

RUSH COUNTY SCHOOLS
Regular School Board Meeting
May 6, 2025

Executive Session An executive session was held for discussion at 5:55 p.m. with respect to the following: For discussion of the assessment, design and/or implementation of school safety and security measures, plans, and systems. The Board certifies that no other items were discussed in executive session that adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

I. Regular School Board Meeting

Call to Order A regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of Rush County Schools was held at the Administrative Offices on May 6, 2025 at 7:10 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Banks. President Banks requested a motion be made to accept the agenda. Dr. Steve Sickbert made a motion. Addam Carmony seconded the motion. The vote was in favor. The motion passed. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence and the reciting of the vision statement. Members present were Angie Kuhn, Addam Carmony, Jeff Amos, Dr. Steve Sickbert, Matt Jones and Jeff Edwards. Superintendent Jim Jameson was also present.

(See Exhibit Number 1 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

Public Comment Mr. Jameson stated there are no public comments.

(See Exhibit Number 2 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

Tell Me Something Good President Banks introduced the Tell Me Something Good portion of the meeting. Each building principal honored a Student and Employee of the Month.
Arlington Elementary: Joel Dollarhide, Grade 6; Kathy Agee, Grade 3
Milroy Elementary: Veronica Bossingham Grade 3; Ainsley Flannery, SpED Aide
RES: Ivory Best, Grade 2, Lexy Wilson, Grade 6; Dru Niedenthal, Kindergarten, Sandy Reynolds, SpED Aide
BRMS- Thea Kinder, Grade 7, Kingston Tetrault, Grade 7; Wes Gaither, LA
RCHS – Sam & Eli Pavey, Grade 11; Brandi Manghelli, SpED Aide
Mr. Cook introduced Kristen Walston, new RCHS Biology teacher for next year. He also shared RCHS has 25 students who will graduate from IVY Tech with the IN College Core. Mr. Cook invited the board members to the 2nd Annual White Coat Ceremony recognizing RCHS Bio-Medical students. Mr. Cook shared RCHS has been chosen as 1 of 15 high schools in Indiana for the REC� 2.0 program. This is a grant which helps rural high schools implement Early College programs. RCS- Terry Drake, Greg Richardson, and Brett Turner, Grounds Dept.

(See Exhibit Number 3 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

Board Member Comments Jeff Edwards shared it is great to celebrate our community and community members. Mr. Edwards enjoyed the Footloose production. He also shared the band students put on a great performance as well. Mr. Edwards wishes the best to the upcoming RCHS graduates.
Jeff Amos thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mr. Amos suggested students stay focused until the end of the school year.

Angie Kuhn welcomed Kristen Walston to RCS. Mrs. Kuhn enjoyed the recognition segment. Mrs. Kuhn was very pleased with the campus grounds and thanked the Grounds Dept. for a wonderful job. She wished teachers a well deserved break at the end of the school year.

Addam Carmony congratulated all the recipients this evening. Mr. Carmony thanked everyone for a great school year. He wishes everyone a great summer break.

Matt Jones shared there are only 13 days of school left. Mr. Jones congratulated all honorees this evening and the upcoming Senior graduates. Mr. Jones recently enjoyed watching "Thunder" the robot paint the fields.

Dr. Steve Sickbert congratulated Mr. Cook and the RCHS staff for the achievement with being chosen for the RECN program.

President Kevin Banks shared it's Teacher Appreciation Week. President Banks thanked all teachers for their hard work and effort put in daily. President Banks reminded everyone Friday is Young Champions Day. He encouraged everyone to attend this special event. President Banks also shared the FFA Banquet will take place this coming Saturday. He thoroughly enjoys seeing FFA members being recognized by their own organization.

Consent Items

Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the Consent Items as presented which include minutes of the previous meeting, Personnel Report, Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips, Donations, and Claims/Payroll. Angie Kuhn made a motion. Matt Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Edwards requested Section V of the Personnel Report be omitted from the vote. Angie Kuhn rescinded her motion. Jeff Edwards made a motion to approve the Consent Items omitting only Section V of the Personnel Report. Matt Jones seconded this motion. The vote was 6-1. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 4 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

*Consider
Approval of
Agreement with
Head Start*

Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with Head Start. Mr. Jameson confirmed the Head Start program is housed at Milroy and Arlington Elementary Schools. Dr. Sickbert made a motion. Angie Kuhn seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 5 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

*Request for
Authority to
Advertise and
Receive Quotes
and Bids for
2025-2026*

Mr. Jameson requested permission to advertise and receive quotes and bids for petroleum products for the 2025-2026 school year. Jeff Amos made a motion. Addam Carmony seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed. Discussion included the number of expected bids. Mr. Peters stated there will usually be three (3) bids.

