



THE
**Riveredge
School**

Parent Forum

Hosted by the Governance Council



Meet the Governance Council



Amy Levash
President



Korinne Haeffel-Petersen
Vice-President



Brian Fortney
Secretary



Tera Rogers
Treasurer



Pete Christy
Member



Adam Eader
Member



Todd Bugnacki
Member



Diane Abbey
Member

Parent Forum Agenda

- 6:30PM Welcome
- 6:35PM Program
- 7:10PM Brainstorming Groups
- 7:50PM Wrap up
- 8:00PM Adjourn

Only the welcome and program portions of the event will be broadcast online



Beliefs & Assumptions for Today

- **EVERYONE IS DOING THEIR ABSOLUTE BEST** with what they have been given.
- **NO JUDGEMENT** today or in the future about what you have done and/or what you are planning on doing to best serve your community.
- **IMPROVEMENT WILL BE NEEDED** as we continue to roll out strategies and systems.
- **TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER** as we share ideas and support.
- **CONTROL WHAT WE CAN CONTROL** knowing our daily actions will influence positive outcomes.



Welcome



**Amy Levash, President
ROLES Governance Council**



Sara Hackett, Director

WI Resource Center for Charter Schools

www.wrccs.org

Plan for our time:

1. Overview of charter schools and shared responsibilities
2. Overview of current needs of the school
3. Feedback gathering from stakeholders

Planned Outcomes

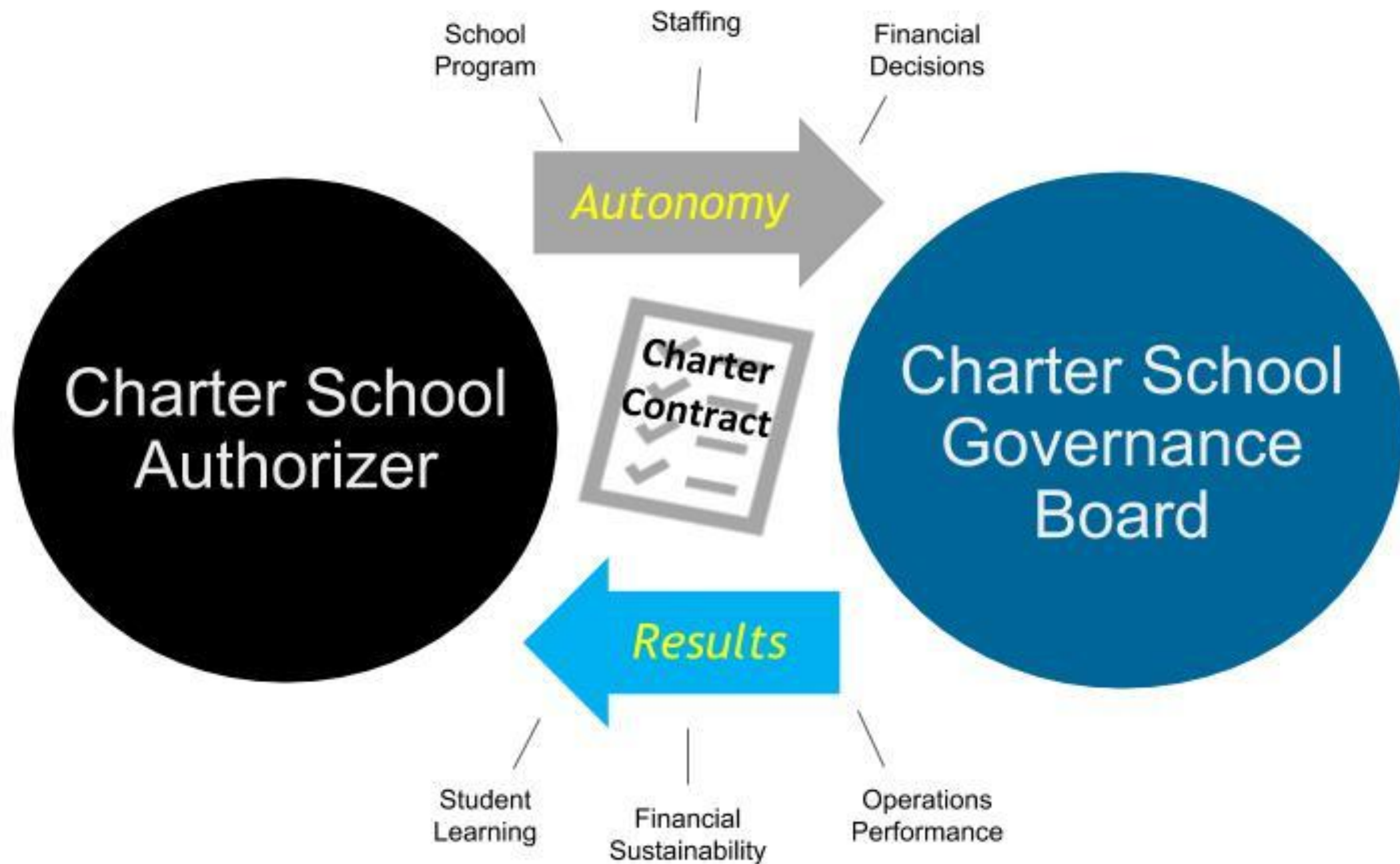
1. Increased community understanding of the current situation of ROLES
2. Documentation of brainstormed ideas from community

