

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

September 23, 2020

The Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, were held on September 23, 2020, at Fulton High School.

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

Vice President Orman-Luker called the Budget Hearing 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 (zoom), Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: None. 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: Michael Apostolos, Connor Barnett, Kaitlyn Bruggenwirth, Kylie Collachia, Elizabeth Fish, Anna Jacobs, Karrie Kenney, Jeremy Leitzen, Max Pannell, Ally Reed, and Aisha VanKampen. Principals: Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, and Kathleen Schipper. Assistant Principal/AD: Patrick Henrekin.

Vice President Orman-Luker asked for questions and comments from the public or the Board regarding the budget. Dr. Hogue indicated the changes to the budget since August are the addition of the two new grants ISBE is funding; the CARES grant in the amount of \$107,000 and Digital Equity Grant in the amount of \$76,000.

There being no further discussion it was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the FY 2021 budget hearing at 6:35 P.M. Roll CallVote.

<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.

Vice President Orman-Luker called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:36 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Chris Barnett, Eric Fish, Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz (zoom), Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: None. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Virginia Petersen, Recording Secretary.

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

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the agenda as amended. 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. Several Fulton High School students asked to speak about returning to school in-person.

Max Pannell would like to return to school in-person. It is a much better learning environment than remote and would reduce the amount of cheating and plagiarism that is occurring.

Conner Barnett would like to get back in the classroom. He is worried about his college future and it is hard to focus doing remote learning.

Kaitlyn Bruggenwirth indicated that besides having a better learning environment at school, student's are able to help their classmates with assignments, as well as, other issues they may be dealing with.

Kylie Collachia interviewed high school teachers regarding remote learning. The teachers agree more cheating is occurring, more work is being turned in late or not at all, unable to build student-teacher relationships, and internet issues are a problem.

Michael Apostolas indicated other schools in the area are conducting in-person learning. The numbers the CDC is publishing regarding Covid 19 positivity does not seem that alarming. He realizes everyone wants to be safe, but in-school learning is better.

President Portz thanked the students for coming to the meeting and expressing their concerns. Dr. Hogue believes the district can start bringing more students back to school. Member Fish thanked the students for attending and indicated their presentations were well thought-out and shows they are leaders in school and out. Vice President Orman-Luker encouraged the students to continue to reach out to classmates and support others during this time.

(The students left at 7:00 P.M.)

Karrie Kenney, Central Bank Fulton, presented a check for \$5,000 for professional development. The bank has donated \$25,000 to the school district over the past five years. Vice President Orman-Luker thanked Mrs. Kenney for such a tremendous gift and for investing in professional development opportunities for River Bend teachers.

Dr. Hogue recognized Dan Portz who received the NW Illinois Governor's Volunteer Award. Dr. Hogue, Mr. Gosch, and Stacy Gates shared a video they prepared honoring Mr. Portz.

Principal reports. The principals reviewed their plans to bring back students to four days a week of in-person learning. The staff is doing a fantastic job dealing with all the changes and protocols with everyday bringing a different challenge. The stress level for students and staff is high right now but everyone is coping well and doing their best. Students are not turned away if they come to school and need extra help.

Dr. Hogue informed 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 reported on the Annual Safety meeting held on September 16, 2020. The school will conduct emergency drills this fall but release of students will be in groups instead of as the whole school at once in order to maintain social distancing. A table top drill was scheduled for January. Run, Hide and Fight training will be done in the fall of 2021. The drug dog will be brought in more frequently this school year.

Dr. Hogue reported on the September 23, 2020, Building and Grounds Committee Meeting. Chris Barnett, Jaime Frausto, Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, Michele James, Brandon Little, Jay Ritchie,

Kathleen Schipper, and Gary Wolfe were in attendance. Dr. Hogue is planning to have a recommendation in January regarding the use of Alternate Revenue Bonds. The recommendation will include whether bonding is an option, a list of projects, and the dollar amount. Currently there is a \$150,000 to \$200,000 commitment of 1% dollars. Dr. Hogue will determine if there is a safe amount of Operations and Maintenance dollars that can be used for future projects. Dr. Hogue reviewed the summer projects list. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in building the playground at Fulton Elementary School. The new playground equipment is a wonderful addition. CTS returned to the district to look at additional projects requested by the building principals. The projects included:

- a. HVAC/Boiler issues at the high school. The boiler piping is over forty years old and is losing water. Estimated cost from CTS is 2-3 million dollars.
- b. Piping in the high school bathrooms is leaking behind the walls and from the toilets. Estimated cost \$450,000 - \$500,000.
- c. Fulton Elementary School media center update. Transform the media center into a space similar to the middle school. Estimated cost \$300,000-\$380,000.

