

RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2

1110 3RD STREET

FULTON, IL 61252

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

September 18, 2024

The Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on September 18, 2024, in the Fulton Elementary School Conference Room.

President Portz called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:33pm. Upon roll call by the Secretary, the following board members were present: Eric Fish, Elizabeth Falls, 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: Paige Emerson, Jeremy Leitzen, Jen Pepper, Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Jeff Parsons and Assistant Principal: Kelli Parsons.

President Portz asked for questions or comments from the public or the Board regarding the budget. There were no questions or comments from the public or the Board. Dr. Hogue indicated a few changes from the initial proposed budget at the August meeting due to an updated EAV projected amount and the potential addition of a fourth section of kindergarten.

There being no further discussion it was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the FY 25 Budget Hearing at 6:41pm. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:41pm. Upon roll call by the Secretary, the following board members were present: Eric Fish, Elizabeth Falls, Jane Orman-Luker, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons, Absent: Andrew Meyers. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

Additions to the agenda. Dr. Hogue added Manufacturing Dinner under Superintendent Report.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Ritchie, 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. Parsons had nothing to highlight, he did indicate that Mr. Borgman had items he wanted to discuss but was not present due to supervising homecoming activities. Member Portz did want to start the discussion on naming rights for the football field that Mr. Borgman had included on the high school report to give a direction for further research. The board members preferred the field be named after someone as opposed to looking for corporate sponsorship. Member Ritchie indicated that while a corporate sponsorship would bring in more money, he also would prefer to see the field named after someone.

Mr. Henrekin informed the board that 8th grade promotion will remain the same after reviewing the results from his survey. He also informed the board he has started gathering information regarding the Anxious Generation book he spoke about in August, but has not been able to sort through it to determine a starting point as the start of the year has kept him busy. Dr. Hogue will also discuss this at the next Citizens Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr. Hoese shared that construction is almost complete, there are just a couple of smaller projects left that will hopefully be completed by the end of the month. The new teachers to the district have completed Capturing Kids Hearts training and are looking forward to bringing their newly learned skills to the classroom. The elementary school will also be putting a committee together to research a new science curriculum for next year.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Annual Safety Meeting held on August 27, 2024. The new additions at the elementary school and preschool will be getting the window film installed, the district will continue with drug dog walk through, and will look to upgrade the internal PA system with grant dollars. Dr. Hogue attended a safety training meeting at Sauk Valley where evacuation and reunification plans were shared from multiple school districts. Through this meeting and discussion with local emergency responders, it has been determined that the district will look at other sites for a main reunification site. Designating a different location allows local emergency responders to use the fire station as their base of operations and also moves students, staff, and parents further away from a potential situation. Member Falls would like to see district staff take the FEMA courses for reunification.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the River Bend Educational Foundation meeting held on September 10, 2024. Multiple Martin Estate requests were approved and fall mini grants will be approved at the October meeting. The Academic Excellence dinner is scheduled for March 1, 2025 and multiple speakers have been suggested.

Dr. Hogue reported on the September 18, 2024 Facilities Committee Meeting.

- Scott Johnson provided the committee with the Health Life Safety (HLS) inspection results.
 - Overall the inspection went well. The preschool had no violations, the elementary school had 11, the middle school had 10, and the high school had 14 violations.
 - Scott provided a list of the items to be addressed and a cost to address them.
- Maintenance Grant will be used to update the internal PA system and address door concerns from the HLS inspection.
- High School sport spaces – Scott Johnson will provide options for additional storage and practice space for wrestling, baseball, and softball at the November Facilities Committee Meeting.

Dr. Hogue reported on the September 18, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting.

- Review of the treasurer's report: The construction bond funds will skew the year to year comparisons. Will monitor transportation fund and add EBF payment funds if needed. The Ed Fund decreased reserves due to the addition of the preschool.
- Budget Update – the predicted EAV increased by \$10,000,000 and will cause an increase to local revenue.

