

Unity and Pride Survey
Results of Section A - Renaming Freeport High School
December 14, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting

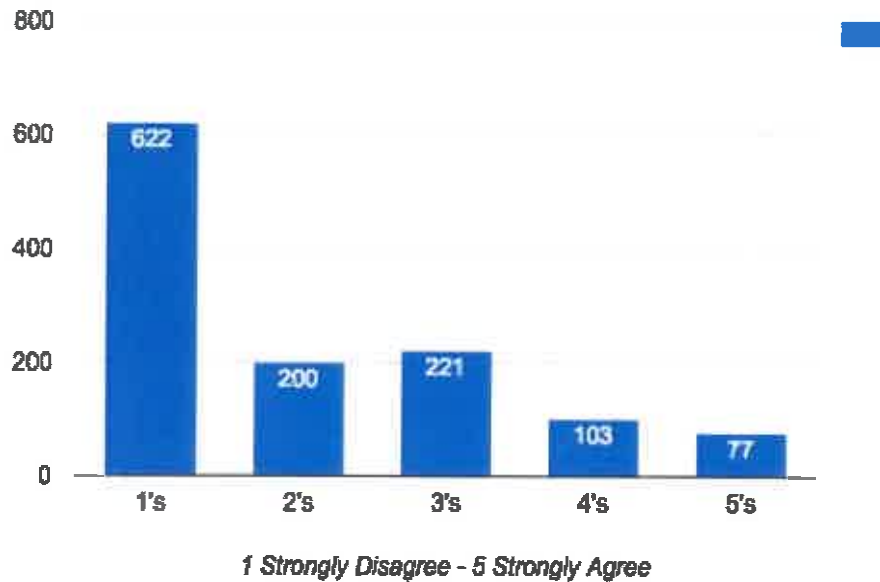
10.A.

A. Renaming Freeport High School

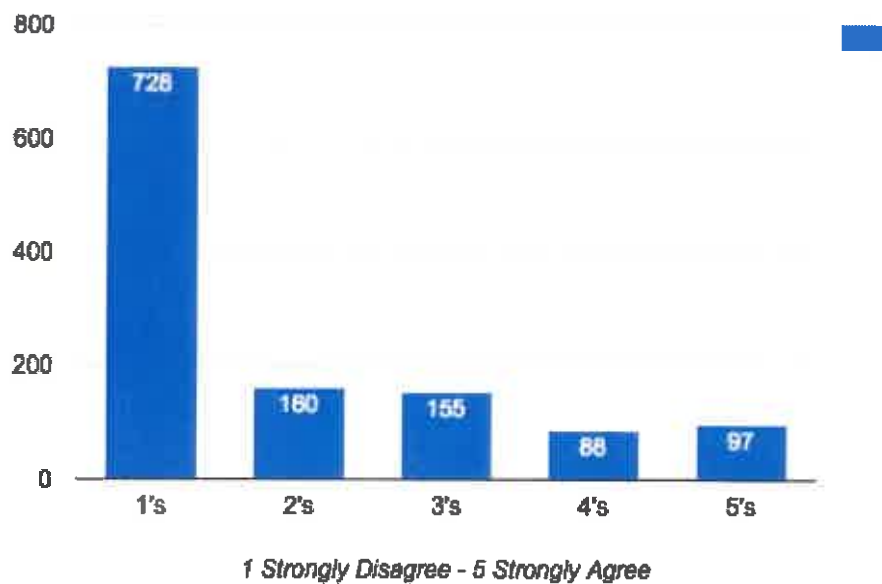
Question 1. Renaming of the high school will improve unity and pride in the District.

Question 2. RSU5 should rename the high school.

All Groups - Question 1

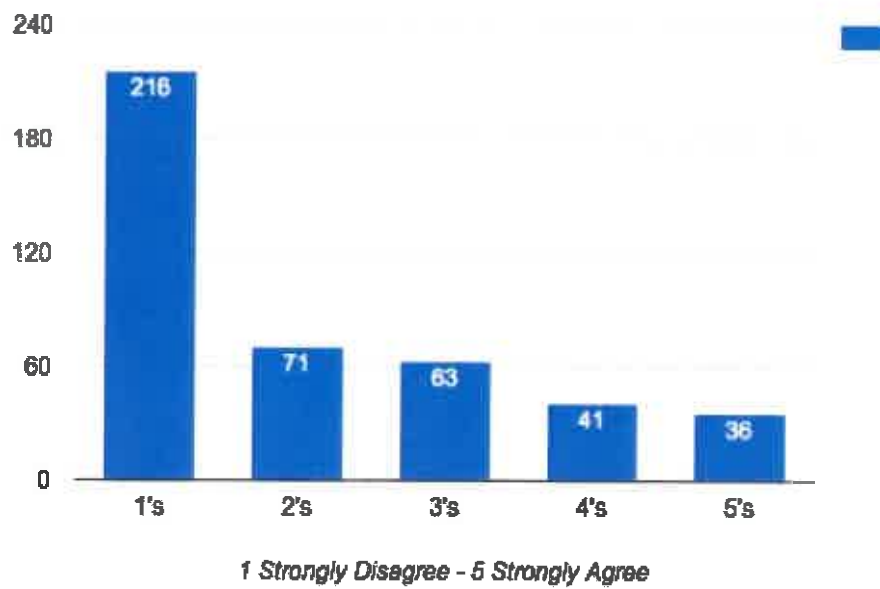


All Groups - Question 2

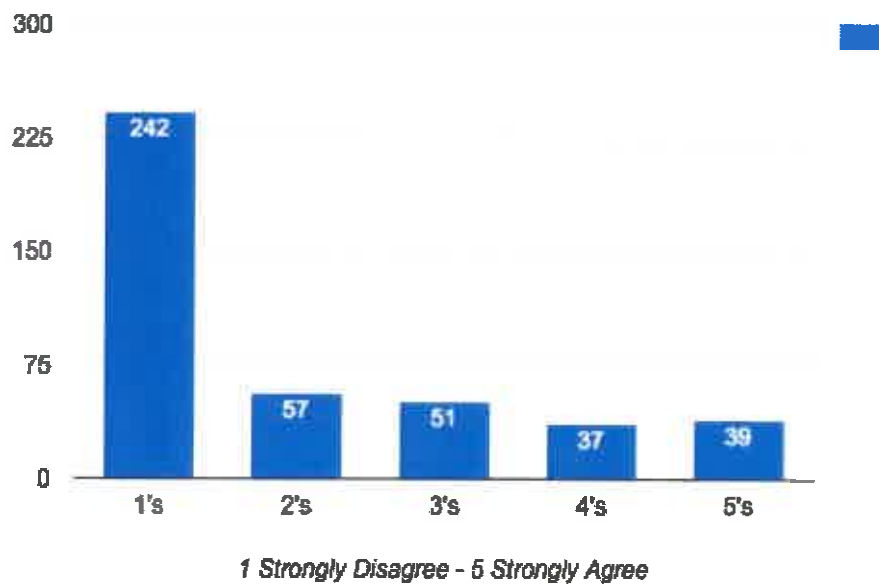


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Parents - Question 1

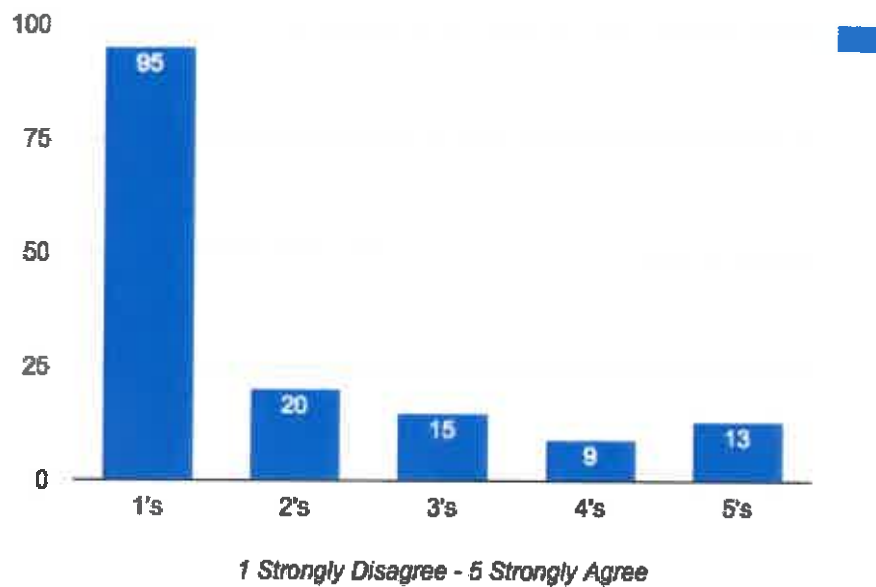


Parents - Question 2

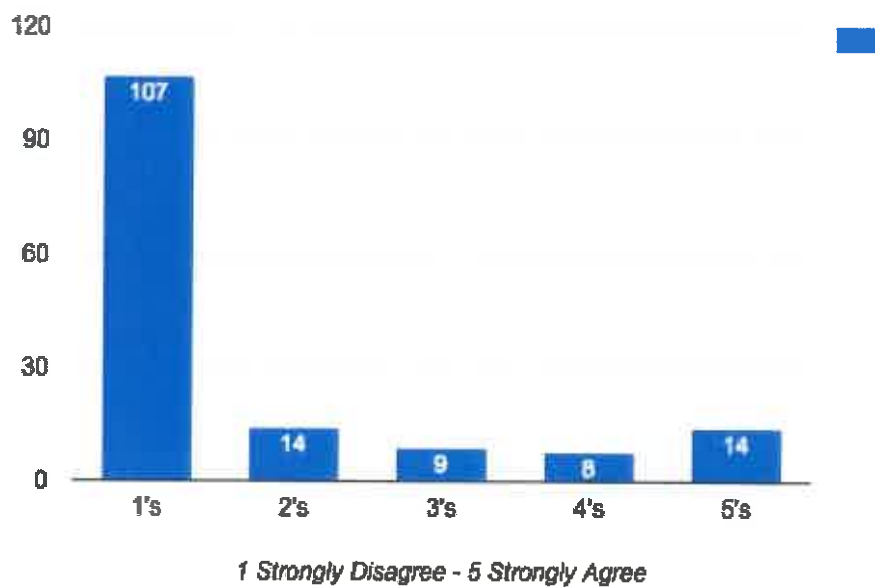


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Citizens - Question 1

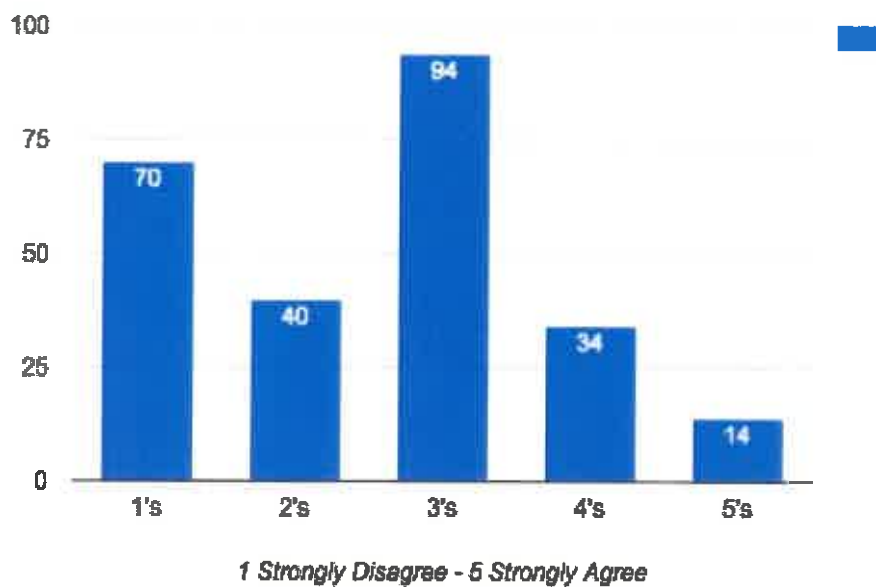


Citizens - Question 2

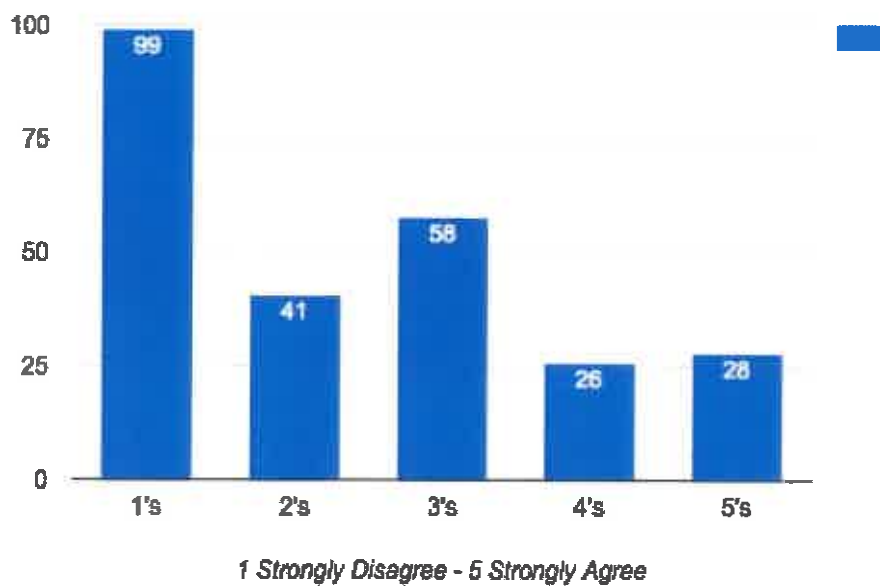


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Middle School Students - Question 1

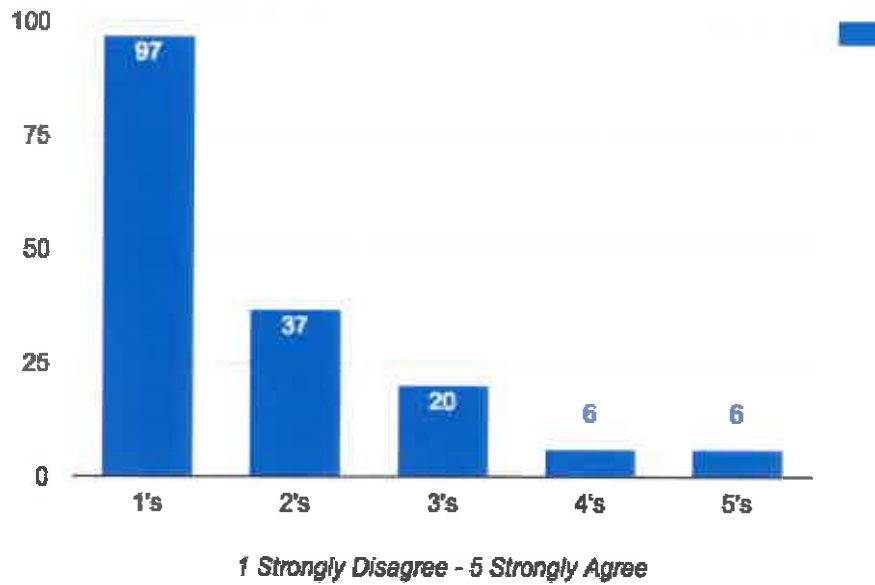


Middle School Students - Question 2

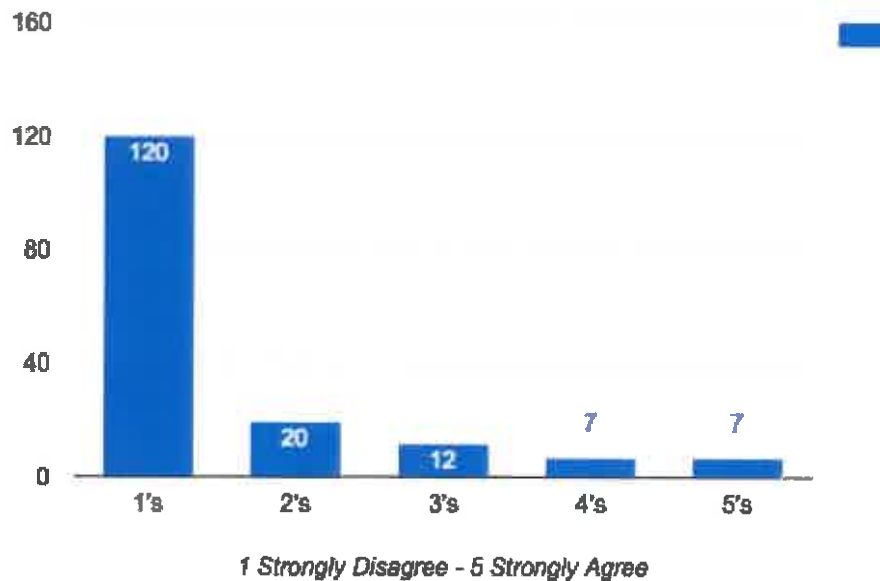


Unity and Pride Survey
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FHS Students - Question 1

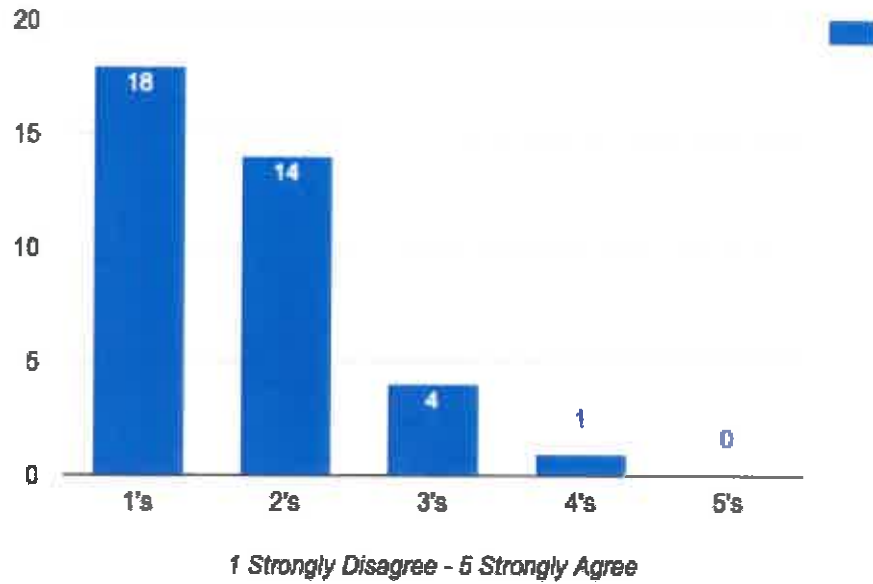


FHS Students - Question 2

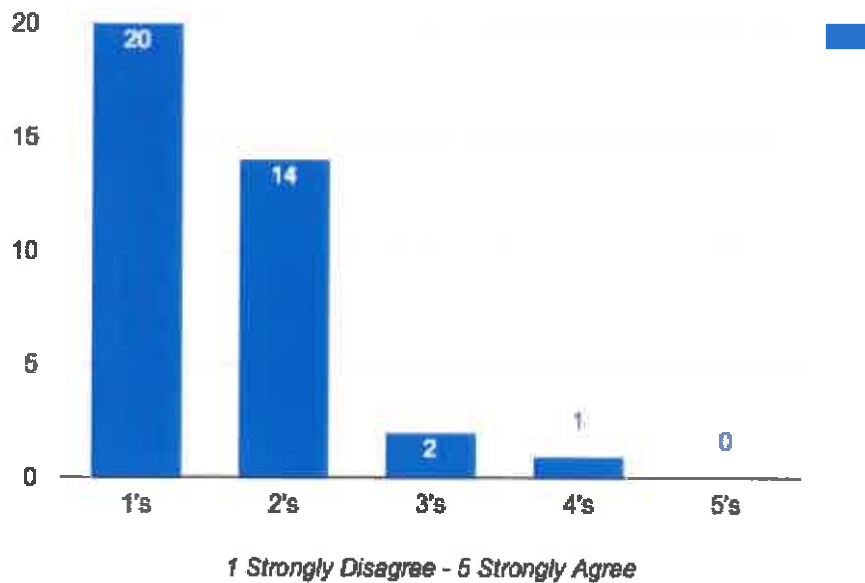


Unity and Pride Survey
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FHS Staff Members - Question 1

