



The State of Rainbow E.D Report

Presented to the Board on June 19,
2014

The theme for the school year was A New Era: The Future of Education, our School, and our Children. The ED welcome letter announced the New Era, and we end the school year, feeling as if the school is truly in a new era. Despite so much transformation, the school also feels more stable than ever before.

Looking at our ambitious Strategic Plan, one will see that most of the short term goals were accomplished or significant progress made. Some of the most notable are:

- Piloting business plans for 6th graders
- Implementing Singapore Math
- Implementing Visible Thinking Routines
- Developing a Master Plan with space for a full size classroom for every grade
- Capital campaign that raised money for facility and land purchases
- Engaging alumni in fundraising

Some of the long terms goals that developed momentum are:

- Develop environmentally friendly campus gardens that provide learning experiences
- Engaging a counselor for the community
- Assessing current program and facility for green status
- Acquiring a new facility
- Ensuring adequate planning time and time for collaboration and balanced lifestyle for staff.

In addition, the following was accomplished:

- Launching a new name and brand effectively
- Implementing a new databases system
- New website launched
- All staff email migrated to google mail with like-endings
- The playground was completed
- Developed many partnerships, including Mountain Bizworks, Asheville Institute, Black Mountain College Museum, Blue Ridge Orchestra.

Some of the awards and recognitions from this year:

- Several WNC Best-of Awards
- First North Carolina Green School of Excellence
- Ashoka Changemaker School

- Plus, we received a lot of recognition in the press through WLOS and Citizen's Times, such as Renee Owen's bio, the capital campaign, and the playground ribbon cutting.

