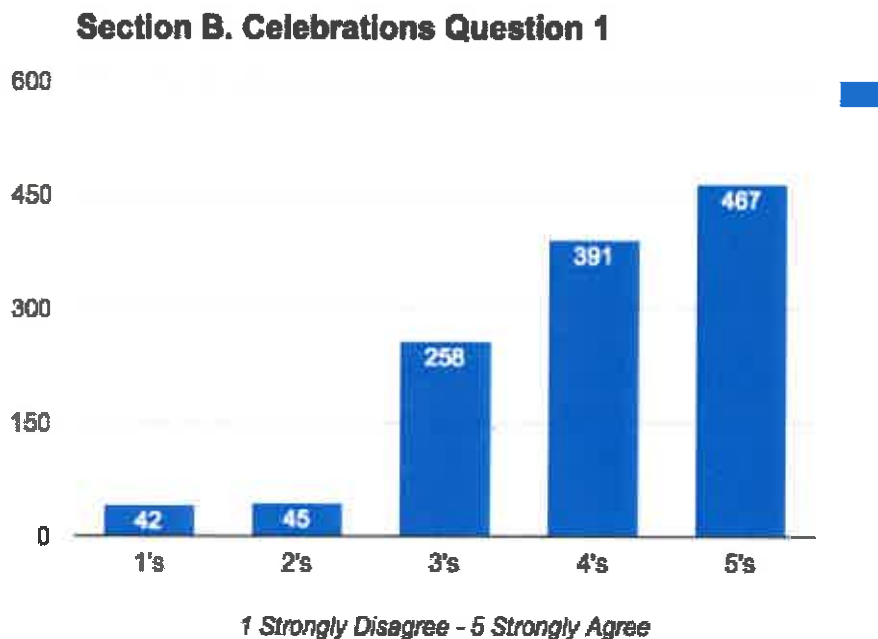


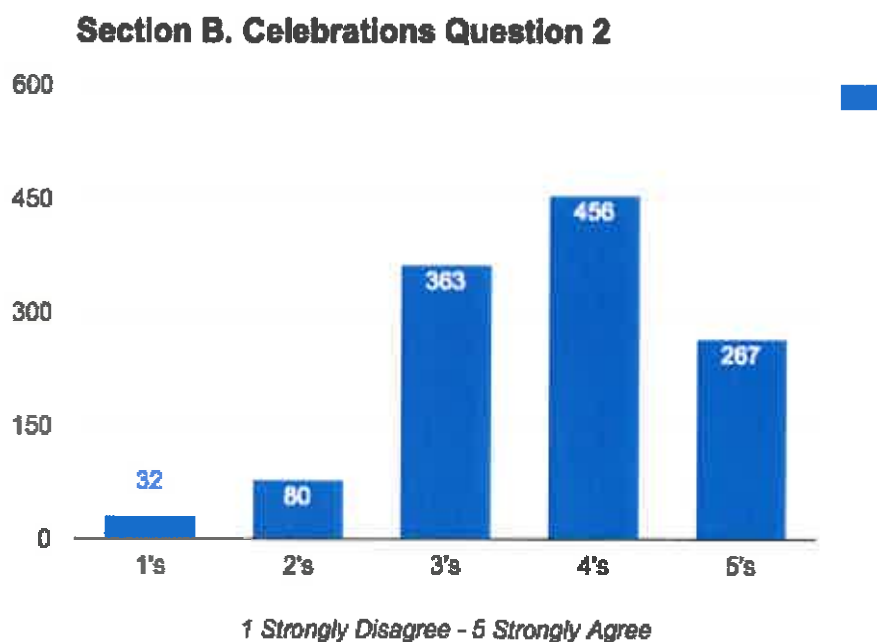
**Unity and Pride Survey  
Sections B through E  
January 11, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting**

**B. Celebrations**

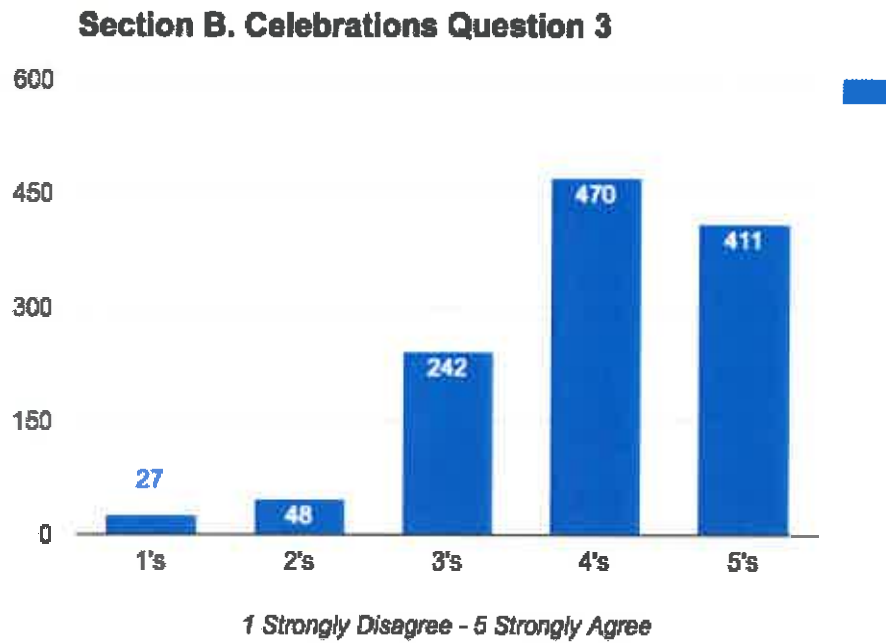
1. RSU5 celebrating the achievements of RSU5 students will create pride and unity within the community.



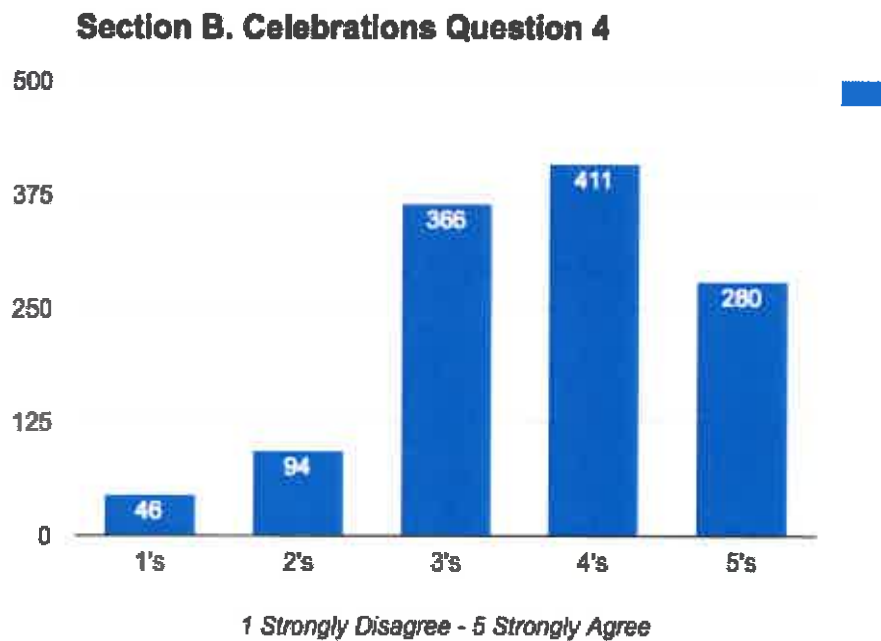
2. RSU5 Recognizes and celebrates the academic achievements of RSU5 students.



3. RSU5 recognizes and celebrates the athletic achievements of RSU5 students.

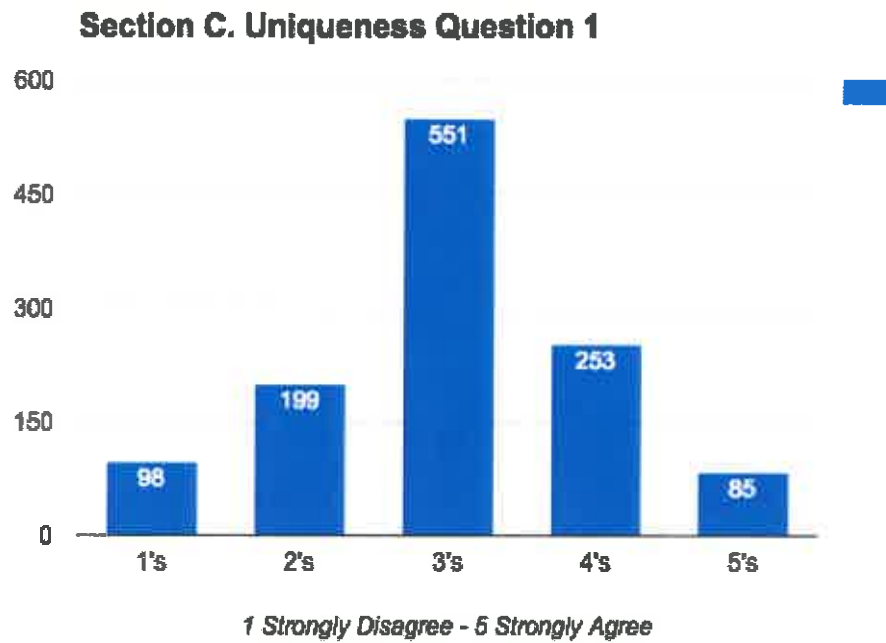


4. RSU5 recognizes and celebrates the performing arts achievements of RSU5 students.

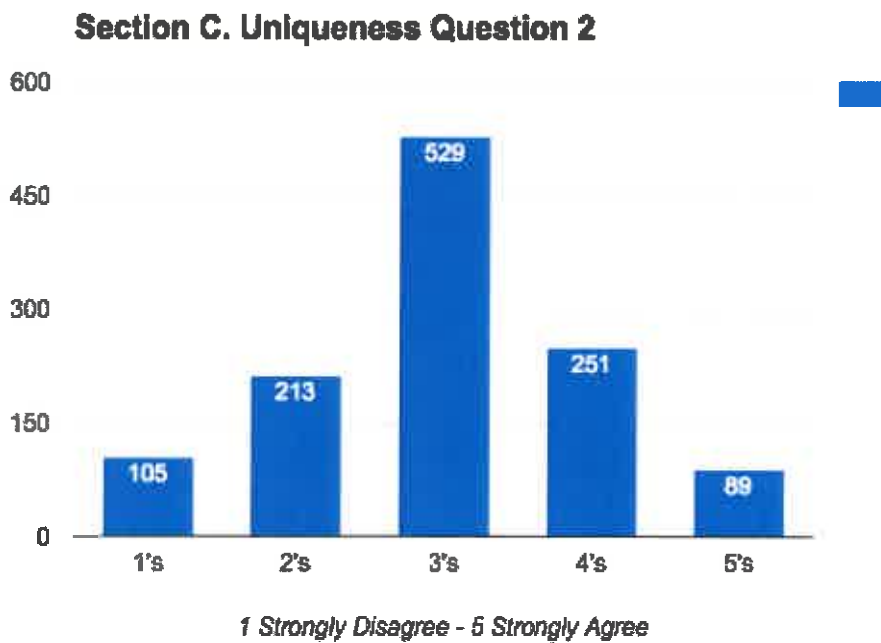


### C. Uniqueness

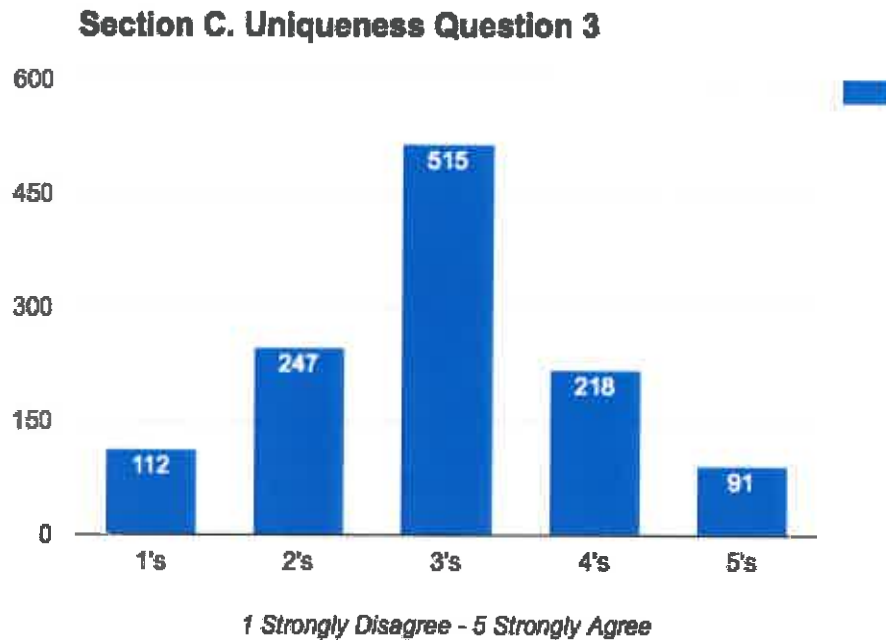
1. RSU5 distinguishes itself from other districts.



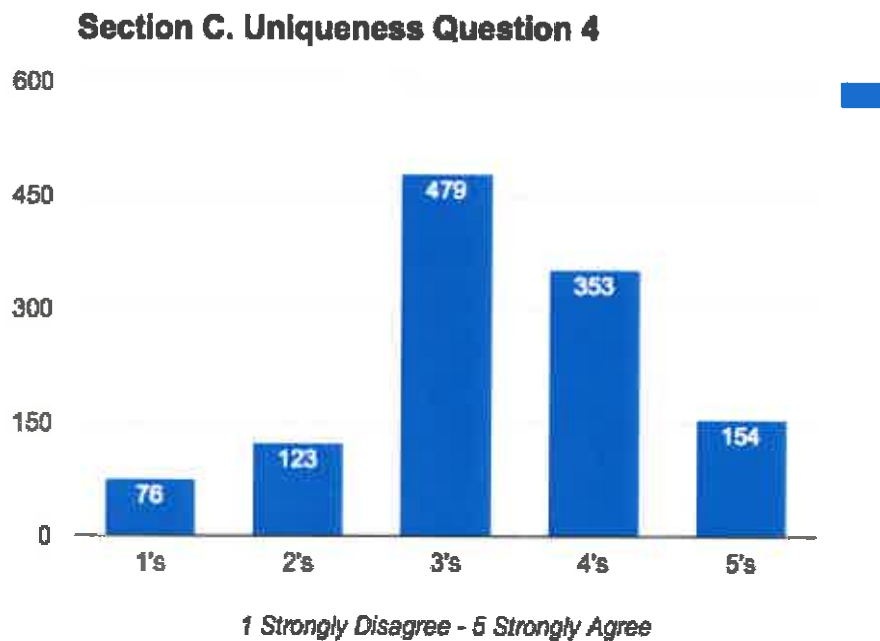
2. RSU5 distinguishes itself from other districts through its academic programming.



3. RSU5 distinguishes itself from other districts through its athletics programming.



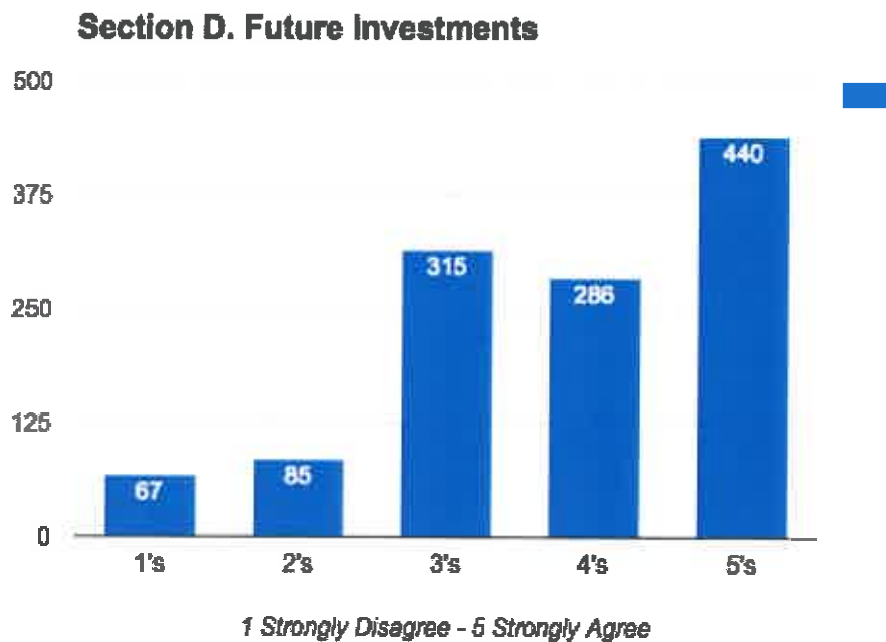
4. RSU5 distinguishes itself from other districts through its fine arts programming.



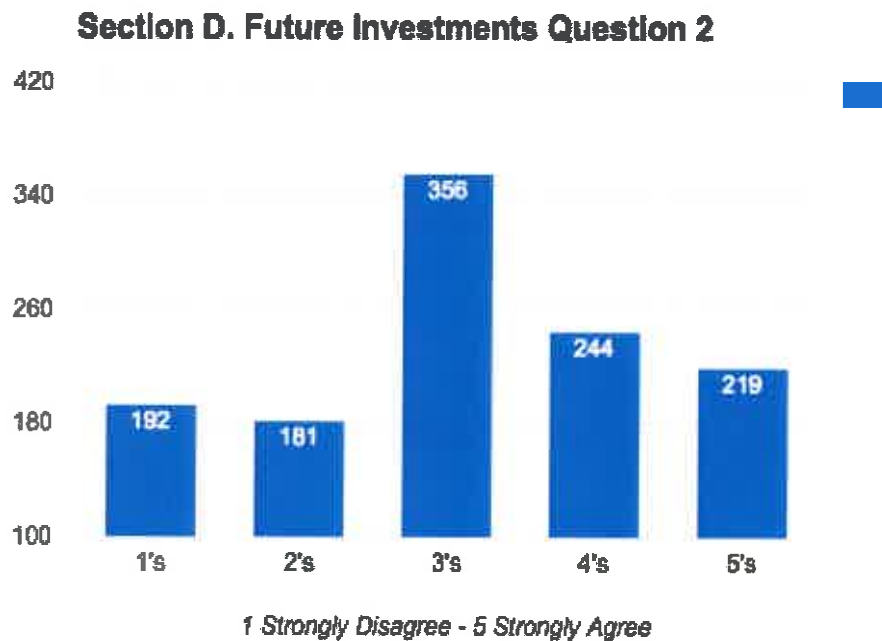
Comments on Section C begin on page 9

## D. Future Investments

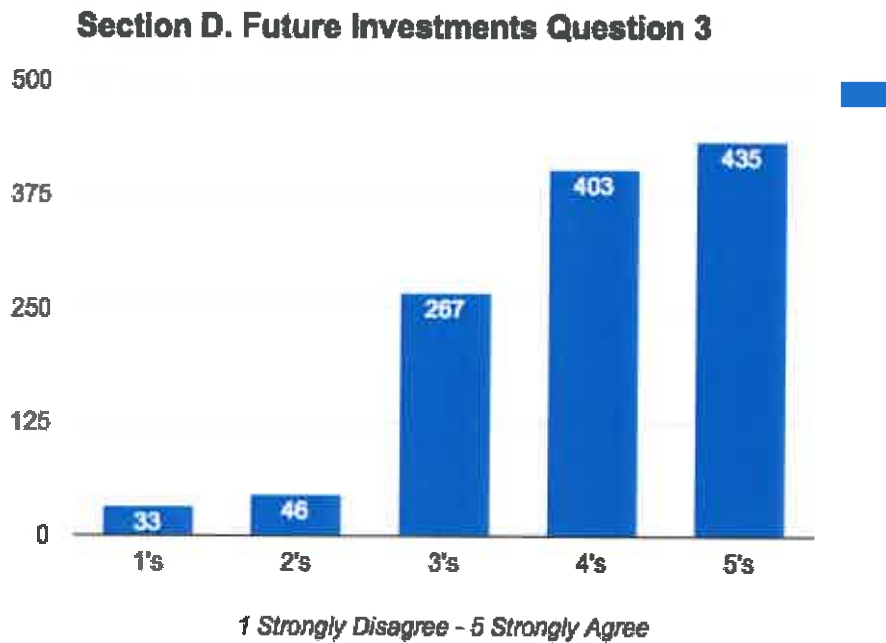
1. RSU5 should continue to expand PreK until all of its students can be offered the option of PreK.