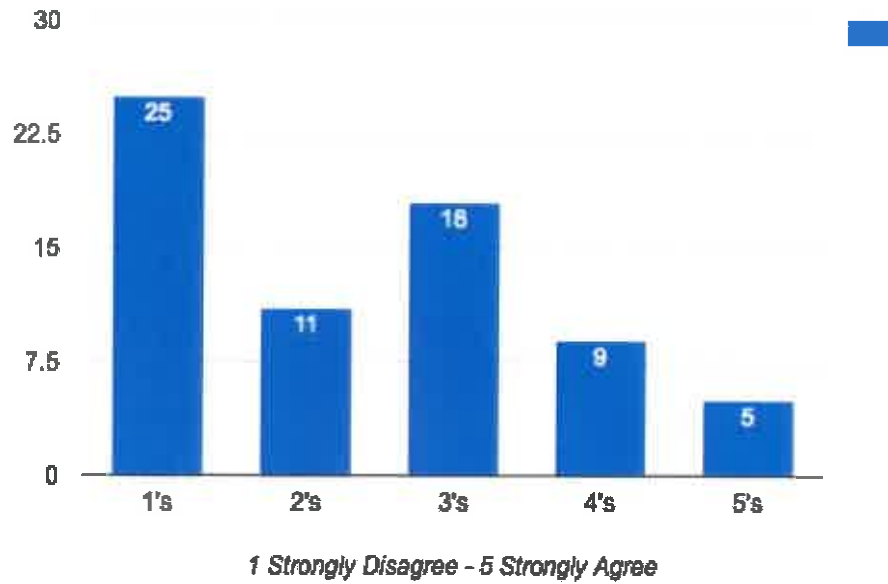


FHS Staff Members - Question 2

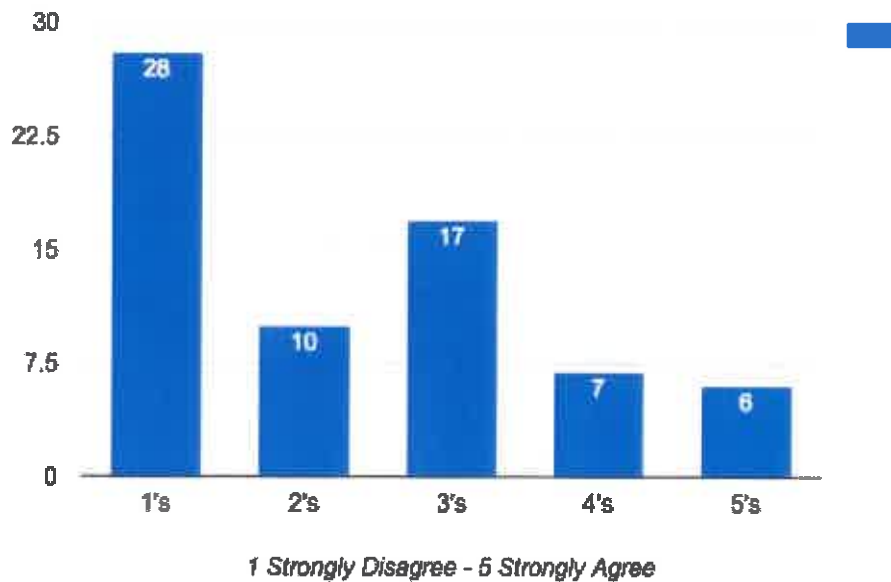


Unity and Pride Survey
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RSU5 Staff Member - Question 1

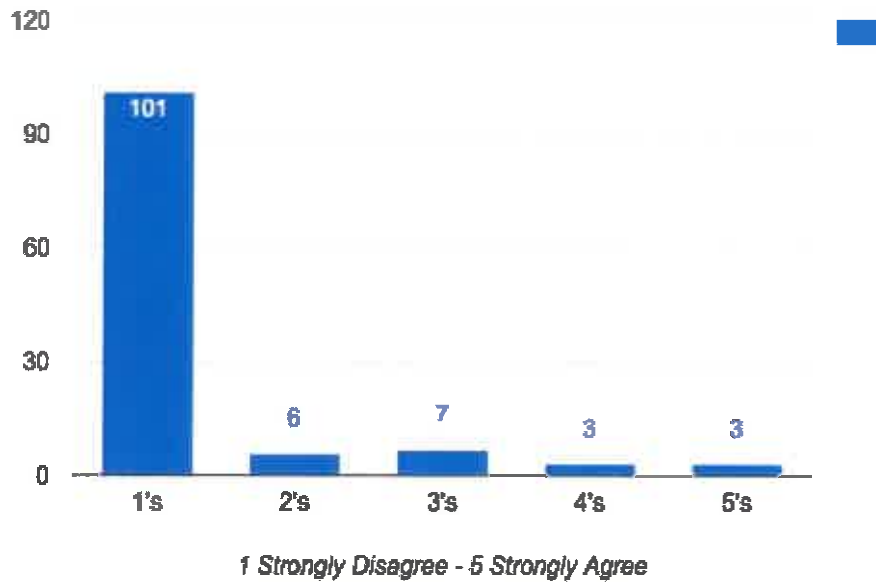


RSU5 Staff Member - Question 2

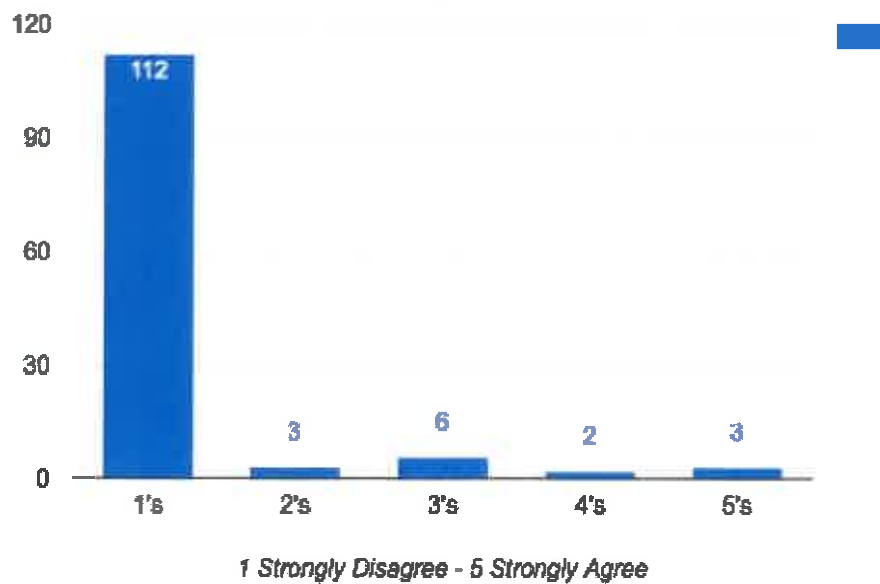


Unity and Pride Survey
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FHS Alumni - Question 1



FHS Alumni - Question 2



Question & Answer Session – November 9, 2016 held at FHS

Questions:

- What is the \$68,000 for? Response: Mostly for uniforms; some signage and painting.
- Can FHS alumni who no longer live in Maine vote? Response: A sub-group called “Alumni” will be added.
- Will students vote? Response: Yes, all high schoolers and middle schoolers will be given the opportunity to vote. Jen added that the high school students will be given time first thing in the morning.
- Asked about the timing and the purchase of uniforms.
- Will the name “Freeport Performing Arts” change?
- Becky stated twice that the Board will make the final decision.
- Would the school colors and mascot also be changed if the name was changed? Response: There was no discussion about changing the school colors. The mascot would stay the same.

Comments:

- Concern about anonymity – saying it’s not clear on the survey. Response: The name is a field that needs to be entered to ensure only one response per person. Only Ginny will have the names. The Board will not see any names.
- Agree with the timing, as long as there’s a clear process. Make effort to get as many surveys as possible.
- Definitely want high school students to have input. Perhaps, have them vote in one of their classes.
- Add “alumni” line on survey.
- Do what’s right for kids. Consider the impact on the kids.
- Don’t lose fluidity of the district; students moving between schools.
- Families are spending money on Freeport/Falcon items.
- Jen assured group that she and vice principal were neutral.
- Pownal resident identified himself and said it was a terrible idea.
- Make sure to expedite the process – don’t want another fight.
- Identity is important – “Harraseeket” doesn’t work.
- Look at other things on the survey – more important.
- Alumnus said totally opposed – it’s a pride thing.
- Working on the track and field now; money should go there.
- Could be very bad – we’ve made a lot of progress.
- Freeport person identified himself and said that there has been a great feeling of pride this last year and that name change would be a distraction.
- Odd to have renaming question under “unity.” Take it out of the survey. Do we want to sanitize all the names of the schools in the district?
- Looking for a common thread for a name change would be very difficult.
- Name change wouldn’t create unity and pride, but the opposite. Unity and pride comes through activities – sports, arts, etc. “Don’t cause disruption.”
- Name of Freeport Regional High School suggested; also the idea of Freeport High School name and adding for “Durham, Freeport and Pownal”.
- A change would have a big impact on the Boosters for Alpine and ? particularly if the uniforms are not due to be changed.

Question & Answer Session – November 30, 2016 held at DCS

Questions:

- Why now? (referring to the name change)
- Why now? Is it a hanging out there thing? Response: Yes, we want to address it and move on.

- What's the timeframe? Response: We'll be looking at the comments and the surveys at the December 14, 2016 Board meeting and make decisions on how to proceed or not.

Comments:

- I came to find out what people are thinking.
- I don't feel strongly one way or the other about the naming piece. Response: We've heard about both sides of the issue.
- I don't think at this time it's important anymore.
- I'm not in favor of the name change. I would have given a different answer a few years ago. It's sad that other schools who have changed their name have no sense of place. I commend the Board for looking at unity but I think this has a great chance of hurting it (unity.) If anything, the district needs stability with administration.
- I'm an alumni. I agree with Kevin. (preceding bullet)
- There are lots of ways to acknowledge that we are a three town community.
- I don't feel a complete name change is necessary.

Question & Answer Session – December 6, 2016 held at PES

Questions:

- What about the \$68,000?
- How did the strategic sub-committee get started?
- How will the decision be made? Will the decision go back to the sub-committee? Answer: No, unless we decide to rename. In that case, the Board may request that the sub-committee create a process for gathering input on possible names.

Comments:

- The high school is in Freeport.
- Utilizing up to \$68,000 to change uniforms stinks when we have no practicing band rooms at the high school.
- Freeport High School is a brand, a name that already exists.
- People who graduated from Freeport High School - that's their history. This makes no sense.
- Renaming it to Harraseeket doesn't make sense as the river does not run through Pownal and Durham.
- Falcon High School makes it sound like it is just a sports' school.
- Changing the name won't change the experience.
- Durham and Pownal are already concerned about taxes so why would we spend the money to rename?
- I 100% support renaming the school. It's been FHS since 1961, but now it's our school. Coney High School was named after a person because of multiple towns feeding into the school.
- If changing name moves forward there should be forums for discussion.
- I'm concerned that there are deep wounds that are barely starting to scab over. I feel we would be back to square one.
- It's good to have the conversation.
- If you graduated from FHS you will still always have that.
- It should not just be about what the kids want. Kids may not want to change, but they don't get to decide whether to brush their teeth.
- It's more an adult issue than an issue with the kids.
- I came from a place that went through a new name change. You can still be an alum from Freeport High School. Renaming the high school gives the same nod to other towns.
- Wasn't dealt with at the time of consolidation.
- It's about unifying - common identity. Give some nod to other towns.
- I never have been excited about changing things quickly. There are people in all three communities, and there seems to be an uncertainty about identity. We should wait and see how we become a community that is larger than the municipalities of Freeport, Durham, and Pownal. The name should reflect the community that we are

becoming. Do we know what that is right now? This should be a more organic process if we are to move towards a name change.

- Be attentive to the development of community.
- The name change is not important. I'm not sure changing the name creates unity. We should feel more unified before we change the name. I don't like the idea of putting off the decision. We have gone through referendums and withdrawal votes which are issues that divide us. We haven't really been united.
- Kids feel united. We can be unified without changing the name.
- Changing the name is symbolic. If we are not unified, the name change won't make us unified.
- I love the idea of doing more to celebrate our successes. Have events - district celebrations.
- Even if we don't change our name, we need to change the language we use. As a District, we need to change how we talk. Culture needs to change.
- If we change our name, it will be important to get students K-12 involved.
- Need to communicate - Facebook, Twitter, District newspaper - now that there's no tri-Town.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Parents Comments A. Renaming Freeport High School

Comments:

I think the name as it stands says enough

Y change it, it has done us good so far

The high school is located in Freeport, Alumni are proud to be associated with Freeport High School. Pownal students have attended FHS for years. A \$68k name change at the expense of the 3 communities will cause more hate and discontent.

Ridiculous waste of money!

The money it would take is better spent on thing like Challenge Day for all students, a much more effective and efficient way to build unity.

I don't think changing the name accomplishes anything- there are more important things we can focus on!

I believe it would be a shame to spend money for a name change. When those dollars could be used for more educational endeavors. According to my child the kids are not the ones who care. My child has many friends in school who do not live in Freeport and no one cares which town they are from. Many other high schools are regional and have never had a name change.

In the time that I have lived in Freeport I have never heard concern or negativity towards the name of the school.

I think if there is \$68,000 available it should be put to better use than changing a name that people are not concerned with.

I feel that unity and pride do exist within the school district at this time. You only needed to attend the soccer games under the lights this fall or the state championship baseball game last spring to witness it. There were people from all of the towns in attendance. People with no kids playing in the game or even in the sport all together. People who had kids that graduated out of the school system years ago. Win or lose everyone was unified and incredibly proud of the kids, the school and the community we have built together. To re-name the high school, to a name that no one will agree upon, will only create discord and hostility. Furthermore, it will only anger the members of the community who do not have children in the RSU and wanted it dissolved for perceived financial savings. The RSU district is already viewed as spend-happy and tax-increasing. To spend \$68k to rename the high school will not improve the unity within the greater community - it will tear us further apart.

While I don't have a strong opinion about maintaining the current name of the high school or changing it to something "non" town specific, I do have a concern about the thinking that it may improve unity in the district.

I am thinking that the divide that exists now finds certain members of the school community outside of Freeport feeling excluded...if we change the name, then these certain members may feel more included, but a new group of people have become "excluded"...instead of unifying the district, a name change may just "flip" the exclusion to a different group of people and continue to promote a division among the members of the rsu. I am not sure that there is a solution out there that will please everyone, so unless there is data to support that over 50% of the rsu population is dissatisfied with the current name, maybe it should stay as it is?

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

This appears to be something driven by people outside of the student body. based on what I hear from my child and the many other young men and women he knows. the kids do not care about this issue, would prefer not to change, and think it is a waste of time.

I also want to add that members of the school board and those who led the efforts to keep Freeport from withdrawing from the RSU made explicit promises that the name of the school would not change!

I like the name just how it is...

Not necessary, school is in Freeport, would be confusing to change and don't think changing name would effect "unity."

I feel the \$68,000 can be used for much better things

I have spoken to Durham and Pownal students and they want the name to stay Freeport High School.

I think the kids currently in the school system should have a huge say in this in terms of what they feel will be important to them.

I moved into the school district from another state but I like the high school name and the alliteration of "Freeport Falcons."

If the student body (6-12) shows us they think it is necessary to promote unity at the high school, I would be willing to reconsider.

Absent that, this initiative is unlikely to yield meaningful benefits.

This seems to be the agenda item of just one school board member. It's a waste of time. Let it alone

It would be nice to show the kids that RSU5 includes all three towns but that we are one RSU.

Even if you just add the word 'Regional' to the existing name, it will make a difference to some and maybe you wouldn't have to buy all new uniforms right away

We believe pride & unity is already in the process & believe changing the name will only create more animosity & resentment towards the smaller towns. It's always been Freeport High & should continue..the name/region is recognized statewide & changing it may only cause people to wonder "where is that school". Another reason not to do it is added cost for rebranding...uniforms, logos, signs etc.

Thanks!

I don't feel renaming the high school will change whether students and parents alike feel unified and accepted. I feel that money is better used in the direct education of our youth.

When does it stop? I believe this conversation about renaming FHS has come up before and while I believe it's important for all to feel included, there has to be a better way to make that happen than spending up to \$68,000.

1. The financial cost to taxpayers to pay for "unity and pride" through a name change is too much. Is this truly an "educational" expense that ought to be charged to taxpayers?
2. The name reflects the physical location of the school and strong school identity has been built over the years under this name.
3. What level of disunity and lack of pride exists to propose charging taxpayers a significant sum to alter what has served this school well for so long? If there is indeed discord in the district, what evidence shows that changing the name of the school will remedy the problem?

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

It seems as if the Administration is already pushing a name change. That will be very hard to defeat given the power of those whose job requires them to attend every meeting.

I think the bane should stay the same, but add something to the main sign saying: "Serving the communities of Freeport, Durham and Pownal."

It works, why change it?! The name of the school does not represent the intelligence of the students or anything else for that matter--it's the school name for crying out loud. Frankly, I think it's a waste of time to even put this up for discussion and waste taxpayers' money taking time discussing this. Seriously?

Honest thoughts from an honest parent.

We all associate with the name Freeport, and I think it would be a strong disruption to students, teachers and all involved. As the RSU we need to stop thinking of ways to spend needless amounts of money and find ways to improve the academics of our schools.

Nothing to gain by changing the name other than expense. It has always been Freeport High School, that's what it is and that is what it should remain.

Thank you for your consideration

I used to feel strongly that we should rename the high school, but now I'm not as convinced that we need to change it.

Too costly!

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

Whomever came to the conclusion that a name is what brings the students and communities of RSU5 pride, legitimately has no concept of how pride is fostered and nurtured.

In my 38 years in this town, as the daughter of a former [REDACTED] and one of this town's greatest champions of education, this is by far the most trivial subject I have heard to date.

According to my kids, the student body is fine with the name. They believe this is a parental issue, not one of unity at the high school.

It seems like things are finally moving forward as a unified district (after several years). Why create an additional rift among the sending communities.

