

**Illinois Community College District No. 511
Rock Valley College
3301 North Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61114**

**ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
5:15 p.m., March 28, 2023**

MINUTES

On March 3, 2023, Illinois Governor Pritzker issued the fortieth Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation for all counties in the State of Illinois. Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, Howard J. Spearman, Ph.D., president of Rock Valley College, has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical, prudent, or feasible based on the Disaster Proclamation. Pursuant to Section 7 (e) (4) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS120/7(e)(4)) this meeting will be held without the physical presence of a quorum at the meeting location.

Meeting Location: Building E, Rock Valley College, 3301 N. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL 61114. Howard J. Spearman, Ph.D., president of Rock Valley College, or designated administrator, will be physically present at the meeting location. **Trustees/members, citizens, faculty and staff may attend the meeting via teleconference or videoconference.** Access to the Regular Board of Trustees meeting is provided via teleconference online via <https://rockvalleycollege-edu.zoom.us/j/94236125141?pwd=aDh0aU8xK2Rpb1h5NnZ3Tm9LSzBWQT09>, or by phone at 312-626-6799 using **Meeting ID 942 3612 5141, Passcode: 741591.** The meeting will include an opportunity for public comment. Any member of the public can submit their public comment via email to RVC-BoardPC@rockvalleycollege.edu by 3:15 p.m. on March 28, 2023. Public comments submitted via email will be announced during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Call to Order

The Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 511, Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, McHenry, Ogle, and Stephenson Counties, Illinois, convened remotely via teleconference on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gloria Cardenas Cudia at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present at roll call:

Ms. Gloria Cardenas Cudia	Mr. Bob Trojan
Mr. John Nelson	Ms. Lynn Kearney
Mr. Richard Kennedy	Mr. Paul Gorski
Ms. Crystal Soltow arrived at 5:17 p.m.	
Student Trustee Ryan Russell arrived at 6:08 p.m.	

Also in attendance: Dr. Howard Spearman, President; Dr. Amanda Smith, Vice President Liberal Arts and Adult Education/Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Rick Jenks, Vice President Operations/Chief Operations Officer; Mr. Jim Handley, Vice President Human Resources; Ms. Ellen Olson, Vice President Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Heather Snider, Vice President Institutional Effectiveness and Communications; Dr. Patrick Peyer, Vice President Student Affairs; Mr. Keith Barnes, Vice President Equity and Inclusion; Dr. Hansen Stewart, Vice President Industry Partnerships and Community Engagement; Ms. Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director College Communications; Ms. Ann Kerwitz, Assistant to the President; Ms. Betsy Saucedo, Interim Assistant to the President; Attorney Joseph Perkoski, Robbins Schwartz; Attorney Matthew Gardner, Robbins Schwartz.

Communications and Petitions (Public Comment)

No public comments were received.

Recognition of Visitors

Dr. Patrick Peyer introduced Mr. Tony Hall, coach of the College's men's and women's bowling teams, as well as a number of team members who were in attendance. Both the men's and women's teams won back-to-back NJCAA National Championships and led the entire tournament with the top score in every segment. Trustees congratulated the teams on their success.

Adjourn to Closed Session

At 5:19 p.m., Trustee Trojan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to adjourn to closed session to discuss 1) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body per Section 2 (c) (5); and/or 2) The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance per Section 2 (c) (3), all in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Kearney, Kennedy, Soltow, Trojan and Cudia voted yes. Trustees Gorski and Nelson voted no.

Reconvene Open Meeting

At 6:33 p.m., Trustee Trojan, made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to adjourn the closed session and reconvene the open meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. No action was taken as a result of closed session.

General Presentations

There were no general presentations.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023 Special Meeting-Interview Trustee Candidates; the February 14, 2023 Special Meeting-Swearing-in of Trustee; the February 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting and the February 28, 2023 Regular meeting.

There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Action Items

1. BR 8019 – Claims Sheet – February 2023

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the claims sheets from the Ellucian check register for the period from February 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023. The total is \$2,550,244.40.

