

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

March 19, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on March 19, 2025, 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: Elizabeth Falls, Eric Fish, Andrew Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, 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: Paige Emerson, Kyle Folk, Magen Folk, Amanda Fosdick, Michele James, Jeremy Leitzen, Aimee Marten, Beth McGovern, Colin McGovern, Tim Phelps, Kira Wilson and Sarah Wilson; Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Jeff Parsons and Assistant Principals: Ray Borgman and Kelli Parsons.

President Portz led all present in a relationship and culture building activity where everyone took a turn sharing a high, low, or cheer.

Dr. Hogue added Board Retreat and Training to the Superintendent Report section.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyers, 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. Kyle Folk spoke on the need to get information out to, and in turn get input from, the residents regarding the possible fieldhouse expansion.

Principal Reports. Mr. Parsons introduced the two Overall Steamers of the Quarter for 3rd Quarter, Kira Wilson and Colin McGovern. Both students are very involved in extra curriculars and are taking dual credit classes.

Member Portz thanked the principals for the discipline graph in their reports. He shared that he found it interesting that in each building there has been a similar uptick in the number of discipline issues. Member Portz asked Paige to take this back to the student groups as well and see why students think there has been an uptick in discipline issues.

Mr. Hoese shared the science curriculum team has decided on a new curriculum and will have a recommendation at the April board meeting. The elementary school is also looking at a new writing curriculum for grades K-2. Mr. Hoese also shared that family fun night went well with many families attending and recognized Lora Fish for heading up the committee all the hard work that went into

planning the night. Mr. Hoese also shared that he will be presenting on Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH) at the IL Principals conference in the fall.

Mr. Henrekin shared that the 8th grade students took a trip to the Holocaust museum and received multiple kudos from staff members at the museum as to how well behaved and engaged the students were.

Mr. Parsons shared that he will be presenting on the high school's student to staff CKH affirmations at the Regional Office of Education. The high school has three students who have completed their Education Pathways Endorsements. Mr. Parsons also shared that freshmen registration went well and the high school recently hosted a career day where many of the presenters were Fulton alumni. Member Portz asked that Mr. Parsons send out a letter regarding senior pranks again, similar to the letter sent to students and parents last school year. Member Orman-Luker asked why the spring play was being held on a Saturday night and Sunday afternoon, instead of on Friday and Saturday nights. Mr. Parsons explained that due to the play falling on Dutch Days weekend, the high school wanted to stay away from the Friday night activities for Dutch Days. Mr. Borgman informed the board members that spring sports have hit the ground running and baseball and softball were able to play their first games of the season. Mr. Borgman also supplied the board members with information for a stipend request for a girls wrestling coach that he will present for approval at the April board meeting.

Paige Emerson shared the information she gathered from students regarding e-learning days. Overall the students like e-learning as they get to stay home and some of them like the shorter day. Paige would like to have recent graduates come back to the school and share with current students any tips or tricks, or wish I would have knowns, prior to graduation. The where and how will be discussed at the high school.

Member Portz introduced Aimee Marten, who has been recommended for the Assistant Principal position at Fulton Elementary School. Aimee has been working in the district for 18 years and is ready and excited to move on to the next level within the district.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the March 11, 2025 River Bend Education Foundation Meeting. Member Orman-Luker reported that the Foundation approved just over \$10,000 in mini grant requests and just over \$1,000 in Martin Fund requests for teachers.

Dr. Hogue reported on the March 19, 2025 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting. Michele James and Tim Phelps from Veregy presented updated drawings for a possible fieldhouse addition at the middle school. Dr. Hogue also presented information on the Title Grants to the committee members.

Dr. Hogue reported on the March 19, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting.

1. Treasures Report Review: Overall revenue is stable, slightly down from last year as CPPRT funds have decreased. Expenses have increased in the area of salary, insurance, and general supplies. The district anticipates the 2025-26 levy to arrive from the treasures office soon. Reserves in the education fund show an \$800,000 difference if we compare it to last year at the same time. This is due to the use of reserves to construct the additional room at the preschool building for \$350,000, salary increases of \$190,000, and an insurance increase of \$63,000. As revenue decreases and expenses increase, use of reserves may be necessary in the future. Growth of reserves will stop or slow down.

