

**Illinois Community College District No. 511
Rock Valley College
3301 North Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61114**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

October 26, 2021

5:15 p.m.

MINUTES

On October 15, 2021 Governor Pritzker issued the twenty-second Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation for all counties in the state of Illinois. Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, Howard J. Spearman, Ph.D., president of Rock Valley College, has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical, prudent, or feasible based on the Disaster Proclamation. Pursuant to Section 7 (e) (4) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS120/7(e) (4), this meeting will be held without the physical presence of a quorum at the meeting location.

Meeting Location: Building E, Rock Valley College, 3301 N. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61114. Howard J. Spearman, Ph.D., president of Rock Valley College, will be physically present at the meeting location. **Trustees/members, citizens, faculty, and staff may attend the meeting via teleconference or videoconference.**

Access to the Regular Board of Trustees meeting is provided via teleconference online <https://rockvalleycollege-edu.zoom.us/j/96865427886?pwd=NHk3TTZHNHpnclhud2M3ZnBUdDBvQT09> or by phone at 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID : 968 6542 7886; **Passcode** 244852. The meeting will include an opportunity for public comment. Members of the public who would like to make a public comment may submit their public comment to RVC-BoardPC@rockvalleycollege.edu by 3:15 p.m. on October 26, 2021. Public comments will be announced during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Call to Order

The Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties, Illinois, convened remotely via teleconference on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. In the absence of Board Chair Funderburg, Vice Chair Paul Gorski called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present at roll call:

Mr. Paul Gorski
Ms. Gloria Cudia
Ms. Lynn Kearney

Mr. Bob Trojan
Mr. John Nelson
Student Trustee Evelyn Molina

The following members of the Board of Trustees were absent at roll call: Mr. Jarid Funderburg, Ms. Crystal Soltow

Also in attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Mr. Ron Geary, Vice President Academic Affairs and Campus Safety; Mr. Jim Handley, Vice President Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Heather Snider, Vice President Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President Student Affairs; Mr. Keith Barnes, Vice President Equity and Inclusion; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President Operations/Chief Operations Officer; Ms. Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director College

Communications; Ms. Ann Kerwitz; Assistant to the President; Ms. Kris Fuchs; Assistant to the President; Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz;

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

No public comments were received.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors to be introduced.

Adjourn to Closed Session

At 5:18 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the following: 1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees per Section 2 (c) (1); and/or 2) Collective negotiating matters per Section 2 (c) (2); and/or 3) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body per Section 2 (c) (5), all in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Reconvene Open Meeting

At 5:54 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Kearney, to adjourn the closed session and reconvene the open meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Trustee Soltow joined the meeting at 5:37 p.m. No action was taken as a result of closed session.

General Presentation

There were no general presentations.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting and the September 28, 2021 Regular meeting.

Trustee Nelson commented that he thought the minutes of the Fiscal Year 2022 Public Budget Hearing should also be approved. Vice Chair Gorski asked that they be deferred for now and be added to the agenda of the next meeting for formal approval.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Action Items

1. **BR 7858 – Claims Sheet**

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the claims sheets from the Ellucian check register for the period from September 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021. The total is \$4,176,959.75.

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 7858. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2. **BR 7859-A – Purchase Report-A – FY22 Purchases**

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the marked items for purchase on Board Report 7859-A, Purchase Report-A.

\$ 14,768.00	A. Uni-Systems Engineering Inc., Minneapolis, MN
\$ 25,000.00	B. Dept. of Homeland Security, Laguna Nigel, CA
\$ 24,000.00	C. M&D Truck & Equipment Sales, Monroe, WI

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to approve Board Report 7859-A. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

3. **BR 7860 – Board Personnel Report**

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the personnel items as outlined.

