

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

**January 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 6:29pm 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:

Mrs. Lori Ragland, Dr. Chad Copple, Mr. John Gulley, Mrs. Cathy DeJarnette, Mrs. Andrea Banach, Mrs. Jena Jensik, Mr. Kent McKown, Mr. Brett Crocker, Mrs. Mary Huggins, Mr. Joe Ervin, Mrs. Amy Epplin, Mr. Nathan Wheeler, Ms. Kendra Gregory, Mrs. Shari Carpenter, Mrs. Vickie Schulte, Mr. Chris Edwards

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Thursday, February 5, 2026; 12pm  
**RLC Foundation Board of Directors Meeting**  
Student Center – PDA

2. Tuesday, February 10, 2026; 3pm-4:30pm  
**RLC Foundation High Tea**  
Event Center
3. Tuesday, February 10, 2026; 6:30pm  
**RLC Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Event Center
4. Wednesday, February 11, 2026; 3:30pm  
**RLC Banterra Sports Complex Ribbon Cutting and Open House of Complex**  
Banterra Sports Complex
5. Wednesday, February 11, 2026; 4:30pm-7:30pm  
**RLC Open House**  
Event Center
6. Wednesday, February 11, 2026; 5pm & 7pm  
**Women's Basketball game & Men's Basketball game – Complimentary Entrance**  
James "Hummer" Waugh Gymnasium
7. Tuesday, February 17, 2026; 8am-4pm  
**RLC In-Service**  
Event Center
8. Tuesday, February 24, 2026; 10am-2pm  
**RLC Job Search Party**  
Event Center
9. Thursday, February 26, 2026; 5:30pm  
**Annual RLC Foundation Scholarship Dinner**  
Event Center
10. Wednesday, March 4, 2026; 9am-1pm  
**Transition Summit**  
Event Center
11. Tuesday-Wednesday, March 10-11, 2026  
8am-2pm  
**Kickstart Your Journey**  
Event Center

12. Tuesday, March 10, 2026; 6:30pm  
**RLC Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Event Center

13. Tuesday, March 17, 2026; Doors open at 5:00pm  
**CTE Advisory Committee Meetings**  
Event Center & Breakout Rooms

**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. 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 6:31pm.

**RESUME OPEN MEETING**

Chairman Manning asked for a motion to reopen the public meeting; Mr. Meinert motioned; seconded by Mr. Aiken. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes. At 6:54pm, Chairman Manning reconvened the open session of tonight's meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. December 9, 2025 Executive Session\*;
2. December 9, 2025 Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes\*;
3. Course/Curriculum\*;
4. Approval to Destroy Closed Session Tapes\*;
5. Approval to Release Closed Session Minutes\*;

Mr. Meinert made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as recommend; seconded by Mr. Dorris. 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  
STUDENT TRUSTEE  
ELECTION NOTICE

Mrs. Ragland recommended to approve the Notice of Election for the Student Board Member of the Board of Trustees effective January 13, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Aiken made a motion to approve the Notice of Election for the Student Board Member of the Board of Trustees effective January 13, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wielt. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

RESOLUTION TO  
AUTHORIZE MONTHLY  
TRANSFERS OF INTEREST  
REVENUE FROM FUND 01  
TO FUND 02

Mrs. Ragland recommended to allow the Treasurer to make monthly transfers of interest earned from Fund 01 (Education Fund) to Fund 02 (Operations and Maintenance Fund) for the remaining six months of Fiscal Year 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Dorris made a motion to allow the Treasurer to make monthly transfers of interest earned from Fund 01 (Education Fund) to Fund 02 (Operations and Maintenance Fund) for the remaining six months of Fiscal Year 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Meinert. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

**PERSONNEL**  
RATIFY APPOINTMENT  
OF DIRECTOR –TRIO  
PROGRAM

Mrs. Ragland recommended to ratify the appointment of Mrs. Dara Whaley as Director -TRIO Program, on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track, grant-funded contract at an annual salary of \$52,000, prorated for the remainder of the grant year, effective December 16, 2025.

As recommended, Mr. Aiken made a motion to ratify the appointment of Mrs. Dara Whaley as Director - TRIO Program, on a full-time, 50-week, non-tenure track, grant-funded contract at an annual salary of \$52,000, prorated for the remainder of the grant year, effective December 16, 2025. This motion was seconded by Mr. Meinert. On a roll call vote, all voted yes. Student Trustee voted yes.

APPOINTMENT OF  
TECHNICIAN –  
MAINTENANCE

Mrs. Ragland recommended to appoint Mr. Craig Jerrells as Technician -Maintenance 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, pending a successful background check, pre-work physical and drug screening, effective January 21, 2026.

As recommended, Mr. Daniels made a motion to appoint Mr. Craig Jerrells as Technician -Maintenance 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, pending a successful background check, pre-work physical and drug screening, effective January 21, 2026. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wielt. 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

Mrs. 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

Mr. Joe Ervin, Academic Council President, reported two classes were adjusted as reflected in this board packet, with no other news to report.

ICCTA REPRESENTATIVE

No Report

RLC FOUNDATION

Mrs. Cathy DeJarnette, Executive Director of Administrative Services, gave notice of some

upcoming events including the RLC Foundation's High Tea event on February 10, Open House of the Banterra Center on February 11, and the RLC Foundation Scholarship Dinner on February 26. Mrs. DeJarnette also reported the foundation has received a \$200k donation from the Zola Hutchison Estate. She also reminded everyone the Foundation Scholarship application is now open for next year.

#### ACCREDITATION

Dr. Chad Copple, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, reported our next comprehensive evaluation will include a site visit from an HLC peer review team within the 2028/2029 academic year. Dr. Copple will be reviewing the Year Four review feedback from 2023 along with updating our Assurance Argument.

#### OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

No Report

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

President Lori Ragland reported the Allied Health Building Project is waiting on the Capital Development Board to approve the bid. We should be hearing something within the coming weeks if the bid is approved. If so, we have \$2M in a Trust account that was set back in 2023 for the project. President Ragland also reported spring enrollment is looking positive.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, at 7:04pm all Trustees present voted aye in favor of adjourning.

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

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Chairman

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Secretary