

Rock Valley College

**Rock Valley College Board of Trustees
Illinois Community College District No. 511
3301 North Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61114
Educational Resource Center, Performing Arts Room, Room 0214
June 23, 2026, 5:15 p.m.**

MINUTES – FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2027 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

The FY2027 Public Budget Hearing was called to order at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, by Board Chair Paul Gorski in Room 0214 (Performing Arts Room) in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus of Rock Valley College.

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	Ms. Crystal Soltow
Dr. Jenna Goldsmith	Ms. Sarah Ortiz Espinoza, Student Trustee

The following trustees were absent at roll call: Trustees Kristen Simpson and John Nelson.

Board Chair Gorski announced that all persons who desire to be heard will have an opportunity to present oral testimony. Mr. Gorski introduced Ellen Olson, Vice President of Finance, who reviewed the FY2027 Final Budget.

Vice President Olson noted the following:

- On April 28, 2026, the Board of Trustees approved the tentative budget for FY2027, and no changes have occurred since then.
- The College published the notice of hearing.
- The Budget has been on display in the Financial Services office since May 22, 2026, and has been available online as well as for public viewing.
- Operational funds remain balanced with a tight contingency; rising group medical costs out of Fund 18 remain the primary tracking concern.

Following Vice President Olson's report, Board Chair Gorski invited public testimony on the FY2027 Final Budget. There were no public requests to address the trustees.

At 5:20 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to close the Public Budget Hearing. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote, and Board Chair Gorski declared the Public Budget closed.

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MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

June 23, 2026, 5:15 p.m.

(Immediately following the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027
Public Budget Hearing)

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, June 23, 2026. Board Chair Paul Gorski called the meeting to order at 5:20 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	Ms. Crystal Soltow
Dr. Jenna Goldsmith	Ms. Sarah Ortiz Espinoza, Student Trustee

The following trustees were absent at roll call: Trustees Kristen Simpson and John Nelson.

Also in Attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Ellen Olson, Vice President of Finance; 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; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President of Operations; Dr. Keith Barnes, Vice President of Cultural Excellence and Belonging; 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

No trustees attended by means other than physical presence.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

Board Chair Gorski received mail from Equipment Share regarding 711 Green Street in Rockford and forwarded it to Vice President of Operations Rick Jenks.

Recognition of Visitors

Dr. Peyer introduced the Head Coach of the Rock Valley College (RVC) Women's Golf Team, Andy Graber. Mr. Graber's team finished as runner-up in the NJCAA Division 3 National Championship in Chautauqua, New York. The athletes present were Maya Johnson, Isabella Schwanebeck, Gina Baker, Sophia Cross, and Amelia Dunseth. Ms. Dunseth also won the individual national champion award for

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NJCAA Division 3. The golf team, along with their coach, took a picture with the Board of Trustees.

General Presentations

1. Strategic Plan Update: Adult Learner Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) – Dr. Patrick Peyer presented the Adult Learner SEM plan that began on July 1, 2025. The focus is on students aged 25 to 45. Some of the initiatives being used include: improved communication; enhanced dashboard tracking; evening course offerings and support services; clarified career and degree pathways; targeted outreach, marketing, and enrollment strategies; and hosting adult-learner enrollment and retention events. RVC has arranged for coordinators and advisors to be stationed at the Downtown West campus to provide resources and opportunities for this age group.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting and the May 26, 2026, Regular Board of Trustees meeting. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Action Items

1. BR8402 – Claims Sheet (Check Register – May 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 May 1, 2026, to May 31, 2026." The total is \$9,010,434.79.

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve BR8402. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

2a. BR8403-A – Purchase Report A – FY2026 Downtown West 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 Downtown West Amendments.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8403-A. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

2b. BR8403-B – Purchase Report B – 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 B – FY2026 Amendments.

A motion was made by Trustee Soltow, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8403-B. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

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2c. BR8403-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 Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve Board Report 8403-C. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

2d. BR8403-D – Purchase Report D – FY2027 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 D – FY2027 Purchases.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve BR8403-D. Vice President Ellen Olson explained that there has been one addition since the Committee of the Whole meeting: Item G - automotive equipment for the Downtown West campus. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

2e. BR8403-E – Purchase Report E – FY2027 Site Rentals

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the items marked with an asterisk on Purchase Report E – FY2027 Site Rentals.

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to approve Board Report 8403-E. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

2f. BR8403-F – Purchase Report F – FY2027 Software Licensing Renewals

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the items marked with an asterisk on Purchase Report F – FY2027 Software Licensing Renewals.

A motion was made by Student Trustee Espinoza, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve Board Report 8403-F. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

2g. BR8403-G – Purchase Report G – FY2027 Blanket Purchase Orders

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the items listed on Purchase Report G – FY2027 Blanket Purchase Orders.

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to approve Board Report 8403-G. Vice President Ellen Olson explained that the only changes made are to the headers at the top of the Excel spreadsheet; they now read FY2026 and FY2027 instead of FY2025 and FY2026. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. BR8404 – Fund Transfer Request

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the College administration to transfer a total of \$325,000 from Operating

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Funds, for \$225,000 to Restricted Operations and Maintenance (Fund 03), and \$100,000 to Restricted Funds (Fund 06).

