

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

FINAL MEETING OF THE PRESENT BOARD

April 22, 2025

MINUTES

Call to Order

The final meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties, Illinois, convened in the Performing Arts Room (PAR), Room 0214, in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus. Board Chair Robert Trojan called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Mr. Robert Trojan

Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia

Mr. Richard Kennedy

Ms. Kristen Simpson

Mr. Paul Gorski joined at 5:17 p.m.

Mr. John Nelson joined at 5:17 p.m.

Mr. Nico Mikos, Student Trustee

The following trustees were absent: Ms. Crystal Soltow.

Also in Attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Terrica Huntley, Interim Vice President of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President of Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Heather Snider, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President of Student Affairs; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President of Operations, Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development; Ms. Ann Kerwitz, Assistant to the President, Ms. Araceli Olvera, Interim Executive Assistant, Ms. Tracy Luethje, Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Officer, Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz. Dr. Keith Barnes, Vice President of Cultural Excellence joined the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

There were no public comments.

Recognition of Visitors

President Spearman and Dr. Patrick Peyer, vice president of student affairs, introduced the Rock Valley College Women's Bowling team, winners of the 2025 NJCAA National Championship title. Head Coach Tony Hall introduced the following bowling team members: Head Women's Coach Mark Olson; Madison Davenport (SO); Leann Severson (SO); Cassidy Davenport (FR); Piper Ennett (FR); Riley Freeman (FR); Eliza Guarnaccia (FR).

Following Recognition of Visitors, Jennifer Thompson, executive director of college communications, took photos of the Women's Bowling staff and team with the Board of Trustees and President Spearman.

General Presentations

There were no general presentations.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting and the March 25, 2025, Regular Board meeting. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Action Items

1. BR8246 – Approve 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 March 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025. The total is \$2,114,583.48.

A motion was made by Student Trustee Mikos, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve BR8246. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2. BR8247-A – Approve Purchase Report A – FY2025 Purchases

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the items on Purchase Report-A – FY2025 Purchases.

- | | | | |
|----|--|------------------|---------------|
| A. | Grounds Equipment – (Capital Service Equipment – Equipment Replacement) | | |
| | Deere & Company | Cary, NC | \$ 100,712.62 |
| B. | Contractual Services – (Vendor Training Alliances – Continuing Education Center) | | |
| | Wolter, Inc. | Brookfield, WI | \$ 39,000.00 |
| | | | Not to Exceed |
| C. | Paper – (Office Supplies Purchased – General Institution) | | |
| | Midland Paper | Rockford, IL | \$ 60,000.00 |
| | | | Not to Exceed |
| D. | Server Upgrades – (Office Computer Equipment – Information Technology) | | |
| | CDW Government, Inc. | Vernon Hills, IL | \$ 94,790.24 |
| | | | Not to Exceed |
| E. | Water Main Repairs – (Maintenance Services Site/Grounds – Boiler House) | | |
| | Helm Service | Freeport, IL | \$ 34,104.68 |
| | | | Not to Exceed |

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to approve BR8247-A. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

3. BR8248 – Approve FY2026 Tentative Budget and Public Notice

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2026 Tentative Budget and submit any questions to Chief Financial Officer Ellen Olson. The public hearing will be scheduled for 5:15 p.m. on June 24, 2025.

A motion was made by Student Trustee Mikos, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve BR8248. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Trojan, Cudia, Kennedy, Simpson, and Gorski voted yes. Trustee Nelson voted no. Student Trustee Mikos (student advisory) voted yes.

4. BR8249 – Approve Rockford Public Schools (RPS) #205 Extended Career Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Rock Valley College Board of Trustees extends the Career Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement with Rockford Public School District #205, effective April 22, 2025, the date both parties approve and fully execute the IGA extension, to expire on June 30, 2025. The program will apply to classes for the Spring 2025 Semester.

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski to approve items 5 – 20 and vote together. Chairperson Trojan clarified that item 4 needs to be voted on prior to voting on item 5 – 20. Trustee Gorski restated his motion to approve items 4 – 20 and vote together.

Board Chair Trojan confirmed that BR8249 is unique from BR8250 through BR8265, so it must be voted separately. Trustee Gorski then withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Student Trustee Mikos, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve BR8249. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Chair Trojan stated that the Board wants to approve item 5 – item 20 and vote together. The items being voted on (BR8250 – BR8265) are the Early College Memorandums of Understanding and Intergovernmental Agreements with the district area high schools.