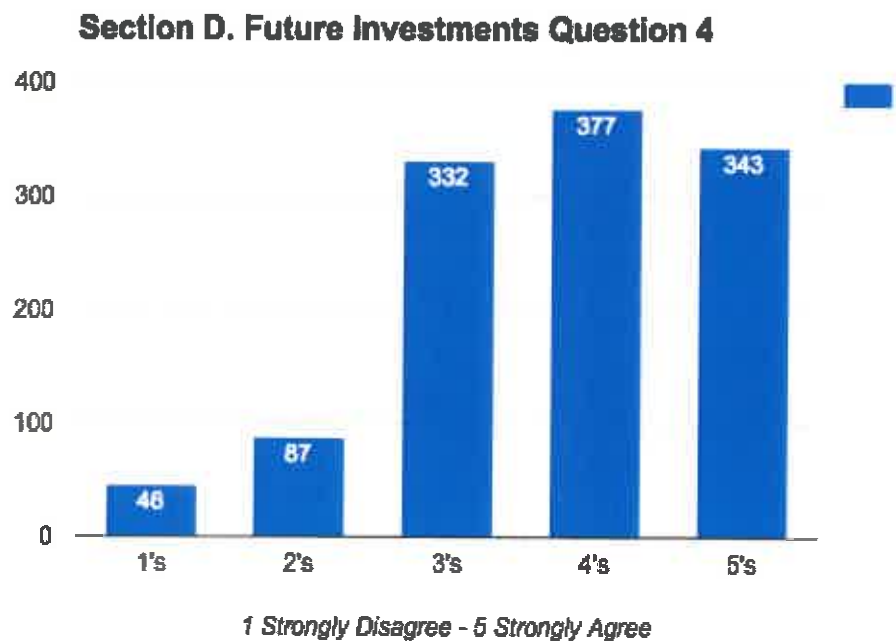
2. RSU5 should invest in an optional Language Immersion Program (Language Immersion Program refers to a program where students receive their primary instruction in a non-English speaking class, i.e. Spanish or French, for the majority of the day).



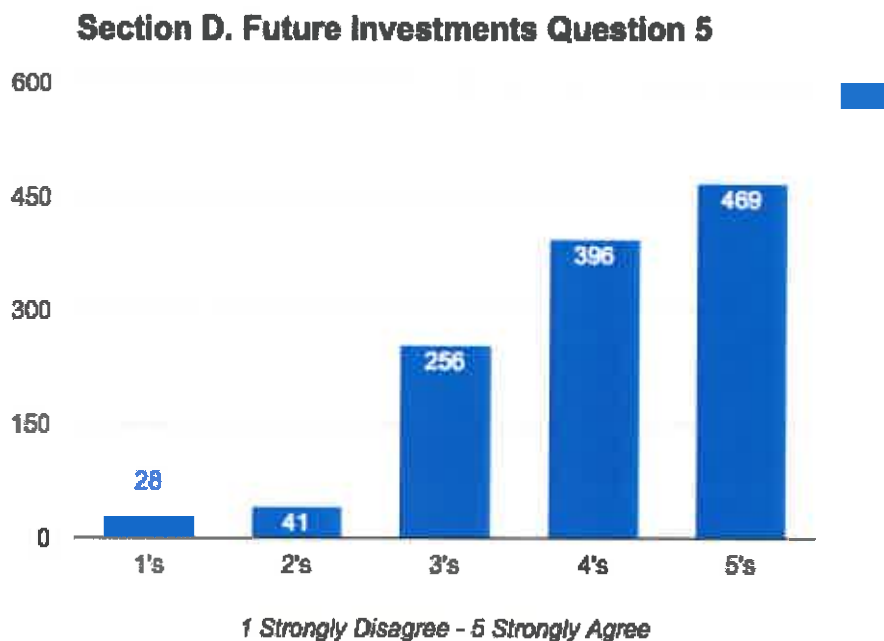
3. RSU5 should invest more resources in STEAM Programming (STEAM refers to integrated science, technology, engineering, arts, and math).



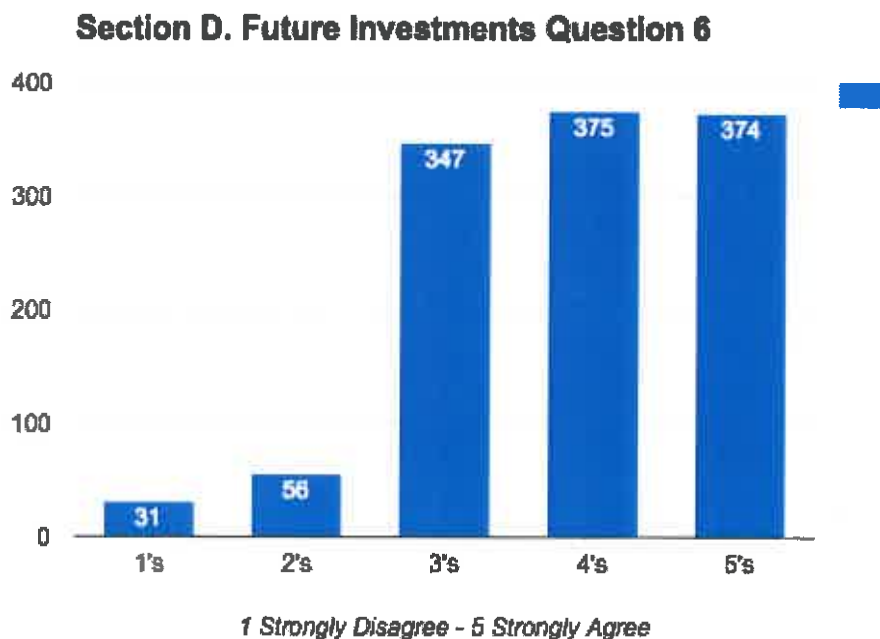
4. RSU5 should invest more resources to expand the fine arts program (fine arts refers to music, art, theater, and dance).



5. RSU5 should offer more dual-enrollment classes at the high school (dual-enrollment classes refer to classes where students receive both high school and college credit).

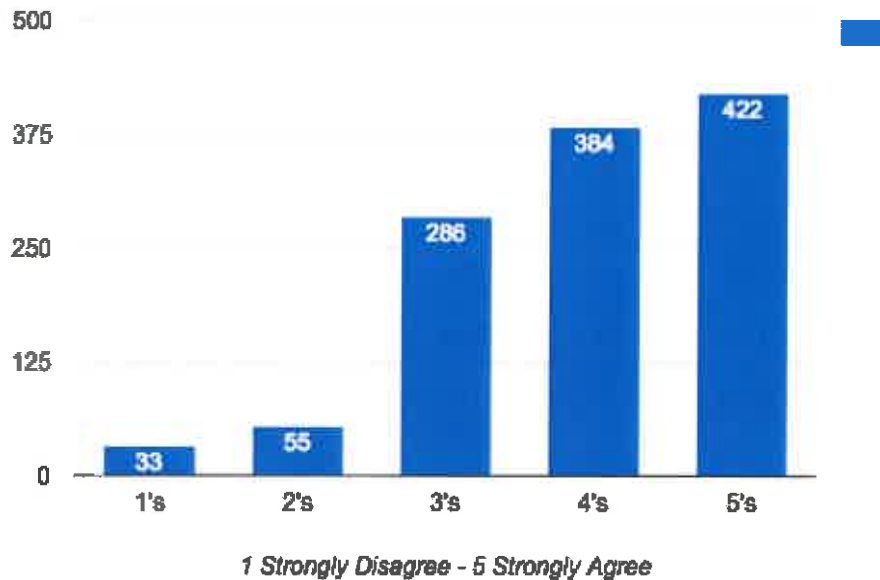


6. RSU5 should offer more Advanced Placement programs.



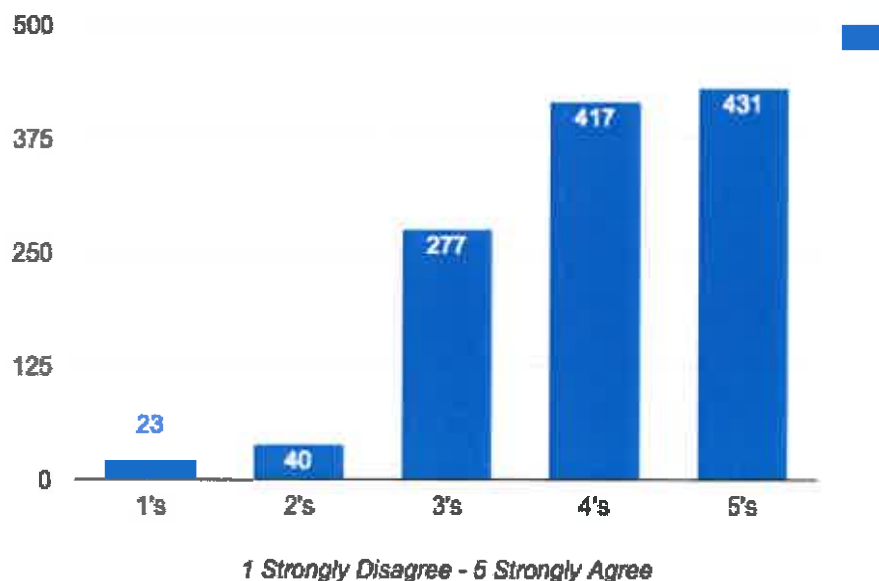
7. RSU5 should move towards more experiential learning (experiential learning is any learning that supports students in applying their knowledge and conceptual understanding to real-world problems or situations where the instructor directs and facilitates learning. This could include activities such as case and problem-based studies, guided inquiry, simulations, experiments, or art projects).

#### Section D. Future Investments Question 7



8. RSU5 should provide students with more internship/mentoring programs (internship/mentoring programs refer to an intentional process in which students are matched with mentors to complete specific responsibilities which may include exploration of a specific career, a nurturing process which fosters the growth and development of the student, or a supportive process in which the student learns new ideas and skills).

#### Section D. Future Investments Question 8



Comments on Section D begin on page 29

Section E. Final Comments begin on page 45



## Comments on Section C. Uniqueness

Academic achievements are celebrated in special assemblies and recognized, but never in school announcements or newspaper- If I did not have a child receive an award I would not have known they existed. I do see individual and group "drama" or Arts awards noted publicly on announcements. There were also Sportsmanship Awards, individual awards not noted as well- such as Class C Sportsmanship award- thats sort of a big deal given its bigger than just Freeport its all Teams. they have honor roll breakfast- how about recognizing most improved students too?

Academic programs should be the focus, not athletics. Freeport has always had wonderful teachers.

Academics and Performing Arts are Freeport High School's strong suit. We are getting the with atheltics. During the fall 2016 campaigns, we had 2 teams go to states, 2 individuals go to states, and all other teams made at least the first round of playoffs. I think we were all impressed with the baseball team and their magical playoff run, now all other sports teams are aspiring to be like them.

Academics are not valued by many of the students in the RSU, particularly at the high school. We need our school board and administration to take definite steps to change this. Pay teachers more, provide more professional service days and figure out ways that the brightest students don't constantly run into scheduling conflicts. Don't allow those who are not performing to their abilities to skate by - encourage and assist them. Encourage experiential learning and class participation. Don't give makework assignments. If classes are not leveled for abilities, provide differentiation within the class. It's not fair to either the students who can't keep up or the ones who can easily meet the requirements to be placed together. Both end up frustrated.

All high schools/communities attempt to offer as many opportunities as possible to their students. Our history here has been to focus on what we do best considering our size and realistic parameters. Spreading ourselves too thin, especially with limited resources, has consequences.

All of the above can and should be done under the name of FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL as has been the case for many, many years.!!!!

All students are not athletes. We said no to new turf field. Guess you folks didn't listen.

Along with these area should be spirit awards for students who add to the school community through their participation in extra curricular clubs and activities, through volunteer work, through leader ship and through overall cooperation and responsibility. It is important to set these standards for the school and for the students. There are students who may not have a true talent in athletics or arts but are supportive of their peers, their teachers and are good positive role models around school.

always room for improvement,more publicity for standout individuals in athletics,academics, fine arts etc....through local papers, or e-mail blasts....

As a coach, parent and follower of the athletics in Freeport I have heard for years that there is a general dissatisfaction with the athletics dept's advocacy and enthusiasm for excellence in rallying boosters and firing up the coaches, student-athletes. In fact, as we get closer to the issue, it is clear that there are very bad feelings about the leadership among many parents. Perhaps some focus on bringing those parents, students and community fans together as groups to take feedback would be a good exercise for the new superintendent.

As an alum, Freeport High School has always been a place where education and extra-curricular activities have thrived. Anyone who has been a part of the Freeport educational system will laud the experience they've had in that building. With some of the state's best educators, we are all delighted to recognize the system as having some of the best faculty and staff in the area, and arguably the state.

As far as I can see we distinguish the school by being like everyone else.

Athletics are supported for a small number of sports strongly but not all sports are supported evenly.

Athletics at the high school level is STALE. We need to change up our coaches. We need to set the bar high for coaching staff, especially because it is based on a year to year renewal system. We have some amazing athletes yet they are not being challenged and encouraged in the correct ways. That is why a lot of our top athletes leave the high school.

The girls varsity soccer coach's contract should NOT be renewed. Imagine the quality of coaches we could attract if we actually set the bar high? We have an extremely athletic freshman class-both boys and girls athletes are strong performers on the fields and courts. But the coaching staff is failing them, miserably. A State Title should be within our grasp.

I feel we distinguish ourselves from other districts by sending the message to parents and students that RSU5 is an exit school system. We can't seem to keep good students and families here and committed to the RSU. We can't get things done. We chase our tails. Look at the change over in leadership over the past 5 years. Unbelievable! Personally, I am tired of RSU5 being a stepping stone for other districts.

Academic programing, in my opinion, has improved over the past 6 years that my three children have been in the district. My oldest is now at the high school taking honors classes and she could definitely be challenged a bit more. She is bored and uninspired.

My 5th and 6th graders are both being taught at grade level and are doing well.

Athletics in the local news are far more prominent than academics or performing arts. The district could include more articles in our local newspapers.

The Athletic Director position at the high school could be renamed to Community Director, and be responsible for all three programming activities after school. This might help when program activities overlap. Students might have less conflicts and choices to make if administrators coordinated activities to meet student interests. For example, being benched at a basketball game because you need to go to play rehearsal or penalized on the tennis team because you had to go on a art field trip ought to be reconsidered.

Athletics programming is essentially the same for all schools in the state per the Maine Principals Assn.

Maybe we distinguish ourselves by playing schools that are geographically far removed from us (York, Wells, Fryeburg)

Athletics programming needs to look into how successful student athletes and teams are before entering the high school level. Is this why students leave the Freeport schools?

Back to the last page, People don't need to be rewarded for everything, if you did good, you get a good job, you don't need to be specially awarded to make yourself feel better, and because if it's anything like

the student of the month, then it doesn't represent AT ALL who did academically well or whatever.

Because we live in Pownal and my daughter still attends Pownal Elementary, I not really aware of RSU-wide efforts like this.

Being outside the school community, I am not sure how athletic and arts achievements are celebrated. I only know what I read in the paper. I do feel the proposed new football and track located at the high school will do much to improve community and school spirit around those athletic programs and probably the marching band program also. Having the facility at the school seems appropriate and long overdue.

Being recognized for achievements is important to keep the moral and students unity together. Freeport is doing a better job of getting coverage for these things. Students should be recognized for their achievements no matter how big or small. It gives students a sense of pride and dignity. Out students work hard and should be honored and recognized for their achievements.

Celebrating the achievements of the students will not improve or decrease by a changing of name.

Comments:

continue to improving on these

Currently I don't think the district does a good job explaining even to our own community members all the great academic things that are happening in the district. Along with heralding these achievements it needs to settle on a standardized test that can be compared year over year.

Different (special?) does not mean better ?

Discontinuing Valedictorian/Salutatorian status/Top 10 student recognition in 2000 and replacing it with the current system of naming a much larger group of students as our top scholars seems silly to me. Yes, we have many high achieving students, but why, when we name our top athletes or musicians, through district or state honors, are we reluctant to do this with academics? To me it seems part of the "everyone gets a trophy" mentality that has done a disservice to young people.

Don't know enough to comment on comparisons versus other school districts, although I think athletics and arts are using too much of the total budget. Kind of like the tail wagging the dog

eh

Empty nester, so cannot add anything to this.

Even though RSU5 may distinguish itself from other school systems the use of RSU5 is seldom used. With that in mind, it's a public school system and its budget needs to stay within the needs of the community and be responsible to the tax payers. Continued request on high budgets are pushing us over the edge of being able to afford to live here. Most of us are on fixed incomes and someday you will be too. If you want to impress the tax payers then come in with an increase at the same level as all three municipal budgets

Everyone doing their best is more important than striving for being distinguished from other districts.

Feel questions 1-5 somewhat abstract but ok for this survey.

FHS is not a number, which is what RSU5 represents.

Focus should be on student needs, not on making the school stand out or be more prestigious.

Formal recognition and support of Ultimate Frisbee would be great.

Freeport athletic fields are in poor condition and despite great grounds keeping, they are substandard to other schools. It impacts our athletic programs and the ability to attract strong coaching staff and retain high performing athletes (both academically strong as well as talented athletically).

Freeport does not have the reputation of distinguished achievement that other, very local districts have.

