

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 22, 2021

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 22, 2021, at Fulton High School.

Mary Simmons was appointed Secretary Pro-Tem.

President Portz called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:30 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary Pro-Tem the following members were present: Chris Barnett, Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Eric Fish and Jay Ritchie. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Virginia Petersen, Recording Secretary.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Kyle Folk, Karrie Kenney, Eric Pessman, and Sara Pessman. Principals: Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, and Kathleen Schipper. Media: Jerry Lindsay, Cityone.com.

President Portz asked for questions and comments from the public or the Board regarding the budget. Dr. Hogue indicated the only changes to the budget since August are the increase in Education Fund to reflect increase in projected Estimated Assessed Valuation and increase in expenditures to reflect increase in substitute pay.

There being no further discussion it was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyers, to adjourn the FY 2022 budget hearing at 6:33 P.M. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:34 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary Pro-Tem the following members were present: Chris Barnett, Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Eric Fish and Jay Ritchie. 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 Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

RBEA had nothing to report.

(Member Fish entered at 6:50 P.M.)

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum.

Sara Pessman stated it was unhealthy to wear masks. The wearing of masks, quarantining students, and test to stay is having a big effect on the mental health of students. Sara read a long statement regarding her dissatisfaction of her daughter having to be quarantined, primarily, because she would not test to stay.

Eric Pessman also stated his dissatisfaction in the treatment of his daughter. He also indicated he was unhappy with a book the students were reading for class. It was teaching hatred and uses foul language. He also indicated his dissatisfaction with a female student being allowed to use the male bathroom due to gender identity laws.

Kyle Folk expressed his concern with the enormous amount of time and resources being used to address Covid issues. The headlines read different than the studies which makes him question why so much effort is being put into controlling the spread of the virus. Mental health issues have doubled since the pandemic started in 2019.

Member Portz thanks those who spoke for their input. The district cannot operate without money, accreditation status, and IHSA sports, which the state is threatening to take away if the district does not comply with the mandates and mitigations. He understands the mental health issues and the district is doing their best to deal with mental health and everything else the state is mandating.

Karrie Kenney, Central Bank Fulton, presented a check for \$5,000 for professional development. The bank has donated \$30,000 to the school district over the past five years. President Portz thanked Mrs. Kenney for everything the Bank does for the school district. The Board is very grateful for the support of Central Bank.

Principal reports. Mr. Hoese indicated there is a lot going on at Fulton Elementary School. The focus this year is on positive behavior and RtI. Mrs. Schipper indicated the ‘Pay-It-Forward’ initiative has begun at the middle school. The middle school has had six students and one staff member absent due to Covid. One girl and four boys competed in the IESA golf sectionals. Mr. Gosch indicated test to stay has kept students in school. The high school has expanded mental health programs and activities.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board of the Fall Northwest Division Dinner meeting on October 4, 2021, in Dixon. The topic will be “Making the Most of ESSER III Funds.”

Dr. Hogue reported on the Annual Safety meeting held on August 26, 2021. A table top drill was scheduled for January. Run, Hide and Fight training with emergency responders was conducted at the high the week before school started. Crisis plans remained the same as in previous years.

Dr. Hogue reported on the September 22, 2021, Building and Grounds Committee Meeting. Robert Gosch, Jeffrey Hoese, Gary Wolfe, Mark Miller, and Darryl Hogue were in attendance.

CTS projects update:

- a. Received a passing inspection from the insurance company that works on behalf of the state fire marshal for the boilers.
- b. The system will be filled with water on Friday, September 24, 2021.
- c. Pipe insulation can be installed now that the inspection is complete.
- d. Sometime next week the system will be flushed to eliminate the air from within the heating system and prepare for startup.

- e. Official startup of the boilers will take place with the boiler manufacturer's representative and district staff on October 4, 2021.