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8019. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2a. BR 8020-A – Purchase Report-A – FY2023 Amendments

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the marked items for purchase on Board Report 8020-A, Purchase Report-A.

\$	60,000.00	A.	Khione Management Services, Cicero, IL
\$	5,500.00	B.	Cottingham & Butler DBA Carlson Dettmann Consulting, Carl Stream, IL

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to approve Board Report 8020-A. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

2b. BR 8020-B – Purchase Report-B – FY2023 Purchases

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the marked items for purchase on Board Report 8020-B, Purchase Report-B.

\$	26,000.00	A.	Zoom Video Communications, Inc., San Jose, CA
\$	24,200.00	B.	KK Stevens Publishing Co., Astoria, IL
\$	32,000.00	C.	Mohawk Lifts, Amsterdam, NY
\$	11,300.00	D.	B&H Photo, New York, NY
\$	8,400.00	E.	B&H Photo, New York, NY
\$	20,900.00	F.	CDW-G, Chicago, IL
\$	88,000.00	G.	Simformotion, Peoria, IL
\$	20,100.00	H.	Stryker Medical, Chicago, IL
\$	23,610.00	I.	Echo Healthcare, Sarasota, FL
\$	56,738.00	J.	Sound, Inc., Naperville, IL
\$	15,900.00	K.	Helm, Freeport, IL

A motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve Board Report 8020-B. In response to a question from Trustee Gorski, CFO Ellen Olson explained that a committee is reviewing potential expenditures for Zoom virtual services.

The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

3. BR 8021 – Personnel Report

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the personnel actions listed on Board Report 8021.

A motion was made by Trustee Kennedy, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to approve Board Report 8021. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. BR 8022 – Advanced Technology Center Sponsorship Program

The Board Report reads in part: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees extend the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) Sponsorship Program through Fiscal Year 2024 and approve using the remaining unallocated funds not to exceed \$70,000 to support the ATC Sponsorship Program.

A motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Gorski, to approve Board Report 8022. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

5. BR 8023 – Resolution to Purchase Real Property Owned by Winnebago County

The Board Report reads in part: The Board of Trustees approves the purchase of the Properties described in the Contract for Purchase and Sale attached hereto as Exhibit A and as further described as: 720 Chestnut St., Rockford, IL 61102; 705 Green St., Rockford, IL 61102; Parking Lots at 318 S. Rockton Ave., Rockford, IL; 314 S. Rockton Ave., Rockford, IL; and 308 S. Rockton Ave, Rockford, IL.

The Board hereby approves the Contract for Purchase and Sale, and its attached Addendum, in substantially the same form as attached hereto on Exhibit A, and made a part hereof.

The Board hereby authorizes and directs its President and President's designee to execute the Contract for Purchase and Sale, its attached Addendum, and any and all other required documents and instruments, and take any and all other required actions, to complete this transaction.

The Board hereby authorizes and directs its President and President's designee to enter into a post-closing occupancy agreement, which shall be subject to legal counsel review, whereas Winnebago County shall be allowed to use the property at 720 Chestnut Street for one year after closing at no rent other than paying any and all insurance, utilities, taxes, and other reasonable costs associated with that building. **Attorney Reviewed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Gorski, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, to approve Board Report 8023. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

6. BR 8024 – Resolution to Purchase Real Property Owned by Landmark Printing Co.

The Board Report reads in part: The Board of Trustees approves the purchase of the Property described in the Contract for Purchase and Sale attached hereto as Exhibit A and further described as 327 S. Winnebago St., Rockford, Illinois 61102.

The Board of Trustees approves the Contract for Purchase and Sale, and its attached Addendum and Second Addendum, in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit A, and made a part hereof.

The Board hereby authorizes and directs its President and President's designee to execute the Contract for Purchase and Sale, its attached addenda, and/or any and all other required documents and instruments, and take any and all other required actions, to complete this transaction.

