

Regional School Unit No. 5

17 West Street, Freeport, Maine 04032

Durham

Freeport

Pownal

Communications Subcommittee Report

Date: September 16, 2010

Committee: Communications

Chair: Jane Blais

Meeting Dates: September 16, 2010

Members Present: Jane Blais, Betsy Peters, Kristen Dorsey, John Green, and Shannon Welsh

Agenda Items and Discussion:

Review of District and Building Websites:

Members reviewed recent work done to complete work on the district and building websites. During the summer months, a template was created to provide a consistent visual presentation for each homepage. Responsibilities were assigned within buildings so the sites would be updated on a regular basis. Jeff Brazee worked on these sites while in transition during his move out of state and we appreciate his willingness to finish this project.

Communications with Parent Groups and Municipal Officials:

Communications members discussed the best approach to implementing their responsibility related to the Board goal: *"To effectively communicate with parents and the larger community so that they understand and engage in actively supporting the education of our students."* During the Board's goal-setting retreat, the communication committee was charged with the following responsibility: Communications sub-committee members will contact parent groups at each school and municipal officers from each town on a regular basis throughout the year.

The decision was made to have the member from each community contact the school's parent group(s) and municipal officers to explain the Board's goal and our outreach efforts. Jane Blais will draft a script to use so we send a consistent message to each organization. Organizations will be contacted by our meeting on October 14th and we will discuss the response at that time.

Planning Board Informal Social/Coffee in Each Town:

A second communication effort by the Board is to host an Informal Social/Coffee in each town during the coming months. The decision was made to hold the workshop in Pownal in October; Durham in November; and Freeport in December prior to that month's workshop. The room will be set-up with a social in a separate part of the room from the workshop. This will promote more of a social setting. Board members will socialize individually with members of the community and be open to feedback, concerns, and questions. The workshop will follow at 7:00 pm. Our next meeting will be immediately following the Pownal Social and we will discuss any adjustments that may be necessary.

Next Meeting: October 14, 2010

Press release recommended? Not at this time

Submitted by: Shannon L. Welsh