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

Quick Board Summary

March 19, 2026

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

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, March 19, 2026. 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.

A Public Hearing was held to hear testimony on the proposal to sell bonds of the District in an amount not to exceed $9,000,000 for the purpose of altering, repairing and equipping school buildings and facilities and improving school sites.

Recognition and Comments from Employees & Public

1. The board recognized the RCES, RCMS and RCHS IPA Nominees that were honored at the IPA Banquet this month.
2. The board recognized RCMS MathCounts Students that participated at the State level.
3. Tena Anderson, Heather Baker, Megan Bell, and Natasha Thrasher, RCCU1 Employees, addressed the board regarding annualized pay.
4. Matt Zuber addressed the board in regards to the alternative revenue bonds and the athletic complex.

Consent Agenda Items – The regular and closed minutes of the February 19, 2026 regular board meeting, March 4, 2026 special board meeting, destruction of the audio recordings of August 15, 2024, February FOIA requests, building reports, fundraiser requests, and the 2026-2027 IHSA Membership Agreement were approved as presented.

Reports, Updates, & Informational Items

Financial Reports - The February financial report was included in the board packet. The monthly bill listing in the amount of $1,743,110.12 was approved.

Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Fox confirmed the end of year dates as follows; RCHS Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 17th at 3pm, RCMS Promotion will be held on Tuesday, May 19th at 6pm at RCHS, the last day of student attendance will be Wednesday, May 20th and Teacher Institute Day will be Thursday, May 21st.
2. Mr. Fox stated no changes will happen with hourly and annualized pay for support staff.
3. Mr. Fox discussed traffic flow on Holly Rd.
4. Mr. Fox discussed Summer School Fees.
5. Mr. Fox announced School Board Trainings will be this summer.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Rusk and Seth Meyer with GeoSurfaces gave an update on the Athletic Complex construction.
2. Mr. Rusk gave an update on the South Building project.
3. Mrs. Rodgers gave an update on State Testing. IAR will begin next week at RCES and RCMS and ACT at RCHS.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Approved the amended 2025-2026 school calendar to reflect the last day of student attendance will be May 20th and Teacher Institute will be May 21st.
2. Approved the school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. Teacher Institute Days will be August 10th & 11th and the first day of student attendance will be Wednesday, August 12th.
3. Approved the bids for the construction of the New Athletic Building to the following contractors; Bid Package No. 1 - General Trades to Grunloh Construction for $889,000.00, Bid Package No. 2 - Concrete to JB Esker for $268,000.00, Bid Package No. 3 - Masonry to Wagner Masonry for $925,000.00, Bid Package No. 4 - Structural Steel to S&S Urethane for $192,591.00, Bid Package No. 5 - Roofing and Sheet Metal to DE Martin Roofing for $154,030.00, Bid Package No. 6 - Fire Suppression to F.E. Moran for $46,500.00, Bid Package No. 7 & 8 - Plumbing & HVAC to Davis-Houk Mechanical for $908,000.00, Bid Package No. 9 - Electric to Rowdy Electric for $410,700.00.

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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

Assistant Superintendents
Rylan Rusk
Kacie Rodgers

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Olney, IL 62450
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Quick Board Summary

Discussion/Action Items cont'd

4. Approved the purchase of two RCES Canopies with Hutchinson Recreation & Design in the amount of $135,812.00
5. Approved the 2026-2027 changes in the RCELC, RCES, RCMS and RCHS Student Handbooks as presented.
6. Approved the 2026 Summer Maintenance Project List as presented.

Personnel Matters:

The board approved to issue a two day suspension without pay to a RCCU1 Educational Support Staff Member.

Reinstatement of Sick Days – The board approved the requests for reinstatement of 45 sick days to RCMS Teacher Brianne Kuenstler and RCMS Teacher Julie Clodfelter.

Resignation(s)/Retirement – The board approved the intent to retire in three years for Ty Nohren as RiseUp Teacher at the end of the 2028-2029 school year and intent to retire in four years for Jeff Thompson as RCHS Principal at the end of the 2029-2030 school year.

The board approved the resignations of Keith Redman as RCMS 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach effective immediately, John McLaughlin as RCHS Assistant Boys Soccer Coach effective immediately, Isabella Troester as RCES Teacher, Diana Hagan as part-time Special Ed Assessment, Collin Gilreath as RCHS History Teacher, Jeff Ludwig as JROTC Instructor all effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year, Tina Harting as RCMS Custodian effective May 15, 2026 and Scott Hahn as RCHS Custodian effective March 16, 2026.

Employment – The board approved the transfer of Carly Page from RCMS Teacher Assistant to RCMS Special Education Teacher effective the 2026-2027 school year.

The board approved the employment of McKenzie Henson as RCES Fourth Grade Teacher and Micah Pottorff as RCES Nurse both effective the 2026-2027 school year, the employment of Dane Hawes as part-time Transportation Secretary effective March 20, 2026, and Rob Flanagan as Behind the Wheel Driver Education Instructor effective March 23, 2026, and the 2025-2026 volunteers of Dennis Conley, Dalton Utley and Taylor Pickens for RCHS Baseball.

The board approved rehiring the current administrative personnel, all licensed staff, and all educational support staff for the 2026-2027 school year.

The board approved the wage increase of 5% for the 2026-2027 Educational Support Staff.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting

April 15, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.