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 14, 2026

The Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on September 14, 2026, in the District Office Conference Room.

President Portz called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:31pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Kyle Folk, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, Mary Simmons, and Travis Temple. Absent: Andrew Meyers. 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: John Dail, Jeremy Leitzen, and Tim Manon; Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, 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 FY27 Budget. There was no public comment.

Mrs. Parsons shared there were a few changes from the budget shared in August based on newly received revenue figures.

There being no further discussion, it was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Falls, to adjourn the Budget Hearing at 6:33pm Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:33pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Kyle Folk, Dan Portz, Jay Ritchie, Mary Simmons, and Travis Temple. Absent: Andrew Meyers. 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 a team building activity they had taken part in that left a memorable impression.

Mrs. Parsons added Connecting Corridor Renovation Work to the Superintendent's Report section.

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

(Member Meyers entered at 6:44pm)

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

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum. Mr. Manon read a statement to the board regarding an issue his student had been experiencing the first month of school.

Mr. Henrekin had no further information to share outside of his board report, he stated the start of the year is going well. Mr. Parsons and Mrs. Bowers shared that ACT scores have improved overall. They hope to have a deep dive into scores compared to area schools in October or November. Mr. Hoese and Mrs. Marten shared that the new ALOP position with the ROE is going very well and has been well received by staff and parents.

Paige had no updates since the previous meeting. Member Portz shared an article with Paige regarding AI and asked that she get student input similar to the article.

Mrs. Parsons shared highlights from the Safety Committee meeting. Member Falls inquired about all staff participating in yearly Run/Hide/Fight training. Principals shared information on intruder drills that are run each year.

Mrs. Parsons shared highlights from the Finance Committee meeting. The committee reviewed changes made to the budget, reviewed the treasurer's report, and discussed the levy presentation timeline. Mrs. Parsons will be attending multiple professional development days focused on preparing the levy.

Mrs. Parsons shared the date for the IASB Northwest Division meeting taking place in October in Lanark, IL. Mrs. Parsons and Member Portz will attend the meeting in person. Other board members may be interested in signing up to attend virtually if there is a recording that will be shared to view after the meeting.

Mrs. Parsons shared enrollment numbers remain steady to start the school year.

Mrs. Parsons shared that a summary of FOIA requests will now be included in the monthly board information packet.

Mrs. Parsons shared a letter from a high school student requesting to graduate an entire year early. This student will have all of their high school required credits completed at the end of their junior year. The student would like to start college right away as they plan to become a lawyer. The board will vote on this in October.

Mrs. Parsons shared the overdrawn lunch account balance totals for each building. Board members discussed ways to recoup these funds and suggested reaching out to area districts to see what processes they are using.

Mrs. Parsons shared the first semester Professional Development Plan for certified staff for early release days. The district will continue to focus on teaching and learning with Mark Hansen but at a slower pace than first laid out.

Mrs. Parsons shared information on grants the district has received from ADM and LyondellBasell as well as gathering potential uses for the State Maintenance Grant. The funds received from ADM will go towards OSHA training and a greenhouse. The funds from LyondellBassell will be used towards welding equipment.

The principals shared handbook updates received over the summer from the Illinois Principal's Association. The board members had no questions on the updates.

Mrs. Parsons shared that there has been discussion of changing the hours of the District Office. The office would be open every day from 7:30am until 3:30pm instead of being open until 4:00pm. The district office staff has been gathering information over the last month and with the exception of one afternoon, any calls that had been received after 3:30pm could have been handled the next business day.

Mrs. Parsons shared an updated plan from Veregy for work being done to the corridor that connects the elementary and middle schools.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Folk, to move into closed session for the purposes of discussing matters concerning the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors or volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, student concerns, or real estate at 8:02pm. Roll Call Vote

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Falls, to come out of closed session for the purposes of discussing matters concerning the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors or volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, student concerns, or real estate at 8:19pm. Roll Call Vote

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the consent agenda, including the August 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, August Treasurer's Report, and September Bills Recommended for Payment in the amount of $2,192,439.05, subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the FY27 Budget.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the FY27 Budget with total revenue of $19,992,278.28 and total expenditures of $25,021,130.66. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of posting the 2026-27 Projected Administrative Compensation Report and the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report for school year 2026 on the website.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve posting on the website the 2026-2027 Projected Administrative Compensation Report and the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefit Report for the school year 2025-2026. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the snow removal bid submitted by Jody Bielema for the 2026-2027 school year.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the bid submitted by Jody Bielema for $750 per plow; $925 per plow if eight (8) or more inches of snow. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the second reading of select policy updates and to adopt as policy.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the second reading of select policy updates and adopt as policy: 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 Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approving a laminator at Fulton Elementary School and a snow plow and maroon van from the transportation department as surplus goods and to dispose of in an appropriate manner.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Temple, to approve disposal of surplus goods as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended closing the following activity accounts at the high school as they are no longer in use: Muddy River Baseball, Book Club, SADA, and Honor.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Falls, to approve closing the following activity accounts at the high school, as they are no longer in use: Muddy River Baseball with a balance of $286.52 being transferred to Boys' Baseball; Book Club with a balance of $73.95 being transferred to Library; SADA with a balance of $178.33 being transferred to the Student Fund; Honor with a balance of $9.92 being transferred to the Student Fund. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approving board policy 7:70 as the district's Absenteeism and Truancy Policy to submit to ISBE.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Temple, to approve Policy 7:70 as written as the district's Absenteeism and Truancy Policy and submit to ISBE. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons shared that Unity had reached out asking for the district to provide transportation, at a cost to be determined, to transport River Bend students who attend Unity's before and after school programs to and from Unity Daycare Center to Fulton Elementary School.

There was no first or second for the motion to provide transportation for River Bend students attending Unity Day Care, therefore, the motion died.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the MOU with ROE 47 to have Regional Superintendent Chris Tennyson conduct the evaluation for Mr. Parsons, Fulton High School Principal.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the MOU with the Regional Office of Education 47 for the Regional Superintendent to conduct the evaluation for Mr. Parsons. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

There were no gifts to the district to approve this month.

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

- *Approve the resignation, with the intent to retire, of Shelby Coit, Special Education Teacher at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2029-2030 school year, under the terms of Article VII, section 7.2 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Maria Facio as ESL Paraprofessional at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jesse McDonald as ESL Paraprofessional at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Caleb Hesse as Technology Aide at Fulton Middle School, effective September 11, 2026.*
- *Approve the resignation of Caleb Hesse as Robotics Coach at Fulton High School, effective September 11, 2026.*
- *Approve Audrey Vogt as Volunteer Volleyball Coach at Fulton Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jesse McDonald as Robotics Coach at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Ryan Snyder as K-8 Technology Aide*

Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Folk, to move into closed session for the purposes of discussing matters concerning the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors or volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, student concerns, or real estate at 8:43pm. Roll Call Vote

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to come out of closed session for the purposes of discussing matters concerning the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors or volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, student concerns, or real estate at 9:19pm. Roll Call Vote

Member Falls, yea *Member Ritchie, yea*
Member Folk, yea *Member Simmons, yea*
Member Meyers, yea *Member Temple, yea*
Member Portz, yea

Motion carried.

The motion regarding the purchase of real estate property was tabled to the October Board of Education meeting.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 6:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Falls, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. 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