Rock Valley College

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
5:15 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Call to Order

The Rock Valley College (RVC) Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting convened on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, in the Performing Arts Room (PAR, Room 0214) in the Educational Resource Center (ERC). The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Board Chair Paul Gorski.

Roll Call

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

Mr. Paul Gorski	Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia
Mr. John Nelson joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m.	Dr. Jenna Goldsmith
Mr. Robert 'Bob' Trojan	Ms. Sarah Ortiz Espinoza, Student Trustee

The following trustees were absent from the roll call: Ms. Crystal Soltow and Ms. Kristen Simpson.

Also present: Dr. Amanda Smith, was standing in for Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Dr. Keith Barnes, Vice President of Cultural Excellence and Belonging; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Terrica Huntley, Vice President of Human Resources; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President of Career and Technical Education and Workforce Development; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President of Operations; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President of Finance; Ms. Ann Kerwitz, Assistant to the President; Ms. Carly Diciolla, Assistant to the President; Ms. Tracy Luethje, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Operations, Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz.

Board Member Attendance by Means Other than Physical Presence

There were no board members attending by any other means.

Communications and Petitions

Mr. Jose Galarza, vice president of the Support Staff Association, addressed the board regarding employee compensation, retention, and career pathways:

- Expressed concerns that collective bargaining agreements are often used as an automatic ceiling for employee growth.
- Highlighted that many employees have reached the top of their pay grades.
- Encouraged a formal analysis of the current compensation system.

Board Action: Board Chair Gorski directed that this issue be forwarded to President Spearman and staff for a wage compensation survey and analysis.

Trustee John Nelson joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors to be recognized.

Review of Minutes

There were no comments on the minutes from the June 9, 2026, Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting.

General Presentations

There were no general presentations.

Board Chair Gorski modified the agenda to address the Operations items first.

Operations Discussion: Board Liaison Trustee Trojan

1. RVC Capital Project Delay Update

Vice President of Operations Rick Jenks presented the status of RVC's delayed capital projects.

- **Parking Lot 7:** Construction is scheduled for Summer 2027 to repair the lot and relocate the Springbrook bus stop.
- **Security System Upgrades:** A phased approach continues for upgrading systems over 20 years old.
- **Brightly Inventory Documentation:** Staff is beginning to add data and generate reports.
- **Bengt Sjostrom Theater (BST) (Starlight Theater) Seats:** Staff are tightening seats daily due to vertical wall mounts coming loose after 25 years, and are researching floor-mounted replacements.
- **Fire Alarm Systems Upgrade:** Proceeding to bring the remaining campus buildings up to code.
- **Aviation Career Education Center (ACEC) Expansion:** Evaluating programmatic requirements and potential mezzanine expansion.
- **Stenstrom Student Center (SSC) Air Handling Unit (AHU):** Preparation is underway to replace a 60-year-old large-scale HVAC unit.
- **SSC Atrium Stage:** Designing ADA-compliant ramp options.

2. Classroom II (CLII) Building

Mr. Jenks stated that the project budget increased from $35M to $44.1M to accommodate a larger ensemble space and archive space. Vice President Jenks brought a proposal to the Board for a second elevator in the CLII Building. Adding a second elevator is estimated to cost $1M and will require approval from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). Mr. Jenks conferred with Vice President of Finance Ms. Ellen Olson, and she identified funding via CLII Building trust fund interest ($368K) and surplus contingency funds from the nearly-completed Downtown West project (expected $1.2M to $1.4M surplus).

Board Action: The Board agreed to authorize spending necessary preliminary engineering/architectural design fees to seek SHPO approval before voting on final construction.

3. Downtown West Project Update

Mr. Jenks stated that approximately $570K of the $2.2M contingency budget has been spent. Overtime was authorized to ensure completion ahead of the August 3, 2026, staff move-in and the August 14, 2026, Ribbon Cutting. Downtown Training Center (DTC): furniture and benches are being installed, and the remaining automotive equipment is scheduled to arrive next week. Elevator installation is expected to be completed by August 1, 2026. The Downtown Learning Center (DLC) furniture installation begins this Friday. Final painting will also be completed by this Friday, July 17, 2026. Mr. Jenks said that tours for Trustees will be scheduled at a later time.

4. Change Orders

Vice President Jenks discussed the following change orders:

- **Soccer Fields:** Authorized change orders to replace uneven concrete near the first and third-base dugouts and install gates.
- **BST Lighting:** Project is complete, returning $114,734 in unused contingency to the general capital fund.
- **HSC Third Floor Build-Out:** Project is complete, returning $153,854 in unused contingency.

5. Personnel Report

Two full-time faculty positions have been offered and accepted. The names will be announced at the Regular Board meeting on July 28, 2026. Mr. Jenks stated that there are two departures, one retirement and one resignation.

6. Rock Valley College Events Calendar

Key Calendar Events & Reminders:

- **July 17 and 24, 2026:** SMART Camp end-of-week celebrations.
- **July 25, 2026:** R2OC Robotics Competition in the PEC Gym (features 24 teams).
- **August 14, 2026:** Downtown West Ribbon Cutting ceremony.

