

RTCC
RAB Agenda
September, 9th 2026

Call Meeting to Order – Called to order at 5:10 by Nika Oakes

Attendance: Nika Oakes, Collin Johnson, Renee Badeau, ORCA Media, Michael Clark, Lauren Blanchard-Geno, Nancy Pejouhy, Ray Zapeta, Dominique Lafond.

Open Comment: Nika Oakes reviewed the public comment policy. No public attending.

Introduction of members to new RAB member: Nancy Pejouhy, rep from WRUD Board: npejouhy@wrvsu.org , White River High School
Nika Oakes welcomed new representative from WRVSU Nancy Pejouhy.

Enrollment Update: Currently the enrollment is close to last year's number however we are one less program so really the enrollment seems to have increased. Last year there were 101 enrolled students and this year there are 100. Current enrollment per program,

Pre-Tech: 13

Automotive: 9

Diesel: 14

Diversified Ag: 14

Construction: 8

Fabrication, Welding and Design: 12

Digital Media: 6

Culinary Arts: 11

All programs meet the state requirements for Perkins funding with the exception of Digital Media.

Work Based Learning/Co-Op Updates: 25% of our students are currently eligible for co-op or work based learning. To be eligible students must have completed at a minimum of half a year in their program. It is expected that roughly 50% will be eligible come second semester.

New Program: Coming spring of 2027 - LNA adult ed. This will be held in one of the vacant rooms at RTCC and will be utilizing the equipment that we already have from our previous health careers program. The course can have up to 8 individuals and they can apply through VSAC for financial aid.

New Staff/Staff Positions:

Whitney Stretcher - Pre-Tech

Michael Abadi - Academic Dean

Stephen Geno - Diversified Ag

Toni Sferlazza - Automotive

Increasing Access:

- RTCC has continued access to the bus that transports students to and from Spaulding. This means that any student who lives in that area is able to get dropped off or ride the bus to Spaulding and then from there they would be transported to RTCC.
- RTCC hopes to increase co-op and work based learning opportunities for students through the Senator Sanders Congressional Funds. The way this would be utilized is that we would hire a driver who already works in the district, currently driving the RTCC bus mentioned above, to be able to transport students to and from their Co-Ops back to school. This will help the students who do not have transportation of their own to get the chance to participate in Co-Op and Work Based Learning opportunities. This can also be utilized for field trips when needed. These costs normally come out of program budgets however this will help cut those costs. This has not been approved yet but is in the works for the end of October.

New/Continued Projects:

- High Tunnel - RTCC is getting a brand new outdoor greenhouse. Students in the Diversified Ag program have been working hard to remove the old structure and clear the ground around the greenhouse. A local company who specializes in greenhouse's started on Tuesday to construct the new greenhouse. We have a waterline that runs down to the greenhouse now so there is constant access to water. This will be a great way to continue the community garden.
- Tiny homes will be started this year, originally thought to be a year project but now believed to be a two year project.
- The farmstand will be complete this year, it is almost done, the students are really taking their time and very particular about the finishing touches.

Upcoming Events:

- Woman can do at VTSU on October 8th
- Workforce in Motion Summit at Champlain Valley Expo
- SkillsUSA
- RTCC Winter Market - November 20th 10-1

Feedback:

- 1) What are some barriers for attending these meetings?
 - a) Other districts have their board meetings on the same night, most are at 6pm however it doesn't leave the time to travel. Some people are able to join remotely and then join the 6pm meeting but not always. Because they have to be a member of their local boards it makes it more difficult with their schedules. It was suggested that we move to a different day of the week and change it to 6pm.

- 2) What projects or collaborations would you like to see or find most helpful to your community.
 - a) Bike racks and benches for the local towns, schools and parks. Survey to find out what might be more beneficial per town as some might have bike racks already and prefer benches or vice versa. Ask the students what they might want to make or what they think their home towns or schools might enjoy and see what ideas they come up with. Create an ad in the newspaper to offer certain ways to help people/see what they might need help with. Open up lines of communication with sending schools.
- 3) What do you need from us?
 - a) Community engagement/involvement. Visit sending schools and when they send their students to visit us have the whole grade come not just the ones who think they are interested. Touring makes all the difference, a whole class 9th grade tour can really get students interested. Let students choose their top 3 programs of interest to spend the day in instead of having them cycle through all the programs. Renee, Dominique and Nancy all support Nika's request to have sending schools send all students and not just the ones who are interested.
 - b) Educated the students and sending schools about what we really offer in terms of IRCs, 9 college credits, online and dual enrollment courses, access to AP classes. They should know that tech is for everyone including students who want to go to college.
 - c) Increase communication with sending school counselors. We did hold a breakfast that all sending school counselors were invited to, however only 2 people attended. Counselors are invited to our open house but have not attended.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57