

**RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2**  
**1110 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET**  
**FULTON, IL 61252**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUGUST BOARD MEETING**

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

August 9, 2023

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary, the following 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: Joseph Bacidore, Travis Hartman, Jeremy Leitzen, Kelli Parsons, Kathleen Schipper, Jared Wessels, and Heidi Williams; Principals: Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Jeffrey Parsons.

Additions to the agenda. Dr. Hogue added to the superintendent's report an update on Thomson residents wanting to leave the West Carroll school district to join with River Bend.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, 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. There was no one wishing to speak during public forum.

Principal Reports. Mr. Hoese introduced his new staff member that was in attendance, Travis Hartman. Travis comes to River Bend from the West Carroll school district and will be teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade this year. Mr. Henrekin has no new staff at the middle school to introduce. He does have two staff members that are moving positions from paraprofessional roles to teaching roles, Thomas Eden and Colleen Temple. Mr. Parsons introduced the new high school staff; Heidi Williams, Science, Joseph Bacidore, Math, Jared Wessels, Cross Categorical, and Val Pestka, who was not able to attend, English.

Mr. Parsons shared that the coaches have been going over the new No Pass, No Play requirements with their athletes at summer practices. Meet the Steamers will take place on August 18<sup>th</sup> and Homecoming is taking place early this year due to scheduling constraints. Mrs. Meurs took 11 students to an FFA state event over the summer. She expects numbers to increase once school starts.

Mr. Henrekin shared that the middle school is ready for the school year and the English teachers are unpacking and checking out the new ELA material. Mr. Henrekin also expressed his thanks again to the Board for approving a fourth section of 8<sup>th</sup> grade as they are up to 81 students.

Mr. Hoese shared the elementary school has between 25-30 students attending summer intervention classes. These classes are for students who need a little extra help to get them ready for the start of the school year.

Dr. Hogue shared with the Board that enrollment has increased by approximately 50 students.

Dr. Hogue shared opening day activities for the 2023-24 school year with the Board. The certified staff will be participating in the Capturing Kids Hearts training at the High School on Monday and Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Support staff will have their training for Capturing Kids Hearts on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> will be spent in everyone's respective buildings with students first day of attendance on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Hogue shared a proposal from MGT Films Window Solutions for a protective film for the school building windows and doors. This film creates a strong barrier on windows and doors to impede the entry of possible intruders. The one-time install would cost the district approximately \$43,000. This quote was based on measurements that were sent to the company. The Board would like Dr. Hogue to continue looking into this product and have someone visit the buildings in person to provide a more accurate quote.

Dr. Hogue provided an update from Michelle with Veregy on the building addition at the elementary school. Veregy is working with RL Johnson, an architect that the district has worked with on past projects. The hope is to start the construction process in March or April of 2024, and depending on when construction starts, the 2024-25 school year start date may need to be pushed back slightly. Partial payments may need to be made with reserve funds before bonds are sold to get the project started.

Dr. Hogue provided a FY 23 budget review. The district likes to budget conservatively and keep expenditures as close to budgeted as possible. Overall, the district finished FY 23 in the black. The largest difference was special education costs, which were approximately \$300,000 more than budgeted.

Dr. Hogue shared that he has been asked to attend a leadership coaching training session through the IASA (Illinois Association of School Administrators). These eight training sessions will provide Dr. Hogue with resources to invest in our district principals and help guide them on their professional path. The Board is supportive of Dr. Hogue participating in these training sessions.

