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

Quick Board Summary

September 24, 2026

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

A Public Hearing was held at 6:00 p.m. to review the FY27 Budget.
The meeting was viewable via live stream at http://live.rccu1.net.

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. Scott Snyder, Dennis Anderson, Jake Anderson, Cindy Bailey, Dusty Kocher, Cindy Lockley and Jeff Wilson were in attendance.

Recognition and Comments from Employees & Public

1. The board welcomed new teachers and licensed staff that are new to the district for the 2026-2027 school year.
2. Brayden Runyon was selected for the Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council.
3. Josiah Reynolds, 2026 Graduate, spoke to the board in favor of Tena Anderson's past position as RCHS In School Suspension Paraprofessional.
4. Tena Anderson, RCHS Para, spoke to the board asking she be placed back in the In School Suspension room as a Para.
5. Julie Fleming, RCHS Teacher, spoke to the board about respect, support and classroom behavior and reminded the board to reach out to teachers.

Board Comments

1. Mrs. Lockley asked about Tena Anderson's certification regarding supervising an In School Suspension room.
2. Mr. Kocher brought concerns from parents being allowed to be on the football field after the home games.
3. Mr. Snyder referenced several positive activities district wide.

Consent Agenda Items –The regular and closed minutes of the August 20, 2026 regular board meeting, destruction of the audio recording of February 20, 2025, August FOIA requests, building reports, fundraiser requests, the 2026 EIS Administrator and Teacher Salary Report, and policies for second reading and adoption were approved as presented

Financial Reports - The August financial report was included in the board packet. The monthly bill listing in the amount of $2,353,363.25 was approved.

Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Fox reviewed the districts Attendance and Truancy Policy 7:70, which is required every two years.
2. Mr. Fox gave the district's current enrollment as 2,131 and includes Birth to 3 Program through Grade 12.
3. The Wabash Valley Division Fall Meeting will be held on October 20th at 6pm hosted by Effingham CUSD.
4. RCELC received back-to-back Excelerate Gold Ratings.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

1. Mr. Rusk gave an update with pictures of the Athletic Complex and Athletic Building.
2. Andrea Thomas, Food Service Director, gave a food service report for the district.
3. Mr. Rusk gave an update on the StraightUp Solar project.
4. Mr. Rusk gave an update on the Current Projects Payments.
5. Mrs. Rodgers spoke about RCMS Family Engagement night.
6. Mrs. Rodgers gave a slideshow presentation on events happening Inside the Classroom.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Approved FY27 Budget.
2. Approved the South Building Change Order Option #2 in the amount of $159,021.22.
3. Approved Agreement with Alliant for tax incentives on solar.
4. Approved the creation and use of Board Committees.
5. Approved Jake Anderson as delegate to represent the board at the Joint Annual Conference in Chicago.
6. Motion Tabled for Holiday Pay/ 3 Inclement Weather Days for Support Staff.
7. Approved 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.

Approved 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.

Personnel Matters:

Reinstatement of Sick Days – The board approved the reinstatement of 45 sick days to Erin Hardy, RCES Librarian, used starting March 10, 2014.

Resignation(s) – The board approved the resignation of Austin Bussard as RCMS 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach effective August 25, 2026.

Employment – The board approved the employment of Kryslyn Kolb as RiseUp Paraprofessional, Paisley Paddock as RCELC Paraprofessional, Sasha Farris as RCES Paraprofessional, Christopher Smith and Evelyn Atkins as RCHS Custodians, and Candace Bricker as Bus Aide, all effective September 25, 2026.

The board approved the 2026-2027 extra-duty assignments of Christina VanMatre as RCHS Freshman Girls Basketball Coach, 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, and volunteers of Jocelyn VanMatre and Leah Wollins for RCHS Girls Basketball.

The board approved the 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.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Board of Education

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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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