Rush County Schools Board of Trustees-

Board of School Trustees
Work Session Minutes
December 15, 2025- 5:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
Rush County Schools Administration Building

A Work Session was held at the Administrative Offices on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5:09 p.m. to discuss strategic considerations of Rush County Schools. The session adjourned at 7:00 p.m. All members were in attendance including Superintendent Jim Jameson.

I. Call to Order and Preliminary Business

The meeting opened with the Oath of Office administered by Rush County Clerk Jenny Sammons to Mrs. Jennifer Bowles, who was sworn in as a member of the Rush County School Board of Trustees.

Board of Finance Meeting

The Board of Finance was then called to order by Board President Mr. Banks in accordance with Indiana Code requiring the annual financial review meeting following the first Monday in January. The full Board of School Trustees served as the Board of Finance.

II. Board of Finance Presentation

Superintendent Mr. Jim Jameson presented the annual Fiscal Indicators Report from the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (DUAB), including:

- **Average Daily Membership (ADM)** trends showing stabilization following modest declines.
- **Annual Surplus and Deficit Trends** demonstrating strong positive balances post-COVID.
- **Rainy Day Fund and Capital Fund balances** reflecting long-term financial stability.
- **Total Fund Balance** rising from **24.8% in 2015 to 39.9% in 2024**.

- **Education Fund Balance** increasing from **3.9% in 2020 to 31.7% in 2024**, far exceeding the recommended 15–20% benchmark.
- **Revenue Growth** from under $10 million in 2016 to over $35 million in 2024, driven by state, local, referendum, and federal sources.
- **Interest Earnings** growth due to investments in **Trust Indiana**, with earnings of **$484,000 in 2025**.

Mr. Jameson recommended that **100% of interest earnings continue to remain invested in Trust Indiana**, noting balances of **$3.3 million** in the General Fund and **$2.4 million** in the Rainy Day Fund.

III. Board of Finance Actions

Motion by Matt Jones to continue the practice of using the same officers for the Board of Finance as the School Board. Seconded by Jeff Amos. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Finance was then adjourned by President Banks.

IV. Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Jeff Amos to approve the January 2026 agenda. Seconded by Jeff Edwards. Motion passed unanimously. The vote was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The regular meeting was then called to order at 6:51 p.m.

Attendance: Angie Kuhn- absent

V. School Board Reorganization

President Banks conducted the meeting of the Board Reorganization in the absence of Angie Kuhn, Board Secretary. Motion by Jeff Edwards for slate method. Seconded by Matt Jones. The Board voted unanimously to conduct elections by slate. Jeff Edwards made a motion to nominate the following officers:

Office	Trustee
President	Addam Carmony
Vice President	Angie Kuhn
Secretary	Matt Jones

Seconded by Kevin Banks. The Board vote passed unanimously to elect these officers.

VI. Appointments

The Board approved the following appointments:

Position	Appointee
Treasurer	Julie Cramer Motion by Kevin Banks Seconded by Jeff Amos
Deputy Treasurer	Michelle Colestock Motion by Jeff Amos Seconded by Kevin Banks
Legal Counsel	Church, Church, Hittle & Antrim (Lead: Amy Matthews) Motion by Kevin Banks Seconded by Jennifer Bowles

All motions passed unanimously for each appointment.

VII. Public Comment

Ms. Velez was not present when called for public comment by Mr. Jameson.

VIII. Tell Me Something Good- Employee & Student of the Month

The Board received extensive presentations from schools across the corporation recognizing Students and Employees of the Month including:

- **Arlington Elementary** – Kase Lower, Grade 2; Debbie Banks, Substitute Teacher and Principal Sara Mastin (recognized by her staff)
- **Milroy Elementary –** Piper Colvin, Grade 3; Dru Niedenthal, Kindergarten
- **Rushville Elementary** – Lilliann Blair, Grade 6; Stacey Padgett, Grade 2
- **BRMS –** Maddox Hoover, Grade 8; Heather Campbell, Music
- **RCHS** – Jaydah Wallace, Grade 12; James Zachery, Dean of Students
- **WCC**- Jeremy Kennedy & Landon Vanover- Grade 12
- **RCS Operations-** Bud Cowan, Maintenance

RCHS -WCC students Jeremy Kennedy and Landon Vanover represented the WCC Graphics Team. Their award-winning Clareo App, won the Next Tech "CS for Good" State Competition for providing real-time classroom captioning for hearing-impaired students.

VIII. Board Member Comments

- Jennifer Bowles congratulated students, staff and parents honored tonight. Mrs. Bowles thanked all school employees and administrators with starting a new semester.
- Matt Jones congratulated all honorees tonight. Mr. Jones was happy to see TR Campbell attend the meeting. He also thanked Hannah Lemmons, Christin Nicholls, and Brooke Edwards for helping out in the Pep band.
- Kevin Banks welcomed Jennifer Bowles. Mr. Banks thanked all of tonight's recipients for all they have done. He also thanked all donors for the phenomenal donations made to RCS. Mr. Banks also acknowledged TR Campbell.
- Jeff Edwards welcomed everyone back from Christmas break. He also welcomed Mrs. Bowles to the board. Mr. Edwards congratulated the new officers of the board. He also acknowledged Piper Colvin for being an Ambassador of Milroy Elementary.
- Jeff Amos congratulated all award winners. He acknowledged Mrs. Sara Mastin with her staff recognizing her. Mr. Amos encouraged people to attend wrestling meets.
- President Addam Carmony wished everyone a Happy New Year. He welcomed Jennifer Bowles and was happy to see TR Campbell. President Carmony thanked the maintenance and grounds crews for all their hard work this winter. He wished everyone the best going into 2nd semester.

