

**Rock Valley College Board of Trustees
Illinois Community College District No. 511
3301 Mulford Road, Rockford, IL, 61114
Educational Resource Center, Performing Arts Room, Room 0214
Regular Meeting
August 26, 2025, 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 the Performing Arts Room (PAR), Room 0214, in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus on Tuesday, August 26, 2025. Board Chair Paul Gorski called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Due to the absence of President Spearman, Dr. Amanda Smith, vice president of academic affairs, was seated at the Board of Trustees' table.

Roll Call

Mr. Paul Gorski

Ms. Kristen Simpson

Dr. Jenna Goldsmith

Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia

Mr. Robert (Bob) Trojan

Mr. John Nelson

Student Trustee Mr. Isiah Blake

The following trustee was absent at roll call: Ms. Crystal Soltow

Also in Attendance: Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Rick Jenks, Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Terrica Huntley, 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. Hansen Stewart, Vice President of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development; Ms. Ann Kerwitz, Assistant to the President; Ms. Carly Huotari, Assistant to the President; Ms. Tracy Luethje, Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Officer, Attorney Joe Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz.

Board Members Attendance by Means Other Than Physical Presence

No board members attended by means other than physical presence.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

There were no communications, petitions, or public comments.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors to be recognized.

Adjourn to Closed Session

At 5:23 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to adjourn to closed session to discuss: 1) Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property per Section 2 (c) (8); and/or 2) Litigation has been filed, is pending, or probable per Section 2 (c) (11), in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Reconvene Open Session

At 6:15 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Simpson, to reconvene to open session. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Action as a Result of Closed Session

Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release #RVC-2025-002

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Simpson, to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release with Andrea Hudson. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

General Presentations

There were no general presentations.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Student Trustee Blake, to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting and the July 22, 2025, Regular meeting. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Action Items

1. BR8308 – Claims Sheet (Check Register – July 2025)

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 July 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025. The total is \$3,210,780.70.

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Simpson, to approve BR8308. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2a. BR8309-A – Purchase Report A – FY2026 Purchases

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the items marked with asterisks on Purchase Report A – FY2026 Purchases.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Student Trustee Blake, to approve Board Report 8309-A. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2b. BR8309-B – Purchase Report B – FY2026 Purchases

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the items marked with an asterisk on Purchase Report B – FY2026 Purchases.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Student Trustee Blake to approve Board Report 8309-B. Vice President Ellen Olson confirmed that changes were made to Purchase Report A since the August 12, 2025 Committee of the Whole, but not to Purchase Reports B, C and D. Trustee Nelson indicated that he will vote no on Purchase Report B.

There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Goldsmith, Simpson, Cudia, Trojan, and Gorski voted yes. Trustee Nelson voted no. Student Trustee Blake voted yes (advisory).

2c. BR8309-C – Purchase Report C – FY2026 Purchases

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the item marked with an asterisk on Purchase Report C – FY2026 Purchases.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8309-C. Trustee Nelson explained to the audience that these items were discussed at the August 12, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting and it was requested that this item be removed from Purchase Report-A and assigned its own report number so it can be voted on separately.

The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Goldsmith, Trojan, Cudia and Gorski voted yes. Trustees Nelson and Simpson voted no. Student Trustee Blake voted yes (advisory).

2d. BR8309-D – Purchase Report D – FY2026 Emergency Purchase

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the item marked with an asterisk on Purchase Report D – FY2026 Emergency Purchase.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8309-D. Vice President Jenks reminded trustees that this is a special purchase for repair of the HVAC system in the Jacobs Center for Science and Math (JCSM) and that it was reviewed and discussed at the August 12, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

3. BR8310 – Farm Lease Agreement

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Farm Lease Agreement for the property located at 1400 Big Thunder Blvd, Belvidere, Illinois, between Mark Huntington and Rock Valley College. The Agreement will commence on April 1, 2026. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8310. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. BR8311 – Second Reading: Amendment to Board Policy 3:20.010 - Job Posting and Hiring

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the amendment to Board Policy 3:20.010 (Job Posting and Hiring) forthwith. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8311. Board Chair Gorski explained that although trustees will no longer vote on approval of the Personnel Report, it will be presented for review on a monthly basis. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business

1. New Business – There was no new business to be discussed.
2. Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

Updates/Reports

1. President Update

Due to the absence of Dr. Howard Spearman, a president's report was not available.

