Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 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. 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 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2026.

II. Roll Call

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

Present: 6, Absent: 1.

III. Recognition and Comments from Employees and Public

III.A. Early Learning Center - ExceleRate Illinois Gold Circle of Quality – The board recognized the Early Learning Center Staff and their accomplishment of back-to-back ratings.

Tim Anderson, addressed the board on behalf of Tena Anderson, RCHS Para, regarding culture of One Tiger Nation, use of personal cell phone for work, and the new TimeClock Plus System.

IV. Comments from the School Board

Mr. Wilson wanted to share the accomplishments of the RCHS Marching Tigers Band at their recent contests this fall. They have received three 1st Places out of four contests. Mr. Wilson also stated that the FFA National Convention is coming up and RCHS is sending 8 teams and 3 individuals to compete.

Mrs. Bailey shared some great things going on at RCES, such as Positive Attendance Rewards, High Five Fridays, High School students interacting at Elementary for Intro to Teaching and Professional Development for IAR Testing.

Mr. Snyder shared the accomplishments for both RCHS and RCMS Cross Country Teams, ELC Parent Resources, the RCMS Perfect Attendance Class, over 300 breakfasts served at RCHS, and congratulated the St. Joe School Baseball Team for 2nd place finish at state.

V. Consent Agenda
Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Cindy Bailey, Passed.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy

Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

V.A. * Minutes of Previous Meetings

V.A.1. * Regular and Closed Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 24, 2026 and Regular and Closed Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of October 5, 2026.

V.B. * Closed Minutes

V.B.1. * Approve Destruction of Audio Recordings of March 20, 2025.

V.C. * Communication – none

V.D. * September FOIA Log – ***Document Registry 26-10-02***
Four requests were made in the month of September. One from Public Info Access requesting the District Administration Office list of employees and work phone numbers, one from Justin Wenig/Data Hub requesting purchasing records from 01/01/2026 to current, one from Allium Data requesting current property and casualty insurance policies and one from Sunlight Access requesting purchasing records from 03/01/2026 to 7/31/2026.

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

V.E.1. * RCELC

V.E.2. * RCES

V.E.3. * RCMS

V.E.4. * RCHS

V.E.5. * RiseUp

V.E.6. * Special Education

V.F. * Food Service Report – Submitted by Director of Food Services.

V.G. * Transportation Report – Submitted by Director of Transportation.

V.H. * Approve Fundraisers – Fundraiser Requests submitted by Administration.

VI. Financial Reports
Motion to approve financial reports as presented. This motion, made by Dusty Kocher and seconded by Jeff Wilson, Passed.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

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

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

VI.C. Approval of Bills – The monthly bill listing in the amount of $2,998,013.41 was presented for payment.

VI.D. All Other Financial Reports

VI.D.1. Comparison of Funds - September 2025 with September 2026

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

VI.D.3. Financial Update/Review – Mr. Rusk reviewed the financial reports.

VII. Administrative Reports

VII.A. Superintendent's Report

VII.A.1. Dates - October & November

VII.A.1.a. National School Bus Safety Week - October 19-23 – Thank you Bus Drivers!

VII.A.1.b. Parent Teacher Conferences - October 20 and 22 (3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

VII.A.1.c. Principals Day - October 23

VII.A.1.d. Veterans Day - November 11 - No School

VII.A.1.e. Illinois School Board Member's Day - November 15

VII.A.1.f. American Education Week - November 16-20 – gifts will be purchased.

VII.A.2. 2027-2028 Chamber of Commerce Community Guide – The board discussed and the majority would like to look at other options instead of purchasing an advertisement in the guide. A full-page ad is $750.00. The board also discussed possibilities of a newsletter that is student-led.

Mr. Fox advised the board that the RCES Canopy delivery and installation should be the week of October 19th.

VII.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

VII.B.1. Athletic Complex Update by GeoSurfaces – Houston Meyer and Seth Meyer gave an update on the Athletic Complex progress. The turf has been installed on the softball field, tennis courts are ready for play (hosting Sectionals Oct 16 & 17), track has been lined, and working on dugouts and field accessories.

VII.B.2. Athletic Building Update by Poettker Construction – Ryan Fuhler gave an update on the Athletic Building progress. Masonry work, bathrooms, doorways, canopies are all making good progress. Permanent power is good. Hoping for completion mid-November.

VII.B.3. Project Funds Update – Mr. Rusk reviewed the summary.

