

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

ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
July 23, 2024, 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 (Performing Arts Room) in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on Tuesday, July 23, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Robert Trojan at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Mr. John Nelson	Mr. Richard Kennedy
Ms. Gloria Cudia	Mr. Paul Gorski
Ms. Kristen Simpson	Mr. Robert Trojan
Student Trustee Nico Mikos	

The following Trustee was 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; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President of Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development; Mr. Keith Barnes, Vice President of Equity and Inclusion; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President of Operations/Chief Operations Officer; Ms. Terrica Huntley; Interim Vice President of Human Resources; Ms. Betsy Saucedo, Assistant to the President; Araceli Olvera; Interim Executive Assistant; Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz.

Board Member Attendance by Means Other than Physical Presence

There were no Board members attending by means other than physical presence.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

There were no communications or petitions.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors to be recognized during the meeting.

General Presentations

There were no general presentations.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting, and the June 25, 2024 Regular meeting. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Action Items

1. BR 8167 - Claims Sheet - June 2024

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 June 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024. The total is \$2,357,332.99.

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8167. Trustee Nelson inquired about receiving the full check register on a quarterly basis. Vice President Ellen Olson explained that the Trustees have been receiving the full check register at least every three months. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2a. BR 8168-A - Purchase Report-A - FY2024 Amendments

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the marked items for purchase on Board Report 8168-A, Purchase Report-A.

\$ 996.00	A. Hulu, Burbank, CA
\$ 8,000.00 - Not to Exceed	B. ComEd, Chicago, IL
\$ 1,202.00	C. City of Rockford, Rockford, IL

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, to approve Board Report 8168-A. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2b. BR 8168-B - Purchase Report-B - FY2025 Purchases

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the marked items for purchase on Board Report 8168-B, Purchase Report-B.

\$ 25,000.00 - Not to Exceed	A. ABS Training & Consulting, LLC, West Allis, WI
\$ 117,450.00	B. Aidex Educational Systems, Rossville, IN
\$ 910,000.00 - Not to Exceed	C. Heartland Financial USA, Overland Park, KS
\$ 457,380.00	D. Hogan Environmental Cleaning, East Troy, WI Replaced by NES, Inc., Frankfort, IL per motion
\$ 29,340.00	E. Illumination Consulting, LTD, Cherry Valley, IL
\$ 345,800.00	F. Lincoln Electric Company, Cleveland, OH
\$ 48,100.00 - Not to Exceed	G. Midwest Environmental Consulting, Yorkville, IL
\$ 34,336.00	H. Schneider Electric, Homewood, IL

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to amend Board Report 8168-B, to pull item D abatement services for the Downtown West Campus. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

A second motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to award Item D, abatement services contract for the Downtown West Campus to NES Inc. The Trustees' questions and comments included:

- Trustee Nelson has received information and is concerned about the fines that Hogan Environmental Cleaning has recently received from the state of Indiana and the infractions notices they have received from the state of Illinois.
- Dr. Spearman and Chief Operations Officer Rick Jenks received information concerning Hogan Environmental Cleaning. After conducting research, it was determined that Hogan Environmental

Cleaning was not a certified apprenticeship under the Department of Labor. As a result of this, they do not meet the bid qualifications and are not the lowest responsible bidder. The College Administration is now recommending NES Inc. as the lowest responsible bidder.

- Trustee Gorski stated that not only did we discover some discrepancies in their reliability but also by not meeting our responsible bid ordinance and the training programmers with the Department of Labor, they materially failed to meet the terms of the bid. Dr. Spearman concurred with the statement.
- Mr. Trojan was also approached with information on Hogan Environmental Cleaning which he turned over to the Administration.

The motion to award Item D, abatement services for Downtown West, to NES, Inc. was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

A third motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8168-B, as previously amended (without Item D). There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

3. BR 8169 - Reimbursement Resolution: Classroom Building II (CLII) and the Health Sciences (HSC) Project

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the resolution to permit reimbursement for a portion of the capital expenditures associated with the altering, remodeling, and equipping Classroom Building II and the Health Sciences Center not to exceed \$14,700,000. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8169 the resolution entitled: "Resolution expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by Community College District No. 511, Counties of Winnebago, Ogle, Boone, Stephenson, DeKalb, and McHenry, and the State of Illinois." Trustee Nelson asked for clarification on the verbiage of the Reimbursement Resolution. Vice President Ellen Olson clarified that any Trustee could join the Board meeting via video or audio conference. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. BR 8170 - Reimbursement Resolution: New District Facility Downtown Rockford, Illinois

