



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JAMES A. RHODES STATE COLLEGE
541st Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2026

The Rhodes State College (RSC) Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 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, Mr. Robert Sielschott, and Dr. Wilfred Ellis. Ms. Jessica Cunningham joined virtually and Ms. Jill Jacobs joined the meeting in session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2026

Chair Kirk called for the approval of the minutes from the March 17, 2026, Board meeting. Mr. Sam Bassitt moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Jessica Cunningham seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham and Mr. Sielschott voting yes.

THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF March 2026 (unaudited)

Notes to the Financial Statements

Statement of Net Position

Overall Position

The College's overall financial position remains stable at March 31, 2026. Total assets and deferred outflows are consistent with the prior year, with a slight decrease driven primarily by reductions in capital assets and pension-related balances. At the same time, total liabilities have declined, largely due to decreases in long-term obligations and pension liabilities, which is a positive indicator for the College's long-term financial health.

Assets

Total assets increased slightly to \$62.0 million. Current assets increased by approximately \$2.1 million, driven primarily by growth in cash and cash equivalents and accounts receivable. The increase in receivables is largely attributable to timing of student billing and collections.

Noncurrent assets decreased by approximately \$1.8 million, primarily due to ongoing depreciation of capital assets. The subscription asset balance declined as expected with amortization under GASB 96. The net OPEB asset increased modestly, reflecting changes in actuarial assumptions and plan performance.

Deferred Outflows

Deferred outflows of resources decreased by approximately \$0.8 million, primarily related to pension and OPEB activity. These balances are driven by actuarial adjustments and timing differences and can fluctuate significantly year to year.

Liabilities

Total liabilities decreased by approximately \$2.5 million, which is a positive trend. This decrease is largely driven by reductions in noncurrent liabilities, particularly the net pension liability, which declined by approximately \$1.6 million. Long-term debt also decreased as scheduled principal payments continue.

Current liabilities increased modestly, primarily due to higher accounts payable (OSU Cost-Share) and an increase in compensated absences, which is due to GASB 101 and changes in how compensated absences are calculated.

Deferred Inflows

Deferred inflows of resources remained relatively consistent year over year. Pension-related deferred inflows increased slightly, while OPEB-related deferred inflows decreased, reflecting normal actuarial and timing adjustments.

Key Considerations

A significant portion of the College's liabilities and related deferred inflows and outflows are tied to pension and OPEB accounting under GASB 68 and 75. These are non-cash, actuarially driven entries that can create volatility in the financial statements but do not directly impact the College's day-to-day cash position.

Additionally, capital asset balances continue to decline due to depreciation, which exceeds current levels of capital investment. This reflects the ongoing structural challenge of limited capital funding relative to the cost of maintaining and replacing facilities.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

Overall Results

The College reports a positive change in net position of \$2.37 million through the third quarter, a significant improvement over the prior year increase of approximately \$191,000. This improvement is primarily driven by strong nonoperating revenues, including state appropriations, Pell revenue, and capital appropriations. As is typical for public institutions, the College continues to report an operating loss, which is expected and offset by these nonoperating revenue sources.

Operating Revenues

Total operating revenues increased by approximately \$476,000 compared to the prior year. Net tuition and fees increased by approximately \$628,000, reflecting growth in gross tuition revenue. This increase is partially offset by a higher scholarship allowance, which increased by approximately \$365,000, consistent with enrollment mix and financial aid packaging.

Federal grants and contracts increased modestly, while state and local grants declined slightly. Sales and services and other operating revenues decreased compared to the prior year, primarily due to variability in auxiliary and miscellaneous activity.

Operating Expenses

Total operating expenses remained relatively flat year over year, decreasing slightly by approximately \$78,000. Personnel-related categories, including instruction, student services, and institutional support, saw moderate increases, reflecting ongoing investments in staffing and compensation.

These increases were offset by reductions in public service, academic support, scholarships, and depreciation and amortization. The decrease in depreciation expense aligns with the continued aging of the College's capital asset base.

The net operating loss improved by approximately \$553,000 compared to the prior year, indicating stable expense management alongside modest revenue growth.

Nonoperating Revenues and Expenses

Net nonoperating revenues increased by approximately \$1.1 million. State appropriations increased by approximately \$719,000, reflecting improved State Share of Instruction funding. Federal Pell revenue also increased modestly, consistent with student financial aid activity.

The College also recognized \$205,000 in gift revenue during the current year. Investment income declined slightly due to market conditions, while interest expense on debt decreased marginally as outstanding debt continues to be reduced.

Capital Appropriations

Capital appropriations increased significantly to approximately \$991,000 compared to \$442,000 in the prior year, reflecting increased state support for capital-related projects.

