An overview of the school board meetings for Richland County CUSD #1

Quick Board Summary

September 18, 2025

The Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 pm at the Richland County High School

Board of Education

President
Scott Snyder

Vice-President
Jeff Wilson

Secretary
Cindy Lockley

Member
Dennis Anderson

Member
Jake Anderson

Member
Cindy Bailey

Member
Dusty Kocher

Superintendent of Schools
Jason Fox

District Office
1100 E. Laurel St.
Olney, IL 62450
www.rccu1.net

A Public Hearing was held at 6:00 p.m. to review the FY26 Budget.

The regular meeting of the Richland County Board of Education was called to order by President Scott Snyder at 6:03 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2025. Scott Snyder, Dennis Anderson, Jake Anderson, Cindy Bailey, Dusty Kocher, Cindy Lockley, and Jeff Wilson were in attendance. The meeting was viewable by the public via live stream at http://live.rccu1.net.

Recognition and Comments from Employees & Public

1. The board recognized Rylan Rusk as the 2024-2025 IPA Wabash Valley Assistant Principal of the year and Jennifer Fox as the 2024-2025 IPA Wabash Valley Principal of the Year for Effingham.
2. The board welcomed new teachers and licensed staff that are new to the district for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Amy Rusk and three members of the Olnean Staff presented the 2024-2025 yearbooks to the board. The theme for the yearbook is "100 Years of the O".
4. Several members of the community and past FACTS Committee members spoke in regards to the new proposed Athletic Complex. Jason Doris, Caleb Piercefield, Sara Peavler, Sheri Gray, Brad Brown, Lauren McClain, Alex Cline and Alex Waldherr shared their thoughts, facts and opinions on proceeding with the project.

Consent Agenda Items –The regular and closed minutes of the August 14, 2025 regular board meeting, regular minutes of the August 21, 2025 special board meeting, and the regular and closed minutes of the September 11, 2025 special board meeting, destruction of the audio recordings of February 15 and February 22, 2024, August FOIA requests, building reports, fundraiser requests, the 2025 EIS Administrator and Teacher Salary Report, and policies for second reading and adoption were approved as presented.

Reports, Updates, & Informational Items

Financial Reports - The August financial report was included in the board packet. The monthly bill listing in the amount of $1,022,913.01 was approved.

Superintendent's Report

1. The District's current enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is 2,213 and includes the Birth to 3 Program through Grade 12.
2. Mr. Fox advised board members that the IASB Wabash Valley Division Meeting will be held in Robinson on Wednesday, October 8, 2025.
3. Jordan Ellison, RCHS Instructor addressed the board on expanding the building trades program here at RCHS by offering construction classes and building Tiny Houses.
4. Mr. Fox stated that the IASB Board Training will be held on October 21st from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
5. Mr. Fox stated that IHSA confirmed our Class 2A status for the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you Jessica VanDyke for your hard work.
6. Mr. Fox asked the board if they would like him to proceed with speaking with the County Board in regards to financing a 3rd School Resource Officer.
7. Mr. Fox provided an update on the new Raptor security system.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Athletic Complex discussion continued and James Beever, Dustin Schroeder, and Kory Faulkner with GEOSurfaces a TenCate Company presented to the board a proposal of their turf products and lighting. Emily Spindler with FGM Architects presented more information on the athletic building.
2. Approved the FY26 Budget as presented.
3. Approved the updated job descriptions of RCELC Office Manager, RCCU Special Needs Secretary, RCES Office Manager, RCES Secretary, RCMS Office Manager, RCMS Secretary-Bookkeeper, RCHS Office Manager, RCHS Secretary, RCHS Bookkeeper-A.D. Secretary, RCHS Guidance Secretary, and RCMS-RCHS Media Secretary.
4. Approved the resolution to sell unneeded district vehicles, equipment and supplies.
5. Approved to reject all bids for the RCMS playground improvement because of incomplete bids missing addendum acknowledgements and missing scopes.

Personnel Matters:

Retirement/Resignation(s) – The board approved the retirement of Cheryl Wall as RCHS Nurse effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year and the resignation of Whitney Fielden as RCES Paraprofessional effective August 29, 2025.

Employment – The board approved the employment of Faith Keller as RiseUp Teacher Assistant, Candice Green as RCHS Paraprofessional, and Rebekah Byson as RCES Teacher Assistant all effective September 19, 2025, Ronda Hance as part-time Paraprofessional at St. Joseph School effective September 22, 2025, and the extra-duty assignment of Jaden Merritt as RCMS Assistant Track Coach, and RCHS volunteers of Carson Bissey, Skyler Sutton, and Paul Skogland for Wrestling, Jaden Merritt for Boys Cross Country, and Anna Blank for Girls Basketball all for the 2025-2026 school year.

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m.