

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

May 15, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend CUSD #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on May 15, 2024, at the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:31pm. Member Falls was appointed Secretary Pro-Tem. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary Pro-Tem, the following board members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, and Jay Ritchie; Absent: Eric Fish, Andrew Meyers and Mary Simmons; Others Present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Member Fish entered at 6:32pm)

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Dave Baisden, Dawna Borgman, Ray Borgman, Ahmed Elahmady, Khadija Elahmady, Michele James, Jeremy Leitzen, Amy Mitchell, Jack Mitchell, Josh Mitchell, Steven Olson, Aaron Portz, Brandon Snyder, Gavin Snyder, Rachel Snyder, and Rick Viskocil, Principals: Patrick Henrekin and Jeff Parsons, 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 Fish, 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.

Mr. Parsons introduced Khadija Elahmady, one of the Overall Steamers of the Quarter. Khadija will be attending Augustana College majoring in Biology and then plans to attend medical school. Her favorite high school memory was performing in the musical, *The Little Mermaid*.

Mr. Parsons also recognized Dave Baisden as the recipient of the Northwest Region of the Illinois Principals Association Certified Support Personnel Leadership Award. Mr. Baisden is retiring at the end of this school year after 40 years in education, six of those as the counselor at Fulton High School. Mr. Baisden's advice to everyone is try to solve your own problems and don't be afraid to fail.

Dr. Hogue recognized Rachel Snyder as the Northwest Region of the Illinois Principals Association Non-Certified Support Personnel Leadership Award recipient. Rachel has been with the district for nine years and has implemented many time and cost saving measures for the district.

Mr. Parsons introduced Ray Borgman to the board members. Mr. Borgman has been recommended for the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director position at Fulton High School.

Member Orman-Luker motioned to approve the recommendation to hire Ray Borgman as Assistant Principal/Athletic Director for Fulton High School starting July 1, 2024, Member Fish seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Mr. Borgman thanked the board and stated that he is looking forward to returning to his alma mater. He also stated he is most looking forward to getting to know, and re-know in some cases, the staff and families of the district.

Principal Reports. Mrs. Parsons shared with the board Stacy Germann received the Regional Office of Education's Jen Banks Marigold Award. Mr. Henrekin informed the board the middle school would like to add information regarding K9 drug searches to their student handbook. Mrs. Schipper asked the board members if there were any questions regarding the proposed high school handbook updates. Member Fish and Member Orman-Luker asked for language clarification on a few sentences in the updated discipline section. After discussion, some wording was changed for better comprehension.

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

- Alma, Lumen, and Infinite Campus presented the parent portal side of their respective Student Information Systems to the committee.
- Dr. Hogue informed the committee that negative lunch balances currently total over \$17,000. This is a running total, not just the 2023-2024 school year, and this amount has increased significantly since returning to paid lunches after COVID. Committee members shared they are not getting as many, or as detailed, emails regarding their student(s) lunch purchases with the switch to Titan/Linq as they did with PushCoin. The district will continue to look at options to recoup these overdue balances.
- Dr. Hogue shared with the committee he attended a safety training regarding protective bollards and fencing. These protective structures would help prevent vehicles from striking the school buildings.

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

- Review of the treasurer's report: With the final EAV and levy dollars the district now has to wait for early taxes to complete the revenue cycle for the budget. EBF funds and state categorical payments are up to date. The district anticipates getting the 4th quarter payment in July, which will be the new fiscal year. The transportation budget will be close to breaking even and if it looks like it finishes the year with a negative balance, the district will deposit a portion of one of the EBF checks into the transportation fund.
- Review of the Solar Energy carport proposal: Both Veregy and PMA were on hand to review the cash flow analysis for the projected project. Michele James, for Veregy, began by reviewing an updated cash flow projection that reported the overall cost of \$1.4 million along with the solar rebates totaling around \$600,000 and the solar offset cost. If the district paid cash for the project, the solar offset along with the federal and state offset rebates would allow the district to begin