Freeport has a reputation for strong arts, but does not capitalize on this and does not invest in the arts at levels that could help those programs remain strong. Academic programming is okay, but not noteworthy when compared to schools such as those in Yarmouth and Cape.

Freeport HS has a very good reputation for the Arts, but comes up short with academics. In my opinion the arts and athletics are nice to have, but academics is the only true measurement of a school system.

Freeport is unique only in the fact that it consistently lags behind other local schools in both academics (state ratings etc.) and its Athletic Facilities. It's nice that you are concerned about unity but I think you have much bigger issues. Further, unity is tough when you have two towns that over served and over charged as evidenced by their consistent votes against the school budget and another town that is consistently under served and willing to pay for what is necessary to bring the schools up to a competitive standard.

Freeport's art program is highly regarded by people outside the district.

How would I, or anyone else that goes/lives in Freeport, know how different RSU5 is from other districts? Furthermore, why does that matter? Teaching should be uniform across districts. Being different in an area of learning points out weakness and room for improvement, whether it be in your school or the one you compare it to.

I am not sure how the academic charter compares. Do we have a focus? I wouldn't know it.

Fine arts seem to be well balanced and the variety of activities diverse. This is appreciated.

I believe Freeport High should keep their name. My family all went to Freeport High and didn't find that they were not accepted even if we lived in another town. I am an alumni and am proud of it. Changing its name will not bring more pride to them. It has been known as FHS for years and has been fine. What is \$65,000 for a name change, spend on something else needed more.

I believe our schools are talented, but so are the other schools.

I believe that any student can achieve the education that they want if they put their mind into it. If more is desired and not available it should be found some how some way. Sports and fine arts are important! Last year the baseball team did an awesome job and it brought the 3 communities together as Freeport High School! (There again it is Freeport). The one acts do well also. I can't wait until they bring home a State trophy. It is only a matter of time. I would like to see the band more. They (in my opinion) should be doing a half time routine at football games!

I believe the lack of proper athletic facilities, as compared to other schools, is an issue and we certainly distinguish ourselves from others, but in a negative way.

I believe we fall behind when comparing to other class B schools in our area.

I can't say if RSU5 stands out from other districts, because except for what I read in the Forecaster and Tritown papers, I don't have a feel for what the schools around the state are doing.

But why is it important to be different than other school districts? I think simply trying to be the best one can be, rather than compete against others, is the ideal. Now, I know competition is highlighted in our culture, hence the fierce athletic games and one-act play competitions. But to have a goal of being better and different I think puts the emphasis on beating others, rather than on improving oneself, and bypasses the ideal of a cooperative world.

I chose "strongly agree" for the athletics and academics because our facilities are the worst in Southern Maine and that is how we have distinguished ourselves. The Performing arts has distinguished themselves by talent and creativity which I strongly believe is being guided by Simon Skold and the beautiful performing arts center that inspires others to create.

I didn't answer these questions; I focused on the name change!

I do believe that the RSU does distinguish itself from other districts especially in sports because our students are always positive and and prideful. Although I don't know much about how other districts are run outside of athletics.

I don't believe I am qualified to answer and except #3. I think RSU5 does get the word out fairly well on athletics.

i don't even really know

I don't feel like distinguishing the district from other districts in an athletic sense is that important. Most districts distinguish themselves from others because of their success... Nonetheless, I do love our district :)

I don't have strong feelings about how unique Freeport HS stands, except that being involved with local theater, I am well aware that the Drama Dept. stands out front and center with its involvement in regional and state One-Act competition.

I don't have very much exposure to these fields yet because my children are younger, so please don't take my comments as negative, just as ignorant.

I don't know much about other districts.

I don't know that it has to "distinguish" itself (ie-provide unique programs), but rather provide quality education. I'm not sure we can say this now. If we focused the efforts on providing excellent education vs. different education--that alone would distinguish us.

i don't mind

I don't really know that much about the other districts so I can't really answer these questions.

I don't think being called RSU5 distinguishes us at all. Sounds like a robot.

I don't think it is as important to distinguish oneself from other districts as much as it is important to try to meet the needs of all students the district serves. I would think this would be a goal of all school districts.

I don't think people are leaving the school district to pay to go to other school districts or private schools because RSU5 is not unique. They are leaving because the other schools have more and better options and they want that for their kids.

I dont Know

i dont know in durham we arnt celebrated for winning a game in durham so yeah

I fear that Freeport high school has moved more towards AP classes. In the past they had more unique courses taking advantage of the faculties skills and interests. More AP classes is not always better.

I feel that each school celebrates all of the above, however recognition as a School Union is not something i see happening at all.

I feel that the rsu has been through so much leadership transition and turmoil (withdrawal votes) that is has been difficult to gain momentum. Looking forward to some stability to focus on highlighting the good work of teachers and staff.

I found it to answer these questions as I don't know how any of these suggested methods of distinguishing the students or RSU is occurring. If asked should the RSU do things to distinguish itself, the focus should be on academic programming. It is the most important aspect to help these students achieve life-long success. Yes, being good in high school athletics and fine arts helps folks appreciate the benefits of being healthy and value the arts, but those are secondary to ensuring the students can get good paying jobs to be able to support themselves and their future families.

I fully support and love the emphasis put on the arts, but seems to not have as much for sports. However, my perspective is as an elementary school parent and I don't know the full extent of sports celebrations.

I give lower marks on Question 1 for one reason: the athletic player/parent/coach policy book. I've been told that "there can be no such thing as zero-tolerance" in high school athletics any more. I was also told that Freeport's policies were written with the intention of falling in line with those of other schools in our conference (Yarmouth, Cape, Falmouth, etc.). I would argue that there is nothing wrong with being better/stronger than other schools. "That's what everyone else is doing" is weak sauce. This is NOT a knock on our Athletic Director, for whom I have a great deal of respect. But I think that it's not unreasonable for Freeport to take another look at its policies and decide whether it represents who we want to be as a school community.

I have no idea. Too many questions for a survey about renaming the High School. If one wanted this type of input, there should be a separate survey.

In regard to the previos question about celebrations, I am not sure what you are getting at and why non-athlete / non-academic acheivement were not singled out. THAT is where you will get pride and unity if ALL students of ALL backgrounds are celebrated. For some, just getting to school and getting

through the day is as good as it gets. For some High School graduation is a hard earned mile stone and there is no expectation at home beyond that.

At a small school like FHS one can get tired of hearing about the same talented few getting so much attention.

I have no strong feelings either way as I am not well informed on what is offered compared to other schools.

I have not been a student at any other school so I really can't have an input on these questions

I have not been in the system long enough to really have much of an opinion on these, sorry!

I have only disagreed here due to the fact that I haven't heard or read anything in the media that would indicate RSU5 distinguishes itself. Perhaps more work should be done getting the word out to the communities at large on what things are being done at FHS. A good indicator is what real estate agents are telling folks about our schools as they try to find homes for perspective buyers. Are they singing praises for RSU5 or are they advocating buying in Yarmouth?

I know that there has been a lot of publicity and emphasis placed on the switch to standards based grading aligned with the Common Core. As a parent, I feel this is just a bunch of smoke and mirrors used to justify jumping on the latest educational bandwagon. I feel the standards based curriculum is significantly less creative, less academically challenging, and downright dull compared with what I experienced in the Maine public schools as a child. Enrichment beyond the "standards" is what's needed. And ensuring that the "standards" are taught in age appropriate and creative ways.

I hear a lot about RSU5 athletics in the local press, but much less about the fine arts. I know that there's some amazing stuff going on with studio art and theater, etc, which does occasionally get coverage, but not nearly enough.

I love going to school here!

i love our athletic and performing arts programs

i love our athletic team and our performing arts program

I never saw that the Freeport school system made any attempts to distinguish itself from any other area schools. From what I observed, the principal, the superintendent and most of the teachers were just trying to get through the day. School pride was very low when I was a student. As I understand, it's a little better now, but when I compare the academic program compared to that of other schools, there is nothing distinctly different.

I rarely pay attention to comparisons with other schools.

I see an overdependence on the use of computers in the class room, especially in math and sciences. A computer is a poor substitute for an engaged and motivated teacher.

I'm a strong supporter of the track project and believe Freeport's athletes often overperform given the lack of what should be a basic facility at any high school.

i see people are really athletic in rsu5

I strongly agree

I strongly agree RSU5 is unique distinguishing themselves but in a negative manner, the RSU is so Freeport biased and run by the lopsided school board.

I think a track will help distinguish us and give to the community. I think it is unfortunate that our kids have to run along busy streets when training with running. I think only a few athletes are acknowledged. I'm concerned how the new grading system will affect recognition of academic achievement

I think Freeport high school has somewhat made a name for itself because some things have not been positive. The athletic fields have needed an improvement for a while and it is one of the few towns in Maine without a track.

I think if somebody is taking on many tasks for example taking harder classes than average and participating in extra-curricular activities, they should be recognized for that. I feel that high honor role can be a little vague because some classes that are taken are a lot easier and require a lot less effort.

I think it wouldn't be a bad thing if we were open to more sports. I.e. Swimming, crew, volleyball or just knew that we had the opportunities to participate in those sports at other schools.

I think RSU 5 has a strong performing arts program. RSU 5 has lost a lot of students to private and charter school options in the last several years. This tells me we're missing something that might keep those students in the district.

I think rsu5 is still establishing itself as a growing entity in the education and athletic programs, we have a good foundation and need to continue to grow

I think sports are way over any other forms of recognition. We don't see band concerts, plays, etc. get as much recognition! If a child makes All State music do they get their name and picture in the paper. Do we even have an outstanding music and art program? We never hear about it!

I think that freeport has a great athletic program as well as fine arts.

i think that Freeport high school is unlike the other schools and the name should stay the same one reason is that the school is in Freeport and it has had that name for a very long time and if it were to change i would still call it freeport high school

I think that in middle school we should be allowed to do more art.

I think that RSU5 could be a lot prouder of the academics, arts, and athletics programs that we are providing. Neighboring towns, like Yarmouth and Falmouth, often overshadow our great accomplishments. I think we should publicly share our accomplishments more.

I think that the RSU 5 Board continues to strive to offer the best possible education. There's always room to improve, and we need to keep a critical eye open for those opportunities to correct our course. But let's give credit where credit is due; we are providing good educational opportunities for our kids, and we are determined to build on our success.

I think the most distinguishing feature of RSU 5 is its smaller size compared to some other districts. Otherwise, I don't feel as though it's known for anything in particular. I have heard complaints that it isn't known particularly for producing strong athletes with parents of strong athletes saying our inclusive approach to athletics prevents excellence. As a parent of a child who isn't particularly gifted



in athletics, I have not found the athletic program to be very inclusive of his lower skill level. (Once kids exit 5th grade, there are minimal "recreational" sport programs that are not "travel" in nature and joining a school team basically gets you a seat on the bench for 7th and 8th graders or "cut" if you are a 6th grader. There is not a very robust "junior varsity" program for those who aren't superstars to develop their ability or enjoy being part of a team athletically.

I think the RSU could utilize the local weeklies better to achieve these goals, and perhaps social media as well. To the extent the RSU maintains and twitter/instagram/FB social media I'm unaware of it and most parents shouldn't have to seek it, it should be incorporated into the process of on boarding parents, students, and the community at large. Students could work to run these accounts under RSU supervision and gain valuable work experience.

I think the rsu does a phenomenal job at the elementary level -

I think there needs to be clear messaging around Honor Roll and High Honors. I feel strongly that this is a motivational tool. It seems that we cater more to making all students feel good, but we may fall short in recognizing and rewarding hard work and achievement. This goes for recognizing kids for fine arts achievements as well. I also think that we could look to neighboring towns like Yarmouth and see what they are doing right with their sports programs and take away some key learnings. We should look at coaches and the the AD at the High School level and make sure that they are being given clear feedback that is coming from parents and make sure that the right people are in those positions to move Freeport forward. I'm not saying that the right people are not in those positions, but I think that everyone could benefit from feedback. Perhaps an end of season survey could go out that parents could fill out anonymously that went to the Principal should go out that asks for feedback, what is done well and what is done not so well as a form of accountability.

I think this doesn't state that our school culture is really great. In my personal experience, people are generally friendly and accepting here, moreso than other schools. Our fine arts and athletics are great. Our teachers are great as well.

I think we need to put a little more time and energy into recognizing the sports, art, music and drama departments. A lot of kids work really hard and I think their peers should recognize this.

I think we should play different schools in sports because it is fun to compete against friends from durham.

i want to be able to play all school teams is sports

I was a school teacher in a different RSU and we were one of the host schools in a conference on standards-based learning. As one of the participants, my perception was that some of the RSU5 high school teachers at the conference were not as progressive and willing to adopt new practices as I would have expected. At Mast Landing and FMS, I have been very pleased about almost every teacher my son has had so far. My son will be entering high school next year.

I would briefly like to say that although Freeport has an amazing performing arts program, no one in these programs gets credit or recognition for our accomplishments. Last year when the one acts won a regional title, we not only got almost no recognition, but we were actually ridiculed for not being apart of a real sport. When was the last time the majority of our sports teams actually made a regional event? Give credit where credit is due.

I would like FHS to explore the idea of becoming known for something in academics - STEM would be my first choice. Why not form a strategic partnership with Baxter (for example)?

I'm cautious to accept such a vaguely defined "distinguishing" between RSU5 and other districts. Our athletic teams are very good, our fine arts are very good and responsibility for academic performance has to fall on students at some times.

I'm not familiar enough with how other local high schools do various things to answer these questions with validity. I think FHS distinguishes itself --at least lately--by its culture. Not so sure about these other characteristics. I think this would be fertile school vision subject matter.

I'm too far removed from this to really know the answers, apologies.

If certain scheduling issues could be fixed then I think we would see more progress/growth in the fine arts programs.

If the track and field additions are approved the high school will stand out among others. Especially if night lighting is enclosed allowing for other uses in the community.

If we are going to increase publicity of student achievement, it needs to be varied, broad and deep. Ensuring that students from all walks of life and in all programs are being recognized (Tech school students, homeschool part-time students, life-skills program students). This is very important.

If you change the name of the high school you will muddy the waters and the district will not be distinguishable from other districts! If you didn't already know, how would you be able to tell what district a student at Edward Little is from? Do you know where George W. Sterns School is? (or even who he was?) What about Schenk High School? Crown Regional? Oceanside? Averill? Henry W Grady High School? All in Maine, and all could be any where...Oh, well...that last one's in Atlanta, GA.

In news releases that mention student names there does not seem to be a problem giving student names, school name and the hometown of the students.

Increased sense of pride lately in the community and in the students

It does not really distinguish from other schools

It has a great music program that should be advertised and known more in other districts. We can still improve with athletic facilities!! Give us something to be proud of as a community like at Hunter rd. Freeport should put all the amazing things it is known for onto their web pages and celebrate it better. This is where parents look first to decide about schools.

It is difficult to comment on these - our children are still in elementary school. I do however feel very strongly about needing athletic facilities! A critical foundation for a strong athletic program (and the connection to successful academics) along with the health and wellbeing of the students, staff and community. There is a direct correlation to the feeling of pride and unity.

It is not an RSU unit that distinguishes itself, it is the dedicated staff and hard working students and supportive parents. PEOPLE. not a unit.

PEOPLE like to have their own personal name and place, not a unit number.

Units are technical or administrative sections. No heart or soul in such a concept as unit.

it really is the same as most everything around here

It was my understanding that RSU5 looked to a pool of comparable schools, such as Yarmouth, Falmouth and Cape, and sought to attain the same standards as those schools. Without comparisons of specific program metrics, it isn't possible to answer these questions. However, RSU5 has distinguished itself negatively in athletic programming by not having a track.

It would be interesting to find out how many students from Falmouth, Cumberland, and Yarmouth go to other private schools rather than the local high school. After living and teaching in Freeport for over 25 years, I feel that Freeport has a higher percentage of its high school population opting for a private or charter school. This data should be collected and investigated, especially for the reasons.

It's difficult to distinguish yourself if you stick to the generic RSU5 name specifically. I'm not familiar with the rules specific to Maine, but an example district in Colorado is "Adams 12" (Adams County, District 12), but they market themselves as Adams 12 Five Star Schools or just "Five Star School District". I wonder if RSU5 could alias itself similarly? While marketing and education don't always sound right together, it does go a long way to craft some kind of image around the district that everyone can stand behind. A more useful way to spend re-naming monies would be to the district as a whole, not Freeport High specifically.

It's difficult to recognize, celebrate or stand out amongst other districts when you can't produce winning teams. New leadership is needed at the top and parents need to be more invested in the pride and togetherness that comes to communities when they have winning experiences as a team, Which in life, is what we all are or should be! A lot of life skills can be learned on the playing fields.

Several years ago, we started down a path of performing arts and left athletics behind. Sad for those of us who grew up in a time when we can remember gold balls, parades and a real community spirit between three towns. I don't mean to diss the Arts, hell I was one of the lucky members of the acclaimed Freeport High School Marching Band, who also won numerous awards and rallied three communities like no other!!!

Its hard to know how to answer those questions, as I only have the point of view of a child in one of the elementary schools. I do not have children that have attended more than one school in the RSU5, and do not know much, if anything, about the other schools with regards to the questions above. Within the school my child attends, I feel our "specials" teachers do a phenomenal job of offering an array of learning opportunities, but I cannot speak to what our district does, as I frankly have no idea. (Yes, please, more unity... more transparency... more inter-school events and communications!)

Just a note: I have been associated with the performing arts program since 1986. We were one of the first and now one of only several schools that produce student written one-act plays. We are known for our one-acts and students from other schools do come to see our performances. I believe that were one of the first schools tin Maine to do Senior Projects and the Little River course (started to help a cross section of students develop personal growth and feel accepted and part of the school community.

keep it the way it is

Living outside the community, I am not a good judge of the above topics.

More focus needs to be on education instead sports. Not all students are athletes!

Much More work is needed to push for excellence.

Evaluating Teachers and Coaches and receiving feedback from students/athletes and parents is a start.

Programs that have a history of mediocre or (-) results should be evaluated first and steps for improvement created.

Music and arts are much stronger than academics and with weak youth programs it's hard to develop competitive high school teams. More emphasis should be placed in better student: teacher ratio in k-5 where kids all learning at different levels and speeds of development and better skilled, trained coaches at youth level

Music program at middle school is very good.

My child is in fifth grade, so I'm not really sure about these

My kids were in a different school district several years ago and I am very pleased with the uniqueness of the RSU5 system.

My perspective on "distinguishes itself" may be slightly different from others'. I have always felt that Freeport is at its best when it doesn't try to become another Yarmouth or Falmouth. Embrace the fact that we don't have as many AP classes BUT the entire school gets to have lunch (and club meetings) at the same time and we have much more heterogeneous participation in activities.

By this I mean that we have athletes who also sing and play in chorus and band and who also perform in plays and musicals AND who participate in Model UN. I work at another, larger, high school in the state where the students are much less well-rounded. Sadly, the stereotype groups are much more prevalent there: the "jocks", the "nerds", the "theater/band kids", etc. I think when we focus on how to become more competitive academically or athletically we should consider the possible unintended consequences and try as much as possible to preserve the wonderfully quirky way Freeport has been different (and in my opinion better).