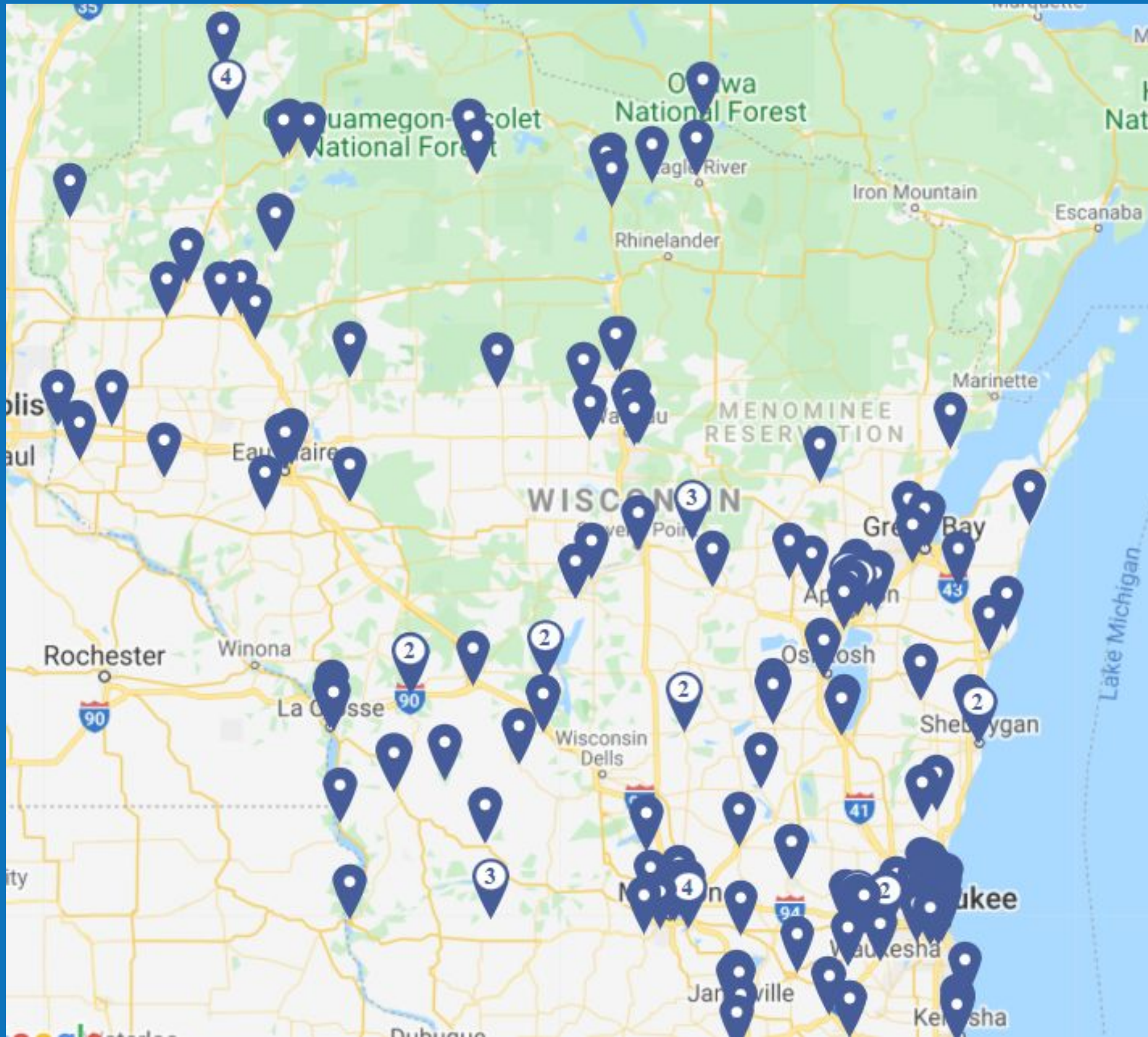


Charter Schools

PUBLIC nonsectarian schools
created through a business-like contract or “charter”
between the charter governance board
and an authorizing board

Great schools are held to great expectations.





50,861
Charter School Students

236
Charter Schools

100
Authorizers
95 authorizers are school districts



Authorizers

Role of the Authorizer

The role of the charter school authorizer is critical to ensuring success and accountability for charter schools. Authorizers may be public school districts or one of the statutorily identified independent authorizers by Wisconsin such as some institutes of higher education, technical colleges, and other entities approved by the legislature.

