RIO GRANDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

BOB EVANS FARMS HALL, RM 216

5:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Davenport, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Mick Davenport, Chair - present
Ms. Kat Rinehart, Vice Chair - present
Mr. Troy Howdyshell - present
Ms. Mary Lynne Jones - present
Mr. Paul Reed - absent
Ms. Taylor Rose - present
Mr. Christian Scott - present
Mr. Jeff Simmons - present

Mr. Ryan Smith, President of the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College was present.

Staff present included: Ms. Rebecca Euton, Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Allen Hudson, Chief Information Officer; Ms. Cherokee Ruby, RGCC CFO; Mr. Tom Sutton, Associate Vice President of Administration; Mr. Jeremy Heffernan, RGCC Staff Accountant; Ms. Elizabeth Bynum, Fiscal Services Specialist.

III. APPROVAL OF JUNE 23RD MEETING MINUTES (P. 5)

Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the June 23rd meeting minutes. Mr. Simmons seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Mr. Davenport congratulated Ms. (Long) Euton on getting married. He noted the football season was underway and inquired if any trustees were able to attend the OACC Trustee Conference. None of the trustees were able to attend due to scheduling conflicts, but they will follow up with the online training when it comes available.

Mr. Davenport shared the trivia question. "What was the distinction of the 3rd President of Rio Grande, Mr. Merrill Davis?" Ms. Rose answered correctly with how President Davis served for 24 years at Rio Grande.

Ms. Rinehart joined the meeting at 5:05pm.

V. TRUSTEE REAPPOINTMENTS:

- **MICK DAVENPORT 8/18/25-8/17/30**
- **PAUL REED 9/11/25-9/10/30**

Mr. Davenport noted the two reappointments.

VI. TRUSTEE DISCUSSION – GOVERNOR APPOINTEE

President Smith shared how he thought Ms. Debbie Saunders would be an excellent candidate to fill the open seat. She runs the Bossard Memorial Library in Gallipolis. The trustees agreed that President Smith should approach Ms. Saunders about the position to see if she would be interested.

Board Members	Local or Governor Appointment	End of Current Term
Mick Davenport, Chair	Local - Meigs County	8/17/2030
Troy Howdyshell	Local - Joint	11/1/2026
Mary Lynne Jones	Local - Gallia County	10/11/2027
Paul M. Reed	Local - Joint	9/10/2030
Kat Rinehart, Vice Chair	Governor	10/10/2025
Taylor Rose	Local - Jackson County	12/30/2026
Christian Scott	Governor	10/10/2025
Jeff Simmons	Local - Vinton County	9/10/2026
Josh Smith/Open Seat	Governor	10/10/2026

VII. VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE POLICY DISCUSSION (P. 16)

President Smith shared how virtual attendance came up while he was at the AG's office. He thought it ended with Covid, but he was told section 3345.82 of the Ohio Revised Code allowed for an option of virtual attendance for trustees.

Ms. Ruby noted that during the virtual attendance allowance during Covid you could attend every meeting virtually, but this policy has some restrictions. One restriction is you are required to be in person for at least half of the meeting in a year. President

Smith explained how there would also be a requirement that 1/3 of the trustees would need to be present at each meeting, so not everyone could attend virtually.

Ms. Rinehart inquired about what would happen if the weather was bad. President Smith responded with how we would likely cancel the meeting.

Ms. Rose made a motion to adopt section 3345.82 of the Ohio Revised Code to allow for virtual attendance. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. RGCC FINANCIAL UPDATE (P. 19)

Ms. Ruby shared from her narrative included in the agenda. She explained the need to request an extension for the financial statements due to issues of not being able to access the legacy system. We are working to clean up Anthology, but we are still behind on imports from student to finance. We are getting closer, but we are still not there yet. She has not been able to reconcile a few areas due to not being able to get the specifics from the old system. She has reports she pulled from it, but she isn't able to dig into the details without access. She shared how it's not off by much in comparison, but there are a few places that differ significantly.

She shared how it takes up to 10 business days to get a response, so we should know this week if the extension request will be accepted.

IX. FY26 1st AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION (P. 21)

Ms. Ruby shared how we don't have the health insurance amounts yet, so there might be a cost savings for us in those. Wiseman's shared there might be an ability to go with another plan that would keep us from increasing 25%, which is what is planned in the budget.

