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

October 13, 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:
Mr. John D. Aiken
Mr. Ron Daniels
Mr. Brian Dorris
Mr. Larry Manning
Mr. Tony Wielt
Mr. Landen Catron (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, Mr. Kent McKown, Ms. Kendra Gregory, Mrs. Jena Jensik, Mr. Greg Hollmann, Mr. Brett Crocker, Mrs. Mary Huggins, Mrs. Shari Carpenter, Mrs. Glenna Maxwell, Mr. Donnie Millenbine, Mrs. Amy Epplin, Mrs. Sarah Hopfinger, Ms. Emma Thompson

GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Announcements

1. Friday, October 23, 2026; 8:00am-4:30pm
   CNA Conference
   RLC Event Center

2. Thurs-Saturday, November 5-7, 2026; 7:00pm
   Sunday, November 8, 2026; Matinee at 2:00pm
   RLC Fall Play: *The Jungle Book*
   RLC Theater

3. Friday-Saturday, November 6-7, 2026
   Meeting: Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm
   RLC Board of Trustees Retreat
   Four Seasons, St. Louis

4. Monday -Tuesday, November 9-10, 2026;
   9:00am-1:00pm
   Career Days 2026
   RLC Event Center

5. Tuesday, November 17, 2026; 6:30pm
   RLC Board of Trustees Meeting
   RLC Event Center

6. Tuesday, December 1, 2026; 7:00pm
   Winter Concert
   RLC Theater

7. Tuesday, December 8, 2026; 6:30pm
   RLC Board of Trustees Meeting
   RLC Event Center

8. Thursday, December 10, 2026; 5:30pm-9:00pm
   RLC Foundation 47th Annual Dinner
   RLC Event Center

9. Saturday-Thursday, December 5-10, 2026
   Fall 2026 Semester Exams
   All Campuses

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Manning asked for a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1)(9)(11)(21). Mr. Wielt made a motion; seconded by Mr. Daniels. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes. The Board went into executive session at 6:32 pm.

RESUME OPEN MEETING

Chairman Manning asked for a motion to reopen the public meeting; Mr. Wielt motioned; seconded by Mr. Aiken. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student

Trustee voted yes. At 6:52 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. September 8, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting*;
2. September 22, 2026 RLC/SIC Joint Board of Trustees Meeting*;
3. Approval of Revisions to Rend Lake College Board *Policy* 6.1075 – Jeanne Clery Act Compliance Policy **(Second Reading)***;
4. Approval of Revisions to Rend Lake College Board *Policy* and *Procedure* 2.1100 – Freedom of Information *,

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 BOARD *POLICY* AND *PROCEDURE* 4.1405 – RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS **(FIRST READING)**

Dr. Ragland recommended to approve revisions to Rend Lake College Board Policy & Procedure 4.1405 – Release of Student Information and Access to Student Records, first reading, as presented, effective November 17, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Daniels made a motion to approve revisions to Rend Lake College Board Policy & Procedure 4.1405 – Release of Student Information and Access to Student Records, first reading, as presented, effective November 17, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Catron On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPROVAL TO REMODEL THE STUDENT WELCOME CENTER IN THE BAKER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; ADVERTISE FOR SEALED BIDS WHERE REQUIRED

Dr. Ragland recommended to approve the remodeling of the Student Welcome Center in the Baker Administration Building, 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 remodeling of the Student Welcome Center in the Baker Administration Building, and to authorize administration to advertise for sealed bids for aspects of the project where required. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wielt On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO LEVY SPECIAL TAX FOR EDUCATIONAL AND OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE PURPOSES PURSUANT TO 110 ILCS 805, SECTION 3-14.3 OF THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACT

Dr. Ragland recommended to approve a resolution of intent to levy a special tax for educational and operations and maintenance purposes pursuant to 110 ILCS 805, Section 3-14.3 of the Illinois Public Community College Act, as presented, effective October 13, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Aiken made a motion to approve a resolution of intent to levy a special tax for educational and operations and maintenance purposes pursuant to 110 ILCS 805, Section 3-14.3 of the Illinois Public Community College Act, 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.

RESOLUTION REGARDING NECESSARY AMOUNTS TO BE LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2026 PAYABLE 2027

Dr. Ragland recommended to accept/determine the 2026 Tax Levy (Payable 2027). The proposed tax levy will be filed in accord with the Truth in Taxation compliance laws.