Teaching, Learning & Communications Discussion: Board Liaison Trustee Goldsmith

1. Rockford Public Schools (RPS) District #205 Dual and Articulated Credit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

2. RPS District #205 Running Start Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

Dr. Hansen Stewart, vice president of career and technical education and workforce development, presented the final two agreements (RPS 205 Running Start and the Dual/Articulated Credit Agreement), completing all 25 agreements across 14 school districts.

3. MOU between the University of Illinois-Chicago College of Pharmacy and RVC

Dr. Amanda Smith, vice president of academic affairs, presented the MOU between the University of Illinois-Chicago College of Pharmacy and RVC. It establishes a guaranteed interview to the PharmD program for RVC students who complete their 3-year pre-pharmacy requirements.

Board Action: Trustee Trojan would like RVC to contact the University of Illinois-Chicago College to explore a four-year engineering degree partnership on the RVC campus.

4. Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Enrollment Update

Dr. Patrick Peyer, vice president of student affairs, presented the Enrollment Update. Dr. Peyer stated that since the packet was distributed, the Enrollment Update numbers have changed. Summer II exceeded budget goals at 111%. Fall enrollment is up 3.21% from last year and is 88% of the budget goal.

5. FY2027 Adult Learner (Ages 25-45) Enrollment Credit/Workforce Development/Downtown West

Dr. Peyer presented the FY2027 Adult Learner (Ages 25-45) Enrollment Update.
Summer II and Fall Credit Courses and Program numbers are:
Summer II: 466 adult learners out of 2,009 total students (23%).
Fall: 900 adult learners out of 4,002 total students (22%).
Workforce Development (Continuing Education and Customized Training):
Summer II: 45 adult learners out of 123 total students (37%).
Fall: 20 adult learners out of 46 total students (43%).
Downtown West:
Summer II: N/A.
Fall: 50 Adult Learners out of 199 total students (25%).

Dr. Peyer discussed important notes and pending registrations. Registrations for Adult Education programs and several Workforce Development programs follow different enrollment cycles and have not yet registered students for the Fall term as of July 6, 2026. Adult Education registration sessions begin the week of July 7, 2026, and runs through the week of July 28, 2026. Dr. Peyer stated that the headcounts are unduplicated within each specific category, but students taking courses across multiple areas may be counted in both.

Finance Discussion: Board Liaison Trustee Cardenas Cudia

1. Purchase Reports

Ms. Ellen Olson, vice president of finance, presented the purchase reports.

Purchase Report A – FY2027 Amendments

A. Software – (Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence (ATLE) – Instructional Software)

1.	**Instructure**	**Salt Lake City, UT**	**$ 2,457.80*(1)**
			Not to Exceed

Purchase Report B – FY2027 Purchases

A. Professional Services – (Professional Services – Capital Projects)

1.	**Ballard Engineering**	**Rolling Meadows, IL**	**$ 95,700.00*(1)**
			Not to Exceed

B. Fire Tower – Restricted Fund – Fire Science)

2.	**City of Loves Park**	**Loves Park, IL**	**$ 30,800.00*(2)**

Purchase Report C – FY2026 Amendments

A. Insurance expense and Stop-Loss Coverage – (Group Medical Insurance-Health Self-Insured

1.	**Healthcare Service Corporation**	**Chicago, IL**	**$ 500,000.00*(1)**
			Not to Exceed

2. Cash and Investment Report

Vice President Olson presented the Cash and Investment Report through June 30, 2026. Total operating cash is $32,293,351. Total operating cash and investments are $114,825,387. The operating cash and investments have changed by $10,186,023 since May 31, 2026. Total capital funds are $58,692,369. Since May 31, 2026, the change in capital funds has been $1,623,635. Ms. Olson stated that the total operating cash and investment funds were 106.87% of the FY2027 operating budget.

New Business/Unfinished Business

Unfinished Business

- Trustees need to RSVP for the August 14, 2026 Ribbon Cutting by July 30, 2026 for the Downtown West Campus.
- Trustees who have any questions need to contact Administration regarding the IT migration to RVC email addresses.

New Business

- Trustee John Nelson proposed hiring an internal auditor reporting directly to the board. Placing this on the August agenda is conditional on Nelson submitting a detailed plan and securing an expert speaker by the end of July.

Next Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

The next Regular Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5:15 p.m., in the Performing Arts Room (PAR, Room 0214) of the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus.

Next Committee of the Whole Meeting

The next Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 5:15 p.m., in the Performing Arts Room (PAR, Room 0214) of the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus.

Adjourn to Closed Session

At 6:25 p.m., Trustee Trojan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cardenas 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), all in accordance with the Illinois Open meetings Act.

The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Reconvene Open Session

At 7:00 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Cardenas Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, 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 7:00 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Cardenas Cudia, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Submitted by: Tracy L. Luethje.

Dr. Jenna Goldsmith, Secretary

Paul Gorski, Board Chairman