

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

May 20, 2026

A Waiver Hearing conducted by the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on May 20, 2026, in the District Office Conference Room. The purpose of this hearing was to hear testimony regarding the application for a Physical Education Waiver.

President Portz called the Waiver Hearing to order at 6:30pm. 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: 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: Stacy Gates, Daniel Jones, and Chris Marten; 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 regarding the application for a waiver to 105 ILCS 5/27-710 regarding students in grades K-8 not being required to have Physical Education class everyday but instead to allow students the opportunity to participate in Art, Music, Health, and STEM activities on a rotating basis with Physical Education class.

There were no comments from the public, written or oral. There were no comments from the Board of Education members.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the Physical Education waiver and submit to the Illinois State Board of Education for consideration. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Temple, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Folk, to adjourn the waiver hearing at 6:32pm. Voice Vote, all yea.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, in the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:32pm. 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: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent,

Kelli Parsons, Assistant 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 a memory of Dr. Hogue to celebrate his retirement.

President Portz added Gift Discussion under the Board Member Communications section.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the agenda as amended. 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. There was no one wishing to speak during public forum.

The Overall Steamers of the Quarter for the high school were not able to attend the meeting to be recognized as they were attending State Track and Baseball playoffs.

Mrs. Marten shared that the preschool is almost at capacity for next school year. Member Portz asked to keep track of how many students remain on the waiting list for future potential expansions.

All principals shared handbook updates. Member Folk asked the elementary school what was meant by the student use of electronics and if the time frame needed to be defined. Mr. Hoese stated that applied during school hours. Mr. Henrekin shared that the middle school is looking to align their eligibility policy closer to the high schools, where once a student is ineligible on Monday when grades run, they remain ineligible to play for the entire week.

Paige had no updates since the previous meeting.

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

- The treasurer's report was reviewed.
- Health, Life, Safety items were discussed.

The IASB Joint Annual Conference will be held in Chicago November 19-22, 2026. Registration will open June 1st. Dr. Hogue asked that board members start thinking about if they would like to attend and let Ms. Griser know. President Portz would like to attend, Members Falls and Simmons are maybes.

President Portz shared he would like the district to gift Dr. Hogue a retirement gift of \$500 and is looking for discussion. Dr. Hogue shared that while he was appreciative of the offer, he would prefer to be gifted the Steamboat print that is hanging in his office.

Mrs. Parsons shared that enrollment stayed steady most of the school year.

Mrs. Parsons introduced Daniel Jones who is the site superintendent for the roof work. He shared a three week overview of the roof coating process. Mr. Jones shared that the process is going well so far and there have been no issues. Member Folk asked to keep an eye out for anything the district may need to address in the future.

Mrs. Parsons introduced Chris Marten to discussing the OSHA10 construction safety program. Mr. Marten shared the value this certification would bring to the students and highlighted after year one, the cost to the district would be minimal. Mr. Marten as well as Mr. Parsons talked to a couple of local smaller companies who stated if an applicant came to them that was already OSHA10 certified, they would have an advantage over an applicant that was not certified. Mr. Marten and Mr. Parsons shared they would be willing to seek industry support to help offset the costs with board approval.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda, including the April 22, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, April Treasurer's Report, and May Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$247,438.88 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the HMH proposal for English curriculum at the high school.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the proposal from HMH for High School English Curriculum, grades 9-11, for four years at a cost of \$17,183.08. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the ALOP/ROE partnership for the 2026-2027 school year.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the ALOP/ROE partnership for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of a new activity account at the high school for After Prom. While After Prom is not a school sponsored activity, an account was needed to house the funds year over year and the district auditors approved of the district housing the funds.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Falls, to approve the new student activity account at the high school for After Prom. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion carried.

(Member Meyers arrived at 8:30pm)

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the MOU for a certified staff member at the high school to teach part-time for the 2026-2027 school year. This will be approved for one year only as the schedule at the high school may not allow for this in the coming years.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the MOU allowing for a high school certified teacher to teach part-time for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion carried.

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

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Folk, to authorize the superintendent to seek fuel bids for the 2026-2027 school year. Voice Vote, All Yea, Motion Carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the first reading of select policy updates. She shared the PRESS newsletter previously in an email, going forward, this will be shared each time there are policy updates.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the first reading of select policy updates: 2:200, 2:220, 2:250, 2:260, 2:265, 4:40, 4:165, 5:30, 5:50, 5:250, 5:330, 6:65, 6:100, 6:145, 6:170, 6:180, 7:20, 7:50, 7:100, 7:185, 7:220, 7:230, 7:240, 7:260, 7:280, 7:300, and 8:90. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the Activity Fund, Treasurer, and General Obligation Bond renewals for Rachel Snyder, Stacy Bueno, and Jennifer Griser.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Temple, to approve the Envision Insurance Group proposal for bond renewals at a total cost to the district of \$2,547.00. Roll Call Vote

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the co-op agreement with Enyeart Milk for the 2026-2027 school year.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the Three Rivers Conference Cooperative agreement with Enyeart Milk for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the co-op agreement with Pan-O-Gold for bread for the 2026-2027 school year.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the co-op agreement for the Pan-O-Gold bread bid for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons recommended approval of the Health, Life, Safety (HLS) work on the walkway between the elementary school and middle school. The district will need to purchase cooling units for the walkway as HLS funds do not cover the purchase of new cooling units. HLS bond proceeds of \$600,000 will be extended to the \$2.1 million roof HLS bond.

It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Folk, to approve the HLS work for the walkway between the elementary school and middle school. Roll Call Vote.

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Parsons shared that the district received \$500 from Daniel Bush and \$500 from First Wealth Financial, both for After Prom, and \$1,500 from Whiteside County Farm Bureau 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.

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

Motion carried.

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

- *Approve the transfer of Kraig Schipper from 6th Grade Boys Basketball Coach to 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, effective the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Tracy Stanley as Paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective April 29, 2026.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Megan Facio and Marie Meyers as co-sponsors for National Honor Society at Fulton High School, effective the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Delaney Reed as JV Volleyball Coach at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Volleyball Coaches at Fulton High School for the 2026-2027 school year: Abby Eissens, Teegan Germann, Marilyn Harrison, Paige Jackson, Ally Reed, and Jean Wilkin*
- *Approve the maternity leave of Tiffany Smith, beginning May 14, 2026, returning at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Olivia Sullivan as Speech Language Pathologist for River Bend, effective the 2026-2027 school year.*

- *Approve the resignation of Natalie Orwitz as 3rd Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation, with the intent to retire, of Catherine Parker as History/ELA Teacher at River Bend Middle School, effective the end of the 2028-2029 school year.*
- *Approve the Resolution of Dismissal of Education Support Personnel Employee for reasons other than reduction-in-force for Elizabeth Graham.*

Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Falls, to move into closed session for the purpose 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 at 8:57pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Motion carried.

It was moved by Member Folk, seconded by Member Simmons, to come out of closed session for the purpose 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 at 9:50pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Falls, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Simmons, yea

Member Folk, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Temple, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Motion carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 6:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

It was moved by Member Temple, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 9:51pm. 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