

Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026 6:00 PM Central

Richland County Elementary School
1001 N. Holly Rd.
Olney, IL 62450

The meeting was open to the public and viewable via live stream at <http://live.rccu1.net>

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – The regular meeting of the Richland County Board of Education was called to order by President Scott Snyder at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

II. Roll Call

Dennis Anderson: Present
Jake Anderson: Present
Cindy Bailey: Present
Dusty Kocher: Present
Cindy Lockley: Present
Scott Snyder: Present
Jeff Wilson: Present

Present: 7.

III. Recognition and Comments from Employees and Public

III.A. RCES Legacy Team – The RCES Legacy Team led school tours prior to the meeting. Mrs. Hardy introduced the team and they gave a presentation to the board about one of their service projects of Alex’s Lemonade Stand. They announced the theme for 2026-2027 will be “You are perfect just the way you are!”

Gene Brauer, representing the tennis community, addressed the board expressing their concern of the tennis court orientation at the new athletic complex.

Emily Rusk, RCEA President, spoke on behalf of the association of being in favor of the alternate bond funding.

IV. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Cindy Lockley, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

IV.A. * Minutes of Previous Meetings

IV.A.1. Regular and Closed Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Thursday, March 19, 2026, and of the Special Board Meeting of Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

IV.B. * Closed Minutes

IV.B.1. * Approve Destruction of Audio Recordings of September 4, 2024, and September 19, 2024.

IV.C. * Communication

IV.D. * March FOIA Log – Document Registry 26-04-01 We received four FOIA requests for the month of March. One from SmartProcure requesting vendor and purchasing records, two from Justin Wenig, one requesting contracts/agreements that include Professional Development for Curriculum and the other requesting vendor and purchasing records, and one from CT Mills requesting Name and Job Titles of employees that oversee certain functional areas.

IV.E. * Building Reports – Submitted by Administration of each building.

IV.E.1. * RCELC

IV.E.2. * RCES

IV.E.3. * RCMS

IV.E.4. * RCHS

IV.E.5. * RiseUp

IV.E.6. * Special Education

IV.F. * Approve Fundraisers - Submitted by Administration of each building.

V. Financial Reports

Motion to approve financial reports as presented. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Dusty Kocher, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

V.A. Treasurer's Report – The monthly treasurer's report was presented.

V.B. Balance Sheet – The monthly balance sheet was presented.

V.C. Approval of Bills – The monthly bill listing in the amount of \$2,398,374.34 was presented for payment.

V.D. All Other Financial Reports

V.D.1. Comparison of Funds - March 2025 with March 2026

V.D.2. Monthly Financial Report – The monthly financial report was presented.

V.D.3. Financial Update/Review – Mr. Rusk reviewed the financial reports.

VI. Administrative Reports

VI.A. Superintendent's Report

VI.A.1. End of Year Dates & Service Awards - High School Graduation is Sunday, May 17th at 3:00 p.m. Middle School Promotion is Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00 p.m. at RCHS. Last day of Student Attendance is Wednesday, May 20th - 1 hour early dismissal. Mr. Fox presented the list of district employees to be recognized for their years of service at the Service Awards Program that will be held on May 21st at 8:30 a.m. at RCHS. Retirees and ERFAE Teacher of the Year Awards will also be recognized. An All Staff Breakfast will be held on May 21st at 7:30 a.m.

Mr. Fox announced that the District received an A+ Bond Rating with S&P Global.

Mr. Fox announced the 2026-2027 online school registration will be from July 13 – 20 with walk in on July 16.

Mr. Fox said that he has been attending the Community Mapping meetings at the Olney City Park on Tuesday nights. Discussion is on goal setting for the community. All board members are invited to attend also.

VI.B. Assistant Superintendent's Report

VI.B.1. Construction Update on the Athletic Complex by GeoSurfaces – Seth Meyer gave an update to the board on the construction progress at the athletic complex. Mr. Meyer said everything is coming along very well. They will start installing the scoreboards next week and they hope to start laying turf by mid-May. They have been pouring the geo base concrete and will continue to do so.

VI.B.2. Curriculum Update – Mrs. Rodgers gave an update on curriculum purchases and renewals for the 2026-2027 school year.

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

VIII.A. Resolution providing for the issue and sale of (i) not to exceed \$9,000,000 of alternate revenue bonds for the purpose of altering, repairing and equipping school buildings and facilities and improving school sites and (ii) not to exceed \$12,000,000 of alternate revenue bonds for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds. – **Document Registry 26-04-02**

Mr. Jake Anderson made a motion to amend the current motion to not to exceed \$6,000,000.00 instead of \$9,000,000.00.

Mr. Fox presented to the board Cash on Hand Comparison, Athletic Complex Project Costs and Cash Flow Analysis for Fund 10 and Fund 60.

Motion to approve Resolution providing for the issue and sale of (i) not to exceed \$6,000,000 of alternate revenue bonds for the purpose of altering, repairing and equipping school buildings and facilities and improving school sites and (ii) not to exceed \$12,000,000 of

alternate revenue bonds for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds. This motion, made by Jake Anderson and seconded by Dusty Kocher, Failed.