My son attends DCS and I can only speak from experience there. He has thrived with the academic programming offered and the staff are exceptional. Additionally, the music program has been enriching for him. As he does not participate in school sports, I can't really say (although Gym class is a big highlight for him).

na

no comment

No comment

No comment

No Comment.

Not enough information to have an opinion

Not familiar with many of these recognition ceremonies

ok ko ok

One act plays are always amazing!! Don't ever stop that amazing program!!

One item I would like to have would be a paper version of the winter Basketball schedule for the High School for both Boys and Girls.

For a lot of us older folks it is not easy to get this info from your web site.

Other districts laugh at RSU5 programs because the facilities are lacking.

Our athletic fields are some of, if not the worse, in southern Maine. We have only three tennis courts in all three towns. We do not have a track and field.

Our drama department does a really good job but gets little recognition, even though they're REALLY good at what they do. Our athletics are okay, we're good at running and baseball right now, that's about it, we offer some interesting classes however I don't have a reference point to compare them to because I don't know what the curriculum of other schools is like.

Our family recently relocated to Maine. We toured many schools in the surrounding area.

We were drawn to Freeport because of the character and quality of its schools--specifically Mast Landing. It has just the right blend of academic rigor and creativity. And, it comes without the pressure cooker side effect that can be an unfortunate, unintended consequence of strong academics. The thing that most stood out was this--the students clearly felt ownership of their school. They exuded a sense of community and belonging.

Our fine arts are top notch.

Team sports need an overhaul starting at the top.

Foreign languages need to start at an earlier age.

Our fine arts department is amazing! We need to place more emphasis on recognizing the teachers and students that put in massive amounts of time making the arts program so wonderful.

Our school system needs improvements, not spending it on renaming our school. Spend 68,000 on our kids!

Our Visual and performing arts are outstanding!

Please see my first comment.

Recognition is inconsistent and favoritism clearly a factor. For example, sport coaches awarding their own child or friends without justification. Extra activities and participation in extracurricular activities are not all made public or offered fairly to all students

Regarding athletics, I believe that we distinguish ourselves (not in a good way) with lacking field quality. A turf field, track and lights would bring us up to the competitive norm.

Regionally not recognized as strong academics. Theatre is a bright spot. Visual arts are wonderful but

get very little attention. Cross country and the ski teams stand out, other sports are terribly stagnant and could use fresh coaches.

Responses are neutral, in the middle, due to insufficient knowledge base of these specific areas in comparison with other districts.

RSU 5 does not offer a range of programming in other districts. Athletics is continually funded, with increases, while performing arts is either funded with a fight, and flat funded if finally in budget (I was involved in trying to get a stipend for PA 2 years ago). Yet the musical and one act activities, for example, provided a no cost activity for 60-70 students with the spectrum of learning abilities, diagnoses, and economic backgrounds, enabling each student to choose an activity that matches his/her/their own strengths. It should not be an either/or for performing arts and athletics, but equal respect and funding should be acknowledged.

RSU 5 has a history of being pretty much average, while our neighboring towns excel

RSU 5 needs to pay attention to our students and meet their expectations and needs. We also need to draw more potential students and parents. We need to laud and applaud our talents.

Rsu 5 tries to be just like Brunswick and Yarmouth

RSU5 distinguishes itself from other districts in its deafness to the taxpayers who have attended the school system and continue to support it financially. I assume there is a 100% chance the person(s) who floated this lead balloon of an idea to change its name know very little and have experienced less about Pownal/Durham/Freeport history and community.

RSU5 distinguishes itself from other districts with a narrow, short-sighted approach to retaining quality teachers and offering a variety of challenging courses. It is inexcusable for a teacher to leave our district in search of better pay. If we want excellent teachers, we need to pay them enough money so they are not likely to seek more remunerative employment elsewhere. If we want the strongest students to remain in district, we need to offer a true variety of challenging, advanced courses.

Until spending reflects these goals, we should expect top students to continue to leave for private schools, and we should continue to expect top teachers to leave in search of greener pastures.

RSU5 does not offer many important classes, such as AP level classes at the sophomore and junior level. AP classes have a national standard. Honors classes do not and this has a potential impact on strong students applying to colleges who have not had an opportunity to take more AP classes. Having them available the senior year is not as helpful. My son is in the GT program, however, there is not a lot of "enrichment" at the high school level - I have been told that this is what the honors classes are for.

At the lower grades, there are not a lot of opportunities in the academic programming. We start languages and instruments later than our neighboring towns. The bright students are not provided with a more enhanced learning environment within a regular classroom. The fine arts programming is very limited, particularly at the lower grade level.

RSU5 is a good school district with good teachers and wonderful students, but we are not unique from our surrounding school districts. I do not find this good or bad. It is what it is.

RSU5 is about to distinguish itself by foolishly trying to waste money renaming the High school

RSU5 is just like other districts, same sports, same academic programs.

RSU5 places far too much emphasis on athletics and far too little on performing arts. If you want students to feel included more funds should be allocated to the theater program, especially the One Act program, as that is the one program at Freeport High School where EVERYONE feels accepted.

RSU5 provides a solid education to our students but I do not feel that there is anything that strongly distinguishes us from other schools in the area. Nor do I think there is anything distinguishing about the other schools in the area.

RSU5 should aim to be the best we can be & not worry about distinguishing among other districts. The goal is to educate the next generation - all districts. Pride can be & should be celebrated in all category's - academics, sport, art & music. This part of the survey is confusing. I hope my comments express my beliefs.

RSU5 should focus on the quality of education that it provides. Given the state of education in this country, providing a high-quality education should be distinctive enough.

RSU5 is not a distinctive name. Try "Freeport Public Schools"!

Schools have become virtual magnates in the realm of sports. Sporting events do create a sense of pride and unity, but tend to trump the educational aspect of well, education. See #Freeport6MillionDollarTrackandFieldProject for details. Imagine then a 6 million dollar upgrade to the educational value that we could place on our students! Priorities are backwards here.

Since my children are not yet in high school I can not say I have a good grasp on all of the RSU programs. With that said I have heard many good things about some of the "out of the box" programs offered at the school.

Stop worrying about how you compare to other districts and spend your energy insuring the student get the best program you can. Concentrate on reading, writing and arithmetic.

Stop trying to keep up with the Jones.

Student written one acts was always a source of pride

The arts - which have won recent and high level recognition in several mediums - are proportionally underfunded, especially considering the poor performance of several sports teams.

The athletes we've met have been great kids and have received awards and scholarships like most communities give out. The sense of belonging is very strong here. Our exchange students have enjoyed participating in FHS athletics.

(Please receive the following in the spirit of concern and encouragement);

Regarding fine arts, the one theatre production we attended last year included expletives and what some would regard as disrespect of their religion, at the least, and blasphemy, at worst. One could expect this in a college, but high school?

Instead of forcing the issue of alternative lifestyle choices on an audience (that may include gender confused teens), there are better ways to show tollerance. I come from a very LGBTQ inclusive

community in Hawai'i, where we all play and live together in harmony. But, pushing agendas on people's sensibilities is counter productive and might serve to cost FHS enrollment to parochial institutions in the future. I want FHS to succeed and prosper!

Is this the example we want to set for our children, that it's okay to insult the sensibilities of the audience and violate the principles parents teach their children? That it's a good thing to use profanity?

BRAVO for having this forum!

Thank you and  
GO FALCONS!!!

The athletic program needs to look at its practices to distinguish itself from other area programs. It needs to start at the top, from the superintendent, to the principal, to the athletic director, and trickle down to all coaching levels and sports, athletes, parents, and community fans. It is evident in some coaching staff that they do strive to distinguish themselves and the team. These coaches try to bond the whole entire teams with their JV and varsity sport, and these coaches also are seen on the sidelines supporting other teams and the players of the sport they coach. These select coaches are also seen at booster meetings participating in striving for a better program. It is also evident that student athletes strive to distinguish themselves as well as by participating in off season games/community travel/AAU teams in various sports. Parents too work on distinguishing our athletic programs by attending booster meetings and participating in activities to help the program grow. This school system has a way to go to improving all of the sport programs.

What about coaching evaluations is this done? Players and parents should have some input with evaluations. It maybe more successful to discuss a parent's/player's concerns about a coach on a questionnaire rather than meet with the coach or athletic director. The athletic director needs to listen openly and seriously to a player's/family's concerns and to have the family and player feel no repercussions will be put on the player or the family in future sport seasons.

Some of the topics I have heard and seen on the sidelines are the following:

"Players leaving the school system or the sport because of particular coaches."

"Players responsible for childcare of coach's children while a practice and or game is taking place."

"The coach's children should not even be there giving the fact they are working." "How can players and coaches concentrate/focus on the game/practice." "Putting the players in this situation is just not healthy."

"Having a varsity coach, coach their own child is not a healthy situation for all players either. It creates animosity amongst that player and his or her teammates as well as amongst the coach and other players." "It can be looked upon as favoritism when the player plays entire games, and receives athletic excellence awards when the player's contributions are questionable."

"Parents upset with coaching, athletic director standing near by and just walks off."

I feel these are the things that tear apart unity and pride in our school.

The beautiful space that is the FPAC sets the stage (so to speak) for pride in all the events that take place there. Candlelight, Athletic Awards nights, Academic Awards nights, Senior Project presentations, are all more distinguished and special because of our venue. Let's have a track and fields



to match!!

The data from these questions can be very misleading and can be used to serve various viewpoints.

The district does not consistently promote accomplishments or unique programming to the broader community. Nor is there an assertive effort to collaborate with the municipal governance, to promote the importance of a strong school system to each community's economic vitality.

Our district has been playing catch-up, and has not been progressive or dynamic in program design or leveraging our unique resources and potential. Rather we have robotically operated on compliance with government-driven policy and fleeting initiatives.

The liberal arts program at FHS, including performing and visual arts, has been an asset for years. It is a strength of the school and should be recognized and supported as such. Continued scheduling issues prevent students from being able to get into some of these classes. Current scheduling process does not support the growth of the program. I'm not saying this because David Watts is my husband.

The math and science needs to be improved as well as choosing better. It needs to be stronger and is not preparing kids for college.

We need better coaches for sports. Opening up the coach hiring process to the outside public would help instead of just having teachers slide into these positions.

Music and sports departments need to work together so that kids can do both instead of being forced into making a choice at this young age. This is a time of trying and doing and finding out who you are. Departments and their teachers and coached need to come up with standard protocols as to how kids can be active in both and not be penalized for missing a practice.

The RSU needs to focus energy on unique programs to distinguish itself from other school districts. It is not going to happen by setting goals for marginal improvements in student test scores each year. We are surrounded by wonderful options for students in competing public, private, magnet and charter schools.

RSU5 should immediately allow these students to freely attend the programs that best match their needs (including superintendent agreements), while working to vastly improve the program through unique and inventive ways to individualize programs to each student, offer unique and creative academic, arts and extracurricular programming, and give all students the equipment, technology and tools needed to meet the new economy.

The rsu5 could do a better job at recognising academic achievements but we do an awesome job in sports.

The RSU5 district has a wonderful pool of talent to draw from and a host of willing parents who are willing to put the time and effort needed to support their children, changing the name will have no real or tangible effects on these two items.

The RSU5 is very proud of all aspects and will continue to grow and move forward. I am proud to be a teacher in the RSU5!

The school, as a whole, needs to promote the fine arts much more. As it stands, the sports teams dominate everything else, including some classes. Many teachers have, in the past, had biases against students who weren't on their sports teams, which greatly effect both academics and other, less ball-throwing extra curricular activities.

The students should learn to get along with new students and we should like other districts.

The teachers at RSU5 are outstanding. Though we might not get the same public accolades as our wealthier neighboring districts, I am so highly impressed by the superb rigorous education my own child has received from talented and immensely dedicated teachers.

Special shout out to Lisa Blier, Mr. Stivers, Mr. G, Mr Heathco, Mr. Berkemeyer, Mr. Cass, and Ms. Taylor

There are all kinds of kids that do well in their strengths, whether it is sports or the arts. I am glad they have the opportunity to be a part of some or all of it.

There are some great ideas and efforts, but it's hard to get the community to get behind supporting the efforts (by having an appropriate budget).

There is always more that can be done. As a member of the current Performing Arts Program at Freeport High School I know we have already made a big step this year in the amount of students accepted into the Honors District III festival and many students are also auditioning for All State. We also went to state level competition for the One Act festival last year. I don't know enough about the athletics programs to know if we do well with other schools, but I have heard lots of good things and talked to plenty of kids who are proud of their teams.

There is no need to provide ALL SPORTS!!!! Too Expensive and thins out the opportunity for winning teams it is all about competition and team work or individual goals depending on the sport, this leads also to more expenses for transport, more coaches, more bus drivers , more work for the athletic director and field crews. I don't see an advantage.

The sports banquets and homecoming celebrations are fabulous ways of celebrating, sharing school spirit, rewarding athletes and unifying the RSU!

These are guesses. I really don't know.

These questions are not either or, as presents here. our schools are great, but could always use tweaking.

These questions seem ludicrous. How about if we just do a good job at the things we do and let that distinguish us from other districts?

They try to be  
Like Brunswick

Thinking about sending my son to private school because I'm concerned about the lack of emphasis on academics in RSU5.

This is nothing new. Freeport High has a long history of high achievement in all these areas. I can remember back to the late 50's celebrating sports, Music activities(the late 60's thru early 70's were some of the best years), we have many students thru the years have taken college course while still in high school. We have Doctors, lawyers, Professors, teachers, a Priest and many more professions who have graduated from our schools. We may be a small town in Maine but, we do not all have small town ambitions. Do we really care what other towns say or have? I don't live life to keep up with the Jones. That can just get you in a world of trouble!

This is one of the only districts that doesn't include a volleyball team even if students say they are interested in learning the sport.

This is our first year in the district and it is hard for me to say at this point.

This strikes me as self congratulatory. Serve all the kids not just the high achievers in any area.

This survey alone tells me you care more about how people see the leading of RSU5 than about the kids themselves. This again, is arrogance. "look how great we are? Look what we create for our kids!" Your questions are all superficial. I've seen many well dressed individuals who were rotten on the inside. Whoever created these questions, tells me you only care about what RSU5 looks like. Not about what the children really need.

Though moving in the directions indicated above may cost additional money, as the spouse of a former teacher, I believe advancement in these areas is equally dependent upon motivated and creative staff. The more students are allowed to expand in areas of greatest interest and at a pace consistent with aptitude, the more likely we will retain students within the RSU and not lose them to private schools. Online instruction, in particular, should be pursued as a low cost means for allowing students to pursue college level credits and to expand into areas not supported by core staff.

Tim does an excellent job with the plays (at DES and one act) but I don't see much success in the sports arena.

Unfortunately, RSU5 distinguishes itself athletically by not having a track. This is such a basic athletic program and community feature, and is hardly a "luxury". I am really hoping that the track and field project will come to fruition soon! :)

Unless things have substantially changed, I urge you to check out the stipends of athletic coaches vs. the stipends of music/art/drama/academic coaches.

we are the most bland boring and ugly school in the state

WE could do better in the arts funding

We do not distinguish ourselves,

We do not have children in the Freeport system so our awareness of achievements is very limited. I support recognition of achievements and making special occasions for these celebrations.

We don't need to walk around with noses in the air. Again, it's the people. The way we present ourselves will distinguish us from others

We lack proper athletic facilities like a track and field. Many wonderful families chose to send their children to other high schools for this reason. Many more do not even move to Freeport for the same reason.

We need a track.

We need a turf field and games under the lights. and spend some good money on coaches and equipment so the kids get the best the can get out of their sport.

When the baseball team went as far as they did I think its the first time I saw any support for a team in the town with posters and write ups in the papers. The towns and community need to do that more often.

We need more academic, athletic, and fine arts opportunities!

We need the track and field project to move forward this would at the very least get us to the like levels of our neighboring RSU's and even in some cases a step above. Constant Improvement is the mark of a good school district.

We need to continue to build our athletic programs. We need team pride and community. It is necessary to be hiring coaches who know the sport they are coaching inside and out and are willing to put forth the effort needed to be a high school coach - maybe increasing pay for coaches? These coaches need to be passionate about the sport, our athletes and our community.

We should have a turf field and track already

We should NOT copy other districts' slavish incorporation of all possible AP courses, but instead should abandon AP entirely, freeing students to achieve differently, and liberating them from colleges over-focusing on such courses. We should NOT focus so much on athletic achievement, but should incorporate more aspects of "active living" apart from team sports.

We used to distinguish ourselves, but have changed things in the wrong direction. Getting rid of the separate programs at Mast Landing--that was innovative and wonderful, now gone. Freeport High School continues to drop in the state rankings. That is NOT distinguishing in the way I would like. And we could be way more supportive of our performing arts programs like they are at Yarmouth HS, Greely HS, Falmouth HS to name a few. They do a much better job of that than RSU 5, which puts way to much emphasis on sports.

We're one of the only schools of our size in the entire state without a track, or turf field.

what do I even put here.

What? Why is that important ?

When I was interviewing for a job in RSU 5, I was told several times by different people that they truly valued the performing arts and felt that they were well respected within the district and that it was something to be proud of as a participant or an audience member.

When my kids went to Freeport schools there was almost no district hopping and choices - and I am not sure this particular changes is a good thing - so it is hard for me to get my head around this outlook.

While my daughter attended FHS we never missed a concert, sports awards ceremony, the One Act's, or fall musical. We still attend all of FHS's drama performances.

Why do you have to compare Freeport with others. Just worry about how our program is preparing our children.

Why is there no comment box on in the achievements section? I had comments for those.

And overall, would have liked an N/A or Unknown option as some topics, I.e performing arts, I don't

know much about.

why would we they are our friends and we just push us away?!?!?!?

wish the athletic programs would go back to the way they were in prior years. For example: 9-10 were on JV and 11-12 were varsity. If player was really talented, they could swing to varsity, NOT swing down to JV. Seems Freeport is trying to get all good/talented players on varsity and we still do not win. It is too much for a freshman/sophomore to play varsity at when just coming into high school.

With regard to student recognition, when I was a student at FHS towards the end of my time there the school began having assemblies every quarter to recognize student achievement. These assemblies were mandatory and students could not opt out to better use the time to prep for tests and do homework.

Nobody liked these assemblies as they were a waste of time and we were all too busy pursuing our own goals to hear the football team's great achievement of going a season with only one concussion.

Would give us a competitive edge if we had more of a draw to be able to recruit kids and families. If other schools can do this, we can too. It would raise the community as a trickle effect.

#### **Comments on Section D. Future Investments**

"...science, technology, engineering, arts, and math..." - so emphasize everything other than civics/history? That sounds like a terrible plan. I have had numerous recent FHS students working for me who don't know about the electoral college, have never heard of the holocaust, and are upset with the most recent elections but yet could not name either of their State Legislators, Federal Representative or Senators. They've had four years of STEM classes and yet they can't make change for a dollar without a machine - Not everyone is going to be an engineer.