Dr. Hogue updated the committee on the FES STEAM addition. The cost of the project is estimated at \$384,000. Start and end dates will be hard to determine until the amount of work is determined, as well as, there is a shortage of workers. ESSER III dollars can be used for the FES STEAM addition. The architects would like to have bid specs ready in January. Dr. Hogue updated the committee on the FHS bathroom renovation. The aging bathrooms need to be structurally and aesthetically updated. Bray provided both a cosmetic only renovation bid and a more intensive remodel bid. The cosmetic bid cost is \$344,000 and the intensive remodeling is \$654,000. The committee is not in favor of the cosmetic renovation and the intensive remodel will have to be looked at more closely. Options presented to the committee included adding a bathroom and shower across the hall from the weight room. It was determined the cost outweighs the need. Another option included remodeling the bathrooms in the foyer to the old gym. These bathrooms see minimal use and are in fairly good condition. The four bathrooms located on the top floor and main hallway were covered in detail. The bathrooms are small and have piping behind cement walls. Structural challenges limit the remodeling options. The committee asked the architect to consider removing a partition wall and move the sinks to a different location. Bray will provide an updated proposal. Financing the bathrooms will be another challenge. Bonding options do not exist and using reserves on hand would be necessary. Ideally, if the work could be lowered to \$600,000 multiple funds could be used to cover the costs: HLS \$150,000, O/M \$200,000, 1% \$150,000, Working Cash \$50,000, and Construction Grant \$50,000. The timeline for the bathroom project would be to obtain bids in November thru December in hopes of beginning work in January or February and working after students are dismissed for the day.

Dr. Hogue reported on the September 22, 2021, Finance Committee Meeting. Rachel Snyder, Jane Orman-Luker, and Darryl Hogue were in attendance. Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer's report. The report showed the district is in good financial shape. Comparing this year's funds to last year's funds showed that the district has more funds overall due to the Federal stimulus money and early tax dollars. Dr. Hogue reviewed the changes between the proposed budget in August and the final budget being recommended for approval. The revenue in the Education Fund was increased by \$13,000 to adjust to the recently received Estimated Assessed Valuation prediction from the county assessor's office. Additionally, the Education Fund expenditures were increased to cover an increase in nursing supplies and substitute teacher pay. Dr. Hogue reviewed funding option for the STEAM addition at Fulton Elementary School and bathroom work at the high school as presented in the Finance meeting. Dr. Hogue indicated the ESSER III Grant has not yet been started and will require careful planning to use the 1 million dollars available. The grant has some restrictive designations for the dollars and requires 20% be dedicated to student learning loss in some manner. Early consideration for the grant dollars fall into two categories, staff and items to support learning. Staff considerations include District Office support/transition staff, Technology transition/support staff, Learning loss/curriculum support, addition of a fourth counselor to transition and work with the other three buildings, and Math/Computer Science position MS/HS. Support items include FES STEAM addition, Furniture HS/FES, Curriculum, Summer School FY 22 and 23, heating/cooling units FES, and bus garage fiber cable.

The Board indicated their preference was to fix existing problems before taking on new projects.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board estimated enrollment is about the same as last year but the buildings are still adding and dropping students at this point.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board everyone is still feeling the effects of the pandemic. Food service is having trouble fulfilling food orders, challenges of quarantine with the target moving constantly, the large

number of students needing to be tested with the test to stay guidelines, and the staff now needing to be tested weekly if not vaccinated. All in all, everything is going well, just a challenge to keep in front of the ball. The Board members are concerned with the time being consumed by the pandemic and if it is affecting the teaching of teachers and the learning of students.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board River Bend meets requirements in implementing one or more of the requirements of IDEA. This determination is based on multiple data points and indicators describe in detail on the ISBE webpage.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the consent agenda including the August 11, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; August Treasurer’s Report; and September Bills Recommended for Payment in the amount of \$626,388.80, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue presented the FY 22 budget. The overall projected difference in revenues and expenses is a negative \$257,071.89.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the FY 22 budget with total revenues in the amount of \$13,089,610.44 and total expenditures in the amount of \$13,346,682.33. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue presented the Athletic Director Job Description for the 2022-23 school year. The Board discussed the new administrative organization and would like to keep the current formation of having an Assistant Principal/Athletic Director in the 2022-23 school year. Since the formation is staying the same, no motion was necessary.

Dr. Hogue recommended of submitting the ISBE School Maintenance Project grant application in the amount of \$50,000.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve the School Maintenance Project Grant Application and submit to ISBE for consideration. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended establishing a Culinary Arts Club at Fulton High School to help facilitate the new Steamer Suite and catering events with a staff member as the supervisor.

