

RUSH COUNTY SCHOOLS
Regular School Board Meeting
Public Budget Hearing
September 9, 2025

Executive Session An executive session was held for discussion at 6:02 p.m. with respect to I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b) (5 & 6). The Board certifies that no other items were discussed in executive session that adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Open 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 September 9, 2025. The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Banks at 7:06 p.m. President Banks called for a motion to accept the agenda. Mr. Jeff Edwards made a motion. Mr. Jeff Amos seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence and reciting of the vision statement. Members present were Addam Carmony, Jeff Amos, Jeff Edwards, Matt Jones, and Dr. Steve Sickbert. Superintendent Jim Jameson was also present. Member Angie Kuhn was absent.
(See Exhibit Number 1 in the September 9, 2025 Minute File)

Public Comment Mr. Jameson stated there are no public comments at this time.

Tell Me

Something Good Mr. Jameson introduced the Tell Me Something Good portion of the meeting. The following were honored as Employee of the Month and Student of the Month: Arlington- Maeva Branum,- Grade 6; Amber Stone- Kindergarten
Milroy- CJ Chase- Grade 6; Bailey Narwold- Grade 3
RES- Connor Martin- Grade 5; Kade Rogers- Special Ed Aide
BRMS- Zayven Cooper- Grade 8; Eric Ruby- Head Custodian
RCHS- Iliana Zambrano- Grade 11; Lisa Wagner- Math
RCS- Misty Brindley- BRMS & RCHS Cafeteria Manager
Mr. Jameson congratulated Mrs. Sara Mastin and Mrs. Julie Innis for being chosen as presenters of the Action Research projects at the Assistant/Principal conference in November.

Board Member Comments Dr. Steve Sickbert recognized the RCHS Cross Country team and wished them good luck at future conference meets. Dr. Sickbert thanked Mr. Cook for the refresh of the front entrance at RCHS.
Mr. Matt Jones wished CJ Chase a Happy Birthday! Mr. Jones congratulated all recipients of tonight's awards. He also attended the field trip at Caldwell Acres with all RCS 4th graders. Mr. Jones thanked Tammy Jackman for organizing the event. Mr. Addam Carmony congratulated all students and staff members of the month. Mr. Carmony was happy to see the FFA students at the meeting and congratulated the members for the recent tractor pull event. He also thanked Mr. Cook for acknowledging the whole RCHS staff for their efforts.

Mr. Jeff Amos congratulated and thanked all the students and staff members of the month. He also stated the school year has gotten off to a great start.

Mr. Jeff Edwards welcomed everyone back to a new school year. Mr. Edwards congratulated Mr. Cook and the RCHS staff for this year's amazing attendance rate. He also gave a shout out to RES staff for creating an excellent traffic flow and exercising safety protocol. Mr. Edwards thanked all coaches for instilling sportsmanship in our school athletes.

President Kevin Banks suggested purchasing tickets from the RCHS Band members for the Tenderloin dinner next Friday evening. President Banks also reminded everyone to be safe during the Fall season when farmers are more prevalent on the roads.

*Public Hearing
Call to Order*

A public hearing for the 2026 Budgets and Plans was called to order by School Board President Kevin Banks on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 7:57 p.m. at the Rush County Schools Administrative Offices. Dr. Steve Sickbert made a motion to open the public hearing for the Proposed Budgets for 2026. Matt Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed. Members present were Jeff Amos, Jeff Edwards, Matt Jones, Addam Carmony and Dr. Steve Sickbert. Member Angie Kuhn was absent. Superintendent Jim Jameson was also in attendance.

(See Exhibit Number 2 in the September 9, 2025 Minute File)

*Public Hearing
on 2026 Budgets
for Education,
Operations,
Debt Service Fund
and Rainy Day Fund*

A public hearing regarding the 2026 budgets was advertised as required and held according to Indiana state law. Mr. Jameson shared the Notice to Taxpayers information reflecting the following budget estimates: Debt Service-\$3,499,623.00; Education- \$16,000,000; and Operations-\$6,608,463.00. These tax rates apply: Debt Service-\$.2812; Operations-\$.5303. (See attachment) Mr. Jameson stated RCS enrollment numbers are declining and hard choices will have to be discussed for the future. Mr. Jameson stated budget approval will be requested at the next board meeting on October 7th. President Banks called for board and public comments. There were no comments. Dr. Steve Sickbert made a motion to close the public hearing. Jeff Amos seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 3 in the September 9, 2025 Minute File)

*Public Hearing
on 2026-2028
Capital Projects
Plan*

A public hearing regarding the 2026-2028 Capital Projects Plan was called. Addam Carmony made a motion to open the public hearing. Jeff Amos seconded the motion. The Capital Projects Plan has been implemented and advertised as required by law. (See attachment) Mr. Jameson explained projects over the next 3 years that exceed \$10,000 are not included in the proposed advertised budget. These projects will be paid through GO Bonds, Rainy Day Fund, Operations Fund and grants. This information is for planning purposes only. President Kevin Banks called for board and public comments. There were no comments. Discussion included BRMS chillers and air handlers. A 30-year-old air handler is in dire need of replacement. Dr. Steve Sickbert made a motion to close the public hearing. Matt Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 4 in the September 9, 2025 Minute File)