Authorizer Best Practices

1. Uphold Best Practices For Schools (*monitor the schools you authorize*)
2. Encourage & Endorse School Autonomy
(*allow schools to thrive as unique entities*)
3. Assure Student & Public Interests (*identify that their vision meets a need*)

[See this WRCCS Authorizer Best Practices for more detailed information](#)



Wisconsin Governance Boards

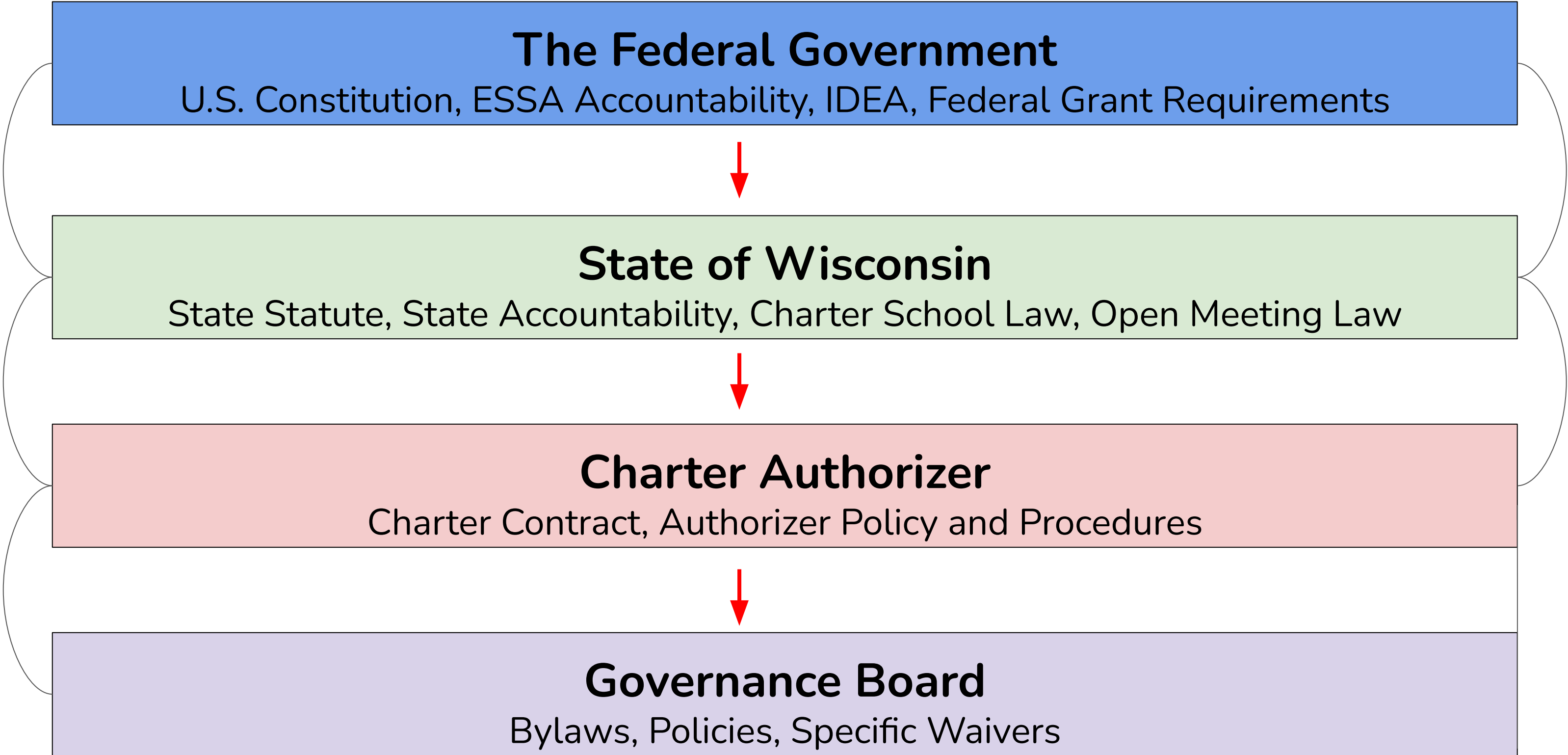
- Established entities filed with the state of Wisconsin DFI
- Primarily non-stock, non-profit, tax-exempt entities
- Held accountable to their public authorizer through contract performance measures
- Held to bylaws including following all open public meeting law



