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

Quick Board Summary

April 16, 2026

The Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 pm at the Richland County Elementary 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, April 16, 2026. Scott Snyder, Jake Anderson, Dennis 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 RCES Student Legacy Team led school tours and gave a presentation to the board. The theme for 2026-2027 will be "You are perfect just the way you are!"
2. Gene Brauer, representing the tennis community, addressed the board expressing their concern of the tennis court orientation at the new athletic complex.
3. Emily Rusk, RCEA President, spoke in favor of the alternate bond funding.

Consent Agenda Items – The regular and closed minutes of the March 19, 2026 regular board meeting, and March 31, 2026 special board meeting, destruction of the audio recording of September 4 & 19, 2024, March FOIA requests, monthly building reports and fundraiser requests were approved as presented.

Reports, Updates, & Informational Items

Financial Reports - The March financial report was included in the board packet. The monthly bill listing in the amount of $2,398,374.34 was approved.

Superintendent's Report

1. High School Graduation is Sunday, May 17th at 3:00 p.m. Middle School Promotion is Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00 p.m. at RCHS. Last day of Student Attendance is Wednesday, May 20th - 1 hour early dismissal. Mr. Fox presented the list of district employees to be recognized for their years of service at the Service Awards Program that will be held on May 21st at 8:30 a.m. at RCHS. Retirees and ERFAE Teacher of the Year Awards will also be recognized. An All Staff Breakfast will be held on May 21 at 7:30 a.m.
2. Mr. Fox announced the District received an A+ Bond Rating with S&P Global.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Seth Meyer with GeoSurfaces updated the board on the progress of the Athletic Complex Construction.
2. Mrs. Rodgers gave an update on Curriculum purchases and renewals for 2026-2027.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Approved Resolution providing for the issue and sale of (i) not to exceed $9,000,000 of alternate revenue bonds for the purpose of altering, repairing and equipping school buildings and facilities and improving school sites and (ii) not to exceed $12,000,000 of alternate revenue bonds for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds.
2. Motion failed for the Athletic Tennis Courts Change Order.
3. Approved Bid Specs for Trash Removal Services as presented.
4. Approved Bid Specs for the Maintenance Building and South Extracurricular Building.
5. Approved Summer School Fees implementation of $50.00 per course taken and upon successful completion of the course a $25.00 refund per course.
6. Approved 2026-2027 RiseUp Alternative Credit Recovery Curriculum with Edgenuity in the amount of $26,052.00.
7. Approved High School Math Curriculum for a four year contract with HMH in the amount of $62,567.62.

Personnel Matters:

Reinstatement of Sick Days – The Board approved the reinstatement of 42 sick days to RCMS Teacher Shelley Mann and 45 sick days to RCMS Teacher Sarah McKinney.

Retirement/Resignation(s) - The board approved the retirement of Larry Brian as Bus Driver effective June 15, 2026, and the resignations of Makenzie Provines as RCELC Paraprofessional effective April 2, 2026,

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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

District Office
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Olney, IL 62450
www.rccu1.net

Quick Board Summary

Resignations cont.

Madelyn Rusk as RCES Mental Health Counselor effective August 1, 2026, Joyce Anderson as part-time RCES Math Interventionist effective May 21, 2026, Sarah McKinney as RCMS STEM Teacher effective August 5, 2026, Jennifer Weidner as RCELC Director and Suzanna Ridgely as RCHS Social Worker effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Employment - The board approved the employment of Makenna King as RCMS Special Education Teacher, Sawyer DeShon as RCHS Spanish Teacher, Sydney Hall as RCHS School Counselor, Alex Beckham as RCHS PE Teacher, Brock Holloway as RCHS Social Science/History Teacher, Jazzmyn Johnson and Isabel Carter as RCES Teachers, the transfer of Samantha McGriff from RCES Teacher Assistant to Fourth Grade Teacher, transfer of Maci Deimel from RCES First Grade Teacher to RCES Interventionist and the rehire of Madelyn Rusk as RCES School Counselor all effective the 2026-2027 school year.
The board approved the 2026 RCES Summer Tutors of Michelle Burris, Clarissa Ginder, Shanna Ginder, Tiffany Grove, Jennifer Hall, Vanessa Pfoff, Michele Reynolds, and Melinda Smith and 2026 RCHS Summer Tutors of Briauna Baltzell, Melinda King, and Paula West.

