

Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 2026 6:00 PM
Central

Richland County High School
1200 E. Laurel St.
Olney, IL 62450

The meeting was open to the public and viewable via live stream at <http://live.rccu1.net>

I. Public Hearing

I.A. Hear Testimony and Consider FY27 Budget – Mr. Snyder opened up the hearing at 6:00 p.m. for testimony regarding the FY27 Budget. There were no comments from the public. Mr. Wilson noted that the district is projected to comfortably exceed its 200-day cash-on-hand target.

II. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – The regular meeting of the Richland County Board of Education was called to order by President Scott Snyder at 6:02 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2026.

III. Roll Call

Dennis Anderson: Present
Jake Anderson: Present
Cindy Bailey: Present
Dusty Kocher: Present
Cindy Lockley: Present
Scott Snyder: Present
Jeff Wilson: Present

Present: 7.

IV. Recognition and Comments from Employees and Public

IV.A. Administration introduced new teachers, counselors, and administration for the 2026-2027 school year.

IV.B. Mr. Thompson announced that Brayden Runyon was selected for the Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council.

Josiah Reynolds, 2026 Graduate, spoke to the board in favor of Tena Anderson's past position as RCHS In School Suspension Paraprofessional.

Tena Anderson, RCHS Para, spoke to the board asking she be placed back in the In School Suspension room as a Para.

Julie Fleming, RCHS Teacher, spoke to the board about respect, support and classroom behavior and reminded the board to reach out to the teachers.

V. Comments from the School Board

Mrs. Lockley asked about Tena Anderson's certification regarding supervising the In School Suspension room and if we currently have an In School Suspension Room. Mr. Kocher asked

if the policy had changed. Mr. Fox stated he had shared an email from attorney, David Braun, in regards to staff certification in an In School Suspension Room.

Mr. Kocher brought up discussion in regards to parents on the football field after the games. Also, he expressed concern about Administrators screaming at kids at the football games. Mr. Fox explained that they have implemented a new plan to allow parents to celebrate with athletes in a controlled manner on the field after the teams finish their post-game breakdowns. This season has been a work in progress with the construction of the new field.

Mr. Wilson and board members had discussion over comments made and accusations of the 2026-27 Master Scheduling at the high school.

Mr. Snyder wanted to highlight the positives going on in our schools and what is going right. Mr. Snyder, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Lockley, and Mrs. Bailey shared positive comments from community members and surrounding communities regarding our new athletic complex and the turf. Mrs. Bailey expressed she had talked to teachers at the Elementary School and they are very happy with class sizes.

Mr. Kocher addressed Mrs. Fleming and told her to have teachers reach out to board members if they have a concern. Mr. Kocher reminded everyone that he was elected to solve the problems of the district. The rah-rah stuff is not problems.

VI. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Jeff Wilson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

VI.A. * Minutes of Previous Meetings

VI.A.1. * Regular and Closed Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 20, 2026.

VI.B. * Closed Minutes

VI.B.1. * Approve Destruction of Audio Recording of February 20, 2025.

VI.C. * Communication – One thank-you note from Janet Kuhlig for the flowers sent following the death of her husband, Dale Kuhlig.

VI.D. * August FOIA Log – **Document Registry 26-09-01**

Four FOIA requests for the month of August, two from The Data Branch requesting purchasing data from a variety of vendors, one from Reel Newz Press/Redacted Nation requesting records concerning One Hope United and/or Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services, and one from Jake Anderson requesting all email correspondence regarding Master Schedule, Scheduling, and Dual Credit Courses and timeline and notes referenced during the special meeting of August 7, 2026.

VI.E. * Building Reports – Building Reports submitted by Administration from each building.

VI.E.1. * RCELC

VI.E.2. * RCES

VI.E.3. * RCMS

VI.E.4. * RCHS

VI.E.5. * RiseUp

VI.E.6. * Special Education

VI.F. * Approve Fundraisers – Fundraiser Requests submitted by Administration.