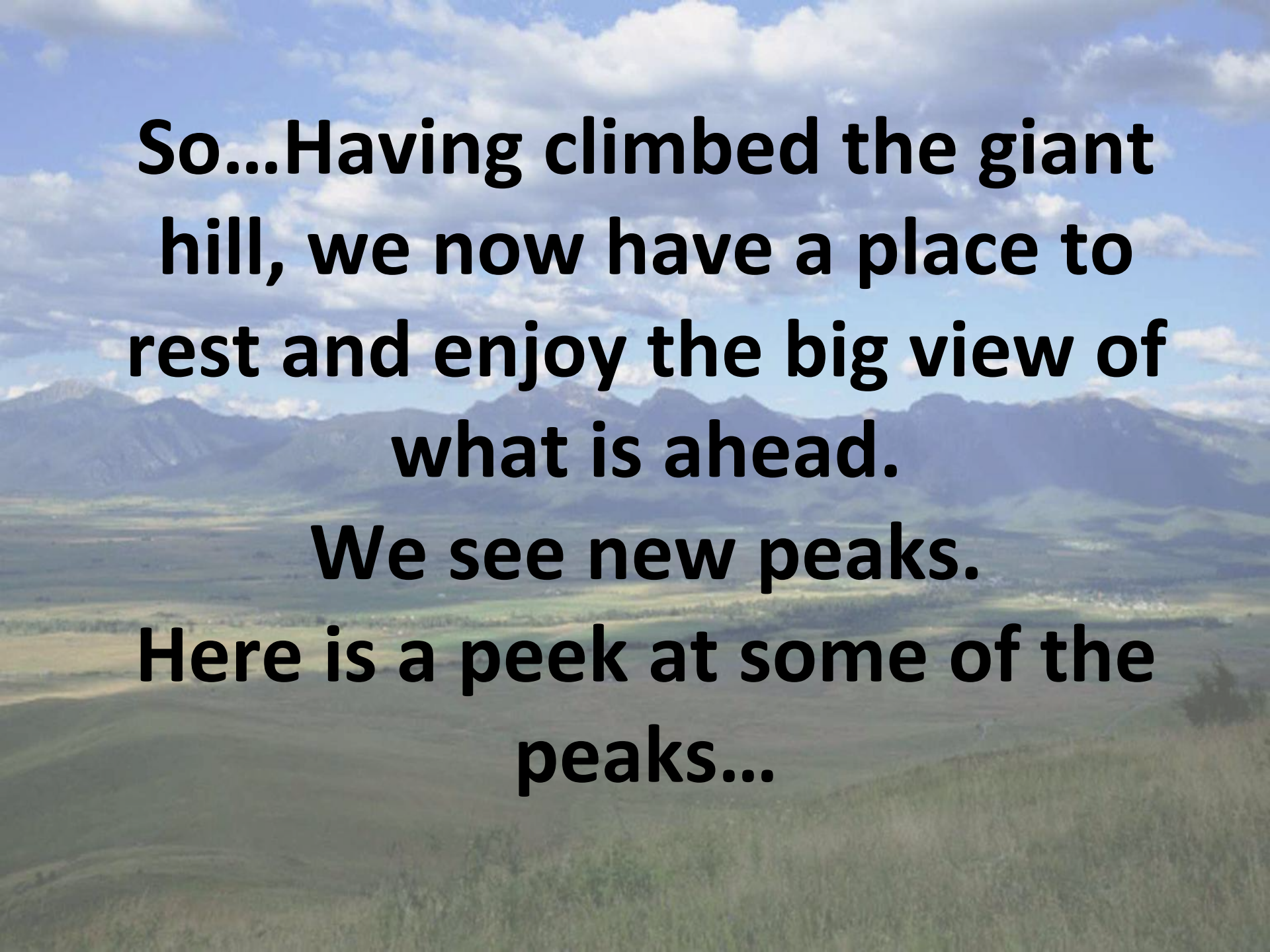
Strong enrollment = financial security

Another long term goal that was not listed on the strategic plan but was accomplished, was to increase enrollment significantly, and to begin to holding a wait list. When the board decided to purchase the new property, we took a risk that enrollment would become secure. We finish the 13-14 adding to our reserve, even after all the expenditures and risks from the year.

Of course, purchasing the new facility and developing a master plan was the most notable, and the most impactful change, opening up vast potential....

Summary: Rainbow shifted in its axis during the 13-14 school year!

We shift our early years of survival and looking inward, to expanding *outward* and being able to serve a wider community.



**So...Having climbed the giant
hill, we now have a place to
rest and enjoy the big view of
what is ahead.**

We see new peaks.

**Here is a peek at some of the
peaks...**

In classroom

- Global Initiatives
- Citizen Science
- Maker Movement/Systems Thinking/Engineering
- Always cutting edge
- Expanded opportunities for kids more apprenticeships, entrepreneurship, service

In our community

- A staff with long-term commitment who feels supported and nurtured
- A staff with broad opportunities
- Parents can see Rainbow as their full service community for spiritual, intellectual, parenting needs, etc.
- Rainbow's reputation will continue to grow as a community leader and a futurist.
- Expanded programming, such as counselor and summer programs
- A huge expansion of alumni activity and programming, so alumni still consider Rainbow their community

In Asheville

- Becoming a community center and resource
- Regarded as a star community organization with an eye to the future
- A compassionate organization that helps others
- Multiple partnerships with local businesses and organizations



Nationally and Internationally

- Published and read nationally
- Presenting at conferences and holding our own Conference
- Visited and studied by academics and others
- Global Initiatives, partnerships, and service
- Setting stage for replication
- Having agency in the world of education and politics to affect an education revolution

Needs

- To navigate these transitions, leadership and governance needs to stay visionary, strong, and flexible.
- Administration will need to grow, and to fund that growth other revenue streams may need to be developed (such as publishing books and blogs, conferences, classes, renting out our facility)
- We have significant fundraising goals and challenges which require:
 - Our internal community to be highly engaged and to recognize they are investing in not only their child's education but a bigger vision.
 - The broader community to view RCS as a community resource
- As our budget expands, we will need to greatly add to our reserve, then start to save toward future facility expansion, and eventually develop an endowment.
- Financial aid will have to expand greatly in order to increase diversity.

**Vast new potential for Rainbow
and the communities we serve,
opens up vast potential
for students and families.**