Richland County Community Unit #1

Capital Projects for 2026 & 2027

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	RCHS-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	$1,508,021.22	$220,271.44		**$23,855,300.66**
								TOTAL Left to Spend
$2,007,861.80	$81,706.00	$2,625,508.91	$277,597.80	$500,000.00	$1,421,802.81	$179,271.44		**$7,093,748.76**
								Diff. From Budget
								$530,817.34
								TOTAL SPENT
								$16,761,551.90

SOLAR INCENTIVES AND ROI ON ENERGY SAVINGS	*Return on Investment for RCMS is approximatly 5.9 years.* **Total estimated incentives for RCMS--$587,956** ***Return on Investment for RCHS is approximately 5.4 years.*** ****Total estimated incentives for RCHS--$803,352****

		FY26	FY27	FY27 Still remaining
Year to Date Total of 1% Sales tax revenue into Fund 60 (Capital Projects)		$774,802.76	$436,162.65	$771,555.35
Year to Date Total of EBF into Fund 60 (Capital Projects)		$7,607,106.68	$2,207,712.00	$2,092,288.00
Alternative Revenue 1% Sales Tax Bonds Directed into Fund 60		$9,001,531.20	$0.00	$0.00
Use of Remaining Fund Balances				$964,142.02
	TOTAL	$17,383,440.64	$2,643,874.65	$3,827,985.37
Information up to date 10/08/2026	**GRAND TOTAL**	**$23,855,300.66**		

GEO Surfaces Orginal 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
*******Change Order #7 Increase square footage for south building and small redesign on 9/24/2026 $159,021.22 increase

VII.B.4. Inside the Classroom – Mrs. Rodgers gave a slideshow presentation on events happening around the schools, including RCELC, RCES, RCMS, RCHS, RiseUp and students participating in the Beautiful Lives Project.

VIII. Unfinished Business

VIII.A. Approve of Holiday Pay/ 3 Inclement Weather Days for Support Staff
Motion to table. This motion, made by Dusty Kocher and seconded by Jake Anderson, Tabled.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Discussion: Mr. Jake Anderson asked to rediscuss next month. Board members discussed paying support staff comparable wages and looking at pay schedules.

VIII.B. Approve Selection and Assignment of Board Committees
Motion to table. This motion, made by Dusty Kocher and seconded by Cindy Lockley, Tabled.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Scott Snyder: Nay, Jeff Wilson: Nay, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy

Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 2, Absent: 1
Scott Snyder: Nay, Jeff Wilson: Nay

Discussion: Mr. Snyder and Mr. Wilson discussed the advantages and need of having board committees and to not delay and go ahead and assign the committees. Mr. Kocher stated he did not have time to serve on an additional committee due to work obligations.

IX. New Business

IX.A. Approve Tentative Tax Levy – ***Document Registry 26-10-03***
Motion to approve the Tentative 2026 Tax Levy as presented. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Scott Snyder, Failed.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Nay, Cindy Bailey: Nay, Dusty Kocher: Nay, Cindy Lockley: Nay, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 2, Nay: 4, Absent: 1
Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Discussion: Mr. Rusk presented and explained the process of the 2026 Tentative Tax Levy. The majority of the board was not in favor of the 4.8% tax levy with a 4.9% EAV. The motion failed as presented. Mrs. Bailey asked, if possible, could we do 4.5% tax levy. It will be rediscussed at the next regular board meeting.

				Requesting % of EAV			Estimated % of EAV
				4.9000			4.59
				1.049			1.0459
				RECOMMENDED LEVY	ESTIMATED	ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	ESTIMATED
FUND	ACTUAL 2025 EAV (ALL COUNTIES WITHIN DISTRICT)	25 PAYABLE 26 LEVY	RATE	26 PAYABLE 27 LEVY based on:	RATE:	26 PAYABLE 27 LEVY based on:	RATE :
	$ 369,820,118.00	ACTUAL RECEIPTS		387,941,304		$ 386,794,861	
EDUCATION		$ 6,756,709.83	1.82703	7,138,120	1.8400	$ 7,117,025	1.8400
O & M		$ 1,836,072.28	0.49648	1,939,707	0.5000	$ 1,933,974	0.5000
TRANSPORTATION		$ 734,420.96	0.19859	775,883	0.2000	$ 773,590	0.2000
WORKING CASH		$ 183,597.04	0.04964	193,971	0.0500	$ 193,397	0.0500
I.M.R.F.		$ 388,145.01	0.10496	444,000	0.1145	444,000	0.1148
SOCIAL SECURITY		$ 462,750.98	0.12513	450,000	0.1160	450,000	0.1163
FIRE & SAFETY		$ 183,597.04	0.04964	193,971	0.0500	$ 193,397	0.0500
TORT		$ 1,766,417.03	0.47764	1,765,500	0.4551	1,765,500	0.4564
SPECIAL ED.		$ 146,884.87	0.03972	155,177	0.0400	$ 154,718	0.0400
BOND		$ 2,100,176.16	0.56789	2,157,138	0.5560	$ 2,157,138	0.5577
TOTAL without bond		$ 12,458,595.04	3.36883	13,056,327	3.3655	$ 13,025,602	3.3676
TOTAL with bond		$ 14,558,771.20	3.93672	15,213,465	3.9216	$ 15,182,740	3.9253
				Total est. rate increase/decrease	($0.0151)	Total est. rate increase/decrease	($0.0114)