Why does the charter governance board exist?

- Represent owners of school (tax payers)
- Make sure the school accomplishes what owners want
- Ensure that the things that should not occur don't occur.

Flow of Autonomy and Accountability



The Charter School Partnership for Success



**Every charter school is unique, this is just one example to be used for reference.*

Authorizer

- Annual performance monitoring
- Annual DPI authorizer report
- Charter contract
- Renewal decision

Governance Board

- 501(c)(3) Management
- Advertising
- Fundraising
- Policy governance
- Leadership evaluation
- Contract with authorizer
- Grants
- Public relations
- Performance monitoring
- Budget oversight

School Leadership

- Executes the program
- School operations
- Reports learning and performance
- School improvement

District Administration

- LEA services
- Speech services
- Assessment Coordination
- Grant administration

Contracted Services (CESA 6)

- HR support and payroll
- Accounting
- Leadership support and evaluation

1. **Ensure students are learning**
 - Review reports on student learning
 - Ensure charter school meets and exceeds program mission and vision
 - Oversee school's charter contract learning goals

2. **Ensure Fiscal Responsibility**
 - Create a yearly budget and consistently compare to actuals?
 - Review of monthly cash flow (balance at start/end, income and expenses)
 - Allocate resources and ensure resources are used appropriately
 - Ensure financial viability (consistent review of financial health, fiscal management practices, and allocation of resources)

3. **Select, support, and monitor performance of school leadership**
 - Develop a healthy and supportive partnership with the school leader
 - Create and complete a leadership evaluation plan
 - Hold your school leadership accountable
 - Communicate with your school leadership

4. **Ensure school is following all applicable laws**
 - Oversee school's charter contract goals
 - Open Meeting Law
 - Legal entity
 - Ethics & Conflict of Interest policies
 - Personnel policies / Grievance procedures

8 Key Board Responsibilities

5. **Oversee Special Education due process and services**

- Maintenance of effort
- Child find and due process
- Ensure school follows IDEA, State and Federal education laws and regulation

6. **Oversee that school is meeting all requirements in the charter contract**

- Performance measures
- Budget and financials
- Enrollment
- Waivers

7. **Recruit, orient, and train governance board members**

- Board recruitment plan
- Board orientation
- On-going training

8. **Maintain understanding and implementation of the school's mission**

- Educate all parties on the initial mission and need
- Check in annually on the current mission and need

