

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

**March 10, 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 6:29pm in the Rend Lake College Event Center.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Tony Wielt, Secretary, called the roll.

Those present were:

Mr. John D. Aiken  
Mr. Ron Daniels  
Mr. Brian Dorris  
Mr. Larry Manning  
Mr. Tony Wielt  
Mr. Henry Meinert (Student Trustee)

Those absent were:

Dr. David Asbery  
Mr. Joe Coy

Others present were:

Dr. Lori Ragland, Dr. Chad Copple, Mr. John Gulley, Mrs. Cathy DeJarnette, Mr. Henry “Buster” Leeck, Mrs. Andrea Banach, Mr. Kent McKown, Mr. Brett Crocker, Mr. Joe Ervin, Mrs. Amy Epplin, Mr. Nathan Wheeler, Ms. Kendra Gregory, Mrs. Shari Carpenter, Mrs. Vickie Schulte, Mrs. Bria Robinson, Mr. Corey Phillips, Mr. Greg Hollmann, Mrs. Mallory Howell, Mr. Donnie Millenbine, Mr. Chris Edwards

**AUDIT PRESENTATION  
(MATERIALS TO BE  
PROVIDED)**

Mr. Anthony Cervini, of Sikich CPA, gave an overview of the FY25 college audit. The college received a clean unmodified opinion, the highest level of assurance, with no material findings.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### A. Announcements

1. Tuesday, March 17, 2026; Doors open at 5:00pm  
**CTE Advisory Committee Meetings**  
Event Center & Breakout Rooms
2. Thursdays, March 19 – May 7, 2026; 3:00-9:00pm  
**Culinary Showcases**  
PDA
3. Thursday - Saturday, April 9-11, 2026; 7:00pm  
& Matinee Sunday, April 12; 2:00pm  
**Spring Musical "CABARET"**  
Theater
4. Tuesday, April 14, 2026; 6:30pm  
**RLC Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Event Center
5. Thursday, April 23, 2026; 8am-1pm  
**Children's Health Fair**  
Recreation Center
6. Friday, April 24, 2025; 9am-1pm  
**Kindergarten Day**  
Event Center and Various Breakout Rooms
7. Wednesday, April 29, 2026; 6:00pm  
**Upward Bound Banquet**  
Event Center
8. Thursday, April 30, 2026; 12:00pm  
**RLC Foundation Board of Directors Meeting**  
SIMA, Rend Lake College MarketPlace
9. Friday, May 1, 2026; 8:45am  
**Career Connections**  
Event Center
10. Thursday, May 14, 2026; 11:30am  
**Radiology Pinning**  
RLC Theater
11. Thursday, May 14, 2026; 1:30pm  
**ADN Pinning**  
RLC Theater

12. Thursday, May 14, 2026; 3:00pm  
**Medical Assistant Pinning**  
RLC Theater
13. Thursday, May 14, 2026; 4:00pm  
**CNA Pinning**  
RLC Theater
14. Friday, May 15, 2026; 10:00am  
**Pre-K Graduation**  
RLC Theater
15. Saturday, May 16, 2026  
**Rend Lake College Graduation**  
8:30am – AA/AS/AES/AFA  
10:30am – AAS/Certificate  
Banterra Sports Complex -Waugh Gymnasium

**B. Student Trustee Election Report (TO BE PROVIDED)**

President Ragland reported the results of the student trustee election, which were provided. Mr. Landen Catron will be the 2026-2027 student trustee. Mr. Catron will be seated at the April 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting.

**MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Manning asked for a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1)(6)(9)(11)(21). Mr. Meinert made a motion; seconded by Mr. Dorris. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes. The Board went into executive session at 7:10 pm.

