

**RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2**  
**1110 3<sup>RD</sup> 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 21, 2022

The Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend CUSD #2, Whiteside County, Illinois were held on September 21, 2022, at Fulton High School.

President Portz called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:32pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following board members were present: Eric Fish, Andy Meyers, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons  
Absent: Chris Barnett and Jane Orman-Luker, Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Virginia Petersen and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretaries.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Abra Richards, Principals: Bob Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, Assistant Principal/AD: Jeffrey Parsons, and Media: Jerry Lindsey, cityone.com.

President Portz asked for questions and comments from the public of the Board regarding the budget. Dr. Hogue indicated that the district will have an increase in CPPRT funds from \$300,000 to \$400,000. The district also had a tier change in Evidence Based Funding from Tier II to Tier I. This will increase the Evidence Based Funds from about \$55,000 to \$110,000. The budget has a small deficit, but should be made up over the course of the year since early taxes have been budgeted on the conservative side.

*There being no further discussion it was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to adjourn the FY 2023 Budget Hearing at 6:35pm. Roll Call Vote*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on September 21, 2022, at Fulton High School.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:35pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Eric Fish, Andy Meyers, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons, Absent: Chris Barnett and Jane Orman-Luker, Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Virginia Petersen and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretaries.

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

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

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Abra Richards, Principals: Bob Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, Assistant Principal/AD: Jeffrey Parsons, and Media: Jerry Lindsey, cityone.com.

There was no communication from the RBEA.

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum. There was no one wishing to speak during public forum.

Principal Reports. Mr. Henrekin discussed the new Hall Pass app that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade is piloting. Hall Pass is an app that will be on student's Chromebooks that will allow them to privately notify their teacher that they need to use the restroom, go to the office, have an appointment with the counselor or nurse. The system includes features to monitor student movement in the building and restricts the ability for students to "meet-up" in the building. Mr. Henrekin stated the school currently has a 30-day free trial. Member Portz asked Mr. Henrekin to bring his staff that is piloting the program to the next board meeting to present to the board as well.

Mr. Hoese talked about the FES Has Talent program that is taking place on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at Fulton High School. There will be over 30 acts performing with the proceeds going to the general PTO fund with creation of a STEAM lab in mind for the funds. Mr. Hoese also discussed the House Days that will be taking place at FES on early dismissal days. These days will be similar to field days with different activities for the students to participate in. The staff and students have been divided into four houses – families will be kept together, and all grade levels are in each house. This gives students a chance to interact with other grade levels and for the upper grade levels to practice their leadership skills.

Mr. Gosch stated the bathroom remodel project is moving slow and steady. One set of bathrooms is open and construction has started on the second set. Mr. Snyder's construction class has been working at framing out the new office. Tri-City electric has agreed to oversee the electrical work in the new office so that the students truly are seeing, and completing, the project from start to finish. Mrs. Meurs garden project will include wild flowers and a fence around the vegetable garden. The entry hallway has been updated and now displays photos of current Fulton High School Students taken by the Media Pub students. Member Meyers asked for more detail on the changes to the Steamer of the Month program. Mr. Gosch stated that it will be more of a quarterly awards ceremony as opposed to a monthly award and that faculty will be able to choose multiple students if they have multiple they would like to recognize. The other change Mr. Gosch spoke of was in regards to the Overall Steamer of the Month. In the past, teachers would nominate a senior student and then one would be selected. Mr. Gosch would like to see seniors apply to be Overall Steamer of the Month and tell why they feel they should be chosen.

Mr. Parsons recognized Dr. Hogue as being selected at the previous week's football game as the Steamer Salute recipient and highlighted his new Coaches Spotlight that he has started on social media.

Dr. Hogue commended the high school on the Hall of Fame night and using students to cater the event. Dr. Hogue also thanked Mr. Parsons for the new fencing and screens added to the outside bleachers to increase safety at football games.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board of the Fall Northwest Division Dinner Meeting on October 24, 2022 in Scales Mound. The speaker will be PJ Caposey on the topic of "Reigniting the Spark". This year's meeting is also available virtually. Dr. Hogue and Mary Simmons preferred the virtual option. Dr. Hogue also informed the Board that he would like to offer River Bend as the host spot for this meeting, possibly in the Spring or next Fall.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Annual Safety Meeting held on August 25, 2022. A table top drill has been scheduled for January 12, 2023. Officer Leitzen is working on getting the drug dogs scheduled to go through the schools. Officer Leitzen is also conducting safety self-audit checks at all the schools and reporting back to Principals on improvements needed. Fulton Elementary School is having push button locks installed on all of their classroom doors. Dr. Hogue is also working with the "Safe to Help" program that does more than the 811 option for reporting issues or those in need of help. Crisis plans remained the same as in previous years.

Dr. Hogue reported on the River Bend Educational Foundation meeting held on September 13, 2022. The Foundation generously offered \$10,000 towards the summer school program. Dr. Hogue was able to cover all the cost using ESSER funds. The offer will remain available when ESSER funds are no longer available.

