

**Illinois Community College District #511
Rock Valley College
3301 North Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61114**

REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 25, 2021

5:15 p.m.

MINUTES

On April 30, 2021 Governor Pritzker issued the sixteenth 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 via <https://rockvalleycollege-edu.zoom.us/j/92013937896?pwd=VFM1aHBiZVFzQ2VsZzVrSHJ3MWRIdz09> or by phone at +1-312-626-6799 using Meeting ID 920 1393 7896; Passcode 258483. 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 May 25, 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 via remote video conference on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jarid Funderburg.

Roll Call

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

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Mr. Jarid Funderburg | Mr. Bob Trojan |
| Mr. Paul Gorski | Ms. Gloria Cudia |
| Mr. John Nelson | Ms. Lynn Kearney |
| Ms. Crystal Soltow arrived at 5:20 p.m. | |
| Incoming Student Trustee Evelyn Molina | |

The following trustee was absent at roll call: Outgoing Student Trustee Annika Vincent

Also in attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Mr. Ron Geary, Vice President Academic Affairs and Campus Safety; Mr. Jim Handley, Vice President Human Resources; Mr. Christopher Lewis, Vice President Workforce Development; Ms. Heather Snider, Vice President Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President Student Affairs; Ms. Ellen Olson, Executive Director Finance/Interim Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Ann Kerwitz; Assistant to the President; Ms. Kris Fuchs; Assistant to the President; Attorney Matt Gardner, Robbins Schwartz.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

No public comments were received.

General Presentation

President Howard Spearman described a plaque to be presented to outgoing Student Trustee Ms. Annika Vincent in recognition of her service and contributions to Rock Valley College and the Board of Trustees. Although Ms. Vincent was not present and the award was presented virtually, arrangements will be made to deliver the plaque to her.

Recognition of Visitors

Attorney Matt Gardner administered the oath of office to Ms. Evelyn Molina as incoming student trustee for 2021-2022.

Trustees offered their congratulations and welcomed her to the Board.

Adjourn to Closed Session

Board Chair Funderburg announced that the closed session will be held at the end of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting, the April 23, 2021 Special meeting, and the April 27, 2021 Regular meeting.

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

Action Items

1. BR 7807 – Claims Sheet #786

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 April 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021. The total is \$2,081,751.60.

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve Board Report 7807, Claims Sheet #786.

There was no discussion. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Cudia, Gorski, Kearney, Soltow, Trojan and Funderburg voted yes. Trustee Nelson voted no. Student Trustee Molina voted yes (advisory),

2.A BR 7808-A – Purchase Report #762-A – FY21 Addendum

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the marked items for purchase on Board Report 7808-A, Purchase Report #762-A.

\$ 38,700.00 A. AT&T, Dallas, TX

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve Board Report 7808-A, Purchase Report #762-A.

In response to a question from Trustee Gorski, Ms. Ellen Olson confirmed that the College has signed a two-year contract with AT&T and is working on getting the credits applied, but AT&T is slow in responding.

The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Cudia, Gorski, Kearney, Soltow, Trojan and Funderburg voted yes. Trustee Nelson voted no. Student Trustee Molina voted yes (advisory),

2.B BR 7808-B – Purchase Report #762-B – FY21 Purchases

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the marked items for purchase on Board Report 7808-B, Purchase Report #762-B.

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|---------------|--|
| \$ 28,550.00 | A. Berg Industries, Rockford, IL |
| \$ 105,095.00 | B. Midwest Machinery Resources, LLC, elk Grove Village, IL |
| \$ 72,535.00 | C. Scandroli, Rockford, IL |

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 7808-B, Purchase Report #762-B.

Ms. Ellen Olson confirmed that no changes have been made since the May 10, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting. She added that Item B shows that Midwest Machinery Resources LLC will provide two lathes for use in the Woodward Technology Center and will be paid by the Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) grant.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2.C BR 7808-C – Purchase Report #762-C – 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 7808-C, Purchase Report #762-C.

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|---------------|--|
| \$ 32,000.00 | A. Northern Illinois Training Advisory Board (NITAB), Rockford, IL |
| \$ 10,500.00 | B. Nucleus Robotics, Los Angeles, CA |
| \$ 12,900.00 | C. Nucleus Robotics, Los Angeles, CA |
| \$ 36,000.00 | D. Brightspark, Chicago, IL |
| \$ 100,000.00 | E. NOT TO EXCEED, BSN, Dallas, TX |

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Student Trustee Molina to approve Board Report 7808-C, Purchase Report #762-C.

