

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

October 16, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on October 16, 2024, in the River Bend District Office Conference Room.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30pm. Upon roll call by the Secretary, the following board members were present: Eric Fish, Elizabeth Falls, Jane Orman-Luker, Andrew Meyers, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons, Absent: None. 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: Kyle DeMus, Paige Emerson, Bruce Kreider, Jill Kreider, Kaedence Kreider, Jeremy Leitzen, Eric Pessman, Miraya Pessman, Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Jeff Parsons and Assistant Principals: Ray Borgman and Kelli Parsons.

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. Parsons introduced the two 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Overall Steamers, Miraya Pessman and Kaedence Kreider. Both students are very involved in school and community activities and maintain high GPA's while taking multiple honors and dual credit courses. Miraya and Kaedence are both members of the Sauk Impact Program and will be attending Sauk after high school.

Mr. Parsons also informed the board there were more than 50 high school students that helped in a variety of ways during the town's Fall Fest. Mr. Parsons also recognized Paige Emerson for speaking to the seniors about ISAC. Mr. Parsons informed the board that the high school has 13 students enrolled in a Pathway Program, with the majority being in an Education Pathway. Mr. Borgman informed the board the high school had a March of Champions to send the golf athletes off to the State Tournament. The athletes paraded through all three buildings where they were greeted by cheers and good luck wishes.

Mr. Henrekin, Mr. Hoese, and Mrs. Parsons did not have any additions to their reports and the board members had no questions for them.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the River Bend Educational Foundation meeting held on October 8, 2024. Mini-grants were approved for teachers at just over \$11,000 and \$4,200 in Martin Fund

requests were also approved. The speaker has been confirmed for the Academic Excellence dinner in March, it will be Audrey Jones who works for the DNR.

Dr. Hogue reported on the October 16, 2024 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting.

- Dr. Hogue reviewed the SIS search from the previous school year and shared with the committee the district stayed with PowerSchool. Emily Phillips shared a video on MyPower Hub to highlight new features available to parents within PowerSchool. Committee members asked about grades syncing from Canvas to PowerSchool. Dr. Hogue asked for the principals to verify with staff that auto sync was turned on for all classes.
- Mr. Henrekin shared a slide presentation on the book *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. He would like to form a committee to dive deeper into the book and put together a plan of action to limit screen time and social media use in younger students. Jill Hamstra offered her thoughts on the book and agreed a deeper dive into it as a community was needed. Officer Leitzen shared that Clinton schools and Unity Christian schools have gone to a cell phone free policy for students. A survey will be created and sent out to different groups and organizations to help gather support in moving this program forward.
- Dr. Hogue shared that the next Strategic Planning meeting would be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 at Fulton Elementary School and invited all committee members to attend.

Dr. Hogue reported on the October 16, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting.

- Dr. Hogue reviewed the current treasurer's report.
- Kyle DeMus with Benning Group, LLC gave a FY24 audit report.
  - Overall it was a clean audit with no major findings.
  - The Operating Expense per Pupil decreased from the previous year.
  - The district had a financial profile score of 4.0 out of a 4.0.
- Dr. Hogue presented three levy options – flat, 10%, and 15%
  - The finance committee recommends the 10% option.

Dr. Hogue shared that enrollment is up by two students. The district continues to monitor the size of the kindergarten class and the possibility of adding a fourth section. Member Portz asked for preschool numbers to be added to the enrollment report to help predict the next school year numbers.

Kyle DeMus with Benning Group, LLC gave an overview of the FY24 audit report. Overall the report was good, the district had no major findings and only a few things of minor note. Mr. DeMus reported the district is doing a good job of being fiscally responsible and building reserve balances.

Dr. Hogue shared approximately twenty people attended the kick off meeting for the Strategic Plan. The next meeting will be on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the elementary school.

Dr. Hogue shared that Veregy has installed a drain in the new parking area at the elementary school. The parking lot lights have been installed and an additional camera pole will be installed soon.

Dr. Hogue shared three levy considerations with the board members, flat, 10%, and 15%. Dr. Hogue and the finance committee would like to move forward with preparing the 10% option for the levy hearing.

Dr. Hogue shared with the board members the district received a Meets Requirements designation on its annual LEA Determination review for districts implementing the requirements of the IDEA.

Dr. Hogue shared with the board plans to use the \$50,000 State Maintenance Grant for a PA system upgrade throughout the district. Dr. Hogue and Emily Phillips have met with a few companies and have more meetings scheduled. This upgrade is going to be quite costly depending on what type of system the district goes with.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the consent agenda including the September 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, October 2, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes, September Treasurers Report, and October Bills Recommended for Payment in the amount of \$536,279.15, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Fiscal Year 2024 audit presented by Benning Group, LLC.

*It was moved by member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit as presented. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of estimated board member expenses for the Triple I conference in Chicago in November for Member Orman-Luker, Member Portz, and Member Simmons.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve estimated board member expenses for the Triple I Conference. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the second reading, and adopt as policy, updates to policy 7:15-Student and Family Privacy Rights.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the second reading, and adopt as policy, the update to 7:15-Student and Family Privacy Rights, with amendments. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of Activity Fund Surety bonds.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve District Activity Surety Bonds for secretaries for an annual premium of \$200. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Workman’s Compensation Insurance proposal from Illinois Public Risk Fund. The premium increased approximately \$2,000 due to an increase in salaries.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the Workman’s Compensation Insurance Proposal as presented by Illinois Public Risk Fund for an annual premium of \$88,518.00. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion carried.*

Dr. Hogue informed the board that the high school football account received \$500 from Judith Lower.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Falls, to approve gifts to the district as presented.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion carried.*

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

- *Approve the internal transfer of Amy Portz to Head Cook at Fulton High School.*
- *Approve Ally Reed as Volunteer Girls Basketball coach for the 2024-25 school year.*

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Adrien Loncar as Freshman Girls Basketball coach at Fulton High School for the 2024-25 school year.*
- *Approve Logan Seesser as Volunteer Robotics coach for the 2024-25 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Lilly Cook, Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective October 4, 2024.*
- *Approve resignation of Teresa Harris, Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective October 10, 2024.*
- *Approve the resignation of Shauna Manon, Night Cleaner at Fulton High School, effective October 25, 2024.*

*Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Falls, yea*

*Member Portz, yea*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Meyers, 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, November 20, 2024, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

*It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.*

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

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