

SLIDE 1:

When ROLES was formed, it was intentionally designed as a “learning laboratory.” The school was meant to reflect on its practices, and change and evolve throughout the years.

Change can be viewed as an opportunity. It is an opportunity for innovation, reinvention, and improvement. This transition gives our school the opportunity to pause and evaluate if we are fulfilling our promise. As a school community, we can reflect on our strengths, growths, mission and vision. We can study our practices, and understand what is working well, what our limitations and constraints are and how we can manage or overcome them. We can engage our stakeholders and together we can explore and discover new opportunities to become more authentic to our design.

As we look to the future and explore new possibilities I know that many of you have hoped and envisioned that our school would grow, and that we would be able to serve additional grade levels. One of the silver linings that can emerge from this transition is that we can position ourselves to allow for expansion and growth.

SLIDE 2:

We have many reasons to celebrate our success.

Our school serves a need for students in the larger community. This is evidenced by the fact that we have students from 15 different school districts that attend our school.

We are academically sound and thriving for such a young charter school! This year on our first ever school report card we received a 4 star “Exceeds Expectations” rating!

We are financially sound. Each year our school is audited and our last audit, finalized just this month shows that we have reserves of 17% of our total budget, which is the goal for financially healthy schools.

We have already created some amazing partnerships, like our new collaboration with Lynden Sculpture Gardens. Beginning tomorrow, the art

from our 3rd and 5th grade students will be on display in the Octagon! We invite you to come see and appreciate their work and creativity.

This year we are also building a new partnership with another not-for-profit, Gearbox Labs. This will give our 3rd to 5th grade students the opportunity to explore computer aided design and coding as they build turbidity sensors, soil moisture sensors and more. These partnerships, among others, strengthen our programming and allow us to provide a wealth of experiences for our students.

SLIDE 3:

Our original partnership with the Riveredge Nature Center on its amazing and diverse property has given us an array of resources and hands-on learning opportunities. One example of this is the Children's Garden. We know what a magical place it is for inquiry, investigation and learning. The opportunity for students to study the cycle from garden preparation, planting, harvesting to decomposition provides a wealth of learning opportunities. The challenge, however, was that the Children's Garden is a resource that is owned by the Riveredge Nature Center and shared between numerous programs; Homeschool Ed-ventures, Field trips, camps and ROLES. This limited the opportunities for our students and it is an example of one of the ways our school will benefit from this transition.

This past summer, I had asked for our school to be able to invest in a greenhouse using grant funding to give our students more hands-on opportunities. Ultimately, the Nature Center could not allocate space for a greenhouse for our program. These constraints and limitations may be removed in our transition to a new property.

The Riveredge Nature Center and ROLES are like two tomato plants that were planted in the same pot. In the same space or container, they compete for resources and the growth of both is limited. Transitioning to our own property will allow both organizations to flourish. I am excited for the additional opportunities this may bring for our students for hands-on learning and discovery.

This week as a staff and community we will begin to imagine, dream and explore new possibilities. Later in the week, Mrs. Servais and I have an appointment to discuss a relationship with a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase the access to sustainable and fresh food for all. This potential future partnership, without our current space constraints, may give our students the opportunity to grow greens and vegetables using sustainable, vertical hydroponic gardens. The students would then be able to host Farmer's Markets, essentially running their own business, learning about innumerable concepts in addition to supply and demand. We could then donate the surplus weekly to the Ozaukee Family Sharing program to help increase access to fresh, nutritious food for all families in our community. The possibilities as we imagine our future are unlimited!

SLIDE 4:

While the decision making power lies with the Governance Council, the teaching staff and I are eager to contribute ideas to the process, not unlike what you will have the chance to do this evening. In the meantime, our staff is committed to delivering the same exceptional programming next school year at the Riveredge Nature Center and making a smooth transition to a new location in the 24-25 school year.

There will not be a lapse in education.

We will continue to partner with RNC for programming.

Open Enrollment is underway for the 23-24 school year with Information Sessions starting this month! We invite you to help us support the school by hanging up flyers and sharing information about Open Enrollment on social media.

If you have concerns about school performance that you would like to discuss as you consider your intent to enroll your student, I would love the opportunity to further discuss the school and its vision with you. I am excited about what will develop in the coming years for ROLES and hope that you'll be by my side as we evolve and continue to develop new partnerships and opportunities for our students!

