

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

August 7, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on August 7, 2024, at the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:31pm. Member Simmons was appointed Secretary Pro-Tem. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary Pro-Tem, the following board members were present: Member Falls, Member Orman-Luker, Member Portz, and Member Simmons; Absent: Member Fish, Member Meyers, and Member Ritchie; 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: Paige Emerson, Sam Howard, Candi Kuehl, Kearston Norman, Zach Osborn, Madison Robertson, and Abbey Vandendooren, Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese and Jeff Parsons, and Assistant Principals: Ray Borgman and Kelli Parsons.

(Member Fish entered at 6:32pm)

Additions to the agenda. Dr. Hogue added Introduction of Student Liaison to the Board of Education under Superintendent Report.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the agenda as amended. 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. Hoese introduced the new elementary school faculty. Madison Robertson started teaching 1st grade in January of last school year, and will continue in that grade level this school year. Kearston Norman and Candi Kuehl will be teaching 3rd grade, and Abbey Vandendooren will be in special education. Mr. Henrekin is welcoming Shelby Rolston, who was unable to attend the meeting, to the middle school, she will be teaching math. Mr. Parsons introduced Zach Osborn, who will be teaching math, and Sam Howard, who will be teaching science.

Mr. Hoese informed the board that while the building will be ready for teachers and students next week, it will not be 100% up to his standards as far as all floors waxed and rooms decorated to individual teacher standards. The preschool building update is also complete and ready for teachers and students. The finishing touches are being put on the new parking area and the city was able to use grant funding to add sidewalks near the elementary school.

Mr. Henrekin shared that he would like to research alternatives to the traditional 8th grade promotion ceremony. He would like to incorporate the student's passion projects and possibly include a breakfast, lunch, dinner, or picnic that families could also attend. There would still be a ceremony with

student speeches and awards presentations, just in a less formal format. Mr. Henrekin would like to start out by surveying parents and students to get their opinions and then present those results to the board at the next meeting. Mr. Henrekin was able to find enough schools interested in having 6th grade basketball this school year. He is asking for approval to add two coaching positions, one for 6th grade boys' and one 6th grade girls' basketball. Mr. Henrekin also shared with the board that Junior Tackle would like to purchase two new goal posts to install at the middle school for their practices. The board would like Junior Tackle to put together options to present to the board.

Mr. Parsons shared Ms. Gates attended a conference in Boston at MIT to prepare for her new forensics course. Mr. Borgman invited all to Meet the Steamers on August 23rd at 5:00pm.

Dr. Hogue shared enrollment is up 17 students as of August 1st from the end of last school year.

Dr. Hogue shared that opening day for the teachers is on Monday, August 12th and invited board members to the opening breakfast.

Dr. Hogue shared that there will be a full report from the Health Life Safety inspection at the September board meeting.

Dr. Hogue gave a review of the 2023-2024 budget. Overall the district had a healthy year, even with construction costs and an increase in pay expenses.

Dr. Hogue shared with the board members that the district was informed by the ROE that we have an extra day in our school calendar. The district will use that as a potential weather day.

Dr. Hogue shared the 1st Semester Professional Development plan with the board members. The district will continue to focus on Capturing Kids Hearts and have a few afternoons available for staff members to work on the mandated trainings.

Dr. Hogue shared Central Bank will remain the naming sponsor for the Steamer Suite. They will continue to donate funds towards the Steamer Suite as well as Professional Development opportunities for staff.

Dr. Hogue shared information about the Sauk Impact program and the number of students that are meeting the requirements in each grade level. This year's senior class is the first class that started with this program. Member Portz would like the seniors who have completed the program to be recognized at the awards night in the spring and would also like to see them recognized at graduation.