<i>Public Hearing on 2026-2030 School Bus Replacement Plan</i>	A public hearing regarding the 2026-2030 School Bus Replacement Plan was called. Jeff Amos made a motion to open the public hearing. Addam Carmony seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed. Mr. Jameson explained IC 20-40-18-9 requires approval of a plan before utilizing operations funds for bus replacement. (See attached) Mr. Jameson further explained RCS recently purchased 4 new busses. At this time, no new busses are planned for purchase. President Kevin Banks called for board and public comments. There were no comments. Matt Jones made a motion to close the public hearing. Dr. Steve Sickbert seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed. (See Exhibit Number 5 in the September 9, 2025 Minute File)
<i>Adjourn Public Hearing</i>	President Kevin Banks adjourned the public hearing at 8:15 p.m.
<i>Reopen Regular Board Meeting</i>	President Kevin Banks reopened the regular board meeting at 8:16 p.m. (See Exhibit Number 6 in the September 9, 2025 Minute File)
<i>Consent Items</i>	Mr. Jameson recommended approval of consent items as presented which include minutes of the previous meeting., Donations, Out-of-State & Overnight Field Trips and Claims/Payroll. Mr. Jameson thanked the generous donors for all the donations made to RCS. President Kevin Banks requested a motion for the Revised Personnel report. Addam Carmony made a motion. Matt Jones seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The motion passed. President Kevin Banks abstained. President Banks requested a motion for Claims/Payroll. Addam Carmony made a motion. Jeff Amos seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0. The motion passed. Matt Jones abstained. President Banks requested a motion for the minutes, Donations, and Out-of-State & Overnight Field Trips. Addam Carmony made a motion. Matt Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed. (See Exhibit Number 7 in the September 9, 2025 Minute File)
<i>Consider Approval of Second Readings of Board Policy Updates</i>	Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the following board policy updates: C125, C175, C175-E, C200, C225, C225-E, C425, D200, D325, E200, F125, G350, G360, H100, A100, B100, B150, B200 & Notice of Executive Session. Addam Carmony made a motion. Matt Jones seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed. (See Exhibit Number 8 in the September 9, 2025 Minute File)
<i>Consider Approval of Teacher Evaluation Plan Update for 2025-2026</i>	Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the Teacher Evaluation Handbook & Rubric for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Jameson has met with a committee of teachers and Administrators along with members of the Rush County Federation of Teachers working collaboratively to better serve our students. Jeff Amos made a motion. Addam Carmony seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed. (See Exhibit Number 9 in the September 9, 2025 Minute File)

<i>Common School Loan Announcement</i>	Mr. Jameson announced on Aug. 1, 2025, RCS was awarded by the State Board of Accounts an advancement of \$153,500.00. These monies are to be used for the purchase of 500 student monitors and mounting stations for labs. Mr. Jameson thanked Mr. Brevin Runnebohm for applying for this request. He explained this is a loan that will be paid out of the Debt Service Fund over time. No board action is required.
<i>Passing along Condolences</i>	Mr. Jameson sent our condolences to the Paul Barada, Sr. family. Mr. Barada was a former RCS board member from 1991-1998. Mr. Jameson also shared Jennifer Cain's husband was in a serious accident today and is in stable condition.
<i>Other</i>	Mr. Jameson stated there are no other items.
<i>Important Dates</i>	October 1- ADM Count Day October 7- Regular Board Meeting 7:00 pm at Central Office Adoption of 2026 Budgets October 15- Parent-Teacher Conferences- No Students Attend October 27-31- Fall Break (Central Office closed 10/31/2025)
<i>Administrators' Reports</i>	Administrators' comments were heard at this time. Mr. Grant Peters reported the start of this school year, transportation wise, has been the best during his tenure. Mr. Peters congratulated all staff that has been involved with transportation. Maintenance and custodial safety items continue to be needed. The Grounds Dept. is meeting the demands of Fall sports. Mr. Peters reported State Road 3 south will be under construction beginning next week. Mrs. Julie Cramer reported a little over \$20,000 interest was earned recently. Mrs. Cramer will have more information from Policy Analytics covering July & August at the October meeting. She also reported open enrollment will begin on October 31st. Mr. Pat Anderson reported the DOE rolled out a new IEP system for this school year. Special needs teachers are spending a lot of time changing over to the new system and it is greatly appreciated. Mr. Anderson thanked the administrators for allowing the teachers extra time to work on IEP's. Mr. Anderson reported there are currently 397 Special needs students corporation wide. Mrs. Julie Innis reported the Title I funds still have not been received, Title IV funds have been released, and Title II funds have been allocated but not released. A Special Ed grant was awarded to RCS and is increased from last year. Mrs. Innis reported various other grants have been applied for. Dr. Jennifer Nahlik reported Professional Development Google series has been offered to teachers digitally and physically. Instructional coaching cycles are underway. New high ability resources have been received and teacher training on these materials will begin soon. Dr. Nahlik gave a shout out to Anne Zachery, Jennifer Teague, and Lindsay Tillison for presenting information at the New Teacher Check -In monthly meeting. Lastly, Dr. Nahlik reported the Dyslexia screening test window is September 29 - October 10.

Mr. Brevin Runnebohm reported much progress has been made going into this new school year with all the support given by everyone involved. Mr. Runnebohm also reported all K-6 Smartboards will be completed by the end of the month. The new Cafeteria point of sale system using touchscreens with bar scanners will be rolled out soon. A new clock in/out badge system will be implemented in the next few weeks which is replacing the K-time system. Mr. Runnebohm thanked Julie Innis and the building secretaries for their efforts on inputting data for State reporting.

(See Exhibit Number 10 in the September 9, 2025 Minute File)

Adjournment Jeff Edwards made a motion to adjourn. President Kevin Banks adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Jon Kevin Banks, President

Jeffry A. Amos, Member

Addam Carmony, Vice- President

Jeff Edwards, Member

Angela Kuhn, Secretary

Matthew Jones, Member

Dr. Steve Sickbert, Member