It was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by Member Fish, to approve establishing a Culinary Arts club at Fulton School for the 2021-22 school year. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Stipend Proposal for Culinary Arts Club Sponsor submitted by Robert Gosch.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the Stipend Proposal Application for Culinary Arts Club Sponsor submitted by Robert Gosch as a Level III sponsor/coaching stipend. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the first reading of revision to policy 5:220 Substitute Teachers to increase the pay rate. The Board agreed to increase the daily rate for substitute teachers to \$95/day for the 2021-22 school year and reevaluation for the 2022-23 school year at the appropriate time.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the first reading of revision to policy 5:220 Substitute Teachers to increase the daily rate of pay from \$85/day to \$95/day for the 2021-22 school year. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Barnett, yea</i>	<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, 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 Orman-Luker, to approve posting the 2021-22 projected administrative compensation report and the 2020-21 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 Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, 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 Meyers, to approve District Activity Surety Bonds for school secretaries for an annual premium of \$300. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of new activity account for Fulton High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

It was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve new activity account for Fulton High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Roll Call Vote.

- Member Barnett, yea* *Member Orman-Luker, yea*
- Member Fish, yea* *Member Portz, yea*
- Member Meyers, yea* *Member Simmons, 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 Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the bid for snow plowing submitted by Jody Bielema at a rate of \$600 per plow and \$800 per plow if eight (8) inches of snow or more. Roll Call Vote:

- Member Barnett, yea* *Member Orman-Luker, yea*
- Member Fish, yea* *Member Portz, yea*
- Member Meyers, yea* *Member Simmons, yea*

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended one-hundred (100) desktop computers and thirty-seven (37) monitors be declared as surplus goods and dispose of in an appropriate manner.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to declare one-hundred (100) desktop computers and thirty-seven (37) monitors as surplus goods, and dispose of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.

- Member Barnett, yea* *Member Orman-Luker, yea*
- Member Fish, yea* *Member Portz, yea*
- Member Meyers, yea* *Member Simmons, yea*

Motion Carried.

The district received \$5000 from Central Bank Fulton to be used for professional development and staff appreciation, \$3,800 from First Reformed Church proceeds from the “Back to School” auto show to be used for any needs the district has.

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

- Member Barnett, yea* *Member Orman-Luker, yea*
- Member Fish, yea* *Member Portz, yea*
- Member Meyers, yea* *Member Simmons, yea*

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve the following personnel items:

- *Approved the resignation of Suzanne Ver Hoeven, Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective September 10, 2021.*
- *Approved the resignation of Chelsi Holcomb, Cook’s Helper, at Fulton Elementary School, effective September 9, 2021.*
- *Approved the resignation of Samantha Ketelsen, Cook’s Helper at Fulton High School, effective September 10, 2021.*
- *Approved the resignation of Stacy Gates, Robotics Coach at Fulton High School, effective immediately.*
- *Approved the resignation of Mara Bilyeu, Cheerleading Sponsor at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approved the recommendation to hire Colleen Temple as Paraprofessional at River Bend Middle School beginning the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approved the recommendation to hire Danyelle Kennedy as Paraprofessional at Fulton Blended Preschool beginning immediately.*
- *Approved the recommendation to hire Larissa Norem as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School beginning immediately.*
- *Approved the recommendation to hire Shelley Bauscher as Cook’s Helper at Fulton Elementary School beginning immediately.*
- *Approved the recommendation to hire Nicole Fletcher as Cook’s Helper at Fulton High School beginning immediately.*
- *Approved Monica Piercy as Freshman Class Sponsor at Fulton High School for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approved Chris Seesser as Robotics Coach at Fulton High School for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approved Andy Meyers as Volunteer Assistant Golf Coach at Fulton High School for the 2021-22 school year.*
- *Approved Lucus Goetz as Volunteer Assistant Volleyball Coach at Fulton High for the 2021-22 school year.*

Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett, 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, and student scholarships at 9:08 P.M.

Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, 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, and student scholarships at 10:25 P.M. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 6:30 P.M., at the Fulton High School.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 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