Change in Net Position

The College's net position increased by \$2.37 million through the third quarter, compared to an increase of \$191,000 in the prior year. This improvement reflects stable operations combined with stronger nonoperating and capital funding support.

Key Considerations

The College's financial results continue to highlight the structural nature of public higher education funding, where operating losses are expected and supported by state appropriations and federal financial aid.

Additionally, non-cash expenses such as depreciation continue to impact the operating results, while capital appropriations remain below the level needed to fully offset long-term asset replacement costs.

Mr. Adkins presented the unaudited Third Quarter Financial Statements through March 31, 2026, noting that the College is projecting a positive change in net position, though the fourth quarter is expected to reduce that margin. Investment strategies were also briefly discussed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Informational)

Dr. Spiers provided an overview of national and state trends, noting that data from the American Association of Community Colleges shows continued growth in community college impact, reflecting increased demand for workforce-aligned, high-value education. She emphasized that this trend is evident in Ohio as institutions expand programs to meet workforce needs and rapid technological change, particularly in artificial intelligence.

At the institutional level, Dr. Spiers highlighted Rhodes State's enrollment growth, improved retention, and expansion of high-demand programs, including the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning degree. She noted that Guided Pathways, flexible delivery models, and strong employer partnerships are supporting student success and regional workforce development, with 92% of graduates remaining in the region. The College also continues to demonstrate strong operational performance with no compliance concerns, alongside notable student outcomes, including a 98.2% first-time NCLEX pass rate and continued progress through Title III initiatives.

Mr. Reeks reported on the Foundation Scholarship Program, noting continued growth in applications and awards, with more than \$324,000 projected for the upcoming academic year. He also highlighted ongoing success in donor engagement and scholarship fund development.

FACULTY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The Faculty Association, led by Dr. Jacquie Martz, President, and Ms. Traci Bitler, President-Elect, met on March 25, 2026. Faculty shared questions and concerns, which were communicated to administration, reflecting ongoing open communication between the Faculty Association and administration.

Dr. Martz and Ms. Bitler are collaborating with Dr. Smith to fill Shared Governance positions and finalize promotion evaluation recommendations.

The 2025–2026 Faculty Association surveys for Professional Environment and Presidential Assessment have been distributed; results are pending.

The Association will continue monthly open forums and regular meetings with Dr. Spiers and Dr. Mason to address concerns and support continuous improvement.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE RHODES STATE COLLEGE SINGLE AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Resolution No. 2026 – 37

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, with the concurrence of the Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services, that approval be given to accept the Rhodes State College Single Audit report for the year ending June 30, 2025.

Overview:

Rhodes State College management is responsible for preparing annual financial statements, which FORVIS, a top-10 U.S. public accounting firm, audited.

The statements include the financial results of the College for the year ending June 30, 2025. All relevant comments and findings are included in the report.

Attachment:

- James A. Rhodes State College Single Audit, June 30, 2025

The external auditor, Mr. Jackson Magdy, presented an overview of the FY2025 audit, including the process, timeline, and results. The College received an unmodified (clean) opinion, with no compliance findings, including in the review of federal Title IV financial aid programs.

Two audit adjustments related to depreciation and long-term debt were identified and corrected, resulting in a material weakness in internal controls due to the timing of final reconciliations; no significant deficiencies were reported.

Mr. Adkins reported a strong financial position, including increased cash reserves and improved accounts receivable management.

Chair Kirk requested the Board’s consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-37 (Consideration of Approval of the Rhodes State College Single Audit Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2025). Dr. Ellis moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-37; seconded by Mr. Robert Sielschott. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Sielschott and Ms. Jacobs voting yes.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR THE COLLEGE’S FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET (SPENDING AUTHORITY) AND APPROVAL FOR KNOWN PURCHASES OVER \$50,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

Resolution No. 2026-38

Whereas, the Board must approve the College’s fiscal year 2027 budget, beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027; and the College has carefully prepared and reviewed the budget and spending plans for fiscal year 2027.

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, with the concurrence of the Vice President of Finance & Administrative Services, that the fiscal year 2027 budget be approved, including all budgetary assumptions, a 2% pay increase for all employees, and all purchases over \$50,000 included in the budget.

Attachment:

- FY27 Budget Assumptions and Notes

Mr. Adkins presented the proposed FY2027 budget, outlining key assumptions and revenue drivers, along with a list of recurring purchases over \$50,000 for pre-approval to streamline future Board meetings. After discussion, the Board approved the FY2027 budget and tabled pre-approval of purchases over \$50,000, opting to review each item on an individual basis.