- 5. BR8250 – Approve Career Pathways Jumpstart – Byron Community Unit School District #226**
- 6. BR8251 – Approve Career Pathways Jumpstart – North Boone Community Unit School District #200**
- 7. BR8252 – Approve Career Pathways Jumpstart – Pecatonica Community Unit School District #321**
- 8. BR8253 – Approve Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding – Boylan Catholic High School**
- 9. BR8254 – Approve Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding – Byron Community Unit School District #226**
- 10. BR8255 – Approve Dual and Articulated Memorandum of Understanding – Harlem School District #122**
- 11. BR8256 – Approve Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding – Meridian Community Unit School District #223**
- 12. BR8257 – Approve Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding – North Boone Community Unit School District #200**
- 13. BR8258 – Approve Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding – Pecatonica Community School District #321**
- 14. BR8259 – Approve Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding – Rockford Christian**
- 15. BR8260 – Approve Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement – Byron Community Unit School District #226**
- 16. BR8261 – Approve Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement – Harlem School District #122**
- 17. BR8262 – Approve Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement – North Boone Community Unit School District #200**
- 18. BR8263 – Approve Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement – Pecatonica Community Unit School District #321**

- 19. BR8264 – Approve Senior Semester Intergovernmental Agreement – Byron Community Unit School District #226**
- 20. BR8265 – Approve Senior Semester Intergovernmental Agreement – North Boone Community Unit School District #200**

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to approve BR8250 through BR8265. Trustee Gorski gave recognition and expressed his gratitude to the school districts for working with RVC on these early college programs.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

21. BR8266 – Approve Personnel Report

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

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to approve BR8266. There was no discussion. Trustees Trojan, Cudia, Kennedy, Simpson, and Gorski voted yes. Trustee Nelson voted no. Student Trustee (student advisory) voted yes. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote.

22. BR8267 – Approve Personnel Report – Sabbatical Leave

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the following personnel action; Sabbatical Leave, one semester, Academic Year 2025-2026, granted in accordance with the 2021-2026 collective bargaining agreement, Section 8.5.7, to Moria Nagy (E0450956), Assistant Professor of Life Sciences; Assignment: A sabbatical leave for one semester (Fall 2025) at 100% salary.

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve BR8267. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

23. BR8268 – Approve Retirement Resolution

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Retirement Resolution for the Rock Valley College employees who retired in 2024-2025. List of Retirees include: Mark Adolphson, Carol Anderson, Mitchell Dally, Lynn Fisher-Carlson, Amy Heilman, Michael Kelley, Vicki Lay, Gina McConoughey, Kim Patterson, Steven Perry, Kerri Shaw, Charles Sicotte, Larry Stark, George Winiarski, and Michael Youngblood.

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to approve BR8268. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

24. BR8269 – Approve 2025 Summer Flex Days

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves five (eight hour) summer flex days for full-time Educational Support Personnel (ESP), Support Staff Association (SSA), Professional Support Association (PSA), and Administrative staff to be used between May 19, 2025, and August 1, 2025.

25. BR8272 – Approve Closed Session Minutes Through April 8, 2025

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the following:

1. That the minutes of the closed session meetings of January 14, 2025 through April 8, 2025 shall be approved.
2. That the need for confidentiality still exists for the closed meeting minutes for the period of January 14, 2025 through April 8, 2025.
3. That the verbatim recordings shall be maintained pursuant to an existing litigation hold on College records.
4. That minutes identified in this document shall continue to be confidential until further action of the Board of Trustees.
5. That the Board's legal counsel shall, after consulting with the Board's chair, have the ability to review any closed session meeting minutes that the Board previously approved to remain confidential, to respond to any Freedom of Information Act request, litigation discovery requests, or as otherwise required by court order, and to produce any said closed session meeting minutes or parts thereof where the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to approve BR8272. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Trojan, Cudia, Kennedy, Simpson, and Gorski voted yes. Trustee Nelson voted no. Student Trustee Mikos (student advisory) voted yes.