Freeport HS is located in Freeport; Durham Community school is located in Durham; Pownal Elementary School is located in Pownal. I am proud to call each of these schools partners in the education of my children and the children who attend schools in RSU5.

I am proud of the work that has been done by the communities to pull together for the children, as are many tri-town residents. I honor local history and town pride and feel that a name change for the sake of a name change would go against these.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Personal View : As [REDACTED] I see many grants coming through for RSU5 faculty members for classroom enrichment projects and education innovation that stay unfulfilled or partially filled because of budget restraints of the fpad5 and rsu5. The money spent on signage can be used for many other needs in the rsu5.

The sense of unity can be achieved by continuing to nurture and intergrate students from all rsu5 schools through academic, althetic and social activities.

It is an utter waste of money and resources.

Use it up, wear it out , make it do, or do without !

While the high school represents multiple towns, it is physically located in Freeport, Maine. This name represents its location and the students who drive/bus to Freeport to attend. There are thousands of alumni who will basically lose the connection to their school for future events if the name changes. Many other districts stuck with the name of the school even though towns have merged into attending. The other towns have voiced the desire to separate from the RSU and this could happen in the future, diminishing the benefits of renaming the school. When your school name does not represent your town, no one really knows where it is and they typically ask..

Please do not spend money that could be better used to benefit our children's education on a name change that is truly not needed. This seems like a 'solution' desperately in search of a problem.

I think calling it Freeport high is alienating those kids who do not live in Freeport. It would be the right gesture in unifying our community

I am unable to see the benefit of renaming the school at this time or how it would improve unity. Unity can be achieved by spending that money on other items possibly.

Students don't seem to put much weight in this issue - largely stems from some parents. Since Freeport has more name recognition outside the state (e.g., with colleges and others) I think the RSU would have a higher/better profile if we keep Freeport in the name of the HS

I honestly think that this is a complete waste of time and money and energy to rename the high school. I would much rather put the money towards the track and field project or towards new uniforms for the high school athletes or even towards increasing coaching stipends so that we can attract more qualified coaches for our athletic teams.

Hell no....waste of money and not needed.

From what I have heard from parents, teachers, coaches, etc... with kids currently at the high school this is a non issue for the kids. They simply do not care what the name of the school is. Having the school named "Freeport High School" in no way takes away from their school pride/unity. This issue is strictly a parental one. That became very clear when I attended a number of meetings regarding the withdrawal process. I personally could care less what the school is names as long as my child receives a good education but to change the name to the tune of \$65K so that parents can feel a bit better seems a bit irresponsible. Especially when that money could be better spent elsewhere. Like a track!

Thanks!! Best of luck...

My family lives in Durham, and I am not in favor of a name change. If a name change is perceived necessary to be more inclusive of the three towns, then I would suggest only a subtle change to something like Freeport Area HS or Freeport Community HS to minimize the cost of re-uniforming. Also, "Freeport" is well established, and a total name change would be confusing.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

The problem with using non-local names is that no one outside this immediate area has any idea where that school resides in the state. When I first moved here some 20+ years ago I would hear the name Greely and it was a good 10 years before I realized that it was in Cumberland. A name with out a location may sound great to the locals but for the rest of the state it is meaningless.

Unnecessary use of resources at this time. Please focus on academic programming.

As a resident of Durham, I think it would be a welcome courtesy to have a more inclusive name but with the current budgetary constraints, I believe \$68,000 would be better invested in assets that provide a tangible benefit to the students.

Why pick at this scab again. It only serves to build new walls between the RSU5 communities.

There is no good reason to change the name that has stood for years. I can think of \$68,000 reason to spend that money towards education and staff.

The students and alumni I have talked to feel that unity and pride (and I also believe) is accomplished by their involvement in the performing arts sports, and other academic programs The staff, advisory, and the mentor program that offers support and establishes the feeling of unity and pride for all students. The Freeport High School name is well recognized across the state and it is one of the reasons many students have chosen to come to FHS. I strongly urge that we keep the Freeport High School name.

Do not waste valuable funds on this. Renaming will leave the entire RSU 5 community with a loss of identity and history.

FREEPORT HIGH FALCONS FOREVER!

I am opposed to the renaming of the high school. I live in Freeport, pay taxes, have children in the schools, and I work at Freeport High School. Renaming the school is a waste of time, money and energy. We can absolutely build culture and community pride, we do and we are! There are many programs in place at FHS to do just this. Outside of the walls, we have theater, sports and other events that bring community together. The premise of renaming the school as a way to build community pride and unity is false. Building that unity is separate from a name change. I strongly urge the board to consider the cost, time and resources being spent on this. Many other RSU's have not renamed their High School and if we rename or high school then let's rename DCS, PES, and FMS.

My belief is that if there is truly a unity issue in the RSU, that the efforts should be focused on community building vs. changing the name of the school.

This seems a waste of money. Put the money into school programs, lights for the track/tennis courts, etc. Although students come to FHS from other areas, the high school is located in Freeport. This alone could justify retaining the name.

I live in Durham. This is another waste of energy, time, and effort for a meaningless display.

This is a huge distraction waste of time and waste of money for RSU5 and all involved.

The school is in Freeport it is called Freeport High School, same with the middle school leave it alone.

As a parent from Pownal, I do not feel that changing the High School name will achieve more unity. My daughter in FHS already feels like a part of the school. Changing the name will divide people more than unite them and take us backwards from the little progress we've made trying to get the three towns to work together. Let's think about what's most important for the kids and honor their choice!

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Rather than renaming the high school in hopes of building unity and pride, invest in "building bridges" between the 3 communities of Freeport, Pownal and Durham through tri-community school events or activities (not sure what these things would be though). Invest the \$68,000 that would be used for renaming FHS into our children's education.

I don't really think renaming the school will be a good use of money at all. I don't understand how renaming would change anything and the current name is fine.

I think that there is a history and validity in the name Freeport High. It is recognized by universities and sports programs alike and this is the primary reasons why we should not change the name.

History

The Freeport High School name has a long history we should respect our historical roots.

Brand

Freeport has a strong 'brand' - known nationally and internationally.

Geographical Character

The FHS name ties into Freeport's brand and gives our school a geographical character. Regional school names tend to fall flat in that they don't serve to identify a region - instead they make schools sound as though they could be anywhere - which puts them nowhere.

Cost

I think that any funds spent on renaming would be a huge waste of resources.

Unnecessary Distraction

The name change discussion distracts our district from what is really important - focusing our finite resources on improving student achievement.

Freeport High School's name should remain the same for the following reasons:

- 1) Historical continuity for alums
- 2) Historical continuity for reference to past achievements such as championships, etc.
- 3) Clarity of location
- 4) It just sounds better than these made up names that try to either merge multiple town names or vaguely reference something that has no intrinsic meaning such as "Falcon High School"
- 5) It will cost money to revise materials, stationery, etc.

This is a waste of time and funds to accommodate people's opinions. The logistics, costs and efforts should be put towards improving the school environment and curriculum for the students. At the end of the day the students won't care what the name of their school is, and hopefully if we put more focus into their education then they will be more prepared to enter the world as a young adult after they graduate.

Unity and Pride are not built by a name. Unity and pride are built by the people involved in the High School and the experiences they promote and encourage. The Freeport name is part of the history and pride of this community.

Leave this one alone. Too much money spent unnecessarily.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

There is no need for renaming the high school!!! Just because we are adding on to the school?? Its been freeport high school since i was in school many years ago. The falcon pride would be removed thus possibly changing the allready postive mind set of the student body. Their parents went there or aunts and uncles etc. The cost of replacing all athletic uniforms is and would be CRAZY!!!! not to menchin signage!!!! Handing down more cost to the parents and tax payers. This past school budget was bad enough!! Sincerely

Leave it alone!!!!!!

With 3 towns sending students to the high school, it would be nice to have a name that is less locally exclusive. Something that still has a local geographical and/or historical resonance would be nice - Harraseeket High School maybe, or Josiah Mitchell (or another sea captain) High School. There are lots of creative possibilities.

In talking with my children (2 graduates and one current, Durham residents), they felt that it is in Freeport, it's Freeport High School. If it was to be renamed though that it shouldn't have any of the town's names in it ~ ex. Bradbury Mt High School.

I think it would be more unifying than not to rename the school, especially since it has students from three towns!

No renaming of our school, it should stay as Freeport High.

We pay the majority of the taxes for our school, if the other towns want to share equal burden of taxes then maybe we can think of renaming it.

Keep Freeport High School as it is!!!!!!

If scrubbing the name of an individual town the HS is rationalized as bringing unity to the RSU, the it should be considered for all the schools in the district. Since, in practice, students in the lower grades also are able to attend schools in any town (with RSU permission) then the same rationale as the HS should hold true. If the scrubbing is not across the board then I think the board she explain to the public why it doesn't hold for all school building.

Please don't change it. Its bad enough ll bean has changed things.

It is impossible to make all parties happy and I don't feel renaming the high school is a worthy pursuit of \$68k at this time. Take for example college applications, Freeport High School has had a reputation as a solid school, but changing that does nothing to impress upon that long history.

It's a well intentioned idea to be as inclusive as possible, but Freeport High School is, in fact, in Freeport. This reality makes the idea of spending money and efforts for a name change less logical.

Renaming is a Red Herring,

Chasing that one does not achieve our meaningful goals. we are already unified in pride through generations of "Freeport High School". That does not need to change because someone feels bad for Durham and Pownal, there is no reason to feel bad, Freeport is their high school too. I attended a High school named after a neighboring town, and there is no reason to think this is offensive. It is us.

My kids and I live in Durham, we had this discussion last week. Both of my kids say though they live in Durham they couldn't see the high school named anything else. They were fine with current name and proud of their school. We took a stab at some ideas just in case: Midcoast Community High School was the only one they threw out. But Midcoast could be anywhere from Freeport to Belfast in most minds.

No need to rename! It won't change anything!

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I respectfully say, "if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it" ... The Freeport High School name is absolutely fine. I live in Durham, graduated from Freeport, and have had two daughters graduate from FHS. I also have a sophomore at Freeport. I have not heard any of my Durham friends, both parents and students, complain about the high school name, but I can promise you that if it moves forward to change the name that will be a different story. At a \$68,000 price tag, the name change expense would open up old wounds between the towns...ones that have been healing quite nicely for the past few years. "No thanks" on the name change.

Unity and pride is not in a name. It is reflected in the community within the building.

Where does it stop!!! Are we going to have to waste tax dollars and rename the whole town so that everyone who passes through it doesn't leave with hurt feelings.... It's not the name that matters, it's how our faculty and students welcome outsiders.

I would rather spend the money on education than on new uniforms, new letterhead, new paint for buses and gymnasium etc.. Renaming the school is a waste of time and money. The name change will not create unity, passing a budget and getting a track would.

While I appreciate that there is a budgetary consideration, as listed in this survey (thank you!), I feel strongly that the district needs to take steps to better unify our 3 communities.

Renaming the high school will go a long way towards unifying, but I would like to see further unification measures taken district wide.

Can we also re-name the district? For example: RSU5 - Central Coast School District, or ____ (fill in the blank) ____?

The RSU5 naming convention is one mandated by the state, it does not speak to who we are as a unified community made up of 3 towns. How about researching/survey for a name that identifies our DISTRICT as opposed to the individual naming of our towns (eg: RSU5 - Pownal, Durham, Freeport)?

I do not believe renaming will improve unity at all and strongly disagree that the expense is a worthwhile one.

Right now it feels like the High School belongs to Freeport and we are just visitors.

Having transferred in from Maine Coast Waldorf school, and being involved in a name changing process there, I wouldn't wish it on y'all. It is very hard to get consensus on a good name. That said, 'RSU 5' is not in any way inspiring. 'Freeport High School' is just fine, however.

I believe the high school should be renamed, but there should be maximum effort to include all towns in the brainstorming/decision process. Actively seeking input!

I lived in Pelham, NY and attended school in Riverdale NY (Riverdale Country Day), Rye, NY (Rye Country Day), and in New Milford, CT (Canterbury). All of these towns hold a special place in my heart. I never felt any sense of disconnection or lack of unity because the school I attended had another town's name. It never crossed my mind. For goodness sake- school's are often named for the town in which they reside.

If most of the students, staff and faculty believe that we should rename the High School, then I defer to them. Otherwise, we have more important things on which to spend the RSU 5's limited money and time.

Spend the \$68,000 on something more worthwhile.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

As a parent unless there is a massive groundswell of support from the three communities I don't think changing the name will help with unity or the district in general. Freeport is a "recognizable brand" by itself and I think changing the name would needlessly remove this asset and potentially product animosity from Freeport residents. Plus, no viable name that represents all three town seems to exist.
I believe that renaming Freeport High School will be divisive and serve to create tension among the communities. We have made great strides as a community over the last 12-18 months - our academics are improving, and the kids have unified around recent sports accomplishments. Please leave the name as is. There is a shared heritage that Freeport High School represents - please don't wipe that history away, and create a made up name that does not mean anything, and will never be fully embraced.
A name change will not change the cultural issues. Making all the kids believe and feel they had an active role in renaming the school, may increase their school pride. It will do nothing to change the parent's attitude.
What are students feeling? If this is not student driven, then I don't feel it would be providing unity to the community, as many are opposed In all towns due to heritage, financial considerations, etc. This survey is a great tool to gauge interest and I appreciate being offered input.
Freeport High School has begun to establish a successful brand across a broad spectrum of areas - collegiate acceptance, STEM offerings, drama, arts and, most recently, athletics. Changing the name will sacrifice the value of that brand.
I'm not a Freeport native and don't have any sentimental attachment to the current name, but what does matter to me is that our students can leverage the strong FHS brand developed through the work of all three communities and have the best shot at college and career.
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.
Even if you rename the school know continue to call it "Freeport HighSchool." This will simply be an unnecessary cost to update signs everywhere with a new name.
I have not spent any time investigating any of the circumstances surrounding this proposal. Therefore, I am rather ambivalent and care more about the future educational opportunities for my child.
Only rename I would support would be LL Bean Regional High School, and ONLY if LL Bean made a multi-million dollar donation to fund the track & field project and to start a scholarship fund.
Decisive issue Takes precious funds from the classroom Identifies where the school is physically located Etc etc etc

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

My experience in a recent fundraising campaign for the high school lead me to conclude that support for Freeport High School among parents and community residents is far greater in Freeport than in the other two towns. While I have no direct evidence, one must logically conclude that the lack of support for the high school stems in part from the failure of these other towns to have an ownership in and therefore emotional connection to the school. In my opinion, the name Freeport High does not give residents of Pownal or Durham any sense of ownership of the high school. While I would not be so naïve as to expect a quick change, I do believe that over time a name change that is "owned" by all the towns can only have a positive impact on the support for the school.

I think Freeport HS has a good brand, even as a Durham parent I wouldn't be in favor changing the High School name.

Get the facilities on par with other local schools, like a track, and a field that doesn't crumble. Then worry about the minor details, like a name.

Spending money to erase a name with proud history and fond associations in favor of some neutered, vanilla, acceptable-to-all name is absurd. Furthermore, to go to the trouble of changing a perfectly fine name to satisfy a cabal that could, on another whim, seek to withdraw from the RSU, would be another mistake.

It's the name it always has had, it's how it should be. Don't go and create animosity among those in Freeport towards the other towns. It's also sad for those alumni that no longer will have their school identity. Leave it alone. Create unity in academics and athletics

I feel the \$68,000 would reap a better ROI if used on the proposed track/field proposal.

While I think that it is nice gesture, I can't say it would be worth the extra cost.

This is a costly endeavor that will not improve unity or pride

It might improve unity, but it could also breed resentment from Some Freeport residents. It also depends on the name chosen.

Great idea to focus on unity--we need it!

But, there may be less controversial and less expensive ways...

I think that the the education of our youth should be the primary focus. The name of that school is not all that important in the larger picture.

I feel we should use the \$68,000 toward directly improving the educational experience of the young men and women who currently attend FHS. Coming from Pownal, at first I was hesitant to have my boys go to a Freeport school thinking it should have some reference to their hometown of Pownal. Initially I thought it should be something like Freeport Regional or Freeport/Pownal like their Boy Scout Troop. But after spending the last 3 years at FMS, I feel that using all that money for renaming the school would be a waste. I would rather spend it on programs that frequently get cut like the arts and music programs. It would be great to use the money to strengthen the Senior program that encourages community service. I would also be happy to see it being used to promote the new track and field, something that I feel the school and the community needs.

A truly consolidated HS should probably have an equitable name.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Hasn't Freeport high school always welcomed students from Durham and Pownal even before there was a RSU? It has always been Freeport high school and should stay that way. Think about how much of a cost it will be to change all the signage, buses, letterhead not to mention all the Freeport apparel we parents have purchased to help support the Freeport Pride. I am not sure why this is even an issue but I think it's ridiculous. By the way, I live in Pownal!

I think it would greatly enhance the unity and pride in the District for current and future students and their families from Pownal and Durham. I am not sure if current and past Freeport High School students would feel the same boost.

It is located in Freeport and is appropriately named.

I would like to have the athletic facilities settled in January before considering the name change - or bringing up another issue to discuss/debate. I look to communities of Durham and Pownal to see how they feel about renaming. It is a costly undertaking. I am more concerned about other initiatives, facilities, academic quality, and keeping families in the district that influence unity and pride.

I actually wrote to the H.S. principal several years ago, when Pownal and Durham were vetoing every budget, to suggest a name change (I suggested 5 Star High School, to keep the idea of RSU 5 and the alliteration of "five" and "falcons") to increase the smaller communities' sense of belonging and investment in the school. However, it seems as if the 3 towns have finally reached a workable relationship, so I feel it is less important now.

I think that renaming the high school would instill community ownership for all three towns and move us all past the separation that is felt now by many

Why should we rename the high school when we just tried and got rejected from leaving rsu 5? I voted to leave and feel that it will be up for vote in the near future therefore spending \$68000 or more is a waste of our money.

My family lives in Durham. We are proud of Freeport High School and what it represents.

I'm also concerned a name change might also work against the stated objective of improving unity and pride as there would likely be significant resentment from Freeport residents... and I wouldn't blame them.

Although the school sits in Freeport, other towns attend. Knowing that change is inevitable, on so many levels (Durham may pull out, etc), I am leaning more towards keeping the name Freeport High School than changing it. The buses should say Freeport High School as well, just like the uniforms. I have not been as involved in this whole process as others so will keep my comments minimal. We should be thinking about the name, the building, the fields, etc not for today but for 50+ years from now. Perhaps when all the change is finished (building and hopeful field) a name change can be re-addressed? So much change is already happening, hard to keep up with it and the cost. Good luck!!

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I honestly do not know why this topic is being brought up again - just as things have started to settle down with various towns separating from the RSU5, raising this topic has the potential to re-emerge those emotions and levels of dissatisfaction that led to organized efforts to withdraw from the RSU5.

In terms of renaming the High School, there are numerous costs associated with this initiative and I believe that the money would have greater benefits directed toward activities and curriculum that directly benefit the students and staff. In addition, each year the school budget increases and I have been fully supportive of those increases that are improving the quality of the curriculum and student/staff life at the school. Renaming the school accomplishes neither of those purposes.