As recommended, Mr. Daniels made a motion to accept/determine the 2026 Tax Levy (Payable 2027). The proposed tax levy will be filed in accord with the Truth in Taxation compliance laws. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dorris. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPROVAL OF ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH BLACKBURN COLLEGE

Dr. Ragland recommended to approve Program Articulation Agreement between Rend Lake College, District #521 and Blackburn College, as presented, effective October 13, 2026, through July 31, 2030.

As recommended, Mr. Wielt made a motion to approve Program Articulation Agreement between Rend Lake College, District #521 and Blackburn College, as presented, effective October 13, 2026, through July 31, 2030. This motion was seconded by Mr. Daniels. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

PERSONNEL

RATIFY RESIGNATION OF ADVISOR – UPWARD BOUND

Dr. Ragland recommended to accept with regret the resignation of Ms. Emily Minor, Upward Bound Advisor, effective September 30, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Dorris made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Ms. Emily Minor, Upward Bound Advisor, effective September 30, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Aiken On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

RATIFY RESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT -ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Dr. Ragland recommended to accept with regret the resignation of Ms. Jennifer Junkins, Administrative Assistant of Enrollment Services, effective October 8, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Dorris made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Ms. Jennifer Junkins, Administrative Assistant of Enrollment Services, effective October 8, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Catron. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR – COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE EDUCATION

Dr. Ragland recommended to appoint Ms. Lexi Allen as Coordinator of Community and Corporate Education, on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track contract at an annual salary of $40,000 prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, effective October 14, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Wielt made a motion to appoint Ms. Lexi Allen as Coordinator of Community and Corporate Education, on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track contract at an annual salary of $40,000 prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, effective October 14, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dorris. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIALIST – FINANCIAL AID

Dr. Ragland recommended to appoint Ms. Ashley Whitelow as Financial Aid Specialist on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track, contract at an annual salary of $39,000, prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, effective October 16, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Aiken made a motion to appoint Ms. Ashley Whitelow as Financial Aid Specialist on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track,

contract at an annual salary of $39,000, prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year, effective October 16, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dorris. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

PERMISSION TO CREATE THE POSITION, JOB DESCRIPTION AND ADVERTISE FOR ASSOCIATE DEAN – APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Ragland recommended to grant permission to create the position, job description, and advertise for an Associate Dean for Applied Science and Technology effective October 13, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Dorris made a motion to grant permission to create the position, job description, and advertise for an Associate Dean for Applied Science and Technology effective October 13, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wielt. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR AND RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME WELDING INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Ragland recommended to grant permission to advertise for an additional Welding Instructor on a full-time, 50-week, industrial tenure-track faculty contract to be ratified at a board meeting at a later date.

As recommended, Mr. Daniels made a motion to grant permission to advertise for an additional Welding Instructor on a full-time, 50-week, industrial tenure-track faculty contract to be ratified at a board meeting at a later date. 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. Daniels. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

REPORTS

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Ms. Sarah Hopfinger, the newly elected Academic Council Chair, introduced herself to the board. Since their meeting is next week, she had nothing to report.

ICCTA REPRESENTATIVE

No Report

RLC FOUNDATION

Mrs. Cathy DeJarnette, Executive Director of Administrative Services, reported Mr. Rodney Cabaness stepped down from the Foundation Board and Ms. Melanie Andrews was newly seated on the Board of Directors. Also, the foundation audit went well with no findings reported.

ACCREDITATION

Dr. Chad Copple, VP of Institutional Effectiveness, informed the board our date choices for accreditation were submitted to HLC with one in fall 2028 and two in spring 2029. Dr. Copple also made the trustees aware that the HLC accreditation team may want to meet with our Board during their time on campus. This may result in the need to schedule a special board meeting during that time for this purpose.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Lori Ragland gave an update on the 10th day census numbers sent to ICCB for Fall 2026 semester. The numbers are close to last year's numbers with our headcount within six students of last year and remaining more than 5% above Fall 2024. Dual credit

continues to grow with 780 students. There is also a modest shift toward part-time enrollment.

RLC applied in April for state funding to expand SIMA by renovating existing space. Five of the six awards were recently granted to community colleges, all to the north of RLC.

Dr. Ragland stated the pre-bid meeting for the Allied Health building is October 28 at 11am with construction bids due December 1st, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, at 7:19 pm all Trustees present voted aye in favor of adjourning.

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

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Chairman

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Secretary