

**ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 521
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

September 8, 2026

**Rend Lake College – Event Center
468 N Ken Gray Parkway
Ina, IL 62846**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Larry Manning, called the regular Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Rend Lake College Event Center.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Tony Wielt, Secretary, called the roll.

Those present were:

Dr. David Asbery
Mr. John D. Aiken
Mr. Ron Daniels
Mr. Brian Dorris
Mr. Larry Manning
Mr. Tony Wielt
Mr. Landen Catron (Student Trustee)

Those absent were:

Mr. Joe Coy

Others present were:

Dr. Lori Ragland, Dr. Chad Copple, Mr. John Gulley, Mrs. Cathy DeJarnette, Mr. Henry "Buster" Leeck, Mr. Kent McKown, Ms. Kendra Gregory, Mr. Joe Ervin, Mrs. Andrea Banach, Mrs. Jena Jensik, Mr. Greg Hollmann, Mrs. Vickie Schulte, Mr. Brett Crocker, Mrs. Mary Huggins, Mrs. Shari Carpenter, Mr. Chris Edwards, Mr. Matt Jackson

BUDGET HEARING

The hearing was called to order by board treasurer John Gulley. Mr. Gulley stated that the FY2027 tentative budget was approved by the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees at its regular meeting on July 14, 2025. Copies of the tentative budget were sent to the county clerks in Franklin, Jefferson, Perry,

Williamson, White, Wayne, Hamilton, and Washington Counties. Copies were also sent to the regional offices of education in regions 13, 20, 21, and 30. A legal ad was published in the Sentinel on July 18, 2026, announcing that the budget was on public display in the above-mentioned locations and at the Rend Lake College Administration Building. The ad also gave notice of the budget hearing and the date of the final board action on the budget.

Mr. Gulley stated that FY2027 budgeted operating revenues are \$23 million, compared to FY2026 budgeted operating revenues of \$21.6 million. Mr. Gulley stated that FY2027 budgeted operating expenditures are \$23 million, compared to FY2026 budgeted operating expenditures of \$21.5 million. Mr. Gulley stated that the FY2027 budget includes a \$9,000 surplus in the operating funds. Mr. Gulley explained that for the purpose of the budget, operating funds include the education fund and the operations/maintenance fund. Mr. Gulley opened the floor for questions and/or public comment. No questions were asked, and no member of the public wished to make comment.

DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION –
“AT MY PACE” (AMP) COMPETENCY
BASED EDUCATION (CBE)
AT RLC

Mr. Matt Jackson, Director of Competency Based Education (CBE) gave a presentation on the CBE program at RLC otherwise known as the AMP program (At My Pace). AMP is a skill paced program not a seat-based program. He explained how it benefits students by allowing them to learn at their own pace and master the skills not simply fill a seat and not successfully grasp the concepts. The accelerating students can move on while students needing more practice are able to practice until the skill is mastered. Mr. Jackson presented more differences, benefits and obstacles of an AMP based program versus traditional learning for some students. Currently RLC offers AMP Programs for Welding, Industrial Electronics, CAD and CMA degrees.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Announcements

1. Wednesday, September 16, 2026; 11am-1pm
Fun Fest
Ina Campus
2. Tuesday-Friday, September 22-25, 2026; 9:30am-1pm
Amazing Career Race
RLC Event Center
3. Tuesday, September 22, 2026; 5:30pm-7:30pm
Joint RLC-SIC Fall Meeting
Southeastern College Campus– Carmi Building
4. Thursday, October 1, 2026; 12:00pm
RLCF Board of Directors Meeting
Student Center – Executive Board Room
5. Monday, October 5, 2026; 4pm-7pm
RLC Open House
All Campuses
6. Tuesday, October 13, 2026; 8am-4pm
In-Service (No Classes)
RLC Event Center
7. Tuesday, October 13, 2026; 6:30pm
RLC Board of Trustees Meeting
RLC Event Center
8. Friday-Saturday, November 6-7, 2026
Meeting: Saturday 9am-3pm
RLC Board of Trustees Retreat
Four Seasons, St. Louis

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Ragland recommended approving the Consent Agenda, which included the following items:

1. August 11, 2026 Executive Session*;
2. August 11, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting*;
3. August 14, 2026 Special Board of Trustees Meeting*;
4. Approval of Handbook*;
5. Approval of Revisions to Job Description*;
6. Approval of Revisions to Rend Lake College Policy