#5 If these dual enrolment courses are offered with accommodations for special ed students and are scheduled to be available to our Tech students and homeschool students, then they will equitably allow a cross-section of our student population to ease their transition to college, provide excitement and confidence to those students not certain that they should attend college, and will save families money by avoiding tuition.

#7 and 8

The more authentic the HS learning opportunities, the more students will grow.

#7 at FHS STEM classes (including math and science classes) are presently providing real world problems in all levels .

A ice hockey team!!!!!!

A Language Immersion Program is a great idea but even before that we should take steps to improve the program: 1) High School freshmen should be ready for Spanish or French II or III, and not go into a Level 1 class as most do now; 2) classes should be taught entirely in the language and should focus much more on conversation; and 3) every student should graduate proficient in a living language.

A lot of this comes down to expense and how convenient these added activities are.

a program for kids that are getting bullied or a girls group and boys group

A requirement for all students to participate in some form of community service for credit in order to graduate.

Abandon AP, teach computer programming or at least scripting, get students outside more

After reviewing other private and public schools in the area, one of the reasons we chose FHS is the strength of the STEAM offerings.

I would like to see a play each year in addition to the musical and one-act.

Again, as the parent of a fifth grader, I'm not that knowledgeable of the RSU's efforts along these lines. My answers are more about how important I think these programs are in general - I may find that, given the RSU's limited resources and many demands, these kinds of programs are well-served.

Again...not enough information .

All of these questions support my responses and concern expressed on the previous page. I believe that every child benefits from experiential learning opportunities and exposure to 'real life' through supportive programming and engagement helps students figure out their values, what is important to them, how they handle themselves in situations, and creates a far more well rounded individual than those that can study/memorize/and reproduce in a traditional classroom setting.

ALL our students also need to learn life skills - cooking, managing money, budgets, fixing minor repairs around the home, LIFE SKILLS

All this sounds great. Sports are always so highlighted in general.

Alternative Ed Programming should be increased

An actual track would be nice.

An internship idea is interesting, though may be tricky when factoring in travel logistics. Why not have people who work in different careers visit and share?

Any extension of learning is good in my book.

Anything we can do to further educate our young ones is important! That was my point...spend the money put aside to change the name of FREEPORT High school, on the these programs.

AP courses are overrated and colleges are moving away from giving credit for them. Don't add more. Add real learning. Finish equipping the FPAC, offer music lessons like other area high schools: guitar, piano, etc.

As a former adjunct faculty at Rutgers University I would welcome the opportunity to mentor students through the tangled web of life with my own real world experiences.

As a freshmen at FHS, i was part of the girls SEEDs group, that has really helped, now as a senior i am proud to say that i'm a mentor in that program for a freshman! i believe having an upperclassman as a "mentor" helps build relationships and gets the students more out there and willing to know each other.

As a tri-lingual student, who learned the majority of my languages through my experiences while at Freeport High School, I would strongly advocate for the language programs offered at the School. Not only has this been valuable in my understanding of the world, but has made me a more marketable employee in the workforce. Additionally, the access to fine arts programs has also proved to be an asset. Why deny teaching our students about the deliciously diverse culture (shows, plays, music, etc.) our country/world has to offer? This is a marked part of being well rounded, and culturally literate member of society. With students who are addicted to the instant gratification of social media and their phones, let's educate them about things that will last them a lifetime, such as culture and the arts. Almost everything in this survey are crucial parts of creating a whole education which will serve students for the rest of their lives.

Because of our size, as we offer more classes/opportunities, we will inevitably lose some classes/opportunities - students can only enroll in so many other options. We need to be aware of what we may lose in any process.

I believe that an underserved population in our high school are the non-college bound students - assessing program options for these students is vital.

Beware too many masters.

Both a European language and an Asian language should be taught to all general education students in preK - 5th grade, and offered to all students in middle and high school. As Maine's two biggest international trading partners are Canada and China, perhaps French and Mandarin could be these languages. For the European language, Spanish could also be an option as it is the second most frequently spoken language after English in the US. Early teaching of languages will facilitate native pronunciation and idiomatic use.

To implement this plan, elementary + preK students would have foreign language class everyday, switching between the European language and Mandarin. For example, one week, they would have 3 days with the European language class and 2 days of Mandarin class. The next week, they would have 2 days with the European language class and 3 days of Mandarin class, etc. If funding is an issue (and it always is), a language teacher for each language could rotate among the elementary schools, teaching all grades that day at one school and broadcasting the lesson online to the corresponding grades at the 2 other elementary schools. In this way, the students would have their teacher in class every third class of that language. Classes could be 30 minutes long. If the classrooms were video-linked in real time, the students from Morse/Mast Landing, Pownal, and Durham could all view each other on big screens in their classrooms (and interact in French/Spanish and Mandarin!!!). If possible, parent, family member, or community volunteers who were native speakers in the language being taught could be asked to help in the classrooms where the teacher was not physically present. For PreK through 2nd grade (about 8 years old), learning would be oral based with no homework. For grades 3 - 5 written language could be introduced.

This is a very spare plan. It would obviously be better if more teachers could be hired to be present in all of the classrooms. However, young children quickly acquire language, and this program would build a foundation for these children to be proficient in two crucial foreign languages. I wait for the day when our RSU5 students will negotiate their own business deals in Chinese or French (or Spanish). This ability to be successful in our world today should not be restricted to those students in our region who attend elite prep schools and receive instruction in Asian and European foreign languages throughout all of their school grades.

Bring back Shop and Home Economics classes- real world skills are lacking

Bring the 21 Century into the classrooms at all levels to prepare your students for their future. The needs of their future have not been discovered yet.

Can I check that I strongly agree with all of the above?

It is also incredibly important to offer practical, trade-based courses for students who are interested. If we can continue to foster relationships with technical schools and local businesses to offer off-site or on-site courses that target skills like plumbing, electrical, carpentry, etc., we set these students up for success.

I am also a big fan of courses that team with the community or industry to gain skilled certifications. For instance, there are technology certifications that could be incorporated into STEAM programming that could help students as they prepare to work or attend college.

Casco Bay High school has a lot of great examples for experiential learning. More experiential learning opportunities were available in the younger grades for rsu5 and adding to high school would be great and provide another avenue of learning.

Adding a broader scope of more advanced classes, not necessarily AP classes (due to rigid test directed curriculum) and possible increase in number of foreign languages offered (not necessarily immersion classes) is recommended. More exchange programs that provide immersion would be nice. Its nice having so many foreign exchange students at FHS. Also more exposure/programming/presentations from individuals outside of the students' cultural norm (professionals/ leaders /authors/performers/artists/politicians or people with different view points for the school as a whole is recommended.

Consider offering IB curriculum

Diversity and inclusion informational class similar to sex education. Sexual minorities should also be included in school curriculum to promote inclusion.

English is the national language. We must master it first.

Expand foreign language offerings to middle and elementary school. Offer Latin in middle school, offer Spanish and French in elementary

fkjbwrkjsdzgnfxx

For the fine arts it would be great to see people coming in to workshop with students how to refine their craft.

Foreign language classes should be introduced at the elementary level and language focus should be on conversation not rote memorization of vocabulary and testing.

Foreign language instruction should be part of the curriculum beginning in kindergarten.

Foreign language is a big one for me as our children need a better understanding of the world-at-large and language is the first step. The experiential learning might be good for some kids; bad for others so hope that it does not become a blanket policy. From personal experience years ago, I believe the notion



of dual-credit classes in high school is a good move.

Funding and resources should be provided not only for gifted students but equally for students who need assistance.

get a chess club

Having more AP classes would be very beneficial for students who would like to challenge themselves. I personally wish that we had AP language options. Having a variety of options for classes would really benefit the RSU and our student education.

having run such programs I know they are very time consuming and expensive to do right. With the great need for such basics as writing skills, etc. I would see limited use in high school except in a few areas.

Health care fields

Marine science fields

Help foster a greater network of contacts of mentors in the fields the students wish to enter professionally.

home ec

Home Economics could come back. Many students graduate and can not sew a hem, cook a healthy meal, balance a checkbook do laundry, clean the house. Many students in our school district come from homes where both parents work. Basic living skills are missing. The school used to teach these skills in order to produce well rounded citizens.

I agree with having APs but think that online learning is a great option.

I am not in favor of dual enrollment classes where a high school teacher teaches college classes. Students looking for rigor and a head start on their college work are better served by taking AP classes (or AP4ALL) where the standardized assessment is understood and by colleges. Or students can go to the colleges to take classes taught on campus by university professors. Dual enrollment classes taught at the high school by high school teachers are not as valuable an experience for the students and not respected as highly by the colleges. Better to offer more honors classes (rather than "honors option" which are nearly worthless).

I believe that there should be an honors social studies program. What we have now, I think, isn't a good way for honors students to be challenged. By doing one project to specify them as "honors" confuses me. What about students who don't have extra time to participate in a project but are not challenged in their regular class? By having a separate class, students can learn more throughout the year instead of putting all their time and effort into one single project.

I believe the most important focus going forward should be interdisciplinary projects (STEAM) and experiential learning! We have shifted too far toward scripted curriculum (elementary).

I do not know?

i don't mind

I feel anything that the school department can do to make a student grow and learn is a very positive things.

I feel like a lot of the classes we have are good. But a lot of people don't know about all of their options because they don't look over the classes, or talk to their guidance counselors.

I also think that there should be teachers that will work with students to let them introduce projects in different ways. I feel like some teachers are doing this but sometimes we don't get all the help that we need.

I am also concerned with the 504 plans in place. I have one and a few of my teachers over the past two years haven't been following it. It is against the law and I think that teachers should get a training in how to work with students who need the extra help because of their learning challenges.

I feel on-line courses for exceptionally gifted students should be fostered as opposed to hiring someone. If labs are necessary then a designated science/computer teacher could "facilitate" the lab sessions with an on-line teacher or professor.

I feel that the students should also have physical education classes year round for all grades

I find these questions interesting. While I am in favor of improving the programming, if you use \$68,000 to rename the school how will you be able to afford new programming and on the flip side what would you be willing to cut to afford the renaming.

I have lived in Freeport for 15 years and have had two children who have gone through the system. I currently have two in school now. I have witnessed the schools first hand prior to the creation of the RSU and following. I have watched a systematic watering down of curriculum. The special needs, remedial and the base get their needs met but the top notch high achievers get nothing. There is no gifted and talented program to speak of at the high school. And teachers are not doing differentiation. Thus these kids get neglected and do not get challenged. These kids are our future leaders and should be nurtured to become who they want to become. They should have to wait to college to make this happen. For example my son who is at the high school was referred to the gifted and talented department for music, yet there is nothing for him after he is identified. He asked why should I be tested to not have a program. The answer we got was that he would be proud. Well there is some real incentive for a kid. No thank you. Although he takes all honor classes he is still bored and needs a richer not more of the same work. Most teachers will not differentiate for him. Kids who are smart need better options. Please stop watering down the curriculum for these kids. We need more not less of challenging classes.

I have significant concerns with the common core standards and the rigid requirements that teachers have under the common core model. I think it prevents teachers from being more innovative with their teaching methods and implementing strategies that help students be more engaged.

I like the idea of a language immersion program, but it is too expensive and students moving to the district can't join after the first year. This makes the program too exclusive. I would much rather see language instruction available to all students than an immersion program for the lucky 20%ish whose parents get them on the list or in the lottery or however it would be done. I think the funding would take away from too many other programs. Language instruction though at all grade levels would be worthwhile. I learned much of my grammar from learning another language.

I want the district to be careful to provide programming for all students.

I like the name of the High School

I look to a similar size high school in Yarmouth and they offer substantially more opportunities for students academically and have had superior athletic programs - we need to get to a point where we can compete with our sister town and not lose families and kids to the district. Our students deserve the same opportunities!

I loved STEM so much. I really wish it was back as a regular program. I learned a lot about engineering in it, and Mr. Thomas was a fantastic teacher. Fine arts is also very, very important to the students.

I need more information on some of these questions, but I do believe that it's a good idea for students to have expanded knowledge of fields of work available to them before making a decision about college or where they will go after high school.

I strongly agree in dual-enrollment classes. We have relatives in Florida and their public high school education offers students to enroll in a program that will allow them to graduate high school with a college associates degree. They can apply those college credits to a four year degree.

I STRONGLY support Foreign Language programming, at the most elementary level. See me if you would like to see the scientific evidence supporting this. As for more experiential learning, interning, etc, yes to anything that helps to build student interest and engagement. The only things here I gave less support to were the ones that stress grades and achievements over experiences (college classes, AP classes), in my opinion.

I think each program would need to be looked at and see which are beneficial and which are not. I do believe that kids need to be taught about the real world, once they leave high school, for example, how to balance a checkbook, how banking works and how to save money and how to work at a job....some basic living programs are good and useful in life, among these programs listed above.

I think it would be great to offer work study programs where kids who show interest in the trades could be matched up with say a plumber or an electrician or such and gain experience and possibly be licensed by the time they are out of HS.

I think most of these programs sound good. I am not aware of how much of this is being done currently. However, the school also needs to be cognizant of the cost of these programs and how they can reach the most students. Programs that only benefit a small number of students should not hold as much weight as ones that benefit many. Ideally we would want to do all we can for each student, but this is not reality.

I think RSU5 offers a lot academically. All programs could be enhanced but I think they do well now.

i think that it is good to be able to learn out of the classroom

I think that it would be great if there was a program to go the freeport morse street school, and help the kids there, and help the teacher there too.

I think there should be more language options; not just French, Spanish, and Latin.

i think we are good of a school

i think we should stop finding ways to spend money and improve our education

I understand asking for input however, decisions like these should be made by educational professionals. As a teacher in another district I would hope that decisions such as these are made because research supports them not because the community thinks they are a good idea.

I wish RSU5 had a partnership with a program like PATHS.

As a parent of a child with learning disabilities and challenges, I'm definitely in favor of investing in supporting and exploring programs that offer a larger chunk of the student body alternatives to traditional education...so that those students who are not able to access traditional classes or learn in traditional ways don't have to be so far outside the regular educational experience. More experiential programming would definitely fit this profile. My son is heading to the high school next year and we are seriously considering other schools so he can have access to this style of learning to keep him engaged and feeling like a bigger part of the greater school community.

I wish you had 1-5 with 3 being neutral no change needed

I would like to see an expansion of the Little River Course and bring back the Family and Consumer Science courses, both at Middle and High School.

I would love to have a more real-life approach to what I'm learning in school, and I think any investments made to the arts programs would benefit all learning not just those who are involved in it.

I would love to see more senior students released from their classes prior to the end of their school year so that they can go out and do relevant work. I know that senioritis can take hold, and getting them out of the building may help to negate some of that tendency to lost focus in the warmer spring months. Also, without the seniors around, the senioritis might not affect the lower grades as much.

I'm in favor of any programs that do not raise the cost to taxpayers. Education is not a competition between school districts. Families always have the choice of private schools. I do not believe that the private schools budgets increase at the same level as public schools. If they did, they would not survive

I've always considered the idea of overlapping classes. For instance, an Advanced Placement math class for juniors could enter into a science class for seniors one day when their subject matter aligns so as to expose the upcoming juniors to senior classes and learn from their elder peers.

If Pre-K expansion is pursued, it should be QUALITY child-centered programming, in accordance with NAEYC standards- NOT just push-down kindergarten program. As it is, kindergarten is overly academic, neglecting the social and emotional factors essential to school readiness. Pre-K teachers should be respected for their specialized expertise and be included in the teachers contract, not paid a meager hourly wage.

The district should optimize the many facilities and their unique environments, to create specialized learning centers and allow students to move more fluidly across town lines.

Language immersion is, in my opinion, a completely unnecessary expenditure.

Implementation of a youth employment services department to help match kids with employment opportunities, also with non-paid training experiences, even credits toward community service opportunities; starting at 8th grade level through 12th grade.

improve opportunities to do school year/semesters abroad

In my opinion RSU can distinguish itself from other districts by moving more towards experiential learning ( to a certain degree), Internship programs, second languages, etc.... All of those are excellent ideas and have been successful in other areas.

As for the second language question.... while I agree Immersion learning would make learning a second language "easier" I do not necessarily feel that RSU 5 needs to go to that route. Simply providing the option for a second language earlier along in a students education would be beneficial.

In regards to STEAM I feel the aspect most lacking is the Arts.

In terms of advanced classes RSU should consult more with leading and popular colleges to see what makes students stand out in terms of acceptance... AP courses as a stand out is lessening to my knowledge. What other things allow students to stand out in terms of academic rigor and attention. The focus on Steam and arts is fine, but if you talk to people working on education and at universities there is a greater need to focus on key elements such as written communication, public speaking and presentation, leadership and collaboration, and future orientation/planning. These elements are active in pockets at the RSU - e.g. the FMS students had public speaking projects for science last year but in general, feedback from professors I deal with constantly is that even some of their brightest students lack good writing skills, communication capacities, and ability to lead and collaborate teams toward projects. If there were ways to get these elements to stand out on transcripts that might prove useful and perhaps the H.S. has a leadership class, or other ways to build and promote that students from this RSU have these skills above and beyond others competing for the same college spots. In terms of arts, there should be a diversity beyond "fine arts" into elements such as design and design thinking, software/UX/UI/game design, graphic design and such because those are not only areas that draw upon important artist/creative skills they are areas that kids who lack fine-art capacities to do high-level work. Again, these classes, or ways to promote them at the transcript or other levels for collegiate acceptance, as well as just for student capacities benefits may exist but it is important to look beyond labels like STEAM and otherwise at the deeper ways students are seen as competitive and capable. Civic engagement as well - which from what I've seen is decently worked on within the RSU.

Interesting how you offer an option for even more monies to be poured into the arts and no mention of more monies for athletics.

International Baccalaureate option in high school?

International baccalaureate program, such as what is offered at Greely HS. Expanded foreign language in the younger grades, discontinued use of Everyday Math.

Invest in more opportunities for students to enter into regional learning opportunities & competitions for the arts, especially programs that may involve travel outside of New England. This helps with exposure to a more diverse learning experience.

It is critical that we focus on skills that are geared toward careers or entrepreneurship pursuits in fields that address quality and good-paying pathways and all signs point to STEM or knowledge workers.

It would be great if there were more choices to learn foreign languages, besides French and Spanish

It would be great if some of the offerings at Region 10 could be made back at the HS. The trades are overlooked for kids on the college 'track'. I see value in exposing students to a number of trades without them having to commit to a Region 10 curriculum.

It would be great to see the HS offer diploma endorsements (Arts, Stem, Language, etc... based on the numbers of elective credits and other criteria) .

It's difficult to distinguish yourself if you stick to the generic RSU5 name specifically. I'm not familiar with the rules specific to Maine, but an example district in Colorado is "Adams 12" (Adams County, District 12), but they market themselves as Adams 12 Five Star Schools or just "Five Star School District". I wonder if RSU5 could alias itself similarly? While marketing and education don't always sound right together, it does go a long way to craft some kind of image around the district that everyone can stand behind. A more useful way to spend re-naming monies would be to the district as a whole, not Freeport High specifically.