VI.G. * EIS Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report - School Year 2026 –
Document Registry 26-09-02

VI.H. * Policies for Second Reading and Adoption – **Document Registry 26-09-03**

VI.H.1. * 3.70 Succession of Authority

VI.H.2. * 4.175 Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications

VI.H.3. * 5.40 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

VI.H.4. * 5.70 Religious Holidays

VI.H.5. * 6.80 Teaching About Controversial Issues

VI.H.6. * 6.190 Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

VI.H.7. * 7.30 Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer

VI.H.8. * 7.80 Release Time for Religious Instruction & Observance

VI.H.9. * 7.130 Student Rights and Responsibilities

VI.H.10. * 7.330 Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access

VI.H.11. * 8.10 Connections with the Community

VI.H.12. * 8.70 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

VII. Financial Reports

Motion to approve financial reports as presented. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Cindy Lockley, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

VII.A. Treasurer's Report – The monthly treasurer's report was presented.

VII.B. Balance Sheet – The monthly balance sheet was presented.

VII.C. Approval of Bills – The monthly bill listing in the amount of \$2,353,363.25 was presented for payment.

VII.D. All Other Financial Reports

VII.D.1. Comparison of Funds - August 2025 with August 2026

VII.D.2. Monthly Financial Report – The monthly financial report was presented.

VII.D.3. Financial Update/Review – Mr. Rusk reviewed the financial reports. Mr. Rusk referenced the bills discussed last month by Mr. Kocher with explanation. After Mr. Kocher reviewed the bills for payment for this month, he asked the district to please use local services.

VIII. Administrative Reports

VIII.A. Superintendent's Report

VIII.A.1. Review of Attendance and Truancy Policy 7:70 – Mr. Fox reviewed Policy 7:70 Attendance and Truancy which is required every two years. **Document Registry 26-09-04**

VIII.A.2. Enrollment Update – Mr. Fox gave the current enrollment numbers of 2,131 as of September 23rd and includes Birth to 3 Program through Grade 12.

VIII.A.3. Wabash Valley Division Meeting - Tuesday, October 20, 2026 – Effingham

School Board Election Timeline – Petition Circulation began on August 25th, Candidate Filing is November 16-23, and Election Day is April 6, 2027.

Mr. Fox announced that the Early Learning Center received back-to-back ExceleRate Gold Ratings.

VIII.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

VIII.B.1. Athletic Complex Update by GeoSurfaces – Mr. Rusk gave an update on the athletic complex with pictures. He stated the tennis courts were near completion, striping of the track was on schedule, turf for the softball field would begin soon, flag poles had gone up and more concrete walkways have been poured and backstop nettings are going up.

VIII.B.2. Athletic Building Update by Poettker Construction – Mr. Rusk gave an update on the athletic building that should be completed by mid-November. Plumbing work is continuing and the exterior bricking has begun.

VIII.B.3. RCCU1 Food Service Presentation by Food Service Director Andrea Thomas on the school's nutrition program including the success of the breakfast cart at the high school, plans to introduce a mobile lunch cart at the high school and actively working to incorporate less processed foods and monitoring students' food trends.

VIII.B.4. RCMS StraightUp Solar Update – Expected installation should begin in October and take about three weeks. Once the inspections are passed by Ameren it should be operational by December. RCHS solar project is running about two months behind RCMS.

VIII.B.5. Project Funds Update – Mr. Rusk reviewed the summary.