Dennis Anderson: Nay, Cindy Bailey: Nay, Cindy Lockley: Nay, Scott Snyder: Nay, Jeff Wilson: Nay, Jake Anderson: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea

Yea: 2, Nay: 5

Jake Anderson: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea

No other discussion.

Motion to approve Resolution providing for the issue and sale of (i) not to exceed \$9,000,000 of alternate revenue bonds for the purpose of altering, repairing and equipping school buildings and facilities and improving school sites and (ii) not to exceed \$12,000,000 of alternate revenue bonds for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Cindy Bailey, Passed.

Jake Anderson: Nay, Dusty Kocher: Nay, Dennis Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 2

Jake Anderson: Nay, Dusty Kocher: Nay

VIII.B. Approve Athletic Tennis Courts Change Order – Document Registry 26-04-03

Motion to approve athletic tennis courts change order for change in tennis court orientation in the amount of \$146,950.00. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Dusty Kocher, Failed.

Dennis Anderson: Nay, Jake Anderson: Nay, Cindy Bailey: Nay, Dusty Kocher: Nay, Cindy Lockley: Nay, Scott Snyder: Nay, Jeff Wilson: Yea

Yea: 1, Nay: 6

Jeff Wilson: Yea

After the last board meeting Mr. Fox went back to Geo and asked for options on changing the orientation of the tennis courts. Geo came back with two options, one by changing the orientation so the tennis courts to run north and south. The other option was to add sunshades to the current orientation of running east and west.

Mrs. VanDyke shared with the board that she had contacted coaches and IHSA and there is no regulation that courts have to run north and south. We will be able to host regionals, sectionals and tournaments. Mrs. VanDyke stated that the coaches prefer the east and west location, with the close proximity of all six courts, they like the current orientation of the courts and sun is not a typical factor during our match times. Mrs. VanDyke said other coaches were contacted and they stated there would be no issues with courts running east and west. The current orientation is set up great for the spectators and there is plenty of room around the courts. Mr. Drew Muston also spoke to the board in favor of the east and west court orientation.

VIII.C. Approve Bid Specs for Trash Service – Document Registry 26-04-04

Motion to approve Bid Specs for Trash Removal Services as presented. This motion, made by Dusty Kocher and seconded by Dennis Anderson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy

Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

VIII.D. Approve Bids Specs for Maintenance Building and South Extra-Curricular Building – **Document Registry 26-04-05**

Motion to approve Bid Specs for the Maintenance Building and South Extracurricular Building as presented. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Cindy Lockley, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

VIII.E. Approve Summer School Fees – **Document Registry 26-04-06**

Motion to approve the implementation of Summer School Fees of \$50.00 per course taken during the summer, and upon successful completion of each course taken a \$25.00 refund per course will be issued. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Jeff Wilson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

VIII.F. Approve RiseUp Alternative Credit Recovery Curriculum – **Document Registry 26-04-07**

Motion to approve the purchase of 2026-2027 RiseUp Alternative Credit Recovery Curriculum with Edgenuity in the amount of \$26,052.00. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Dusty Kocher, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

VIII.G. Approve High School Math Curriculum – **Document Registry 26-04-08**

Motion to approve High School Math Curriculum with HMH for four years in the amount of \$62,567.62. This motion, made by Cindy Bailey and seconded by Cindy Lockley, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

IX. Enter Executive Session

Motion to enter executive session at 7:52 p.m. This motion, made by Cindy Bailey and seconded by Jeff Wilson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

IX.A. 2(c)(1) To Consider Information Regarding Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Individual Employees

IX.B. 2(c)(11) To Discuss Matters of Possible or Pending Litigation

IX.C. 2(c)(21) To Discuss Matters of Closed Session Minutes

X. Exit Executive Session

Motion to exit executive session at 10:09 p.m. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Jeff Wilson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

