

**Illinois Community College District No. 511
Rock Valley College
3301 North Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61114
Educational Resource Center (ERC), Room 0214, Performing Arts Room (PAR)**

**ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
September 26, 2023, 5:15 p.m.**

MINUTES

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 in Room 0214, known as the Performing Arts Room (PAR), in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus of Rock Valley College on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. Board Chair Gloria Cardenas Cudia called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia
Mr. Paul Gorski
Mr. John Nelson
Ms. Crystal Soltow

Mr. Bob Trojan
Mr. Richard Kennedy
Ms. Kristen Simpson
Student Trustee Juan Noguera

Also in attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President Liberal Arts and Adult Education/Chief Academic Officer; 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; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President Industry Partnership and Community Engagement; Ms. Ann Kerwitz, Assistant to the President; Ms. Betsy Saucedo, Assistant to the President; Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz; Ms. Brittany Freiberg, Chief Development Officer, RVC Foundation.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

No public comments were received.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors to be recognized.

General Presentation

Ms. Brittany Freiberg, chief development officer of the RVC Foundation, presented an update on scholarships granted by the Foundation over the past year, including the numbers of scholarships awarded, applicant and recipient demographics and program-based scholarship results. Applicants were tracked on how they found out about the scholarship offered, and results show that word of mouth is an important tool. Since only 12 applicants used social media, it also shows the power in personal connections.

Of the \$706,704 allocated for scholarships, \$600,435 was awarded to students. Ms. Freiberg noted that the Advanced Technology Center waivers are helping, and the Foundation hopes to replace that with donor funds.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting and the August 22, 2023 Regular meeting.

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

Action Items

1. BR 8086 – Claims Sheet

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the claims sheets from the Ellucian check register for the period from August 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023. The total is \$2,207,229.00.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Simpson, to approve Board Report 8086. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Kennedy, Simpson, Soltow, Trojan and Cudia voted yes. Trustees Gorski and Nelson voted no. Student Trustee Nogueta voted yes (advisory).

2a. BR 8087-A – Purchase Report-A – FY2024 Purchases

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the marked items for purchase on Board Report 8087-A, Purchase Report-A.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| \$ 10,998.00 | A. A-Fire Extinguisher Sales and Service, Rockford, IL |
| \$ 17,500.00 | B. BetterMynd Inc., Buffalo, NY |
| \$ 77,745.12 | C. CIT Trucks, LLC, Normal, IL |
| \$ Not to exceed 10,000.00 | D. Full Compass, Madison, WI |
| \$ Not to exceed 10,000.00 | E. Home Depot, Rockford, IL |
| \$ 12,000.00 | F. Honorlock, Boca Raton, FL |
| \$ 19,035.00 | G. K-Kap Toppers Inc., Rockford, IL |
| \$ 56,539.00 | H. Morrow Brothers Ford, Greenfield, IL |
| \$ 20,225.00 | I. NWC Body Works, Elk Grove, IL |
| \$ 21,000.00 | J. Stratus Networks, Peoria Heights, IL |
| Not to exceed | |
| \$ 183,000.00 | K. Marco Technologies, Rockford, IL |
| Not to exceed | |
| \$ 102,070.00 | L. DPI Construction, Inc., Pecatonica, IL |
| \$ 3,000,000.00 | M. Demonica Kemper Architects (DKA), Chicago, IL |
| Not to exceed | |

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8087-A.

Trustee Nelson announced that he would abstain from voting due to the business relationship he has with the vendor in Item G. At the suggestion of Attorney Perkoski, Trustee Nelson then made a motion, seconded by Trustee Simpson, to amend the motion to remove Item G. The motion to amend the motion to remove Item G. was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

A motion was then made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve all of the items on Purchase Report A except Item G, which had been removed. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

A motion was then made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Simpson, to approve Item G, Plow and Salt Spreader. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Gorski, Kennedy, Simpson, Soltow, Trojan and Cudia voted yes. Trustee Nelson abstained. Student Trustee Nogueta voted yes (advisory).

