

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

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

January 18, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on January 18, 2023 at 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: Eric Fish, Jane Orman-Luker, Andrew Meyers, Dan Portz, and Jay Ritchie; Absent: Chris Barnett and Mary Simmons; Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

President Portz led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the agenda. There were no additions to the agenda, however, Dr. Hogue asked for the agenda to be rearranged so that the guests may speak first.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Orman-Luker to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

President Portz welcomed all visitors including: Brayden Dykstra, Kevin Dykstra, Regina Dykstra, Christy Harris, Breanna Kastelic, Jeremy Leitzen, Stacy McMahon, Kelli Parsons, Kathleen Schipper, Kamryn Sikkema, and Brent Stoecker; Principals: Bob Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, and Jeffrey Hoes.

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. Gosch introduced the two Overall Steamer of the Quarter students, Kamryn Sikkema and Brayden Dykstra. Both students had the same advice for underclassmen, get involved.

Mr. Gosch hopes the new office space in the high school is completed by the end of February and to be moved in before spring break. There were 32 students who qualified for credit recovery after the end of first semester. Of those 32 students, 72% of them earned at least one credit back. Mr. Gosch feels that this has become more of a crutch to students as opposed to a helping tool and credit recovery will most likely not be offered in the future.

President Portz asked Mr. Henrekin for an update on EPass. Mr. Henrekin stated it has been going very well and has eliminated the restroom issues they were seeing. The teachers have also instituted non-verbal cues for the students to alert the teacher of a need if the teacher is not near their computer to see the notification. President Portz would like to see this used at the high school as well.

Mrs. Schipper gave an update on the graduate profile. There are now five key indicators identified, Personal Development, Effective Communicators, Innovative Thinkers, Culture Competence, and Career

Readiness. The next hurdle is to decide which indicator to start with and how to notify parents of their students progress and how often.

Mrs. Kastelic gave an overview of the new math curriculum. Teachers have attended trainings and the district has one more day of training to schedule with Amplify. Mrs. Kastelic has been spending time with teachers in all buildings helping when extra support is needed. The seventh grade students are receiving two blocks of math instruction to help reinforce skills. Mrs. Schipper and Mr. Hoese have both seen more student engagement during math time when doing their observations. The students have become the teachers with some lessons which is also encouraging more student engagement.

Member Orman-Luker reported on the River Bend Educational Foundation meeting held on January 10, 2023. Ryan Reynolds has confirmed he will be the speaker at the Academic Excellence Dinner. The Foundation will set dinner ticket prices at the February meeting. Dr. Hogue, Mr. Henrekin, and Mr. Hoese presented Capturing Kids' Hearts to the Foundation and asked for a donation to help with expenses. The Foundation is supportive of this program and will make their donation determination once the Board of Education determines their direction for the program.

Dr. Hogue reported on the January 18, 2023, Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting. Members present included Robert Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, Jeremy Leitzen, Kelli Parsons, Abra Richards, and Kathleen Schipper. Also in attendance was Darryl Hogue, Superintendent.

1. Mrs. Schipper reviewed the graduate profile. She shared that 118 parents, 59 students, and 60 staff members responded to the survey about the graduate profile.
 - a. The Five Success Indicators have been decided on – Personal Development, Cultural Competence, Effective Communicators, Career Readiness, and Innovative Thinkers.
 - b. Sharing information and progress with parents and students will be an important part of this process.
2. Dr. Hogue presented two future building project ideas; a new gym space for the elementary and middle school and adding classrooms onto the middle school to move 5th grade to the middle school building.
3. Dr. Hogue presented the Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) program. CKH is a student engagement and culture-building program that can be used K-12.

The next Citizen Advisory Committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 3:30 pm at the River Bend District Office.

Dr. Hogue reported on the January 18, 2023, Finance Committee meeting. Members present included Andy Meyers, Jane Orman-Luker, Kelli Parsons, Rachel Snyder, and Darryl Hogue, Superintendent.

1. The treasurer's report was reviewed
 - a. Revenue is steady.
 - b. Central Bank was able to provide a 1% increase on the districts CD with them.
 - c. A budget amendment will be needed as some areas have exceeded projected costs.
2. Mid-year expenditures are on track with the six month projections
3. Long Term Projects
 - a. Bonding options for 2024 and 2025 have high interest rates leading to a large repayment amount.
 - b. CTS will be onsite in February to look at the middle school and elementary school buildings for potential additions.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 5:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that enrollment has remained steady.

Dr. Hogue presented two calendar options for the 2023-2024 school year. A majority of the staff chose the calendar option with two full weeks off for winter break as opposed to the split weeks off. There may be some changes to the calendar as Dr. Hogue is looking for dates to have the Capturing Kids Hearts training. A final calendar will be presented at the February meeting for approval.

