

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

August 12, 2026

The e-Learning Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on August 12, 2026, in the District Office Conference Room.

President Portz called the e-Learning Hearing to order at 6:31pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Kyle Folk, Dan Portz, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Andrew Meyers, Jay Ritchie, and Travis Temple. Others present: Kelli Parsons, Superintendent, Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary, and Paige Emerson, Student Liaison.

President Portz led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Ella Folk, Magen Folk, Sara Gaskill, Stacy Gates, Jeremy Leitzen, Brock Mason, and David Smither; Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoesse, and Jeff Parsons; Assistant Principals: Nicole Bowers and Aimee Marten.

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum on the e-Learning Plan. There was no public comment.

Mrs. Parsons shared that this was a routine three year renewal and shared the previously submitted plan.

There being no further discussion, it was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the e-Learning Hearing at 6:34pm Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:34pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Kyle Folk, Dan Portz, and Mary Simmons. Absent: Andrew Meyers, Jay Ritchie, and Travis Temple. Others present: Kelli Parsons, Superintendent, Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary, and Paige Emerson, Student Liaison.

President Portz led all present in a relationship and culture building activity where everyone took a turn sharing something they would like as a tool to help them be more efficient at their job.

There were no additions to the agenda.

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

President Portz asked if there was any information the RBEA would like to share. Ms. Gates stated there was nothing to share at this time.

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum. Ella Folk and Magen Folk both spoke in support of Mr. Parsons being the Varsity Girls Basketball Coach at the high school

for the year. They both stated the students were excited to play and more students attended summer camps than in previous years.

The middle school and high school new staff were not able to attend the board meeting. The middle school has Kraig Schipper and Patrick R Lower joining the staff in addition to Anna Olson who attended the June Board of Education Meeting. Elise Vogel will also be joining the middle school in the new ROE ALOP position. The high school will be welcoming a new paraprofessional, Emily Wilkins, as well as Shelby Rolston moving to the high school from the middle school. The elementary school introduced Sara Gaskill who will be teaching 3rd grade this year as well as Brock Mason who was also hired by the ROE for the ALOP position. They also have Olivia Sullivan joining as the Speech Language Pathologist who was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Parsons and Mrs. Bowers shared that the high school had a very productive, four hour long, School Improvement Meeting where they were able to cross many things off the to-do list. Mr. Parsons shared that he is still working out the scheduling viewing kinks with the switch from Schedule Star to Arbiter. Unfortunately all of the games and events did not transfer as seamlessly as we had hoped. Once everything has been checked, the calendars online will be accurate and live with any changes going forward. Mr. Henrekin shouted out Ms. Loncar for all the work she put into the new teacher mentor meeting. Mr. Hoese and Mrs. Marten shared that summer cleaning went very well and their building was ready for staff earlier than Mr. Hoese remembers from years past.

Paige had no updates since the previous meeting.

Mrs. Parsons shared enrollment numbers as of the beginning of August. Overall, the district is down ten students from the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Mrs. Parsons shared that the first day back for staff is Tuesday, August 18th and invited the board members to breakfast at the high school. After breakfast the staff will have a short welcome back meeting followed by professional development before having lunch and heading to their respective buildings.

Mrs. Parsons shared that there was a conflict with the September Board of Education meeting date due to it being held during homecoming week. It was decided the meeting will be moved to Monday, September 14, 2026.

Mrs. Parsons shared that a board member from Unity met with her about their old preschool building. Mrs. Parsons and the district office staff toured the building and felt it would need too many upgrades and changes to suit their needs. Mrs. Parsons has asked Veregy to price out demolishing the building and creating a parking lot.

Mrs. Parsons shared that she spoke with the ROE regarding evaluation of Mr. Parsons. Both Mr. Tennyson and Mr. Knuth at the ROE have gone through the proper training to evaluate principals and either one would be willing to provide that service for the district.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the consent agenda, including the June 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, July Treasurer's Report, and authorize Dan Portz and Andrew Meyers to approve August Bills Recommended for Payment, when ready by the business office, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the tentative FY27 Budget, and to set the date for the FY27 Budget Hearing on September 14, 2026 at 6:30pm.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the FY27 tentative budget for public review with total revenues in the amount of \$19,858,778.28 and total expenditures in the amount of \$24,962,630.66. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of a new activity account at Fulton High School for the Class of 2030.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the new activity account at Fulton High School for the Class of 2030. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended closing the activity account at Fulton High School for the Class of 2026 and transferring the remaining funds to the other classes. Mrs. Parsons also let the board members know that Rachel has identified dormant activity accounts and they will be working with the principals to use or transfer any remaining funds and closing those accounts.

