

Regional School Unit No. 5
17 West Street, Freeport, Maine 04032

Durham

Freeport

Pownal

Strategic Communications Subcommittee Report

Date: January 17, 2014

Committee: Strategic Communications

Chair: Candice Decsipkes

In attendance: Candice Decsipkes , Kathryn Brown, Valy Steverlynck, Joe Makley

Meeting Date: January 16, 2014

Agenda Items and Discussion:

Preliminary data for State of the Schools Report

Joe Makley shared draft data charts for student performance, including NECAP, MHSA, Economic Need, etc. On the NECAP, RSU5 students are continuing to perform well above the state average and approaching regional averages in reading and math. Both 3rd and 5th grade students matched or exceeded the regional average in math. Grade 8 students performed well against the state average, but somewhat below the regional average in math. On the MHSA, RSU5 students continue to score well above the state averages in all subjects, and somewhat below the regional average, with the largest gap in math. (Secondary math is an improvement focus at RSU5.) The number of low-income students at RSU5 increased slightly in 2013, and remains more than double that of the higher scoring regional schools. It was decided to add additional information to this year's report pertaining to long term trends and the performance of sub-groups of students. The State of the Schools report will be submitted to the printers in mid-February, and presented to the Strategic Communications Committee for a final review/edit at the meeting on March 6.

Strategic Plan Update

Section II, Academic commitment 4: "Implement Standards-based Education"

High School teachers are preparing to offer their new program of studies that outlines standards in core courses. Families of students entering 9th grade next year will be given information about the changes involved in a standards-based system, where graduation is based on proficiency rather than credits. Student records starting with next year's ninth graders will include standards. At a basic level, meeting the standards for a high school diploma may be achieved by taking the required courses, plus demonstrating competency in the *Guiding Principles* of the *Maine Learning Results* (cross-curricular standards.) The Freeport High School staff is working to prepare the implementation and inform parents. Events will include a professional learning day on March 21 where more details and a specific vision will be developed.

The State of the Schools Report will have an article on the transition to standards for the high school, and there will be a board workshop on this topic in March.

The committee decided to propose three "Dine and Discuss" dates, April 9, 30 and May 7, similar to last year.

Press release recommended? No

Submitted by: Joe Makley