

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

February 18, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, in the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30pm. Upon roll call by the Secretary, the following board members were present: Elizabeth Falls, Kyle Folk, Andrew Meyers, Dan Portz, Mary Simmons, and Travis Temple, Absent: Jay Ritchie. Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Kelli Parsons, Assistant 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: Cara Guenther, Kris Guenther, Lauren Guenther, David Read, Jessa Read, Tara Read, Jamie Snyder, and Brooklyn Thoms; Principals: Patrick Henrekin, and Jeffrey Hoese; Assistant Principal: Aimee Marten.

President Portz led all present in a relationship and culture building activity where everyone had forty five seconds to draw a bicycle. Everyone then shared their drawing and discussion was had on the different ways to communicate directions to different people.

There were no additions to the agenda.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, 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. Mrs. Snyder stated there was nothing to share at this time.

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. Hoese and Mr. Henrekin shared FastBridge data from fall and winter benchmark testing. The principals shared that they use this data to implement intervention services for those students falling in the needs improvement category. Members Falls and Folk would like to see data comparison for the grade levels from last school year to this one to see if there is improvement or any other trends. The elementary school and middle school had no updates to their board reports to share and there were no other questions from the board members.

(Jeff Parsons and Nicole Bowers arrived at 6:37pm)

Mr. Parsons introduced the Illinois State Scholars who were present at the meeting, Lauren Guenther, Jessa Read, Brooklyn Thoms, and Tyler Barsema who was unable to attend. Dr. Hogue shared

that he had nominated, and was notified earlier in the day, that Brooklyn Thoms had been selected as the 2026 YWCA Junior Woman of Achievement. Brooklyn will be honored at a dinner in March.

Mr. Parsons also shared that over the weekend Kerby Germann had won wrestling sectionals and will be competing at wrestling state at the end of the month and Paige Emerson also placed at speech sectionals and will be competing at speech state this coming weekend.

Paige shared survey results with the board members asking high school students for their input on current class offerings and what they would like to see changed and/or added.

Member Simmons shared highlights from the River Bend Education Foundation Meeting.

- The Academic Excellence Dinner will be held on February 28, 2026, Brent Houzenga the speaker for the dinner will also spend time with the art classes the following week.
- The foundation's yearly fundraising campaign went extremely well this year.
- Mini Grant requests from teachers will be considered at the March meeting.

Dr. Hogue shared some highlights from the Facilities Committee Meeting:

- The committee looked ahead to summer work items and compiled a list of approximately thirty items to address over the summer. Many of the projects can be completed in house, the district will need to go out for quotes for the ones that cannot.
- The committee also discussed the middle school gymnasium build. The district is looking at a few grant options to furnish the fitness space.

Dr. Hogue shared some highlights from the Finance Committee meeting:

- The treasurer's report was reviewed.
- Bonding options were reviewed.
- The estimated insurance cost increase to the district is \$300,000 if nothing changes with the current plan.

Dr. Hogue reminded board members of the IASB Division meeting being held at Fulton High School on March 5, 2026. All board members have been signed up for the meeting.

Dr. Hogue shared that enrollment remains steady and the district continues to keep an eye on grade level sizes to determine if more sections need to be added or if some grades that have four sections currently can be decreased back down to three sections.

Dr. Hogue shared that the district should have the thirty percent drawing of the gymnasium addition to present at the March board meeting. He stated we should also be able to go out to bid for the roof coating in March with the work to be done in April.

Mrs. Parsons shared that all staff have spent two inservice days working on grade level criteria for each Steamer Success Indicator that will be used to show students are showing growth in an indicator. The work will be compiled into one document for fine tuning.

Dr. Hogue, Mr. Hoese, and Mrs. Marten presented information on a procedure for parents to request advance placement for students entering kindergarten. There would be multiple levels of testing and evaluation the student would have to excel in prior to being recommended for advanced placement.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the consent agenda, including the January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, January 21, 2026 Closed Session Minutes, January 28, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes, January 28, 2026 Closed Session Minutes, January Treasurer's Report, and February Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$162,313.59 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue presented the 2026-2027 calendar for approval.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the 2026-27 School Calendar as presented. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Surety Bond.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the \$1,250,000 General Obligation Surety Bond for Jennifer Griser with Envision Insurance Group for \$1,003.00. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Member Portz recommended adding Kelli Parsons to the district bank accounts at this time and removing Dr. Hogue at the end of the school year.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Folk, to approve adding Kelli Parsons to the district bank accounts with Central Bank, Community State Bank, and Clock Tower Community Bank and removing Darryl Hogue May 31, 2026. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approving the kiln at Fulton Elementary School as a surplus good and to dispose of in an appropriate manner. The current kiln is older and will be replaced.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Falls, to approve declaring the kiln at Fulton Elementary School as a surplus good and dispose of in an appropriate manner. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approving the resolution setting forth and describing in detail claims heretofore authorized and allowed for proper school purposes which are presently outstanding and unpaid, declaring the intention to issue not to exceed \$12,250,000 bonds for the purpose of paying claims against the District, and directing that notice of such intention be published as provided by law.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the resolution as presented. Roll Call Vote.

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue shared the district received \$20,500 from Athletic Boosters for high school sports divided up between the activity accounts as follows: \$2,000 to Football, \$2,000 to Volleyball, \$2,000 to Boys Basketball, \$2,000 to Girls Basketball, \$2,000 to Wrestling, \$2,000 to Baseball, \$2,000 to Softball, \$1,000 to Boys Track, \$1,000 to Girls Track, \$500 to Bass Fishing, \$2,000 to Golf, and \$2,000 to Cheerleading.

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

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Folk, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Temple, yea</i>

Motion carried.

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

- *Approve the internal transfer of Dave Sheckler from Van Driver to Bus Driver, effective January 29, 2026.*
- *Approve the internal transfer of Elizabeth Wessels from History/ELA Teacher at River Bend Middle School to K-8 PE/Health Teacher, effective the 2026-27 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Sam Stephan, Night Custodian at River Bend Middle School, effective January 26, 2026.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jared Wessels as Assistant Track Coach at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the internal transfer of Kendrick Yates from Night Custodian at Fulton High School to Night Custodian at River Bend Middle School, effective February 3, 2026.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Tori Toppert as Van Driver, effective February 6, 2026.*
- *Approve the resignation of Tracia Lesniewski as Paraprofessional at Fulton Blended Preschool, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.*
- *Approve Jay Ritchie as a Volunteer Track Coach at River Bend Middle School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve Daniel Hartman as Volunteer Track Coach at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Bass Fishing Coaches at Fulton High School for the 2025-26 school year: Grant Ganzer and Mike Kramer.*

Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

There was no closed session.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Temple, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm. 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