Dr. Hogue introduced Paige Emerson to the board members. Paige will be the student liaison to the board. Paige is very excited to be able to represent the student body at board meetings.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the June 19, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes; June Treasurers Report; and authorize Dan Portz and Jane Orman-Luker to approve the August Bills Recommended for Payment subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the fuel bid submitted by Gold Star FS. The bid submitted by Gold Star FS was the only bid received and they are the current fuel supplier for the district.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the bid submitted by Gold Star FS for fuel for the 2024-25 school year. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

Closed session minutes were reviewed. Minutes dated January 25, 2024 were recommended to be opened and to retain the closed session minutes dated February 20, 2024 at this time due to the need for confidentiality to exist to all or part of the minutes. It was recommended to dispose of audio tapes from closed sessions on March 23, 2022, April 11, 2022, April 20, 2022, June 8, 2022, October 19, 2022, and October 26, 2022.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to open closed session minutes dated January 25, 2024 and to retain the closed session minutes dated February 20, 2024 at this time due to the need for confidentiality to exist to all or part of the minutes. It was recommended to dispose of audio tapes from closed sessions on March 23, 2022, April 11, 2022, April 20, 2022, June 8, 2022, October 19, 2022, and October 26, 2022. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the tentative FY25 Budget and set the date for the FY25 Budget Hearing on September 18, 2024.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the FY25 Tentative Budget for public review with total revenues in the amount of \$24,724,190.48 and total expenditures in the amount of \$23,744,613.43. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of a new activity account for the Class of 2028 at Fulton High School.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the new activity account at Fulton High School for the Class of 2028. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of closing the Stand Tall activity account at Fulton High School. The account has a zero-dollar balance and has not been in use for multiple school years.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Falls, to approve closing the Stand Tall activity account at Fulton High School. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the insurance policy premium submitted by Dykstra and Law. Deductible amounts were increased to help with increasing liability insurance costs.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the insurance policy submitted by Dykstra and Law through Selective Insurance. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Activity Fund Bonds and Treasurer Bond.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the Envision Insurance Group proposal for a one-year Activity Fund Bond with a premium of \$125 with a limit of \$100,000 for Rachel Snyder, a one-year Activity Fund Bond with a premium of \$100 with a limit of \$50,000 for Stacy Bueno, and a one-year Treasurer Bond with a premium of \$1,993 with a limit of \$2,000,000 for Jennifer Griser. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

The policy committee recommended approval of the first reading of select policy updates.

It was moved by Member Falls, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the first reading of select policy updates: 2:70, 2:125, 2:160, 2:260, 2:265, 4:15, 4:40, 4:70, 4:80, 4:140, 5:100, 5:130, 5:180, 5:200, 5:285, 5:310, 6:110, 6:140, 6:150, 6:230, 7:20, 7:170 and 7:185. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended seeking bids for snow removal for the 2024-25 school year.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to direct the superintendent to seek snow removal bids for the 2024-25 school year. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

There were no gifts to the district.

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

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Kendra Terry as 7th Grade Volleyball coach for the 2024-2025 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Angie Lopez as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School for the 2024-2025 School Year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jared Dickman as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School for the 2024-2025 School Year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Teegan Germann as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School for the 2024-2025 School Year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Kelsay Rieck as Cook’s Helper at Fulton High School, effective July 9, 2024.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Shane Malone as Cook’s Helper at Fulton High School for the 2024-2025 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Shauna Manon as Night Cleaner at Fulton High School.*
- *Approve the unpaid leave request of Lilly Cook, effective immediately until October 31, 2024.*
- *Approve the resignation of Bentley Butz as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School effective immediately.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Carter Mulderink as Night Cleaner at Fulton Elementary School.*
- *Approve Ally Reed as a volunteer Volleyball coach for the 2024-25 school year.*
- *Approve Kyle Jackson as volunteer Golf coach for the 2024-25 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Kari Green as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year.*
- *Approve Closed Session Minutes from June 19, 2024.*

Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

There was no closed session.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 6:30pm, at Fulton Elementary School.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:09pm. 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