At 5:29 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to adjourn the final meeting of the present board. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
Immediately Following the Final Meeting of Present Board
April 22, 2025

MINUTES

Call to Order by Chairperson of Retiring Board

The final meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties, Illinois convened in the Performing Arts Room (PAR), Room 0214, in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Trojan at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call by Secretary of the Retiring Board

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

Mr. Robert Trojan
Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia
Mr. Richard Kennedy
Ms. Kristen Simpson

Mr. Paul Gorski
Mr. John Nelson
Mr. Nico Mikos, Student Trustee

The following Trustee was absent: Ms. Crystal Soltow.

Also in Attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Terrica Huntley, Interim Vice President of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President of Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Heather Snider, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Keith Barnes, Vice President of Cultural Excellence; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President of Operations, Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development; Ms. Ann Kerwitz, Assistant to the President, Ms. Araceli Olvera, Interim Executive Assistant, Ms. Tracy Lutheje, Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Officer, Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz.

Certification of Audit and Board Minutes and Policies by Secretary

Board Secretary Richard Kennedy certified that the audit and minutes and policies of the Board of Trustees are true and are kept in conformity with the Board of Trustees Bylaws.

Recognition of Service of Trustee Richard Kennedy

Board Chair Robert Trojan gave recognition to Board Secretary Richard Kennedy for serving on the Rock Valley College Board of Trustees from 2023 – 2025. Trustee Kennedy received a plaque honoring his service as a Board of Trustees member.

At 5:33 p.m., Trustee Kennedy left the meeting.

Adjournment of Retiring Board, sine die

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to adjourn the meeting of the Retiring Board, sine die. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. Trustee Kennedy was not present at the time of vote.

Convening of New Board by Ranking Hold-Over Officer from Retiring Board
Who Shall Serve as Temporary Chairperson

As the ranking hold-over officer from the retiring board, Board Chair Robert Trojan, serving as Temporary Chairperson, convened the new Board of Trustees and asked Trustee Simpson to call the roll due to Richard Kennedy leaving prior to the adjournment of Retiring Board, sine die.

Roll Call

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

Mr. Robert Trojan
Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia
Ms. Kristen Simpson

Mr. Paul Gorski
Mr. John Nelson
Mr. Nico Mikos, Student Trustee

The following Trustees were absent at roll call: Ms. Crystal Soltow

Also in Attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Terrica Huntley, Interim Vice President of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President of Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Heather Snider, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Keith Barnes, Vice President of Cultural Excellence; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President of Operations, Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development; Ms. Ann Kerwitz, Assistant to the President, Ms. Araceli Olvera, Interim Executive Assistant, Ms. Tracy Lutheje, Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Officer, Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz.

Seating of Newly Elected Trustees

Newly Elected Trustee, Dr. Jenna Goldsmith, and re-elected Trustees Gloria Cardenas Cudia and Paul Gorski were sworn in by Attorney Joe Perkoski.

Election of Chairperson of Board

Temporary Chairperson Trojan called for nominations for the position of Board Chair.

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Goldsmith, to nominate Mr. Paul Gorski as Board Chair. There were no other nominations, nor any discussion. Trustee Gorski accepted the nomination. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Nelson, Gorski, Goldsmith, Simpson, and Trojan voted yes. Trustees Cudia and Student Trustee Mikos abstained.

Election of Vice Chairperson

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to nominate Ms. Kristen Simpson as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations, nor any discussion. Trustee Simpson accepted the nomination. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Nelson, Gorski, Goldsmith, Simpson, Cudia, and Trojan voted yes. Student Trustee Mikos abstained.

Election of Secretary

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to nominate Dr. Jenna Goldsmith as Board Secretary. There were no other nominations, nor any discussion. Trustee Goldsmith accepted the nomination.

Trustee Gorski wanted to clarify that abstaining is applied only for personal or fiduciary interests in the vote.

The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Nelson, Gorski, Goldsmith, Simpson, Cudia, and Trojan voted yes. Student Trustee Mikos abstained (advisory).

The new officers took their positions. Newly elected Board Chair Paul Gorski led the reorganization meeting.

Appointment of Treasurer

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve the appointment of Ms. Ellen Olson, vice president of finance/chief financial officer, as College Treasurer.

Trustee Gorski informed the audience that the treasurer isn't a board member; usually it's the chief financial officer.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Attorney

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trojan, to approve the appointment of Mr. Joseph Perkoski of Robbins Schwartz as College Attorney. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Bank Depository(s)

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve the appointment of Illinois Bank & Trust as the College's primary bank depository.