Also, where does this stop? Will the next proposal be to rename the Freeport Middle School because Durham students have the option to attend the middle school? And what about Durham Community School, will that need to be renamed? What may start as a few thousand dollars to rename the HS, snowballs into many thousands of dollars as proposals emerge to rename other schools. The school committee needs to understand their fiduciary responsibilities to the taxpayers of their three communities and manage spending in a conservative way.

We have much more pressing issues to be discussing and spending our time on at our school board meetings and within our school system than the renaming of the school. Let's focus our time and efforts to the more important initiatives and needs.

It Should be focused on the RSU not just freeport and its town.

Unity and pride will evolve as programming, facilities and resource sharing expands, integrating the school communities. Superficially stripping a single town of one of its historically and personally significant institutions will be divisive.

What is wrong with Freeport High? I live in Durham and I like Freeport High. There are other high schools in Maine with names like Edward Little, Bonney Eagle or Telstar and whenever I hear of them I think, "Hmm.. Where is that?" It was confusing when we were moving and I was school shopping for the best place to live.

Taking the place out of the name hints at LESS pride to me. Are we ashamed of Freeport?

Renaming things is politically correct bullshit anyway. It is what it is.

I can't imagine what a replacement name would be, or how it would be an improvement..

We keep putting money into things that are not as important as the education for our students. Walking into the high school I do not see one student who does not look out of place or not united in the school. A name is a name. The 3 communities have gone through so much already and spending the extra money to explore and rename the High school is something I feel is parent driven and that the children within the school doesn't really matter. We have the Falcon Pride we do not need to change the high school to keep the Falcon Pride we have always had. Put our monies into the students education and not a name.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I have mixed feelings about renaming the High School. I like the name Freeport High School, but understand how it doesn't feel unifying to residents of the other towns. If the school is renamed, I want to strongly advocate for a strong name that is reflective of our community. For example, I don't consider "RSU5" to be strong branding, but a name like "Harraseeket" is strong. Also, we need to consider what it means for our representation with other southern Maine high schools if we remove the "Freeport" branding. Because many of our community sports have different names (RSU5, RCE, FP Little League, etc.), I don't feel like we have strong Freeport Pride. We need stronger pride in Freeport, because we are a fantastic school system and community. It's much easier for some of our neighbors to display their pride, like "Go Yarmouth!" "Go Falmouth!".

Waste of resources

I don't oppose renaming of the high school but I think the amount of funds it would take to do so would be better spent on initiatives that directly result in improving education

None of the students are in favor of the name change, regardless of the town they live in. It is their school and their voices should carry the most weight. School pride is all about the students.

The issue of supposed conflict between the three towns has irritated me since the formulation of the RSU. The conflict is about the have-mores vs the have-lesses, the new-comers vs the old-timers, and differences in ideology. These issues are age old and are apparent in any school system. People want to put a label on it and call it a town vs town thing. It is not, it was not and never will be.

Unity and pride come from the students, teachers and parents not from a name.

\$68,000 needs to be spent on education, not something like this. Our surrounding town schools are way above us in school rankings and that's what we should be focusing on. I know of a family that moved here from out of state and their children are in our school system, but one of their children learned everything being taught now, 2 years ago...that student is now attending one of our neighboring schools. That to me screams - "Something is wrong with our education!" but, our priority is on renaming our school????.....I would consider this, IF, Freeport was among the top 10 ranking schools in Maine, THEN, you would have a leg to stand on....it's sad to find out, that our ranking has slipped again. This will be money and time wasted on what should be spent on our children's education.

I do not like those schools where you can not tell where they are from by knowing the name. Greely, Mt. Ararat, or Bonnie Eagle. It might be nice for the Durham or Pownal students but the cost and confusion doesn't seem worth it.

Please see my letter I shared with the school board regarding this issue.

Freeport High has a Long Tradition where the RSU5 is a somewhat artificial structure, which also hasn't proven to being fully stable yet. What if one day some district opts out (not totally unlikely when looking at past events)? Are we renaming the High School again? And what about the elementary and middle schools on Pwnal and Durham? Are we renaming those as well?

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Freeport High School has a positive reputation among college admissions counselors. Renaming the school has the potential to lose that advantage. The vast bulk of the 6,000 colleges and universities won't be aware of the change and the current high school students will lose that advantage.

The school will also walk away from a history of awards for theater, sports and academics that were earned by students from all three towns throughout the years.

\$68000 can be better spent on these kids!

Such an unnecessary thing to do!

I feel that renaming the high school will be a step backwards in all the progress our 3 communities have made together moving forward in a such a positive spirit. It is an unnecessary expense and will be another disruption in the kids sense of stability and school community. The kids identify and are identified by the name of their high school. They have pride in who they are. Why would we want to interfere with their sense of identity, unity and school pride? We need to think about our kids and what is best for them and I just do not feel that renaming the school is in our kids best interests and I urge you to do what is right for them and not change the school's name. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I don't want to jeopardize any RSU 5 relations by pushing for a name change. As a Durham resident the most important thing is staying in the RSU, no matter what the high school is called.

What matters is RSU unity, supporting teachers and supporting students and learning. Call the school whatever you like.

I am the parent of an alumnus, a Freeport resident, volunteer and taxpayer. I am at a loss to understand the need for this change. My thoughts:

- 1) Freeport is where the school is located. Clear communication.
- 2) Students from other communities have been attending Freeport High School since before I was born. I'm nearly 70. Why is this an issue now?
- 3) I have read that the students are not saying there is disunity or lack of pride, nor do they think renaming is a good idea. If this is true, why make this change?
- 4) If there is strife or contention between towns that send their children to FHS and the Town of Freeport, then that is a separate issue and SHOULD be addressed - the re-naming of a school will NOT fix that.
- 5) Renaming Freeport High to some other name would be an expensive unnecessary gesture, and I believe that \$68k could be put to other better use in the high school's programs or facilities.

Spending money to change the name thinking that it will create a sense of unity and pride is not how you create unity. You do that through community. If you have 68k sitting around, why not put it in to something that helps people. Helps our children learn, which is why your institution happens to be there in the first place.

What will you do with all of the banners in the gym? Where will alumni say they went? You seriously have a good chance of alienating folks who have identified with this name for generations.

Also, what is the chance that you will offend someone somehow with the new name? "Freeport High School" will never offend anyone. It tells people where we're from and who's kicking their behinds at sports. If you're concerned about offending people from Pownal and Durham by calling it Freeport, know this. I lived in Pownal as a kid and I am proud to say I went to "Freeport High School". Falcon Pride!

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I do not believe, as a clinician with over 20 years of experience, that unity and pride in the three communities can be achieved in this way.

I can see support for both sides of the issue and don't have a strong feeling that this is the best way to build unity. Continued and intentional efforts at the lower school levels to find opportunities to bring children from the three towns together (with opportunities for parents from the three towns to volunteer) are important.

Even though the school has students from communities other than Freeport, the school is in fact located in the heart of Freeport. The school has a rich history which could be minimized or erased by a name change. The successful integration of multi community students already prove that a name change is not a needed component of a successful RSU5

Changing the name of a school doesn't bring unity - that is only done by the actions of the students, parents and faculty.

Although I'm neutral on whether or not to change the name of the HS, I am concerned about the costs associated with the change. I think beyond the \$68,000 it may cost the school, there will be significant cost to booster groups who supplement the uniforms of their teams and who have banners, etc. Also as someone mentioned at the open forum, the cost to families who have bought clothing with the FHS logo will have to buy all new stuff. I would also want to make clear that if the RSU decides to change the name of the school, that the money used for that should in no way be at the expense of programs (a lot that are outlined in this survey).

Someone had the idea of changing the name to Freeport Regional HS and that seems like a compromise. It would seem to me that if we change the name that subtly that we would not have to go to the expense of changing all the uniforms and stick with our rotation for new uniforms and add the "regional" only when it comes to changing them.

Every regional high school I am aware of has a name that is NOT of one town that is part of the region!

I believe that the added expense to change the name of Freeport High School will provide a great many benefits that will continue to provide a return on the investment for many generations to come. Changing the name to more accurately encompass what the school is becoming. Let's rename the school to truly reflect the students and communities that it serves.

We live in Durham. Though we desire to remain in RSU5, should others in our community, or yours, become succesful in dividing us, or Durham grows large enough for its own school, in time, this plan would be all for nought. Nine of our exchange students have attended or are attending FHS. Our DCS 3rd grader will most likely attend FHS. We have no problem leaving the name as is. The \$60K can be better spent on facility improvement. (New flooring?!)

However, should a name change be inevitable, something along the lines of Wabanaki or Harraseeket would be a great way to honor the Native American heritage of this area. If naming after a prominent Freeporter, L.L.Bean would be my vote. Of course, the students might then be teased as "Beaners", a name affectionately used by Bean's employees, but who knows.

Good luck!

Aloha,

XXXXXXX

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Good Afternoon,

My name is xxx and I am reaching out with concerns regarding the potential renaming of Freeport High School.

Originally a New Yorker, I have lived in Freeport for the past nine years and love the lifestyle, community, and ideals Freeport represents. Today, while voting, I made a point to take in the history, pride, and, accomplishments displayed in the hallways of the high school and on the walls of the gym. Those awards/wins are acknowledgements to former and current Freeport Falcons students, who worked hard to get themselves, or their teams, a "Freeport Falcons win" - be it academically or athletically.

Spending tax payers money to rebrand Freeport's accomplishments would be foolish and avaricious. As a brand marketer, I am hyper aware of the time and money that goes into a rebrand, I am talking countless hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars - there is no way \$68k will properly cover this effort. What we need to be thinking of is how can we use our resources and tax dollars to grow our community to get more "Freeport Falcon wins" both in the classroom and on the fields.

Let's avoid a disruption to the RSU5 community and dodge a setback to the strides we have made.

Leave it as it is!

It may be that if I were a parent of a HS student my leanings would be different, but at this point it doesn't seem like a major priority and I'd rather see that money go to teacher salaries and/or student materials directly.

I live in Pownal and am not at all bothered by the fact that our children are attending schools that bear the Freeport name. I am much more concerned with the quality of the education than what the school calls itself. There are many things than a name change on which the school district should focus its time, effort and resources:

- 1) improving the music program at the high school
- 2) instituting a mentoring program so the district's top teachers are sharing their knowledge and expertise with other teachers
- 3) substance abuse awareness and prevention
- 4) offering more choice in foreign language; ie Italian, German, Chinese

Keep Freeport in the name to keep the school history tied to the name, add regional or union or a word that suggests that we are a school that includes more than one town.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

There is already pride in Freeport High School. Renaming the school to foster unity and pride is the wrong reason to do so. What happens if the RSU is dissolved at some point in the future? What about all of the history and pride that is already there with Freeport High School?

If you rename it for Pownal and Durham's sake, then you are alienating all of those who are opposed to the renaming. Granted, Freeport High School may not be as catchy as President Regan or Clinton High School, but it does have history and meaning.

I say, let it remain Freeport High School.

A name change may create a loss of identity for students and the public. It may affect Freeport schools identity for people "from away." As a Realtor I can attest many buyers look for locations with good schools first. With a name change we would loose this obvious recognition, at least for a while.

I understand why this is happening now, and sincerely appreciate the school board inviting the public to talk about it last week. My feeling is that raising this question is an unnecessary distraction from the palpable forward momentum that we're feeling all across the RSU. I hope you'll consider putting this matter to rest quickly if these survey results don't show support for the idea of a name change. Thanks!

It's the high school. It's in Freeport. It's Freeport High School.

If you seriously think that spending time and money on this is a good idea you really, really need to change your priorities.

Time, energy and money would be better focused on improving education services, building the track and supporting students. This feels like a distraction

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.

Why incur further expense for the sake of a name, the funds could go to much worthier needs that not being met within the district?

The name is fine. Unity and pride comes from the people not just the name. Change is not excepted. How about all the people the school does stand for.

If there was a unifying name which speaks to all members of the RSU in a collective way, then I think a new name could be beneficial. Think "Maine Coast Waldorf School." It sounds more inclusive, in this case geographically. A name like this could certainly help support feelings of belonging and pride in general. That having been said, it would be interesting to hear whether Pownal and Durham residents feel that this is currently not the case.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Again the School Board manages to come up with yet another divisive act which creates more bad feelings among the three towns. We have already had enough growing pains and still need to heal the divide. Here are some questions for all of you. Are we renaming Durham School and Pownal School as well? After all they are a part of the RSU#5 also. Freeport High school is located in Freeport. We call it Freeport High School. Stripping away the culture of Freeport by renaming its high school is demeaning. There are many alumni who have graduated from Freeport High School. Do you think taking the name away is going to make them feel a sense of belonging or pride? Do you think the kids who are from Freeport who go to the high school would like to lose the name of their town/high school? And as to the cost, is it truly a wise idea to spend \$68,000 on changing a name for a school when you could use this money for other important things like programming and books for kids? Freeport is already a place of pride and unity. The students from Pownal, Durham and Freeport get along and enjoy each other's company. They are all active in many clubs, sports, and community events and their academics. Unity and pride already exists. Changing a name is not going to have any positive affects. It will only cause more problems. I would love to know who came up with this bright idea. Happy for you to use my name and happy to come in and speak to the board about this one. I think the board should use their time for more constructive things like providing adequate programs such as the gifted and talented who continue to not get served and books that are not falling apart.

Three towns contribute tax money to the high school and it should show unity in the name. Currently, I feel all these improvements benefit the town and name of Freeport and Durham and Pownal are outsiders. I understand this will impact current alumni because the name of the high school meant something to them, just like a new name will mean something to the current students showing that it has changed to include two additional towns. Names do mean something to reflect what it's representing. The high school represents something different than it did 5 years ago.

Keep it! We identify with it and so does every other school.

I can see both sides. I see that the school has been called Freeport High School forever. I also don't see any other multi-town high schools named after only one of the towns in the district.

I think a name change would be good but only if a slight change. I think changing the name to something like Freeport Area High School or Freeport Community High School would be beneficial but would not be to drastic and would also not require changing uniforms.

Initially I was strongly opposed to the idea of a name change. I liked the simple "oviousness" of Freeport High being the high school in the town of Freeport, and where kids in Freeport went to school. No scratching the head like when

Greely or Lake Region is mentioned. (Where are they from?)

But what about those of us outside of Freeport who also attend school there? Is a name like Freeport Region(al) HS going to make the families from Durham and Pownal feel more included? It would be interesting to see what they think.

I think this is an unnecessary idea driven solely by adults - ask any of the current students or younger students who will attend in the future and I'm certain majority will respond by asking "why". I think it's a temporary whim - a waste of funding - and an unnecessary beginning if a battle within the RSU. Table it - permanently - please.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

There is currently name recognition, unnecessary expense for new uniforms.

New mascot?

I do not think we should change the name.

I am neutral as to whether or not this is done.

I like the name and don't feel the need to change it.

I think it is worth asking the question.

I have fully supported the school renovations and the costs associated with that, however, I know that many have not. I also am in support of the new turf field, and again, I know that many are not and the high cost is a primary reason. I feel that both the addition to the school, and the new turf field are needed. Renaming the school at an additional cost of up to \$68,000 seems irresponsible and unnecessary, particularly in light of the fact that additional funds are needed and will be voted on soon for the turf field. To add this additional cost just to change a name shows a lack of awareness and sensitivity to the many residents who have not supported these high cost changes. It also is a 'want' not a 'need' and to continually ask for more money does not seem appropriate. There are many families in the three RSU5 towns who do not have extra funds for 'wants'. Please think this through and the financially irresponsible message it sends to the community.

I do not think that the renaming of the High School will make the students feel more unified. In fact, I believe that the renaming of the High School will alienate many Freeport families and alums, which will create more animosity and disharmony and will ultimately lead to undermining the very unity the action seeks to create.

Dear RSU 5 board members,

I strongly urge members of the school board to vote against the renaming of Freeport High School. We have come a long way since the days of withdrawal discussions by our communities. The RSU should not needlessly waste taxpayer funds on what many consider a divisive issue, not a unifying issue. Renaming the high school to the tune of 68k dollars won't "buy" unity. Communities working together to provide the best education for our kids is what will ultimately unify us.

As someone who strongly supported the town of Freeport's donation of 100k towards the track and field project, I will be particularly disappointed if the RSU chooses to waste taxpayer funds towards an endeavor such as this rather than choosing to put it towards educational programs for our kids (or possibly putting those funds to use towards the badly needed track and field).

Thanks,

xxxxxx

For generations my family has lived in Freeport. I am an alum, both my parents are alumni and my grandparents are alumni, and on and on... since before the founding of Freeport as "Freeport" my family has lived here. I feel very strongly that Freeport High School should remain "Freeport High School" for my [REDACTED] who is graduating [REDACTED] and my [REDACTED] who will be graduating in [REDACTED]. My resume says 1991 graduate of Freeport High School. Please consider all the thousands of resumes that say graduate of Freeport High School. I am a proud to be from this town and changing the name of the high school would diminish this pride and disrupt that connection that for me and my family.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I do not believe renaming the high school will build unity nor help the students learn. I think this is an adult/parent issue and not one from the students. Additionally, I do not believe the \$68,000 covers all of the cost, and that once the name is changed there will be a continual dribble of money for several years as all things are renamed. Does that cost include the names on the larger instruments the students march with in the Memorial Day parade? Or the the banner the band students carry? What about stationary that the school sends out? There is a time cost to remaking the logo and updating it on websites. Additionally, there is a cost per family who will need to invest in updated Falcon wear that they have previously purchased- this is not just sports, the band bought Freeport Band shirts to wear in the Memorial Day parade and the Drama kids have their Musical and One Act shirts.

As for uniforms, right now, some boosters support their teams by supplementing uniforms- is that cost figured in? What about the pinnies that most kids buy or rent at the beginning of a season or their time on a team - will they all need to buy new pinnies out of pocket?

This will divide the community. I have heard so many people get upset about this. It will cost a lot of money that will be better used to fund teacher salaries or otherwise improve education. There is no need to change the name.

Freeport High School has always had kids from Durham and Pownal attending. No one ever had a problem with the name and they shouldn't now. Also, several generations of my family have graduated from Freeport High School. Namely my parents, myself, and my oldest son. I want my other two children to graduated from Freeport High School as well, not the same school with a different name. If I wanted their diplomas to say a different school name, I would be sending them elsewhere. There is pride in that diploma and being a Freeport Falcon. Any other name would take away from that. The cost, as well, is a waste of money. That money should be spent for educational purposes. There is no need to spend all that money to please a few people. Freeport High needs to stay Freeport High and we need to all be proud of it and being Falcons.

The name of the school does not influence unity and pride. Those traits come from within the community of students, their families, staff members, club leaders, coaches, and all other community members.

I personally have no opinion on this but I am happy to see it is up for discussion.

Freeport High School has been the name of the school for YEARS. Changing the name takes away from that history. I also feel like the RSU is finally moving forward and a name change argument will take away from that. We moved here in 2010 and the RSU always has an issue going on. After the last election I thought it was finally all behind us and we could move forward and then somebody brought this up.

Freeport High School has always educated students from the three town and the students have great pride in the school. To spend 68,000.00 to change signs and uniforms when you could put that money to education budget which is greatly needed.