Mr. Hoese provided an update to the Board on the need for an Interventionist to assist students in their reading and math skills. While the winter benchmark testing shows the students improved overall, Mr. Hoese stated there is still a great need for an additional Interventionist. Mr. Hoese feels at this time, the position would only be needed to be for the rest of the 2022-2023 school year. The Board was in favor of posting for the position short term and re-evaluating the need in the future.

Dr. Hogue presented on staffing concerns for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Gosch and Mrs. Schipper both expressed the need to move from two full time and one part time math teachers to three full time math teachers at the high school. This would allow for more classes to be offered and allow opportunities for students to double up in math classes. The Board was in favor of adding a full time math teacher at the high school. Dr. Hogue indicated that he is not ready to commit to the Instructional Technology position just yet. He has asked the technology department to meet with Mr. Hoese and Mr. Henrekin to see what a schedule might look like and what kind of curriculum would be covered.

Dr. Hogue presented Capturing Kids’ Hearts to the Board members. He indicated that while it seems expensive, the program is an investment in our teachers and students. Administrators from other districts that he has spoken with about the program have indicated an improvement in school culture. Mr. Hoese indicated it is a program to promote conversation instead of conflict. He gave examples of questions to ask students when they are misbehaving; ie “what are you doing, what are you supposed to be doing”. Mr. Hoese indicated that he has certain students that now know the order of questions and provide answers before he can even ask the question. Mr. Henrekin stated the he was skeptical of the program when he first went to training but feels it is the best training he has attended in his 14 years of education. This program offers a way for staff to be consistent across the board with their interactions with students and helps build relationships with students. Mrs. Parsons shared that she feels Social Emotional Learning will be part of the School Report Card in the next five years so the district should get a jump-start on it. Mrs. Parsons also indicated that unfortunately these skills are not taught to teachers during their educational experience, they are only taught to teach their students.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Meyers, to approve the consent agenda including the December 14, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as printed; December Treasurer’s report; and January Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$380,843.27 subject to audit, and authorization to dispose of the closed session audio tapes for April 28, 2021. Roll Call Vote:

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

The Policy Committee recommends approval of the second reading of select policy updates and to be adopted as policy.

It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the second reading of select policy updates: 2:20, 2:30, 2:50, 2:100, 2:105, 2:210, 2:250, 2:265, 3:10, 3:50, 3:60, 4:10, 4:120, 4:140, 4:165, 4:190, 5:10, 5:20, 5:120, 5:190, 5:200, 5:220, 5:250, 5:270, 5:280, 5:290, 5:320, 5:330, 6:15, 6:20, 6:50, 6:60, 6:65, 6:160, 6:220, 6:250, 6:255, 6:260, 6:270, 6:280, 6:300, 6:310, 6:340, 7:10, 7:20, 7:50, 7:70, 7:100, 7:180, 7:190, 7:250, 7:285, 7:290, 7:340 and adopt as policy. Roll Call Vote.

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue and President Portz reviewed closed session minutes and recommended those dated October 26, 2022 remain closed.

It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to retain closed session minutes dated October 26, 2022 at this time due to the need for confidentiality to exist to all or part of the minutes. Roll Call Vote.

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the district received \$7,370.02 from the Eric Ottens Memorial and \$1,960 from CF Industries for teacher grants and the IPRF Safety Grant in the amount of \$2,015.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to accept Gifts to the District as presented. Roll Call Vote.

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

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

- Approve the approximate 9-week maternity leave of Caitlin Maloney, January 11, 2023 through March 20, 2023.*
- Approve the approximate 10-week maternity leave of Ashley Huizenga, February 28, 2023 through May 5, 2023.*
- Approve the recommendation to hire Teresa Harris as paraprofessional at Fulton Elementary School, effective January 3, 2023.*
- Approve the resignation of Mildred Woods, Cook's Helper at Fulton Elementary School, effective January 2, 2023.*
- Approve the resignation of Jacqueline Meinsma, 3rd Grade Teacher, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year.*
- Approve the recommendation to hire Arlene Malone as Cook's Helper at Fulton Elementary School, effective January 6, 2023.*

Roll Call Vote.

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, 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 10:24 pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Member Ritchie, seconded by Member Meyers, 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 11:44 pm. Roll Call Vote.

Member Fish, yea

Member Portz, yea

Member Meyers, yea

Member Ritchie, yea

Member Orman-Luker, yea

Motion Carried.

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

It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 pm. Voice vote, all yea, motion carried.

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

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