

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

October 15, 2018

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Eric Fish, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Chris Barnett and Nick Crosthwaite. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Virginia Petersen, Recording Secretary.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President welcomed all visitors including: Michele James and Gordan Schweitzer. Principals: Elizabeth Clark and Robert Gosch. Media: Jake Mosbach, Clinton Herald and Antony Corelis, Fulton Journal. Craig Hafner, RBEA.

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

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the agenda as presented. 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. There was no public comment.

(Mrs. Schipper arrived at 6:57 P.M.)

President Portz asked that the solar presentation occur next on the agenda. Michele James and Gordan Schweitzer presented a Power Point presentation on the use of solar energy. Roof integrity was discussed. CTS indicated that solar panels on the roof can be removed and replaced if the roof needs repaired or replaced and they will provide a cost for that service.

The financing options are Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) and Municipal Lease. A SPPA is a financial arrangement in which a third-party developer owns, operates and maintains the photovoltaic (PV) system, and a host customer agrees to site the system on its property and purchases the system's electric output from the solar services provider for a predetermined period. This financial arrangement allows the host customer to receive stable and often low-cost electricity, while the solar services provider or another party acquires valuable financial benefits, such as tax credits and income generated from the sale of electricity. A Municipal Lease is the public sector's answer to Commercial Capital Leases. The tax-exempt Municipal Lease allows the public sector to acquire essential equipment without a referendum. Dr. Hogue favors the Municipal Lease option.

CTS presented five options for installation of solar panels. They are: 1) Full roof systems and small ground. 2) Partial roof systems and large ground. 3) Partial roof and small ground. 4) Full roof systems only. 5) Partial roof systems only. The Board favors option two with minimal ground and maximum roof with the cost of removing the panels if roof repair is necessary.

CTS indicated solar panels last approximately twenty-five years and the inverters last ten to fifteen years. Replacement inverters have been included in the cost. In order for the Board to take advantage of the incentives a decision to proceed needs to be done by November 1 in order to meet the January 15 deadline for applications. Dr. Hogue recommended a special meeting to consider proceeding with solar energy.

(CTS left at 8:07 P.M.)

Principal's reports. Mrs. Clark indicated the Walking School Bus pilot was postponed until October 17th due to inclement weather. FES has implemented a new rotation this year in order to give students more time in the LRC and STEM lab. Mr. Gosch indicated the School Improvement Team has been discussing weighted grades and will provide a written recommendation for Board consideration. The team is also looking at Competency Based Education. At this point they are looking at other schools that use this and gathering information. If it decided to proceed, next year will be a planning year. Competency Based Education gives both high and low performing student more flexibility in their education. Mr. Gosch informed the Board that starting next football season, IHSA will no longer allow student to play in two football games on the same day. This means Fulton High School will have to schedule sophomore football games on another evening. Mr. Gosch presented a tentative curriculum guide which has been revised by Mr. Baisden. President Portz thanked the high school administration for honoring veterans at games. It is gratefully appreciated and well received. Mr. Henrekin informed the Board he has talked to representatives from area churches and coaches regarding Wednesday night activities. Mr. Henrekin is in the process of talking to parents, determining the age of the students that are impacted by Wednesday night church activities, and determination on letting other groups use the facilities on Wednesday nights. A recommendation will be brought to the Board once the recommendation is finalized.

Member Orman-Luker reported on behalf of the River Bend Educational Foundation. The Foundation approved \$6,841 in mini grants and \$2,819 in Martin Estate requests. The annual fund raising appeal will begin in November.

Dr. Hogue indicated the Building and Grounds Committee met on October 2, 2018 with CTS and Rock River Energy. The meeting pertained to what was presented early in the solar presentation.

Dr. Hogue reported on the October 15, 2018, Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. David Baisden, Liz Clark, Jeremy Leitzen, Robert Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, Mary Simmons, Craig Tack and Darryl Hogue were in attendance. Mr. Baisden updated the committee on weighted grades and dual credit. Colleges view a grade point average above 4.0 as a 5.0 scale. This reduces the impact of weighting grades. The school improvement team will provide a written recommendation regarding weighted grades later in the year. Dr. Hogue provided an update on the staff and student run, hide, fight safety drills. Officer Leitzen started full-time as the School Resource Officer on October 8, 2018. Dr. Hogue informed the group the state now requires schools to offer an Advanced Placement Program. Information regarding this program will be provided on the web page. Dr. Hogue encouraged parents to attend Gateway Area Parent Informational Meetings taking place throughout the area. Mr. Gosch highlighted the high school's interest in the competency based education pilot.

Dr. Hogue reported on the October 15, 2018, Finance Committee Meeting. Craig Hafner, Jane Orman-Luker, Rachel Snyder, Jennifer Blocker (Benning Group) and Darryl Hogue were in attendance.

Jennifer Blocker, Benning Group, reviewed the FY 2018 Audit. The district improved its financial profile score from 3.55 to 3.90 with a designation of recognition. Cash on hand improved thirty days from 129 to 159 days. All funds were in the black with early tax money. Evidence Based Funding has increased revenue compared to General State Aid. Revenue received was \$500,000 above the budget estimate and

expenses was \$200,000 below the budget estimate. Expenses for benefits (TRS, IMRF, and SS) were \$675,902 which equates to 8% of the budget. If TRS shifts the cost back to the district, River Bend would be responsible for \$1.3 million. \$33.4 million would be the state's portion of TRS. IMRF is showing a net asset of \$29,000. The tax rate has declined the past three years from 4.8 to 4.6.

Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer's report. The first quarter categorical payments have not yet been received from the state. Dr. Hogue presented levy options. Options included a flat, 4.83%, and 9.84% increase. The Committee recommended the 9.84% increase so that if the Estimated Assessed Valuation changes the district will capture all available funds.

Dr. Hogue reviewed ESSA reporting. In short, the state is requiring the district obtain 90% proficiency in the year 2032. The School report card gave all three schools a commendable rating.

Dr. Hogue presented levy options. As was stated in the Finance meeting options include a flat rate, 4.83% increase, and 9.84% increase. The Board recommended the 9.84% increase so that if the Estimated Assessed Valuation changes the district will capture all available funds.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board they now have accounts for Crisis Go. This app is a great way to receive notifications and updates on a situation very quickly. If any Board Members have questions on their accounts feel free to contact the District Office.

Dr. Hogue reported enrollment is down 4 student from May to 910. This is fairly good since the high school lost a big class and kindergarten coming in is small.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board a FOIA request was received from SmartProcure and a response was sent.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the consent agenda including the September 17, 2018, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; September Treasurer's Report; and October Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$156,606.06, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the FY 2018 audit report

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the fiscal year 2018 Financial Audit report as presented. Roll Call:

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

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue indicated the Policy Committee recommends approval of the second reading of select policy updates. Information regarding the new Advanced Placement legislation will be posted on the web site.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Barnett, to approve the September 17, 2018, Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Barnett, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

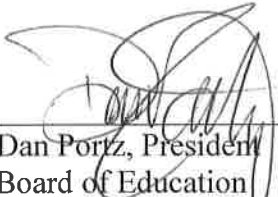
Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Monday, November 19, 2018, at 6:30 P.M., at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Barnett, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 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