- and *Procedure 3.1205- Performance Evaluation and Tenure of Faculty Members**,
7. Approval of Revisions to Rend Lake College *Policy and Procedure 2.1205-Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace for Employees (Second Reading)**;
 8. Approval of Revisions to Rend Lake College *Policy 3.1110 – Computation of Hourly Rate of Pay for Part-Time Employees (Second Reading)**;

Mr. Daniels made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as recommended; seconded by Mr. Aiken. On a roll call vote, all present voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes. Those items marked with an asterisk (*) are a part of these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO REND LAKE COLLEGE *POLICY* 6.1075 – JEANNE CLERY ACT COMPLIANCE *POLICY* (FIRST READING)

Dr. Ragland recommended to approve revisions to Rend Lake College Board *Policy 6.1075 – Jeanne Clery Act Compliance Policy*, first reading, as presented, effective October 13, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Daniels made a motion to approve revisions to Rend Lake College Board *Policy 6.1075 – Jeanne Clery Act Compliance Policy*, first reading, as presented, effective October 13, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wielt. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPROVAL OF DUAL CREDIT AGREEMENTS FOR 2026-2029

Dr. Ragland recommended to approve the Dual Credit Agreements for 2026 - 2029 between Rend Lake College District #521 and the following high schools, as presented:

Benton High School
Christopher High School
Hamilton County High School
Mt. Vernon High School
Pinckneyville High School

Sesser High School
Thompsonville High School
Waltonville High School
Wayne City High School
Webber High School
Woodlawn High School
Zeigler-Royalton High School

As recommended, Mr. Aiken made a motion to approve the Dual Credit Agreements for 2026 - 2029 between Rend Lake College District #521 and the following high schools, as presented:

Benton High School
Christopher High School
Hamilton County High School
Mt. Vernon High School
Pinckneyville High School
Sesser High School
Thompsonville High School
Waltonville High School
Wayne City High School
Webber High School
Woodlawn High School
Zeigler-Royalton High School

This motion was seconded by Mr. Catron. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

**APPROVAL OF
FY 2027 BUDGET (TO BE
PROVIDED)**

Dr. Ragland recommended to adopt the final FY 2027 budget as presented at the July 14, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting

As recommended, Mr. Daniels made a motion to adopt the final FY 2027 budget as presented at the July 14, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting This motion was seconded by Mr. Dorris. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

PERMISSION TO UPDATE
PROTECTION, HEALTH, AND
SAFETY PROJECTS (PHS LEVY)
FOR FY25 AND FY26

Dr. Ragland recommended to grant permission to change the FY 2025 and FY 2026 PHS projects from replacing Student Center air handler units 12 and 13 to replacing HVAC control systems across campus.

As recommended, Mr. Wielt made a motion to grant permission to change the FY 2025 and FY 2026 PHS projects from replacing Student Center air handler units 12 and 13 to replacing HVAC control systems across campus. This motion was seconded by Mr. Daniels. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPROVAL OF PROTECTION,
HEALTH, AND SAFETY
PROJECT (PHS LEVY)
FOR FY27

Dr. Ragland recommended to grant permission to use PHS Levy funds for FY27 (along with PHS Levy funds for FY 25 & 26) to finish upgrading campus HVAC control systems. The project will be completed by Premium Mechanical and Automation, Jackson, MO, at an estimated cost of \$370,770. This project is exempt from sealed bidding under 110 ILCS 805/3-27.1(f) because it involves a computerized building automation/HVAC controls system, including software, networked control equipment, interconnection, and related technical services.

As recommended, Mr. Aiken made a motion to grant permission to use PHS Levy funds for FY27 (along with PHS Levy funds for FY 25 & 26) to finish upgrading campus HVAC control systems. The project will be completed by Premium Mechanical and Automation, Jackson, MO, at an estimated cost of \$370,770. This project is exempt from sealed bidding under 110 ILCS 805/3-27.1(f) because it involves a computerized building automation/HVAC controls system, including software, networked control equipment, interconnection, and related technical

services. This motion was seconded by Mr. Catron. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

PERMISSION TO BID AND
AWARD THE ACADEMIC
BUILDING ENERGY
EFFICIENCY PROJECT

Dr. Ragland recommended to grant permission to bid and award the Academic Building energy efficiency project as outlined in the attached sub-award from the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN).