**RESUME OPEN MEETING**

Chairman Manning asked for a motion to reopen the public meeting; Mr. Daniels motioned; seconded by Mr. Meinert. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes. At 7:11 pm, Chairman Manning reconvened the open session of tonight's meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. February 10, 2025 Executive Session\*;
2. February 10, 2025 Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes\*;
3. Approval of Revisions to Rend Lake College Policy & Procedure 3.1010-Selection of Personnel

(SECOND READING)\*;  
4. Course/Curriculum Approvals\*

Mr. Aiken made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as recommended; seconded by Mr. Meinert. 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* &  
*PROCEDURE 2.172-*  
COMMUNITY USE OF  
COLLEGE (FIRST READING)

Dr. Ragland recommended to approve revisions to Rend Lake College Policy & Procedure 2.1720 – Community Use of College Facilities (FIRST READING) as presented, effective April 14, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Dorris made a motion to approve revisions to Rend Lake College Policy & Procedure 2.1720 – Community Use of College Facilities (FIRST READING) as presented, effective April 14, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Meinert. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

ACCEPTANCE OF FISCAL  
YEAR 2025 AUDIT AND  
ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
(TO BE PROVIDED)

Dr. Ragland recommended to accept the fiscal year 2025 audit and annual comprehensive financial report.

As recommended, Mr. Wielt made a motion to accept the fiscal year 2025 audit and annual comprehensive financial report. This motion was seconded by Mr. Daniels. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

PERMISSION TO CREATE  
REND LAKE COLLEGE *POLICY*

**& PROCEDURE 2.1513 –  
GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY  
ACT (GBLA) INFORMATION  
SECURITY (FIRST READING)**

Dr. Ragland recommended to grant permission to create Rend Lake College Policy & Procedure 2.1513 – Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) Information Security, as presented, first reading, effective April 14, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Wielt made a motion to grant permission to create Rend Lake College Policy & Procedure 2.1513 – Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) Information Security, as presented, first reading, effective April 14, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dorris. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

**APPROVAL TO REMODEL  
VACANT SPACE AT THE  
REND LAKE MARKETPLACE  
USING AUXILIARY FUND  
(FUND 05) UNRESTRICTED  
FUND BALANCE; ADVERTISE  
FOR SEALED BIDS WHERE  
REQUIRED**

Dr. Ragland recommended to approve the expenditure of up to \$750,000 of Auxiliary Fund (Fund 05) unrestricted fund balance to remodel and repurpose approximately 5,700 square feet of vacant space and 756 square feet of occupied space at the Rend Lake College Marketplace, and to authorize administration to advertise for sealed bids for aspects of the project where required.

As recommended, Mr. Aiken made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$750,000 of Auxiliary Fund (Fund 05) unrestricted fund balance to remodel and repurpose approximately 5,700 square feet of vacant space and 756 square feet of occupied space at the Rend Lake College Marketplace, and to authorize administration to advertise for sealed bids for aspects of the project where required. This motion was seconded by Mr. Meinert. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

PERMISSION TO BID  
SEALING AND STRIPING  
INA CAMPUS PARKING  
LOTS

Dr. Ragland recommended to grant permission to seek bids for sealing and striping the parking lots at the Rend Lake College Ina campus.

As recommended, Mr. Meinert made a motion to grant permission to seek bids for sealing and striping the parking lots at the Rend Lake College Ina campus. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dorris. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPROVAL OF ARTICULATION  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
REND LAKE COLLEGE,  
DISTRICT #521 AND  
MCKENDREE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Ragland recommended to approve the Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Business to a BS in Agribusiness and the Associate of Arts in Agriculture to a BS in Agribusiness between Rend Lake College and McKendree University, as presented, effective March 10, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Meinert made a motion to approve the Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Business to a BS in Agribusiness and the Associate of Arts in Agriculture to a BS in Agribusiness between Rend Lake College and McKendree University, as presented, effective March 10, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dorris. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

**PERSONNEL**  
RESIGNATION – FINANCIAL  
AID SPECIALIST

Dr. Ragland recommended to accept with regret the resignation of Mrs. Lindsey Batts, Financial Aid Specialist, effective March 13, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Dorris made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Mrs. Lindsey Batts, Financial Aid Specialist, effective March 13, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Daniels. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPOINTMENT OF  
DIRECTOR – COMMUNITY  
CORPORATE & WORKFORCE  
EDUCATION (TO BE  
PROVIDED)

