



Notes

Regional Alternative School Board of Control

Immediately following the District Superintendent meeting but not before 9:30 AM

Friday, March 12, 2021.

1. CALL TO ORDER

by Dr. Julie Morris, President RAS Board of Control at 9:50 AM

2. ROLL CALL*

Belvidere*

Harlem*

Hononegah

Pecatonica*

North Boone

Rockford*

South Beloit*

Winnebago*

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

If there is no discussion or changes to the agenda:

Is there a motion to approve the agenda as presented Belvidere second Winnebago

All in Favor: 6 Opposed: 0 Motion carries

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 15, 2021 and February 9, 2021

Is there a motion to approve the open and closed session minutes from January 15, 2021, and February 9, 2021, as presented: Pecatonica second South Beloit.

All in Favor: 6 Opposed: 0 Motion carries

6. BUDGET UPDATE--See Item 1

Rachelle Blitch gave a brief update of where we are with our current budget. At this time, we are under budget in every single area. Enrollment is robust and referrals are increasing. The amount of Administrative Supplies has been more than initially budgeted, but we've been able to pull from other areas.

7. PROGRAM UPDATE

Carlie Roeschley provided visuals to display a sense of what the climate and culture is looking like in the building.

1. **Enrollment**--As of March 1, 2021, we have a total enrollment of 152 students in the RAS program. Referral rates have picked up over the last 2 weeks, and we currently are working on getting to know 17 new students. While only about ⅓ of our students attend in-person 4 days per week, we are finding that the majority of new referrals are choosing the in-person option! It has been wonderful to have students in our halls 4 days per week. Positive energy is higher, and a bigger impact is being made on student growth towards credit recovery and meeting their goals.

Carlie anticipates that referrals will continue to come through spring break and possibly decline afterwards. About 70 students are in the building daily. Having the kids in the building has been great.

2. **Attendance**--Overall attendance rates are maintaining at around 45%. As a reminder, Summit Academy counts a student as present if they synchronously participate in instruction (remote or in-person). This is a much more conservative measure of attendance than many local districts use; however, we believe this is most reflective of the manner of educating students that has the highest impact. Daily home contacts, weekly letters and contacts, communication with Districts at a 10-day mark, and administrative home visits are just some of the ways that we are working on improving attendance rates. Since the beginning of the semester (1/25/21), at least 42 home visits have been conducted to encourage re-engagement in the educational process here at Summit Academy.

Carlie indicated that there are quite a few students who are not logging in online but are completing class work. Program Admin and Interventionists are finishing up the first round of home visits, with the goal of gathering information that can help us identify any barriers students may be facing with getting to school or logging into classes regularly. We discovered that some had shut completely down. We've been able to provide flexibility to support students and have had positive results.

3. **Personnel**--As with many local districts, March of 2021 is bringing about conversations about staffing patterns for the next school year. As you know we are in the midst of a 21-22 Principal search, and will continue to involve members from all stakeholder groups in making that selection. We anticipate having both non-certified staff openings, as well as several professional teaching staff openings. We look forward to continuing to move our teaching staff closer to full certification and teaching in their

endorsed areas. We have two staff members who have completed their Master's degrees and at least two others who are working to complete certification programs by the end of next year.

Carlie mentioned that the principal search is still ongoing. Over the past couple of weeks we've had a couple of resignations and we anticipate a few more staff not returning. For the next school year we will have a few more of the teachers endorsed in their areas, and we expect them all to continue applying what they're learning in the professional developments.

Four staff members offered their time, insight, and perspective for 10 hours one week in February to participate on the Round 1 Interview Panel for our new Summit Academy Principal search. They contributed to developing a staff survey, gathered information from their colleagues, and represented Summit Academy with pride and professionalism throughout the interview process.

4. Programming--We are in planning mode for summer programming and for offerings for the 21-22 school year. There are so many great possibilities, and our staff are great idea generators. We are actively pursuing options for integrating a vegetable garden into our science, foods, and social/emotional learning programming.

Carlie added that students have been able to enjoy being outside. We've also been able to connect more programs with social emotional support.

For summer, we are looking at options for expanding offerings to support member districts in ways that extend beyond our typical Summit Academy referrals. We are looking at skills-building options and credit recovery options to help support students whose learning has been negatively impacted by COVID.

It will not only serve out summit academy students, but possibly open it up to other districts. More information to come in the next few weeks.

Student Highlights: Two of our ALOP students volunteered time on their remote day to take part in Summit Academy's search for a new principal. Both students gave up their free time to provide a student tour of Summit Academy and personally interview the finalist candidates. They did a fantastic job interviewing the candidates while lending the perspective of the student's voice, priorities and concerns. Their pride in their school shone through, and they are very interested in knowing who the new Principal will be.

Question/Answer Panel – were highly motivated and did a fantastic job. We will continue to involve them in the search.

