

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

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**Durham**

**Freeport**

**Pownal**

**Strategic Communications Subcommittee Report**

Date: October 7, 2013

Committee: Strategic Communications

Chair: Candace Decsipkes

In attendance: Kathryn Brown, Valy Steverlynck

Meeting Date: October 3, 2013

Agenda Items and Discussion:

**Strategic Plan update:**

Cross-curricular standards for work and college readiness:

These standards apply to more than one subject, for example: “Self Management/ Complete work on time.” Mast Landing and Durham are scoring a set of the standards at grades K-5. Grades 6-8 are now scoring a set of these standards for all students. The high school has a group of 12 teachers scoring for the new standards to provide feedback and recommendations for full implementation in September 2014. The result will be clearer and more consistent information for students, parents and teachers about these skills, which were identified in the *RSU5 Strategic Framework* as critical for success in college and careers. For more information, see the online curriculum resource: <http://rsu5curriculum.blogspot.com/2013/06/cross-curricular-standards.html>

7/8 Grade Writing Prompts:

The *Teachers College Writing Workshop* assessment format will be used for the writing prompt at grades 7-8 this spring, and for the lower grades going forward. Base line data will be available after the spring assessment. This annual measure, established in the strategic plan, will provide reliable information on how RSU5 students (individuals, schools and the district as a whole) improve over time.

**Standards-based System:**

Status report:

RSU5 elementary schools have been using standards for many years, and next fall will have report card information available on line across the RSU. Middle School classes at Durham currently use standards as reference for traditional grades. Freeport Middle School is piloting a transition to standards-based reporting this year for all classes. Freeport High School is piloting this year with a limited number of teachers. Results of the pilot will inform planning for the changes necessary to provide “proficiency-based” pathway/s for entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade students next year. (The class of 2018 will be the first subject to Maine’s new proficiency requirement for a high school diploma.) Middle and high school students will continue to receive grades. The changes have more to do with improved curricula and criteria for the awarding of grades and credit, along with increased flexibility and choice for students.

Communications plan :

- There will be three board workshops this year focusing on different aspects of the transition to a standards-based system: 11/06/2013 (Overview and K-5,) 01/08/2014 (Middle School Programs,) and 03/12/2014 (High school redesign/innovation/student choice/proficiency-based diploma)
- The State of the Schools Report (March 2014) will have additional information on the standards transition.
- There will be 3 “Dine and Discuss” information sessions (April/May 2014.)
- For more information, questions may be addressed to the RSU 5 online curriculum discussion: <http://rsu5curriculum.blogspot.com/>

Press release recommended? No

Submitted by: Joe Makley