Ms. Ellen Olson explained changes made since the May 10, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting. Item D., Brightspark, has been reviewed by the attorneys who are making a few changes to the contract. For Item E, BSN, “not to exceed” language has been added. In response to a question from Trustee Gorski, Attorney Matt Gardner confirmed that it is okay for the Board to approve an item subject to final legal review.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2.D BR 7808-D – Purchase Report #762-D – FY21 Advanced Technology Center (ATC) Change Orders

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the marked items for purchase on Board Report 7808-D, Purchase Report #762-D.

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|---------------|----|---|
| \$ <7,050.00> | A. | Stenstrom & Sons Construction, Rockford, IL |
| \$ 2,514.00 | B. | Stenstrom & Sons Construction, Rockford, IL |
| \$ <230.00> | C. | Stenstrom & Sons Construction, Rockford, IL |
| \$ <4,680.00> | D. | Stenstrom & Sons Construction, Rockford, IL |
| \$ <6,678.00> | E. | Stenstrom & Sons Construction, Rockford, IL |
| \$ 7,792.00 | F. | Stenstrom & Sons Construction, Rockford, IL |
| \$ 428.00 | G. | Stenstrom & Sons Construction, Rockford, IL |
| \$ 3,139.00 | H. | Stenstrom & Sons Construction, Rockford, IL |
| \$ 526.00 | I. | Stenstrom & Sons Construction, Rockford, IL |
| \$ 10,634.00 | J. | Stenstrom & Sons Construction, Rockford, IL |

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 7808-D, Purchase Report #762-D.

Board Chair Funderburg confirmed that he has reviewed all change orders.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote

2.E. BR 7808-E – Purchase Report #762-E – FY21 Advanced Technology Center (ATC) Purchases

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the marked items for purchase on Board Report 7808-E, Purchase Report #762-E.

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|---------------|-----|--|
| \$ 30,437.00 | A. | Illinois Material Handling, Rockford, IL |
| \$ 148,000.00 | B,a | Machinery Source, Belvidere, IL |
| \$ 11,480.00 | B.b | Midwest Machinery/HFO, Elk Grove Village, IL |
| \$ 179,339.00 | B.c | Midwest Machinery/HFO, Elk Grove Village, IL |
| \$ 50,000.00 | C. | Moss Enterprises, Johnston, IA |
| \$ 75,010.00 | D. | Boone County Treasurer, Belvidere, IL |

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 7808-E, Purchase Report #762-E

Ms. Ellen Olson explained changes made since the May 10 Committee of the Whole meeting.

- Item A, ATC Instructional Equipment – Verbiage has been added to indicate the equipment also will be used by the College’s FPOM Department when needed.
- Item B, ATC Instructional Equipment – Details of the award have been split out to include: a. Mills; b. Surface Grinder; c. Manual Lathes, Manual Mills, Cylindrical Grinder and Coordinate Measurement Machine (CMM).
- The awards for lathes and welding equipment at the ATC have been removed and will be rebid as a result of the Board’s discussion at the Committee of the Whole.
- Item C, ATC Instructional Equipment – No changes
- Item D. Real Estate Taxes: Big Thunder Blvd Belvidere – Additional explanation has been added regarding the Boone County tax.

- Ms. Olson confirmed that on Purchase Report #762B, FY21 Purchases, Midwest Machinery Resources was awarded the bid for two lathes to be used in the CNC lab on the main campus. These will be funded by the Workforce Equity Initiative grant.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

3. BR 7809 – Board Personnel Report #747

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

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 7809. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. BR 7810 – Intergovernmental Agreement: University of Illinois Board of Trustees Shield Program Covid-19 Testing Support Agreement

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Rock Valley College Board of Trustees approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois formalizing the COVID-19 Testing Support agreement with Rock Valley College as a SHIELD Illinois Testing site. Attorney Reviewed.

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve Board Report 7810. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

5. BR 7811 – Intergovernmental Agreement: University of Illinois Board of Trustees Shield Program Covid-19 Specimen Collection and Courier Services Agreement

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Rock Valley College Board of Trustees approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois designating Rock Valley College as a SHIELD Illinois COVID-19 Specimen Collection Partner. Attorney Reviewed.

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 7811. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

6. BR 7812 – Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement: 2021-2022 IDOT Highway Construction Careers Training Program

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between the Illinois Department of Transportation and Rock Valley College as a not-to exceed amount of \$336,819 for Rock Valley College to administer the 2021-2022 IDOT Highway Construction Careers Training Program.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to approve Board Report 7812. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

7. BR 7813 – Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) Membership

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees rejoin the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) effective June 1, 2021 and for the Fiscal Year 2022.