Its difficult to schedule AP classes until senior year. Then it is too late to send AP scores to colleges.

Language Immersion and Dual Credit (High School/College) both feel like programs that would be incredibly beneficial and would also really make RSU5 stand out.

Learning through the outdoors

Love that you added Psych and Soc classes

make your know ice-cream day!!!

many of my above answers were neutral because I believe the many of the ideas mentioned are already being addressed.

Math,Science, and English should be taught everyday. Advisory and common core need to be removed. We need to abolish the teacher's union. Teaching is the only position profession where there is no recourse for bad performance. Expect more from students and INVOLVE PARENTS where needed. Do these few things and you will have an excellent school.

maybe if threw in some software classes because all your "tech" classes are in engineering

More AP history courses would be great, as you cannot even take honors history classes.

More athletics?

More Clubs- ask students/staff for creative ideas to give students more not involved in sports or theater other options to "connect, learn, explore an interest and have fun".

My daughter is dually enrolled in FHS and SMCC but it has been family driven. Guidance was not aware of this option as a junior.

N/A

No comment

No Ideas.

No.

Non-traditional sports - do we really still ask our varsity athletes to take gym? Can we offer lifelong exercise in lieu of laps? Yoga, kickboxing, whatever they like that they'll DO...healthy habits.

Study abroad - our kids had great experiences with this.

Consider integrating some kind of learning from those students visiting FHS from other countries, as well as learning from those FHS students who traveled abroad.

Allow kids in the 'academic' arm to cross over and take classes at Vo-Tech. Why the heck not? If they want to learn auto mechanics and their schedule allows, that's great.

These questions are very broad and I want to say yes to them all, but impossible without knowing where we are NOW...more spending on the arts? Well, where do we stand now compared to other districts for this program, are we lacking? How to balance this additional spending with the source of the funding - are there programs that will be dropped?

I think it's great that FHS is considering standing out from other districts in these ways...with Mast Landing and it's 3 programs, and before that, to Soule School, we've always looked ahead...

None

Offering more AP classes works only if the teachers are prepared to teach them. We need not just more AP classes, but more students who do well on the AP exams.

Other Languages (Korean, Japanese, etc.), more sports (swimming, etc)

Other Programming Ideas:

Perhaps add a nature/outdoor learning component to the RSU - use PES setting as a resource and create a nature/outdoor learning focus for the school.

Personal Budgeting, how to pay bills, how to negotiate as a buyer, insurance 101, community service leadership.

Please consider the cost of renaming a school - I request all available funds be allocated to youth's education.

Please don't forget students who are not cut out for college! I feel our educational system has focused so much on academics that it has left out hands-on learning and skill-based activities. Woodworking, sewing, cooking, gardening, animal husbandry, engine repair and other basic skills like this not only give students a better set of tools for real life, but open them up to careers that use those skills to create real products and services. I think students who are not academically oriented are often left behind, and get bored with school early on. And these are important skills for the college kids to learn, too.

Plenty of impressive goals and aspirational statements are meaningless without the true support of the budget.

Practical application of learned topics is an invaluable opportunity. Internships and special projects give students the opportunity to apply learned topics and see how they fair outside the educational environment. I strongly support this type of learning.

Pre college prep classes or classes like Region 10 in Brunswick offers to learn skills in careers that don't always require college.

Private schools are trending towards less AP classes and more honors courses. If a high school does not offer AP courses, students are not penalized. Some colleges do not accept AP credit, and many AP classes are taught to fit the exam at the end. Offering challenging honors courses allow students to use their critical thinking skills and not just memorize facts.

Questions are put in a leading way, one could not agree with most. In experimental learning part it must be in turn with other choices to meet all needs

Rather than AP classes, I would encourage the district to invest in its teachers. Lots of AP classes only look good to colleges in relation to how many AP courses a school offers. Instead, encourage teachers to develop their own upper level courses. Mr Ogilvy's "balance of power" was a favorite of mine and I still think back to the things I learned in it.

Rather than immersion language programs, I would rather see language taught to the children at a younger age. From a personal experience, I can say that even having a language teacher come into the classroom three times a week for 45 minutes from elementary grades up, it make a huge difference in how you retain the language as an adult.

Regarding experiential programming... I say go all the way and do it well, or don't do it at all. "Moving toward more experiential learning" could turn into a partially supported partial effort that I have seen fail badly. Experiential learning opportunities are wonderful when they are full-on supported by teachers and schools, and students are really encouraged to think and work beyond the classroom walls. But I am of the opinion (based on prior experience) that you cannot "partially implement" experiential learning-- It needs the flexibility and support to be everything it can be. Go all the way with this. Do not try to schedule it into the day between lunch and 5th period on Tuesdays and Thursdays.... Just do it and do it well. It could be a very special thing.

Regarding PreK - either have it for all or eliminate it. The caveat should not have been agreed to to allow just one town when forming the RSU. It was probably less about early achievement for many - it was more about "free Pre-K." I struggled mightily to afford sending my kids to Pre-K and both went to COOPs where the cost was significantly less (and I could participate)

RSU5 is doing an adequate job in most academic arenas balancing cost vs providing enough options for kids to succeed and stay engaged in school, and to excel and head off to higher ed. (FHS has come a long long LONG I repeat LOONG way in the last few years in this regard, after Edwards to Tinkham to Strong to Campbell)

Experiential learning/Internships/Apprenticeship options should be investigated, but not required, but geared especially for non-college bound kids. Job Skills, Life Skills, Career Management - valuable to all.

My sophomore in college daughter is astounded how many kids are unprepared for life. Problem solving, relationship issues, handling money. I could go on.

Right now I see that there is strong programming for underachievers yet overachievers extra education seems to be significantly lacking.

RSU5 should consider how they recognize achievement: honor roll recognition based on ABS, excludes too many other types of quality behaviors, creates unnecessary competitive stress and has a



demotivatuon flip side.

Needs a track - and more fields

RSU5 should expand its advisory program at the high school to help foster a more positive school culture. This would entail paying the teachers a stipend to require their participation in the advisory program.

rsu5 should have evrey school have a monthly school dance. so more kids can enjoy going to the school dance having fun and lern that school is not just about lerning things but school is about having fun and interacting with friends.

RSU5 should provide before and after school care at all it's elementary schools

RSU5 should provide more vocational opportunities for artistic children who are not academically included and not interested in hands-on trades such as mechanics

I'd also like to see more experiential opportunities for studies based on Maine trades and interests (Maritime, agriculture or outdoor studies) in the middle school and high school.

RSU5 students should be encouraged and required to complete some community service projects during their 4 years at FHS. These programs should be highlighted thru out the school , celebrated on the website and acknowledged in the Tritown and Forcaster.

Sera Bigelow

Since my child is in elementary school I haven't paid close attention to these issues yet

Some good ideas. However, I don't feel I have enough understanding of the these programs and the needed resources to make them successful to choose between them. Also, I don't want to overlook the needs of the so called average student.

Something for athletics, because while Freeport isn't known for being a powerhouse school in most sports, we do produce some decent athletes, and giving them an opportunity to see how the would go about getting scholarships for college would be beneficial

Spend less money trying to improve and save it for when the school really needs it.

Student of the original George C. Soule School. It was a rare gem in public education.

Students should be able to learn and experience every day life as a whole. Learning through hands on for most students helps to put what is taught into every day life. Experiencing what is taught with hands on every day life helps to bring the circle together. Being told how things work and then seeing first hand how it is applied allows a student to really understand the concept.

Teaching every day life skills to all students helps students be more prepared for life in each community and helping them to be more prepared for life on their own. It helps them to know what to expect. Most students now a days don't even know how to balance a check book or cook a good healthy meal for themselves. Teaching these skills will only help students be better prepared and more apt to bring more to our communities as they become older.

The 1-4 grading system is poorly implemented right now.

The biggest surprise as a parent of FHS students has been the large number of students in many of the classes. If teachers are fine with that and instruction does not suffer, then that is not a concern. If it is impacting the classroom, I'd prioritize investment in the existing programs to ensure quality as opposed to an expansion into new areas.

The creation of new (small) stipended positions for the Performing Arts Department to hire additional "part time" faculty to work directly with Performing Arts Students during the regular school day.

The mentoring program should be for all students .. not just students who might fit the category. For example, both of my children would have benefited from the hands on learning offered by the vocational classes, but were discouraged from taking those classes because they didn't fit the "mold" of the students presently enrolled in the classes.

The number one priority to creating a more positive school culture should be to change the food that is served in the FHS cafeteria. It is absolutely horrible and extremely unhealthy. I have seen the food go downhill in the last five years, it is at an all time low this year. There is no variety, pizza is offered everyday as is chicken salad. We used to get tuna and egg salad for sandwiches, neither has been offered all year. The salad bar has half the offerings it used to. We are about to open a beautiful new cafeteria and we have very low quality food being served to our students and staff.

The Pre-K thing would take away from in-home daycares!! Most in-home daycare places do learnings for pre-k. Plus it is smaller in size in most instances.

The RSU should find out why students do not attend the high school and then address those needs.

These are all very ambitious undertakings and if some of these can be realized, I feel this is quite a goal for now. My only other observation would be more awareness and guidance of the students who have a tendency to fall between the cracks--not athletic, struggling with academics, and having no calling to the arts. Continued awareness of those students and encouraging them to volunteer, to try more activities or have a less competitive athletic offering. I know its much easier said than done!!!

These are appearingly easy questions to answer-of course it would be awesome to expand all of these areas for RSU5 students; however the reality is there are limited financial resources to make all those things happen. The role of school administrators in conjunction with teachers, school board, and community members is to focus its resources in a united mission that perhaps targets consistently a few of the things above-that is realistic. The very hard issue for all public school systems, I think, is the problem of trying to do all things for all people therefore watering everything down so little is done extremely well.

They should open their vocational classes to everyone!

Those topics about additions need to be understood and weighed before people are called to give an opinion about them.

Though moving in the directions indicated above may cost additional money, as the spouse of a former teacher, I believe advancement in these areas is equally dependent upon motivated and creative staff. The more students are allowed to expand in areas of greatest interest and at a pace consistent with aptitude, the more likely we will retain students within the RSU and not lose them to private schools. Online instruction, in particular, should be pursued as a low cost means for allowing students to pursue college level credits and to expand into areas not supported by core staff.

To accomplish the objective in #8, there could be a simple change from the current Senior Project to career interest internship. 4-6 week internships are done by seniors at Yarmouth and Falmouth High Schools. We have hosted Falmouth and Yarmouth HS students interested in the health care profession. The program involves research and summaries on possible career choices along with the shadowing of professionals. This seems to be a much better use of time than our current program.

ummmmmmmmmmm I don't even understand this

Vocational on site

We need more support of and curriculums for the middle 50% of students, and less focus on the top 25%. While our fine arts program has produced a famous pop singer (Drew Taggart of the Chainsmokers), we need to have a more inclusive environment when it comes to things like that.

We need to be more competitive with other schools, both regionally, intrastate and interstate.

My wife and I are alumni at Dartmouth, Cornell, Brown, & Bates. We expect the best education possible for our children.

Stop being divisive and distracted with stupid naming discussions and bring more AP & advanced courses to FHS. Our kids need to be competitive locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

Education is the key.

we really need a class on how to do taxes and bills and stuff

We should also offer Chinese language to our students

we should be able to actually go to a college or something to learn more on a career!

What happened to industrial arts. Home economics?

Where would all the time come from?

Whichever programs help ALL students to be critical thinkers, promote inclusive collaboration, expect kindness and empathy, and help individuals and groups learn by doing (as well as thinking or talking about) are programs I want to see in our community.

We need our graduates to be active and thoughtful citizens, not just hard workers.

Why are there no questions on this page regarding vocational training? Students need to be supported regardless of their educational path if we are to take this country beyond its currently flailing educational system.

Wish there was an option in this survey to answer "no opinion" as it is difficult to answer some of these questions when you are not aware of what is happening currently with the curriculum.

Working in concert with BIW to develop engineering, design, and fabrication skills for those interested, before they attend college or trade school will give students a leg up on the competition.

If not in place already, similar associations with LL Bean and other regional businesses in the retail sector would work too.

Would love to see the RSU become a model for STEAM and public\private partnerships with local businesses, LL Bean in particular. There should be more academic collaboration between beans and the schools.

You should be concentrating program and funding on reading, writing and arithmetic; science, math, technology will help our student prepare for the future and the type of jobs they will be looking at in their futures.

I did dual enrollment. I would not suggest it for anyone. I had almost a years worth of course credit. I lost time when I could have been a senior, enjoying life, because I was doing extra studies.

You should make a plan for alternative education some kids have a harder time in education then others

## Section E. Final Comments

Thanks for reaching out!

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\$68,000.00 of potential costs to change the name of the high school? Why? To make some folks feel more included. Haven't we given enough financially already? I voted for the school renovations and will vote in favor of the new athletic field, but this is where I have to draw the line. I'm sorry if not everyone is happy with the school name, but it is Freeport High School and that's what it should remain.

- 1). We need a turf field this spring, this is totally unrelated to most of the survey, but it is an important issue, as a student who plays both football and lacrosse on our fields, I can tell you that they are absolutely disgusting, they're in terrible shape, we NEED a turf field.
- 2) our drama department needs more recognition/funding, I don't even take part in the plays and I know how big of an issue this is.
- 3) Do NOT rename the school for crying out loud, it would just creat unnecessary hassle and waste taxpayers money, and is just not a good idea to begin with, there is no benefit to renaming the school.

A lot of jargon in this survey. Is it geared to get the results the School Department wants?

A lot of this comes down to expense and how convenient these added activities are.

Again I am totally against the idea of changing the name of the high school!!!!

Again, on behalf of students, parents, and alumni that have talked with me, I encourage keeping the name - Freeport High School. Thank you.

Allowing students to be taught in an appropriate and safe environment without worrying about standardize testing to see where they fit in. But allowing students to be taught then applied to every day life to see results will help all students learn as a whole. It brings the learning to full circle and students will grow and achieve goals of every day life.

Although I graduated in 2003, the education I received from Freeport High School is invaluable. The students, faculty, and staff might not realize it in the moment, but the work they're doing is serving students for the rest of their lives. While some schools are shutting down critical programming (i.e. - fine arts, theater, language programs), I would argue that these are the very things which make Freeport's students unique. They are dispersed into the world with skills that give them an edge which other schools do not have. I studied abroad my junior year of high school (in Germany), and my dad always said "While you're abroad, don't let money stop you from having the experiences that will enrich your life." I would argue the same here—Let's not allow budgets, or people's localize opinions

keep us from allowing us to produce annual crops of well rounded, worldly, cultured, and well educated students.

Am sorry I live in RSU5. I can't afford to move!

As far as acknowledging achievements of students in the district, I would say, make sure they are genuine and not simply attempting to cover all students at some point during the year.

As great as this school is, we are bringing young people along who are smart but have very little common sence. Many natives have no word for progress. Did you ever wonder why.

Asking my name for a survey is very wrong. I firmly believe my child will suffer retribution for my low opinion of Freeport's continued abuse of power in the school department. Perhaps a name elevating the status of Pownal and Durham, a show of appreciation is in order. I have heard people at my local store floating names, Pownalsborough School and Royalsborough School. I prefer the second one. Also the names suggested in the Tri town weekly on 11-16-16 show the abuse Durham and Pownal suffer at the hands of liberal bullies from Freeport. Falcons and Freeport need to be replaced in the naming.

Be prudent with your finances Freeport.

Being a resident of Pownal, I was wary of sending my oldest son to FMS three years ago. I realize now these fears were unfounded. At FHS I see him continue to receive a high level of academic excellence daily as he is challenged to continue to grow into a responsible intelligent adult. This only comes about because of caring educators and staff whose mission is to help prepare our kids for their future. I think we should all take great pride in that.

Bring back a business curriculum and teach the kids how to survive basics such as negotiating a checkbook, general budgeting skills. They also need to learn cursive - and be encouraged in all skills just in case they're not college material. Throw in a course in work ethic while you're at it.

Changing the name will not change anything and just be a big waste of money

Community pride starts with positive attitudes about our school. Students, staff and community members all need to feel valued and heard. I do feel we are already unified as a district. Moving forward will help to solidify the work that has been done thus far. Thank you for the opportunity to have all voices be heard and hopefully finally putting this divisive conversation to rest.

Do not change the name of the school.

Do not change the name of the school.

DO NOT RENAME IT!

Don't change the name, please!

Don't change the name.

Stop shoving turf down our throats.

Come up with some innovation that builds consensus instead of division. Please?

Don't let movement toward proficiency-based standards reduce options for high-achieving students. Re name change: If you go forward with it, I might support Freeport Region or Freeport Area HS, but not

"Falcon" anything. And this is stated as someone who lives in Pownal.

Experiential, hands-on learning should be the norm, not the exception, PreK-12. This requires enthusiastic, creative teachers who honor and respect student individuality and are willing to empower student-driven inquiry. Priority should be given to building that culture among the staff.

FHS is solid. Keep it up.

Focus on the other issues and forget renaming. It is silly and counter productive. Thanks for asking.

For a small school district, RSU5 does an terrific job supporting, encouraging and preparing our students. Don't bother changing the name. It is a waste of money and effort -- and will only fuel the divide that is naturally mending as more students move through the school system and graduate with fond memories. Better to put efforts into continuing to improve the education the system provides.

for goodness sakes we might as well go and name it the Peoples School Of Maine

For many years Freeport has welcomed Durham and Pownal students, the school has always been unified, spending money on something that is already there is frivolous, changing a name is going to do nothing but spend money

Freeport as a community is at a pivotal point in time where the track project could help jump start a new thinking and encourage a younger community in town and encourage more families to stay in freeport and send their kids to high school here. Let's move forward, not take any steps back changing the name! As a young family in this town, who has coached in Yarmouth, we decided not to move, but to stay put in hopes that this town is finally ready to move forward to support our students and our community. It is a great community and there is a lot of potential to be even better!

Freeport has more to worry about then changing the name of the school.

Plus we would have to spend money changing all the uniforms and signs.

Freeport High School for me. It's on my diploma and class ring (which I wear every day). KEEP THE NAME!

Freeport High School has a great academic brand and is adding dramatic art and athletic success to its reputation, and that reputation will follow our students into college and careers. With a brand that is performing well for our kids, it is tough to see the upside to starting over again from scratch absent compelling evidence.

Freeport High School is a great name!!!

Freeport High School is a really welcoming school community, and I'd hate to see a name change divide us. I'm from Pownal, and I'm proud to say that I go to Freeport High School.

Freeport is an amazing community with great resources but we also need to use resources wisely and find ways to strengthen our ties as an RSU.

Freeport is an awesome school system , keep up the great work

Freeport should withdraw from the RSU, or should form a AOS if the track and field vote fails again. It was not passed before because of an overwhelming no vote from Durham and Pownal. The January vote could be the straw that broke the camels back.

The high school and the RSU have suffered from leadership turnover, and a very traditional mindset in regards to academics, and in hiring.