Dr. Hogue reported on the September 21, 2022, Building and Grounds Committee Meeting. Bob Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, Jeff Hoese, Jeff Parsons, Jay Ritchie, Gary Wolfe, and Darryl Hogue were in attendance. The district will be applying for a \$50,000 maintenance grant. The top projects for this grant will be new bleachers at Fulton High School and asbestos tile removal in the basement hallway at Fulton High School. Additional projects discussed were roof updates on all buildings, re-investigating in solar energy, an office update with the addition of a secured entrance at River Bend Middle School, new push button locks at Fulton Elementary and River Bend Middle School, and the new rooftop heating and cooling unit for the Fulton High School kitchen area, which is scheduled to be installed next fall. The district is also in talks with the City of Fulton to look at ways to fix the parking area on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue where water collects and becomes a safety hazard.

Dr. Hogue reported on the September 21, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting. Andy Meyers, Dan Portz, Rachel Snyder, and Darryl Hogue were in attendance. Dr. Hogue reported the district was notified of unused grant dollars from ESSER I in the amount of \$12,000 and ESSER II in the amount of \$24,000. Dr. Hogue was able to amend both of those grants to use the available funds for substitute teacher pay and a new paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School. ESSER III grant was also amended with funds being shifted to pay for summer school, reading intervention at Fulton Elementary, social emotional programming at Fulton High, and furniture purchases. Dr. Hogue will also be reaching out to Mr. Hafner, the Union President, to begin meeting and talking about the next RBA contract.

Dr. Hogue updated the Board on the enrollment for the 2022-23 school year. The district is up 25 students from where we ended last school year for a total of 898.

Dr. Hogue presented the first six months of the Professional Development Plan. Staff will begin identifying grade level specific graduate profile outcomes for Competency Based Education.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that School Board Elections will be taking place on April 4, 2023. The district has four Board Members up for re-election, Members Barnett, Meyers, Ritchie, and Simmons and Dr. Hogue invited them all to run again.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the August 10, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; August Treasurer's report; and September Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$283,301.49 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote:*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue presented the FY 23 budget. The overall projected difference in revenues and expenses is a negative \$236,526.27.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the FY 23 budget with total revenues in the amount of \$12,236,559 and total expenditures in the amount of \$12,473,085.27. Roll Call Vote:*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended submitting the ISBE School Maintenance Project Grant application in the amount of \$50,000. This grant would be used towards updating the bleachers at Fulton High School and removing asbestos tiles at Fulton High School.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the School Maintenance Project Grant Application in the amount of \$50,000 and submit to ISBE for consideration. Roll Call Vote:*

<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended the approval of the second reading of the Books/Materials Selection and Reconsideration Policy 6:260-AP1 and adopt as policy. Dr. Hogue informed the Board that he met with a group of local clergy members and that the overall consensus was that they would not be comfortable being on this committee. Member Meyers would like to see a wording change under Philosophy, Section 1 – it currently states “The River Bend CUSD 2 education programs strive to meet the needs of those of differing abilities, backgrounds, and interests.” Member Meyers would like it to state “The River Bend CUSD 2 educational programs strive to meet the needs of all students, regardless of abilities, backgrounds, and interests.”

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the second reading of the Books/Materials Selection and Reconsideration Policy 6:260-AP1 and adopt as policy. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, 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 Portz, to approve posting the 2022-23 projected administrative compensation report and the Administrator and Teacher Salary & Benefit Report for the school year 2023 on the webpage. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of Activity Fund Surety Bonds for designated employees.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to approve District Activity Surety Bonds for the school secretaries for an annual premium of \$300. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Portz, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended closing the River Bend Middle School Kennel Club activity account and transfer part of the funds to the River Bend Middle School Concessions activity account and put the rest in a new activity account for River Bend Middle School PTO.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to approve closing the River Bend Middle School Kennel Club activity account with a remaining balance of \$3,295.50 and transfer \$1,800 into the River Bend Middle School Concessions Activity Account and create a new district activity account entitled River Bend Middle School PTO and transfer \$1,495.50 into this activity account. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue informed the Board of only one bid for snow removal was received from Jody Bielema for the 2022-23 school year and recommends approval of the bid. Mr. Bielema has done snow removal for the schools the past several years.

*It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the bid for snow removal submitted by Jody Bielema at a rate of \$625 per plow and \$825 per plow if eight (8) inches of snow or more. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the district received from the Athletic Boosters a total of \$7040.46; \$3089 for Football, \$1385.92 for Volleyball, \$2485.55 for Weight Room, and \$79.99 for Golf.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to accept Gifts to the District as presented. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

There was no closed session

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

- *Approve the following Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coaches at Fulton High School for the 2022-23 school year: Cole Grant, Sam Grant, Rich Pannell, Aaron Kuebel, and A.J. Champion.*
- *Approve the resignation of Mary Cobert as Para Professional at River Bend Middle School effective September 2, 2022.*
- *Approve the resignation of Teri Fett, Head Softball Coach at Fulton High School, effective immediately.*
- *Approve Thomas Eden as Para Professional at River Bend Middle School beginning September 22, 2022.*
- *Approve Debora Courtade as One-on-One Para Professional at Fulton High School beginning as soon as possible.*
- *Approve Sarah Powell as Para Professional at Fulton Elementary School beginning September 26, 2022.*

- *Approve Haylee Mussman as Freshman Class Sponsor at Fulton High School for the 2022-23 school year.*

*Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Meyers, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 6:30 pm, at Fulton High School.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. 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