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Student Trustee Molina, to approve Board Report 7860. Trustee Kearney noted changes made since the October 12 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. **BR 7861 – Refunding Bond Issue: Series 202XA and 202XB Bonds**

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve Board Report 7861 and the resolution of the issuance of not to exceed \$43,500,000 general obligation bonds to be issued for the purpose of refunding its outstanding Series 2015C and 2015D Bonds and the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$43,500,000 General Obligation Community College Refunding Bonds of Community College District No. 511, Counties of Winnebago, Ogle, Boone, Stephenson, DeKalb and McHenry, and State of Illinois, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of said District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

President Spearman commented that Ms. Tammie Beckwith Schallmo, senior vice president/managing director of PMA Securities, LLC, was available if trustees had any questions on the bond refunding. Ms. Beckwith Schallmo explained that the bond market has gone up about 30 basis points since she presented at the August 10, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting, but she believes there is good reason to be patient and not to execute the refunding until early 2022. Because language in the infrastructure bill pending in Congress could be beneficial to the College, she recommended that PMA continue to monitor the situation and then provide an update to the College the first of the new year.

There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

5. BR 7862 – Donation for Advanced Technology Center

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees accept and acknowledge the donation of two drums of Saf-T-Cool 420 fluid and one drum each of hydraulic oil and way oil for use in maintaining the CNC Program machinery at the Advanced Technology Center. The value of this donation is \$2,962.30.

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 7862.

In response to a question from Trustee Nelson why the College received such an unusual donation, CAO Ron Geary explained that the donor works with Collin Ruthe, manufacturing technology coordinator, as well as with Chance Kruse, advanced technology center specialist, and offered to make this donation. Trustee Cudia added her thank you to the donor, Mr. Joe Stegbauer.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business

1. New Business

There was no new business.

2. Unfinished Business

Trustee Gorski added that approval of the minutes of the FY2022 Public Budget Hearing should be added to the November regular meeting agenda.

Updates / Reports

1. President's Update

President Howard Spearman made the following remarks:

- Beth Mead of CEANCI shared her appreciation to the RVC staff who helped coordinate the very successful Manufacturing Day held October 7 at the Stenstrom Center. Thank you to Vonnie Busker, manager of continuing education, for partnering with Ms. Mead to coordinate the event.
- Congratulations to Tammy Lewis, program director of the Center for Learning in Retirement (CLR), for earning the 2021 Innovation Award from the Illinois Council for Continuing Education and Training. This award celebrates the significant and unique

creativity that Tammy and the CLR Team have brought to the region and to the industry of continuing education.

- RVC hosted the regional meeting of the Illinois Manufacturer's Association October 20. Dr. Spearman welcomed the group and participated in discussions of strategies for engaging a younger generation in manufacturing.
- Dr. Spearman participated in the Rock River Valley Tooling and Machining Association awards ceremony also held October 20. This event celebrated the apprentices who completed their programs, which included many classes at RVC.
- Dr. Spearman has been invited to participate in a panel for the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Aspiring Leaders program to be held in November.
- Dr. Spearman was RVC-Proud to participate in a number of Homecoming activities.
- Thank you to Athletic Director Darin Monroe for his leadership of the college's student athletes. All teams played at a high level and served as quality ambassadors while competing.