Dr. Ragland recommended to appoint Jeremy Hentz as Director-Community, Corporate & Workforce Education on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track contract at an annual salary of \$60,000, prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, pending a successful background check, effective March 16, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Meinert made a motion to appoint Jeremy Hentz as Director-Community, Corporate & Workforce Education on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track contract at an annual salary of \$60,000, prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, pending a successful background check, effective March 16, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dorris. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

PERMISSION TO REVISE  
JOB DESCRIPTION AND  
APPOINT COORDINATOR –  
DUAL CREDIT / ACADEMIC  
ADVISOR

Dr. Ragland recommended to revise the job description and appoint Ms. Kristin White, on a full-time, 50-week, tenure track, contract at an annual salary of \$41,000, prorated for the remainder of the year, effective April 1, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Aiken made a motion to revise the job description appoint Ms. Kristin White, on a full-time, 50-week, tenure track, contract at an annual salary of \$41,000, prorated for the remainder of the year, effective April 1, 2026. This motion was

seconded by Mr. Dorris On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPOINTMENT OF  
COORDINATOR –  
ONLINELEARNING AND  
ACCESSIBILITY

Dr. Ragland recommended to appoint Mr. Steve Marlow as Coordinator-Online Learning and Accessibility 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 March 16, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Meinert made a motion to appoint Mr. Steve Marlow as Coordinator-Online Learning and Accessibility 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 March 16, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Aiken 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. Wielt. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

**REPORTS**

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Mr. Joe Ervin, Academic Council President, reported that Academic Council had met to discuss and approve new courses and curriculum that the board approved at tonight's meeting. Mr. Ervin also reported having started a conversation with Academic Council regarding the role of a Vice President of Instruction.

ICCTA REPRESENTATIVE

No Report

RLC FOUNDATION

Mrs. Cathy DeJarnette, Executive Director of Administrative Services, reported that as of March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 278 foundation scholarship applications have been completed. This aligns with past numbers. The scholarship review process is underway and awarding will begin in the next two weeks. She invited Trustees to join the Foundation on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> as they host the Annual President's Dinner in conjunction with the Culinary Showcase. Invites were handed out to Trustees. Mrs. DeJarnette then shared information about the Foundation's High 5 Scholarship Campaign that just kicked off on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The campaign is supported by the Foundation Board of Directors, who approved it at their February board meeting, in the amount of up to \$125,000 in matching funds either to give \$5,000 to every new endowment commitment of \$15,000 or more, or to match \$5,000 gifts to existing endowments. There will be no college funds used in this campaign.

ACCREDITATION

Dr. Chad Copple, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness reported a group will be attending the annual Higher Learning Commission Conference, which runs from March 21-24 in Chicago. Dr. Copple also reported the Quality Initiative project for this cycle, the At My Pace competency-based format, is moving forward. The college is planning for additional AMP welding students this fall, and also intends to pilot Medical Assistant in CBE format. Dr. Copple also stated he has begun updating the Assurance Argument, and the process will take some time.

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

No Report

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Rend Lake College President, Dr. Lori Ragland reported that Human Resources facilitated trainings last week with supervisors, and all full-time staff on the topics of effective practices of employment hiring committees and on conducting meaningful performance evaluations. Dr. Ragland also reported that Kick Start Your Journey (KSYJ) was held today and tomorrow on campus with 10 of our 13 in-district

high schools sending their freshman and sophomores to participate. There were a total of 400 students attending. She then reported that Samron Midwest Contracting has started on the student center window project. During the project anyone entering the student center will need to utilize the south entrance to the building.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, at 7:28 pm all Trustees present voted aye in favor of adjourning.

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

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Chairman

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Secretary