Freeport, Maine.  
Freeport High School  
Freeport Falcon Pride

get a chess club. i strongly agree. start a chess club. good execution. start a chess club. good survey.  
start a chess club. good formatting. start a chess club. good descriptive details. start a chess club

get a new feild complex please get the football field and track

Go Freeport High School!

Good luck and thank you for asking!

Good luck!

Good luck. Not an easy task here.

GREAT JOB

Great teachers make great schools. The RSU should focus on hiring and retaining great teachers. This includes not only pay equal to Yarmouth, Cumberland and Falmouth, but also to the respect of teachers by administrators.

hi

Hi

high school should remain the same, freeport high school, people know where freeport high school is, i find that i dont know where some of these other school that changed namouk yes are.

thn

I

I am a proud parent of young children in the RSU5 , I believe that we need to focus on the community and events that bring us all together. Let's accentuate our similarities not our differences. A Name change is a ridiculous waste of time, money and energy that could be more positively placed other places

I am a staff person here and I truly think that what I have seen each and everyone that works here should be very proud.

I am absolutely against renaming the high school. I think things are fine AS IS and feel that the money and effort it would require would be far better spent on other needs within the school community.



I am absolutely against spending \$68,000 on anything as ridiculous and wasteful as renaming a high school! The name is not offensive in anyway to any culture and has history within this community. We have great pride in our school and the school has recognition at the college level. If you want to spend \$68,000, use it to offer more educational opportunities to the students rather than changing team uniforms and signage.

I am glad RSU5 has remained intact.

I am going to this school to get a great education I do not care about the name as long as there are sports and regular classes I will enjoy my time in the RSU5 school system.

I am not a supporter of the formation of this RSU as I feel it was never a well thought out marriage... it just had to happen and we have had to pay for the mess ever since it was formed. I never agreed with the way the Board of Directors was made up.... it should have been an equal Board as far a representation from the three towns. No one ever feels they have a fair say with an already overwhelming Freeport side... that's a no brainer!

So much should have been worked out well before the formation and now this high school mess is only a small problem of things to come. Once again, renaming the high school will not solve anything and will not help to unite the three towns. Freeport High School, home of the Falcons always was a wonderful, well respected high school. Don't destroy that past....let's fight to bring that honor back and show our kids that we have a great high school that they can be proud to be a part of!

I am super proud of what we accomplish in the arts department at the high school. Our kids absolutely stand out from students in other schools and will countless arts awards each year. Our community has always supported the arts and I hope it continues to be a "showcase" subject of the district. More funding would be incredible. We would love to create graphic design classes. It also makes perfect sense to create new programming incorporating art into STEM (as long as the visual art teachers are co-teaching/creating the curriculum).

Thanks for putting this survey together!

I am very excited about the new additions to the High School as well as the possibility of a new outdoor track. Renaming the High School is not something that should be considered.

I asked these questions to Lebron James and Tom Brady and they strongly agreed. I more recently asked Stephen Curry but he averaged a more of a 3. Beyonce LOVED the idea and wished that "this would happen in our school system,"

I believe many things have been taken out that were necessary. When I was in high school the I A class and drafting we had with mr Adams was exceptional. Kids need that. It is not all computer work. Some of these kids need some lessons that work for them. Not making them work for how it is. History. Freeport. Surrounding areas. It is becoming a lost knowledge. The school department has failed on what went on here. Where they live. We didn't come from China.

I believe RSU should fine tune and work on what they offer now and work on maintaining before trying to expand or change.

I believe that there is bigger things to look at then changing the name of the RSU. I believe the personal you have established at the RSU is doing a fine job with our children. I would like to see more every day learning. What I mean is more teaching in the aspect of living life everyday. Applying for a job or

attending college. Once the job is achieved showing the student of every day living in this world. Forming a budget, applying for a loan, and paying bills. These are every day items students should know when entering the world as an adult. Thank you for your time and this Survey.

I believe that we can provide our students with lots of things BUT not out of the pockets of the retired people of our communities! Remember we have given much when our children were there and now we need a break. I am willing to speak directly with anyone on the committee about how I feel.

I disagree in changing the high schools name.

I do not feel that we should invest time and money into the renaming of the High School.

I do not have any more comments.

I do not have any.

I don't agree with renaming the high school. We have other schools in the district that will not have name changes but also provide services to students from all three towns. It is up to the administration and staff to make students feel welcome no matter where they attend. It will not be a sign on a building that does that.

i don't have any

I don't really think that we should get a new name for the high school because it's fine as it is.

I don't think that it is necessary to rename the school in order to form unity and pride.

I don't think the name of the school should be changed.

I dont have much else to but dont change it to increase unity that already exist. I hope everyone fills out this survey

I feel as if I explained myself very well with how I feel on this discussion. No, I don't want the name to be changed. The people who want the name of the school to be changed are adults who 1) aren't in high school anymore 2) may or may not have kids attending/attended FHS and If you asked a student, they would agree with me on how stupid I think this whole thing is. The parents want the name changed, not the students. Adults don't listen to what we have to say, to what our opinions are because we're just "kids" but because we go to Freeport, shouldn't it be our opinions and not there's? it's selfish.

I feel Community Service projects should be a requirement.

I feel like both my kids have had an excellent education. My kids are now in the 3rd and 8th grades.

I feel strongly that we do not need to change the name of the high school. There are other, less costly ways to build community and recognition of our school.

I appreciate the breadth of these survey questions.

I feel that our students today need to be a little more prepared with the "real world" life experiences before they get out into the real world from high school and college. For example, just a basic finance class that teaches them about the value of money and responsibility with the money they earn, how to just figure out their finances before they get dropped off into the "real world" I think with all our

technology and debit cards, credit cards it is so easy for our kids to start their life in debt before they even get started which in our economy can really affect them in a detrimental way. I also feel our students should be better prepared for job interviewing and communication skills. This can be done through teaching, guiding and doing scenarios and could even tie this into the financial class somehow. I feel our kids have sort of lost the "basics". Yes this can be taught in home but I also feel strongly that it should also be taught through an academic environment in a form of a class to help our children be better prepared, equipped, and feel confident about where they fit into society just starting out in the "real world". I am sure some are thinking this is a little much with all the other academic subjects but I would really like people to be open minded and think about how something like this would help and benefit our children in their new world, outside of the academic world. I would also like to see some cursive writing come back into our classes. I have an 8th grade son, who this past May, could not read my cursive handwritten card. I was also a little taken back that 2 of my children, when asked to sign their name in cursive, they were not able to and stated, "we have not been taught how to write in cursive." I, then thought to myself that in their lifetime, of all legal documents, job applications, and much more REQUIRE a signed cursive signature. Yes, I can teach them how to sign their name in cursive but truthfully, as a parent, I could not believe they did not know how to sign their name in cursive in the 7th and 8th grade. I as a parent just assumed they were being taught some cursive sometime during their years in school. I know with technology, cursive writing as a whole is a thing in the past but again a signed signature still is important in the world today. Thank you for your time and for putting this survey out in our community. We appreciate all you do.

I feel that the \$68,000 cost estimate to change the name of the high school is money that would be better spent on enhancing academics for the students. My fear is that if this name change gets voted in, it will not end there - what about the middle school? Some group will want to have that school's name changed as well. And although withdrawal has not happened yet, there is no guarantee for the future - if the name gets changed to a "regional" school and then years down the road Pownal and/or Durham withdrawals, will we be voting (and paying) to change it back? Our 2015 Freeport graduate is proud to say she graduated from FHS, and would like to continue to say she is a FHS alum.

I have a senior at FHS and one that just graduated.

I have always been so proud that my kids attend Freeport schools, and when talking with folks from others districts, its clear to me that RSU5 has fabulous schools/staff & community.

I have heard good things about the RSU, but only offered my thoughts on issues on which I have some level of understanding. Please excuse the number of "3" responses!

I honestly dont think we should rename the school its fine just the way it is, but academic stuff should be improved although the awarding the students with high honors makes the kids who got a,b,c's a little hurt cause they also try there hardest some of us arent that smart but try our best. I am a senior so i wont know if anything changes but i believe my parents agree that the academic parts need to be improved and the support as well.

I hope nothing changes all that will change will make the school worse

I hope that whatever conclusions are drawn from this survey are only done so with a significant number of student responses.

I know education is important. Career and college prep, and money management should be essential in

high school. I am an artist but I don't support making students take art, music or even sports. They are not essential to the majority of careers. They are costly. They should be done on personal time.

I know that I had said this before but I strongly think that we should rename the high school to Freeport Community High School because it shows that we are exempt to every one rather than just Freeport kids

I like the name Freeport High School and do not want to change it.

I live 9 minutes from FHS, but I hear nothing about what is going on at the school and student accomplishments. If you are proud of what our young people are doing - let this be heard

I love that you're soliciting feedback from the community. I sincerely hope that it results in more of an emphasis on academics.

I love the idea of "real life" learning for all students!! They need to be well prepared with skills they can really use when they graduate!! I.E. balance a check book, run a home budget, etc...

I no longer live in the Freeport area so I only responded to the questions about changing the school name.

I personally feel as though the sports programs get more recognition compared to the arts programs. This isn't fair, and it should be more equal.

I really don't think we should change our name or be our own school district (meaning to stay with Pownal and Durham.).

I really feel that money would be better spent on our children's education, not renaming of our school. It's Freeport High School.

I really like the idea of optional language learning.

I shared most of my thoughts at the beginning of the survey. Please focus on the academic success of students before spending such a large sum of money on the name change.

I strongly disagree in changing the high school name.

I think Freeport High School needs to take a long, hard look at its Guidance Department. I believe far too many students are not given any direction until their senior year when it is far too late. Too many students do not have high enough aspirations, and too many who go on to college are not finishing because the school was not a good fit. I also found that once Power School was adopted, teachers expected it to replace communication between teachers and parents.

I think it is a little crazy to rename the Freeport High School

I think that Durham and Pownal kids really don't care that the high school is named that

I think that Freeport high school should have all three districts, because we have always been that way.

I think that instead of spending money on a name change, RSU5 should put funds towards more important things.

i think that more tech classes should be offered through the school like adobe photoshop 101 or how to animate for beginners

I think that renaming the high school is not necessary, focusing on ways of celebrating the unity and achievements of all students is. Making the adjustment to high school for Durham students smooth and welcoming should continue to be a priority. As well as continuing to ensure equal opportunity to access for SAME CURRICULUM, STEM, MUSIC, GATE, ATHLETICS, ENRICHMENT FIELD TRIPS and these types of opportunities for all students K-8 should also be an ongoing focus to ensure that no matter where you attended K-8 you enter FHS with similar educational practices.

I think that renaming the school would be a waste of resources and time. As a student from Pownal I have never felt excluded from our high school due to the name Freeport High School. For as long as I can remember students from Pownal have been accepted at Freeport, so why would we suddenly need to change the name. It does not seem productive or necessary.

I think that the fine arts should get more credit

I think that we should always try to improve wherever we can and I have always supported the school system. As I say this it is also important to keep budget increases as low as possible as long as education funding is tied the property valuation.

Also I support the the upcoming field and track project.

I think that we should keep the high school's name because it is in the town of Freeport.

I think the district would benefit from having mentor teachers for the new teachers. This should be on-going and viewed as support for these teachers, not just a one time evaluation.

I think the effort to put the issues of the past behind us among the three communities is great and I hope it is successful. If the school is renamed will the title RSU5 be as well? Perhaps it should be both? Maybe that's the thinking.

I think there is no need to change the name lets just change the programming for the better.

I think there should be a student group that helps with the community and gets information on how the high school functions. We have student council but a lot of people don't take them seriously. The student council is a very small group of the student body and I personally think that they don't get the opinions of other students in their class. I think we should have a group specifically for helping to improve the high school.

I was also wondering if we could get a mentorship with the middle schools, and elementary schools. We work with morse street but I think that going elsewhere too would be beneficial.

Renaming the school would be very confusing to people and I don't think that any of the students really care. Most of it seems like the parents from Durham and Pownal. I feel like there is a gap with the that has not been solved. RSU5 is not an organized or unified community.

I hope you will take this into consideration when making these types of decisions. If anyone has questions for me or would like to talk about my ideas I can be reached at

I think we should be able to vote on the name if there is a rename.

I want to the RSU5 to prepare my kids for the real world. Not to make them feel uncomfortable if they are not walking down the yellow brick road.

I was proud to attend Freeport High School and some of my best friends came from Freeport, Pownal, and Durham. Don't change the name for an unnecessary cause. Listen to the people who attend Freeport High School.

I will hope you use this in your thinking of changing the name i want you guys to have a nice day.

I would rather see the extra money required to change the name of Freeport high school be put back into education. I'd like to see the gifted and talented program given more resources.

I would recommend that before additional funding is sought (through more tax increases) that the results of this survey instead be used to guide, and possibly even re-focus how current funding is used. Focus should be on academics, and in particular subjects, that provide the knowledge and skills need to be a successful adult who can afford to live comfortably. So very few individuals, and in fact only the truly gifted, can successfully make a living doing performing arts or as a professional athlete. Having a "world class" track or performing arts facility does not make such talent. The true athlete or artist can develop their talent without such facilities. But with a good education, dedication to study and willingness to work hard, many more can become successful adults.

i wonder if we could listen to music well working

I'd like to see more pride visible from a young age. Even a simple thing, like making t-shirts that say "Freeport" on them for all of the elementary kids in town (could be a great fundraiser!) would be great. Same for Durham and Pownal. Once kids get to high school, there are lots of opportunities for athletic apparel, but building pride at a young age is important. I also support the school system being more creative with education. STEM is very important moving forward, but so is time in the outdoors exploring (especially for the young kids), and more opportunities for hands-on learning through field trips and internships/mentorships, etc.

I'm glad to see RSU5 seeking parent input. Heed our words.

If my daughter goes to MIT should I petition the school to change its name because she's not from Massachusetts? That's pretty much as dumb an idea as the current one.

If PTSO to continue, it should be integrated with and required of all student advisers in officers. Boosters and PTSO, and other school benefiting fundraisers, should be primarily student driven, staffed, and run.

If you feel it necessary to spend 68,000 dollars then spend it on education leave the school name alone, it has always been Freeport High School, it is in Freeport so again step back and leave it alone. It really shouldn't even be an issue.

If you read my comments then I appreciate it. Freeport school system is an educational institution that should focus on education and keep its extracurricular focus in check. Providing an unbiased and enriching education will bring the unity and pride you're seeking. Not changing a name. My child is constantly bringing home "fundraising opportunity" sheets. This detracts educational professionals from providing a quality education. If you have 68k for a name change and 6 Million for a track and field, don't beg for a few bucks of cash for books. I refuse to give it until your priorities are squared with reality.

Immersing young children into dual languages as they go up the grades in school is a great idea, I think

that will get them really good jobs in the future and I studied that it's also very good on the brain. It'll also show that Americans are respecting other cultures that are forced to learn English, and that we're trying our best to not just unify us as a school, but also as a nation.

In my view, the programming questions are highly important, as they get not only to the "how" of education, but the "why" as well. Decisions made in this area are complex and often result in unintentional conflicts-of-interest, while also having tremendously exciting potential to improve students' educational experiences and outcomes. I believe a well-defined philosophy or outcome ( a value or ideal, perhaps?) must serve as a "master" or controlling impetus for programming decisions. Is the BEST controlling impetus standards? Culture? Diversity and intensity of opportunity? Societal goals? Interest and relevance? General rigor? The list (all worthy characteristics!) goes on, and they are not mutually exclusive. But which is our starting place? Our well spring? The indispensable Lord of Learning , which, upon our death beds, we can claim to have been truly proud to have worshipped?

In short, renaming the school means nothing and does nothing.

In some classes (like math), there is too much emphasis on people that don't get the lesson as compared to people who do more. Classes should be split according to academic intelligence, so people don't fell left behind or just plain bored.

It feels like with the renovation nearly complete and the possibility of a track coming we have great momentum moving forward. Please stay on top of this momentum and push us forward. Thanks to the school board for all that you do.

It is time for Freeport to establish a base of pride. We may need more press for the things we do well and for the students who really do stand out. I feel we have the makings of a very strong high school and need to keep emphasizing all the accomplishments that are taking place.

I have always felt that there should be more (once a week) assemblies of the school with some student participation to give FHS a real sense of community. It has always felt like it was formed by a lot of small parts and I think its so helpful for the students to feel part of a whole where they all are important and all are able to offer something special to the school community.

It would be nice to have more communication across the district, between schools to celebrate and share successes.

It's difficult to recognize, celebrate or stand out amongst other districts when you can't produce winning teams. New leadership is needed at the top and parents need to be more in invested in the pride and togetherness that comes to communities when they have winning experiences as a team, Which in life, is what we all are or should be! A lot of life skills can be learned on the playing fields.

Several years ago, we started down a path of performing arts and left athletics behind. Sad for those of us who grew up in a time when we can remember gold balls, parades and a real community spirit between three towns. I don't mean to diss the Arts, hell I was one of the lucky members of the acclaimed Freeport High School Marching Band, who also won numerous awards and rallied three communities like no other!!!

its all good

Just FYI,

I had a son who graduated from Freeport High, was accepted to all nine schools he applied to, including MIT and Williams. I had another son who attended Rensselaer and is now a mechanical engineer for GE's Global Research Center and travels the continent, both boys could have had full rides to the University of Maine, being that they graduated number one and two in their classes, they got great educations, some of their best friends were from neighboring towns, there was no internal or external friction and they proudly graduated from Freeport High School.

My daughter, on the other hand, was pulled from a school system that had a failing attitude towards sports and too many parents who were more concerned about letting everyone be rewarded, despite their abilities. She went on to be a Star Athlete at NYA, she played three sports all the way through high school and two in college, too many awards and state championships to list here, a two time All American in Lacrosse in High School and All American Lacrosse at Bowdoin College, Graduated from Harvard Medical and is in her third year of Residency at Tufts Medical Center and Harvard's Cambridge Health

Just thanks for asking! Take this to heart.

Look AHEAD long term forecasting and technology changes need to be factored in. This redo was very expensive and shortsighted.

Keep my alumni intact. We're all proud of who we were part of.

Keep the Freeport High School name!!!!!!

Keep the school name as Freeport High School. School needs to do a better job informing the taxpayers what is happening at all the schools whether it is academic or arts programs!

I do not know why we are still voting on a new track and field when it has been voted down twice now by the local taxpayers! Move On!

KEEP THE SCHOOL NAME FOR THIS YEAR!

Keep up the hard work. Always room for improvement. Considering the events of late, taking up people's time to rename something is a complete waste of money and mind. Educate these kids please. Now.

Kind of wonder how much money has been spent on this survey.

Leave the name alone and spend money on preparing students for life!

LEAVE THE NAME AS FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL!!!

Leave the name the same. Thank you.

Less testing - more teaching. We can only weigh the cows so often - if we don't spend time feeding them, they won't grow.



Let's do this!

Let's get that track and field!!!!

