

Generosity Continues to Thrive and Benefit River Bend Schools

During my short period of time at the helm of the River Bend School District, it is apparent that the community is generous with their time, talents and treasures. The schools greatly benefit from the community's giving spirit. The challenge in writing this article is forgetting or not mentioning a donor. We are grateful for each donation and act of giving. Illinois schools face many financial challenges; the state continues to reduce the amount of state support. It is the giving from outside sources that make our community and schools great.

One of my first meetings was with the River Bend Athletic Boosters. The meeting focused on how they could help the middle and high school with some wish list items. The athletic boosters meet each month on the first Monday to fund raise and support the student athletes. Please consider supporting the boosters by attending their meeting.

Another very generous group is the River Bend Schools Foundation. Upon sharing the administrators' plans to purchase a book for every teacher, the Foundation joined our effort and offered to cover the costs of the books. The River Bend Schools Foundation continues to fund teacher staff development and other classroom projects that benefit the children in our community. The River Bend Schools Foundation meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 AM in the district office.

Another great organization, The Eric Ottens Committee, helps offset costs of athletic fees through its many donations on behalf of athletes who wish to play sports, but are unable to pay the athletic fees. Similar to the Ottens Committee, EASY (Extra Curricular Activities Support for Youth) has reached out to parents and offered to pay the extra-curricular fees necessary to participate in after school activities.

Both the Fulton Elementary School PTO and the River Bend Middle School Kennel Club work to support field trips, assist with sports fees, uniforms, curriculum for classes, student rewards and incentives, book fair purchases and teacher appreciation activities. The hard work of both these organizations directly benefits the students. As a parent, please consider joining your child's school support organization. Contact the elementary school or the middle school to find out meeting times and dates.

Another group that supports the school behind the scenes is the Fulton Association for Community Enrichment (FACE). FACE manages the D.S. Flikkema Foundation and has supported the schools through generous scholarship opportunities, purchasing books, upgrading science labs and purchasing Legos for engineering/Lego club.

Thanks to many generous donations from JT Cullen, John Deere, Agri King, First Trust and Savings, Dr. Harrison, Gateway Credit Union, Dr. Callan, CF Industries, Central Bank, Brinkman's Building Supply, Community State Bank and Comfort Inn and Suites the River Bend Middle School was able to host a nationally recognized speaker on the first day of school.

The community churches have also stepped up and provided financial support, a donation of school supplies, supported the high school's BLIND program, lunches for school age children, purchased I-pads, many members have volunteered to serve as tutors and hosted our sports teams for breakfast.

The River Bend School District is thankful and wishes to acknowledge the giving spirit that makes our schools and community great. Without the generous support of the many organizations and individuals, we could not accomplish our goals for students.