

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

Durham

Freeport

Pownal

Strategic/Communications Subcommittee Report

Date: October 6, 2011

Committee: Strategic/Communications

Chair: Jane Blais

Meeting Dates: October 6, 2011

Agenda Items and Discussion:

Strategic Framework:

A timeline was presented for creation and publication of the second annual State of the Schools Report. The annual Forum is scheduled for April 2, 2010 and discussion was held regarding whether we should have someone of Angus King's caliber speak on national and international educational initiatives. Committee members would like to have a speaker or an elected official such as the Education Commissioner, the Governor, or student presentations. We will research options and report back on a presentation. Following the more global presentation, citizens would participate in focus group discussions regarding action that might be taken as a result of the Report, the Strategic Plan, and the presentation. Discussion also centered on whether to provide a pre-forum dinner that would benefit a group such as Project Graduation.

Committee members discussed adding items to the State of the Schools Report to include some of the actions taken as a result of last year's report using the Strategic Plan commitments to frame the information. There was also discussion about creating a summary of the results to make it easier to digest all of the information provided.

General Communication Efforts:

The Board's goals contain several communication efforts. One is to contact parent groups and municipal officers at the beginning of the school year and as needed throughout the year. Committee members agreed to act as a contact for their community and touch base with each organization. The contacts will be made over the next few months with a deadline of December.

A second element is to work toward a common municipal elections date for the RSU Board. Following a lengthy discussion, members agreed to ask municipalities to hold a June election for RSU Board vacancies. This will create a full Board for the start of a new school year with members attending an orientation and Retreat prior to their first business meeting. The RSU holds a budget vote at that time so there would be no additional cost to municipalities for the election. Prior to contacting municipal officers, we need to research the steps to changing the impacted towns' election dates and the potential costs of such a request. After attaining that information, members will approach the town officers between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If elections are held in June, members would like to recommend the Board complete their self-evaluation prior to the end of May to gain input from all current members.

Next Strategic/Communications Meeting: January 12, 2012 @ 4:30 p.m. at the Central Office

Press release recommended? No

Submitted by: Shannon L. Welsh