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the resolution to permit reimbursement for a portion of the capital expenditures associated with the construction and equipping of the future downtown location not to exceed \$9,000.00. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8170 the resolution entitled: "Resolution expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by Community College District No. 511, Counties of Winnebago, Ogle, Boone, Stephenson, DeKalb, and McHenry, and the State of Illinois. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

5. BR 8171 - 2024-2025 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding - Belvidere Community Unit District #100

6. BR 8172 - 2024-2025 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding - Boylan Catholic High School

7. BR 8173 - 2024-2025 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding - Byron Community Unit District #226

8. BR 8174 - 2024-2025 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding - Harlem Unit School District #122

9. BR 8175 - 2024-2025 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding - Hononegah Community School District #207

10. BR 8176 - 2024-2025 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding - Keith Country Day School

11. BR 8177 - 2024-2025 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding - Oregon Community Unit School District #220

12. BR 8178 - Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement - Belvidere Community Unit School District #100

13. BR 8179 - Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement - Byron Community Unit School District #226

14. BR 8180 - Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement - Durand Community Unit School District #322

15. BR 8181 - Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement - Harlem Unit School District #122

16. BR 8182 - Senior Semester Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement Byron Community Unit School District #226

The Board Reports read in part: It is recommended that the Rock Valley College Board of Trustees approves the Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding/Intergovernmental Agreement between Rock Valley College and [school district] effective [date] and ending [date]. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Gorski to approve Board Reports 8171, 8172, 8173, 8174, 8175, 8176, 8177, 8178, 8179, 8180, 8181, 8182. Trustee Gorski commented that he respects and appreciates the partnership that the College has with each of the school districts. Trustee Trojan explained that the Board of Trustees are speedily going through the action items on the agenda because they have already been discussed at the July Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

17. BR 8183 - Personnel Report

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the personnel items listed on Board Report 8183.

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Cudia to approve Board Report 8183. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

18. BR 8184 - Closed Session Minutes Through June 2024

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 20, 2024 through June 25, 2024 shall be approved.

2. That the need for confidentiality still exists for the closed session meeting minutes for the period of January 20, 2024, through June 25, 2024.
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 Nelson, seconded by Trustee Kennedy to approve Board Report 8184. There was no discussion. Trustees Nelson, Kennedy, Cudia, Simpson, and Trojan voted yes. Trustee Gorski voted no. Student Trustee Mikos voted yes (advisory). The motion was approved by majority roll call vote.

19. BR 8185 - Election for Members of the Board of Trustees

The Board Report reads in part: The Rock Valley College Board of Trustees acknowledges the scheduling of an election for members of the Community College Board to be held Tuesday, April 1, 2025, to elect three board members for a term of six years each. The Board of Trustees also appoints the Chief Financial Officer and staff as the Board's designated representative to receive the statements of candidacy, nomination petitions, and election results from the various local election authorities to transmit the results to the Board of Trustees within the time permitted by law (110 ILCS 805/3-7.10).

Statements of candidacy and nominating petitions shall be filed in the Financial Services office in the Support Services Building at Rock Valley College, 3301 N. Mulford Road, Rockford, Illinois, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CST each day except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays beginning November 12, 2024 and ending November 18, 2024. Names of the candidates shall be submitted to the voters in the order determined by the applicable provisions of the Illinois Election Code. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Gorski to approve Board Report 8185. The Trustees' questions and comments included:

- Trustee Nelson explained that petitions are available online or at the Financial Services office. He added that Trustees Gorski, Cudia, and Kennedy's seats are up for re-election.

Trustee Trojan stated that there are three Trustee seats open for the April 2025 election and an election schedule was given to the Board of Trustees during the meeting.

- Trustee Trojan asked if a Trustee is allowed to put his or her name and RVC Trustee title on another political candidate's campaign documents. Attorney Perkoski is reviewing this matter and will send an opinion letter to Board Chair Trojan and Dr. Spearman.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business

1. **New Business**

President Spearman invited the Board of Trustees to the annual Growth Dimensions reception on Thursday, August 29, 2024, with networking at 5:00 p.m. and dinner and keynote speaker at 5:45 p.m. The reception will be held at the Community Building Complex of Boone County.

President Spearman also invited the Board of Trustees to the next ICCTA meeting which will be held on Friday, September 13, 2024 and Saturday, September 14, 2024 in Springfield, IL.

Ann Kerwitz, assistant to the president, had her procedure completed and should be back in the office by next week.