Chair Kirk requested the Board’s consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-38 (**part a**) (Consideration of Approval for the College’s Fiscal Year 2027 Budget (Spending Authority). Dr. Ellis moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-38 (**part a**); seconded by Mr. Bassitt. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Sielschott, and Ms. Jacobs all voting yes.

Chair Kirk requested the Board’s consideration to table Resolution No. 2026-38 (**part b**) (Consideration of Approval for Known Purchases Over \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2027). Dr. Ellis moved to table Resolution No. 2026-38 (**part b**), seconded by Ms. Cunningham. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Sielschott, and Ms. Jacobs all voting yes.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES OVER \$50,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF SECURITY CAMERAS
Resolution No. 2026 – 39

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, with the concurrence of the Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services, that approval be given for the College to spend up to \$176,000 to purchase security cameras on the College Safety Grant.

Vendor:	Homeland Technology Group
Amount:	\$176,000
Source of Funds:	Campus Safety Grant

Overview:

This request seeks Board of Trustees approval to utilize up to \$176,000 in Campus Safety Grant funds to enhance and unify the campus video surveillance system. The project will expand camera coverage in key strategic safety areas across campus, including high-traffic zones, building entrances and exits, and other locations identified as priorities for incident prevention and response.

In addition to expanding coverage, this initiative will transition Rhodes State College and Ohio State University–Lima to a shared camera platform. As co-located institutions, operating on a single, integrated system will improve coordination between campus partners, enhance real-time monitoring capabilities, and support more effective incident investigation and response.

The proposed investment aligns with the intent of the Campus Safety Grant by strengthening campus security infrastructure, improving situational awareness, and promoting a safer environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Attachments:

- None

Mr. Adkins provided an overview of a \$176,000 campus-wide security camera project funded through a Campus Safety Grant in partnership with OSU-Lima. The project will consolidate existing systems into a single OSU-managed platform, add cameras in strategic locations, and replace outdated equipment, with monitoring conducted both locally and in Columbus.

Chair Kirk requested the Board’s consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-39 (Consideration of Approval for Purchases Over \$50,000 for the Purchase of Security Cameras). Mr. Bassitt moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-39; seconded by Dr. Ellis. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Sielschott, and Ms. Jacobs all voting yes.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ADOPT NEW POLICY 2.25 PERSONAL LEAVE
Resolution No. 2026 - 40

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, and with the concurrence of the Vice President for Human Resources, that approval be given to adopt new Rhodes State College Policy 2.25 Personal Leave to be effective immediately upon approval.

Description:

Policy 2.25 Personal Leave has been developed in consultation with the Attorney General’s office to establish personal leave for eligible faculty. This policy provides up to 16 hours of personal leave per academic year. The policy outlines eligibility criteria, annual award and expiration dates, prorated leave provisions, and requirements for requesting and approving leave.

Attachment:

- Recommended Personal Leave Policy 2.25

Ms. Goings provided an overview of the new Personal Leave Policy 2.25.

Chair Kirk requested the Board’s consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-40 (Consideration of Approval to Adopt New Policy 2.25 Personal Leave). Dr. Ellis moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-40; seconded by Ms. Cunningham. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Sielschott, and Ms. Jacobs all voting yes.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE REVISION OF POLICY 2.26 FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Resolution No. 2026 - 41

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, and with the concurrence of the Vice President for Human Resources, that approval be given for the revision of Rhodes State College Policy 2.26 Family and Medical Leave Act to be effective immediately upon approval.

Description:

The Family and Medical Leave Act Policy 6.7.1, last approved by the Board of Trustees on April 21, 2009, has been reviewed and revised in consultation with the Attorney General’s office. Because FMLA is federal law, the policy content required minimal updates to include the following:

- Renumbering to Policy 2.26 to align with the updated chapter structure;
- Adding definitions;
- Restructuring statements and titles to ensure clarity; and
- Clarifying the distinction between paid and unpaid leave

Attachments:

- Recommended Revised Family and Medical Leave Act Policy 2.26
- Current BOT approved Family and Medical Leave Act Policy 6.7.1

Ms. Goings provided an overview of the proposed changes made to the revised Family and Medical Leave Act Policy 2.26.

Chair Kirk requested the Board’s consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-41 (Consideration of Approval to Adopt the Revision of Policy 2.26 Family and Medical Leave Act). Dr. Ellis moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-41; seconded by Ms. Cunningham. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Sielschott, and Ms. Jacobs all voting yes.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE REVISION OF POLICY 4.02 PRIVACY AND RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS

Resolution No. 2026 – 42

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, and with the concurrence of the Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs, that approval be given for the revision of Rhodes State College Policy

4.02, Privacy and Release of Student Records, to be effective immediately upon approval.