making money in year 17 of the project life. Solar panels have a 30-year payback guarantee. Mark Hansen, from PMA, provided three options to pay for the project and an analysis of each option. The district could pay cash, finance for 10 years or 15 years. If the district paid cash, Mark warned that the cost of not having the funds for district use could lead to being cash strapped down the road. When looking at financing for 10 years, the district would see payback for the entire project in year 23. The cost to finance would be \$1.7 million. When looking to finance for 15 years, it would take 26 years to see a positive cash flow. In both financing scenarios, the district will forfeit 15% of the federal solar rebate due borrowing to pay for the project. The solar review information will be shared with the entire board at the regular board meeting.

- Updated budget amendment: The budget continues to be adjusted slightly for construction and curriculum costs that can be put into the existing year's budget to save expenses for the FY 25 budget. A final amended budget will be presented in June.

Dr. Hogue informed board members that registration for the Joint Annual Conference in Chicago opens on Monday June 3rd. Conference will be held on November 22nd through the 24th. Members Portz, Orman-Luker, and Falls as well as Dr. Hogue will be attending the conference. Jennifer will check with Member Simmons as she typically attends as well.

Dr. Hogue shared enrollment has decreased a few students, however, enrollment is still up from the start of the school year.

Dr. Hogue reminded board members of the River Bend Middle School 8th Grade Promotion on Thursday, May 16th at 7:0pm and Fulton High School Graduation on Sunday, May 19th at 2:00pm.

Michele James, Steve Olson, and Rick Viskocil, along with the high school intern students, Jack Mitchell and Aaron Portz, provided a construction update to the board members. Everything is moving along on schedule, some of the roof top units are even arriving ahead of schedule. Both students are enjoying the intern process. Both shared they had similar concerns initially that there would be a large volume of information shared right away and that there would be blue print reading. Aaron shared that this was not the case and that Steve and Rick have been sharing information at a good pace and he and Jack are learning a lot. Dr. Hogue asked the students if there had been any aspects of the construction process so far that either went quicker or slower than they thought. Jack shared he thought the process of laying the metal beams and trusses went faster than he anticipated and Aaron shared he thought the masonry process went quicker.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the consent agenda including the April 17, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes; April Treasurers Report; and May Bills Recommended for Payment in the amount of \$542,231.32 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended seeking bids for fuel for the 2024-2025 school year.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Falls, to authorize the superintendent to seek fuel bids for the 2024-25 school year. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

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

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish to approve the first reading of select policy updates: 2:40, 2:60, 2:140, 2:250-E1, 2:260, 2:265, 2:270, 4:20, 4:165, 4:190, 5:10, 5:20, 5:100, 5:120, 5:300, 6:60, 6:185, 7:10, 7:20, 7:180, 7:185. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the new activity account at the high school for the Trap Shooting Club.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Falls to approve the new activity account at the high school for the Trap Shooting Club. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the high school handbook changes, per discussion during the principal reports.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the changes to the high school handbook as amended. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the milk bid submitted by Enyeart Distributing.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the milk bid submitted to the co-op by Enyeart Distributing for the 2024-2025 school year. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the board the district received \$5,000 from LyondellBasell for high school science and technology supplies.

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

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the following personnel items:

- *Approve the FMLA/Maternity Leave request of Ashley Bustos, August 12, 2024 through September 30, 2024.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Zach Osborn as Math teacher at Fulton High School for the 2024-2025 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Angie Stone as K-12 Math Instructional Coach for the 2024-2025 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Candi Kuehl as 3rd Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School for the 2024-25 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Shanna Hudson as 3rd Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School for the 2024-25 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Ryan Dail as Media Pub Sponsor at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Emilee Droegmiller as Sophomore Class Sponsor at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2023-2024 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Steven Porter, Night Custodian at Fulton High School.*

Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

There was no closed session.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

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

Eric Fish, Secretary
Board of Education
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