The board approved the 2026 Summer Driver's Education Instructors: Jessica VanDyke, Luke Carmody, Rick Franklin, Rob Flanagan, Brandis Grove, Jillian Woods, Traci Gray, Greg McKinney, and Jeff Thompson.

The board approved the following Coach Assignments for the 2026-2027 school year.
The transfer of Jessica Hinckley from RCMS Assistant Softball Coach to Interim RCMS Head Softball Coach and the transfer of Darrell McDowell from RCMS 6th Grade Boys Basketball Coach to 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach.
The hire of Alex Beckham as RCHS Head Boys Basketball Coach and the hire of Bo Madden as RCMS Assistant Baseball Coach.

2026-2027 Rehire of Fall Coaches:
Bobbie Lathrop - RCMS Cross Country Head Coach
Kendra Page - RCMS Cross Country Assistant Coach
Adam Stoneberger - RCMS Baseball Head Coach
Amy Julian - RCHS Girls Cross Country Head Coach
Charlie Butler - RCHS Boys Cross Country Head Coach
Briauna Baltzell - RCHS Cheerleading Head Coach
Yvette Baltzell - RCHS Cheerleading Assistant Coach

Employment cont.

2026-2027 Rehire of Fall Coaches:
Heather Colwell - RCHS Girls Golf Head Coach
Curt Nealis - RCHS Boys Golf Head Coach
Matt Powell - RCHS Girls/Boys Swim Head Coach
Logan Kauble - RCHS Girls Tennis Head Coach
Emily Rusk - RCHS Volleyball Head Coach
Lauren Eagleson - RCHS Volleyball Assistant Coach
Tanner Piercefield - RCHS Volleyball Freshman Coach
Luke Carmody - RCHS Football Head Coach
Matt Powell, Dakotah Brown, Brad Ameter, Hassan Steele - RCHS Football Assistant Coaches

2026-2027 Rehire of Winter Coaches:
Ian Laughlin - RCHS Girls Basketball Head Coach
Lauren Eagleson - RCHS Girls Basketball Assistant Coach
Klay Wheeler - RCHS Girls Basketball Freshman Coach
Hassan Steele - RCHS Wrestling Head Coach
Ben Curtis - RCHS Wrestling Assistant Coach
Lynn Steele - RCMS 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Austin Bussard - RCMS 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Rhett Funk - RCMS 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
Donna Henby - RCMS Head Cheerleading Coach
Ellen Jenner - RCMS Assistant Cheerleading Coach

2026-2027 Coach Volunteers:
Kristie Shoemaker - RCMS Cross Country
Drew Bunting - RCMS Baseball
John McLaughlin, Ken Hake - RCHS Boys Soccer
Morgan Puckett, Brooke Wheeler - RCHS Cheerleading
Audrey Jensen, Alex Kauble, Dave Kauble - RCHS Girls Tennis
Tracy Snider, Jason Snider, Tara Feddes, Troy Nosek, Erica Stout, Beth Miller, Angel Padilla and Allyson Padilla - RCHS Girls/Boys Swim
Dave Berry - RCHS Boys Golf
Scott Klingler, Aliyah Tracy - RCHS Volleyball
Colton Carmody, Brad Beard, Mike Gilreath, Klay Wheeler, Ryan Denton, Jeremiah Brown, Austin Moore, Leslie Phillips, Dane Hawes - RCHS Football

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

May 21, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting
6:00 PM – High School RCPAC