(See Exhibit Number 6 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

*Consider
Approval for
Textbook
Adoption*

Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the textbook adoption supplement materials for one year for Kindergarten, 1st and 5th grades. These be used for IREADY and ILEARN standardized tests. Angie Kuhn made a motion. Jeff Amos seconded the motion. Angie Kuhn voiced her concerns overall of children still being required to take standardized tests. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 7 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

Consider Approval of Benefits Related to Bus Drivers for 2025-2026 Mr. Grant Peters recommended approval of benefits related to bus drivers for 2025-2026. (See attachment) Jeff Edwards made a motion. Angie Kuhn seconded the motion. Discussion included RCS bus drivers do a great job! All voted in favor. The motion passed.
(See Exhibit Number 8 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

Consider Approval of Donating the Unused Radio Repeater to Rush County Emergency Management Mr. Jameson recommended donating the old unused radio repeater located at the Court House to Rush County Emergency Management. Mr. Jameson explained since RCS radio system has been recently upgraded, the old repeater is no longer needed. Mr. Brevin Runnebohm confirmed the old radio repeater is obsolete. Matt Jones made a motion. Angie Kuhn seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.
(See Exhibit Number 9 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

Consider Approval of the New Indiana Dept. of Education Graduation Requirements Starting with the Class of 2029 Mr. Jameson recommended the approval of the new Indiana Department of Education Graduation requirements starting with the Class of 2029. (See attachment) Mr. Jameson explained school corporations do not have a choice. This is a state requirement by the IDOE. Angie Kuhn made a motion. Jeff Edwards seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.
(See Exhibit Number 10 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

Other Mr. Jameson congratulated all teachers and support staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. Every RCS employee received a tumbler in recognition of their efforts for a great year.

Important Dates May 23- Last Student Day
May 26- Memorial Day (Central Office Closed)
May 27- Teacher Records Day
May 29-July3- RCHS Summer School
June 1- Graduation at Hinshaw Field at 8:00 p.m.
June 3- Regular board meeting at 7:00 p.m. at CO

Administrators' Comments Administrators' comments were heard at this time.
Grant Peters stated it's amazing another school year has gone by. The bus driver annual meeting is June 5th at Central Office. Mr. Peters invited all board members to the luncheon. He reported new stair treads have been installed at BRMS, bathroom projects and storm damage are still in process.
Julie Cramer gave each member a handout of the interest earned and the bank balance fund report. Mrs. Cramer reported she and Michelle Colestock will be attending the IASBO conference in Fort Wayne this week. Mrs. Cramer shared financial planning with Policy Analytics has been quite helpful.
Pat Anderson reported there will be about 280 athletes who will participate in the Unified Champions event on Friday. Mr. Anderson encouraged everyone to attend. Mr. Anderson thanked ARC of Rush County for providing the Kona Ice during the event. He also thanked all teachers and specifically Special Ed teachers who are working through this very busy end of the year time.

Julie Innis stated she recently attended Title Con which targets compliance on federal grants. Mrs. Innis shared the keynote speaker acknowledged RCHS for all the community partnerships they've made within the last couple of years. Mrs. Innis and Mr. Anderson continue to work on a Special Ed grant. She also mentioned various other grants will continue to be applied for in the future. Mrs. Innis thanked Mrs. Nancy Schroeder for her support and guidance for the grant process.

Dr. Jennifer Nahlik reported the last in person PLC session for elementary staff will take place next week. Dr. Nahlik stated elementary summer school will be from May 28- June 10. She also shared Amplify and Studies Weekly shipments have been inventoried and will be distributed to the buildings.

Brevin Runnebohm reported "Trench Time" is only 13 days away. He and his tech team will be super busy this summer upgrading equipment. Every K-6 classroom will have a Smart Board installed by August 1st. Mr. Runnebohm shared state reporting appears to be going well so far.

Mr. Jameson recognized Tony Augsburg for his glowing review of the USDA audit.

(See Exhibit Number 11 in the May 6, 2025 Minute File)

*Motion to
Adjourn*

Angie Kuhn made a motion to adjourn. President Kevin Banks adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Jon Kevin Banks, President

Jeffrey A. Amos, Member

Addam Carmony, Vice President

Jeff Edwards, Member

Angela Kuhn, Secretary

Matt Jones, Member

Dr. Steve Sickbert, Member