IX. Consent Items

The Board approved the following items:

- December 2025 Meeting Minutes
- Revised Personnel Report
- Claims and Payroll
- Donations totaling **$19,252.36**

Motion to approve by Kevin Banks. Seconded by Jeff Amos. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Approval of Resolution to Balance 2025 Appropriations

This resolution allows RCS to balance the end of the year expenses and to go forward with creating budgets for the new school year.

Motion to approve by Kevin Banks. Seconded by Jeff Edwards.
Discussion included no monies had to be transferred.
Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Approval to Pursue Licensure for Preschool and Pre-K at Rushville Elementary School

This approval would allow RES to begin the process of licensure through the state of Indiana to operate preschool and pre-kindergarten classrooms.

Motion to approve by Matt Jones.
Discussion included estimated number of students to attend and launching in the Fall.
Seconded by Jeff Amos. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Centerstone Report for 1st Semester

Mr. Jameson shared a report from Centerstone for the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year. The report included the number of students who received services. Progress indicators based on student assessments and clinical observations were also reported. A follow up report in May will be shared with the Board. This does not require any board action.

XIII. Approval to Enter into Cooperative Purchasing Contract with Spendbridge

This contract would allow RCS to access competitive pricing and streamline purchasing for large ticket items only.
Motion to approve by Kevin Banks.
Discussion included this contract would be in addition to the East Central Service Center, no up front costs, and Spendbridge will take 30% of savings. This is an annual contract.

Seconded by Jeff Amos. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Approval of Food Service Fund Transfers Following State Audit

This resolution approval will ensure compliance with the IDOE requirements of transferring funds between the 8400 and 800 accounts going forward.
Motion to approve by Jeff Amos. Seconded by Jennifer Bowles. Motion passed unanimously.

XV. Approval of Annual Contract with Indiana ESC School Food Co-op

This contract approval would allow the annual participation of RCS in the Indiana ESC School Food Co-op for the 2026-2027 membership agreement.
Motion to approve by Kevin Banks. Seconded by Matt Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Approval to Proceed with Virtual School Development

The proposed virtual school program would allow families to remain connected to RCS while choosing an alternative learning pathway. RCS has experienced a decline in student enrollment over the past few years. Per state regulations, school board approval is required before applying for a building code necessary to proceed with the virtual school application process.
Motion to approve by Jeff Amos.
Discussion included ADM current funding per student is $7,663.57. Virtual students would receive 85% of that amount which currently equals $6,514.03.
Seconded by Jennifer Bowles. Motion passed unanimously.

XVII. Approval of the 2026-2027 School Calendar

Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the 2026-2027 school calendar as presented. However, further discussion with WCC partner districts will continue for future calendar planning.
Motion to approve by Matt Jones.
Discussion included RCS possibly creating its own calendar in the future.
Seconded by Kevin Banks. Motion passed unanimously.

XVIII. Other

- **Chromebooks affecting students**
- **Digital AI policy**
- **Insurance review and bidding**
- **Creation of a unified RCS Athletics Facebook page**
- **Policy Analytics timeline for referendum planning**
- **Extracurricular and athletic financial reporting for BRMS & RCHS**

XIX. Important Dates

- **Feb 3–7** – Girls Basketball Sectional (Rushville)
- **Feb 5** – 100th Anniversary of Memorial Gym
- **Feb 10** – Next Regular Board Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

XX. Administrators' Reports

Operations/Transportation: Grant Peters, Asst. Superintendent- Several projects going on schoolwide, annual bus inspections in February, and urged everyone to Respect Stop Arms on buses.
Treasurer: Julie Cramer, Corporation Treasurer- Bookkeeping year end reporting and State Board of Accounts currently performing audit.
Grants: Julie Innis, Grant Coordinator- ADM count, Centerstone funded through Title IV, and enhancing parent communications with technology.
Special Education: Pat Anderson, Director of Special Services- Count day Dec. 1, 2025 validated and looking forward to Unified Champions in the spring.
Curriculum: Dr. Jennifer Nahlik, Curriculum Coordinator- Elementary Principals requested additional common assessments for standard reassessment purposes, elementary summer school plans, and professional development opportunities for elementary teachers involving interventions and enrichment.

Technology: Brevin Runnebohm, Corporation Building Tech Coordinator- Extensive work over Christmas break installing district wide battery backup units, ⅔ of district complete beefing up infrastructure, helping to generate various reports, and rolling out a 2 way chat called Rooms.

XXI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Addam Carmony, President	Jeffry A. Amos, Member
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Angela Kuhn, Vice- President	Jon Kevin Banks, Member
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Matthew Jones, Secretary	Jennifer Bowles, Member
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	Jeff Edwards, Member