As a parent of an RSU 5 student who lives in Pownal, I am very glad that we are part of the RSU. But I understand there are folks who are less thrilled about Freeport being part of the RSU. And I'm concerned that renaming the school and putting an emphasis on RSU unity may further displease them - something I think is worth avoiding. So I would be happy if special attention were paid to their concerns. Or perhaps it would be better to wait a year or two, until the RSU is a little more happily established to do this.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

difficult enough to tackle renovations, funding the track and athletic fields, especially with our RSU history. . . too much at this time and not imperative in my opinion

It would be unnecessarily costly and divisive to change the longstanding name of our high school. It will be confusing to colleges who have relationships and history with the institution named FHS. We don't need a new name to create unity amongst the RSU--many initiatives already accomplish that goal (sports, clubs, mentors, challenge day, spirit days, etc.). The feedback I've heard from both of my children (FHS students) affirms that the kids from all three towns in the RSU happily integrate and thrive as one high school community. The process of renaming will only serve to take us backward, and will take time and energy away from the initiatives that move us forward as a district. I would be happy to clarify my reasoning on this matter if you have further questions.

This is a total waste of money!

From what I have seen the past two years there is much pride and unity at Freeport High School.

Freeport High School, in Freeport, Maine, serves mostly Freeport students. The name Freeport has a historical identity. The name says what it is.

The cost could go to something more important. Also being from Pownal I'm hoping we'll be able to pull out of Freeport schoolso and if that were to happen it would cost effective even more if they wanted to change it back.

There are a lot better ways to spend the money that this would cost that would directly benefit the students. This does not seem like a worthy way to spend resources.

I believe that our community pride shown at both the Baseball Game and the Night of Lights during the Soccer Season, are evidence that community comes together for moments and People, not the name. We do need to work on building the community, but the name change will only hurt what we've already begun to establish. Let's keep the forward momentum... with building up the people.

I believe that there is a lot of "Freeport High School" pride felt already by members of the RSU5 community from all three towns. It wasn't so long ago that students from the three towns attended the high school without the RSU. Nobody seemed to mind then and I think most don't now.

I think if the name should be changed it should still contain the Freeport name.

Freeport Consolidated High

Freeport RSU5 Community High

The change of name is not going to provide Unity and Pride. As a graduate of Freeport High School in 1989 and having my daughter in the RSU in Durham, the pride and unity comes from the students, the teachers, and the community. It has nothing to do with the name of the school. Let's stop spending money that we don't need to spend.

When the high school is renamed will it become a high school for Freeport, Durham and Pownal equally. Now it feels as if we are "borrowing" Freeport's high school, similar to when our children went to Brunswick.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I don't think that now is the right time to consider renaming the high school. Perhaps in the future, although I don't see it as a unifying force. We live in Pownal, and we live there because it is a small, rural town. We very much love the Town of Pownal, and we take great pride in the exceptional quality of education that our children receive at Pownal Elementary School. But we also consider ourselves fortunate to be living in such close proximity to Freeport. Freeport, Maine is a great town! Freeport has great parks, excellent restaurants, world-class shopping, and just a whole lot of things to do. When we tell others that we live in Pownal, we are often asked where our town is located, and we always respond that it is next to Freeport. My point is, that as a resident of Pownal, I don't believe I am compromising on my love for my hometown by the fact that my children are attending Freeport High School. The good people of RSU 5 are working to provide the best education possible for the resources available. That is the unifying force to which I dedicate my efforts.

Spending \$68,000 to fix a problem that is not a problem makes zero sense to me. Durham parents that had an issue with the name Freeport should have raised this as an issue when everyone was voting to unite. I will reclaim my committed donation to the track & field if the name is changed.

Something simple like

Freeport Regional High School

I feel like the money involved in such a name change would be better spent elsewhere.

Renaming the high school is costly and unnecessary. As a parent from Durham, I can honestly say that my high schooler does not see any need to do this. As a tax payer, it is a ludicrous additional cost. If this is seen as an attempt to unite the communities, there are more effective ways to do it.

\$68,000 should be spent elsewhere.

It's always been Freeport High School. It's only a name. A name doesn't change the unity of a community it's the people

My children have commented to me that the Durham students are more isolated from the Freeport and Pownal students. I also don't think money should be an issue because it is taking from the importance of inclusion of each student. Every time I read about the name change the money is discussed first. Everything cost money, we need to think of the big picture. We need to find a name that is not just Freeport but something that is neutral. We can still be the Falcons, or not, I think we will get over any name change. Change is hard for everyone and anyone who doesn't want to change for the students is having trouble with change themselves. Think about that.... They are adults that do not like change but they are not thinking of the students from Durham and Pownal that are never feeling quite at home. I do believe that in asking for our full names on this survey you are in turn not allowing a full discussion of the way people feel. No I would not change anything I have said but I am now worried that those against this idea will look at me as the enemy. I am not happy the way that Durham and Freeport have voted against most of what Freeport wants but I still believe that our students deserve a clean slate when they arrive at high school. School is hard enough!

I think the name is significant, but the cost may also be significant. As a Durham resident, I don't feel left out by the name, though I believe a unifying name would help others feel more connected. Personally, I prefer Freeport ha to rsu5 as a name as that seems so impersonal. Thanks.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

This is a horrible idea and a waste of money. Kids in towns w/o high schools have been going to alternate town high schools for years and it has been fine. It is clearly a geographic name and it is clear and makes sense. The middle school would not be renamed, and if the middle school is still "FMS" w/o affecting the unity of Freeport and Pownal, it would seem the high school's name will not be *that* divisive. Also, frankly, if RSU5 ever dissolves, and/or one of the towns withdraws, this will not only have been a major exercise in futility, but will we then incur costs AGAIN to switch back?? No. Just no. Please no. Keep FHS as FHS!!

I don't personally have strong feelings either way, but I could see there being a backlash from some Freeport citizens.

I think this is a ridiculous way to spend upwards of \$70,000. Names do not create community...people do.
Bradbury Mountain High School

The school is, has been, and will remain in Freeport for years to come. I see no reason to change the name.

Citizen Comments A. Renaming Freeport High School

Comments:

Consolidation does not change the fact that the school is in fact located in the town of Freeport! I have three children that graduated from FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL. Are they now supposed to say I graduated from FPD High School. Not to mention the cost of changing the names on uniforms and signage. The residents of Pownal and Durham knew when they moved there that the HS their kids would be attending would be Freeport High School and they were okay with it, otherwise they would not have moved there, right?

What a waste of taxpayer money and effort. No benefit and not necessary.

The high school is in Freeport, so Freeport High School is an apt name. The growing pains the RSU have been experiencing, and will likely to continue to experience at least in the short term, would occur no matter what the school is named. I know it is meant to be an olive branch, but I don't see it doing anything to really bridge that divide in the communities -- a divide which seems to directly stem from how and how much money is spent in the eyes of each beholder.

I briefly considered the idea of renaming Freeport High School as positive in order to be more inclusive of the other towns whose students attend. But then I weighed other factors....Mainly the cost! \$68,000 could go a long way toward providing educational tools, equipment, or even staff! Plus, the name is branded. People know and recognize it. From what I hear, the students are fine leaving the name just the way it is.

Unity and pride exist under the current name

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I was initially opposed to consolidation, principally for financial reasons that ultimately proved valid. None of our three towns realized any financial benefits, quite the contrary, but we gained something perhaps far more valuable: unity in the strength of a larger community.

This didn't occur without growing pains. Several times a vocal minority attempted to disband the union, but in each case were rebuffed by a majority who recognized the value of unity.

This spring I witnessed a prime example of what can be gained. Main Street was lined with parents from Freeport, Pownal and Durham, standing side by side holding signs and proudly cheering for the Freeport High School Falcons baseball team as they headed off to the State Championship game, a feat that couldn't have been accomplished with players from only one or just two towns. It was a community effort both on the field and in the bleachers that carried these boys through the prelims, regionals and to the finals.

Meanwhile, the Freeport High School Falcons track and cross-country teams, nordic and alpine ski teams, lacrosse and field hockey teams and others have all represented their community well on the strength of student athletes from all three towns. In so doing we have developed an identity and earned the respect of our opponents. The banners from Freeport High School athletic teams and the names of Freeport High School student athletes hang in the gym as testament. Freeport High School is also respected for its academic programs and for the accomplishments of numerous co-and extra curricular groups and individuals.

When consolidation was first proposed there was a suggestion to rename the high school. I was adamantly opposed to the idea then, and I am now. Changing the name of our school would be nothing short of an insult to, and a dismissal of all that's been accomplished before and since consolidation. As a Pownal resident, I am proud to say both my children went to Freeport High School. Years from now I hope that will still hold meaning, and that future student athletes, performers and academic standouts will continue to advance the name and reputation of Freeport High School.

Why does the name be changed, Once Freeport High School, always Freeport high school, by the way voted No on school consolidation also, enough is enough!

Better things to spend \$68,000 on!

There is a lot of history in Freeport High School. Other districts have renamed their high school because they brought two towns together that originally had their own high schools. Freeport High School has a long history with Pownal and Durham sending their students to the high school. On my teams students are proud to represent Freeport High School no matter which town they live in. It is about the school and the team and not where they live. For the vast majority of students this is a non issue.

Re-naming the high school will take away from all the traditions and values the FHS has developed over the years. Most people in Maine and New England, as well as throughout the country, know of Freeport and think highly of our town. It is also a big waste of money and the \$68,000 won't even come close to covering the costs.

my children graduated from FHS and I served years on the school board during that time. I'm not in favor of changing the name but if this is going to happen I would suggest leaving Freeport in the name, as that is, after all, where it is located. If feeling more inclusive is important to a majority who fill out this survey I would suggest the name "Freeport Regional High School". Bottom-line though, I don't support spending the money necessary to facilitate a name change and don't think changing the name will improve unity and pride. Thanks for putting out this survey and for the time and energy you put into our schools.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

It must be a name that really makes sense to the area. The only one that comes to mind that makes sense now are the schools in "Lake Region" as they can all relate to that. Its so important to get input from Pownal and Durham as they are the new outsiders. Most of the schools in the area are named for their towns and represent those communities. In order for the kids and families and alums to identify with FHS, it must truly relate to the school and its area.

The \$68000 could be used to help facilitate educational programs

For crying out loud! In a society where children are going hungry, millions of folks are having a difficult time paying tax bills, feeding their family healthy meals, staying warm, can't afford to buy underwear for SOME children, can't afford to pay for what is NEEDED for education, a few people decided that we should change the name of the school????????????????????????????

NO ONE can say they care about the children, who are worried about such mundane, useless, pointless issues. Give me a break! I was a daycare provider for 30 years. I care much more whether every teen can afford underwear than spending a dime on changing the name of their school.

This type of arrogance needs to stop until every hungry child, every US citizen has affordable housing and food. End of rant.

As a recently changed RSU citizen from parent, I did not see any apparent display of a dysfunction from a unity stand point.

Changing the name will not bring the unity you seek.

We should not change the name because of a few

. Does RSU5 not have better things to spend school funds on?

Many generations have gone to FHS (I am class of 1981) leave it as is

I think the school name should not change. The name will reflect the location of the school, and it doesn't seem that should impact the pride in the school. It seems that the cost of renaming, and the related confusion, would outweigh the change to a "regional" or "community" being added to the current name, which is the only change I would see fitting.

I am not in favor of a wholesale name change, as there is certainly loyalty and enthusiasm that has been built on the Freeport High School name. I don't believe that institutions changing the name gain much, if anything, unless there is compelling argument that the name is damaging to the mission of the institution. Name changes for commercial organizations often relate to mission, branding or marketing issues. I don't understand how the mission or brand for RSU5 has changed, nor how marketing enters this discussion.

I believe there is value in the Freeport High name that has built over the years. This value will be lost if the name changes significantly. If the feeling is to be more inclusive of Pownal and Durham then suggest Freeport Community High School. Also the expense of updating signage, uniforms, etc. is unnecessary. This money would be better spent on educational programs.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

There are three towns involved, the name should be changed to include all three. Examples of other towns forging names to include new towns...

Mountain Valley High School

Oceanside High School

Lake Region High School

Mount Ararat High School

I feel the name of the high school should either remain Freeport High School, or if a change is deemed necessary, the school should be called Freeport Regional High School. For school spirit the high school teams should continue to be known as the Freeport Falcons. The alliteration of the name with the mascot works well and it has history. Also, the cost of making major changes to the name seem prohibitive and unnecessary. Stationery, painting, signage and uniform replacement would be unnecessary with such a small name change and could be done over time as supplies needed to be replaced. The money saved would be better spent on other school programs.

I don't believe the divisiveness among the three towns has much to do with the name of the high school. I would have liked to have seen this survey ask: If not renaming, what DO you think would bring unity and pride to the RSU?

In my opinion, the success of the baseball team brought the three towns together in a way I've never seen. So many people supported them and it was wonderful to see.

Renaming the high school WILL NOT improve any unity or pride! Freeport Falcons has always been a strong school up until the forcing of the RSU formation. Freeport students always had a little problem accepting Pownal students but it usually was a short lived problem once Pownal students "proved themselves". (Academically, athletically or just showing they were good kids) Since the forming of the RSU, I feel Durham kids are really struggling to be accepted and not much has or is being done to change this major problem. Renaming a school has nothing to do with the problem...it's just another huge waste of money for the RSU. There must be a committee of reasonably intelligent people who are able to look past the spending of unnecessary money and come up with ways to unite three communities of great students. I don't completely blame the students as most of their attitudes come from their own homes and what they are hearing from their own families. You must admit, we have had several years gone by now since the forming of this RSU and we still have a huge percentage of people who are completely unhappy with this union. Don't you think this

filters down to the kids and their attitude with the combining of the three communities into their high school. Again, renaming the school has nothing to do with the problem that is in the high school ...the problem has to be solved within the school itself!

Freeport Falcons is fine. It does not seem that a name change will bring all three towns together. Each town has a different demographic mix of people. It is my opinion that the name change will not unify and sway voters in Durham to pay additional funding for the schools if the high school name is changed.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Costly ... there are better ways to spend the money.

"Freeport" is highly recognizable and viewed positively.

Pride and unity will grow in concert with improved academic and athletic achievements, and that's where the emphasis should be, to include providing students and town with athletic facilities that demonstrate pride and draw parents, athletes, and students from other towns for athletic events.

The current name has a tradition, and directly describes the location of the high school. An inclusive name may sounds like a good idea, but I think it will end up with a long meaningless name. Keep it simple is often the best approach.

I think it gives kids from Durham and Pownal the feeling that they are all part of the school and not the feeling like those kids are intruding or attending Freeport's high school as if they are still visitors.

The renovated Freeport High School should retain the name Freeport High School. This name has a long history and gives a geographic identity in press releases for the district's sports teams, academic teams, fine arts programs and soon to be new athletic field.

With the open view of Freeport High School from I-295. The name should be placed on the highway side of the building in big letters. Seeing the name from I-295 would give a sense of pride every time you passed either going north or south.

I can't conceive of any good reason to rename Freeport High School. Why start another fight between proponents and opponents? It seems to me that as a school community we a finally beginning to come together. If we rename FHS, will we rename Durham Community School and Pownal Elementary? A school's name is not just about the students in that school. It also speaks to the community in which it resides,

The name of a school dose not make unity and pride. A big waste of money.

Reflecting.....present and past, it doesn't seem to be important to the students to have a name change. And I've read that there will be no changes for Freeport Middle School title....thus, my question is wherein- lies the problem? Is this an effort to persuade parents/residents in Pownal and Durham to vote for budgets? Is it the parents of students and/or others that vote against the school budget because of the impact on their property taxes? Will a name change improve the quality of education; improve esprit de corps; increase budget buy-in, etc. It is difficult for me to make an informed decision until there is a stated goal and hoped for outcome measures/gains to measure against \$68K.

With the good reputation of Freeport High and the much more worthwhile places where money could be better spent for the benefit of young people and the area I HOPE THIS IDEA IS DROPPED.

across the state, it seems that the districts that chose to rename, including mascots and school colors have been more successful at unity.

Look at the issues we have had with multiple attempts with both Freeport and Durham trying to leave the RSU.

Freeport residents buck the change in "tradition" and Durham residents have no buy in

Freeport High School has served the community, the students, and we alumni well for decades. Leave the name, and our heritage, as it is.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Putting a different style of lipstick on the school won't change what is happening in the communities. Some effort in improving the schools without ramrodding every latest and greatest innovation thru. I am in favor of a great education for our future but personally believe spending much more for the instructors and a lot less for the infrastructure and administration will better achieve those results. I know not a popular idea as nobody wants to pay for quality labor anymore. Maybe we could build a better school and athletic field than we are now if we just outsourced our teachers and paid the superintendent an extra couple hundred thousand.

In the years my own kids were at FHS (1996-2009), there were students from Pownal and Durham attending. I don't remember any talk of the name being unfair at that time, or that it was problematic. Is it REALLY a problem now, or is this a political correctness thing? My personal preference is to have a name that would at least reflect the general location of the school. (Names like Bonny Eagle, for example, give me no clue as to where a school is located.)

I believe that the Freeport high school should remain as is. It is well known and, I'm sure, the alumni have concerns also about a name change. Furthermore, we have spent enough money on this high school project of renovation.

Although renaming the high school would be a largely symbolic gesture, I think that it could help in unifying the RSU5 community.

This was something promised to Durham and Pownal during the RPC process and the voting of the creation of RSU 5

RSU5 High

the end

I think renaming FHS is not important. The costs associated with the name change is prohibitive.

I see no reason to rename Freeport High School.

This is a waste of money and a diversion from the real issues facing the school. We need to continue to invest in the school and its educators and programs - that's where true pride in a school comes from.

I graduated from FHS in 1963. At that time we had students from Pownal and a few from Durham who lived near the the town line or their folks worked in Freeport.

So I that the name should stay the same.

If there is a big outcry from the students (not adults) to change I could go along with it.

Good luck (tough to satisfy everone)

I'm uncertain renaming the high school will significantly improve unity in the district, but it might help. I hope it wouldn't discourage Freeport residents who currently actively support additional funding for the high school.

Waste of time and money. Parents and citizens can improve the unity and pride in the District through their words and deeds.

I see no reasonable need to change the name which will do nothing to unite the towns involved.

I find it appalling that the general public has not been made aware of this sneaky attempt to undermine what most people want in the name of political correctness. Thank goodness for the Tri Town Weekly for keeping us informed.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

You need to stop coming up with these outrageous ideas, stop spending more money, and concentrate on reading writing and arithmetic.

I talked to current and past students, none agreed with changing the name.

What a waste of money this would be. Clearly, this survey was adult initiated. Freeport High is a very recognizable name. Let's keep it that way.

This idea was explored briefly in 2008 when superintendent Shannon Welsh began her position. It was voted down by the parents, students and staff at the time for the same reasons it should be today.

- Freeport High School has a long history, dating back to 1918, that is a point of pride for its alumnae. This longevity should be celebrated, not eliminated.
- The loss of collective pride will be significant. All the banners in the gymnasium, plaques on the walls and awards given will lose some of their pride power because the name on the achievement is no longer relevant.
- Renaming the school is a superficial solution that will have no actual effect on the sense of community students, staff and alums feel for the school. Those changes come from the tone and actions of the administration and staff. Community is built, not conjured with a name.
- Renaming the school, in addition to not accomplishing the desired goals and damaging the pride and history of the school, will be expensive. Everything from signage, school buses and gymnasiums will need to be repainted. Letterhead, forms and all other communications reprinted.
- Many consolidated school districts carry the name of the town the school is in. Kennebunk High School, Old Town High School and many more are part of RSUs serving multiple towns.

