



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**JAMES A. RHODES STATE COLLEGE**  
**528th Meeting Minutes**  
**January 28, 2025**

The Rhodes State College (RSC) Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 4:30 pm in the Keese Hall Board Room, Cabinet and Faculty Association President were present in the room, all other guests via Zoom a virtual platform.

**CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Butch Kirk, Chair. Members present were Mr. Butch Kirk, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Ms. Jane Krites, Dr. Ann Pohl, Ms. Jessica Cunningham and Mr. Robert Sielschott. Dr. Wilfred Ellis joined the meeting in session.

Chair Kirk requested a motion to add a second Executive Session and Resolution 2025-25 to the agenda:

1. An Executive Session regarding a Confidential Business Matter.
2. Resolution 2025-25, Consideration of approval for Rhodes State College to apply to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education for a tuition waiver for chartered nonpublic and homeschool students who do not receive any funding or insufficient funding under College Credit Plus.

Mr. Robert Sielschott moved to approve the additional Executive Session regarding a Confidential Business Matter and Resolution No. 2025-25, concerning the Consideration of Approval for a Tuition Waiver. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ann Pohl and was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**PRESENTATION OF FOUNDATION CHECK WITH MR. MATT JENNINGS, FOUNDATION CHAIR**

Mr. Kevin Reeks, Secretary of the Foundation and VP for Institutional Advancement and Mr. Matt Jennings, Chair of the RSC Foundation Board of Directors, presented a check totaling \$1,104,908.00.

Of this amount, \$264,908.00 is allocated for student scholarships and the College Innovation Grant fund. The remaining \$840,000.00, represents gifts and pledges collected to date from donors through the Major Gifts Campaign for capital needs.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2024**

Chair Kirk called for the approval of the minutes from the December 17, 2024, Board Meeting. Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Ann Pohl seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITIONS (unaudited) THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

***General Overview***

These financial statements were prepared in the format of our annual financial report. Many estimates are utilized when preparing financial statements. However, some presented amounts cannot be estimated, so they are held constant throughout the year until information is available to update them. These items include the Pension and OPEB liabilities and the corresponding deferred inflows and outflows.

Areas where estimates have the highest impact include accounts receivable, accounts payable, compensated absences, and deferred revenue on the Statement of Net Position, as well as tuition and fee revenue, scholarship expense, and depreciation on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position.

The College follows the “business-type activities” reporting requirements of GASB Statement No. 35 (as amended). The financial statement presentation required by GASB Statement No. 35 is intended to provide a comprehensive, entity-wide perspective of the College’s assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, net position, revenues, expenses, changes in net position, and cash flows. For financial reporting purposes, GASB Statement 35 defines business-type activities as those financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. Accordingly, these financial statements have been presented using the economic resources measurement focus and on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned. Expenses are recognized when incurred. Interfund receivables and payables have been eliminated in the Statement of Net Position.

### ***Statement of Net Position***

#### **A – Total Current Assets**

Total current assets are down by \$2.1M, or 12%, from the prior year. Cash has increased, which is extremely positive. The decrease is attributable to the reduction of accounts receivable, which occurred due to write-offs of old debt and the timing of revenue recognition.

#### **B – Total Noncurrent Assets**

Total noncurrent assets are down by \$4.5M compared to last year. This is due to depreciation and amortization costs and the retirement of certain assets.

#### **C – Total Current Liabilities**

Total current liabilities are down by \$1.7M, or 30%. This is attributed to the change in accounting for revenue recognition, which reduces our deferred revenue.

#### **D – Net Noncurrent Liabilities**

Total noncurrent liabilities are down by \$1.2M, or 5%. This decrease is due to the payment of debt obligations, the reduction of our subscription liability, and the reduction of compensated absences.

### ***Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position***

#### **A – Total Operating Revenues**

Total operating revenues are up by \$491K, or 8%. Tuition and fee revenue continues to be strong, with a 3% increase over the prior year, while State grant revenue has also increased by \$483K.