Originally, our budget was in a deficit, but with the new contract and increased residential students it put us in the black. She indicated that there are few changes that reflect the new shared services contract. She noted a couple of examples; office expense and marketing will now be the responsibility of the University. She went on to explain how there is $12 million in grant dollars from the Appalachian Grant for the Jackson and McArthur projects, and we will have those funds expended within the necessary timeframe.

Mr. Davenport inquired whether the roof for the Jackson Center was included in this grant. Ms. Ruby responded with the roof was not included, but Stockmeister was interested in it. It just wasn't possible to fit it within this project with the funds available.

The discussion turned to the type of roof. Then to whether it could be cheaper by including it in the project with Stockmeister and how it would require 3 bids to release the amount needed. Our maintenance workers have looked at it and say the overlap on the roof seam is between 6 to 12 inches off. Then the location of the leak was discussed and how the roof has been patched multiple times over, but the water just goes where ever it wants to go and that causes problems in various places.

Ms. Rose made a motion to approve the following resolution. Ms. Rinehart seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 9.22.25(1)
BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Rio Grande Community College, Gallia County Ohio that to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures of said Board of Trustees, during the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2026, the following sums be and the same are hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made for and during said fiscal year, as follows, viz:

General Fund: $21,639,919
One Mill Tax Levy Fund: $1,414,922
Capital Projects Fund: $800,000
Parking & Safety Fund: $500
Grants Fund: $12,368,330
Total: $36,223,671

X. ATTORNEY GENERAL AGREEMENT – COLLECTIONS (P. 26)

Ms. Ruby shared how until this fiscal year the Attorney General defaulted Rio to what other organizations had chosen and that was to pass third party collection fees on to the student. However, the Attorney General did an internal audit and due to our original agreement not having the selection of the two highlighted items on page 27 of the agenda, they have not been passing the fees on to the student. We have a discrepancy where 16 students had paid in full, but our balance was not reaching zero. Since it appeared they had paid in full they were allowed to register, but we will have to charge adjust those.

The Attorney General is allowing us to do a new agreement to pass the fees onto the students again starting in October.

Ms. Rose inquired if we were satisfied with the 15-year write off period and Ms. Ruby shared how most schools select the 15-year period and she agreed it would be a good timeframe for this. Ms. Ruby also shared they will look back in the past 90 days before closing an account to see if any payments have been made. If so, they won't close it. They can also reopen an account that has been closed if necessary.

Ms. Rose made a motion to pass the special council fees on to the student. Mr. Howdyshell seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion

passed unanimously.

XI. URG/RGCC SHARED SERVICES CONTRACT (P. 32)

President Smith explained how we have been working through the Shared Services Contract. We took it to the Attorney General who had a few edits, and they wanted us to hire outside council to also review the document. We took it to outside council and they came back with edits as well. The contract then went to the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) who suggested edits. The contract included in the agenda is the final version with all of the edits that were made.

Ms. Rose inquired if there were any changes that stand out that they should take note of. Ms. Euton expressed how she didn't feel there were any items that stood out. She shared how the changes were more impactful to the University. Some of the edits clarified how the Title IV funding was the responsibility and risk to the University. In her opinion she felt it was mostly on the University side.

It was discussed how this contract had gone to the University Board for approval on Friday and they approved the updated version.

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the updated version of the URG/RGCC Shared Services Contract. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. ENROLLMENT REPORT

- **FALL (P. 46)**

Ms. Ruby shared how this Fall enrollment report is as of the census date on the 16th, which was last Tuesday. It took a few days longer than normal to get all of the non-attendance reports put in. RGCC has 1,253 FTE's (Full Time Equivalent). Each FTE represents 15 credit hours. We budgeted for 1,108 FTE, so we are above budget for Fall. She went on to explain how the largest difference in revenue is in housing. We have 354 and we budgeted 220. We have a lot of people on campus. The total headcount of students is 2,643, which is fantastic. The freshman class is massive. President Smith shared that this is the highest enrollment has been in 35 years.

Ms. Jones gave compliments to President Smith for all of his efforts that have helped to increase enrollment. President Smith shared how everyone has worked hard to make this happen.