Trustee Gorski shared that if anyone has recommendations, they are welcome to share with the Board of Trustees.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Auditor(s)

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to approve the appointment of Sikich, LLP as the College's auditing firm. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Adoption of Policies of the Board

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Mikos, to adopt the Policies of the Board of Trustees dated April 8, 2014, and individually updated as necessary as contained in the Board Policy Manual.

Trustee Nelson stated that the Board Policy Manual is subject to change as it is overridden by current board action because they are adopted and changed by board action. Due to the fact, he stated that its important that Trustees are able to attend every meeting.

Trustee Gorski added that Robbins Schwartz provides the College with new state and federal legislation that can affect board policies that may need to be amended.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. Student Trustee Mikos was not present at the time of the vote on Adoption of Policies of the Board.

Appointment of Board of Trustees Liaison to RVC Foundation

Board Chair Gorski appointed Trustee Trojan to continue as representative to the RVC Foundation. Trustee Trojan accepted the appointment of Board Liaison to the RVC Foundation. A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Cudia, to appoint Trustee Trojan as RVC Foundation Liaison. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Representative of Finance Topics at Committee of the Whole

Board Chair Gorski appointed Trustee Cudia as representative of Finance topics at the Committee of the Whole meetings. Trustee Cudia accepted the appointment of Finance representative for the Committee of the Whole. A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to appoint Trustee Cudia as the representative of Finance topics to the Committee of the Whole meetings. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Representative of Operations Topics at Committee of the Whole

Board Chair Gorski appointed Trustee Trojan as representative of Operations topics to the Committee of the Whole meetings. Trustee Trojan accepted the appointment of Operation representative for the Committee of the Whole. A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to appoint Trustee Trojan as the representative of Operations topics at the Committee to the Whole meetings. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Representative of Teaching, Learning and Communications Topics at Committee of the Whole

Board Chair Gorski appointed Trustee Goldsmith as representative of Teaching, Learning, and Communications topics to the Committee of the Whole meetings. Trustee Goldsmith accepted the appointment of Teaching, Learning, and Communications representative for the Committee of the Whole. A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to appoint Trustee Goldsmith as the representative of Teaching, Learning, and Communications topics to the Committee of the Whole meetings. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Representative to Illinois Community College Trustees Association

Board Chair Gorski appointed Trustee Nelson as primary representative at the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA). Trustee Nelson accepted the appointment as ICCTA representative. A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to appoint Trustee Nelson as primary and Trustee Simpson as alternative representatives for ICCTA. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Chair Gorski confirmed that item U and V on the agenda can be voided as there is no need for an Ad Hoc Committee and Facilities Master Plan.

Setting the Schedule of Regular Meetings for the Next Fiscal Year

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to approve the meeting schedule for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Adjournment

At 5:57 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to adjourn the Reorganization meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FIRST MEETING OF NEWLY REORGANIZED BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Immediately following the Reorganization Meeting
April 22, 2025

MINUTES

Call to Order

The first meeting of the newly organized Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties, Illinois convened in the Performing Arts Room (PAR), Room 0214, in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Paul Gorski at 5:57 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Mr. Robert Trojan	Mr. Paul Gorski
Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia	Mr. John Nelson
Ms. Kristen Simpson	Mr. Nico Mikos, Student Trustee
Dr. Jenna Goldsmith	

The following Trustee was absent: Ms. Crystal Soltow.

Also in Attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Terrica Huntley, Interim Vice President of Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President of Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Heather Snider, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Keith Barnes, Vice President of Cultural Excellence; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President of Operations, Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development; Ms. Ann Kerwitz, Assistant to the President, Ms. Araceli Olvera, Interim Executive Assistant, Ms. Tracy Lutheje, Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Officer, Attorney Joseph Perkowski, Robbins Schwartz.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

There were no communications, petitions or public comments.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors to be recognized.

General Presentations

There were no general presentations.

Action Items

1. **BR8270 – Approve Resolution Calling A Public Hearing Concerning The Intent Of The Board Of Trustees Of The District To Sell Not To Exceed \$56,250,000 Funding Bonds**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve BR8270.

