Regional School Unit 5
Durham · Freeport · Pownal

"Empower and equip every learner with skills, curiosity, character, and purpose to thrive and live fulfilling lives in an ever changing world"

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

Strategic Plan Engagement Committee
Wednesday, October 14, 2026
Pownal Elementary School - STEM Room
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Minutes

1. Introductions and Connecting Activity
Present: Rachel Tryon, Lily Latendresse, Melissa Luetje, Mandy Lewis, Courtney McCusker, Trynity Brown, Christina Zilius, Ben Porta, Kelly Sink, Tom Gray

2. Update from Superintendent about Strategic Plan Operationalization

3. Progress & Successes – What progress are we seeing in implementation? What successes deserve recognition?
Notes: school culture across the district; student involvement in extracurricular activities; parent/community involvement in activities; community connections; student/staff relations (relationship mapping); JMG for every middle level student; field trips and out of classroom opportunities; SEL/emotional intelligence (DCS advisory feels like a really safe space)

4. Perspectives & Experiences – What are students, staff, families, and community members experiencing and saying?
Notes: need to work on equitable access to learning experiences/standard curriculum/opportunities across the district; how to integrate technology effectively and allows for real-world relevance (AI as a piece to that); grading procedure specific to FHS connected to cognitive growth/real world relevance

5. Challenges & Opportunities – What challenges or emerging opportunities are we hearing about? What may require additional consideration?

Notes: financial literacy/career readiness throughout the PK-12 programming; vertical alignment PK-12 - making sure that all students are coming together with the same basic skills; improve systems of support for students; opportunities to strengthen outdoor learning and community partners in each grade level; some of the opportunities have costs (?) and need to be evaluated; staff diversity; class sizes are getting larger

6. Priorities & Recommendations – Based on what we are learning, what should the Superintendent or Board prioritize as we move forward?
Notes: alignment across schools, especially at the middle school level; community wide opportunities for families; overall mental health of students - communicate resources with parents; technology/AI/data about how to use technology in the classroom / be explicit about when technology is being used as a tool (ongoing PD regarding technology and AI usage)

7. Adjournment