Ms. Rinehart inquired of what the "HI" meant under the CCP category. Ms. Ruby explained that those are courses offered at the high schools taught by high school instructors for CCP credit. We separate them out for State reporting purposes. Those students are also charged lower tuition costs, so we also separate them out due to less revenue per student.

Ms. Rinehart inquired about non-CCP numbers and if it means more revenue. She wondered if it was a good thing that McArthur was higher in non-CCP students. Ms. Ruby confirmed that it was good to have more non-CCP. Not only do CCP students get charged lower tuition rates, we also can't charge fees to CCP students. However, most CCP students complete their courses, which helps our completion rate for increases in SSI.

XIII. PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING DESIGNEE – MR. JEREMY HEFFERNAN

Ms. Ruby shared how the trustees are welcome to complete the public records training themselves. It is a requirement to complete it within your term, unless you have a designee in place. This resolution allows us to assign Mr. Heffernan as a designee, since he is required to take the training anyway.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the following resolution. Mr. Howdyshell seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 9.22.25(2)

WHEREAS, it is a requirement of Ohio Revised Code Section 109.43(B) for trustees of a public board to obtain public records training, and

WHEREAS, it is beneficial to authorize a representative for Rio Grande Community College Board of Trustees to receive training for the Ohio Sunshine Laws, and

WHEREAS, it is acceptable to appoint a public records designee when it is deemed essential,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rio Grande Community College Board of Trustees appoints Mr. Jeremy Heffernan, Staff Accountant, of Rio Grande Community College to be their designee to obtain the necessary public records training.

XIV. TUITION INCREASE

Ms. Ruby shared how the State at the final hour gave an approval for a $10 increase instead of only $5. All community colleges are allowed to increase their tuition by $10 and we originally did $5. She explained how we would like to have the ability to increase again in the Spring if needed. We are seeing an increase in enrollment and we are projected to be in the black as long as the Spring semester estimates come in. We just want to have the approval to increase it if it is needed.

Ms. Rinehart wondered if we historically have increased during the school year. Ms.

Ruby shared how there was one other time. Ms. Rose explained how we increased it then suspended it, because we can't retroactively go back and approve it.

Ms. Ruby explained this would allow us to increase tuition by $5 per credit hour for Spring, if deemed necessary operationally. Mr. Davenport added this gives the staff flexibility.

Ms. Rose expressed how students will start to register for Spring next month and we don't want to change tuition after students start to register, so if it needs to be done it should be done now. Mr. Howdyshell inquired of how much revenue this would bring in. Ms. Ruby shared that it would bring in an estimated $64,050. Ms. Rose expressed how this could be the potential difference of being able to give a cost of living raise to employees, but not a large one. Ms. Rose inquired if we are still using preliminary numbers and Ms. Ruby confirmed this budget does not include a pay raise and we are looking at ways to cut expenses. She further explained the budget is good if we meet our projections for Spring 2026.

President Smith shared that considering the inflationary environment we are in, in the same way our electric went up at home it also went up here too. That is why the legislature wanted to give us the opportunity to increase tuition by $10 instead of $5. There is a delicate balance where we cover costs, and don't overprice our tuition. President Smith explained this increase would still be covered by Pell. We also want to look to see what other community colleges are doing.

Ms. Rose made a motion to approve the following resolution. The motion was not seconded. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Davenport asked the trustees if they would like to have this resolution brought to the next meeting for further discussion. Ms. Ruby shared we will have more of an idea of who has registered for Spring. The trustees agreed it would be best to revisit this resolution at the next meeting.

Resolution 9.22.25(3)
WHEREAS, Rio Grande Community College is committed to maintaining high-quality educational programs and services for its students; and

WHEREAS, the financial sustainability of the institution requires periodic review and adjustment of tuition rates to meet operational needs and strategic goals; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature provides guidelines and limitations for tuition rate increases at public institutions of higher education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Rio Grande Community College hereby authorizes the College Administration to increase tuition rates for the *academic years 2025–2026 and 2026–2027, as deemed necessary, provided that all adjustments remain within the limits and guidelines established by the State Legislature;*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the College Administration shall report any tuition rate changes to the Board in a timely manner and ensure that all changes are communicated clearly to students and stakeholders.