In the end, renaming Freeport High School is unnecessary, would inflict a significant loss of history and I believe that having a common name would unify us, but not at huge expense. Let students have a say and maybe come up with a combination name - Powdur Free

I feel that its confusing when a school doesn't use the name of the town its in. And I don't think you'll win over the people in Durham and Pownal who keep voting against the budget by renaming it! My sons went to FHS and they would like to keep the name.

The action that is the most inclusive is the best course. My son graduated from Freeport HS. We are Durham residents. He and I both agree a name change would be beneficial.

This is not the appropriate use of taxpayer revenue. I would rather see this money go to the renovation, the track project, or some other tangible, improvement to the school.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

\$68K is too much money to spend on re-branding a school. I can think of many more worthwhile things to send money on. I would disagree even is the re-branding were free. I have lived in this community for over 30 years and my wife has lived here for over 50. Freeport and Pownal have been together at the high school for even longer. These two towns have a long history of togetherness and cooperation. There is no desire to rename from either of those communities.

The newest addition to the district is Durham. There were definitely some serious problems marrying Freeport / Pownal with Duham. There were efforts on both sides trying to dissolve the union. However, both sides have moved beyond these efforts and are getting along much, much better. The students have really moved beyond it! When you go to high school events such as musicals, concerts, sporting events, the kids embrace each other and even the parents work and cheer along side one another. It is working!!! Any effort to change the school name will bring up old battles and wounds that have almost entirely, if not entirely, healed. Please save the money, put this all behind us and move forward.

I believe the students are fine with the name "Freeport High School" and it is the parents who are perseverating in a very unhelpful way. My daughter graduated last year and was in Freeport Schools and RSU5 since kindergarten. It is a great school system. Pride and unity already exist, born organically from the quality of the teaching, community support, and fun the student have together.

Long before we became an RSU many Pownal and Durham residents attended Freeport High School. There have always been some terrific students from these two towns that participated in school government, Sports, Band and many other activities. A lot of them were, and still are, relatives and very close family friends of other students at FHS. Yes, even before WWII !!! Our towns have a strong history together, we care about each other. I don't think the people from away who serve on our town communities understand this. Things will not be changed spending money to change the name of the school. It will always be Freeport High School. If you change the name no one will know who we are. It will be confusing to other towns schools. There is no ones name in the town history I could possibly think of , who would be a better name then GOOD OLD FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL. Spend the money on something more meaningful for the students.

Leadership and community members must demonstrate sincere respect for the diversity in our collective communities, including respect for differences in socio-economic status. Everyone wants the best education for their children and other people's children, but not everyone can afford to pay for it. Temperence and living within our collective means will help heal alot of hurt. A change in the name of a school will not solve the root cause of the problems. A change of hearts and minds is required. Good leadership will lead the way.

What would the new name be...RSU5?

This marriage seems to be tenuous at best, with all 3 towns trying to opt out at various times. I noticed the score board from the HS gym at the dump a few years ago - they said it was due to the name change at THAT time. How many of these will we purchase? What is the cost of this change? uniforms, letterheads, it goes on...Let's get unified for a few years and then maybe make the change?

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Freeport, Pownal and Durham students have been going to FHS ever since I was in high school in 1968. We always felt all three towns were part of the FHS community. This union continued when my children and now my grandchildren attend FHS.

The cost of replacing middle and high school athletic uniforms, stationary and whatever else says Freeport High School is too costly. I would rather see the money go toward improving our athletic fields.

Bad and expensive idea. The name reflects the geographic location as does Freeport Middle School, Pownal Elementary and Durham Community. We do not need to Rename FHS or any of the other schools to create a unified district.

Really? Have we even had a year that Durham hasn't ether tried through voting or threatened to withdraw from the RSU? I fail to see how a name change will foster additional unity and pride. Sounds like more of the same...the agenda of a few forced upon the rest of us. What's wrong with some tradition in our town?

There is no good reason to rename the high school- just one more way to waste tax dollars that should be spent educating our students.

I am curious as to who is behind the name change issue. Who is it really a problem for? Paying \$68,000 is a cost that all 3 towns will have to bear. I believe there are better ways to spend school funds.

From my conversation with parents in the RSU, Pownal area residents feel very comfortable carrying the Freeport High School name. Durham is somewhat divided on a name change. What is important to acknowledge is that the high school is located in Freeport, and it just makes sense to continue with the same name; it has a great and long following and with many alumni who would feel abandoned if the name was changed. Durham has never had a high school and many feel they should still be associated with Brunswick HS (although I know that there are far more that now enjoy and appreciate FHS), which makes me believe that a name change is not the answer. Name recognition is very important and to name a school to keep a very small percentage of residents happy is not the right reason to make the change. Also to name a school with a name that does not represent the location, pride, or previous achievements, will take away from the school.

This survey is nonsense without knowing the suggested new name[s].

Two sides to this, no surprise. Is it worth doing the right thing long term by renaming the high school with an inherent short term negative effect. This is bad for right now, but that has to be weighed against the long term goal of a true regional high school.

As a parent of a recent graduate, I am opposed to the name change. This change is would be disowning those students who proudly stood for generations and received the honor of being Freeport High School graduates. Changing the name without universal support from these graduates is a very bad idea.

Moreover, it is a waste of time, energy and badly needed funding for the schools in RSU5. There have been students from all three towns in all six schools through the years. All the schools have names based on their geographic locations. Please focus our limited school funds on making all the schools wonderful, and continuing to build unity among all students through great programming, inventive group projects and strong extracurricular activities. \$68,000 could go a long way to strengthening these programs.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Freeport High School is what it should remain the students want it to remain the way it is Parents step back and listen to the kids. We have better and more important issues to use 68, 000 dollars on.....

It seems you people re not happy unless you spend money. Being a senior citizen, SS hasn't kept up with the cost of living. Where am I to get the money to pay for all of these things. Please think of all people on fixed incomes.

Changing the school name will not improve pride and unity. Attitudes and actions will; how students are treated is what is important. This name is an identification of where the school is and carries a long history of pride that embeaces everyone that steps foot in those halls.

The lack of unity between the 3 towns is tied to the fact that Pownal and Durham consistently have greater tax increases than Freeport and the fact that the RSU voting membership is such that Freeport reps always have the majority vote. I am told this is due to a "formula" set by the state...but nonetheless Durham and Pownal citizens are at a clear disadvantage. Renaming the high school will not at all fix this problem. In fact another tax increase will likely occur to pay the \$68,000 cost associated with a change. If the chg does occur, than the extra high school contingency \$\$ should be used for this rather than going to the proposed track that was voted down once but has again raised its head.

What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet... to walk away from the history of Freeport High School and go through all the effort of a name change in an effort to unify the disparate towns attending? Who are you kidding?

Bad idea all around!

Unnecessary and costly. Will accomplish nothing

What a categorical waste of time, energy and money. Loss of identity and pride that the community at large represents.

This is apparent issue not a student issue. There are other better ways to build unity vs. This issue. Also, a waste of money that could be well spent elsewhere.

Here comes a time when a movement should be made to reflect the name of the district that finances it. I would agree that keeping Freeport in the name is as important as putting RSU5 in the name as well. I disagree with scaring people with the cost when he cost of anything prior to this has never been an issue. I'm pretty sure there is that amount of unused funds available at the end of each year

I am a Durham resident, a father of 2 FHS graduates and an FHS graduate myself. There is absolutely no reason to change the name of Freeport High School. My kids never felt like outsiders and always felt part of the community.

The name Freeport High School already instills unity and pride amoungst not only Freeport students, but the many students from Durham, and Pownal, both current and alumni that have walked the halls.

FHS grad - class of 1956 (4 other family members FHS grads). I do not feel that a "few" (RSU5 Board of Directors) should be the ones to change the decades long standing name of Freeport High School. Pride and Unity has been and still is a constant hee in Freeport and its schools. And that is in part I believe why Durham and Pownal parents chose to send their children to FHS as is. FHS staff and students do welcome the out of town students already and in good form I believe! This idea I feel should be put b4 the Towns people for a vote and a student vote!

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

1. The students don't seem to have a problem with the name. They are doing very well with it and have for many years. Seems like the board is the only people that think this would be a good idea.

2. Would be wasteful spending of money!

All the classes. Before 2016 never mind it the name of the high school being Freeport high school. I think one thing that I really get annoyed at, and sometimes can break my heart, is when people ignore history and try to change everything so it's politically correct. I could take a lot of time to explain exactly how I feel, I just don't have the time. So suffice it to say I am dead set against changing the name of the high school. I graduated class of 1972.

I grew up in a suburban D.C. town with two high schools...McLean and Langley. Though my mailing address was McLean, attending Langley did not make me feel less proud or disenfranchised. The Langley HS student body was my community. I was happy where my friends were.

Freeport has the unique distinction of being in a town that is globally recognized. Embrace it!

60K to rename a school is ridiculous. Even if there was no associated cost, I would still maintain that since the school is located in Freeport, name it after the town in which it is located.

Compromise: Suggest a simple tag line added to new signs, stationery & clothes

FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL

Serving Freeport, Durham & Pownal

I am a graduate of Freeport High School as well. For almost the last 100 years Pownal and Durham students have attended Freeport High with no problem. I see absolutely no reason to change the name now. Especially in light of the high cost associated with changing the name. People are struggling to afford to stay in their houses, so I don't understand why the School Board is even considering this costly measure. Please refocus on improving curriculum and student learning and let this idea disappear.

I think Freeport High School is the brand. It tells people here it is located. I appreciate that discussion of unity but if the HS were in Pownal it would be Pownal High School.

Though many people strongly oppose renaming, perhaps something as subtle as renaming to Freeport Regional HS or Freeport Community HS would seem less drastic, yet still representative of class population.

I do not think that just by changing the name of the high school will automatically improve the sense of unity and pride in the District - if anything, I think it may hurt the sense of pride that Freeport students and alumni have by breaking tradition.

My daughter graduated from FHS in 2015. I feel this is a parental issue and not necessarily a student issue. In 2015 the kids seemed very unified and happy with the name. My sense is that now, with the renovation project nearing completion, there is an even greater sense of unity amongst not only the students but the parents from all three towns. It seems unnecessary to stir up old wounds - to say nothing of the cost! I strongly urge you to take this question off the table.

Thank you for the opportunity to give input.

I feel that this is a needless expense. If the students feel that a change is needed I can understand the move; if parent driven the move is questionable.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

You change the name and you lose the history tied to the name

Unity comes from the people in and out side of school. Changing the name doesn't make any issues go away. As far as I can see/hear it is bringing up more divisiveness. Same bad feelings come up when a new petition comes up to break away from the RSU. We consolidated, felt like we were forced in to that decision (thank you Governor) some did not like it, most of us have moved on and made the best of it. It is time to move on.

The name Freeport High School has been in place for decades. Thousands of people have attended it. It is in the town of Freeport, so it indicates its location.

Renaming it is not going to improve Durham and Pownal's negative feelings. Those feeling are based on their increased tax rate and on nothing else.

It really comes down to the chosen name to replace Freeport High School. Is it worthy of the name change? It must bring pride as it does represent Freeport and the 2 other towns.

Middle School Student Comments A. Renaming Freeport High School

Comments:

I don't think changing the name will do anything because I've gone around my school to ask about this because the idea was in the newspaper. To sum it all up nobody really cares. (I've talked to durham students too)

i think i would be weird to change the name and it would be stupid

I really don't think that it matters

i do not think the high school should be renamed

i think it is good as it is

I think that the school should possibly be renamed because it would feel more new and it would just improve the feeling of going to the school.

Would it be named after someone?

I disagree because the name for the high school is perfectly fine

I would rather it stay the same name as it is.

Hi.

i think its dumb to even rename it so yknow

the renaming of the high school depends on what we are renaming the high school to.

I think it would be cool to see what the name is but it might be expensive but it also might draw more attention to the school

I think that this is a wonderous idea and i think that we should call it the PDF highscool

i don't think we should because it has been the same for a long time

We should keep our mascot but change our colors. And we should keep the name Freeport High School

I don't think they should change the name

i really like the name please don't change it!!

I think that they should.

I don't know why they'er renaming the high school, and I don't think they should.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

you should rename the high school so durham and powall is included in the name too.

[illegible]

renaming the high school is something only parents want. worst idea ever

plz don't have the name that has academy in the name

I disagree because I like the name of our schools.

Freeport high school is in the town of Freeport there for the name Freeport high school should stay.

I think we should not change the name

I dont really care because the school is good in teaching and.

DO NOT MAKE IT LONG!!! if it is voted yes than do not make it long i think it should be 20 charters long or shorter.

i think we should not change the high school name

it is a terrible idea just dont do it

Do not rename high school plz

68,000 isn't worth it. Freeport High School is a fine name and we don't need to spend 68k to change it just to make us outsiders feel more comfortable transitioning into Freeport High.

why would you rename the high school

fhs is in freeport it should give us naming rights and no one feel uncomfortable

I think that RSU5 should rename the high school because then we would have more of a name and it might make us feel like more of a team.

i like it the way it is but i would also like a change so i don't really matter to me.

can we rename to hogsmead

i don't want to change the name. PLEASE DON'T CHANGEEEEEEE ITTTTTT!!!!!!!!!!!!

I think it is kind of pointless to rename the high school.

i think we should rename the high school as freeport community high school

Maybe I would change my answer if I knew what the name was.

I think that they should.

why should you rename the high school how could help us later

that's a lot of money

I think the name of the high school is fine now but if changed Falcons should be put into the name of high school.

Please don't change the name.

I don't know if they should

I really don't care either way

i dont know maybe if you changed it would rebrand the school in a different way

i think that it would be a bad idea because the high school is in freeport so the name should be the same.

yass

i think that name of our high school is great

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Freeport High School's name has been there for years. we CAN'T change it. Its history and its in freeport so it should stay FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL.
Freeport Highschool is a fine name, and community school sounds bad.
No I don't think so why should we
I think that the high schools name is dull and boring.
i think our high school is great the way it is!!
The Freeport High School should not be renamed because it represents Freeport. The whole purpose of 'Freeport' High School
I like the name of the High School
Renaming the high school sounds sort of fun. However I don;t really think it will change anything. I mean if you want to sure do it but really I'm pretty partial.
I think if they did rename the High School it should have something to do with an important person or the school mascot.
The high school is in freeport, so it should be called freeport high school.
It depends on the name.
i don't really know
I think that it won't really matter if we rename the high school. I feel that it's okay as is.
I think it would be a great change for the freeport community and RSU5
I see no reason to pay extra money to rename a school
the name is not the problem with the highschool its the mean teachers we should be as good a yarmouth
what would we rename it to?
I think Freeport High School is a good name for a high school in freeport and if it would cost a lot more \$\$\$\$\$ I would just stick with the It has now
This will waste time and will likely just create a general confusion. In my mind it is doubtful a new name will even catch on.
i'm not quite sure if i feel that the name should change or not.
hi
No comment.
its been in history as Freeport high school
i like the name freeport high school
I think it should not be renaming the Freeport High School because, we would have to fundraise to get the money all over again.
I don't think it really makes a difference, and don't think it will do anything so it's just a waste of time
i think it crazy to rename the high school
Renaming a school is not worth 68,00 dollars, it is just not important or needed.
To be honest I don't know if the name should be changed or souldent be changed.
what are you going to call it "Freeport School".....doesn't do anything
I am a student from pownal and I think its fair that the naime of the highe school is named freeport high sench it's in freeport.
it wont change a thing it will just make it more confusing

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

i think FHS is a good name for the high school
I like the original name and i don't want some silly name representing my high school. DONT CHANGE THE NAME!!!
I really don't think that they should rename the High school because it's history and they'd be destroying it by renaming it.
I don't think that they should really re-name is because it in Freeport the town of Freeport where Freeport is
I understand about the changing the Freeport high school because of the community, but it's in FREEPORT. I mean if we do end up changing the name I don't mind, but my opinion is that I think we should leave it because it's in Freeport and we've had that name for quite awhile and I don't no why it matters now
IT WILL BE THE BEST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
I think that changing Freeport High School to something like Freeport Community High School would be a great idea, but nothing too extreme.
As a student going into the high school I do not think changing the name of the high school would change (better or worsen) the learning and dynamic of our learning.
No comment
The Middle School is not changing our name so why will they?!?!
why waist money on something nobody cares about.
no don't do it. and why would you do that.
I guess I do not no why we need to spend the extra money to rename the school. I don't no why it would Improve the unity of the district.
why change the name on FHS?
I think it would be great to rename the high school.
I do not think you should rename the high school.
Freeport High School Student Comments A. Renaming Freeport High School
Comments:
As a current student at FHS I have talked to a lot of other students who all seem to feel the same way about renaming the school: it won't improve "unity". We are not segregated as Pownal, Freeport, Durham students anymore because no one cares what town you're from. It doesn't effect your friendships. I honestly believe that the renaming of the school is a waste of time and money. The energy of the board, the faculty and the community should be spent doing worrying about more important issues in our school.
The name, "Freeport High School" is such a nice name, I think. Also FHS is a nice combination. I feel that changing the name will change the feel of the school. Another negative factor about changing the school name is changing the feel for allumni. If I graduated I could never go back to freeport High, because it would've changed. I love the way our school is and hope it stays as Freeport High School, home of the falcons.
The school is in Freeport Maine and although kids from surrounding towns come into Freeport for their education it is fine to keep the name the same. It is also extremely expensive to make the change.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Renaming the school seems confusing and pointless. It's a high school in Freeport. There isn't any real reason to call it anything else.

It is still a high school in freeport and durham kids don't care

-It's already known as Freeport High School

-It's in Freeport

-It's part of RSU5

-Anything else would sound weird

-It would be a waste of money

-All the sports jackets, uniforms, EVERYTHING would need to be changed

Honestly, renaming the school isn't going to "promote district unity" It's just going to be a hassle to say, and would cost way too much, a bunch of sports teams just got new uniforms, and now you want to change the school name? How about instead of spending that money on renaming the school we spend it on our sports and drama department, aka stuff that actually needs it. In the end, no one cares enough about the name being Freeport instead of some combination of the three towns, especially not the students, who should have the biggest say in this considering it's their school.

this is just a dumb waste of money think of all the sports teams that will have to buy new jerseys and those aren't cheap at all

I first heard about the renaming of the high school last year and I continually hold the same attitude toward the idea: Freeport high is Freeport high, and it should stay this way. Freeport high school is in Freeport Maine and began as part of Freeport's school district. After becoming apart of RSU5 there were many initiatives to have more unity in the school which I fully support. However, this is not the way to do it. Changing the name not only removes Freeport resident students sense of pride, but also take away the sense of belonging that many alumni have. Alumni want to be able to say they went to Freeport, not an arbitrary name which does nothing to represent its students. If we really want a sense of pride, then parents in Durham and Pownel should stop voting down so many budgets so money can actually go toward giving us something to be proud of.

We don't need a new name to create unity.

From what I understand, Durham and Pownal have paid absolutely nothing to the construction and improvement of our track and field project, therefore we should not have to change our name for people who don't want to put effort and time into our community. Freeport High School is located in Freeport, Maine. Not Tritown, Maine.

Bad idea...

