

**RIVER BEND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2**  
**1110 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET**  
**FULTON, IL 61252**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE E-LEARNING PUBLIC HEARING AND**  
**REGULAR MAY BOARD MEETING**

River Bend Community Unit School District #2

May 16, 2023

The e-Learning Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of River Bend Community Unit School District #2, Whiteside County, Illinois, was held on May 16, 2023, at the River Bend District Office.

President Portz called the e-Learning Public Hearing 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. 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: Lynn Coffey, Wrenn Coffey, Kerby Germann, Stacy Germann, Amy Hayton, Breleigh Hayton, Emily Johnson, Jeremy Leitzen, Kelli Parsons, Abra Richards, Chloe Wilkin, Drew Wilkin, and Jackie Wilkin; Media: Jerry Lindsey, cityone.com; Principals: Bob Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, and Assistant Principal: Jeffrey Parsons.

President Portz asked if anyone would like to speak as part of public forum on the e-Learning program. There was no public comment. Dr. Hogue presented data from a survey that was shared with parents and staff. Overall, 73% of the parents who responded were in favor of using e-Learning as a way to not cancel school for bad weather. 63% of the staff preferred e-Learning as a way of not rescheduling due to bad weather.

*There being no further discussion it was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the e-Learning Public Hearing at 6:40pm. 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.*

President Portz called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:40pm. 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; Others present: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent, and Jennifer Griser, Recording Secretary.

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

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Ritchie, to approve the agenda as presented. 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. Henrekin recognized the 4x400 girls track team of Chloe Wilkin, Kerby Germann, Breleigh Hayton, and Wrenn Coffey, that won IESA State as well as set new records. Overall, the RBMS track team placed 11<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Hogue highlighted some of his favorite projects from the middle school's Passion Project day including a car that students built and the beautiful wood working projects of another student.

Mr. Hoese shared that the final House Day of the school year was a success with a special, one of a kind, 3D printed trophy presentation to the winning house. Mr. Hoese also shared testing data for Math and Reading. The number of students needing Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports has diminished since the winter testing bench marks with the support of an additional interventionist.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Facilities Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Members present included Elizabeth Falls, Bob Gosch, Patrick Henrekin, Jeffrey Hoese, Michele James, Brandon Kinzler, Jeff Parsons, Jay Ritchie, Eric Sikkema, and Gary Wolfe.

- Michele James from Veregy discussed a new proposal to add four classrooms onto the elementary school building and a different site for a gymnasium addition at the middle school.
- Eric Sikkema with the City of Fulton was present at the meeting to discuss the water drainage issues on the south side of the high school. Two options were provided which will include adding drainage pipes and regrading of the road to help with water flow on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the high school parking spaces along 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- The preschool conversion project will cost approximately \$40,000 to allow for more classroom space. The Preschool For All grant is being applied for to allow the district to serve more students. Once this is approved, work on expanding can begin.
- Summer Projects: Installing a secured entrance at the middle school; replacing doors in the walkway between the elementary school and the middle school, replacing the kitchen door at the elementary school, and replacing a back entrance door at the high school; new flooring will be installed on the bottom floor at the high school; new playground equipment will be built at the preschool; a new heating and cooling unit will be installed in the middle school office, and an updated girls locker room space at the high school.

The next Facilities Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 3:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

Dr. Hogue reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Members present included Jane Orman-Luker and Rachel Snyder.

- The treasurer's report was reviewed. The Ed Fund balance difference from April 2022 to April 2023 was greater than in past months. Rachel was able to show where less revenue had been taken in during April 2023 due to changes in food payments, CPPRT, and grant payments were lower. There was also more funds spent April 2023 as opposed to April 2022.
- The district will look to use 1% tax dollars for summer projects, estimated at \$148,000.
- PMA provided bonding schedules of borrowing \$2 million up to \$7.2 million with interest rates of 3.22 - 3.92%. The construction options include adding four classroom at the elementary school from \$1.8 to \$2.3 million, and adding a gymnasium at the middle school

for \$5.8 to \$6.2 million. The district is unable to secure bonding for both projects so must consider different options.

- a. Option 1 – Complete the construction projects in phases and delay the building of a gymnasium.
- b. Option 2 – Seeking a referendum to increase the levy.
- c. Option 3 – Seek information on increasing the levy from PMA.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 5:30pm at the River Bend District Office.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board of the Triple I Conference in Chicago will be held November 17 to November 19, 2023. Members Falls, Orman-Luker, Portz, and Simmons would like to attend.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that enrollment has stayed consistent and numbers are similar to where they were at the beginning of the school year.