			Increase or Decrease from 2025
		EDUCATION	$ 360,315.62
		O & M	$ 97,902.03
2026 LEVY	$ 13,056,326.94	TRANSPORTATIO	$ 39,168.76
DIVIDED BY 2025		WORKING CASH	$ 9,800.39
EXTENSION	$ 12,458,595.04	I.M.R.F.	$ 55,854.99
=	104.80% TRUTH IN TAXATION	SOCIAL SECURIT	$ (12,750.98)
bond is not included in truth in taxation estimates		FIRE & SAFETY	$ 9,800.39
		TORT	$ (917.03)
		SPECIAL ED.	$ 7,833.07
			$ 567,007.25

Levy Dates	
Adopt tentative levy(must be 20 days prior to hearing)	15-Oct-26
Hearing notice published no more than 14 and no less than 7 days prior to hearing (calendar days)	
Public Hearing	17-Nov-26
File levy by last Tues in December or last date office is open before that	29-Dec-26

IX.B. Approve Purchase of High Jump and Pole Vault Equipment – ***Document Registry 26-10-04***
Motion to approve the purchase of High Jump and Pole Vault Equipment from Pole Vault STL in the amount of $37,107.00. This motion, made by Dusty Kocher and seconded by Jeff Wilson, Passed.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

IX.C. Approve 2027- 2028 Bus Specifications – ***Document Registry 26-10-05***
Motion to approve the 2027-2028 Bus Specifications as presented. This motion, made by Jake Anderson and seconded by Dusty Kocher, Passed.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Discussion: The board would like to see A/C Specs info.

IX.D. Approve Athletic Storage Option from GeoSurfaces – ***Document Registry 26-10-06***
Motion to approve the athletic storage building option from GeoSurfaces for a 62' x 26' metal building. This motion, made by Dusty Kocher and seconded by Cindy Lockley, Passed.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Discussion: GeoSurfaces presented to the board that storage can no longer be utilized under the football field bleachers (as previously planned) due to requiring a sprinkler system. GeoSurfaces presented building a storage building and there would be no additional charge to the district.

X. Enter Executive Session
Motion to enter executive session at 8:48 p.m. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Cindy Bailey, Passed.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

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

X.B. 2(c)(11) To Discuss Matters of Possible or Pending Litigation

X.C. 2(c)(21) To Discuss Matters of Closed Session Minutes

XI. Exit Executive Session
Motion to exit executive session at 9:40 pm. This motion, made by Jake Anderson and seconded by Dusty Kocher, Passed.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XII. Personnel Action
Motion to approve all personnel action as presented; the revised letter of intent to retire for Roy Waldhoff as JRTOC Instructor for the end of the 2026-2027 school year, the retirement of Christine Borah as Bus Driver effective October 20, 2026, the resignations of Richard Atkins as RCMS Custodian effective October 16, 2026, and Logan Kauble as RCMS 6th Grade Volleyball Coach effective immediately, the employment of Tiffanie Joost as RCMS Custodian effective completion of new hire paperwork, the 2026-2027 extra-duty assignment of Alisha Duenas as RCMS 6th Grade Girls Basketball Coach and the volunteers of Brock Holloway for RCHS Baseball, Rhett Hancock, Jakoby VanDyke, Tony Holtschlag, Chad Koester, and Ron Hazel for RCHS Bass Fishing, Mark Steber and Braxton Pittman for RCHS FFA and Leroy Stallard for RCHS FBLA. This motion, made by Dusty Kocher and seconded by Cindy Lockley, Passed.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XIII. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn at 9:42 pm. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Cindy Lockley, Passed.
Dennis Anderson: Absent, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Approved:

President: _____

Secretary: _____