3. BR 8088 – Personnel Report

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the personnel actions as outlined on the Personnel Report.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8088. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. BR 8089 – 2023-2024 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Board of Education of Rockford Public School District No. 205 and Rock Valley College

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board of Education of Rockford Public School District No. 205 and Rock Valley College. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8089. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

5. BR 8090 – 2023-2024 Senior Semester Program - Rockford Public School District No. 205

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Senior Semester Intergovernmental Agreement between the Board of Education of Rockford Public School District No. 205 and Rock Valley College. Said agreement shall expire on June 30, 2024. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8090. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

6. BR 8091 – 2023-2024 Running Start Program - Rockford Public School District No. 205

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Education of Rockford Public School District No. 205 effective upon approval and signature of both parties. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve Board Report 8091. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

7. BR 8092 – Amendment to Operations Calendar FY2022-FY2024

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Amendment to the FY2024 Operations Calendar, approved on Board Report #7899 on January 25, 2022.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Simpson, to approve Board Report 8092. Vice President Jenks confirmed that no feedback from staff had been received. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

8. BR 8093 – Operations Calendar FY2025

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2025 Operations Calendar.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8093. Vice President Jenks confirmed that this operations calendar follows the format of previous years. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business

1. New Business

There was no new business presented to the Board of Trustees.

2. Unfinished Business

- October 17, 2023 Special Meeting – Board Chair Cudia and Dr. Spearman announced that preparations are being made for a special meeting to be held Tuesday, October 17 to provide answers to questions from trustees regarding the new downtown facility. Trustees Gorski and Trojan added that they also want to know how the new facility fits into the updated Facilities Master Plan.
- Board Chair Cudia announced that at the last meeting, she asked Trustee Nelson about his intentions regarding the investigation. Mr. Nelson responded that he has been out of town and hopes to wrap this up in seven days. Trustee Cudia confirmed that a resolution should be reached by the next Board meeting.

Updates / Reports

1. President's Update

President Howard Spearman provided highlights of recent college and community engagement activities.

- Professional Development Day was held September 6 with 435 employees attending. Special thanks to VP-HR Jim Handley and his HR team, and Dr. Kym Blanchard and her Instructional Design team for an excellent job coordinating the day's activities. Mary's Market sponsored the breakfast and coffee, while Ole Salty's Potato Chips donated the afternoon snacks. In addition to a keynote address by Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, RVC employees were honored for longevity and professional service:
 - Employees are acknowledged for every five years of service, including Janet Taylor for 35 years.
 - Leader of the Year – Dr. Lisa Mehlig, executive director of outcomes assessment and HLC liaison
 - Employee of the Year – Amy Heilman, program director of transitional opportunities and career education
 - Rookie of the Year – Rachel St. John, director of development and alumni relations
- Dr. Spearman joined other local officials to hear Governor J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Transportation present a briefing session on the proposed Chicago to Rockford Intercity Passenger Rail Program. More information is available at www.chicagotorockfordrail.org.
- A Legislative Breakfast is being planned for Wednesday, October 18 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Student Center Atrium. A brief summary of the Facilities Master Plan, ideas for the Downtown-West campus and future consideration for collaboration will be provided. Trustees are encouraged to RSVP for the event.
- State Representative Maurice West II has agreed to cover the \$1,483,000 cost of demolition of the downtown buildings with funds made available through DCEO.

2. Leadership Team Updates

- Vice President Keith Barnes announced that 90 have registered to learn more about neurodiversity at the next DEI symposium to be held September 29. Other RVC activities include celebrating October as Disability Awareness Month and LGBTQ+ History Month. In response to a question from Board Chair Cudia, Mr. Barnes confirmed that both Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day are celebrated on Monday, October 9.
- Dr. Patrick Peyer announced that 450 guests attended the recent Rockford Promise event to support scholarships. Other activities include the celebration of Homecoming Week and hosting representatives from Shaw University who will be on campus this week to finalize the RVC agreement with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) institution.
- Vice President Heather Snider reminded trustees that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) site visit will be held in about a year, and plans are being made for employees, students and the community to provide feedback. The first community feedback session is scheduled for October 12 in the Student Center Atrium. Attendees will be asked to provide feedback on the strengths, challenges and recommended actions for the college. Criterion 1 and 5 will be considered.
- Dr. Hansen Stewart reminded trustees that the 30th anniversary of the Center for Learning in Retirement (CLR) will be held October 5, and reservations are required. The local celebration of October as Manufacturing Month will be held at Rockford Career College this year, but RVC is also planning an event for middle school/high schoolers at the Advanced Technology Center.