8 Key Board Responsibilities

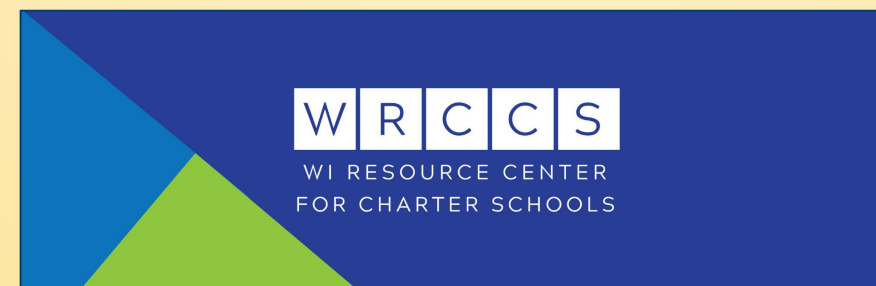
Reminders About Board Work

1. A board functions as a board and decisions are made at the board level
(not by individuals or staff)
(meeting minutes are public documents)
2. The charter school is bound by the contract with their authorizer
(may be amended per dual board approval)
3. Community members may voice concerns or ask questions through the forum of public board meetings
(via joining a committee if available, speaking at the public comment period at the top of every meeting, and/or requesting an agenda item in advance)



**Thank you all for the work you do every day
to help all students learn!**

**Sarah Hackett
920-213-2705
shackett@wrccs.org**



WRCCS.ORG



David Karrels, Superintendent
Northern Ozaukee School District (NOSD)
www.nosd.edu



Cindy Raimer, Director of Education
Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School
www.theriveredgeschool.org



Change can be viewed as an opportunity.

It is an opportunity for innovation, reinvention, and improvement.



**Collaboration allows us to know
more than we are capable of
knowing by ourselves.**

-Paul Solarz



Count me in. I've been here since our doors opened, and since then we've worked through several changes. The one constant is that every challenge resulted in an evolution that made the school stronger.

- Kayla Buser

ROLES Teacher, Grade 1



Cindy Raimer
Director of Education

craimer@nosd.edu

ph. 262-416-1726



Brian Fortney, Secretary
ROLES Governance Council
www.theriveredgeschool.org

FAQs and More

For more information about this transition,
please visit ROLES website for:

- Future of ROLES open letter (01/24/2023)
- FAQs responses from GC




SCAN ME





Why can't the Governance Council (GC) respond immediately to questions or public comments during meetings or via email?

- The GC is a governmental entity that is required to speak in a single voice when making public declarations, policy and contract decisions.
- Due to open meeting laws, we conduct business and discussions within publicly announced meetings.
- For contract, staffing and other sensitive topics, discussions are held within closed sessions and brought to open session if and when appropriate.
- No individual may speak for, negotiate contracts, or initiate partnerships on behalf of ROLES without consent of the full Governance Council.

Why does the Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School (ROLES) have to find a new home?

For the first time since the inception of this partnership, we've identified a few areas of concern for our organizations regarding the cohabitation part of our partnership. Over the last four years we've both grown considerably, undergone leadership changes, weathered a pandemic, and are both facing the realities of being nonprofits maneuvering through a tough economy. Additionally, RNC and ROLES have aspirational goals for the future that are difficult to align as we both strive to meet our individual organizational missions. While the areas of concern are by no means catastrophic in nature, over time they will hinder both organizations' long-term growth. It is with this in mind, that a mutual decision has been made to relocate our public, tuition-free outdoor learning charter school to a new location and not extend the Facilities Use portion of our partnership allowing the contract to sunset effective June 30, 2024. This is not a decision that the ROLES Governance Council or RNC Board of Directors made lightly. There were several conversations between our organizations, and the GC also engaged our partners NOSD, CESA6 and WRCCS in the process. While this was not something our founders anticipated happening just five years after our launch, one could argue that they also would not have anticipated how successful the school would be in such a short amount of time.



Are there any leads for new locations? Are there plans to stay in the Northern Ozaukee School District (NOSD)?

ROLES is a public elementary charter school authorized by the Northern Ozaukee School District who has been an exceptional partner. Therefore, the GC is working to identify potential sites within the NOSD boundaries, and more information will be provided as that effort moves forward. If you have feedback or suggestions of potential sites, please email them to bfortney@nosd.edu.



Will school fees be increased to cover the cost of a new lease/building loan?

We cannot use school fees for capital expenses under Wisconsin statute. The Governance Council intends to maintain our public tuition free school status.



With a new location, will there be a discussion for eliminating virtual Friday's in favor of a 5-day school week?

Virtual Fridays provide our teachers with prep time that is comparable to teachers in traditional schools. In those schools, teacher prep time is during non-student contact time that is usually delivered during specials (i.e. Art, Music, P.E., Library). Eliminating preparation time for teachers would impact educational deliverables and increase staff turnover.