Let's keep our pride in our community and focus on more important issues and resources other than changing our school's name

Like other people, former alumnus and myself have stated these kids have been united since before all this stuff was requested. Sure its nice to improve a school with equal amounts of sports, arts and academics but if its done just to keep the schools united they already are united. Those that dont feel that way must not have raised in these three towns. Keep it Freeport High School!!! Go Falcons!

Make the turf happen

make the turf happen

Make the turf happen and 1.

Maybe a newsletter sent to all residents or available at various locations, produced by students with more information about what's going on in RSU5

Momentum of the district seems to be moving in the best direction it has in decades, if not ever. The track and field is vital to help advance this positive trend. The RSU should do a better job heralding how our smaller schools and class sizes allow our students to get more attention in classes and in general compared to neighboring districts. Wish district could do a better job highlighting our PBE progress and explaining how it helps the kids.

more lunch available not two uncrustables fill me (with fruit too) i know three uncrustables will fill me or four sticks of french toast and a sausage will not fill me.

More sports time.

My final thought on unity and athletics: There appears to be very little effort from the high school level to encourage unity in athletics at the younger ages, specifically in middle school, where the athletes are in the on-deck circle for HS sports. I have been very involved in my children's athletics and very involved in integrating the athletes from Durham, Pownal and Freeport at the younger ages. In my oldest son's 8th grade year, I contacted the HS varsity coaches of all 3 sports he plays and invited and encouraged them to visit the Durham school either during the season, at a practice, or at the very least before school let out for the summer to introduce themselves, meet the Durham athletes, and give the Durham athletes a sense of that "Unity" as they approach the often-difficult transition period into high school. None of my invites were accepted, which I feel is very unfortunate. I grew up in Brunswick, when most of the Durham students went to Brunswick HS. The high school coaches of the teams I played on made it a point to engage our team with a Durham practice or game at least once or twice per season. I think that would be great if the RSU5 administration could make this happen with the Freeport HS coaches and teams, as it would go a long way with creating unity from the ground up.

My kids are doing well in RSU5 but I do think more publicity on the great things they are doing would help with overall pride for our school versus jealousy over the other school districts in the area. Curriculum could include things like Poetry Out Loud and other contests that would encourage kids

who wouldn't try to do it on their own find a talent because a class forced them to. And maybe the RSU gets recognition in the process.

My two children attended Freeport High School, 1999-2005. Both wished that there was more focus on English Grammar , and a more intensive language program. That being said, their years at FHS were productive, and gave them a good start li life.

N/A

N/A

n56oih5hb554yhrj

na

Nice work. Clearly outcomes will reflect values and attitudes of those participating....but the survey gives people a chance to have input and I believe there is value there. I love the idea of academic adult mentors....great opportunity for retirees to give back.

Thanks for your efforts. :)

NO

no

No

No

No comment

no comment

no comments

Not having a student in the high school it is hard to answer if more needs to be added. I think renaming the school is a waste of effort and time.

Not only am I an employee of RSU5 but also an alumni. I come from the time when we had good, competitive sports teams but also the "best marching band" in the state. The band represented the State of Maine in 1973 at Nixon's Inauguration. I grew up in Freeport and we had kids from Pownal and Durham in school and Freeport High Falcons was never a problem. My kids went to Freeport living in Pownal and there again it was never a problem. I don't think that it is a good reason to change the name. It has always been Freeport Falcons with the out of town kids before. It is not like Durham and Pownal had high schools and the identity had to be defined like the other towns that had to combine such as Jay and Livermore became Spruce Mountain. (And by the way, Harraseeket High is still just Freeport being that Harraseeket river is in Freeport). The other thing to consider is the cost of EVERYTHING that needs to be changed. I am very opposed to a name change and I would love to see the Freeport Falcons fly high again!

O.L.I. program=more language options (as some other districts now have) IE=Chinese, Japanese, NATO countries, etc. I feel these programs should begin in the early years of a student's life K-1 then

grades 4, 5, 6, etc. Also explore ideas regarding the use of present foreign students (already) in our schools to form their own student on student to teach each other their respective languages, etc. Now that's another form of unity on an international basis isn't it?

Changing the name of FHS to something else does not create unity! It takes away something we FHS folks call part of the now World famous Town of Freeport's heritage!

One final comment on the name change proposal. Before I left Freeport Community Services, there was significant conversation between my agency and parent volunteers about trying to start a backpack food program. We found that there were 50 identified families across ALL schools in the RSU who can be fed EVERY SINGLE WEEK FOR SIX YEARS with the estimated cost of changing the name (\$68,000, and as we saw at the public hearing, is likely not indicative of true costs). The impact of hunger on learning outcomes is significant, by every conceivable measure. This administration, however, did not wish to allocate even one dollar to this program, requiring that parent volunteers and the community guarantee the funding be in place before the RSU would allow the program to operate in its schools. You want unity and pride? You want excellent academics, athletics, and performing arts, with a high level of engagement? Feed kids.

Our family is relatively new to Freeport and RSU5, but we are very happy with what we've found here. In the last year especially, we feel that excitement and pride are growing in every respect among students, parents, and citizens in our three towns. Many thanks to all the faculty, administrators, and school board members who devote so much of their time and energy to making our schools great.

Overall FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL is an excellent school in so many ways! I think this is just a way to make the school programming better. NO MONEY needs to be spent to change its name! Spend the money on the children!

partnership with a local charter school/establishment of a local charter school

People are not unhappy with RSU 5 because of the name of the high school. When Iris you five was created my property taxes went up by 20% and we were no longer had the freedom to use Pownal elementary school.

Also, having had three children at the high school it is clear to me that the academic standards could be higher. Had the common core curriculum continued to be pushed at the school I would have removed my children. RSU5 should be educating children to a high level of excellence not experimenting with new ideas!

Personally speaking I like the name of our school. Changing the name won't change the students. And you shouldn't try and change the students. The more you try to control, the more they want to fight back. We can't even leave the room to go to the bathroom without getting the third degree.

Please continue to focus on the real challenges facing our students, and invest in programs and resources to help them succeed. Please resist efforts to rename the school; it would be a meaningless gesture at best, with real financial cost.

Please do not change the name of FHS.

Please do not change the name of Freeport High School in order to create a false sense of unity and pride. Unity and pride already exists.

Please do not change the name of Freeport High School to solve a problem that simply isn't there. Durham and Pownal students know they are a part of FHS and really don't care what the school is called. They know what is important is that despite coming from three towns we are all one community.

Please do not change the name. That would not be Falcon Friendly.

please do not rename the school

Please do not waste money on changing of a school name. FHS is amazing and has been a home to students from Freeport, Pownal and Durham for years prior to the RSU. It has name recognition that is important and the community support of the baseball team last spring is proof positive that this is a strong community that loves its students and their success.

Please DON'T change the name!

Please don't rename Freeport High School. It would make many people sad.

please don't rename High school

Please don't throw away all that's been accomplished by Freeport High School students over the years. I'm a Pownal parent and proud to say my two children attended FHS. I'd hate to lose that distinction and feel any attempt to rename the school would only cause serious divisiveness among our three communities.

Please feel free to contact me I am a former high school teacher who now works as an information technology consultant for a large corporation and I have many progressive ideas to share about curriculum development.

Please keep the name as Freeport Highschool

Please keep the name of the high school as is! If we head down this rabbit hole, it will only serve to create tension among the kids and the adults. Please leave the name as is, so we can focus on academics and all the positive developments.

Please make high school more challenging and offer more advanced classes. The surrounding districts offer much more and with our taxes and funding, we owe that to our students.

Please share any final comments you may have.

Please use the money wisely. Not spending it on a name change. I find it ironic that school expansion was fought, budget whittled down, sports fields in jeopardy. But, here we are "do we spend more money?" Can not understand why we are spending so much time on this topic.

Please work on improving college guidance at the high school. It is a source of weakness in the district.

really don,t care

RECESS!!!

renaming high school is bad idea, more books money is a better use of funding

Renaming the school is a really bad idea as it would cost the school a ton of money.

RSU5 is awesome. Thank-you for all that you do for our school and community.

RSU5 provides a solid education to our students but I do not feel that there is anything that strongly distinguishes us from other schools in the area. Nor do I think there is anything distinguishing about the other schools in the area.

Rsu5 shouldn't rename the school. We have a perfectly fine name for the high school right now and no students truly want to change the name.

school is fun

See previous comments

Should remain with Freeport in the name of the high school.

Stop looking for ways to spend more money!

Strongly suggest that AD not be the supervisor for all FHS extracurricular programs. Also suggest that hiring for extracurricular and coaching positions be expanded and not offered first to internal candidates. There are community members who would happily and very capably apply for those roles.

Students of Durham and Pownal have been going to Freeport forever and never felt divided. Leave it alone!

Students should be required to perform community service hours as part of the graduation requirement

Support community beyond everything, followed by respect and responsibility. Learning will happen if those three foundations are established from PreK forward.

Support local teachers!! Support school breakfast!!

Teach not where to go but rather how to get there.

Teach the students that life is not getting everything you want and how to budget responsibly. My taxes have increased close to 100% since the creation of the RSU. Let's try maybe a 1% increase for the next several years. Show all three towns that you can be responsible to the taxpayers and maybe someday you will a passing vote from all three towns

Thank you

Thank you ;0)

thank you for all of your hard work.

Thank you for asking for input from our communities.

Thank you for asking for my input

thank you for asking for this input

Thank you for asking these important questions

Thank you for collecting input from stakeholders.

Thank you for creating this survey.

Thank you for doing the survey.

Thank you for including teachers in the decision making process.

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion...

Thank you for organizing this. I truly hope more time is put into exploring the results of ALL OF THE QUESTIONS. The name is the least important and (in my opinion) will have the least amount of impact in the final goal of creating Unity and Pride in the RSU 5 School System.

Many of these questions are Excellent Questions and I hope the results will be shared with the community.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to give feedback. We are a great district! I hope we can get salaries more competitive with neighboring schools and more support in our district.

Thank you for putting this survey together!!

Thank you for seeking input from staff, students and community members about these important things. RSU5 can and should be a model school system for Maine, and everywhere else.

Thank you for soliciting comments from the community!

Thank you for soliciting input.

Thank you for taking the time to do this.

thank you for taking the time to hear responses.

Thank you for taking the time to initiate and develop a survey. I feel that the new administration we have at both the HS and Superintendent's office are leading us in the right direction. The atmosphere is much more positive, the administrators are engaged and interested, and the staff seems genuinely happy.

It is exciting to be at the HS and see such positive levels of engagement and academic programming. I have really appreciated the new ideas and "challenges" that Jen Gulko and Mr. Mellon have initiated this year - programs like "Speak Up/Say Something" and parent laptop monitoring and guidance night session that was held. They demonstrate on a day-to-day basis that the academic environment extends so much further than the classroom.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our opinions on these issues

Thank you for this opportunity to give feedback.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Thank you for working to improve education in our towns!

thanks

Thanks

Thanks for asking for input and reaching toward higher goals!!

Thanks for asking our opinions.

Thanks for asking these important questions of students, parents and community members. I think this information will be valuable in charting the district's future path.

Thanks for asking these questions

Thanks for listening.

Thanks for opening the dialog for a better RSU.

Thanks for the opportunity to give some input.

Thanks!

Interdisciplinary/integrated studies always a plus.

Language immersion a great idea.

Needed too is focus on the trades.

Thanks!

The 1234 grading system worked well in preschool. Now, if there is no extra credit, the highest my child can score is "3". He gets a "3" if he scores 100 or 75. IT is all the same. Where is the motivation? I am continually told that this makes things more clear. How does ranking a A student and the C student the same make things MORE clear??  
Stupid trendy educational fad that will be ridiculed by 2025.

The athletic program needs to look at its practices to distinguish itself from other area programs. It needs to start at the top, from the superintendent, to the principal, to the athletic director, and trickle down to all coaching levels and sports, athletes, parents, and community fans. It is evident in some coaching staff that they do strive to distinguish themselves and the team. These coaches try to bond the whole entire teams with their JV and varsity sport, and these coaches also are seen on the sidelines supporting other teams and the players of the sport they coach. These select coaches are also seen at booster meetings participating in striving for a better program. It is also evident that student athletes strive to distinguish themselves as well as by participating in off season games/community travel/AAU teams in various sports. Parents too work on distinguishing our athletic programs by attending booster meetings and participating in activities to help the program grow. This school system has a way to go to improving all of the sport programs.

What about coaching evaluations is this done? Players and parents should have some input with evaluations. It maybe more successful to discuss a parent's/player's concerns about a coach on a questionnaire rather than meet with the coach or athletic director. The athletic director needs to listen openly and seriously to a player's/family's concerns and to have the family and player feel no repercussions will be put on the player or the family in future sport seasons.

Some of the topics I have heard and seen on the sidelines are the following:

"Players leaving the school system or the sport because of particular coaches."

"Players responsible for childcare of coach's children while a practice and or game is taking place."

"The coach's children should not even be there giving the fact they are working." "How can players and coaches concentrate/focus on the game/practice." "Putting the players in this situation is just not

healthy."

"Having a varsity coach, coach their own child is not a healthy situation for all players either. It creates animosity amongst that player and his or her teammates as well as amongst the coach and other players." "It can be looked upon as favoritism when the player plays entire games, and receives athletic excellence awards when the player's contributions are questionable."

"Parents upset with coaching, athletic director standing near by and just walks off."

I feel these are the things that tear apart unity and pride in our school.

The education I received at FHS was excellent. My alumni friends and I constantly refer back to our Freeport education as the reason why we are engaged, caring, and informed citizens. Freeport is such a special place. Faculty and staff care about the students and are invested in their future. As someone who greatly benefited from the opportunities, I hope this strong commitment to the providing students a comprehensive experience, continues.

The High School should remain being called Freeport High School

The lack of leadership created since the formation of the rsu has created the biggest divisions and a continuing problem. Bringing up issues like renaming the school continues to divide instead of unite. Provide some positive vision and stability internally instead of externally.

The last time the "rumor" surfaced (and we were assured it was just a rumor ) I felt frustrated and helpless in how address it. On a Friday afternoon I opened a Falcon Pride Facebook site. By Monday morning it had well over 800 members from all over the country, community people and alumna going back decades, commenting on the ridiculousness of the idea, angry and in support of keeping FHS, the Falcon and the maroon and white. I forwarded the site info to the school board at the time. FB has shut it down due to inactivity but it can be reopened. There are several threads on FB now with a multitude of comments on this issue.

Finally the name would become Tritown Regional or Three Rivers Community . If we were to build a new school then a new name could be considered but FHS is in Freeport and should honor its traditions and long history and all those who have attended, who already feel an abundance of Pride and Unity, something you cant name your way into and shouldn't wipe off teh map with a "simple" name change..

Thank you for asking.

Do not change the name of the school.

The name of the High School should stay the same as it has been for years . I think that as a tax payer and a parent that it would be just throwing money out the window when it could be used for other things

The only comment I have is that we should not change our school name. It is perfect the way it is, and I do have friends not from Freeport who do not care that the name is "Freeport High School".

The push to change the name of the high school seems divisive and retaliatory against those in Freeport who sought to leave the RSU. The high school is in Freeport and its current name seems appropriate.



The problems facing our school as it continues to decline in state and national ranking has little to do with the name and more with people who think changing the name is an actual priority.

The renovations on the high school look great, I can't wait to see the track and field. Please don't change the school's name. Allow incoming freshmen to taken Algebra II and Biology courses. I'm proud to be a student at FHS.

The RSU needs to invest in recruiting and retaining the best teachers and administrators, and that means paying them as well as neighboring towns. That is how we can offer kids a better education which will reverse the trend of leaving the RSU. When my oldest child was at FHS, almost no one left the district for other schools. Now, it is positively an epidemic.  
Thanks for this opportunity.

The RSU should on an annual basis make sure it has the best teaches available . Replacing the poorest performing teaches each year is the best way to improve the RSU.

The RSU voted to expand and renovate Freeport High School without mandating that its name change.

The RSU5 has a great system. I'm sure there is always room for improvement. Changing the name of the school has no academic value that I can think of. We've always been Freeport High and I think you would find that the majority of Pownal and Durham would agree. Facebook has been buzzing with this story and I have'nt seen anyone who thinks spending thousands of dollars to change our name is a good investment.

The school belongs to all three town's now. Renaming the school to reflect that may help citizens in Pownal and Durham realize that the school is a benefit to all towns. Maybe the budget will pass in all 3 towns once the change is made.

The school should be named 'Schooly McSchoolface' or something equally as meme-ish. It's what the kids want.

The vibe in 2016 at the High school is really positive- excellent Leadership! Great change from 2015 and 2014.

There are so much more important things on which to put our money, thought, and effort than a name change. Let;s put our efforts elsewhere.

There is no need to change the high school name. Where is the pride in changing something that means so much to its alumni? Having to rename the school means a drastic change in the budget to change athletic uniforms. It was many many years for our team to get new away uniforms, and now they will have to be replaced.

There is no need to change the name of the school, let's work on changing the programs to increase unity and pride!

There is plenty of unity and pride, don't change anything

There is too much concern with collecting assessment data and not enough employees that work directly with students to utilize that data.

There seems to be too much focus on the use of technology for technology's sake. I really wish the

students learned not only how to use software, but how in fact to write it. And younger learners would do better with tactile materials instead of screens and keyboards when learning how to read and write.

There should be a public facilities plan

there should be more teachers so we can have some more advanced classes and stuff, and all those people that say no because of jealousy, they can get out of their millennial mindset, and grow up. Because it will not get them ANYWHERE!!..

This initiative is not from students. This needs to be about our children, not disgruntled adults.

This was difficult to have an opinion as my oldest child is in the middle school and I am unsure as to what programs are already offered, versus what we need more of. As this has been our only district it is difficult to compare others. Would be helpful to elaborate where we already stand.

This year there have been many efforts to integrate more arts appreciation into the school community and that has been a positive change in my life as a student.

ty for letting us have input

Wasting thousands of dollars ,changing the school name ,seems like the fools errand ! If this plan is something the ELITE s cooked up ,maybe they should take a closer ,timely look around and make more of an effort to socialize and categorize the primary sources of income to the school community !

We already have an outstanding school district. I expect we have keep investing and improving to keep it that way.

We are about to open a beautiful new cafeteria and we have unhealthy food and little to no variety in daily selections.

We are extremely impressed by the dedication of teachers, staff, and volunteers at MSS. Our experiences there have bolstered our confidence in the rsu leadership and educational future of our children in Freeport.

we don't need to rename the high school...pointless

We have chosen to live in Freeport because we believe in the schools and in the community. We want our three girls to grow up among friends that they have known since kindergarten and when they come back from college on break to be able to reconnect with those same friends.

However, I am quickly getting frustrated with the RSU because of constant fluctuations in leadership and with ho-hum levels of expectations and standards throughout the district.

If you want unity and pride throughout the district-combine all the schools. Make one elementary school instead of three. Combine the Middle School to one. We are brick and mortar heavy-we are administrator heavy with all of our principals and our assistants-we are top heavy among our highest paid salaries. We are separated into SIX different school buildings. How can you unify a community? You can unify a community by putting everyone together. Why in the world would you try to unify our community by keeping everyone separate?