I believe it's a waste of time, you guys could be doing something better to help the whole RSU 5 community

By renaming the school you will unnecessarily spend money on rebranding the school. If you believe there is a unity problem within the school that can be fixed by the people in the school not by changing the color and name of the building around them.

I do believe if we change the name of the high school, we would do a better job at representing everyone in it. I believe that and I am even from Freeport, and live in Freeport. But, I'm not sure if we should invest money in changing it when we have other aspects of education to invest in. But, if that school has the money then I think it would help everyone in the school.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I don't understand why we need to change the name of the high school, it's in Freeport. I understand the desire for unity among the Freeport, Pownal, and Durham, but I don't think renaming a school is the way to do that. Personally I feel like we are already unified because students from the three towns are coming together at the same school.

I don't think the name of the school really matters and it will just cost so much money that could be better spent.

I feel like we should focus on other ways to unify our high school. We need to pay for trips such as team bonding and going through clinics to create a strong base not only through our athletics but through our whole community. We should save the money and put it towards things that matter. There have been tons of awards and students who have graduated from Freeport. These kids wouldn't be able to look back at the school they once went too. Also the school is in Freeport so it should be called Freeport high school. I have talked to many other students including Durham and Pownal kids. I feel like this is more of a parent problem even though its not really their choice. Its our high school and for us its not a problem at all. We are proud to be a Freeport Falcon!

I feel this "Renaming the High School " is a feel good item for the RSU. I think it is a waste of money for the RSU. There is all kinds of things that will need the name changed on them. One item that comes to mind is sports uniforms. As a Booster member I believe this is a waste of money. Buses will have to have they names changed on them. One question that comes to mind is the middle school, will that have its name changed also. I am a strong believer that money can be spent on better things. Things that can used everyday. Like the playing fields at the high school. I have seen better cow fields then our field at the high school.

I do believe that this would bring us closer together. But the renaming of the school is costly as well. We would need to get all new uniforms and all new signs. It is just unnecessary.

I think the students at FHS already feel a sense of unity, and changing the name would not improve that. I think that the amount it would cost to change uniforms, signs ect would be excessive considering we are hoping to build a track/turf field which we are still fundraising for.

Pardon my hysterical response, but what on Earth is wrong with the current name? Freeport High School is phonemically pleasing, the pacing of 2-1-1 syllables is a classic often employed by educated individuals when naming things. The acronym "FHS" is likewise simple and satisfactory. What alternative names do you suggest? "RSU5 High School?" "Durham-Freeport-Pownal Community School?" It's a high school, and it's in Freeport. Let's not try so hard to mess with something that works fine. If it ain't broke don't fix it.

To actually be unified, we should interact more during middle school.

What's the logic in changing the name? We've had no issues with Freeport High School as our name in the past, why start now?

It has always been Freeport High school because its in Freeport. It doesn't matter who attends its in the town of Freeport. With the RSU there is unity and pride already there.

Don't you dare. Just don't.

Freeport High School is in the town of Freeport, therefore it should stay named as Freeport High School. Also renaming our school would be an extreme financial decision, costing an impressive amount of money.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I feel like it's a huge expense in a time where we are already spending a lot of money (with the new renovation.) I personally don't think renaming the school would unite the school. Having the name, Freeport High School, doesn't exclude the people from Pownal and Durham. Our school happens to be in Freeport, and we aren't trying to pretend they are not apart of us. Those who come to our school from other towns feel pride to be apart of Freeport's school system, and they must appreciate how welcoming we are of them.

I wouldn't really feel either way depending on the name of my school but all I believe renaming the school will do is cost the school board more money. We would need to buy new uniforms for all of the sports teams. I am 100% positive that renaming the high school wouldn't make anybody feel closer or more prideful.

I don't think it makes any sense to rename our school. For years we have known it as the Freeport High School, and that shouldn't change. My grandmother told me that my great great grandmother went to the high school that was one hallway, and guess what, that was called the Freeport High School as well. Its been its name for a long time, and i dont think now after all these years, there is any point to change it.

We would have to replace all uniforms, which would cost more money.

I do not think renaming is necessary. I do think it will make sports situations much more difficult.

We should leave the name

It is an idea that would cost the district lots of money, as they would need to get new uniforms for every sport, repaint the gym, and buy new scoreboards. This money would be way better spent on things the schools all need.

why change something that does not need to be changed?

I do not think that by renaming our school it will bring the three towns closer together because I believe that we are already unified.

It just doesn't seem necessary

As a student of Freeport High School I feel like the name does not matter to us as students. We go to school to receive education and our parents, relatives, and friends grew up in a school called Freeport High school. Why change the name now? We all love the high school the way it is. We go to school for four years to receive a diploma and when I graduate I hope the name is the same as it was my freshmen year. I think that the students opinions matter on this.

The school is in freeport so it should be freeport high school and stay the same!

I am from Freeport and grew up here. Every time I have asked my peers (from Freeport, Pownal and Durham.) they did not seem to care about the name of the school. They said that as long as they get an education they are fine with whatever the name is. In my opinion there are much bigger issues throughout the school than the name. The district has already spent money on the renovation, and I don't think we need to change all of the uniforms too. We could use that money for another social worker, or even to get another teacher for around the school.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

The name of a High School makes no difference in the amount of education we get here nor does it make a difference in the amount of pride we have in our district. Freeport High School is a generic school name and is simple to remember. Personally I feel that if we were to change our school name, people would have a hard time getting used to it and end up calling us Freeport High School in the end anyways because that's the name it has had for several years. Our education and pride is just fine the way it is. No need to complicate and change things for no reason.

The students don't care, its the parents.

I think renaming the school is honestly stupid. Why would you wanna change the school name. Its been freeport high school for a long time and its in the town of freeport so it makes sense to be freeport high school.

I fail to see what difference it will make in the eyes of students. If parents, staff, or anyone else would like it to change, that's fine. I don't think the overall student body will care either way.

Most people don't really care about changing the name.

Renaming the school would be a waste of time and money. Uniforms, murals, signs, etc., would have to be changed. This transition and the arguing that may come with it would have a negative impact on school spirit and pride.

Renaming the high school is a complicated process involving lots of money and adjustment time. This money would be better served going to the art department or to athletics. People would take time to switch from calling the school "Freeport High" to an alternative name, and because the school is located in Freeport, the name makes sense. I personally feel very strongly that renaming the school is a waste of \$68,000.

Our high school is in Freeport so it's named Freeport High School. Durham and Pownal students also have the choice to go to Brunswick High School but you don't see them renaming their school to compensate.

We shouldn't rename the high school it is perfectly fine with the name we have.

It'd be hilarious, please do it

While the parents in the district may believe that renaming is a good idea, students who I have talked to don't want to rename the high school. Whether they are from Freeport, Pownal, or Durham, everyone has said they go to Freeport High School, and that is their school. Also all the alumni probably would not like their school name and mascot to be changed.

I would prefer to spend money on the track and field project

Freeport highs name has nothing to do with gay pride. I take pride in the name and it fits. I would not appreciate the changing of the school name because it wouldn't feel the same anymore. I am a Durham citizen and go to FHS, and I have no problem with the name.

I believe that the name should not change and that changing the name would have no effect on unity or pride. It makes sense for Freeport High School to be called Freeport High School because the school is located in Freeport.

Freeport High School is not only freeport kids it is freeport, durham and ponewl people we are a commuity so we should be inclusive.

the school is in Freeport, and that is a very large amount of money that in my opinion could be used for so many other things.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Whether it's Freeport High school or not, it is just a name. No matter what the name is that will not magically fix the problem we have unifying others. To really unify others it takes time changing people, not a name.

I think that changing the name would waste money we could put towards education. We'd have to get new shirts/athletic gear because most of it says Freeport on it. My friends from Durham don't feel any different or not unified.

No matter what the name is for our school, it will not unify more people. I honestly think that any non-town name for a high school is a waste of time, and not many people would care. I would not feel at "home" if the name changed... It would feel off.

I think you should be worrying about other things. like improving the school food. It sucks change that. Not the name. Changing the name of our school is not going to "unify" us, all we want as students is to get through school with little trouble possible. And to be left alone.

~~I think it's selfish that PARENTS and the ADULTS want to change the name of FREEPORT HIGH~~
SCHOOL. it's not their school, it's the students, we learn, build friendships, connect with others, engage ourselves, get involved, create beautiful artwork, play sports and throw plays. those things have something in common and that's a few things off the top of my head that happening within FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL. Now i'm not sure about the "adults" but i can surely tell you that the students our proud to be a FREEPORT Falcon.

Not only does it mean something to the students, it means just as much to the teachers. Freeport has some amazing and supportive teachers (and Coaches!) I can't speak much for them because i'm not a teacher, but I can only imagine how amazing it feels to be a teacher at Freeport.

Now, to me, being a Freeport Falcon means many things, such as; being able to be yourself, stepping out of your comfort zone, trying new things and getting a new out look on things!! I've been a a students in Freeport, part of the Freeport education system since I was in Kindergarten. My family has also attended Freeport schools. and I can surely say that i'm proud to tell people I go to Freeport High School, I'm proud to say that soon, i'm gonna be part of the 2017 graduating class of FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL.

Now I also know the thought of changing the schools name is because it's to "bring the three towns (durham, pownal and freeport) closer, but because the the school is located in the town of Freeport, it only makes sense for the school to be named FREEPORT High School. Maybe that's just me, but the name means something.

So to me, I don't believe in the slightest bit that "changing the name" is gonna make Durham and Pownal more "connected" with Freeport High. I think this whole thing is a joke and as a current student at FHS, as a student who is more than proud to say that i'm a member of FHS, I don't think the name should be changed, it should be kept.

I personally don't think it matters what the school is called. It's the pride the students and staff have in that name that really matters

I think it's trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

When i asked durham or pownal kids if they don't feel united with the freeport highschool because of its name, they said they don't care.

The name of the High School has no impact on how people feel about the school and it's unity. I have spoken to various students from Durham and they all say that the name of the high school does not make them feel excluded. What really matters is how the students in the high school act. That is how we make people feel more welcome as far as going to FHS goes. Changing the name would only force the school to buy new equipment with new logos to fit the new name. I don't see why it is necessary to change the name of the school when there are plenty of better ways to make people feel more welcome and reflect FHS's unity. All in all, my overall opinion is that changing the name of FHS would only frustrate the the students and the community and \$68,000 is not worth that.

I feel that renaming the high school will be way too expensive at the moment. With all the construction and repairs going on with the high school, it would be over the budget. From my point of view, none of my classmates or friends feel that we are showing favoritism or neglect with the name of the high school being Freeport High School.

Consolidating the three schools into a Regional School Unit was a big stretch for me. To ask us to even consider renaming the school is something that doesn't sit well with me. Freeport High School is located in Freeport, Maine. Not Durham, not Pownal. We already accept students from those to municipalities. I ask you to please count my vote AGAINST the renaming of Freeport High School. If you wanted to build more unity and pride, hold social events like under the lights games, cookouts, or falcon themed events. Bringing everyone together is clearly a goal of yours, let's just figure out how to do it without ruining the legacy of FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL

Thank you,

xxx

FHS Junior

There isn't a needed reason why it should be changed. Especially in a few years if there is another vote for Durham to leave the RSU, and if they do leave, there wouldn't be a need for a change.

It's a high school in Freeport it should stay Freeport High school. Also we've sent a bunch of kids to good colleges from here, and changing the name won't help any of us wanting to go to college, because it will get rid of the name recognition.

My experiences indicate minimal student interest in this measure, which would amount to an expense greater than the budget of any student affairs. It would be absolutely preposterous to spend \$68,000 on a matter which makes zero practical contribution to academic achievement. If anything, this measure's approval would only work to alienate the Freeport majority. If any students feel excluded by the present name of the school, should not we appeal to them individually and offer them the direct emotional support they need instead of placing them in a position evocative of greater personal scorn?

Freeport High School Staff Member Comments A. Renaming Freeport High School

Comments:

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Freeport High School is only a name and there is more that is necessary to make it a community. I do not feel that changing the name will help. Yes, a name change includes Pownal and Durham but then excludes Freeport in a sense, they lost their name in it. I don't think the money it would cost would be worth the impact that it would have.

As a coach and an alumni, I feel very strongly in the fact that the high school's name should remain the same. Pownal and Durham have been a part of the community and high school since the 60's. what is the dire need to change it now?

There is already a great deal of "unity and pride" within the high school.

I believe that students would be very skeptical/cynical about a name change, and the renaming process itself could cause a great deal more disunity and conflict.

I think that Freeport should always be in the name because they have always had a high school, and it would feel like a loss to the town.

We have had students from Pownal and Durham attend FHS for many years, not just since the RSU was formed. It has always been Freeport High School and should remain Freeport High School.

This seems like we are picking the scab off a wound that has begun to heal.

It is a significant cost to change and the name is descriptive of it's location. The next question would be "changed to what". This could be and usually is a very divisive question that the RSU probably doesn't want at a time of building unity.

I think renaming the school would be a good faith gesture to all in the RSU and would properly reflect the breadth of our constituency. Kids from all three towns should be able to see themselves in the name of their school. The process of renaming the school would in itself allow for a whole district, unified vision and a new sense of identity and ownership--perhaps even pride.

I understand the idea of wanting to promote unity--which is great! But I think that we need to treat deeper, underlying causes. The name is superficial.

There is more to a school name than just a location. Changing the name will not make more students feel included in school.

I went to High School here and both my boys went to school here - please do not change the name!

I think the \$68,000 could be better spent elsewhere.

There are other schools in RSU5 that have a town name- DCS and PES. So many people over the years are proud to have graduated from FHS, it seems a shame to change the name.

I work at Freeport High School but I am also a parent of 2 children in this district, one of my [REDACTED] currently attends [REDACTED] and I have one [REDACTED] currently attending [REDACTED]. I do not feel that there is any reason to change the name of Freeport High School. I see on a daily basis, that all of these children, no matter which of the three towns they live in, all come together as a supportive unified group. When looking at them as a whole, whether its in classes, sports or clubs, you cant tell which town these kids live in, just that they are all students of Freeport High School. They all come together and support one another. It doesn't matter what the name of the school is, they are already unified and take pride in their collective accomplishments.

I am new to the district so have not had enough time to really understand whether the school should be renamed. I see the points for both sides.

Too much money and it's not necessary.

I don't think renaming the school will improve unity. What's in a name? There needs to more tangible, hard work to build unity in the district.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

In my years as a teacher and coach I have found students from all three communities identify as Freeport Falcons and would rather not change the name. I feel like adults outside of the school community are driving the name change. Students do not care, and all students I have talked to about a name change, feel that it should remain Freeport High School.

I think the name of the school needs to have the word "Freeport" in it, if we decided to change the name. Maybe "Freeport District High School"?

RSU5 Staff Member A. Renaming Freeport High School

Comments:

I worry about the cost of renaming the high school I also grew up in Durham and went to Greely. It never bothered me that I went to a high school not named for my town. What united the students wasn't the name but the community and activities we did together.

This is a costly change for minimal gain. Having spent time with the students, two of which are my own, I have never experienced behaviors that indicate lack of unity between the three towns. Any divisiveness I've experienced has been among tax payers of the three towns.

RSU5 has no personal connection to the town of Freeport or any other town. We should give it a real "name", not an abbreviation and a number. A name is personal an abbreviation and a number is impersonal.

There are a lot of important things that \$68,000 can be used for at the high school to improve learning, nutrition, and sports (like for instance, investing in a better baseball field for the upcoming spring season--unless that is already a budget item).

The people that has lived in this town for many years knows the school name Freeport High School. It's not the name of a building it the people that works there that makes the high school a special place.

I am also a resident of Freeport and both my children went all the way through Freeport schools and graduated from Freeport HS. My answers would be the same is if was responding as a citizen. I don't think changing the name makes sense.

I'm neutral on the issue, but I think you're going to see a lot of opposition from the community.

This is additional cost where it's not needed. The high school is in Freeport., has been Freeport high school forever, and the name should stick, even if you are not from Freeport. Windham high school and Gorham high have students from out of town and there was no need to change those names. I'm not sure where the different funds come from, but if there is "extra" money, then put it toward the track.

Freeport Regional HS

I believe students from Durham and Pownal may feel more welcome in a school with a shared name.

The newly consolidated HS's in Maine who had name changes to new names like Spruce Mountain, Oceanside, etc. were combining two high schools that originally were two independent entities. That isn't the case here. Pownal students have always come to FHS, and Durham students did for years, left for a few to go to Edward Little HS, and then returned here when EL could no longer accommodate them. I am a classroom teacher and truly do not see any kind of division such as the board seems to be worried about. If anything, people were upset when "Freeport Public Schools" became "RSU #5." Maybe the thing to do is change the name of the district instead of the name of the high school.

What about "Falcon High School?"

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I think unity and pride are best cultivated through engaging in challenging and successful work together, rather than trying to grow these superficially through a name change. The best way I believe we can create pride in our community is to create dynamite schools that serve students' need, challenge them, and prepare them to be engaged citizens.

I don't feel that it is a necessary change but I don't feel strongly either way.

For the cost, it doesn't seem like a good use of funds. \$68,000 is a lot of money for taxpayers, just to have a different name.

too much time and money that needs to be used elsewhere, it is not what's best for kids!

I do believe a name change would be beneficial but there are more pressing issues about bringing us together than just a name change. [REDACTED] i get hardly any communication from the Varsity coaches at FHS. They do not get involved at DCS in any way. Girls soccer would be a great example. I like [REDACTED] quite a bit and think she is a very good coach. She spends time at FMS growing a relationship with those women which is fantastic. [REDACTED] has not once traveled to DCS to see the young Ladies there. I have asked about this in the past and was told DCS is to far away. 7-9 miles is not that far. While i agree a name change would be beneficial i feel we have more pressing issues we could be working on.

I think renaming the high school is a nice idea, but I don't think it is essential. The high school is in Freeport, and while it houses students from towns that are not Freeport, and I don't feel it is necessary to change the name from Freeport High School... BUT... If an inclusive name can be chosen that isn't silly (like "RSU 5 Three-Town Regional High School,") then it might be a nice change. I like the idea of naming a school after a geographical feature, such as a river or a mountain, or a person who impacted the area, but I don't think generic "5-Town," "Tri-Town," "F-D-P" type names inspire pride. Just my \$.02.

Durham, Freeport, and Pownal overall are all welcoming to all members of rsu5. As a parent, staff, former student at durham I see no benefit to changing the name. The school happens to be in the town of Freeport. I am not in favor of adding additional expenses to change a name that has been established for generations.

It would be unnecessarily costly and divisive to change the longstanding name of our high school. It will be confusing to colleges who have relationships and history with the institution named FHS. We don't need a new name to create unity amongst the RSU--many initiatives already accomplish that goal (sports, clubs, mentors, challenge day, spirit days, etc.). As each year passes, the kids from all three towns in the RSU seem to integrate and thrive as one high school community. The process of renaming will only serve to take us backward, and will take time and energy away from the initiatives that move us forward as a district. The "hope" that a new name would fix or improve the tri-town unity seems very tentative. The cost is very tangible - and isn't that just what the voting community has been so up in arms about??? How could we justify spending large sums of \$ on something we aren't sure will have a positive (and could possibly divide us further) effect?

