

RURAL CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
807 N. MATTIS AVE, CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 22, 2026

Ms. Norton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. The meeting was held in the Conference Room at the Rural Champaign County Special Education Cooperative, 807 N. Mattis Avenue, Champaign, Illinois.

Members Present

Ms. Thompson
Ms. Norton
Mr. Wilson
Mr. Amerio
Mr. Landeck
Mr. Brooks
Mr. Brink

Not Present

Mr. Graham
Ms. McArthur
Mr. Ellison

Jared Ellison entered the meeting at 1:05.

Present at the meeting were Mrs. Jennifer Armstrong, Executive Director; Mrs. Stephanie Ward, Executive Assistant; Mrs. Allison Whitney, School Psychologist

Lance Landeck was appointed Vice-Chair pro tem for the January meeting.

Additions/Deletions

Executive Session was added to the agenda.

Consent Agenda Items

a. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 11, 2025 Executive Board meeting were in the Board packet.

b. Accounts Payable

The accounts payable report for December 12, 2025 - January 22, 2026 were included in the Board packet.

c. Approval of Financial Report (Reconciliation)

The balance sheet as of December 31, 2025, listing a fund balance of \$1,102,138.15 was included in the Board packet.

Mr. Brooks moved to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Ms. Thompson seconded. The following roll call was recorded: "Aye" Ms. Thompson, Ms. Norton, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amerio, Mr. Landeck, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Brink "Nay" None. The motion carried. (7-0)

Executive Session

At 1:02 PM, Mr. Amerio made the motion to go into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body. Mr. Brooks seconded. The following roll call was recorded: "Aye" Ms. Thompson, Ms. Norton, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amerio, Mr. Landeck, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Brink "Nay" None. The motion carried. (7-0)

At 1:16 PM, Mr. Amerio made the motion to move out of executive session. Ms. Thompson seconded. The following roll call was recorded: "Aye" Mr. Ellison, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Norton, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amerio, Mr. Landeck, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Brink "Nay" None. The motion carried. (8-0)

Action Items

- a. Review of Closed Session Minutes (Semi-Annual Review) and Approval to Keep
Closed Session Minutes Confidential

Ms. Thompson moved to approve the closed session minutes and to keep the closed session minutes confidential. Mr. Landeck seconded. The following roll call was recorded: "Aye" Mr. Ellison, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Norton, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amerio, Mr. Landeck, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Brink "Nay" None. The motion carried. (8-0)

- b. Approval to Destroy Verbatim Records of Closed Session Meeting Prior to June 2024

Mr. Landeck moved to destroy verbatim records of closed session meetings prior to June 2024. Mr. Brooks seconded. The following roll call was recorded: "Aye" Mr. Ellison, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Norton, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amerio, Mr. Landeck, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Brink "Nay" None. The motion carried. (8-0)

c. Second Reading and Action to Approve Board Policy

The Director presented Board Policy 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves

The proposed language change reads as follows:

Full-time twelve-month employees receive 10 paid vacation days per year. After five years of continuous employment, full-time, twelve-month employees receive 15 paid vacation days. After fifteen years of continuous employment, full-time, twelve-month employees receive 20 paid vacation days.

Ms. Thompson moved to approve the RCCSEC Board policy 5:330 as presented. Mr. Brooks seconded. The following roll call was recorded: "Aye" Mr. Ellison, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Norton, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amerio, Mr. Landeck, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Brink "Nay" None. The motion carried. (8-0)

d. First Reading of RCCSEC Board Policies

The following Board Policies were presented for the first reading:

2:150 Committees

2:270 Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited

4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

4:30 Revenue and Investments

4:40 Incurring Debt

4:80 Accounting and Audits

4:190 Targeted School Violence Prevention Program

5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment

5:90 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

5:100 Staff Development Program

5:190 Teacher Qualifications

5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal

5:220 Substitute Teachers

5:280 Duties and Qualifications

5:300 Schedules and Employment Year

6:20 Calendar and Day

6:62 Physical Education

6:280 Grading and Promotion

6:260 Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities

7:70 Attendance and Truancy

7:150 Agency and Law Enforcement Requests

7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

7:190 Student Behavior

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7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools

7:340 Student Records

8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

No motion necessary for the first reading.

e. Motion to Accept Employee Resignation

The Executive Director recommended the Board not accept the resignation of Robin Allen, 1.0 FTE School Social Worker.

Mr. Landeck moved to accept the resignation of Robin Allen. Ms. Thompson seconded. The following roll call was recorded: "Aye" None. "Nay" Mr. Ellison, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Norton, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amerio, Mr. Landeck, Mr. Brooks. The motion failed. (7-0) Mr. Brink abstained.

Discussion Items

a. Preschool For All Grant

It was discussed and agreed on that we will need to wait to see what takes place with the grant before making a decision to open a Spectrum classroom at Heritage.

b. Executive Director Evaluation

The Executive Director reported that Ms. Norton will send out the rubric to the Superintendents for FY26 via email.

Administrative Report

a. Administrative Academy

The Executive Director sent out a google sign up sheet via email. The Academy will take place on February 11, 2026 at the IHotel.

b. Professional Development

The Executive Director asked for input on future professional development held by RCCSEC. Ms. Norton suggested classroom management, Mr. Landeck suggested trauma informed, and Mr. Amerio suggested transition planning/services.

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Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Good of the Cause Participation

There was no good of the cause participation.

Adjournment

At 1:24 PM, Mr. Landeck moved to adjourn. Mr. Brooks seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Barb Thompson
Secretary of the Board of Directors

Ms. Kimberly Norton
Chair of the Board of Directors

Mrs. Jennifer Armstrong
Recording Secretary

Mr. Bonnie McArthur
Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors