

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

February 21, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on February 21, 2023 at the River Bend District Office.

Vice President Orman-Luker called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30pm. Upon Roll Call by the Secretary the following members were present: Eric Fish, Jane Orman-Luker, Jay Ritchie, and Mary Simmons; Absent: Chris Barnett, Andrew Meyers, and Dan Portz; Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

Vice President Orman-Luker led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda. There were no additions to the agenda.

*It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.*

Vice President Orman-Luker welcomed all visitors including: Jeremy Leitzen, Kelli Parsons, and Abra Richards; Principals: Bob Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, and Jeffrey Hoese, and Assistant Principal: Jeffrey Parsons.

There was no communication from the RBEA.

Vice President Orman-Luker asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum. There was no one wishing to speak during public forum.

(Member Barnett entered at 6:34 pm)

Principal Reports. Mr. Hoese shared that since the elementary school has transitioned back to one 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher teaching the entire grade level math, instead of all three teachers, there has been a large improvement in AIMSweb data from fall to winter of students who are scoring in the exceeding category.

Mr. Gosch shared that the turnout and support for the Fight for Frick benefit on February 2<sup>nd</sup> was tremendous and that over \$17,000 has been raised for the Frick Family. Mr. Gosch stated that Mrs. Meurs is taking steps to have a Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter started at Fulton High School. The high school already has many courses and curriculum that fall within guidelines and would only have to modify a couple of course names or descriptions to fit FFA requirements. Fulton High School is also working on revamping their English curriculum. Instead of purchasing a cookie cutter/pre put together curriculum, the English staff is taking bits and pieces from curriculum the district already has and creating a new curriculum to fit the high school's needs.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the River Bend Educational Foundation meeting held on February 14, 2023. The Foundation invites everyone to join them at the Academic Excellence dinner on Saturday, March 4, 2023; tickets can be purchased at the district office or in the high school office. The Foundation is supportive

of the Capturing Kids' Hearts program and has agreed to donate \$30,000 to the district towards covering the cost of the program.

Dr. Hogue reported on the February 21, 2023, Facilities Committee meeting. Members present included Chris Barnett, Jeffrey Hoese, Jeff Parsons, Kelli Parsons, and Gary Wolfe. Also in attendance was Darryl Hogue, Superintendent.

#### Current Building Projects

1. The bathrooms at the high school have been completed and the ROE has completed their inspection.
2. The secured entrance at the high school has a tentative completion date of March 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Snyder's construction classes are working on building the cabinets for the new office space.
  - a. Phase II of this project will be to modify the existing office next school year. It will be split into two rooms to make a teacher work space and a student work space.
3. The floor where the asbestos tiles were removed at the high school over winter break will be covered with new tile during spring break.

#### Summer 2024 Building Projects and Staff

1. The district will again look to hire Jen Pepper to do landscape work over the summer.
2. The number of summer workers needed was discussed.
3. The new playground equipment for the preschool will be delivered. The district will look to set up a couple of volunteer days to put the new equipment together.
4. A water bottle filling station will be installed near the weight room at the high school.

#### Bleachers

1. The bleacher project is still set for April/May.
2. The old wood from the bleachers will be going to the shop classes in order to make projects to sell as a fundraiser. The proceeds will go towards both the shop classes and athletics.

#### Other Projects

1. The heating and cooling system in the middle school office is in need of an update.
2. The water drainage on the south side of the high school continues to be a concern. The water pools in that area causing large puddles during good weather and ice concerns in the winter.
3. Look into converting the bathroom near the weight room at the high school to a combination shower and bathroom space.
4. Converting the middle school entrance to a more secured entrance area similar to the elementary and high schools.