Dr. Hogue reminded the Board the River Bend Middle School promotion will be on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00pm, Members Meyers and Portz will be in attendance. Fulton High School graduation will be on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 2:00pm, Members Meyers, Orman-Luker, and Portz will be in attendance.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board that the district is struggling with filling the technology department staffing vacancies. Dr. Hogue and Emily Johnson, Technology Coordinator, presented a plan where the technology department will transition from a four person department to a three person department. The department would consist of Emily as Technology Coordinator, two technology aides, one K-8 and one 9-12, and an Instructional Technology Teacher.

Dr. Hogue informed the Board the high school is looking at alternative options for students to earn their graduation requirements for the Introduction to Computers and College and Career Readiness classes. Currently, freshman students are limited in the number of elective classes they are able to enroll in. By giving alternative options to earning the graduation requirements for Introduction to Computers and College and Career Readiness, students will be able to enroll in band, choir, foreign language, and other career oriented elective classes.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the consent agenda including the April 26, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes; April Treasurer’s report; and May Bills recommended for payment in the amount of \$291,986.23 subject to audit. Roll Call Vote:*

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <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.*

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

*It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the second reading of select policy updates: 2:110, 3:40, 4:60, 5:30, 5:90, 5:125, 5:150, 5:170, 5:260, 6:135, 6:230, and 8:20, and adopt as policy. 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 removing Ellen Loncar from the Central Bank high school activity accounts and adding Stacy Bueno.

*It was moved by member Fish, seconded by Member Meyers, to remove Ellen Loncar from the Central Bank high school activity accounts and add Stacy Bueno. 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 2023-2024 Parent/Student Handbook edits as presented.

*It was moved by Member Simmons, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the 2023-2024 Parent/Student Handbook edits 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 No Pass, No Play at the high school for extracurricular eligibility. This changes the current eligibility of a student being able to have one F grade and participate in extracurriculars to the student not being able to have any F grades each week in order to participate in extracurriculars.

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Orman-Luker, to approve No Pass, No Play for high school extracurricular eligibility. Roll Call Vote:*

<i>Member Falls, nay</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 starting the new Agricultural Education Program and an Illinois Association of FFA chapter at Fulton High School. There is a grant that will be applied for to help with funding for the annual payment to the Illinois Association of FFA Sponsor.

*It was moved by Member Meyers, seconded by Member Fish to approve starting the new Agricultural Education Program, the application of the Incentive Funding Grant, and an annual payment to the Fulton High School Illinois Association of FFA Sponsor's salary. 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 an additional section of Math and ELA beginning the 2023-2024 school year at River Bend Middle School to reduce large class sizes. This will be evaluated yearly.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, to approve the additional Math and ELA sections at River Bend Middle School, to be evaluated each year. 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 Notary Bond and Activity Bond.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to approve the Nixon Insurance Agency, Inc. proposal for a four-year Notary Bond with a premium of \$54.56 with a limit of \$5,000 for Jennifer Griser, and Activity Bond with an annual premium of \$125 with a limit of \$100,000 for Rachel Snyder. 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 Simmons, to approve the following personnel items:*

- Approve the recommendation to hire Joseph Bacidore as Math Teacher at Fulton High School for the 2023-2024 school year.*
- Approve the recommendation to hire Travis Hartman as 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Fulton Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year.*
- Approve the recommendation to hire Brianna Bobb as Speech Language Pathologist for the 2023-2024 school year.*
- Approve the recommendation to hire Val Pestka as English Teacher at Fulton High School for the 2023-2024 school year, pending provisional license approval.*
- Approve the resignation of Kelly Gosch as Speech Language Pathologist, effective the end of the 2022-23 school year.*
- Approve the resignation with the intent to retire of Anna Spencer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, at Fulton Elementary School, at the end of the 2025-26 school year under the terms of Article VII, section 7.2 of the collective bargaining agreement.*

- *Approve the following Volunteer Assistant Volleyball Coaches for the 2023-24 school year: Jean Wilkin, Paige Jackson, Marilyn Harrison, Delaney Reed, Liz Skiff, Annie Weller, and Jessica VanKampen*
- *Approve the resignation of Megan Huizenga as Fulton High School Student Council Sponsor, effective the end of the 2022-23 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire Stacy Gates as Fulton High School Student Council Sponsor for the 2023-24 school year.*
- *Approve the recommendation to hire AJ Champion as Assistant Wrestling Coach at Fulton High School for the 2023-2024 school year.*
- *Approve the resignation of Tim Johnston as Fulton High School Science Teacher, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year.*

*It was moved by Member Fish, seconded by Member Simmons, 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 9:11pm. 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 Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Fish, 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 9:38pm. 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.*

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Monday, June 19, 2023, at 6:30pm, at the River Bend District Office.

*It was moved by Member Orman-Luker, seconded by Member Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 9:39pm. 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