2. Transportation Fund: As of February 2025, the transportation fund was in the negative. We do anticipate a payment in March. The transportation fund needed to have funds deposited in it two years ago to keep it in the positive. The committee recommended a permanent transfer from the Working Cash fund to the Ed Fund and then putting \$100,000 dollars from an EBF payment into the Transportation Fund.

3. Bond Options: After discussing the options of using 1% facility dollars to offset any future bond payments for the fieldhouse/performing arts center, the committee recommended not using the 1% funds so that the district has the funds available for other projects. The current roofs have a five to eight year life span left and will need to be addressed at some point during that time period. Having capital on hand will allow more flexibility.

Dr. Hogue shared that enrollment is holding steady. He also mentioned that the high school will need to be thinking about the large number of 8th grade students that will be freshmen next year.

Dr. Hogue introduced Michele James and Tim Phelps from Veregy. They shared a slideshow presentation with updated drawings and information for the fieldhouse/performing arts center addition. The first option is the initial Facility Improvement Measure-1 (FIM-1) for an estimated cost of \$21.6-24 million. This option would have a gymnasium, wrestling practice area (which could also be used for spring sports), a performing arts facility, as well as all the needed locker rooms, dressing rooms, storage space etc. to be built on the South side of the middle school. The next option, FIM-2, for an estimated cost of \$22.3-25.1 million, would consist of renovating the West gymnasium at the high school into a performing arts center, building an addition onto the North side of the current wrestling room at the high school for a larger practice area, adding a practice gymnasium onto the North side of the East gymnasium at the high school, and the addition of the gymnasium and fitness area on the South side of the middle school. Then, FIM-3, for an estimated cost of \$18.7-21 million would consist of everything from FIM-2 except the additional practice gymnasium at the high school. The board narrowed down their top three wants to bring forward to the public for an informational meeting. The board decided on option one, would be a new gymnasium at the middle school, option two would be a new gymnasium and the additional wrestling space at the high school, option three would be both of those additions along with the West gymnasium at the high school being renovated into a dedicated performing arts center and the addition of a practice gymnasium at the high school.

Dr. Hogue shared that the most recent strategic plan meeting went very well. The committee has almost narrowed down their list of success indicators. The next meeting will be April 29th at 7:00pm.

Dr. Hogue informed the board that he, along with the building secretaries, have been researching different payment platforms for registration fees. While the Titan/Linq program has worked well for food service and menu planning, the fee payment side has not been user friendly. The team has decided on moving to My School Bucks for a payment system and hopes to have it in place for the 2025-2026 school registration.

Dr. Hogue informed the board members he would like to have a board retreat and training in June. He has invited Jim Burgett to attend the training.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the consent agenda including the February 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, February Treasurers Report, and March Bills Recommended for Payment in the amount of \$556,405.70, subject to audit. 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.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of opening a new student activity account at the high school for Gray Matters.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the new student activity account for Gray Matters at Fulton High School. 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.

Dr. Hogue recommended advertising for lawn care bids for the 2025-2026 school year.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to authorize the superintendent to advertise for bids for lawn care. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.

Dr. Hogue presented the 2025-2026 Risk Management Plan and recommended it for approval.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the Risk Management Plan for 2025-2026 as presented. 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.

Dr. Hogue presented an update to policy 6:20 regarding weather related closures. Some board members feel that e-learning should not be used for weather related days and want that section removed from the policy. Some board members feel the district should make up these days on holidays and add days to the end of the school year if needed.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the first reading of the update to policy 6:20 School Year and Day as amended. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, nay

Member Fish, yea

Member Ritchie, nay

Member Meyers, yea

Member Simmons, nay

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion carried.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Membership for the 2025-2026 school year at no cost to the district.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the IHSA Membership for the 2025-2026 school year at no cost to the district. 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.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the District Consolidated Plan.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the District Consolidated Plan and submit to ISBE for consideration. 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.

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Title I District Plan for school wide usage at Fulton Elementary School.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the Title I District Plan for school wide usage at Fulton Elementary School. 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.