A motion was made by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to approve Board Report 8024. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

7. BR 8025 – Board Policy 3:10.030 Access to Personnel Files FIRST READING

The Board Report reads in part: In accordance with Board policy 1:10.080 (Amendments and Adoption of Board Policies), it is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the amendment to Board Policy 3:10.030 to comply with the Illinois Personnel Record Review Act. **Attorney Reviewed.**

Since this is a First Reading, no vote was taken.

Other Business

1. **New Business**

President Spearman briefly reviewed the information he sent to trustees regarding the application for a Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) for the former Barber Colman property and asked for trustees' thoughts regarding the topic. Vice President of Finance Ellen Olson explained that the College has received a copy of the draft of the proposed TIF Redevelopment Plan for the proposed City of Rockford Barber Colman TIF District. In response to trustees' questions, VP Olson made the following points: 1) By closing the current TIF and starting a new one, the proposed TIF will extend the life of the former TIF by 4-5 years; 2) Rockford has 31 TIF zones and some have increased their EAV as of levy year 2020; 3) Olson is not aware of any funding that was redirected outside the District; 4) RVC does not receive any property taxes from this; 5) Administration recommends supporting this proposed TIF, as the College will be developing its new downtown campus, and it will be better to have residential and commercial development nearby rather than a blighted site.

As a result of the discussion and support of the trustees, VP Olson will represent the College at the April 6 Joint Review Board meeting and vote in favor.

2. **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

Updates / Reports

1. **President's Update**

Dr. Spearman highlighted March activities that included:

- Celebrating Women's History Month.
- Student-focused activities such as the annual Sister to Sister Conference and the Science Olympiad.
- Election of Juan Noguera as the 2023-2024 student trustee. Juan will be sworn in at the May regular board meeting. He is pursuing an Associate in Applied Science degree (AAS) in Fire Science and is a member of ALAS (Association of Latin American Students) and CAB (Campus Activities Board).
- Thank you to the College's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) students for nominating Dr. Spearman to receive the PTK Paragon Award for New Presidents during the PTK annual convention to be held in Columbus, OH the end of April.
- Celebrating some of RVC's exceptional personnel:
 - Tim Spielman, director of academic and transfer advising, has served as the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) advisor since 2002 and is being honored with an engraved brick to be placed at the PTK International headquarters in Jackson, MS in recognition of his 20 plus years of service as PTK advisor.
 - Chad Roth, coordinator of RVC's fire science program, was instrumental in the College receiving the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) Recognition certificate. This certificate was created by the U.S. Fire Administration

in an effort to standardize training, education, experience and certification activities for the fire service.

- Darin Monroe, athletic director and co-head coach of RVC's eight-time national champion softball team, has been named the 2022-2023 Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. Monroe earned his 500th career win last week and will be inducted into the RVC Athletics Hall of Fame in December 2023.
- Thank you to Jennifer Thompson and her team, Cierra Morris and her team, Keith Barnes and his team and Dr. Hansen Stewart and his team for their input leading to creation of the new RVC videos and TV commercial.
- With a focus on community engagement, RVC will host a K-20 Collaborative Event for area superintendents and their teams to learn more about RVC's Strategic Plan, especially focusing on access and DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion). Studer Education is sponsoring the event and Dr. Janet Pilcher will provide the keynote address.
- Rock Valley College has received the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) grant. Congratulations to Heather Snider and her team, and to Nancy McDonald who will lead the program. More information will be provided at a later date.