TD had perfect attendance for the month of February and earned a 3.25 G.P.A. for the first semester. He has led our school in attendance so far this year and continues to do so in the month of February. He will begin serving as a mentor to a younger student, and always has a smile and positive word to everyone he meets and greets. TD is going places as a highly motivated student who would like to major in either Engineering or Communications upon completion of high school. He is well on his way to achieving his goals!

Carlie added that this student's leadership skills are developing and he's on track to meeting his goals.

5. **Curriculum**--Content area meetings have become a regular part of our professional learning and growing at Summit. We will be moving into a time of examining the IL State Learning Standards, reviewing the scope and sequence offered in each class, and developing a Course Catalog that will outline our course offerings. This will enable member district Counselors and Administrators to have clarity on the content being taught in each class, regardless of what the course is named.

Ms. Macuha cooks again! After a time away during remote learning, Ms. Macuha has her in-person Adult Living/Foods Class heading towards some tasty creations in Semester 2. Enthusiastic (and hungry) students got into the swing of things with cooking Fridays! Assembly-line style, they have cooked up eggs-in-the-hole (a slice of toast with a fried egg cooked inside), and fried Indian bread with powdered sugar. Taste testing is the best part!

Carlie noted that a lot of the focus has been learning how to work smarter not harder and encouraging teachers to collaborate so that we can be sure that we are not delivering instruction that is repetitive. We have also moved into helping them with pacing. Right now we are working on developing course descriptions that will help our districts better understand what's being taught and bridging any communication gaps.

6. Professional Development--Professional development continues to focus on gradual release lessons and ensuring predictable class structures for students. We have shifted our professional learning to also include processes for coaching and providing 1:1 weekly feedback to students to help them monitor their progress in their classes. This structure also helps promote relationships between students and teachers, and gives opportunity for individualized mentoring and encouragement for students.

We've introduced the responsibility for teachers to meet weekly with all students for 3-4-minute coaching sessions, including with Edgenuity courses and helping them pace to meet goals that they've set. Focusing on strategies Dr. Perry to better understand neurological impacts of trauma on the brain. We'd like to use pattern and rhythm to help them regulate throughout the day so that they can be open to and ready to learn. Consulting with a musical therapist to add that support for our students next year.

- 7. Community Outreach--** In an effort to build some school spirit, encouraged by Brian Weavel, our Director of Community Relations, our staff and students were invited to participate in a door decorating contest for Valentine's Day. Several teachers and their students worked tirelessly on this project for a little friendly competition and to show some school spirit! It was an awesome opportunity for our school community to participate in a joint project. The winner of this year's door prize went to one of our Middle School Teacher's, Mrs. Michelle Follis, and her student group! To celebrate, not only did they have a celebrity video announcement from Steve Shannon and MJ of the [Steve Shannon Show](#) at Rockford's #1 Radio [97ZOK](#), but they were also treated to pizza from Windsor Pizza Parlor to celebrate their hard work and school spirit!

Also in the middle of a mascot naming contest for our Summit Academy Eagle mascot. Dr. Jennifer Kline, infection prevention manager Swedes did a presentation on covid to provide information to our students and they were very engaged. We've also incorporated positive incentives for proper mask wearing.

With the support of our Director of Community Relations, Brian Weavel, Mrs. Laura Schaefer (Health Teacher) assisted in organizing a school-wide virtual presentation and Q & A session on March 2, with Dr. Jennifer Kline, Infection Prevention Manager from Swedish American Hospital. She shared a great presentation where she discussed the impact of COVID with our students, busted some common myths about COVID, and gave us some great tips and explanations about some little known facts. Thanks Mrs. Schaefer, Mr. Weavel, and Dr. Kline for your creative thinking and information sharing to help us better understand why masks are so important to our health and safety!

John Schwuchow asked about the name of the mascot. Carlie announced that students and staff were currently participating in a Mascot Naming Contest, and promised to send an update when an official name has been selected.

Scott Bloomquist commented that the past Tuesday was the one year anniversary of Harlem's approval for Summit to utilize the Hoffman Building. One of the questions asked at that time was when, and we said August. Scott also added that he is proud of where Summit Academy is at currently. Thinking back to where we were a year ago with our kids and the quality of education they were receiving, we have seen so much growth. Scott asked Carlie about how many families had asked about staying. Carlie replied, saying that about 65% were inquiring about staying about 6 of the RSSP kids came back as ALOP students. Scott finished by saying that the work that's been done has been incredible, even though it's not perfect. He also said that the quality and care has made him very proud. Scott encouraged everyone to visit on a day when kids are there and you will see the difference. Bill Fuller asked if he should get ahold of Carlie to visit, and Carlie responded yes, and that they are all welcome at any time.

8. CLOSED SESSION*

- 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).**

Is there a motion go into closed session for the presented purposes South Beloit second Pecatonica , roll call vote:

Belvidere*

Harlem*

Hononegah

Pecatonica*

North Boone

Rockford*

South Beloit*

Winnebago*

Motion Carries/fails:

Time:10:17

9. ADJOURNMENT

Is there a motion to Adjourn: _____ second _____ All in Favor: _____ Opposed:

Motion carries/fails: _____ Time: _____