Happy end of the year to each of you. We have so much to celebrate from this year. Here are a few of the highlights:

- On June 12, an overwhelming majority (73%) of the community passed the budget in all three towns. This is only the second time since the formation of the RSU that this has happened. This budget builds a stronger RSU through sustaining existing programs as well as adding the following:
  - .5 Music Teacher at DCS
  - .5 Math Strategist FHS
  - .5 Literacy Teacher DCS
  - .25 Social Worker MSS
  - .25 Social Worker MLS
  - Ed Tech RTI-B FMS
  - .2 RTI Teacher PES
  - Additional Teacher MLS
  - Increased stipends FHS
  - NEASC Visit FHS
  - SPED Ed Tech
  - Additional microphone systems for classroom teachers
  - Increase in the capital reserve account

Thanks to all of you who took the time to come out and vote to support the budget!

- On May 18, we had the dedication of the Joan Benoit Track and Field Facility. Hundreds attended and Joan Benoit spoke about the dedication and sense of community we have in RSU5. At our very first track and field event on RSU5 soil, Freeport High School came in first place! Additionally, a big shout out to Lily Horne who won the State Championship for the 1600 meter and the 3200 meter.
Two new staff contracts passed this spring. The contract adds ten minutes of additional learning to the student day and adds more professional development time outside of the school day for staff to work collaboratively and learn from one another. These contracts are meant to keep us competitive with our cohort so that we can attract and retain our quality staff.

The Strategic Planning Committee has met regularly throughout the year. I hope that you were able to complete the survey that was opened for the past couple of months. We will compile and review the results over the summer and have further forums in the fall to share the results before developing our strategic plan that will guide the District for the next five to seven years.

We were fortunate to have the Freeport, Pownal & Durham Education Foundation award $10,317 in grants to teachers for various projects including STEM projects, a Zen Wellness Room, and the purchase of graphing calculators. The foundation is eager to support our teachers.

Our spring sports did very well. The girls’ lacrosse team reached the semifinals this year and lost to Lake Region. They played hard. Last year they made it to the quarterfinals, so we are hoping that next year will be our year to go to the finals. This is very possible because our 8th grade girls’ lacrosse team just finished their season for the second year in a row undefeated!

Our boys’ tennis team was in the State Championship and barely lost 3-2 to Caribou.

Our boys’ baseball team made it to the quarterfinals where they were defeated by Gray. Our girls’ softball team was awarded the Sportmanship Award for 2018. There is no better honor than the sportsmanship award! It says that no matter whether you win or lose, you do it in a respectful manner, and that is a life lesson that many take years to learn. Next year, our girls will be playing on the new softball field with new dugouts. Please drive by and take a look if you have not seen the field recently. All of our teams this spring made us Falcon Proud! Way to go teams!

What I celebrate the most this year is the increased teaching and learning that I see throughout the District from teachers reflecting on their practice and implementing strategies that result in continuous improvement for our students. Teaching is not a static profession. It is ever evolving and the willingness to change and to put students first in whatever position we hold is what makes RSU5 such a special place to work.

Thanks for all that you have done as community members to support our students and teachers this year. I hope everyone has some time to relax and spend time with family over the summer. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September and helping them succeed in RSU5!
Back in February, many of you filled out the Satisfaction Survey to give input on how our schools are performing. An executive summary has been created and shared with the Board. You can see these results by going to the home page of the RSU5 website or at the following link Executive Summary of Satisfaction Survey. Thanks to those who took the time to complete the survey. The results will be used by schools and their leadership teams to reflect on ways to continuously improve our schools and learning for our students in RSU5.

Proficiency Update in RSU5

The District Proficiency Committee met on May 22 and reflected on the work from this year and identified priorities for next year. When implementing any new initiative, there are three areas that need focus:

- **Practice**: This incorporates changes needed in teaching and learning. In proficiency, there has been attention given to teaching and assessing habits of work separately from content knowledge. Additionally, it is critical to have clear learning targets aligned to standards with the scoring criteria that makes it clear to the learner on what is needed to hit the target. We have made a lot of gains in this area. One area that there has been improvement district wide is ensuring that there is a clear pathway to a “4” for students on summative assessments. Criteria to meet the learning target is always being revised and refined to make it clearer for students. This work will continue next year.

- **Policy**: Most of the needed policies for proficiency are adopted. The most recently adopted one occurred at the last Board meeting. This is the one on grading and can be reviewed by going to this link: [IKAB Grading and Reporting System](#).

- **Communication**: This is the area the committee identified as needing prioritizing for next year. The committee discussed having parent informational nights around certain aspects of proficiency. Also, there will be a “quick link” on the district website ensuring there is a central location for all to access information. A proficiency guide for K-8 is being created and the high school one will be revised over the summer. These guides will be posted on the district link once it is created.

