MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

**DISTRICT NO. 537**

**RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**August 19, 2025**

# CONVENING OF THE MEETING

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 20, 2025, in the Board Room of Richland Community College by Chairman Colee. Chairman Colee also recited the College Vision, Mission, and Core Values.

## Roll Call

Trustees Present: Tom Ritter, Dan Diskey, Dale Colee, Ben Andreas, Bishop Wayne Dunning, Vicki Carr, Marcy Rood, and Rachael Pender

Trustees Absent: None

Also present: Dr. Cris Valdez and other staff members

# MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 15, 2025, had been distributed to the Board prior to this meeting.

Ritter moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 15, 2025. Diskey seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.

# APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Valdez and the Board of Trustees welcomed Abby Hendren, Grants Coordinator and Arianna Lawson-Sims, Director of Culture, Connection and Student Life.

 **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

##### Personnel Update

 **Changes**

**Name Position Start Date**

Amy Snow Interim Executive Human Resources Director to 7/21/2025

 Executive Human Resources Director

**Retirements, Resignations, and Terminations**

**Name Position Last Day**

Tatyanna HudsonEnRich Workforce Program Navigator 7/4/2025

Natalie WeathersExecutive Assistant and External Relations Office 7/31/2025

 Coordinator

# SPECIAL REPORTS

**MONITORING REPORT**

Dr. Isaac Zuniga presented the Monitoring Report – Academic Profile

**REPORT OF ICCTA**

Bishop Wayne Dunning gave highlights of the last meeting:

Received updates on the Fiscal Year 2026 state budget, which includes a 3% increase in community college funding (1% in base operating grants and 2% held back in reserve).

Discussed the status of Community College Baccalaureate legislation and public university equitable funding. Other bills of interest include House Bill 1859: AI and community college faculty House Bill 2967: Dual credit House Bill 3011: Trustee oaths of office House Bill 3522: Direct admission Senate Bill 1958: Transfer pathway agreements.

**REPORT OF STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Student Trustee Rachael Pender presented the Student Leadership Council Report.

**FOUNDATION REPORT**

Julie Melton reported on top accomplishments, projects in progress and new opportunities on the horizon.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Board of Trustees. Items included Authorization in Compliance, approval to employee Director of Wellness, Executive HR Director, Director of Grants, Director of Admissions, Faculty for Surgical Tech, and Chemistry.

**Andreas moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Bishop Dunning seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**REQUEST TO PURCHASE MOWER FOR MCLETC**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees that would allow Administration to purchase a mower in the amount of $12,600.00, as presented.

**Bishop Dunning moved to approve the purchase of a mower in the amount of $12,600.00, as presented. Rood seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

**BOARD POLICY 4.15.8 – THIRD READING AND ADOPTION**

Federal public law 118-173 (the Stop Campus Hazing Act) requires that Boards of all higher education institutions adopt a policy which prohibits hazing on all college-owned property and provides for discipline if an act of hazing occurs.

The attached policy meets these standards and is provided for your consideration to be added under section 4.15 (Students Rights and Responsibilities) of the Board Policy Manual.

This is the third reading; no changes have been made since the second reading.

**Carr moved to adopt Board Policy – 4.15.8 – Hazing Prohibition. Rood seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chaiman Colee declared the motion carried.**

**ACCESSIBILITY POLICY – THIRD READING AND ADOPTION**

Board Policy 5.24 – Accessibility was presented to the Board of Trustees for the third reading and adoption. No changes have been made since the last reading.

**Andreas moved to accept and adopt Board Policy 5.24 – Accessibility. Bishop Dunning seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

**APPROVAL FOR FY26 ANNUAL MEDIA BUYS AND STARLIGHT PODCAST PARTNERSHIP**

A request was made to the Board of Trustees to proceed with both the SOLVR media buy authorization and the Starlight podcast partnership for FY26. These initiatives will help Richland to reach target audiences more effectively and strengthen our connection with the community.

**Andreas moved to approve the SOLVR media buy authorization and the Starlight podcast partnership for FY26, as presented. Bishop Dunning seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

**FIRE ALARM SYSTEM UPGRADES**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees that would authorize the college to enter into a Fire Protection System Upgrade contract with Johnson Controls of East Peoria, IL, for an amount of $304,496.83, as presented.

**Diskey moved to authorize the college to enter into a Fire Protection System Upgrade contract with Johnson Controls of East Peoria, IL, for an amount of $304,496.83, as presented. Andreas seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

**PURCHASE OF JOHN DEERE UTILITY VEHICLES**

A recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees that would authorize the purchase of a John Deere Gator utility vehicles from onsite vendors at the 2025 Farm Progress Show, for an amount not to exceed $18,232 per unit, and not to exceed $37,200 in total, as presented.

**Carr moved to authorize the purchase of a John Deere Gator utility vehicles from onsite vendors at the 2025 Farm Progress Show, for an amount not to exceed $18,232 per unit, and not to exceed $37,200 in total, as presented. Pender seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

BILLS AND TRAVEL EXPENDITURES PAYABLE

The July 2025 Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statement were presented to and discussed with the Board.

A list of bills paid in the amount of $2,083,676.52 for July 2025 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

Rood moved to ratify the July bills and travel expenditures paid and approve the Financial Statement subject to audit. Andreas seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

* President Valdez reported to the Board of Trustees that at the September meeting we will bring updates to the Ends Statements in Board Policy. The additional Ends statements will include Finance and Operations.
* President Valdez told the Board about the strategic growth roundtable that was held at TCCi with President Pribbenow of Millikin and manufacturing leaders that would keep collaboration of the workforce needs in the community. Meetings will continue quarterly

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

* Farm Progress 2025 is August 26, 27, and 28. Parking passes were distributed. Admission pins will be available soon.

 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Diskey moved to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing individual**

**employments, as specified in Section 2 (c) (1); for the purpose of discussing collective**

**negation matters, as specified in Section 2 (c) (2); for discussion of purchase or lease**

**of real property, as specified in Section 2 (c) (5); for discussion of pending or probable**

**litigation, as specified in Section 2 (c) (11); and for self-evaluation as specified in**

**Section 2 (c) (16) of the Open Meetings Act. Bishop Dunning seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Colee declared the motion carried.**

Meeting convened into closed session at 6:45 p.m.

Meeting reconvened into open session at 7:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Diskey moved and Bishop Dunning seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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Dan Diskey, Secretary