2. **Leadership Team Updates**

- Mr. Keith Barnes, vice president of equity and inclusion, announced that RVC has received a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois to pilot a social justice community-based learning academy to examine the racial wealth gap. To kick off Financial Literacy Month in April, the DEI Office will host the 2023 DEI Symposium on March 31 featuring keynote speaker Michelle Singletary, Washington Post Personal Finance Columnist. Students will explain their action plans to expand their financial literacy. Students and staff are encouraged to enroll in Illinois Financial Wellness Hub, a web-based learning environment created by the Illinois Treasurer's Office.
- Dr. Hansen Stewart announced that the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) have approved the AAS in Mechatronics degree. Discussions have begun with Northern Illinois University to create a 2+2 agreement for mechatronics engineering.
- CFO Ellen Olson reminded trustees to respond to Winnebago County's request for completion of the Statement for Economic Interest, which is due May 1. Dr. Spearman added that to comply with board policy, trustees should also submit it to the College.
- Dr. Spearman added that Jim Handley, Dr. Kym Blanchard, executive director of online development and innovation, Dr. Amanda Smith and their teams have done a great job planning the Professional Development Day on April 6.

3. **ICCTA Report (Illinois Community College Trustees Association)**

Trustee Nelson reported that he was on vacation during the last ICCTA meeting. He will attend the remaining meetings this year.

4. **Trustee Comments**

- Trustee Gorski commented that he appreciates the support of the community, as he is for open lines of communication and transparency to listen to the community. He is always open to comments.
- Trustee Kearney commented that she is sorry to have missed the Science Olympiad, as they do a fabulous job.

- Trustee Nelson commented that he met a young man who is active in the robotics club and is looking forward to competing at RVC. He added that RVC does a lot of good, and it is important to work together to continue the success.
- Trustee Trojan made several comments: 1) The robotics team Winnovation, comprised of students from Winnebago and Pecatonica high schools, is going to Houston for the national tournament; 2) Thank you to those who have supported his bid for re-election. The SGA Candidate Forum held March 27 went well; 3) He will talk about RVC to the downtown Rotary this Thursday.
- Board Chair Cudia added her congratulations to all award winners and to Student Trustee Ryan Russell. The SGA Candidate Forum was well attended and she enjoyed meeting the candidates, noting that Trustee Trojan made some excellent remarks about serving as a trustee for the College.

5. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Russell reviewed student activities included in his report, noting that the Student Government Association (SGA) recently voted to use \$50,000 of its 2022/2023 budget to update the Student Life Club Room. Plans include painting, adding comfortable and spacious seating for students, and a TV to use for entertainment and club presentations.

Board Chair Cudia thanked him for his service to RVC and for his service in the military.

6. RVC Foundation Liaison Report

Trustee Trojan made several announcements: 1) LoRayne Logan has retired after serving 22 years on the Foundation Board; 2) The Foundation will host the next Alumni and Retiree Breakfast on April 27 at 8:00 a.m., and trustees are invited; 3) As of March 9, over 500 scholarship applications have been received. The Foundation has 147 active scholarships to award this year, with 78 added in the last five years. A total of \$500,000 will be awarded this year. Trojan also thanked all of the donors who have contributed to this growth.

7. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Report

The FOIA report was accepted as presented.

Closed Session

At 7:21 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Kearney, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting per Section 2 (c) (1), in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Kearney, Kennedy, Soltow, Trojan, and Cudia votes yes. Trustees Gorski and Nelson voted no. Student Trustee Russell voted yes (advisory).

Reconvene Closed Session

At 7:58 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Kearney, seconded by Trustee Trojan, to adjourn to open session. The motion was approved by majority roll call vote. Trustees Gorski, Kearney, Kennedy, Soltow, Trojan, and Cudia votes yes. Trustee Nelson voted no. Student Trustee Russell voted yes (advisory).

No action was taken as a result of closed session.

In open session, trustees commented that they would like to return to meeting in person.

Next Meeting

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually via teleconference.

The next Special meeting will be held April 17, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually via teleconference or in person in the Performing Arts Room (PAR, Room 0214) located in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus as Illinois statute permits.

The next Regular and Reorganization meeting will be held Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. The meeting will be held **in person** in the Performing Arts Room (PAR, Room 0214) located in the Educational Resource Center (ERC) on the main campus.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, at 8:01 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Trojan, seconded by Trustee Nelson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Submitted by Ann Kerwitz.


Robert Trojan, Secretary


Gloria Cardenas Cudia, Board Chair