Do you know if this also affects the West Bend School District's nature based 4k program?

We are aware that the 4K program is seeking another contract extension, but do not have a finalized contract at this time. Any questions regarding the 4K program should be directed to Matt Durant, Early Learning Administrator at WBSD at mdurant@wbsd-schools.org.

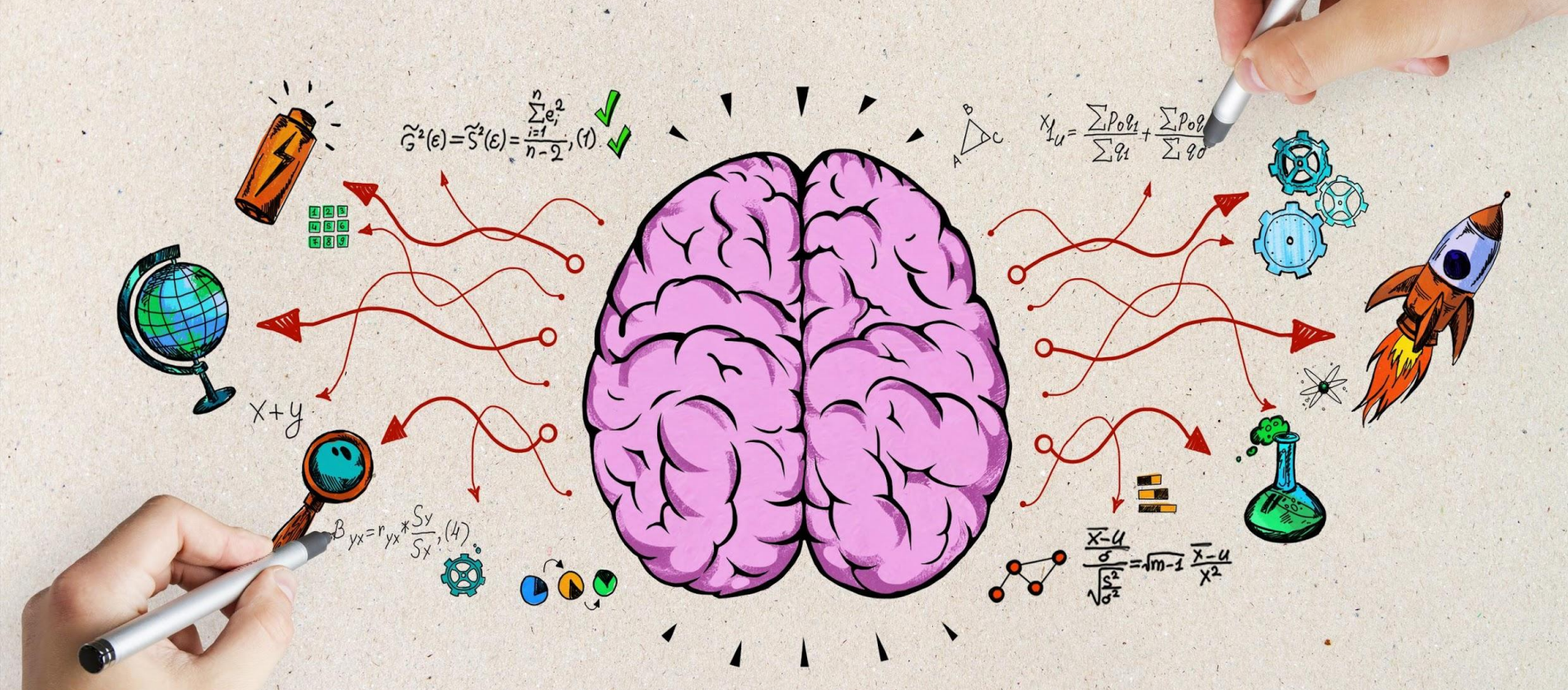


What is the desired area for the new home?

The GC is eager to hear from our school community about what features a new location should have.

Ideally, a new site would offer a diverse environment that will enhance our outdoor learning laboratory, allow for flexibility in uses, and allow for any potential expansion.





Brainstorming

Problem solving in small groups, contributing ideas and developing creativity.

Brainstorming ground rules

Rule #1: Quantity over Quality - Generate as many ideas as possible

Rule #2: Criticizing ideas is not allowed.

Rule #3: Wild and ambitious ideas are welcome.

