

Rock Valley College

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

Educational Resource Center, Performing Arts Room, Room 0214
FINAL MEETING OF THE PRESENT BOARD

April 28, 2026, 5:15 p.m.

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 on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. Board Chair Paul Gorski called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Mr. Paul Gorski	Mr. Robert (Bob) Trojan
Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia	Mr. John Nelson
Dr. Jenna Goldsmith	Ms. Crystal Soltow
Ms. Kristen Simpson- by phone	Mr. Isiah Blake, Student Trustee

The following trustee was absent at roll call: Ms. Kristen Simpson

Also in Attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Ellen Olson, Vice President of Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Heather Snider, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Terrica Huntley, Vice President of Human Resources; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President of Student Affairs; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President of Operations; Ms. Ann Kerwitz, Assistant to the President; Ms. Carly Diciolla, Assistant to the President; Ms. Tracy Luethje, Executive Assistant to the Chief Operations Officer; Attorney Joe Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz.

Board Member Attendance by Means Other than Physical Presence

Trustee Trojan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to allow Trustee Simpson to participate in the meeting via teleconference. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote. Trustee Simpson entered the meeting via telephone.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

There were no communications, petitions, or public comments.

Recognition of Visitors

Dr. Spearman recognized the media station that was present, WIFR.

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Adjourn to Closed Session

At 5:18 p.m., Trustee Trojan made a motion, 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 education setting per section 2 (c) (1), in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Reconvene Open Session

At 5:54 p.m., Trustee Trojan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to adjourn the closed session and return to open session. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Action as a Result of Closed Session

Trustee Nelson made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve an employment contract between Rock Valley College (RVC) and Dr. Howard J. Spearman for the position of President of the College for a term of three academic years commencing on July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029 at an annual salary of \$288,305.00 with additional benefits. Trustees Cudia, Trojan, and Soltow all commented that the contract should be for a four-year term. The motion was approved by a majority roll call vote. Trustees Nelson, Soltow, Goldsmith, Simpson, Board Chair Gorski, and Student Trustee Isiah Blake (advisory) voted yes. Trustee Cudia voted no.

General Presentations

- 1. RVC Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation, Transition, and Prioritization Plan Update**– Dr. Keith Barnes presented the ADA self-evaluation plan summary, which is a result of the student and community survey that was completed in 2023. The survey reviewed all RVC programs, activities, and services, as well as the College's ADA compliance. The ADA Self-Evaluation Plan resulted in 49 recommendations, for example, moving the bus stop closer to buildings and making web content accessible. The office of Cultural Excellence and Belonging has prepared a transition and prioritization plan, which is a written record of the planning process for prioritizing and implementing of the ADA Self-Evaluation plan. This record also supports the RVC Strategic Plan Refresh. Eric Brown will present this plan to the Cabinet in Fall of 2026. Discussion ensued. Board Chair Paul Gorski inquired about the relocation of a new bus stop, which had been previously brought to the Board. Vice President Rick Jenks continues to hold conversations with the Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD) regarding the bus stop project.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Student Trustee Isiah Blake, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting, and the March 24, 2026, Regular Board of Trustees meeting. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

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Action Items

1. BR8366 – Claims Sheet (Check Register – March 2026)

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the claims sheet from the Ellucian check register for the period from March 1, 2026, to March 31, 2026. The total is \$4,894,612.25

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve BR8366. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

2a. BR8367-A – Purchase Report A – FY2026 Amendments

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

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to approve Board Report 8367-A. Discussion ensued. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

2b. BR8367-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 Nelson, seconded by Student Trustee Blake, to approve Board Report 8367-B. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

2c. BR8367-C – Purchase Report C – 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 C – FY2026 Purchases.