Description:

Privacy and Release of Student Records Policy 4.02, last approved by the Board of Trustees on February 17, 2015, has been reviewed and revised in consultation with the Attorney General's office. The revised policy reflects the following changes:

- Renumbering the Policy 4.02 to align with the updated chapter structure (previously Policy 12.1);
- Converting the policy into the new policy template;
- Separation of the procedure from the policy;
- Administration of the procedure will now be managed through the College Catalog; and
- Removal of two pieces of directory information (student photographs and vague directory information).

Attachment:

- Recommended Privacy and Release of Student Records Policy 4.02

Dr. Greaney provided an overview to the revisions made to the Policy 4.02 Privacy and Release of Student Records.

Chair Kirk requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-42 (Consideration of Approval to Adopt the Revision of Policy 4.02 Privacy and Release of Student Records). Ms. Cunningham moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-42; seconded by Mr. Sielschott. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Sielschott, and Ms. Jacobs all voting yes.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO APPROVE THE ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING DEGREE

Resolution No. 2026 - 43

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, and with the concurrence of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, that approval be given for the Rhodes State College Associate of Applied Science Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Degree.

Description:

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AAS-AIML) represents a strategic transition from the current Associate of Science in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AS-AIML), which was originally developed as a transfer- focused concentration. In alignment with workforce demands and the College's intent to pursue a Bachelor of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (BAS-AIML), the AAS-AIML will serve as a standalone, applied degree emphasizing hands-on, career-ready skills in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data analytics. This change enhances student employability while establishing a seamless, stackable pathway into the applied baccalaureate program, thereby supporting student success, regional workforce needs, and the College's strategic priorities.

Attachments:

- Program Learning Outcomes
- Program Curriculum Plan and Course (AIM) Descriptions

Dr. Mason provided an overview of the new Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning degree. Dr. Ellis asked whether the new program required specific prerequisites for enrollment, and Dr. Mason stated that there were none beyond general admission requirements to the College.

Chair Kirk requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-43 (Consideration of Approval to Approve the Associate of Applied Science Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Degree). Ms. Cunningham moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-43; seconded by Ms. Jacobs. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Sielschott, and Ms. Jacobs all voting yes.

GRADUATION UPDATE (informational)

Board of Trustees Commencement Update

Commencement will be held in person at the Civic Center on **Saturday, May 2, 2026**. Please see details about the day.

Parking

Board of Trustees will receive a parking pass for the parking garage. The President's Office will provide the parking passes. When parking in the garage, please leave the parking pass on your dashboard.

Saturday, May 2, 2026 - Commencement Day

Graduation Ceremony - 10:00 am

8:45 a.m. - Arrive at Civic Center (report to **Rooms West 1 and 2**). Your regalia will be in the room (unless you are bringing your own regalia). Individuals will be available to assist you.

9:30 a.m. - VIP pictures with Mr. Michael Ayers outside of Rooms West 1 & 2

9:45 a.m. - Dr. Greaney will escort Dr. Spiers, the Board, and VIPs to Ms. Krista Richardson who will walk the President and Trustees to the side stage.

10:00 a.m. - Ceremony begins

Dr. Spiers will lead Board of Trustees from side of stage. Faculty and student procession will begin once Trustees and President are on stage.

Conclusion of Ceremony - Trustees and President will exit to the side of stage. Stage participants will lead recession to back of auditorium and form line for gauntlet outside, weather permitting.

Following The Ceremony

An Alumni reception will be held in the North and Central Halls for graduates and guests. You are welcome to attend and congratulate Rhodes State's newest alumni.

Disrobe in rooms West 1 and 2. Leave regalia (unless you brought your own)

Save the Date for Commencement 2027
Saturday, May 6, 2027

Dr. Greaney reviewed the graduation update information.

Chair Kirk called for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Dr. Ellis moved, and Ms. Jacobs seconded. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Sielschott, and Ms. Jacobs all voting yes.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


a. Personnel Matter

The Board discussed a personnel matter. Following the discussion, Chair Kirk called for a motion to adjourn from Executive Session and return to Public Session. Mr. Sielschott moved, and Mr. Bassitt seconded. A roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Bassitt, Dr. Ellis, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Sielschott, and Ms. Jacobs all voting yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kirk called for a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Dr. Ellis moved to adjourn the Board meeting, and was seconded by Ms. Jacobs. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Approved Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2026



Mr. Everett "Butch" S. Kirk III
Chair

Pamela Mooneyhan, Recording Secretary