2. Leadership Team Updates

- Ms. Heather Snider provided a brief enrollment update, noting that we're 96% to goal for summer and fall. Registration for the spring semester is open, but it is too early to make an assessment. The ICCB Economic Impact Study update will be presented at the November Committee of the Whole.
- Mr. Keith Barnes provided an update on the Sense of Belonging DEI symposium held October 8 and thanked Trustee Cudia for attending. Trustee Cudia added that it was a very good symposium and recommended having a suggestion box to make sure participants' ideas would be heard. Mr. Barnes noted that all of the suggestions made at the conference will be reviewed.
- Mr. Rick Jenks commented that the roof and gutters on Building E have been replaced, and the grass has been reseeded where needed. Replacement of the ERC stairs is a week behind schedule due to discovery of a load-bearing wall. A revised plan has been created so that work can continue, and the project should be completed by the end of December. Reseeding grass will be done in the spring.
- Mr. Jim Handley commented that the employee culture survey has been completed and he was pleased with the good response rate. A full report will be presented at the December Committee of the Whole.
- Dr. Patrick Peyer commented that Dean of Students Terrica Huntley has organized new Title IX training. Dr. Peyer and Dave Schneider attended the RPS 205 Expo held at the Sports Score. Regarding athletics, the soccer program ended last week, and RVC will host the volleyball regionals this Thursday. In response to a question from Trustee Gorski, Dr. Peyer confirmed that substantial changes were made to the Title IX program last year, especially to the hearing process, and regular training is needed to stay current.
- Mr. Ron Geary commented that we have passed the eight-week mark of the semester. Spring registration just opened two days ago, but it's too soon for enrollment numbers. The First Tuesday Lectures have resumed and began in September with a presentation by Assistant Professor Brian Wagner on 911 conspiracy theories. The lecture was well attended both in-person and virtually, with 580 views since the presentation.

3. Trustee Comments

- Trustee Kearney commented that she is getting a Covid booster shot at RVC Wednesday.
- Trustee Trojan commented that he was glad to see that Dr. Spearman is developing automotive training for E-vehicles. This is important, particularly with the issues going on at the Belvidere auto plant.
- Trustee Gorski thanked staff for their ongoing efforts dealing with the Covid situation. In addition, he would like to have a simple chart on the ATC showing what is currently being taught, what will be taught at the ATC, what makes it advanced, how this aligns with industry goals, and what are the expected educational outcomes. He noted that this has been explained throughout the process, but he would like to see it on paper in a simple chart. Administration is invited to call or email him with questions.
- Trustee Nelson commented that he is more optimistic on the ATC progress and expects to see a world-class facility.

4. ICCTA Report (Illinois Community College Trustees Association)

Trustee Nelson explained that he will attend the next ICCTA conference to be held in Schaumburg, IL on November 12-13. The meetings are open for other trustees to attend, so any trustees who would like to attend should contact Ann Kerwitz in the president's office.

5. Student Trustee Report

Trustee Gorski complimented Student Trustee Molina for always being prepared and that he would give her a good reference if ever needed.

Student Trustee Ms. Evelyn Molina read her report highlighting student activities during Homecoming Week, as well as a second Student Listening Forum sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA). SGA will discuss the suggestions made at the Listening Forum and consider them for future projects.

6. RVC Foundation Liaison Report

Trustee Trojan reported that the "Second Chance Scholarship" application period just concluded, which resulted in 183 more applications for the remaining \$100,000 not awarded for the fall. As a result, a total of \$376,243.50 in scholarships were awarded to 213 students. This compares to \$290,000 awarded to 209 recipients during the 2020-2021 academic year.

In addition, Trustee Trojan explained that the RVC Strong campaign has reached 50 percent of its goal and will be formally announced in the fall appeal letter.

7. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Report

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) report was accepted as presented.

Closed Session

At 6:40 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the following: 1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees per Section 2 (c) (1); and/or 2) Collective negotiating

matters per Section 2 (c) (2); and/or 3) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body per Section 2 (c) (5); and/or 4) Litigation has been filed, is pending or probable per Section 2 (c) (11), all in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Reconvene Open Meeting

At 7:54 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to adjourn the closed session and reconvene to the open meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Action as a Result of Closed Session

1. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.)

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Fraternal Order of Police as discussed in closed session.

There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2. Separation Agreement

Trustee Gorski made a motion to table approval of the separation agreement, as the agreement has not been finalized. Attorney Perkoski confirmed that as acting chair, Trustee Gorski could take this action.

Next Meeting


The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held remotely via teleconference on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.

The next Regular meeting will be held remotely via teleconference on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.

Adjournment

At 7:57 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Submitted by Ann Kerwitz


Robert Trojan, Secretary


Jared Funderburg, Chairperson