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve BR8404. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. BR8405 – Adopting the FY2027 Budget

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopts the FY2027 Final Budget as the budget for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2026, for Community College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Stephenson, and Ogle Counties.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Cudia, to approve BR8405. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

5. BR8406 – Certificate Attesting to the FY2027 Budget

The Board Report reads, in part: It is recommended that the Secretary and Chairperson of the Rock Valley College Board of Trustees attest that the attached FY2027 Final Budget is a true and correct copy in its legal form.

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to approve BR8406. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

6. BR8407 – ESP/PSA/Administrative Salaries for 2026-2027 (FY2027)

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the following salary increases be approved for active full-time and continuous part-time (CPT) employees in grades J to V.

Effective July 1, 2026:

- A 3.00% increase will be added to the base pay of each full-time Education Support Personnel (ESP)/Professional Staff Association (PSA)/Administrative employee for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
- Employees hired on or after July 1, 2026, are not eligible for this pay increase.
- Estimated fiscal impact is \$478,250.

A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to approve BR8407. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

7. BR8408 – Application for Permanent Approval Career & Technical Education Curriculum Certificate in Family and Domestic Violence

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 Family and Domestic Violence Certificate. The ICCB Form 20 proposal includes:

- Part A. Feasibility, Curriculum Quality, and Cost Analysis
- Part B. Supportive Documentation and Data

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A motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Soltow, to approve BR8408. Dr. Smith explained that students are enrolled in classes for this certificate, and classes will begin in Fall 2026. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business

1. There was no unfinished business.
2. There was no new business.

Updates/Reports

1. President's Update- Dr. Spearman:

- Attended *The Wizard of Oz* with Senator Dave and Carol Syverson at Starlight Theatre.
- Selected as one of the Greater Rockford Chamber's inaugural 40 Over 40 honorees, alongside Trustee Bob Trojan.
- Recognized Dr. Hansen Stewart and his Workforce Empowerment Initiative team for receiving a WEI state grant for \$1 million.
- Directed his team to submit a community funding project through Congressman LaHood and a manufacturing training grant (DCEO).
- Announced that Dr. Litesa Wallace from LITE Strategies will give a lobbying update at the July 28, 2026, Regular Board of Trustees meeting.

2. Leadership Team Update

- Vice President of Cultural Excellence and Belonging Dr. Keith Barnes and his team hosted a summer conference, which was an inaugural effort. It was held in the Physical Education Center (PEC) on June 11-12. At the end of the conference, exemplary acts-of-service trophies were awarded. The conference was supported by the Healing Illinois Grant and RVC in-kind donations.
- Vice President of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development Dr. Hansen Stewart and his department will host Summer Manufacturing And Readiness Technology (SMART) camps for middle school students, with morning and afternoon sessions at the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) in Belvidere. By the end of the summer, the camps will have served 120 students. Friday ceremonies will be held each week to celebrate student presentations. In addition, the WEI initiative team members will provide industry-aligned education for 150 adults. 120 of those students are from communities with high-poverty rates and low educational attainment.
- Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Patrick Peyer announced that the Belvidere Heritage Days parade will be on June 27, with a line up at 3:30 p.m.; the City of Rockford 4th of July parade will be on July 4, with a line up at 3:45 p.m. Trustees who would like to participate in the parade(s) should contact Ann Kerwitz for further instructions.
- Vice President of Operations Rick Jenks applauded the Information Technology (IT) department for their work on the System as a Service (SaaS) migration; there are still issues that need to be resolved, but the department has made progress. A trustee tour of the Downtown West campus announcement will be forthcoming.

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- Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Amanda Smith congratulated the curriculum committee that meets once a month during the fall and spring semesters to make changes and keep courses updated. Early Childhood Education (ECE) has been awarded accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

3. Student Trustee Update: Student Trustee Sarah Ortiz Espinoza reported on the Model United Nations Club and their plan to host a Model United Nations event at the RVC Main Campus on October 8-9, 2026; this event will bring many young people together as well as market Rock Valley College and everything it has to offer.

4. RVC Liaison Report: Trustee Bob Trojan stated that Woodward did not relax the grade point average (GPA) requirement for engineering scholarships, but they did allow "financial need" to be a preference, not a requirement.

5. ICCTA Report- none

6. Trustee Comments

- Trustee Cudia attended the Illinois Community College Trustee Association (ICCTA) Banquet and congratulated RVC on their Equity and Inclusion award.
- Trustee Trojan thanked the Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce for recognizing him in the inaugural 40 Over 40 celebration.
- Trustee Soltow attended RVC Starlight's performance of *The Wizard of Oz* and enjoyed it very much. She is excited that RVC will take part in the Belvidere Heritage Days parade next week.
- Chairman Gorski praised the RVC Foundation for making efforts to adjust the Engineering Scholarship criteria. He further encouraged the room to be more open in providing opportunities to students with lower GPAs. The GPA is one part of a student's profile, and there may be other items to consider.

7. Personnel Report (BR8409) - Information only; the Personnel Report was accepted as presented with no questions.

8. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Report - Information only; the FOIA was accepted as presented with no questions.

Next Meetings

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on July 14, 2026, 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 Board of Trustees meeting will be held on July 28, 2026, 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.

Adjourn to Closed Session

At 6:57 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 educational setting per Section 2 (c) (1); and/or 2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees per Section 2 (c) (2); and/or 3) Security procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to

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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), all in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Reconvene Open Session

At 8:17 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. No action was taken as a result of the closed session.

Adjourn

At 8:18 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to adjourn the Regular meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Submitted by Carly A. Diciolla.



Dr. Jenna Goldsmith, Secretary



Paul Gorski, Board Chair