XI. Personnel Action

Motion to approve all personnel action as presented; reinstatement of 42 sick days to RCMS Teacher Shelley Mann used from August 2008 - October 9, 2008, and 45 sick day to RCMS Teacher Sarah McKinney used from March 10, 2025 - May 21, 2025, the retirement of Larry Brian as Bus Driver effective June 15, 2026, and the resignations of Makenzie Provines as RCELC Paraprofessional effective April 2, 2026, Madelyn Rusk as RCES Mental Health Counselor effective August 1, 2026, Joyce Anderson as part-time RCES Math Interventionist effective May 21, 2026, Jennifer Weidner as RCELC Director, Suzanna Ridgely as RCHS Social Worker both effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year, and Sarah McKinney as RCMS STEM Teacher effective August 5, 2026, the employment of Makenna King as RCMS Special Education Teacher, Sawyer DeShon as RCHS Spanish Teacher, Sydney Hall as RCHS School Counselor, Alex Beckham as RCHS PE Teacher, Brock Holloway as RCHS Social Science/History Teacher, Jazzmyn Johnson and Isabel Carter as RCES Teachers, transfer of Samantha McGriff from RCES Teacher Assistant to Fourth Grade Teacher, transfer of Maci Deimel from RCES First Grade Teacher to RCES Interventionist and the rehire of Madelyn Rusk as RCES School Counselor all effective the 2026-2027 school year, the 2026 RCES Summer Tutors of Michelle Burris, Clarissa Ginder, Shanna Ginder, Tiffany Grove, Jennifer Hall, Vanessa Pfoff, Michele Reynolds, and Melinda Smith, the 2026 RCHS Summer Tutors of Briauna Baltzell, Melinda King, and Paula West, the 2026 Summer Driver's Education Instructors of Jessica VanDyke, Luke Carmody, Rick Franklin, Rob Flanagan, Brandis Grove, Jillian Woods, Traci Gray, Greg McKinney, and Jeff Thompson, Coach Assignments of 2026-2027; the transfer of Jessica Hinckley from RCMS Assistant Softball Coach to Interim RCMS Head Softball Coach for one year, the transfer of Darrell McDowell from RCMS 6th Grade Boys Basketball Coach to 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach and the hire of Bo Madden as RCMS Assistant Baseball Coach, the 2026-2027 Rehire of Fall Coaches; Bobbie Lathrop - RCMS Cross Country Head Coach, Kendra Page - RCMS Cross Country Assistant Coach, Adam Stoneberger - RCMS Baseball Head Coach, Amy Julian - RCHS Girls Cross Country Head Coach, Charlie Butler - RCHS Boys Cross Country Head Coach, Briauna Baltzell - RCHS Cheerleading Head Coach, Yvette Baltzell - RCHS Cheerleading Assistant Coach, Heather Colwell - RCHS Girls Golf Head Coach, Curt Nealis - RCHS Boys Golf Head Coach, Matt Powell - RCHS Girls/Boys Swim Head Coach, Logan Kauble - RCHS Girls Tennis Head Coach, Emily Rusk - RCHS Volleyball Head Coach, Lauren Eagleson - RCHS Volleyball Assistant Coach, Tanner Piercefield - RCHS Volleyball Freshman Coach, Luke Carmody - RCHS Football Head Coach, Matt Powell - RCHS Football Assistant Coach, Dakotah Brown - RCHS Football Assistant Coach, Brad Ameter - RCHS Football Assistant Coach. Hassan Steele - RCHS Football Assistant Coach, the 2026-2027 Rehire of Winter Coaches; Ian Laughlin - RCHS Girls Basketball Head Coach, Lauren Eagleson - RCHS Girls Basketball Assistant Coach, Klay Wheeler - RCHS Girls Basketball Freshman Coach, Hassan Steele - RCHS Wrestling Head Coach. Ben Curtis - RCHS Wrestling Assistant Coach, Lynn Steele - RCMS 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, Austin Bussard - RCMS 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, Rhett Funk -

RCMS 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, Donna Henby - RCMS Head Cheerleading Coach, Ellen Jenner - RCMS Assistant Cheerleading Coach, and the 2026-2027 Coach Volunteers; Kristie Shoemaker - RCMS Cross Country, Drew Bunting - RCMS Baseball, John McLaughlin and Ken Hake - RCHS Boys Soccer, Morgan Puckett and Brooke Wheeler - RCHS Cheerleading, Audrey Jensen, Alex Kauble, Dave Kauble - RCHS Girls Tennis, Tracy Snider, Jason Snider, Tara Feddes, Troy Nosek, Erica Stout, Beth Miller, Angel Padilla and Allyson Padilla - RCHS Girls/Boys Swim, Dave Berry - RCHS Boys Golf, Scott Klingler and Aliyah Tracy - RCHS Volleyball, Colton Carmody, Brad Beard, Mike Gilreath, Klay Wheeler, Ryan Denton, Jeremiah Brown, Austin Moore, Leslie Phillips, Dane Hawes - RCHS Football. This motion, made by Jeff Wilson and seconded by Cindy Bailey, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion to approve Alex Beckham as RCHS Head Basketball Coach. This motion, made by Dusty Kocher and seconded by Jeff Wilson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Nay, Cindy Lockley: Nay, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 2

Dennis Anderson: Nay, Cindy Lockley: Nay

Mr. Wilson stated he had a community member reach out to him expressing concern with the board's compliance with the Open Meetings Act. His concern is that decisions are being made prior to or outside of the meeting. Mr. Wilson just wanted to let the board know of this concern and Mr. Wilson contacted our lawyer for guidance.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:17 p.m. This motion, made by Dennis Anderson and seconded by Jeff Wilson, Passed.

Dennis Anderson: Yea, Jake Anderson: Yea, Cindy Bailey: Yea, Dusty Kocher: Yea, Cindy Lockley: Yea, Scott Snyder: Yea, Jeff Wilson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Approved:

President: _____

Secretary: _____