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve Board Report 7812.

Trustees explained their reasons for rejoining the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA), including the leadership of Mr. Jim Reed, the opportunity to learn from trustees of other community colleges and the organization's lobbying efforts in Springfield. Trustee Nelson indicated he would like to serve as the College's ICCTA representative and to work his way up to president of the organization.

Trustee Trojan recommended that the College consider rejoining local chambers of commerce such as Rockford and Belvidere. These and other possible memberships will be discussed at the June Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

8. BR 7814 – Intergovernmental Agreement with Harlem Township for Administration of Harlem Township Designated Scholarship Monies

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Harlem Township for the administration of Harlem Township designated scholarship monies. Attorney Reviewed.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 7814.

Board Chair Funderburg reminded trustees that Dr. Spearman announced during New Business at the May 10 Committee of the Whole meeting that because he had just received this agreement, it did not appear on the Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Cudia, Gorski, Kearney, Soltow, Trojan and Funderburg voted yes. Trustee Nelson abstained. Student Trustee Molina voted yes (advisory).

9. BR 7815 – Resolution Declaring Opposition to House Bill 3145 (HB 3145)

The Resolution reads in part: Be it Resolved by the Board of Trustees of Rock Valley College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle and Stephenson Counties, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The recitals named in the Resolution are hereby adopted as true and correct.

Section 2: The Board hereby declares its opposition to the enactment of HB 3145, in its current form, and to any other version of HB 3145 or other legislation that would mandate the use of trustee districts to elect the College's trustees.

Section 3: The Board hereby authorizes the College President and/or the President's designee to take such actions as may be appropriate to uphold the Board's position as declared in this Resolution.

Section 4: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve Board Report 7815.

Trustees made the following comments in opposition to House Bill 3145:

- It appears someone is using political position to create sub-districts because a favorite candidate was not elected to the Board at the April 6 Consolidated Election. This is very wrong.

- Trustees should contact local senators to express their opposition. Senator Steve Stadelman is a sponsor of the bill. The bill has passed in the Illinois House.
- Passage will affect the fiduciary responsibility of the Board and make it more difficult for people to run for a trustee position. As explained recently by Trustee Cudia, diversity on the Board is very good now.
- Much less effort will be required of candidates, which is unfair to all voters. Several current trustees visited all six counties in the RVC District #511 to educate the voters on the benefits of the College.
- It's difficult now to get candidates to run for trustee. What happens if there are no candidates in a sub-district?
- The Resolution should be explained to the Rockford Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Council.
- Board Chair Funderburg wrote an op-ed for the Rockford Register Star opposing the bill. He is disappointed that local legislators did not contact RVC trustees before submitting the proposed legislation.
- This legislation will not help increase the trustee candidate pool.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business

1. **New Business**

There was no new business presented to the Board.

2. **Unfinished Business**

Dr. Spearman provided an update on discussions regarding the College moving from Division III to Division II athletics. Following a presentation that he and Athletic Director Darin Monroe made to the RVC Foundation Board, a committee has been formed to do a feasibility study on possible collaboration with the RVC Booster Club for fundraising for scholarships. Trustee Trojan has agreed to serve on this committee

Further information will be presented at the July Committee of the Whole meeting.

Updates / Reports

1. **President's Update**

President Howard Spearman gave an update on his activities, noting the following:

- RVC received just under \$12 million from the American Rescue Plan. Just over \$6 million has been allocated for student emergency funds and just under \$6 million is allocated for institutional use. Dr. Spearman also reviewed uses of past expenditures and opportunities to use the new funding.
- He was invited by U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos to participate in a press webinar on May 24 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the RVC campus and how the college will use the federal funding.
- COVID-19 update: All employees are back working on campus. The College is following CDC guidelines and awaiting an update from Governor Pritzker regarding possible reopening of the state on June 11. An update will be provided at the June Committee of the Whole meeting.

- He enjoyed the various graduation ceremonies and participated in the first RAISE graduation for students with intellectual disabilities. Twelve students were provided certificates for their completion.
- The men's soccer team has received an at-large bid to participate in the national tournament to be held in Herkimer, N.Y. June 2-5, 2021.
- The women's softball team is traveling to Syracuse, N.Y. competing for their seventh consecutive national title. Congratulations to Head Softball Coach and Athletic Director Darin Monroe, as well as to Head Men's Soccer Coach Tim Romanello and both teams.