Dr. Hogue informed the board the district received \$500.00 from Merrill Steel for the Fulton High School Shop Class.

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

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve the following personnel items:

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Sarah Powell as River Bend Middle School Assistant Track Coach for the 2024-25 school year.*

- Approve the resignation of Leneva Roseboom, paraprofessional at Fulton High School, effective March 7, 2025.
- Approve the recommendation to hire Kayla Kampe as Special Education Teacher at Fulton Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the resignation of Susie Pannell as Library Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
- Approve the recommendation to hire Sydney Manon as 1st Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the recommendation to hire the following Coaches/Sponsors for the 2025-26 School Year:

Level I

Varsity Basketball (B) – RJ Coffey
 Varsity Basketball (G) – Mike Menchaca
 Varsity Wrestling - Shawn Price
 Varsity Cheerleading - Haylee Mussman

Level II

Sophomore Basketball (B) - Ryan Voss
 Sophomore Basketball (G) - David Smither
 Assistant Wrestling - AJ Champion
 Freshman Basketball (B) - Mitch VanZuiden
 Freshman Basketball (G) - Adrien Loncar
 Speech Team - Alison Phillips

Level III

7th Grade Basketball (B) - Thomas Eden
 7th Grade Basketball (G) - Elizabeth Mote
 8th Grade Basketball (B) - Mike Ankrom
 8th Grade Basketball (G) - Jen Pepper
 Middle School Wrestling - Dustin Sullivan

Level IV

6th Grade Basketball (B) - Kraig Schipper
 6th Grade Basketball (G) - Thomas Eden

- Approve the resignation of Elizabeth Mote as River Bend Middle School Scholastic Bowl Coach, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
- Approve the recommendation to hire Riley Davidson as 5th Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the recommendation to hire Aimee Marten as Fulton Elementary School Assistant Principal, with a three-year contract and starting salary of \$72,000, effective July 1, 2025.
- Approve the following contracts and offer tenure as follows:

Offer Tenure Beginning 2025-2026

Gardner	Katherin	Kindergarten / E
Hanson	Christine	1 st Grade / E
Mabaga	Taylor	Cross Categorical / M
Mussman	Haylee	Math / HS

THIRD YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer 4th Year contract beginning 2025-2026

Facio	Megan	Guidance / HS
Maloney	Caitlin	2 nd Grade / E
Stuart	Brianna	Math / M
Whitney	Samantha	Special Education / E

SECOND YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer 3rd Year contract beginning 2025-2026

<i>Bacidore</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	<i>Math / HS</i>
<i>Bobb</i>	<i>Brianna</i>	<i>Speech Language Pathology / D</i>
<i>Eden</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>History / M</i>
<i>Iben</i>	<i>Jeanelle</i>	<i>4th Grade / E</i>
<i>Pestka</i>	<i>Valerie</i>	<i>English / HS</i>
<i>Robertson</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>1st Grade / E</i>
<i>Temple</i>	<i>Colleen</i>	<i>ELA / M</i>
<i>Wessels</i>	<i>Jared</i>	<i>Cross Categorical / HS</i>
<i>Williams</i>	<i>Heidi</i>	<i>Science / HS</i>

FIRST YEAR NON-TENURE TEACHERS – Offer 2nd Year contract beginning 2025-2026

<i>Howard</i>	<i>Samuel</i>	<i>Science / HS</i>
<i>Kuehl</i>	<i>Candi</i>	<i>3rd Grade / E</i>
<i>Norman</i>	<i>Kearston</i>	<i>3rd Grade / E</i>
<i>Osborn</i>	<i>Zach</i>	<i>Math / HS</i>
<i>Rolston</i>	<i>Shelby</i>	<i>Math / MS</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>Tiffany</i>	<i>Kindergarten / E (Moving to 4th Grade 2025-26)</i>
<i>Vandendooren</i>	<i>Abbey</i>	<i>Special Education / E</i>

*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, April 16, 2025, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Falls, to adjourn the meeting at 10:13pm. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

President

Board of Education
River Bend CUSD #2
Whiteside County

Secretary

Board of Education
River Bend CUSD #2
Whiteside County