Dr. Hogue reported on the September 23, 2020, Finance Committee Meeting. Andy Meyers, Rachel Snyder, and Darryl Hogue were in attendance. Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer’s report. Dr. Hogue reviewed the 2019-20 budget. Overall revenue was higher than budgeted. Expenditures were also higher than budgeted. Overall, in the Education Fund, revenue outpaced expenditures for the entire year. Dr. Hogue discussed 2020-21 budget predictions. State revenue is flat and local revenue is slightly higher and the cost of Health Insurance increased \$100,000. The district has received \$176,000 in federal grants to support remote learning. Dr. Hogue discussed option to fund upcoming construction projects. Three projects have been identified including the high school boiler, high school bathrooms, and elementary school media center upgrade

Dr. Hogue informed the Board estimated enrollment is up twelve students from last year.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board of the plan to expand on-site learning. The Fulton High students will return to Anchor and Boat days on September 22, 2020. On October 6, 2020, Grades 1st, 4th and 8th will start four days a week; on October 13, 2020, high school students will be back four days a week; on October 20, 2020, Grades K, 3rd and 7th will be back four days a week; and on November 4, 2020, Grades 2nd, 5th, and 6th will be back four days a week.

Dr. Hogue reviewed the metrics he developed for expanding on-site learning. The Board would prefer to see student back more days, than lengthen the days attended.

Dr. Hogue indicated the district has received requests to use the buildings. The Board requested a moratorium on building use be put in place until further notice. There are just too many variables involved to approve the use of the buildings during the Covid 19 pandemic.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the August 12, 2020, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; August Treasurer’s Report; and September Bills Recommended for Payment subject to audit. Roll Call Vote:

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| <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 presented the FY 21 budget. The overall projected difference in revenues and expenses is a negative \$253,297.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the FY 21 budget with total revenues in the amount of \$10,327,384 and total expenditures in the amount of \$10,580,681. 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.

Mr. Hogue indicated the Policy Committee recommends approval of the first reading of select policy updates.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the first 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. 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.

Mr. Henrekin informed the Board River Bend had received a formal invitation to join the Northwest Upstate Illini Conference (NUIC) and recommends accepting the invitation. Mr. Henrekin indicated this is a good fit for River Bend. The Board thanked Mr. Henrekin for his efforts in giving River Bend this opportunity.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Barnett, to accept the formal invitation to join the Northwest Upstate Illini Conference. 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 informed the Board the annual posting of salary information on the web page requires board action.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve posting the 2020-21 projected administrative compensation report and the 2019-20 Teacher and Educational Support Compensation report on the webpage. 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 Activity Fund Surety Bonds for designated employees.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve District Activity Surety Bonds for school secretaries for an annual premium of \$300. 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.

Dr. Hogue informed the board only one bid for snow plowing was received from Jody Bielema and recommends approval of the bid. Mr. Bielema has done snow removal for the schools the past several years.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the bid for snow plowing submitted by Jody Bielema at a rate of \$600 per plow and \$700 per plow if eight (8) inches of snow or more. 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.

The district received \$5000 from Central Bank Fulton to be used for professional development, \$1,500 from Friends for Charity for milk, and \$1000 from Citizen’s 1st Bank to be used as the District determines. Dr. Hogue recommended the Citizen’s 1st donation be used for staff appreciation.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Ritchie, to accept gifts to the district as presented. 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.

There was no closed session.

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

- *Approved the transfer of Tim Frick from Cook’s Helper at Fulton Elementary School to Cook’s Helper at Fulton High School effective immediately.*
- *Accepted the resignation of Marie Meyers as Freshman Class Sponsor at Fulton High School, effective August 20, 2020.*
- *Accepted the resignation of Laura Huizenga, Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective September 18, 2020.*
- *Hired Lauren Frick as Paraprofessional at River Bend Middle School beginning immediately.*
- *Hired Kellie Hendricks as Cook’s Helper at Fulton Elementary School beginning immediately.*
- *Hired Sherry Comstock as Lunch Cashier at River Bend Middle School effective immediately.*
- *Approved Camerin Huizenga as Sophomore Volleyball Coach for the 2020-21 school year.*
- *Approved Marty Brubaker, Mark Hughes, Chris Seesser, Xavia Seesser, and Dan Portz as Volunteer Assistant Robotic Coaches for the 2020-21 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.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at 6:30 P.M., at the Fulton High School.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Barnett, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 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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