- Levy Review – Dr. Hogue, Rachel, and Kelli met with Bob from PMA to discuss levy options.
 - Current plan was to reduce the IMRF, SS and or Tort levies to offset the payment of the \$547,000 bond for the HS bathrooms. This would have kept our levy flat. The district did offset the levy request last year and it worked great.
 - Over the last two years the EAV has gone up significantly. When the EAV goes up the tax rate naturally lowers. When Dr. Hogue was putting levy amounts into the Excel document, he noticed that by decreasing our IMRF, SS and Tort funds, our tax rate was lowering significantly. Dr. Hogue also realized that in two years our Bond and Interest levy will increase to cover the current construction bond of \$3.8 million. For the next two years we will not see the impact of the bond levy increasing because we are paying a previous bond of \$3.5 million.
 - Having the tax rate drop is always good, but in this situation, the district might want to keep it flat or increase it slightly as we prepare for the slight tax rate increase in two years when the bond repayment begins. The only amounts we can modify in the levy are IMRF, SS and Tort. By modifying the requests and using reserves we can modify the levy request and decrease the impact of tax rate drops for two years.
 - To understand all this, you have to keep the reserves of each fund in mind as well as the budget need for each of the funds.
 - Tort need \$501,000, reserves \$133,000; IMRF need \$90,000, reserves \$446,809; SS need \$200,000, reserves \$143,000
 - The district is planning to lower the amount of our levy request to cover the \$90,000 needed to pay back the bathroom bond payment of \$90,000.
 - At the next board meeting, Dr. Hogue will provide three levy request samples each manipulating the amount the district is requesting from the IMRF, SS and Tort funds.
 - This year's tax rate was **4.432** the three levy requests need to be compared to the current tax rate to see the impact.
 - Levy request 1 tax rate = 4.3802 (\$90,000 home impact - savings of \$15.00)
 - Levy request 2 tax rate = 4.4274 (\$90,000 home impact - savings of \$1.38)
 - Levy request 3 tax rate = 4.465 (\$90,000 home impact - additional increase of \$9.84)
 - The finance committee recommended Levy Request 3 as the base levy.

Dr. Hogue informed the board members of the Northwest Division meeting on October 2, 2024 in Rock Falls. There is no virtual option this year. Dr. Hogue and Member Orman-Luker would like to attend the meeting.

Dr. Hogue shared that enrollment is up 17 students from the end of the 2023-24 school year. The district is keeping an eye on the current kindergarten class numbers and may need to split them into four sections.

Dr. Hogue introduced Mrs. Pepper to discuss paid student community involvement and work study placements. Dr. Hogue informed the board that one of the local businesses would only accept a community involvement student for placement if they could pay them for the work they completed while there. While the intent of the community involvement class is for students to learn about and experience day to day interactions in a future field of interest, Mrs. Pepper and Dr. Hogue feel this allows for opportunity for growth of the course. Board members shared concerns that students would seek out the businesses that provide pay as opposed to choosing placements that they were genuinely

interested in as well as the risk management side of things. Mr. Parsons and Paige Emerson both agreed that it is a good opportunity for students and Paige indicated students may actually take the course more seriously if they are getting paid to learn about something they are interested in. Mrs. Pepper and Dr. Hogue shared that other area districts, as well as the Whiteside Area Career Center, provides this opportunity for students and have sought their input as to how to proceed with allowing this in River Bend.

Dr. Hogue shared with the board that he, Mrs. Parsons and Mrs. Schipper met to discuss and start the basic framework for the District Strategic Plan. Dr. Hogue is looking to hold an informational meeting for the community in October to inform them what and why the district is going through this process and to find those interested in being on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Dr. Hogue informed the board that Gary Wolfe will be retiring at the end of the school year. Dr. Hogue presented a few different transition plans so that the person hired to replace Gary will have some time to train with him. Dr. Hogue and Gary will work on updating the job description and will post the position in the next few weeks.

Dr. Hogue shared with the board that the timeline for this year's elections cycle has been moved up. Petitions for those wanting to run for an open board seat are due to the County Clerk's office between November 12th and the 18th. Dr. Hogue will prepare a letter to be shared with the community informing them of the seats open for voting and how to obtain a petition if they are interested in running.

