

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

April 17, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend CUSD #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on April 17, 2024, at the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following board members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Eric Fish, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons; Absent: Andrew Meyers; Others Present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Michele James, Jeremy Leitzen, Steven Olson, and Rick Viskocil, Principals: Patrick Henrekin and Jeffrey Hoese, and Assistant Principals: Kelli Parsons and Kathleen Schipper.

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

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

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 shared that state testing is finished and testing days went well. The Capturing Kids Hearts Process Champions team met to begin discussing plans for next school year. Mr. Hoese shared that state testing is also finished and went well at the elementary school. Some grade levels chose to take multiple tests in one day and others spread the tests out all week. Mrs. Parsons shared that the state came to do their Preschool For All Grant inspection. The district will have the final report back in six to eight weeks and will then have time to formulate a response and action plan. Mrs. Schipper shared that registration is open for the summer enrichment classes and sign-ups are going well.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the River Bend Education Foundation Meeting held on April 9, 2024. The foundation approved a mini grant for Mr. Snyder for plumbing supplies and appointed a new treasurer. The next foundation meeting will be held in September.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Facilities Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2024.

- Taylor Whitney brought a vehicle wash station proposal to the committee. He presented a semi-automatic design that he designed to help him wash the busses and vans. Taylor estimates it currently costs the district around \$5,500 per year to wash the vehicles by hand. The design he has put together would cost around \$14,000 to build.
- The district will have five to six people, in addition to the cleaners, helping with summer projects. The architect has approved the weight room expansion project. The high school construction classes will start on the project and Gary will finish it over the summer.

- The 10-year Health, Life, Safety review will take place in July.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2024.

- The current treasurer's report was reviewed. Reserve growth is slowing; the district will continue to watch the transportation fund to see if funds need to be transferred.
- The committee discussed RBMS student activity fees. For many years, the cost to parents has been \$25 per student and then the Eric Ottens Memorial Foundation would donate the remaining \$40 per student. This would come from both the EO Foundation's Golf Outing and the basketball tournament hosted at the high school. The EO Foundation is no longer donating funds from the golf outing towards this. The committee felt it would be best to leave the cost to families at \$25 and the district could cover the remaining costs, along with the proceeds from the basketball tournament.
- Dr. Hogue reviewed the levy and the EAV increase. Since the district had presented a levy with a 11.75% increase we were able to capture all available dollars.

Dr. Hogue shared enrollment has decreased by five students. A few students have moved to other districts and the others have transferred to home school. Dr. Hogue also had the principals look at chronic truant percentages, as of right now, percentages are lower than last year at all buildings.

Dr. Hogue reminded the board members of the River Bend Middle School Promotion taking place on May 16, 2024. Members Meyers, Ritchie, and Portz will be in attendance to hand out certificates. Dr. Hogue also reminded board members of Fulton High School Graduation on May 19, 2024. Members Orman-Luker and Portz will be in attendance to hand out diplomas.

Michele, Steve, and Rick from Veregy presented a solar canopy installation over the elementary school parking lot. There are currently tax rebates that the district could apply for and receive up to 30% of the funds back within the first year. The solar panels would pay for themselves in approximately 17 years with the energy credits created. If the district moves forward with the project, the solar panels would be installed in the summer of 2025. The cost for installation is \$1.4 million. The board stated they are in favor of Dr. Hogue investigating different financing options the district could use to pay for the project. Steve and Rick also informed the board that construction at the elementary school is on schedule, upcoming deliveries are also on time. They also stated the student internships are going well. The students are becoming more comfortable and are asking questions. Both students are eager for summer and to spend more time on site learning all the ins and outs of the industry.

Dr. Hogue gave the board members their Statement of Economic Interest forms to fill out. These forms are filled out yearly and returned to the Whiteside County clerk's office.

Dr. Hogue informed the board he attended a safety training where the main topic of conversation was the potential for vehicles running into buildings. Currently, the elementary school and preschool buildings are the most vulnerable to this. The district will be looking into installing barriers to help prevent this from happening.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the 2024-25 Public School Calendar.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the 2024-25 Public School Calendar as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the 2024-25 Board of Education Meeting dates.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the 2024-25 Board of Education meeting dates as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the new K-5 Social Studies curriculum, Studies Weekly for grades K-2 and Savvas for grades 3-5.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the Studies Weekly curriculum for grades K-2 at a cost of \$8,066.49 and the Savvas curriculum for grades 3-5 at a cost of \$15,453.85. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) 2024-25 membership at a renewal cost of \$630.00 for middle school athletics.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the IESA 2024-25 membership for middle school athletics with an annual fee of \$630.00. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$4,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2024, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$4,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2024, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended declaring seven (7) non-function stage lights as surplus goods and to dispose of in an appropriate manner.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to declare seven (7) non-functioning stage lights as surplus goods and dispose of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the board the district received \$13,656 from The Timken Foundation of Canton Trustees for the FES STEAM Lab and \$500 from the Athletic Boosters for the high school Hall of Fame.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to accept gifts to the district as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

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

- *Approve the FMLA request of Jessica Teal, starting April 22, 2024 and ending on May 3, 2024, with potential for extension or use of days intermittently.*
 - *Approve the six-week maternity leave request of Jaime Pflederer, starting April 3, 2024 through the end of the 2023-24 school year.*
 - *Approve the recommendation to hire Emilee Droegmiller as Thespian Sponsor for the 2024-25 school year.*
 - *Approve the resignation of Breanna Kastelic as Math Instructional Coach for River Bend effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year.*
 - *Approve the resignation of Kearston Norman as River Bend Middle School Assistant Track Coach.*
- Roll Call Vote.*

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion Carried.

There was no closed session.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

Dan Portz, President
Board of Education
River Bend CUSD #2
Whiteside County

Eric Fish, Secretary
Board of Education
River Bend CUSD #2
Whiteside County