It was moved by Member Falls, seconded by Member Folk, to approve closing the Class of 2026 activity account at Fulton High School with a remaining balance of \$70.71 and split as follows: \$17.68 to the Class of 2027, \$17.68 to the Class of 2028, \$17.68 to the Class of 2029, and \$17.67 to the Class of 2030. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended seeking bids for snow removal for the 2026-2027 school year.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Simmons, to direct the superintendent to seek snow removal bids for the 2026-2027 school year. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

Closed session minutes were reviewed. Minutes dated January 21, 2026 and January 28, 2026 were recommended to be opened and to retain closed session minutes dated March 18, 2026 and May 20, 2026 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 January 25, 2024, February 20, 2024, June 19, 2024, October 2, 2024, November 20, 2024, and January 18, 2025.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Falls, to open minutes dated January 21, 2026 and January 28, 2026 and retain closed session minutes dated March 18, 2026 and May 20, 2026 at this time due to the need for confidentiality to exist to all or part of the minutes; and to dispose of audio tapes from closed sessions on January 25, 2024, February 20, 2024, June 19, 2024, October 2, 2024, November 20, 2024, and January 18, 2025. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the contract with Arbiter Pay. This program will be used to pay all game officials online versus writing checks. Arbiter Pay will also send 1099's as needed.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the contract with Arbiter Pay at a cost of \$1,870. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the districts e-Learning plan and to submit to ISBE for renewal.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the district's e-Learning Program for use and submit to ISBE for renewal. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the first reading of select policy updates. Member Folk asked about the change in number of minutes for public comment. The brochures placed out for public use will need to be updated once the policy is adopted.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the first reading of select policy updates: 2:230, 3:70, 4:175, 5:40, 5:70, 5:110, 5:140, 5:240, 6:70, 6:80, 6:190, 7:30, 7:80, 7:130, 7:330, 8:10, 8:70. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of a new activity account at the high school for Culture Club. Upon Mrs. Williams return from the Europe trip with students, she expressed a desire to start a Culture Club at the high school. The club will be open to all students, whether they decide to travel or not. The activity account will help with collecting funds for future trips for things like gratuities and money exchange.

It was moved by Member Falls, seconded by Member Folk, to approve a new activity account for the Culture Club at Fulton High School. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the Masonry Contract as well as any alternates the board agreed they would like to move forward with. After discussion, board members decided to move forward with the backlit exterior sign and sidewalk lighting.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the Masonry Contract with Jimmy Z'Masonry for \$1,768,650 for the middle school gymnasium as well as alternate options of backlit exterior signs and sidewalk lighting. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of purchasing a van. This van would not be used for student transportation and would be replacing a van totaled out by insurance due to an accident. This van would be purchased using ed funds.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the purchase of a van, with a cost not to exceed the state bid cost of \$44,458. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons shared that the district received \$500 from Katie Floming for high school football and \$800 from the National FFA Foundation for high school FFA.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Simmons, to accept gifts to the district as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

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

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Lee Salazar as Assistant Track Coach at Fulton High School, for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Dan Wilkins as JV Football Coach at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Megan Facio as Fulton Middle School Pep Club Sponsor, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Patrick R Lower as JV Football Coach at Fulton High School, for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve Dan Wilkins as Volunteer Football Coach at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Mary Stephenson as Cook's Helper at Fulton High School, effective the start of the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Brock Mason as 6th Grade Boys Basketball at Fulton Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jennifer Smith as Student Council Sponsor at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve Angie Eacker as Volunteer Volleyball Coach at Fulton Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve Jeff Parsons as Varsity Girls Basketball Coach at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve Ryan Voss as Varsity Girls Golf Coach at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year.*

Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Motion carried.

There was no closed session.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

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

Mary Simmons, Secretary
Board of Education
River Bend CUSD #2
Whiteside County