- Vice President Rick Jenks provided an update on parking lot repairs at the Support Services Building (SSB). This is a CDB deferred maintenance project and many drain inlets are being fixed, as well as the Boiler House ramp. Seal coating on lots 2A, 2E and 4 will be done before cold weather.
- Vice President Ellen Olson provided an update on the RVC Foundation's tailgate event held last weekend. Approximately 300 attendees were treated to activities for all ages, as well as two RVC soccer games. Special thanks to Blue Cross Blue Shield for sponsoring the event.
- Dr. Amanda Smith announced that the College's Respiratory Therapy program has been re-accredited. The program has been available at RVC since 1975.

3. Trustee Comments

- Trustee Gorski commented that he doesn't think the public needs to know who trustees are and prefers that only the college president, the Foundation and DEI representatives be known to the public.
- Trustee Kennedy thanked VP Jenks for his leadership with the RVC Downtown Architect Selection Committee and commended staff for their work putting together the ATC Expo Day.
- Trustee Nelson commented that he feels the role of the board is governance of the college, to make sure it runs smoothly, meets its mission and accreditation goals, and stays in budget. He would like to have an independent board to take a closer look at expenses.
- Trustee Soltow commented that she was not able to attend the ATC Expo, but feels that trustees' presence does matter, as it shows the community that they care.
- Trustee Simpson commented that she is thankful that tutoring is available, as her son is using it.
- Trustee Trojan attended the Growth Dimensions Annual Reception September 19 and heard an interesting presentation on super-future technology and AI (artificial intelligence).
- Board Chair Cudia commented that trustees work for the community and it's important to be out in the community, as it provides opportunities to get feedback and comments from constituents. She attended the ICCTA Northwest Regional meeting at Kishwaukee College last Tuesday, where she visited with other administrators and trustees and participated in a discussion of how to enhance partnerships. Dr. Howard Spearman added that the five college presidents in the ICCTA Northwest Region reported on their shared services discussions as they continue to look for ways to support one another. Discussion included possibly sharing the expense of bringing in a speaker for staff professional development.

ICCTA REPORT

Trustee Nelson did not have a report.

4. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Juan Noguera reported on Welcome Week activities hosted by the Student Life Department and the Student Government Association (SGA) meeting with the president's Cabinet to learn more about the decision-making process and leadership training. Students participated in the kick-off event for the Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) on September 18 and played traditional Mexican bingo. To continue the month-long celebration, Student Trustee Noguera wore the more traditional Hispanic clothing of a cowboy to the meeting. He is working with RVC's student clubs to create a video showing their positive impact on campus. If it is ready, the video will be shown at the October 24 board meeting. He also thanked RVC for putting his picture on the cover of the RVC Bridge magazine.

5. RVC Foundation Liaison Report

Trustee Trojan reported that the Foundation's board did not meet this month, but added his positive comments on the success of the Foundation's recent tailgate party. Future events include: Taste the Hops on October 13, RVC Alumni and Retiree Breakfast on October 19, and the Scholarship Donor Luncheon on November 3.

6. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Report

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

Adjourn to Closed Session

A closed session was not held.

Next Meeting

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Performing Arts Room (PAR, Room 0214) located in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus.

The next meeting of the Decennial Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 24 at 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held in Room 1300 of the Advanced Technology Center, 1400 Big Thunder Blvd., Belvidere, IL. **Location changed for this meeting only.**

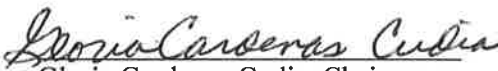
The next Regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. The meeting will be held in Room 1300 of the Advanced Technology Center, 1400 Big Thunder Blvd., Belvidere, IL. **Location changed for this meeting only.**

Adjournment

At 6:36 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Submitted by Ann L. Kerwitz


Robert Trojan, Secretary


Gloria Cardenas Cudia, Chairperson