#### **B – Total Operating Expenses**

Total operating expenses are up \$1.2M, or 10%, compared to the prior year. Increased expenses offset our recognition of state grant revenue, as well as increased wage and benefit costs. In addition, our higher enrollment has led to higher adjunct faculty costs.

#### **C – Operating Income (Loss)**

Our operating loss is at \$6.8M, which is around an \$800K increase from the prior year. An operating loss is normal for us, as significant revenue is classified as nonoperating.

#### **D – Nonoperating Revenues**

Nonoperating revenues are relatively flat compared to last year. SSI revenue is higher, but nonoperating federal grant revenue is lower. We have also seen increased interest expense on our debt obligations.

#### **E – Net Increase in Net Position**

Our net increase in net position is at \$500K, compared to \$1.2M. This is a favorable position for the college at this juncture, and we anticipate continued positive results based on preliminary enrollment numbers for the spring term.

Mr. Derek Adkins provided an update on the unaudited financial condition of Rhodes State College as of December 31, 2024, highlighting an increase in RSC’s cash position.

## **PRESIDENT’S REPORT (Informational)**

Dr. Spiers presented the Board of Trustees with a summary of the December 2024 President’s Report, highlighting updates on national, state, and local collaborations.

Additionally:

- Dr. Eric Mason-Guffey, Dr. David Haus & Mr. James Ricker delivered a presentation on the Apprenticeship Program, emphasizing the benefits and success.
- Mr. Kevin Reeks, Secretary of the Foundation and VP for Institutional Advancement, gave a presentation on the purpose and performance of the RSC Foundation.

## **FACULTY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S UPDATE**

Mr. Jacob King, President of the RSCFA, and Dr. Jacquie Martz, RSCFA President-elect, continue working collaboratively with Dr. Spiers and Dr. Mason-Guffey to effectively address the needs of the Rhodes State faculty.

Last month, we held another Open Forum with faculty to gather discussion items for the administration. This month, we will meet with Dr. Spiers and Dr. Mason-Guffey to address these items and will provide the Board with an update on our progress.

Additionally, he recognized alumnus Dionntai Holyfied-Geiger, who has turned his life around and is set to graduate next year with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Wheaton College. Dionntai credits Rhodes State College and its faculty for providing guidance and support he needed to achieve this milestone.

## **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

### **Resolution No. 2025 – 22**

**Resolved**, upon recommendation of the President and with the concurrence of the Executive Staff, that the following personnel actions be approved:

- a. Faculty/Staff appointments – January 21, 2025

### **Attachments:**

- N/A

Ms. Andrea Goings provided an overview of the personnel actions dated January 21, 2025.

Dr. Spiers requested the Board’s consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-22 (Consideration of Approval of Personnel Actions). Dr. Ann Pohl moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-22, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jessica Cunningham. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

## **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES OVER \$50,000 FOR THE COMPLETION OF ELECTRICAL WORK IN THE JAMES J. COUNTRYMAN BUILDING**

### **Resolution No. 2025 – 23**

**Resolved**, upon the recommendation of the President, and with the concurrence of the Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services, that approval be given for the College to spend up to, but not exceed \$55,000, for the completion of electrical work in the James J. Countryman building.

Vendor:	Unknown
Amount:	\$55,000
Source of Funds:	One-Time Strategic Community Investment Funds

**Overview:**

Rhodes State College will be doing some electrical upgrades in the James J. Countryman Building in order to install new equipment into several classrooms. We have obtained one quote of approximately \$53,000, and are in the process of obtaining additional quotes. While we feel confident we will be able to get a lower quote, we are asking for permission to expend up to \$55,000 if necessary.

**Attachment:** None

Mr. Derek Adkins stated that the initial quote obtained for the electrical upgrades to the James J. Countryman Building (JJC) exceeded \$50,000. However, additional quotes under \$50,000 have since been obtained, with the selected quote totaling \$37,000. At this time Board approval is not required, therefore this update is for informational purposes only.