Dr. Hogue provided an update on the parents living in Thomson that are wanting to separate from the West Carroll School District and join with River Bend. The Thomson residents are putting together a resolution to move forward with a feasibility study, provided the State of Illinois agrees to pay for the study. The West Carroll district, as well as the residents in Thomson, would need to vote in favor of Thomson leaving the West Carroll School District and joining with River Bend. The Thomson residents would still be responsible for any bond debt owed, and would also incur bond debt from River Bend for any future bonds after joining the district.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the consent agenda including the June 19, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes; and authorize Dan Portz and Jane Orman-Luker to approve the August bills recommended for payment, 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 the apparent low bid for fuel from Gold Star FS, LLC of 20 cents over rack prices.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyers to approve the apparent low bid for fuel from Gold Star FS, LLC of 20 cents over rack prices. Roll Call Vote:*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Closed session minutes were reviewed. Minutes dated January 18, 2023, January 24, 2023, and February 21, 2023 were recommended to be opened and minutes dated April 26, 2023 and May 16, 2023 were recommended to remain closed. It was recommended to dispose of audio tapes from closed sessions dated October 20, 2021, September 22, 2021, and November 17, 2021.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to open closed session minutes dated January 18, 2023, January 24, 2023, and February 21, 2023, retain closed session minutes dated April 26, 2023 and May 16, 2023, and dispose of closed session audio tapes dated October 20, 2021, September 22, 2021, and November 17, 2021. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue presented the FY 24 Tentative Budget for public review and set the date for the FY 24 Budget Hearing on September 20, 2023 at 6:00pm at the River Bend District Office. Revenues are lower this year than last due to no bond sales. There are also a few figures that are not known yet, so a best guess was made.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the FY 24 Tentative Budget for public review with total revenue in the amount of \$11,764.860.00 and total expenditures in the amount of \$12,182,057.00. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of a new activity account at the high school for the Class of 2027.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the new activity account for the Class of 2027 at Fulton High School. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended seeking bids for snow removal for the 2023-24 school year.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to direct the superintendent to seek snow removal bids for the 2023-24 school year. Voice Vote, all yea, motion carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the district e-Learning Program. This will enable the district to use remote learning days in place of weather days to keep the school calendar intact.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the e-Learning Program as presented. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Parent/Student Handbook additions and edits based on the recommendations from the Illinois Principals Association Model Handbook.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the River Bend Handbook changes as presented. Roll Call Vote.*

<i>Member Falls, yea</i>	<i>Member Portz, yea</i>
<i>Member Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the District received \$1,500 from the Flikkema Grant for 3D Printing Equipment and \$1,000 from the Flikkema Grant for Who Was Books.

*It was moved by Member Fish, 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 Fish, yea</i>	<i>Member Ritchie, yea</i>
<i>Member Meyers, yea</i>	<i>Member Simmons, yea</i>
<i>Member Orman-Luker, yea</i>	

*Motion Carried.*

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

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Jeanelle Iben as 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School for the 2023-24 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Erica Motroni as paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School for the 2023-24 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Colleen Temple for the additional 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher position at River Bend Middle School, for the 2023-24 school year only.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Maynome Cartee as night custodian at Fulton High School, effective July 25, 2023.*
- *Approve the resignation of Kenny Temple as van driver for River Bend schools, effective immediately.*
- *Approve the resignation of Nichole Fletcher as Cook’s Helper at Fulton High School, effective immediately.*
- *Approve the resignation of Bob Gosch as Fulton High School Principal, effective August 4, 2023.*
- *Approve the following volunteer Golf coaches for the 2023-24 school year: Andrew Meyers and Ryan Voss*
- *Approve the following volunteer Football coaches for the 2023-24 school year: Dave Curley, Aaron, Kuebel, and Kole Schipper*
- *Approve Erica Matroni as volunteer Volleyball coach for the 2023-24 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Larry Blair as night cleaner at Fulton High School, effective August 9, 2023.*
- *Approve the resignation of Mari Sanders as paraprofessional at Fulton High School, effective September 30, 2023, unless position filled sooner.*
- *Approve the following volunteer Robotics coaches for the 2023-24 school year: Xavia Seesser and Marty Brubaker.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Kelsay Rieck as Cook’s Helper at Fulton High School, effective August 14, 2023.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Samantha Brashaw as paraprofessional at River Bend Middle School for the 2023-24 school year.*
- *Approve Fulton High School Principal contract and salary of \$82,500 for Jeffrey Parsons for FY24.*

*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 Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, 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 8:24 pm. 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 Orman-Luker, 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 8:51 pm. 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.*

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

*It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.*

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

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Eric Fish, Secretary  
Board of Education  
River Bend Unit District #2  
Whiteside County