



RESCHEDULED BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JAMES A. RHODES STATE COLLEGE
534th Meeting Minutes *Revised*
September 24, 2025

(September 16, 2025 meeting not held due to lack of quorum)

The Rhodes State College (RSC) Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, September 24, 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, Ms. Jessica Cunningham, Mr. Robert Sielschott and Dr. Wilfred Ellis. Ms. Jane Krites and Mr. Sam Bassitt were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025

Chair Kirk called for the approval of the minutes from the August 19, 2025, Board meeting. Ms. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Ellis seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL PERFORMANCE (AS OF AUGUST 2025) (Informational)

Notes on August FY26 Budget-to-Actual

Overall Position

- As of August 2025, the College shows a net cash gain of \$1.65M, compared to \$38k at the same time last year.
- This represents an improvement of +1.61M year over year, driven by stronger revenues and lower early-year spending.

Revenues

- Total revenues are \$5.06M, up from \$4.04M last August (+\$1.01M).
- Tuition & Fees are the primary driver, at \$2.99M vs \$2.08M last year (+\$908k). This reflects stronger enrollment and earlier collection of tuition revenue.
- State Appropriations: \$1.99M vs \$1.87M last year (+\$127k), pacing in line with budget.
- Other Operating Income and Sales & Services also tracking ahead of last year, though smaller dollar amounts.

Expenditures

- Total cash outlays are \$3.41M, down from \$4.00M last August (-\$596k). *It should be noted the cost share is no longer paid monthly as in prior years and is now paid quarterly, which is excluding a significant cost driver from the prior year.*
- Wages and Benefits are pacing slightly under budget at ~16% and lower than last year's spend.
- Information & Communication: \$510k vs \$714k last year (-\$204k).
- Miscellaneous: \$98k vs \$428k last year (-\$330k).
- Travel: \$14k vs \$21k last year (-\$7.5k).
- Spending patterns suggest timing differences in payouts.

Key Takeaways

1. Stronger tuition revenue is the leading factor in the favorable variance.
2. State appropriations will continue to outpace budgeted amounts due reallocation of SSI from Eastern Gateway, the increase in the SSI allotment from the budget, and the addition of employment outcomes to the formula.

3. Monitoring items: Tuition revenue will be monitored closely to ensure collections are occurring timely and third-party billing (CCP) are being collected.

Mr. Adkins reported that as of August 31, 2025, RSC's FY2026 budget is on target, with a 7% increase in cash and revenues meeting expectations.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Resolution No. 2026 – 08

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

- Faculty/Staff Appointments – September 16, 2025

Chair Kirk requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-08 (Consideration of Approval of Personnel Actions). Dr. Ellis moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-08, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Cunningham. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES OVER \$50,000 FOR RENOVATIONS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING

Resolution No. 2026 – 09

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, with the concurrence of the Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services and the Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs, that approval be given for the College to spend up to \$168,180 to make renovations to move the Testing Center from the Technical Education Laboratory Building to the One-Stop Student Support Center in the Public Service Building.

Vendor Amount:	Tuttle Construction, Inc.
Amount:	\$168,180
Source of Funds:	Department of Education Title III Strengthening Institutions Program Grant

Overview:

Strategy Two of the College's Title III grant is dedicated to enhancing the student experience through the establishment of a One-Stop Student Support Center in the Public Service Building. As part of this initiative, the College's Testing Center will be relocated to the same facility. This renovation project represents the final phase of the initiative, involving the renovation of space within the Public Service 148 Suite to accommodate the Testing Center relocation and further advance the College's commitment to improving the student experience at Rhodes State.

The quote from Tuttle Construction is for \$152,890 and we have included a 10% construction contingency of \$15,289.

Attachment:

- Proposal and Scope of Work from Tuttle Construction

Mr. Adkins provided an overview of the renovation of the Public Service Building and the Testing Center relocation.

Chair Kirk requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-09 (Consideration of Approval for Purchases Over \$50,000 for Renovations of the Public Service Building). Ms. Cunningham moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-09, and the motion was seconded by Dr. Ellis. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES OVER \$50,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF FURNITURE FOR THE STUDENT ONE-STOP IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING
Resolution No. 2026 - 10**

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the President, with the concurrence of the Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services and the Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs, that approval be given for the College to spend up to \$100,000 to purchase furniture from Innovative Office Solutions.

Vendor Amount:	Innovative Office Supplies
Amount:	\$100,000
Source of Funds:	Department of Education Title III Strengthening Institutions Program Grant

Overview:

Strategy Two of the College's Title III grant is focused on enhancing the student experience through the creation of a One-Stop Student Support Center in the Public Service Building, which includes the relocation of the College's Testing Center to that facility. The purchase of furniture will support the renovation of space within the Public Service 148 Suite, a key component of the project's final phase. This renovation and furniture purchase will facilitate the relocation of the Testing Center and further strengthen the College's efforts to enhance the student experience at Rhodes State.

The quote from Innovative Office Solutions is for \$92,167.50 and we included a contingency for \$7,832.50 due to price volatility from quote to purchase and any installation issues.

Attachment:

- Proposal from Innovative Office Solutions, Inc.

Mr. Adkins reported that new furniture will support the Public Service Building's Student One-Stop Support Center renovation.

Chair Kirk requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-10 (Consideration of Approval for Purchases over \$50,000 for the Purchase of Furniture for the Student One-Stop in the Public Service Building). Ms. Cunningham moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-10, and the motion was seconded by Dr. Ellis. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ADOPT NEW POLICY 7.16 ADVANCE OHIO HIGHER EDUCATION ACT
Resolution No. 2026-11**

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 7.16, Advance Ohio Higher Education Act, to be effective immediately upon approval.

Description:

In accordance with Ohio Senate Bill 1 section 3345.027 and 3345.0218, the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act Policy 7.16 outlines the College's compliance with the enacted state requirements, including the prohibition of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training, offices, and programming. The Policy affirms the College's commitment to equal treatment, intellectual diversity, and transparency in academic and administrative practices.

Attachments:

- Recommended Advance Ohio Higher Education Act Policy 7.16
- Advance Ohio Higher Education Act Procedure 7.16(a) – Informational Only

Ms. Goings provided an overview of the new policy 7.16 Advance Ohio Higher Education Act.

Dr. Ellis publicly stated that, although he disagrees with the DEI provisions of the law, he will comply with the law.

Chair Kirk requested the Board's consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2026-11 (Consideration of Approval to Adopt New Policy 7.16 Advance Ohio Higher Education Act). Ms. Cunningham moved to approve Resolution No. 2026-11, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Sielschott. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Butch Kirk" is written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Everett "Butch" S. Kirk III
Chair

Pamela Mooneyhan, Recording Secretary