A motion was made by Student Trustee Blake, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8367-C. Discussion ensued. Vice President Ellen Olson explained that the Arco Machinery Movers expense covers the packing, transporting, storage, and delivery of the Automotive Program. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. BR8368 – Resolution Calling the Parameters Issuance of General Obligation Bonds Not to Exceed \$7,900,000

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the resolution to providing for the issue of not to exceed \$7,900,000 General Obligation Community College Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to the purchase thereof. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve Board Report 8368. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. BR8369 – Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year (FY2027)

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the FY2027 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 23, 2026. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8369. Discussion ensued. The motion was approved by a majority roll call vote.

5. BR8370 – 2026-2027 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Boylan Catholic High School 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 between Rock Valley College and Boylan Catholic High School beginning August 1, 2026, and expiring June 30, 2027. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve Board Report 8370. Discussion ensued. Bob Trojan voiced concern over the paper usage in printing these agreements. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

6. BR8371 – 2026-2027 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Byron Catholic High School 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 between Rock Valley College and Byron Community Unit School District #226 beginning August 1, 2026, and expiring June 30, 2027. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve Board Report 8371. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

7. BR8372 – 2026-2027 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Winnebago Community Unit School District #323 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 between Rock Valley College and Winnebago Community Unit School District #323 beginning August 1, 2026, and expiring June 30, 2027. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve Board Report 8372. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

8. BR8373 – 2026-2027 Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Byron Community Unit School District #226

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Rock Valley College Board of Trustees approves the Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement with Byron Community Unit School District #226, effective on the date

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both parties have approved and executed the Agreement for classes beginning Summer 2026 and automatically expiring on June 30, 2027. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8373. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

9. BR8374 – 2026-2027 Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Winnebago Community Unit School District #323

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Rock Valley College Board of Trustees approves the Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement with Winnebago Community Unit School District #323, effective on the date both parties have approved and executed the Agreement, for classes beginning Summer 2026 and automatically expiring on June 30, 2027. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8374. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

10. BR8375 – Senior Semester Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Byron Community Unit School District #226

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Senior Semester Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Byron Community Unit School District #226, effective on the date both parties have approved and executed the Agreement, for classes beginning in January 2027. The agreement shall expire on June 30, 2027. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Student Trustee Blake, to approve Board Report 8375. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

11. BR8376 – Application for Permanent Approval Career & Technical Education Curriculum Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Systems Technology

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the submission of a proposal to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to approve the Associate of Applied Science degree in Industrial Systems Technology. The ICCB Form 20 proposal includes:

Part A. Feasibility, Curriculum Quality, and Cost Analysis.

Part B. Supportive Documentation and Data.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Student Trustee Blake, to approve Board Report 8376. Discussion ensued. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

12. BR8377 – Update to Rock Valley College Board Policy Manual Article 3 – Human Resources, Second Reading

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the revisions to Article 3-Human Resources of the Board Policy Manual as reviewed by Robbins Schwartz attorneys and the College Administration. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to approve Board Report 8377. Discussion ensued. The motion was approved by a majority roll call vote. Trustees Cudia, Soltow, Goldsmith, Simpson, Board Chair Gorski, and Student Trustee Isiah Blake (advisory) voted yes. Trustee Nelson voted no.

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13. BR8378 – Summer Flex Days for Full-Time ESP, SSA, PSA, and Administrative Staff

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves five (eight-hour) summer flex days for full-time ESP, SSA, PSA, and administrative staff to be used between May 18, 2026, and July 31, 2026.

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to approve Board Report 8378. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

14. BR8379 – Resolution Honoring the Retirement of Rock Valley College Employees

The Board Report reads in part: The following individuals have retired as employees of Rock Valley College during 2025-2026: Linda Buerger, Stephen Donahue, Jeanne Ellis, Carol Griesbach, Betty Hoshaw, Maureen Miller, Cassiopeia Paslick, and Betty-Villalobos-Hallmann.

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to approve Board Report 8379. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Adjourn Final Meeting of Present Board

At 6:47 p.m., Board Chair Gorski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to adjourn the final meeting of the present board. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Submitted by Carly A. Diciolla



Dr. Jenna Goldsmith, Secretary



Paul Gorski, Board Chair