2. **Unfinished Business**

There is no unfinished business

Updates / Reports

1. **President's Update**

President Spearman provided an update on various events and activities:

- President Spearman expressed gratitude to the Board of Trustees for attending the parades in Rockford and Belvidere, and to David Schneider, dean of enrollment services, and his team for coordinating the parades.
- President Spearman attended the Presidents Academy Summer Institute in Washington, D.C. in July. There were discussions on higher education trends, artificial intelligence, financial constraints, the impact of politics on higher education, and much more.
- President Spearman acknowledged Michael Youngblood, Economics Professor, Mark Adolphson, Aviation Professor, and Amy Heilman, Program Director of Refugee and Immigrant Services for their decades of hard work and dedication to student success at the College. He hoped that their future endeavors are greater than their past achievements.

2. **Leadership Team Updates**

- Vice President Dr. Patrick Peyer gave an enrollment update on behalf of Vice President Heather Snider. The College is currently 86% to budget for the Summer II and Fall semester goal and 83% to the stretch goal. Enrollment and registration activities will continue in the next few weeks as the Fall semester approaches. Next, the College received a \$5,000 Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) grant to assist students with FASFA completion. There will be two additional new student welcome events that will be held Tuesday, August 13 and Thursday, August 15, 2024 in the Stenstrom Student Center. Regarding Fall sports, the Men's and Women's soccer team will begin practice on Thursday, August 1, 2024. Congratulations to Darin Monroe for being named the new Committee Chair for the NJCAA Sports Governance Committee. Lastly, in response to the Culture Survey, the Student Affairs Division hosted the first Division Awards event on Tuesday, July 9, 2024.
- Vice President Rick Jenks gave an update on the various summer projects on campus. The Educational Resource Center (ERC) steps are being poured, the contractor is working on replacing the rock on each side of the steps, and replacing the railings. The anticipated completion date is on Friday, August 2, 2024. The walkways have been paved and the landscaping is being completed. The seal coating and striping of Parking Lot One is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 12, 2024. The Stenstrom Student Center carpet is scheduled to be completed on Friday, July 26, 2024. The Woodward Technology Center (WTC) HVAC project is nearing completion. The building is scheduled to reopen on Wednesday, August 7. However, the project will not conclude until on or near Thursday, August 15, 2024. Lastly, the Starlight

Theatre Camp: Stars of Tomorrow has been a huge hit. This year, the program had 60 elementary, 60 middle, and 45 high school students.

- Dr. Spearman spoke on Vice President Heather Snider's behalf to thank Jennifer Thompson and the marketing team for their efforts on creating the RVC Bridge Magazines. Trustees were given two magazines each and offered more available, if desired.

3. **ICCTA Report**

There was no ICCTA report.

4. **Trustee Comments**

- Trustee Gorski thanked the staff and the high school districts for their continued support and partnerships on the Early College agreements.
- Trustee Cudia echoed Trustee Gorski's comments. She appreciated the partnerships with each of the school districts because it's very beneficial. A win-win.
- Trustee Simpson stated that her kids are participating in the Summer Starlight Theatre Camp and are enjoying it. She also reminded everyone that *The Color Purple*, *Newsies*, and *Beauty and the Beast* are showing in the upcoming weeks.
- Trustee Nelson highlighted Starlight plays for their outstanding performances and would like to continue building the Foundation's assets.
- Trustee Trojan stated that the Robotics Competition is on Saturday, July 27, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Physical Education Center (PEC) gym.

5. **Student Trustee Report**

Student Trustee Nico Mikos gave an update on the different events. They are the following:

- The Summer II semester will end on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 and the Fall semester will shortly begin on Saturday, August 17, 2024.
- The Starlight Theater crew and cast have produced several great performances this summer and are now showing their second run of productions.
- There were several new student welcome events and orientations to prepare for the Fall semester.
- Student Trustee Mikos looks forward to attending Welcome Week, which will be a fun and engaging series of events to kick off the Fall semester.
- Student Trustee Mikos will continue to use his voice to represent the College's student population.

6. **RVC Foundation Liaison Report**

There was no RVC Foundation report.

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

The FOIA report was accepted as presented.

Adjourn to Closed Session

At 6:05 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Kennedy, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to adjourn to closed session to discuss 1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting per Section 2 (c) (1); and/or 2) Litigation has been filed, is pending, or probable per Section 2 (c) (11), all in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Reconvene Open Session

At 6:41pm, a motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to reconvene to open session. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Next Meeting

The next Committee of the Whole Meeting will be on August 13, 2024 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 Regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 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.

Adjournment

At 6:43 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Submitted by Betsy Saucedo


Richard Kennedy, Secretary


Robert Trojan, Board Chair