Trustee Nelson asked for an overview of the issuance of the bonds, a guarantee the bond amount is sufficient to complete the Downtown West project, and what does the future bond market predicts. Vice President Ellen Olson clarified the process for the issuance of the bonds and BINA hearing. Trustee Nelson followed up by asking if this meeting would be the last chance for the board to vote “no” on the bonds. Vice President Olson confirmed that the board approved the debt certificates and the College closed on the debt certificates. These bonds will pay off the debt certificates becoming a general obligation that can be paid off using tax funds. Otherwise, the College will have to repay the debt certificates out of the College’s operating funds.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2. BR8271 – Approve Resolution Declaring The Intention Of The Board Of Trustees Of The District To Issue Not To Exceed \$56,250,000 Funding Bonds For The Purpose Of Paying Claims Of The District And Directing That Notice Of Such Intention Be Published As Provided By Law.

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Student Trustee Mikos, to approve BR8271. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business

1. New Business

Trustee Gorski requested adding “Board Member Attendance by Means Other than Physical Presence” as a standing item on the agenda. Attorney Perkoski had made a recommendation that best practice is using the item when necessary and with advance notice for transparency. Trustee Gorski stated he doesn’t want to exclude any trustees from participating and would like to further discuss at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. He also asked the other trustees about including closed session exceptions 2(c)1 and 2(c)5 as a standing disclaimer. Moving forward, the agenda will include the items stated above.

2. Unfinished Business

- a. Trustee Trojan, Vice President Ellen Olson, and President Spearman met with the CEO of Electroform regarding a potential tax abatement for a new manufacturing facility in Rockford. Electroform plans a 30,000 sq ft high-tech facility, potentially creating 10-20 skilled jobs. The request is for a 10-year tax abatement on the new investment; however, Trustee Trojan suggested a three-year abatement was more appropriate. Discussion followed regarding the current minimal tax revenue from the vacant lot and the potential loss with an abatement.

Trustee Cudia requested written agreements from other taxing districts before a vote.

The Board directed President Spearman and Vice President Olson to gather more specifics, including five-year and 10-year cost implications for the college, and information on agreements with other taxing bodies.

- b. Trustee Nelson raised a question regarding the Statement of Economic Interest filing. HR explained it is a requirement based on the 2019 Higher Learning Committee accreditation and board policy. Discussion clarified the process for filing and that the official record resides with another agency, not RVC.

Trustee Gorski noted he files online and sends a picture of the confirmation as there is no receipt.

Updates/Reports

1. President's Update

President Howard Spearman provided the following updates: he welcomed new Trustee Dr. Jenna Goldsmith and congratulated the newly appointed board officers, Trustees Gloria Cardenas Cudia and Paul Gorski; he attended the AACC Annual Conference from April 12-16, 2025, highlighting that as a member of on the Structured Pathways commission, he co-presented on "Doctorial Dialogue" with Vice President Terrica Huntley. Also, he announced that Rock Valley College was a national finalist for two categories, winning the Corporate Partnership Award with AAR, the College's Aviation Program; he congratulated Vice President Keith Barnes who received the 2025 NIU Outstanding Graduate Student Award; on Thursday, April 24, 2025, he attended and presented at the Phi Theta Kappa All-Illinois Academic Team Banquet honoring RVC students Peyton Fitchie and Isabelle Shadel; on April 25, 2025, the RVC Foundation will host the 60th Anniversary CEO Challenge and noted that funds have exceeded the \$60,000 fundraising goal for student scholarships, reaching \$77,000 with at least three \$10,000 sponsors.

2. Leadership Update

Dr. Keith Barnes, vice president of cultural excellence, provided several updates: he announced that Jazmine Nathan was a finalist for the 2025 ICCTA Pacesetter Award, recognizing the accomplishments of recent community college graduates across Illinois; he recognized Eric Brown, ADA compliance coordinator, for being the keynote speaker at the Great Lakes Recreational Therapy Conference held on April 4, 2025, in Hudson, IL; From April 11-17, 2025, the College hosted events for Black Maternal Health Week, raising awareness of racial disparities in maternal health. He gave recognition to the panelists, but also commended the planning committee, and Promoting an Inclusive Community (PAIC) for organizing the events; On April 25, 2025, the Eagle Awards for Cultural Excellence and Belonging was held to honor individuals and groups who contributed their efforts at Rock Valley College and within the community.

