, Robert Gosch, Jeremy Leitzen, Kathleen Schipper, Mary Simmons, and Jessica Winkel were in attendance. Dr. Hogue reviewed ESSER II grant budget pages. Dr. Hogue presented ESSER III grant staffing and material considerations. Overall the group was supportive of the recommendations. They asked that the math support continue. Questions were asked regarding the computer science curriculum. Dr. Hogue indicated that ISBE has not released the standards for this course yet. Dr. Hogue reviewed the minutes from the Community Cares Coalition meeting on September 29, 2021. This is a group of community members and professionals interested in addressing brain health and substance abuse.

Dr. Hogue reported on the October 20, 2021, Finance Committee Meeting. Robert Gosch, Craig Hafner, Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Rachel Snyder, Kyle Demus (Benning Group) and Darryl Hogue were in attendance. Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer's report. The increase in the Education Fund is due to Evidenced Based Funding, grants, E-Rate, summer meals, and activity funds moved to the Education Fund. Kyle Demus, Benning Group, reviewed the FY 2021 Audit. The district financial designation increased from 3.45 review to 4.00 financial recognition. All funds were in the black even without early tax money. Mr. Demus indicated that even with the reserves showing large amount only approximately \$58,613 is unassigned. The audit was completed in-person and remotely and thank you to Rachel for all the extra work required to make this happen. The only note recommended grant expenditures need to occur within the designated time frame. Dr. Hogue presented three levy amount including flat, 4.99%, and 9.99%. The committee recommended 9% or higher to insure the district receives all the dollars designated if the Estimated Assess Valuation increases when the tax rate is set in March. Dr. Hogue updated the group on the bathroom work at Fulton High School. Dr. Hogue is finalizing the ESSER III Grant.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board enrollment is holding steady at 897 which is an increase of 2 since the end of school in May.

Kyle Demus, Benning Group, reviewed the FY 2021 Audit. The district financial profile score is 4.00 with a designation of recognition. A lot of changes were made this year in how things needed to be reported. Fiduciary accounts and activity funds are now required to be reported in the Education Fund. A single audit was required this year due to the money received from federal grants. All funds were in the black without early tax money. The only note recommended grant expenditures need to occur within the designated time frame. Mr. Demus indicated Rachel does an excellent job and he thanked her for all she does to make the audit go smoothly.

Dr. Hogue indicated in-person learning is going very well. There are still positive cases, but exclusion is limited due to the test to stay protocol.

Dr. Hogue presented ESSER III staffing and material considerations. Dr. Hogue met with the staff at all the buildings. They understand the need for transition positions. The high school is in favor of keeping the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director position. The elementary staff would like to see more for those working in the trenches than administrative positions. The Board would like Dr. Hogue to look into more ways to keep current employees here and reward them with classroom additions or materials. Dr. Hogue will look into the specifics of the grant to see what can be done in this respect.

Dr. Hogue presented levy options of a flat rate, 4.99% increase, and 9.99% increase. The Board recommended the 9.99% increase so that if the Estimated Assessed Valuation changes the district will capture all available funds.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the Bray Architects submitted a new plan for the high school bathroom renovation. They reduced the number of fixtures to be added and increased compliance with accessibility codes. When renovations are completed everything has to be brought up to current codes. The state is more lenient on the number of fixtures than accessibility standards.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the consent agenda including the September 22, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; September Treasurer’s Report; and October Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$231,646.47, 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 approving the Steamer Suite Naming Rights Three-year Contract with Central Bank-Fulton that outlines the value of the bank’s investment in the naming rights.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve the Steamer Suite Naming Rights Three-year Contract with Central Bank-Fulton in the amount of \$65,000 over three years.*

*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 FY 2021 audit report

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the fiscal year 2021 Financial Audit report 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 approval of the second reading of revision to policy 5:220 Substitute Teachers to increase the pay rate and adopt as policy

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Meyers, to approve the second reading of revision to policy 5:220 Substitute Teachers to increase the daily rate of pay from \$85/day to \$95/day beginning the 2021-22 school year. 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 District Office Support/Grant Monitoring and Coordinator Job Description and advertise the position once the ESSER III grant is approved. Member Fish would like to see more support in the classrooms than office transition and grant monitoring.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyer, to approve the District Office Support/Grant Monitoring and Coordinator Job Description as presented. Roll Call Vote.*

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

*Motion Carried.*

The district received \$1,000 from the River Bend Athletic Boosters for a charter bus for the football team, \$322.92, for iPad, and \$4,588.68 for wrestling Mat Boss and Girls’ and Boys’ basketball wish list items; and CTE grant from Whiteside Area Career Center in the amount of \$3,750 for Career and Technology Education.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyers, to accept 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 Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the following personnel items:*

- *Accepted the resignation of Brandy Schroeder, Night Cleaner at Fulton High School, effective October 16, 2021.*
- *Accepted the resignation of Sydney Manon, Pep Club Sponsor at River Bend Middle School, effective the end of the 2020-21 school year.*
- *Accepted the resignation of Darwin Johnson, Sophomore Girls’ Basketball Coach at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2020-21 school year.*
- *Accepted the resignation of Sherry Comstock, Lunch Cashier at River Bend Middle School, effective September 24, 2021.*
- *Approved the transfer of Elizabeth Graham to Lunch Cashier at River Bend Middle School effective immediately.*
- *Hired Megan Facio as Pep Club Sponsor at River Bend Middle School for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approved eight (8) week or twelve (12) week, if medically necessary Maternity/FMLA leave of absence for Laura Spillane, Math Teacher at Fulton High School, beginning approximately November 29, 2021, and returning approximately January 31, 2022.*
- *Approved eight (8) week maternity leave of absence request from Kimberlyn Stoecker, Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School beginning approximately November 8, 2021, and returning approximately January 4, 2022.*

*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 Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the September 22, 2021, closed session minutes 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 Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to move into closed session for the purpose(s) 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 8:55 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 Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to come out of closed session for the purpose(s) 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 9:55 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.*

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 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 10:00 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