MEMO to Board of Education December 10, 2025 Original Budget of All projects (Total)							\$24,386,118.00
Geo Surfaces	Nevco	Athletic Building	RCMS-Solar	RCMS-Solar	South Building	Maint. Shed	TOTAL Revised Budget 6/24/2026
\$14,844,533.00	\$408,550.00	\$5,121,262.00	\$762,663.00	\$990,000.00	\$1,349,000.00	\$220,271.44	\$23,696,279.44
							TOTAL Left to Spend
\$2,562,081.80	\$81,706.00	\$3,233,797.19	\$277,597.80	\$500,000.00	\$1,349,000.00	\$179,271.44	\$8,183,454.23
							Diff. From Budget
							\$689,838.56
							TOTAL SPENT
							\$15,512,825.21
Total incentives for RCHS--\$803,352							
Total incentives for RCMS--\$587,956							
Year to Date Total of 1% Sales tax revenue into Fund 60 (Capital Projects)						FY26	FY27
						\$774,802.76	\$207,718.00
Year to Date Total of EBF into Fund 60 (Capital Projects)						\$7,607,106.68	\$1,103,856.00
AR Bonds Directed into Fund 60						\$9,001,531.20	\$0.00
Information up to date 9/17/2026							
						TOTAL	
						\$17,383,440.64	\$1,311,574.00
GEO Surfaces Original Amount \$14,546,959.61							
*Change Order #1 Deduct for Demo and Recycling on 12/10/2025 of \$30,000 making new amount \$14,516,959.61							
**Change Order #2 Backstop Extension on 2/13/2026 of \$34,800 making new GEO Amount \$14,551,759.61							
***Change Order #3 Tennis Courts on 5/11/2026 of \$200,000 making new GEO Amount \$14,751,759.61							
****Change Order #4 Relocate existing medium voltage on 6/17/2026 of \$80,587.50 making new GEO Amount \$14,832,347.11							
*****Change Order #5 Retaining Wall Unsuitable Soils on 7/1/2026 of \$15,645.50 making new GEO contract \$14,844,533							
*****Change Order #6 Plumbing update to include plumbing for South Building with HMC on 7/16/26 new Maint. Shed \$220,271.44							

VIII.B.6. RCMS Family Engagement Night – Mrs. Rodgers stated this was a Title I Family Engagement Program which offered 6th grade families and new-to-district parents to navigate the school's technology platforms. Mr. Denton, Technology Instructional Coach, presented several platforms used for daily instruction and communication.

VIII.B.7. Inside the Classroom – Mrs. Rodgers gave a slideshow presentation on current events inside the classroom.

IX. Unfinished Business – None

X. New Business

X.A. Approve FY27 Budget – **Document Registry 26-09-05**

Motion to approve the FY27 Budget as presented. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Cindy Bailey, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

FY27 Original Budget					
Fund	Fund Balance July 1, 2026	FY27 Revenue	FY27 Expenditures	Fund Balance July 1, 2027	Difference
10-Education*	\$20,291,973.00	\$23,084,039.00	\$28,751,294.00	\$14,624,718.00	-\$5,667,255.00
20-Operations & Maintenance**	\$3,530,290.24	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,883,681.00	\$3,646,609.24	\$116,319.00
30-Debt Service	\$853,324.41	\$3,080,000.00	\$3,595,536.00	\$337,788.41	-\$515,536.00
40-Transportation***	\$1,374,936.10	\$1,716,800.00	\$1,568,058.00	\$1,523,678.10	\$148,742.00
50-IMRF/SS	\$843,573.54	\$918,928.00	\$1,073,460.00	\$689,041.54	-\$154,532.00
60-Capital Projects****	\$7,152,559.76	\$5,345,000.00	\$11,997,000.00	\$500,559.76	-\$6,652,000.00
70-Working Cash	\$1,648,690.45	\$240,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,888,890.45	\$240,200.00
80-Tort Immunity	\$32,397.15	\$1,765,200.00	\$1,763,410.00	\$34,187.15	\$1,790.00
90-Fire Prevention & Safety	\$333,401.99	\$190,209.00	\$165,000.00	\$358,610.99	\$25,209.00
					\$0.00
Total	\$36,061,146.64	\$38,340,376.00	\$50,797,439.00	\$23,604,083.64	-\$12,457,063.00

Mr. Jake Anderson wanted to share his concern about revenue versus expenditures over the past five years. Mr. Jake Anderson thanked Mr. Rusk for providing him with the data. Mr. Jake Anderson wants to make sure the board is spending responsibly and collecting responsibly.

X.B. Approve Change Order for South Building – Document Registry 26-09-06

Motion to approve Change Order for South Building with Grunloh Construction for Option 2 in the amount of \$159,021.22. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Cindy Bailey, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

X.C. Approve Agreement with Alliant for Tax Incentives on Solar – Document Registry 26-09-07

Motion to approve agreement with Alliant for tax incentives for solar as presented. This motion, made by Dusty Kocher and seconded by Cindy Lockley, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

X.D. Approve the Creation and Use of Board Committees – Document Registry 26-09-08

Motion to approve the creation and use of Board Committees. This motion, made by Scott Snyder and seconded by Dusty Kocher, Passed.