XV. ERP UPDATE

Dr. Lawrence was not present due to sickness. Ms. Ruby shared how we are still working through issues, but we are in a better place. We are still not paying Anthology. The discussions continue about the disagreement of timeline and responsibility. We are using the Student Module entirely and not relying on the legacy system for Student but there are major issues in the reporting portion of the system. We do have all of last year's imports in and now we are making adjustments to see what has worked and what hasn't to make necessary changes. We want to get the student billing as accurate as possible. We have reduced the number of meetings internally from weekly to biweekly. We have a lot of employees that can work through their processes without as many hiccups.

Ms. Ruby went on to share how we are not adding the "Occupational Insight" module. We will remove it and reallocate the funds to more technical assistance with our State reporting that requires specific formatting to upload to the State. The focus has shifted, but we are still working out items and cleaning up the background. We are getting closer, there is only 5 years left on the 10-year contract.

XVI. DEI AND INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY POLICY (P. 48)

President Smith shared how this policy is basically the language from Senate Bill 1, that we won't use DEI in the hiring practices. It is a mandate that we need to pass. President Smith shared how we are an open enrollment institution, so we are not selective.

President Smith discussed how it does not apply to us, because we are a private school that employs faculty. One of the rules states if there are 5 or less in a major, we need to close the major. That rule doesn't work for us. He gave the example of Composition I & II and how most students need those courses, so we aren't going to lay them off due to not having the students in the major.

Mr. Howdyshell inquired of how the students feel about this and if they are involved. Ms. Euton shared how our students don't really involve themselves in a lot of political issues. There was one request for a Turning Point organization, but the process will be the same as any other organization.

President Smith explained how we will continue to do what we are doing until we are told not to.

Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the following resolution. Mr. Simmons seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 9.22.25(4)
WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1 (SB1), which took effect on June 27, 2025, and enacted Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 3345.0217; and

WHEREAS, ORC Section 3345.0217 requires each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy that ensures intellectual diversity in academic matters and prohibits certain DEI-related activities, training, and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Community College Board of trustees is committed to fostering a campus environment that promotes free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry while upholding the letter and spirit of state law; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rio Grande Community College Board of Trustees that they hereby adopt the attached DEI and Intellectual Diversity policy to ensure full compliance with ORC Section 3345.0217.

XVII. CONSTRUCTION UPDATES (P. 61)

Ms. Euton shared from her report in the agenda. She displayed a few pictures of the McArthur project on the projector screen of the progress that has been made. She explained the substantial completion date has been pushed forward. We won't be in the building at the start of the Spring Semester.

Ms. Euton also shared about the Meigs Power Project and how we have struggled to close it out due to a substantial leak that is not coming from the roof, but from air conditioner condensation.

She also shared pictures of the locker room facility for football and how it is coming together.

The next topic she went over dealt with the portion of land at the Meigs Center that Mr. Mark Porter is interested in purchasing. We reached out to the AG and they assigned special council, so we have been working with them to come up with solutions. She explained how she attended the Meigs Local School Board meeting to discuss the RGCC Board's desire to sale the portion of land to Mr. Mark Porter, but Meigs Local Schools have first right of refusal. She told them we could sale the land back to them for the original sale price of $1 and they could sale it to Mr. Porter or Rio could sale the land directly to Mr. Porter at the fair market value. The Meigs Local School Board wanted to discuss it further and their Board meets again this Wednesday.

Ms. Rose inquired what would happen if he doesn't want to pay fair market value. Ms. Euton explained we would need to go back to the attorneys to determine what we could do legally.

Mr. Davenport thanked Ms. Euton for the pictures, he felt the pictures were helpful.

XVIII. STAFF REPORTS

- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - MR. RYAN SMITH (P. 64)**
  President Smith went over highlights from his report. He added how Rio received another $190,000 from Mr. Jim Mitchell. Hocking Hills Forrest made a post about the scholarships, sharing how positive it was. That post got 400 shares and has generated a lot of phone calls to Ms. Misty Napier the Director at the McArthur Center. President Smith shared this with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Mitchell told him to let him know when he needed more money.

  President Smith shared how the good news in Pike County is due to uranium enriching. It will have several spin-off companies from it. It is small nuclear reactors that don't melt down as fast, so they are safer. This is the only company domestically that enriches uranium. He felt this should benefit us in direct and indirect ways.