Rule #4: People are encouraged to build on other ideas.

Rule #5: Step up, step back - share ideas, but leave time for others.



Round 1: Introduce yourselves!

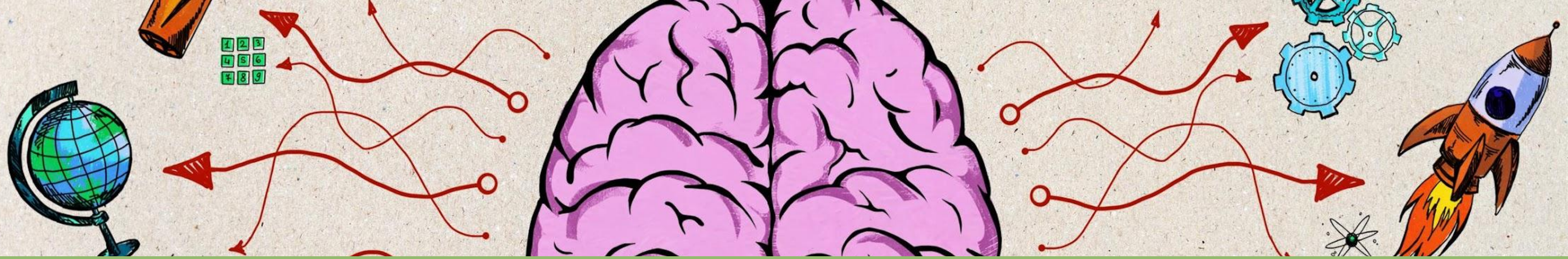
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Round 2: Let's dream. What physical attributes would you like to see at our new location that would enhance the school's hands-on learning experience.

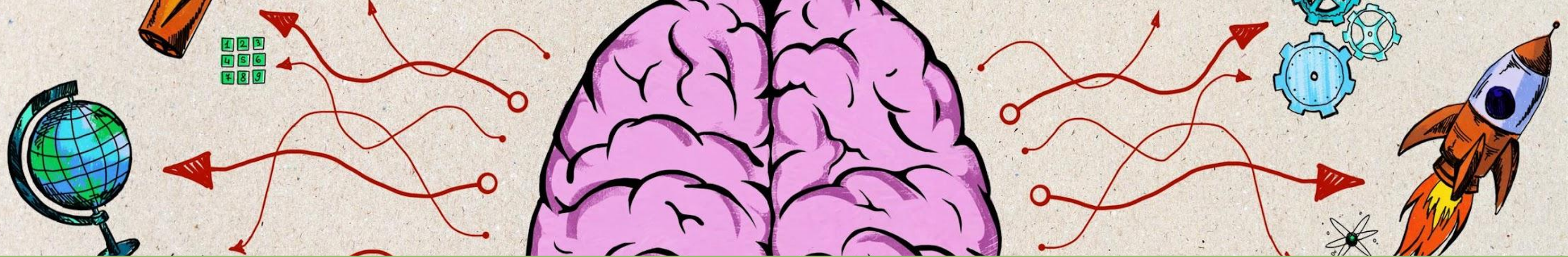
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Round 3: What are potential partnerships, donors, foundations or other opportunities that could help bring the school to life? Who would you like the GC to start conversations with and why?

Rule #1: Quantity over Quality - Generate as many ideas as possible

Rule #2: Criticizing ideas is not allowed.

Rule #3: Wild and ambitious ideas are welcome.

Rule #4: People are encouraged to build on other ideas.

Rule #5: Step up, step back - share ideas, but leave time for others.

What's Next?

Governance Council will:

- Compile all of the input collected today and make the summary notes available.
- Review the input and take it into consideration as the decision making process moves forward.
- Identify additional ways to include community input in the process.
- Commit to communicate in a timely manner through open letters, community newsletters and emails.



What's Next?

We want to hear from you.

We encourage you to continue to submit your questions, and insights via email to our Governance Council Secretary, Brian Fortney at bfortney@nosd.edu. The GC will continue to review them at upcoming meetings.



What's Next?

Sign up for our new community newsletter.

To stay informed about all things ROLES and our future site location, please sign up for our new community newsletter. We will use this electronic newsletter to share relevant happenings, decisions and opportunities for you to be involved.



SCAN ME ?



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THANK

YOU