I have worked in the district for [REDACTED] years. Pownal and Durham have gone to Freeport High off and on during all of that time. I have never heard anyone complain about having to go to "Freeport High". Freeport was their high school whether by choice or not.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

This will take time, attention, and resources away from students and learning. I do not think it will build pride, but instead confusion. Pride is built through a school culture of community engagement and reputation, not a name.

I think the expense of replacing uniforms, painting and signage is too much for right now. With the track and field expense, the expense of the addition at the high school, I don't think the change is a financial consideration. Maybe down the road, but not now. Leave it Freeport High School!

Huge expense. The high school is located in the town of Freeport. I have talked to some high school students and from what they have said I don't feel that this is an issue for the them. They seem to think that the name Freeport High School is fine.

I'm just not sure that the expense involved is worth it. I agree that renaming the high school may help with unity, however, there have been so many instances of one town or another seeking to pull out of the district that I worry such a costly step will still not prevent towns from wanting to leave the district. Also, many students, regardless of what town they're from, choose to go to private school.

Although a new name would be inclusive, I would imagine it would be costly to change everything that has the words "Freeport High School" on it. Additionally, it would essentially "erase" the historical aspect of Freeport High School as it would be a new entity.

We are a district and we have one high school.

I am also an alumni of Freeport High and our 3 children are too

Renaming the high school would help, however it might be best to keep Freeport in the name. For example, Camden High became Camden Hills.

Freeport High School Alumni A. Renaming Freeport High School

Comments:

Freeport High School has always housed students from Freeport, Pownal and Durham as Freeport High School. No name change is needed or necessary. Use that money for something that will help our children LEARN for their futures!!

\$68,000 could have much more utility in other places around the school then spending it on renaming, uniforms and paintings.

It has been Freeport High School for a very long time. I think we should keep it that way. It will save you money you don't need to spend on, and I think you can improve unity and pride in the District without having to change the name of the high school.

The board is considering spending \$68,000 to rename the school with the purpose of improving unity and pride. Changing the name would tend to alienate alumni because school no longer holds the same name that these students remember the school by. \$68,000 is a lot money for an intangible feeling that can't be measured. In other words, after spending the money, there is no way to know if the district is more prideful. Spend the money on something more beneficial for the education or future of the students.

I am a Pownalite that attended Freeport High class of 1979. There is no need to waste money changing the name. Go Falcons !!!

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Freeport High has gone thru many many renovations over the years, never considering a name change! Please leave our beloved schools name alone! If this was a brand new school being built that would be a different story. But it's not, FHS has been there for generations! Please don't allianate all of us alumni! I would hate to answer someone's question of "where did u graduate from" with a response like "the high school formally known as....Freeport High School!

Long live FHS!!

It's in Freeport; it's always been a school for Pownal and Durham students and it should remain Freeport High School.

It would create more division than unity. I asked our kids, and they don't see any value in renaming it either.

I relocated years ago but still visit Freeport regularly because I have family there. From what I have observed over the years, there is not a lot of pride or a strong feeling of unity in Freeport, the town or the school system. People might fuss about changing the name, but it won't really change thea attitudes. The Freeport school system will still be what it is, for good or bad, no matter what you call it.

Not necessary to rename to unify the students. The 3 towns have been together for a long time with no problem. We all are proud Falcons. Leave well enough alone and find something productive to do. What a waste of taxpayer money.

I believe that those who are dissatisfied with the name "Freeport High School" is a very small faction of citizens who are displeased that the withdrawal effort failed. Freeport High School has long-term recognition and changing the name would only necessitate using funds that could be better spent elsewhere.

"FREEPORT" is the historical identity of this place we call HOME !

If succeeding generations have been willing to live here under this moniker , anyone choosing to join us is welcome . Trying to change that identity is a false effort to fit into the social structure of a place rich in heritage and community, and won't work toward it's intended outcome,because people not committed to joining a new community will never gain their place in the community until they build the foundation for their effort .Changing place names of institutions that are the foundation of community will only divide and diminish that which is already strong and willing to share with those who display the willing effort to join ! It works two ways ,committing and accepting , agreeing and disagreeing , reaching out to build on what is right here already !

I dont think this would help, because it would change the heritage for alumni.

The Freeport High School should NOT be renamed. The idea makes no sense to me. The school is located in Freeport. Always has been in Freeport. Changing the name would make as much sense as renaming Boston University or New York University, because there are students who attend who aren't from those cities.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Spirits and reorganizations come and go, but Freeport is Freeport forever.

The chant of F_R_E_E_P_O_R_T at sports events lingers in the air over that place from past generations up to the present.

Freeport history as kept alive in the FHS plays like the one on the Means Massacre and the current one, Letters at Sea, is our anchor and pride.

It was the citizens of Freeport who became young adults at that school and who have paid and still pay taxes to keep it going, who will be insulted if there is a name change, as well as us alumni and alumnae who have moved away from town.

COME ON, PEOPLE! If there needs to be unity and pride built up around a bureaucratic resuffle of political school lines,, doesn't that indicate that people do not bond to a set of letters and numbers such as a RSU? Couldn't it indicate that people instead have an innate longing to belong to a historic community and definite place in the earth.?

Wasn't the regional idea somehow about a change in administration of money and resources? NOTHING to do with belonging to a community.

So now we want to change the name of the High School to an RSU number so we can rebuild a sense of community? Bah, humbug.

All fall in line for dear old Freeport High,
(as we used to sing so proudly back in my days there.)

As a taxpayer & Freeport High School Alumni it saddens & worries me that we are considering this name change. I honestly believe our tax dollars are better spent on something much more important than a name change. As I understand it RSU5 is comprised of Freeport, Pownal & Durham & as such this is not a "new" union-but RSU5 has been in existence for a long time-why the need for a name change? Unity & inclusion? If students aren't "unified or included" currently-I don't think a name change is going to amount to much besides an unnecessary cost to the taxpayer...

It is a waste of money and time.

Freeport High School should remain as such. Not only is it physically within the borders of the town of Freeport, but it also carries a sense of levity that cannot be captured with a more generic name. Renaming the school will alienate the vast majority of Freeport students from their town heritage, and give them less pride in the town they reside in. As for students who aren't from Freeport, it does nothing more to include them, unless the plan is to change it to "Freeport, Pownal, Durham, and Maybe Three Out-Of-District Students High School", which we all can agree is a really bad name.

Ultimately, there is no real reason to change the name beyond "trying something new". Which, as the saying goes, "if it ain't broke"...

Really think this will make alum feel different about being a grad from a school that doesn't exist as far as the name.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I graduated from Freeport High school and would like my children to do the same.

Absolutely no need to do this.

Ask the kids that go there.

In my opinion, it is important for all students to feel a sense of unity within the school. The current name, "Freeport High School," seems to exclude those students who live in another town within the district. While I agree that a name change would improve unity and pride in the district, there are more important matters at hand. I am a FHS graduate in the Class of 2012. During my time as a student, FHS experienced severe budget issues and had difficulty funding many programs, especially the arts. I witnessed many teachers express frustration over the spending on athletics while the band could not afford to purchase instruments. I would like to see academic programs improved before the school board spends tens of thousands of dollars on new uniforms and signs. I urge the school board to focus the school's limited budget on enhancing the learning environment first and foremost. Once these issues have been addressed, I support renaming the school

This measure seems completely unnecessary. What is causing the rift between the towns is less the students themselves than the parents and community members. This would be an expensive change that would have little to no impact.

Pownal and Durham have always been a welcome part of this school system, with no need for name changes. There are many Alumnus who are proud of their school name, including graduates from Pownal and Durham.

I am a fourth generation alum, and do not appreciate politics interfering with our heritage!! I am the proud owner of my Grandfather's class ring from 1914 and also have mine, my husband's and my children's rings. My father was a graduate from Pownal, whose family still resides in Pownal and the [REDACTED] my grandfather, originally settled in Pownal in the 1830's, I have numerous cousins who played on the state championship basketball teams of years gone by.

Get over yourselves and leave it alone!!

School song below, for those newcomers who don't know it! [REDACTED] must be rolling in her grave :(

Come fall in line for Dear Old Freeport High, and raise your voices high up to the sky, to prove to all that we will always fight, for Freeport High School and it's maroon and it's white; and when it comes to fighting with a vim, we know that Freeport teams are sure to win! So when we leave these halls we'll give a cry, give a cry for FREEPORT High! Rah, Rah

Freeport, freeport what's our cry...v.i.c.t.o.r.y, y.r.o.t.c.i.v....Freeport, Freeport Victory!!!!!!

On a side note, as a Freeport taxpaying citizen I don not want my tax dollars being wasted on this!!!!

If you would like to get more of an ear full please feel to contact me my home phone number is xxxxxx

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I am a graduate from the class of '68. All of my family, father, (deceased) 4 sisters, 5 nieces and nephews, and 2 great niece and nephew have proudly graduated from FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL.. My nieces and nephews lived in Pownal and Durham and they never felt like outsiders.. I am stunned and upset that the Board is even entertaining the idea of changing the name of the school. I served for years on the Board of Directors for SAD #75 in Topsham. When the State mandated consolidation. Lucky for us we didn't have to but the State wanted us to change from an SAD to an RSU and we said NO. We had history being a VERY GOOD SAD and we didn't want to lose our identity by changing our name and that's what you are considering, loosing your identity when you consider changing a well established and respected name of our school.. I am STRONGLY suggesting that you NOT go in that direction.....I am dead set AGAINST it....

Freeport High School has a long and proud history. The school has always welcomed students from a wide area of towns. We have a trophy case full of accolades given to Freeport High School. WHY would one want to send Freeport High into obscurity in the name of unity. Unity is developed through action, not a name. I believe you can retain the name and the history and develop policy and behaviors that brings pride and inclusiveness to the district. What's in a name but it's history? changing the name doesn't guarantee a future that will react any differently.

It will cost money that is a waste of what it could be spent on.

Please retain the Freeport High School name. Several generations of my family have attended and/or taught in the district. Freeport is a name to be proud of, and Freeport Falcons mascot goes with the name along with the pride.

There is no reason to change the name!!! Makes no sense at all! Grandparents my parents and my Self went to FREEPORT HIGH and my kids will go too!

I think you should keep the name "Freeport High School" since the high school is located in the town of Freeport. Durham and Pownal students have come to Freeport for years without considering a name change.

The name should remain. There is a great deal of heritage, pride, and memories for Freeport High School. It also clearly notes the town that the school is in for locating purposes for people unfamiliar with the area. Lots of events happen at the high school/FPAC, too. The name doesn't matter as far as how 'welcoming' the school is. That's up to all the students, staff, and faculty. My mom graduated from FHS, my 4 siblings, and my three children. Leave it alone. It's bad enough that 'transplants' have taken away the train whistle. 'Come fall in line for dear old Freeport High!' (The beginning of our school song for those unfamiliar.)

I am from the class of 1971. When my children were in High School (class 1988 and 1992) we lived in Durham they both went to Freeport High. Never were there any issues with the name then. Don't fix something that is not broken.

I grew up in the town of Pownal, and went to FREEPORT high school. Kids from Pownal, and Durham have been attending FREEPORT high school long before the RSU ever came about. Re-naming is a waste of money (\$68,000 i believe i saw) and should not be a high priority for the RSU school school board.

I'm certain that this won't solve all of rsu5's challenges but it would be a nice start to unifying the districts perhaps.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Freeport High has always been Freeport High and should remain that way. IT IS IN FREEPORT!!! Pownal students have been attending FHS since before I attended. (Class of '69). My 2 children attended FHS. I don't believe any "out of town" students felt there was an issue with unity. A name has absolutely nothing to do with "unity". Unity will come from the students and staff - and yes, the parents in Pownal and Durham. Was this started because Durham wanted to leave the RSU? Don't waste the money and leave the name as it always has been. Spend the money on the students - sports, art, etc. a much better use. Don't let a few disgruntled parents ruin tradition.

I could not oppose this more. I am a graduate of Freeport High School, my father and my 3 siblings all graduated from Freeport High School and I have 3 children currently in the school system. Renaming the High school negates the History of the school, takes away pride and is absolutely divisive to the community. Please, Please do not move forward with this. It will only hurt the kids and the community.

In uncertain economic times an expenditure such as this is completely unnecessary. Changing a name will not build unity. Changing a name will create a division between the future and the past. Changing a name will cause confusion. I graduated 28 years ago and in my class there were students from Freeport, Pownal and Durham. The name wasn't an issue then and from what I can tell it isn't an issue with the students now. The school is located in Freeport and there is recognition associated with that name. I do not want the name of my alma mater changed.

As a FREEPORT High alumnus, I say NO. I take great pride in the long history of FREEPORT High school. A lot of my family went to FREEPORT High school. Why would we spend so much money to change the name on a long standing high school...when we are fighting and disagreeing on budgeting money on more important items. Athletic field/sports, arts, music, books...things that make our kids well rounded. These kids are our future; spend this money on their education...not to rename a school. I believe there is A LOT of PRIDE in our combined communities...this isn't the result of a new name for the High School. There is another agenda going on here! Be proud of our long standing FREEPORT High school, FREEPORT Alumni, families, current and future students. Be proud of the FREEPORT FALCONS!! To spend this amount of money on a name change...is quite frankly ridiculous!

Both I and my mother graduated from Freeport High and I am strongly opposed to any name change. If she was still alive I am sure she would be opposed also.

There is age long pride in the name Freeport High School. My mother attended the same high school as my brothers and I. I see nothing wrong with FHS, after all the school is in Freeport.

I went to this school. My mother, my wife,. My aunt and many others. Unity is not built by a name but by actions. The money wasted on this idiotic idea could be spent more wisely as most of the other tax doll being wasted on crap that is not necessary for a learning and giving community. Answer me this, how many struggling families could be given a hand with this money's? It seems all we do is waste in the name of help so we can feel good.

FHS has had students from other towns for decades. One of my grandfathers grew up in Pownal and graduated from FHS. Not much has changed.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Freeport High School has a rich history dating back generations that includes the families and communities of Durham, Pownal and Freeport. Changing the name of the school is equivalent to turning your back on this history and all the alumni who have walked the halls of Freeport High School. I can think of numerous places that \$68000 can be better spent, where it would actually improve and enrich the education of FHS's current students. Unity and pride is something that comes from within, and can be built up over time, it is not achieved overnight through a name change. Please don't turn your back on the thousands and thousands of graduates of Freeport High School and the history they each worked to build.

Rather than endorse unity, I think that taking away the name of the high school would be a disruption of identity.

I cannot believe this is considered an "important" issue for the RSU5.

Do NOT rename Freeport High School.

What a big waste of money the students don't want it!! Just went through this in our community and it was voted to keep the name we have had for over 125 years

Although I understand the purpose of this project, I would strongly advocate for keeping the name of Freeport High School. The cost of renaming the school is unnecessary, and could be applied to something more productive. Additionally, you lose a significant part of the current and past school pride when the institution is renamed with a depressing letter and number combination (RSU5), which has little meaning and description for those who don't know where RSU5 is, or who that represents. Freeport is proud to include Durham and Pownal, but perhaps we can include them with a tagline. The school is in Freeport, so let's keep the representation of where it is, and include the others with creative wording, such as "A Freeport, Durham, and Pownal Cooperative Educational Institution". We can certainly be proud of the FHS institution and it's accomplishments, while maintaining the moniker which is so respected within southern Maine.

It should remain Freeport High School

68,000 for a name? Cut taxes instead.

Freeport High School has always been the high school for Freeport, Pownal and Durham...there is NO need to spend money to change the name. Please leave it Freeport High School.

If it ain't broke.....I grew up in Freeport, went to Grove St then Morse St, Freeport Middle School and finally graduated from Freeport High. I don't think I ever cared if you were Pownal or Durham. Besides what else could be done with that money?

Not only am I from Freeport (lived there for 25+ years, I have lived in Pownal for 35 years. I feel strongly the name should remain Freeport High School.

I don't know how to answer these questions because i don't know: what are the concerns about unity and pride? All i can imagine is if there are other towns' kids who go there and you want to be inclusive?

I don't think there is anything wrong with the name we have already.

seeming that only one high school is involved the renaming i believe would be wrong., also for sports new uniforms would have to be purchased which would be costly

I'd like to know WHO came up with this idea ... Freeport High School IS FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL... would we change the name of our town because someone thought it would be a good idea ?? I am SAD to think that changing the name of OUR High School is even being CONSIDERED ... I am very PROUD to say I graduated from FREEPORT HIGH SCHOOL . I live in the Town of FREEPORT as many generations of the [REDACTED] family before me and see no advantage in a name change . (Class of 1967)

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

I just dont think we need to change the name after all these years. Just because some mucky muck on the school board wants to change it to unite the three towns. These towns that have been family and friends unites all this time.

Students from Pownal and Durham have been attending FHS for almost 100 years, and have always been proud to graduate from Freeport High School. No one ever thought of it being non-inclusive (so stop putting it in people's heads & everyone will be fine)

Let's see if you can do better with 68 THOUSAND dollars! (really now)

As an alumnae of FHS, I have great pride in the school and town. In my opinion, school unity comes from the culture promoted by faculty, staff, and students. The Freeport school system has a wonderful history of strong academics, diverse opportunities for students, and inclusion, regardless of where you are from. Changing the name would take away from the school's overall spirit and history.

The school should be renamed to reflect the fact that it no longer represents just Freeport. The schools name should encompass its entire community, not just where it is located.

There seems to be no basis to the statement of unification. What needs to be unified? The students? No, it has never been a problem in the 4 generations of my family that has attended. It is poor stewardship of the towns taxes/school funds to apply that much \$ (rumored to be tens of thousands) to something that will not EDUCATE the students! Which is the purpose for the school, right? This proposal is already controversial and would drive a wedge between neighbors and family's. please consider leaving well enough alone and focus on the children not the adults personal issues with the division of taxes and the RSU. That is a tired story!

There would be no community pride with a rename of the high school. I have seen this happen in many different school districts. It is sad and costly.

I don't believe changing the name of the school would promote pride. It comes from the staff taking pridea in teaching, serving lunch, leading students, keeping the shool clean. It involves all the staff, community and students.

I graduated in 1968 and it always been Freeport High School. Durham and Pownal were going to our school at that time. It should stay as Freeport High School.

I graduated from Freeport High School in 1975. Most high school students from Durham and Pownal went to school in Freeport. We were always Freeport High School and the name should always remain Freeport High School!!!!

Changing the school's name is not what creates unity. This feels like a 'new to the community' parent initiative. There is a lot to be said about the history of a school and the pride in hearing its name. The three towns have been going to Freeport High School for many many years. There was never any us or them. I went to Freeport and all three of my children did as well. If there is now an issue about unity, it is not due to the name of the school and any efforts should be spent on the real reasons. If there are no issues, this should not even be considered. That cost is better spent elsewhere

Theres plenty of other ways the nearly \$70,000 required, plus as an alumni I would like if the school in my town bears the same name of the school that I attended, rather than "Falcon high school" etc.

It has always been Freeport High School. Leave it that way.

UPP Survey Comments of Section A Renaming Freeport High School

Kids have no issues when they come from the other towns and are part of Freeport High. They have been doing it for years.

If there was \$68,000 to spend on all that it should be put back into the school for other things. it would be a waste of money to change something that is not broken.

Renaming FHS will be very expensive. It's a bad idea because Durham and Pownal students identified FHS as their high school even though they came from a different town than Freeport.

FALCONS NEVER DIE!