  He shared about how the River States conference will not merge with another conference. Football season has started really well. We had about 4,500 people at the first game and 2,000 at the second. There has been $30,000 in tickets and merchandise sold so far. We had some disciplinary issues, but the football coach is taking care of them and setting a good precedence.

  He covered a few other exciting highlights from his agenda report.

- **PROVOST'S REPORT – DR. DAVID LAWRENCE (P. 68)**
  Dr. Lawrence was not present due to sickness.

  There were no discussions or questions.

- **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S REPORT - MS. REBECCA EUTON (P. 72)**
  Ms. Euton shared how there has been an increase in students on campus and it is exciting. The resident number is over 660 students. This has increased since last fall and we are close to capacity in our dorms. She expressed how we have had some disciplinary problems, but that is to be expected with more students. We are addressing them as we go. She

explained there will be students required to complete community service work and one of the items will be to pick up trash on campus.

She shared other positive highlights from her agenda report.

- **CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER – MR. ALLEN HUDSON (P. 77)**
  Mr. Hudson shared from his report, but wanted to touch on just a couple of items. He explained that we have hit our internet bandwidth cap, including the Centers. He has reached out to the internet service provider to permanently increase the bandwidth.

  He explained that there will be some cybersecurity policies created due to House Bill 96 that will be brought to both Boards for approval. They will work through the Campus Technology Committee to come up with the policies. We have until January to get it all in place.

  He shared that the Helpdesk ran into a good problem. They have lent out all of the loaner laptops. We are not looking to expand unless we can get a grant or external funding.

XIX. CREDIT CARDS HOLDERS & LIMITS (P. 80)

House Bill 312 requires a list of active credit cards to be presented quarterly to the political subdivision's legislative authority.

There were no updates at this meeting, but Ms. Ruby wanted to share that there would be a resolution forthcoming at the next meeting. She shared how with the new Shared Services Contract we are in need of one more credit card with a credit limit of $2,000 to keep the expenses that are paid by RGCC and URG separate. Community College employees would use the card for RGCC expenses and use the card currently in the safe for URG paid only purchases.

XX. OLD BUSINESS

- **ACTION MATRIX (P. 82)**

The items on the action matrix were addressed under other sections of the meeting.

XXI. OTHER BUSINESS

- **ETHICS TRAINING WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE OCTOBER MEETING**
  - **PRESENTER: MS. SALLY MONTELL, EDUCATION SECTION**

XXII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL LEGAL ACTIONS & PERSONNEL

A motion was made at 6:49pm by Ms. Jones to enter into executive session to discuss potential legal actions and personnel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons. Only President Smith was invited to join the trustees in executive session.

Executive Session Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Mick Davenport	**Yes**
Ms. Kat Rinehart	**Yes**
Mr. Troy Howdyshell	**Yes**
Ms. Mary Lynne Jones	**Yes**
Ms. Taylor Rose	**Yes**
Mr. Christian Scott	**Yes**
Mr. Jeff Simmons	**Yes**

APPROVED

Executive Session ended at 7:23pm.

Ms. Rose made a motion to approve the following resolution to reposition personnel. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 9.22.25(5)

The Board of Trustees approves the Presidential repositioning of personnel to enhance operational efficiency and align the comprehensive benefits packages accordingly. Effective September 8, 2025, Ms. Amanda Ehman will assume the role of Director of Career Services, with the associated compensation adjustments to take effect on October 1, 2025.

XXIII. UPDATE NEEDED – CURRENT OACC DELEGATE & ALTERNATE

- **DELEGATE: MR. JOSH SMITH**
- **ALTERNATE: MR. TROY HOWDYSHELL**

Mr. Davenport inquired if Mr. Howdyshell would be interested in becoming the new OACC delegate. Mr. Howdyshell agreed.

Mr. Davenport inquired of the trustees who would be interested in serving as the alternate OACC delegate. Ms. Jones was asked if she would be willing to serve. Ms. Jones accepted the role as alternate.

UPDATED:

- **DELEGATE: MR. TROY HOWDYSHELL**
- **ALTERNATE: MS. MARY LYNNE JONES**

XXIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Scott made a motion and Mr. Howdyshell seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. Mr. Davenport called for a voice vote. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously.

Mr. Mick Davenport, Chair

Ms. Cherokee Ruby, Chief Financial Officer