Chair Kirk asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter. Dr. Ann Pohl moved to go into Executive Session, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Sam Bassitt.

Chair Kirk requested a Roll Call vote. The following members were present and voted yes: Mr. Butch Kirk, Dr. Ann Pohl, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Ms. Jane Krites, Dr. Wilfred Ellis, Ms. Jessica Cunningham and Mr. Robert Sielschott.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****a. Personnel Matter**

Discussion took place regarding a personnel matter. Following the discussion, Chair Kirk asked for a motion to adjourn from the Executive Session and return to the Public Session. Dr. Ann Pohl moved to adjourn from Executive Session, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jessica Cunningham.

Chair Kirk requested a Roll Call vote. The following members were present and voted yes: Mr. Butch Kirk, Dr. Ann Pohl, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Ms. Jane Krites, Dr. Wilfred Ellis, Ms. Jessica Cunningham and Mr. Robert Sielschott.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****a. Confidential Business Matter**

Chair Kirk asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Confidential Business Matter. Dr. Ann Pohl moved to go into Executive Session, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jessica Cunningham.

Chair Kirk requested a Roll Call vote. The following members were present and voted yes: Mr. Butch Kirk, Dr. Ann Pohl, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Ms. Jane Krites, Dr. Wilfred Ellis, Ms. Jessica Cunningham and Mr. Robert Sielschott.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session.

Discussion took place regarding a confidential business matter. Following the discussion, Chair Kirk asked for a motion to adjourn from the Executive Session and return to the Public Session. Dr. Wilfred Ellis moved to adjourn from Executive Session, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jessica Cunningham.

Chair Kirk requested a Roll Call vote. The following members were present and voted yes: Mr. Butch Kirk, Dr. Ann Pohl, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Ms. Jane Krites, Dr. Wilfred Ellis, Ms. Jessica Cunningham and Mr. Robert Sielschott.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR COMPENSATION CHANGES FOR THE RHODES STATE COLLEGE PRESIDENT**  
**Resolution No. 2025 – 24**

**Resolved**, upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, with the concurrence of the Vice President for Human Resources and the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, that approval be given for the President's salary to be increased effective January 1, 2025, in accordance with the President's calendar year Employment Agreement and in alignment with the percentage increase provided to eligible faculty and staff for the next fiscal year, once determined.

**Overview:**

The President's Employment Agreement is reviewed and renewed on an annual basis every 12 months from the date of the President's employment in alignment with Board of Trustees Policy 3.4. The President was hired as of January 1, 2020 and evaluations and compensation decisions will be effective as of January 1 each year.

**Attachment:** None

Dr. Spiers requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-24 (Consideration of Approval for Compensation Changes for the Rhodes State College President). Dr. Wilfred Ellis moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-24, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jessica Cunningham.

Chair Kirk requested a Roll Call vote. The following members were present and voted yes: Mr. Butch Kirk, Dr. Ann Pohl, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Ms. Jane Krites, Dr. Wilfred Ellis, Ms. Jessica Cunningham and Mr. Robert Sielschott.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR RHODES STATE COLLEGE TO APPLY TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A TUITION WAIVER FOR CHARTERED NON-PUBLIC AND HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE ANY FUNDING OR INSUFFICIENT FUNDING UNDER COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS.**