As recommended, Mr. Wielt made a motion to grant permission to bid and award the Academic Building energy efficiency project as outlined in the attached sub-award from the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN). This motion was seconded by Mr. Dorris. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

PERSONNEL

RATIFY RESIGNATION
OF SPECIALIST –
SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE

Dr. Ragland recommended to accept with regret the resignation of Mr. Addison Page, Sustainable Agriculture Specialist at Rend Lake College, effective September 4, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Dorris made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Mr. Addison Page, Sustainable Agriculture Specialist at Rend Lake College, effective September 4, 2026. This motion was seconded by Dr. Asbery. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

RATIFY RESIGNATION
OF TECHNICIAN –
MAINTENANCE

Dr. Ragland recommended to accept with regret the resignation of Mr. Craig Jerrells, Maintenance Technician at Rend Lake College, effective September 4, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Wielt made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Mr. Craig Jerrells, Maintenance Technician at Rend Lake College, effective September 4, 2026. This motion was seconded by Dr. Asbery. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPOINTMENT OF TECHNICIAN – MAINTENANCE

Dr. Ragland recommended to appoint Mr. Travis Thacker as Maintenance Technician on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track contract at an annual salary of \$45,000 prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, effective September 9, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Aiken made a motion to appoint Mr. Travis Thacker as Maintenance Technician on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track contract at an annual salary of \$45,000 prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, effective September 9, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Catron. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPOINTMENT SPECIALIST – RETENTION AND CAREER

Dr. Ragland recommended to appoint Ms. Laura Lee as Retention and Career Services Specialist on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track contract, effective September 9, 2026. Salary will remain the same.

As recommended, Dr. Asbery made a motion to appoint Ms. Laura Lee as Retention and Career Services Specialist on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track contract, effective September 9, 2026. Salary will remain the same.

APPOINTMENT INSTRUCTOR – INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS

Dr. Ragland recommended to appoint Mr. Mark Greene as Industrial Electronics Instructor on a full-time, 50-week, tenure track industrial contract at an

annual salary of \$68,555 prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, effective September 9, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Wielt made a motion to appoint Mr. Mark Greene as Industrial Electronics Instructor on a full-time, 50-week, tenure track industrial contract at an annual salary of \$68,555 prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, effective September 9, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Catron. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPOINTMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT –
PHYSICAL PLANT

Dr. Ragland recommended to appoint Ms. Taylor Hutchens as Administrative Assistant -Physical Plant, on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track contract at an annual salary of \$38,000 prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, pending a successful background check and transcript audit, effective September 21, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Dorris made a motion to appoint Ms. Taylor Hutchens as Administrative Assistant -Physical Plant, on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track contract at an annual salary of \$38,000 prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, pending a successful background check and transcript audit, effective September 21, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Daniels. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION
RATIFICATION OF THE
PAYMENT OF COLLEGE
EXPENSES INCLUDING
TRAVEL EXPENSE
REIMBURSEMENTS

Dr. Ragland recommended to ratify the payment of college expenses including travel expense reimbursements as presented.

As recommended, Mr. Dorris made a motion to ratify the payment of college expenses including travel expense reimbursements as presented. This motion was seconded by Mr. Aiken. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

REPORTS

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Council Chair, Mr. Joe Ervin, announced the new Academic Council Chair, Ms. Sarah Hopfinger, and Vice Chair Ms. Rachel Smith. He thanked the board for the opportunity.

ICCTA REPRESENTATIVE

No Report

RLC FOUNDATION

Mrs. Cathy DeJarnette, Executive Director of Administrative Services, thanked everyone for the help and support of the Rend Lake College Foundation Golf Scramble last week.

ACCREDITATION

No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Lori Ragland reported enrollment and headcount is down .5% from this time last year. The 10-day census report is due October 1st and is currently being completed.

The college is busy completing and organizing applying to six grants. There are two ICCB grants allocated by ICCB for Allied Health: ROOTS and REACH that will tally approximately \$400k. One is for non-credit workforce training, and another is for the Bridge Program. The EV "Rev Up" Grant is being written that could result in \$100k-\$350k.

RLC is also part of an Ed Systems project through Northern Illinois University with Parkland and Lewis & Clark Colleges. If the grant is awarded, each college should receive \$225k towards CBE efforts.

RLC has applied for a grant of \$130,500 to go towards the EPA project budget of \$145k to replace the South side windows of the Student Center.

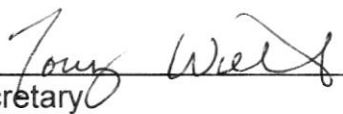
The RLC & SIC Joint Meeting will be held on
September 22, 2026, at the SIC Carmi Campus.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, at 7:18 pm all
Trustees present voted aye in favor of adjourning.

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Dorris and
seconded by Mr. Wielt.


Chairman


Secretary