Ms. Heather Snider, vice president of institutional effectiveness and communications, gave an update on enrollment, stating that FY25 enrollment remains above both the budgeted target and the stretch goal. FY26 enrollment is ahead of the same period last year, Summer II enrollment is 98% of the budget and 95% of the stretch goal. Fall enrollment is 48% of the budget and 46% of the stretch goal. Vice President Snider also shared that she and other RVC representatives, including Vice President Amanda Smith, Dr. Lisa Mehlig, Dr. Steve Brown, executive director of assessment and accreditation, and Sharla Parsons, research associate, attended the HLC Annual Conference. Vice President Snider and Dr. Mehlig co-presented, "From Compliance to Continuous Improvement: Normalizing the Accreditation Process," highlighting strategies for successful accreditation site visits.

Dr. Terrica Huntley, vice president of human resources, shared that on April 17, 2025, Rock Valley College hosted Faculty and Staff Professional Development Day with the theme of "Envisioning Lifelong Learning Through Equity, Innovation, & Collaboration." The keynote speaker was award-winning and international speaker, Andy Masters, who focused on customer service. Vice President Huntley gave recognition to the Professional Development Committee, volunteers, faculty and staff presenters. She commended Dr. Terrence Wandtke, faculty professional development specialist, and Mr. Justin Severson, staff professional development specialist, for their efforts in organizing and leading a successful event.

Mr. Rick Jenks, vice president of operations, gave an update on the Downtown West Campus, stating that the construction team discovered an underground storage tank below the south wall footings of the Downtown Learning Center. The tank measures approximately 8 feet wide, 8 feet deep, and 20 feet long. Preliminary observations indicate sludgy or oily liquid inside the tank. Construction has come to a

halt, and all appropriate authorities have been contacted to oversee the tank's removal. Cost estimates for the removal are not yet available.

Dr. Amanda Smith, vice president of academic affairs, announced the winner for Faculty of the Year is Jerry LaBuy, mass communications professor. Professor LaBuy serves as chair of the mass communications department, faculty advisor for the college newspaper, The Valley Forge, and leads the Illinois Film and TV Workforce Training Program.

Ms. Ellen Olson, vice president of finance, announced that Financial Services successfully finalized the 2025 debt certificate issuance. The next step will be the issuance of bonds later this year to pay off the debt certificates. Also, for the 19th consecutive year, Rock Valley College's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for excellence in finance. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. She commended the financial team, including: Lori Mack, executive director of finance, Michael Worden, accountant manager, Sarah Shumway, senior accountant, Shannon Lee, staff accountant, and Hannah Edwards, accounting specialist.

3. ICCTA Report (Illinois Community College Trustees Association)

Trustee Nelson asked about the alternative for the ICCTA representative role, noting the commitment and inviting other trustees to join him at meetings. He provided details about the meetings and their focus on legislative issues.

4. Trustees Comments

- Trustee Trojan reported on the R2OC Robotics program, highlighting the success of two local teams at the national tournament.
- Trustee Goldsmith had no report and welcomed being on the board.
- Trustee Cudia congratulated Jerry LaBuy on his Faculty of the Year award, welcomed Trustee Goldsmith, and noted positive media coverage, clarifying a fire building story was not related to RVC.
- Trustee Gorski expressed condolences for personal losses within the extended RVC family.

5. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Mikos reported that he attended Lobby Day in Springfield. He also announced upcoming events including the Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Skilled Trades Fair, RVC spring band concert, Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) High School Leadership Conference, Eagles Award of Excellence, Spring Finals Frenzy, and the RVC graduation ceremonies.

6. RVC Foundation Liaison Report

Trustee Trojan noted his participation in the 60th Anniversary CEO Challenge and the record number of scholarship applications (674) received. Offers would start going out in May. He also announced that the Foundation is anticipating two, \$1 million-plus awards for the nursing program and another area, highlighting the long-term effort involved in securing such large donations.

7. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Report

The FOIA Report was accepted as presented.

Next Meeting

The Next Committee of the Whole meeting will be on May 13, 2025, 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Performing Arts Room (PAR, Room 0214) located in the Education Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus.

The Next Regular Meeting will be on May 27, 2025, 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Performing Arts Room (PAR, Room 0214) located in the Education Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus.

Adjournment

At 6:59 p.m., a motion was made by Student Trustee Mikos, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Submitted by Araceli Olvera

Richard Kennedy, Secretary
Term as Board Secretary and Trustee expired.
Not available for signature.



Robert Trojan, Board Chair