2. Leadership Update

- Dr. Amanda Smith commented that the College onboarded 11 new faculty members with a full day orientation and an abbreviated orientation for new adjuncts.
- Dr. Patrick Peyer provided an update on the launch of the statewide “One Click” admission for students in statewide colleges and universities. He also explained the new common application for use in Illinois. RVC staff have attended webinars and will form a committee to plan the College’s implementation in fall 2027. Peyer answered several questions from trustees, noting that those who want more information can google “One Click College Admit.”
- Dr. Terrica Huntley thanked Justin Severson, professional development specialist, for implementing the new face-to-face format for new employee orientation. She also thanked Christine Lott, director of employee relations, for organizing the employee ice cream social. Trustees are invited to attend the Professional Development Day to be held Tuesday, September 2.
- Vice President Heather Snider provided an enrollment report, noting that enrollment is strong with the fall semester 4% ahead of last year, 3% ahead of budget, and 99% to the stretch goal. The Last Beam Celebration held at the Downtown West location on August 15 brought Trustee Bob Trojan, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara, and a number of state and local officials.
- Dr. Hansen Stewart announced that the College was awarded a \$900,000 grant for FY2026 for the Workforce Empowerment Initiative (WEI) by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). This grant helps fund Truck Driver Training, CNC training, collision repair and healthcare programs for underserved populations.
- Vice President Rick Jenks announced that the part needed for the JCSM HVAC system repair has been ordered in hopes it will arrive in less than 12 weeks so the work can be completed before cold weather sets in.
- Vice President Ellen Olson announced that the 2025 audit field services portion has been completed, and trustees who have not submitted their SAS99 form need to do that as soon as possible. Ms. Olson added that last year Dr. Spearman and Trustee Cudia served on the ICCB Adequacy and Equity in Community College Funding Working Group, and as a follow-up to that work, she has been invited to serve on the Base Operating Technical Modeling Group to look at model development for the

Base Operating Grant. In addition, she announced that the College has received \$2.96 million plus interest for a total of \$3.83 million from the Internal Revenue Service for the Quarter 2-2021 payment of the Employee Retention Credit. The \$592,097 fee to Wealth Advisors will be posted on the September purchase report.

3. Illinois Community College Trustee Association (ICCTA) Report

Trustee Nelson commented that he attended the ICCTA Executive Committee retreat in early August. Discussion included how baccalaureate degrees will get passed and the possibility of further negotiations for passage in the 2026 legislative session. He added that ICCTA is in good financial condition and that Kim Villanueva is leaving after 40 years, as she has been named president of the National Organization of Women.

4. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Isiah Blake provided an update on Welcome Week for students. After reading his prepared report, he added that the Student Government Association (SGA) held a club involvement fair today. There was a great turnout and many students indicated interest in SGA participation. He also saw increased signups for other clubs, which he believes is a result of increased enrollment. In response to trustees' questions, he's also seeing full parking lots by 9 a.m. and full classes.

Dr. Peyer added there is about a 5% increase in headcount.

5. Trustee Comments

- Trustee Cudia commented on the Center for Learning in Retirement (CLR) fall catalog that was distributed to trustees. She is in awe of community and continuing ed programs being offered. In addition, she is hearing good things from the community about RVC's commercials and videos.
- Trustee Trojan commented that he attended the Last Beam Ceremony at the Downtown West location, which had a good turnout, and he was pleased to be able to sign both his and his late wife's names on the beam.
- Trustees Simpson and Goldsmith had no comment.
- Trustee Nelson commented that he talked with a young man wearing a RVC sweatshirt, a catcher on the baseball team, and it was nice to speak with a student in a non-campus situation. He added that it's a concern of the ICCTA Executive Committee of how to get trustees to attend ICCTA meetings. He added that it's a good place to learn about being a trustee and urged the other trustees to attend.
- Board Chair Gorski suggested that Mr. Nelson ask ICCTA to consider streaming their meetings.

5. RVC Foundation Report

Trustee Trojan reported that the Downtown West campaign is still in the quiet stage, but a letter will be sent to the public in November to make it official. The Foundation has received 115 new scholarship applications which brings the total to a record 832. There is still \$250,000 available for disbursement. Future Foundation activities include: October 16 - Family Breakfast; November 8 - Annual Scholarship Luncheon; April 30, 2026 CEO Challenge (\$100,000 goal). In September the Foundation Board will discuss naming rights for the three athletic fields.

In response to a question from Trustee Cudia asking if RVC trustees can attend Foundation board meetings, Attorney Joe Perkoski expressed his concern that discussions at Foundation meetings are likely dealing with college business and it could be construed as an illegal RVC board meeting if three or more trustees attended. He added that ICCTA meetings are exempt.

Trustee Trojan added that he invited the Foundation board to attend the upcoming RVC trustee retreat and encouraged them to review the materials and ask questions. Trojan expressed his concern that last year, trustees and Foundation board members did not ask many questions about the State of the College retreat information. Board Chair Gorski explained that fewer or no questions may be a result of the thorough and informative presentations prepared by the Administration.

6. Personnel Report

Board Chair Gorski noted that the board will no longer take action on the Personnel Report and it is now an informational only item.

7. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Report

The FOIA report was accepted as presented.

Adjourn to Closed Session

A second closed session was not held.

Next Meeting


The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on September 9, 2025, in the Performing Arts Room (PAR, Room 0214) located in the Educational Resources Center (ERC) on the main campus.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on September 23, 2025, in the Performing Arts Room (PAR, Room 0214) located in the Educational Resources Center (ERC) on the main campus.

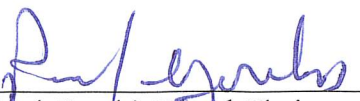
Adjournment

At 7:16 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Submitted by Ann L. Kerwitz



Dr. Jenna Goldsmith, Secretary
Secretary pro tempore
Robert Trojan



Paul Gorski, Board Chair