Regional School Unit 5
Durham · Freeport · Pownal

"To inspire and support every learner by challenging minds, building character, sparking creativity, and nurturing passions."

Tom Gray, Superintendent of Schools
Kelly Wentworth, Director of Finance & Human Resources
Erica Mazzeo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Elisha Morris, Director of Instructional Support

Strategic Communications Committee
April 14, 2026
7:45 a.m. - Superintendent's Office
Minutes

Committee**:** Strategic Communications
Meeting Date: April 14, 2026
Submitted By: Tom Gray, Superintendent
Committee Members in Attendance: Kara Kaikini, Kelly Sink, Stephanie Worth
Members absent: None
Guests: Kelly Wentworth, Director of Finance and Human Resources

Agenda Items and Discussion:

Superintendent Gray called the meeting to order at 7:51 a.m.

1. ClearGov Demonstration (Kelly Wentworth)
   - Kelly presented the ClearGov software, explaining how it achieved both efficiencies and clarity in expanded communication to various stakeholders. The software can convey budgetary, geographic, demographic, Strategic Planning, and organizational information to the public.
   - Committee members asked whether this would create more work for Kelly. Kelly explained that we would need to create the structures within the program, and then consistently update them. Over the long term, it would change the workload, not necessarily increase it.
   - Kelly has found a way to make this revenue neutral in the budget by cancelling other programs that had fallen out of use. The cost is approximately $16,000.
   - Committee members expressed that this is money well spent to achieve clarity and transparency about our budget processes, fiscal information, and district operations.

2. FY27 Budget Communications
   - Tom shared the draft of the Board Chair Message that he prepared for Michelle. Michelle had provided feedback just prior to the meeting, generally liking the draft and suggesting a few minor changes.
   - Committee members suggested several other revisions to the draft, including the following:

- Stressing the importance of public input
- Including information about the way that staff input was solicited at the beginning of the process
- Explaining reasoning behind identifying students with the highest need
- Adding contextual information that the fiscal circumstances faced by RSU 5 this year are not unique to our district.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.