**Resolution No. 2025-25**

- WHEREAS**, Rhodes State College (RSC) is fully engaged in College Credit Plus (CCP) as outlined in §Ohio Revised Code 3365; and
- WHEREAS**, §381.170 of Am. Sub. H.B. 166 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly requires any waiver of tuition for a student or class of students not otherwise permitted by law at a state-assisted institution of higher education be approved by the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (the Chancellor); and
- WHEREAS**, Directive 2009-011 established procedures for institutions requesting to waive standard tuition rates, requiring the College's Board of Trustees to adopt a resolution authorizing the tuition waiver request be submitted to the Chancellor; and
- WHEREAS**, Although most students in traditional public schools are consistently eligible for CCP funding streams, students in chartered non-public schools (non-public) and non-chartered non-public home schools (home school) have only limited access, due to a cap on total state funding that does not exist for traditional public-school students; and
- WHEREAS**, A reduction from the standard CCP tuition rates, regardless of delivery modality will provide an affordable opportunity for non-public and home school students to earn the CCP credit hours for which they apply, but are not awarded State funding; and
- WHEREAS**, RSC desires that the Chancellor approve the tuition waiver for non-public and home school students be applicable to Academic Years 2026 and 2027; and

**WHEREAS,** RSC will implement targeted marketing and enrollment strategies for both continuing and new non-public and home school CCP students, expecting to impact 200 students over the two years with increases in participation and an increase of five additional CCP credit hours above the State-awarded credits - equating to 1,000 credit hours during the waiver period.

**WHEREAS,** Based on the 2023-2024 CCP enrollments (without the waiver) the College realized approximately 200 credit hours above the State-funded award, generating around \$33,300 in revenue.

**WHEREAS,** This proposed tuition waiver will have minimal costs to the College, as these students are placed in existing capacity for instruction (economy to scale). The additional credit hours from implementation of the waiver will create a break-even point for the College, while increasing access that will result in more credit hours completed, higher certificate and degree completions, and greater transfers.

**WHEREAS,** The impact and success of the CCP non-public and home school tuition waiver will be reviewed annually, based on identified metrics.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that RSC's Board of Trustees approve a resolution to:

- Authorize a tuition waiver for an estimated 200 non-public and home school students for Academic Years 2026 and 2027 be submitted to the Chancellor for approval.
- Provide the affordable opportunity for a qualified Ohio, non-public and home school student to earn CCP credit hours for which a student applies, but is not awarded State funding.
- Reduce the standard CCP per credit-hour rates by modality to the statutory minimum rate of \$41.64 per credit hour across all delivery modalities as depicted in the [Table 1](#) below:

[Table 1: Non-Public and Home School Student CCP Tuition Waiver – Unfunded by State](#)

Current Tuition Rate per Credit Hour	Non- Public Sector	Home School Sector	Reduction per Credit Hour	Proposed per Credit Hour
Online & On Campus	\$166.55	\$166.55	\$124.91	\$41.64

- Be applicable for up to 30 credit hours per year, not to exceed the maximum 120 credit hour limit throughout the student's participation in the CCP program, as set forth by the Ohio Department of Higher Education within the CCP program pursuant to §Ohio Revised Code 3365.07 and Ohio Administrative Code 3333-1-65.12.

This resolution is enacted on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025

---

Mr. Everett "Butch" S. Kirk III  
Chair, Rhodes State College Board of Trustees

---

Dr. Cynthia E. Spiers  
President, Rhodes State College

Dr. Spiers requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2025-25 (Consideration of Approval for Rhodes State College to Apply to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education for a Tuition Waiver for Chartered Nonpublic and Homeschool Students Who do not Receive any Funding or Insufficient Funding Under College Credit Plus). Dr. Ann Pohl moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-25, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jessica Cunningham.

Chair Kirk requested a Roll Call vote. The following members were present and voted yes: Mr. Butch Kirk, Dr. Ann Pohl, Mr. Sam Bassitt, Ms. Jane Krites, Dr. Wilfred Ellis, Ms. Jessica Cunningham and Mr. Robert Sielschott.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kirk asked for a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Ms. Jessica Cunningham moved to adjourn the Board meeting, and was seconded by Dr. Ann Pohl. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Approved Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Everett S. Kirk III", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Everett "Butch" S. Kirk III  
Chair

Pamela Mooneyhan, Recording Secretary