Jake Anderson: Nay, Dusty Kocher: Nay, Cindy Lockley: Nay, Dennis Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 3

Jake Anderson: Nay, Dusty Kocher: Nay, Cindy Lockley: Nay

X.E. Approve Delegate to Represent the Board at the Joint Annual Conference

Motion to approve Jake Anderson as delegate to represent the board at the Joint Annual Conference in Chicago. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Cindy Bailey, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

X.F. Approve of Holiday Pay/ 3 Inclement Weather Days for Support Staff

Motion to approve Holiday Pay/ 3 Inclement Weather Days for Support Staff. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Dusty Kocher, Tabled.

Jeff Wilson: Nay, Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty

Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 1

Jeff Wilson: Nay

X.G. The RCCU Board of Education employ an independent counsel to conduct interviews and an investigation of the procedures, decisions and circumstances surrounding the creation of the 2026-27 master schedule. This investigation should include the statements and actions that occurred during the August 7th special board meeting. Investigation should include all individuals who had a role in the process or relevant knowledge of the events.

Motion to approve the board of education to employ an independent counsel to conduct interviews and an investigation of the procedures, decisions and circumstances surrounding the creation of the 2026-27 master schedule. This motion, made by Cindy Lockley and seconded by Jake Anderson, Passed.

Cindy Bailey: Nay, Scott Snyder: Nay, Jeff Wilson: Nay, Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 3

Cindy Bailey: Nay, Scott Snyder: Nay, Jeff Wilson: Nay

XI. Enter Executive Session

Motion to enter executive session at 8:55 p.m. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Jeff Wilson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XI.A. 2(c)(1) To Consider Information Regarding Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Individual Employees

XI.B. 2(c)(9) To Discuss Student Disciplinary Cases

XI.C. 2(c)(11) To Discuss Matters of Possible or Pending Litigation

XI.D. 2(c)(21) To Discuss Matters of Closed Session Minutes

XII. Exit Executive Session

Motion to exit executive session at 10:14 pm. This motion, made by Jake Anderson and seconded by Dennis Anderson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIII. Possible Student Discipline Action on Student A – **Document Registry 26-09-09**

Motion to expel Student A for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year. Student A will be referred to an alternative school. Student A may return on Principals' Probation the second semester of the 2026-2027 school year if Student A completes 20 hours of approved counseling, passes the hair follicle drug test and follows all rules while attending an alternative school. This

motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Jake Anderson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy

Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XIV. Personnel Action

Motion to approve all personnel action as presented; the reinstatement of 45 sick days to RCES Librarian Erin Hardy used beginning March 10, 2024, the resignation of Austin Bussard as RCMS 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach effective August 25, 2026, the employment of Kryslyn Kolb as RiseUp Paraprofessional effective September 25, 2026, Paisley Paddock as RCELC Paraprofessional effective September 25, 2026, Sasha Farris as RCES Paraprofessional effective September 25, 2026, Christopher Smith as RCHS Custodian effective September 25, 2026, Evelyn Atkins as RCHS Custodian effective upon completion of new hire paperwork, Candace Bricker as Bus Aide effective September 25, 2026, the 2026-2027 extra-duty assignments of Christina VanMatre as RCHS Freshman Girls Basketball Coach, and transfer of Klay Wheeler from RCHS Freshman Girls Basketball Coach to RCHS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, Aaron Billington as RCHS Freshman Boys Basketball Coach, transfer of Alisha Duenas from RCMS 6th Grade Girls Basketball Coach to RCMS 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, volunteers of Jocelyn VanMatre and Leah Wollin for RCHS Girls Basketball, and rehire of RCHS 2026-2027 Spring Coaches of Ian Laughlin - Head Baseball, Justin Wille - Assistant Baseball, Kady Stallard - Head Girls Soccer, Taylor Milburn - Assistant Girls Soccer, Matt Powell - Head Softball, Jessica VanDyke - Assistant Softball, Drew Muston - Boys Tennis, Ryan Denton - Head Boys Track, Klay Wheeler - Assistant Boys Track, Amy Julian - Head Girls Track, and Sarah Stevens - Assistant Girls Track. This motion, made by Dusty Kocher and seconded by Cindy Bailey, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy

Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:17 p.m. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Jake Anderson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy

Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Approved:

President: _____

Secretary: _____