Dr. Hogue informed the board of the Sauk Valley Manufacturing dinner taking place on October 10, 2024. Dr. Hogue, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Borgman, Mrs. Pepper, and Mrs. Parsons will be attending. Member Portz, Member Fish, and Member Ritchie would also like to attend.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the August 7, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes; August Treasurers Report; and September Bills Recommended for Payment in the amount of \$1,013,208.43, subject to audit. 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 presented the FY25 budget and recommended approval

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the FY25 budget with total revenues of \$24,194,051.70 and total expenditures of \$23,126,156.65. 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 posting the 2024-25 projected administrative compensation report and the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report for school year 2024 on the website.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve posting on the webpage the 2024-25 Projected Administrative Compensation Report and the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report for the school year 2024. 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 two bids were received for snow removal. Dr. Hogue recommended approving of the bid submitted by Jody Bielema, the lower of the two bids received and the district’s current plow company.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the snow removal bid submitted by Jody Bielema at a rate of \$700 per plow and \$900 per plow if eight (8) inches or more of snow per storm. This is an increase of \$75 per regular plow and \$75 per plow of over eight inches. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

The policy committee recommended approval of the second reading of select policy updates and adopt as policy.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the second reading of select policy updates and adopt as policy: 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 Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the addition of a stipend for 6th grade girls and boys basketball coaches at the middle school.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the addition of a 6th grade girls and 6th grade boys’ basketball coach at River Bend Middle School.

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 a student’s request to complete their senior year of classes online so that they are able to take advantage of an internship and employment opportunity with Veregy.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the request for Aaron Portz to complete senior year requirements online to secure a position with Veregy. 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 closing the Fulton High School Class of 2024 Activity Account.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve closing the Fulton High School Class of 2024 Activity Account with a remaining balance of \$152.97 and transfer the entire remaining balance to the Class of 2025. 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 Steamer Suite contract with Central Bank for continued naming rights. Member Fish pointed out a grammatical error on the first page of the contract.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the three-year Steamer Suite contract with Central Bank as amended. 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 ten (10) tables and one card catalog at Fulton Elementary School as surplus goods and to dispose of in an appropriate manner. If the elementary school has no plans for the tables, Dr. Hogue will reach out to Barb Mask to see if she would like them for the Drives building.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to declare ten (10) tables and one card catalog at Fulton Elementary School as surplus goods and to 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 recommended approval of the Fulton Elementary School handbook changes. These changes are based off of the IPA model student handbook.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the changes to the Fulton Elementary School Handbook 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 first reading of policy update 7:15-Student and Family Privacy Rights. Member Orman-Luker would like to see clearer language regarding when parent notification will be made. Member Orman-Luker would also like the word general to be removed from the section under Notification of Rights and Procedures, section one, the policy is available upon request from the administrative office.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the first reading of policy update 7:15-Student and Family Privacy Rights, with amendments. 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 Stipend MOU between the Board of Education and River Bend Education Association regarding retirees and stipends.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the Stipend MOU between the Board of Education and the River Bend Education Association as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Fish, nay

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the board that the high school FFA group received \$500 from the National FFA group.

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

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

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Brooke Barsema as One-on-One Paraprofessional at River Bend Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year.*
- *Approve Leneva Roseboom as Volunteer Cheer Coach for the 24-25 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jennifer Smith as Freshman Class Sponsor for the 2024-25 school year.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Wrestling Coaches for the 24-25 school year: Russ McCallister, Aaron Kuebel, Seth Spooner, and Justin Terry.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Robotics Coaches for the 24-25 school year: Marty Brubaker and Sarah Brubaker.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Kraig Schipper as 6th Grade Boys Basketball Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 24-25 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Thomas Eden as 6th Grade Girls Basketball Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 24-25 school year.*
- *Approve the removal of Kole Schipper as Volunteer Football coach.*
- *Approve the resignation of Trish Glazier as Head Cook at Fulton High School, effective October 4, 2024, unless longer is needed to train the replacement.*

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, October 16, 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 8:54pm. 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