The next Facilities Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 3:30 pm at the River Bend District Office.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board of the IASB Northwest Division Meeting being held on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 in Polo. There is a virtual option again this year. Dr. Hogue, Member Orman-Luker, and Member Simmons would like to attend the meeting virtually.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that enrollment has remained steady, with numbers being slightly higher than in the fall.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that ComEd will be visiting all the buildings over spring break to perform an energy audit. The intent of the audit is to provide areas of opportunity for energy improvements. Dr. Hogue is hoping for ideas on outdoor lighting, specifically the football field.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the consent agenda including the January 18, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes and January 24, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes as printed; January Treasurer's report; and February Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$297,968.29 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote:*

*Member Barnett, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of the Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) program. Member Barnett asked for more information on the program. Mr. Hoese explained that it is a way for staff to address Social and Emotional Learning concerns district wide. CKH will provide all buildings with a similar approach to address student concerns of all age groups. Mr. Henrekin stated he felt the two main components of CKH are relationship/culture building and a social contract. CKH is a way to help build culture while also being an intervention tool to be more proactive with students who are exhibiting behavioral concerns. Dr. Hogue reiterated CKH is a student engagement and culture-building tool that will help promote consistency throughout the district. Member Fish does not feel the River Bend Education Foundation should be donating such a large sum of money towards the CKH program. Member Fish also has concerns with how the program will be rolled out and implemented with the staff.

*It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the district's purchase of the Capturing Kids' Hearts program at an initial cost to the district of \$6,000. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Barnett, no*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Fish, no*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

Dr. Hogue recommended approval of Fulton High School Curriculum Handbook revisions for the 2023-2024 school year. Including the addition of Accelerated Algebra 1, Math 240: Elementary Statistics (a dual credit class with Sauk Valley Community College), Spanish 3 and 4 to be offered concurrently, and the renaming of Industrial Technology classes to Construction Trades I (formerly Introduction to Construction Trades), Construction Trades II (formerly Carpentry) and adding Construction Trades III and IV.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve modifying the curriculum at Fulton High School as presented. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Barnett, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

The motion to close the Fulton High School Class of 2022 activity account with a remaining balance of \$892.86 and transfer \$392.86 to the Vocal Music activity account and give the remaining \$500 as a scholarship to a graduating senior was tabled until next month. The board did not feel this was an appropriate use of the remaining activity fund balance. The board felt the funds should either be split amongst the four grade levels or used to purchase a plaque, trophy case, etc with a donated by class of 2022 plaque on it.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the district received \$750 from Kiwanis and \$522.52 from Pizza Ranch to be used for the Robotics Program, \$606.29 from Pizza Ranch for the school libraries, and \$1,000 from FACE to be split between the Fulton High School Culinary Arts and the Steamer Suite.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, to accept Gifts to the District as presented. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Barnett, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the following personnel items and closed session minutes from January 18, 2023:*

- *Approve the recommendation to hire Kalyn Shaffer as Cook’s Helper at Fulton Elementary School, effective January 24, 2023.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Brianne Price as Interventionist at Fulton Elementary School, effective January 30, 2023.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Wayne Hook as afternoon Preschool Van Driver, effective February 13, 2023.*
- *Approve the approximate 7-week maternity leave of Christie Houzenga, starting April 10, 2023.*
- *Approve the resignation with the intent to retire of Kathy VanLoo, paraprofessional at River Bend Middle School, effective February 28, 2023.*
- *Approve the resignation with the intent to retire of Craig Hafner, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School, the end of the 2024-25 school year under the terms of Article VII, section 7.2 of the collective bargaining agreement.*
- *Approve the resignation of Debora Courtade as one-on-one aide at Fulton High School, effective February 14, 2023.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coaches for the 2022-23 School Year: Dave Curley, Adam Hamstra, Parker Mangelsen, Andrew Meyers, and Aaron Kuebel.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Assistant Softball Coaches for the 2022-23 School Year: Jenna Jones, Buddy Bueno, Emily Stephenitch, and Jim Collachia.*
- *Approve the following Volunteer Assistant Girls Track Coach for the 2022-23 School Year: Lauren Mahoney.*
- *Approve the resignation of Chris Grant, Special Education Teacher, at Fulton High School, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year.*
- *Approve closed session minutes for January 18, 2023.*

*Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Barnett, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett, 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 or collective negotiating matters at 7:33 pm. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Barnett, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett, 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 or collective negotiating matters at 8:46 pm. Roll Call Vote.*

*Member Barnett, yea*

*Member Ritchie, yea*

*Member Fish, yea*

*Member Simmons, yea*

*Member Orman-Luker, yea*

*Motion Carried.*

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Barnett, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 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  
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