2. Leadership Team Updates

- Dr. Patrick Peyer provided an update on participants in the various graduation ceremonies, including the walk-through photo-op Commencement on May 14, GED, Sankofa, LatinX, Nursing, Dental Hygiene and Respiratory Care.
- Ms. Heather Snider announced that Starlight-Theatre has been awarded a second grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) to bring theater into the community. She also provided an enrollment update: Summer I is up 29% over last year; Summer II, which starts June 14, is down 6.8%; Fall is up 1.4%. She further explained that with Summer I and Summer II combined, we're ahead of last year, and we're ahead for the fall semester. In response to a question from Trustee Trojan, Snider affirmed that the College is on track to meet the FY21 budget goal.
- Mr. Jim Handley announced that the College is moving employee health plans from the current fiscal year basis to a calendar year and is offering open enrollment for the six-month period from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. The full one-year enrollment will then be effective January 1, 2022. In response to a question from Trustee Nelson, Mr. Handley confirmed that rates are not changing for the remainder of 2021, and it's too early to know what the cost will be for 2022.
- Mr. Chris Lewis made several announcements: 1. Students in the Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) helped with concrete near the softball field. 2. The Industrial Maintenance classes started May 15, supported by great enthusiasm from business and industry; 3. Graduation for those in the HCCTP will be held at 2:00 p.m. on June 3 in the Performing Arts Room on the main campus; 4. The WEI grant completion ceremony will be held at 3:00 p.m. on June 10 at the Stenstrom Center. 5. The Continuing Education Department is moving from the Student Center to Classroom Building II this week; 6. The Tech Bus will be at RVC Downtown June 4 during City Market and on Saturdays at SecondFirst Church for mobile development classes; the College has hired Cornell Bondurant as the Tech Bus coordinator. In response to a question from Trustee Nelson, Mr. Lewis indicated that he and Police Chief Jenks are aware that the RVC Downtown parking lot is where protesters have gathered, and they have discussed how to handle the situation.

3. Trustee Comments

- Trustee Cudia commented that she often receives calls regarding immigration and refugee questions, and she has learned more about RVC's great refugee program.
- Trustee Kearney commented that she really enjoyed the GED graduation ceremony and is very impressed with instructors in Amanda Smith's department. She also attended the nurses pinning ceremony and is pleased to see family support for the graduates. She added her congratulations to the softball players and coaches.
- Trustee Nelson commented that things are going smoothly, crediting Dr. Spearman for his leadership. Nelson is looking forward to working with ICCTA. He, too, enjoyed the graduation ceremonies.

- Trustee Gorski commented that he has enjoyed working with Board Chair Funderburg, and thanked Dr. Spearman, the administration, staff and faculty for opening classrooms and for all their work during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are doing a great job, and he is looking forward to some form of normalcy.
- Trustee Soltow commented that she enjoyed attending the graduation ceremonies, and that everyone has been very nice and very welcoming.
- Board Chair Funderburg thanked faculty and staff for their hard work organizing the various graduation ceremonies so that students could celebrate their academic achievement.

4. **Student Trustee Report**

Student Trustee Ms. Evelyn Molina thanked Ms. Annika Vincent, former student trustee, for her help getting acclimated to being part of the Board. She introduced herself, noting that she is a Running Start student and her first year at RVC was completely remote, which presented a new set of challenges and lessons learned. Molina added that the Student Government Association (SGA) is continuing its meetings both in-person and via Zoom.

Board Chair Funderburg encouraged Ms. Molina to contact trustees if she has any questions.

5. **RVC Foundation Liaison Report**

Trustee Trojan reported that the RVC Foundation Board has elected new officers and named Ellen Olson as treasurer. The Board also approved its 2022 budget which includes \$349,000 for scholarships. The RVC Strong Campaign has been launched, and co-chairs John Wolf and Barry Kramer have begun meeting with potential donors. In addition, Board members heard about a new donor recognition plan for monthly donor spotlights to be posted on the Foundation's social media platforms.

6. **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Report**

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

Adjourn to Closed Session

At 6:36 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to adjourn to closed session to discuss: 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 7:22 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Gorski to adjourn the closed session and reconvene to open session.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. No action was taken as a result of closed session.

Next Meeting

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via remote teleconference.

The next Regular and Reorganization meeting will be held Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. via remote teleconference.

Adjournment

At 7:22 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Submitted by Ann Kerwitz


Robert Trojan, Secretary


Jarid Funderburg, Chairperson