The high school staff reached the decision on how 1-4 grades for freshman will be converted to a percentile grade at the end of the year. This was communicated to parents and students with opportunities for questions to be answered.

The high school staff is currently deciding how to assess with percentile grades for next year’s freshmen and sophomore class and for other classes going forward while incorporating best practices of proficiency. The leadership team at the high school will be meeting at the end of June to more fully define what this looks like. There will be an informational session for parents and students on August 27. Information will be sent out ahead of this meeting for parents and students to review.

The next PBE Committee meeting for next year is scheduled for September 10. There will be a Proficiency Based Workshop at the September 12 Board of Directors’ meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Freeport High School. As work continues with proficiency at all levels, we know it will ensure that all of our students will graduate career and college ready.
Curriculum Updates  
By Cynthia Alexander, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

As we finish another school year, it is fitting to reflect on the year and celebrate the many accomplishments we have had together as an RSU. It’s a time to celebrate!

Last fall, RSU5 reenergized the Dropout Prevention Committee. We know that risk factors for dropping out begin well before high school. There are many things that we can do to cultivate engagement in school along the way.

We are fortunate that the RSU5 community has a deep commitment and investment in high quality early education and attention to social and emotional learning and family engagement. This fall we expanded our district Pre-K program by creating an additional classroom at Morse Street School and at Pownal Elementary, we lengthened the kindergarten instructional time from a half-day to a full day. Additionally, our State Preschool Monitoring Report results in January were very impressive across the district.

Our Title I family engagement events in the fall and spring at Durham Community School, Mast Landing School and Morse Street School have been extremely successful and well attended by students, parents, and staff. The Title 1 staff and district coaches at the elementary level did a wonderful job planning those events that engaged our students and parents. Parents were able to walk away with at least one literacy and/or math strategy to use at home with their child and felt very positive about their child’s learning experiences.

Another cause for celebration is our first year implementation of Big Ideas Math across the district at the middle schools and in Algebra 1 at the high school. Ongoing professional development was powerful in the success of this implementation. The 6-12 Math Committee developed math goals connected to mathematical teaching practices which include increasing student discourse. Professional development occurred in interactive lab classrooms where educators could discuss the math, plan and facilitate the student learning, and then gather to debrief the learning using student work. The examination of work samples provided feedback for instruction going forward. We appreciate the Board and community support of the additional .5 math strategist position at the high school in the FY19 budget that passed on June 12 and look forward to continuing the implementation in Geometry and Algebra 2 this fall.

At the elementary level in math, we provided professional development tailored to our specific math needs. Math consultants from the University of Chicago conducted an extensive math audit at the PK-5 level. Using audit report recommendations, our math strategist worked closely with the math consultant to pilot 3 days of professional development also using the lab classroom model. The PK-5 Math Committee set math goals and looks forward to continued professional development to advance student learning.

Additionally, the Professional Evaluation and Professional Growth Steering Committee updated the Principal Evaluation Handbook this year which was approved by the Board on June 13, 2018. Revisions were the result of year-long collaborative work. One of the three strategic objectives of the Board goals is focused on educator effectiveness as it is understood that the principal, in addition to the educator, is an important factor in impacting student achievement.

We recently celebrated the 106 students who graduated on Sunday, June 10, 2018. We want all of our students to graduate in RSU5. As this year comes to a close, we reflect on the educational impact made in the lives of our students and know that community support truly makes a difference for all our students.
Summer offers many excellent opportunities to spend time reading with children. As you travel to your summer vacation destination, take a variety of books with you that will capture the many interests of young readers. Whether you read to your child, or have your child read to you, children improve their reading by practicing or listening to others read to them. As you read, be mindful of the following strategies:

1. Point to words to show children how reading works.
2. Help children sound out unfamiliar words that are age appropriate and spelled phonetically.
3. Use a bookmarker to help children track words in sentences and increase fluency.
4. Encourage children to look at pictures to decode difficult words.
5. Break down sentences into phrases while reading to show children that groups of words are read in chunks.
6. Ask questions about the story to help students understand the story line.
7. Take turns reading with your child to model fluent reading.
8. Encourage your child to read paragraphs three times to promote fluency.
9. Read from a Kindle to adjust letter size, font, and spacing.
10. Find books of interest to foster the love of reading.

(Literasee Concepts Illustrated: M.Drummond (2018)

Take a trip to the Library this summer and help your child practice their reading.

2018 Summer Library Hours

Leap into a Great Book this Summer!

POWNAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SUMMER LIBRARY HOURS
TUESDAY & THURSDAY MORNINGS
9:00 to 12:00
JULY 3rd - AUGUST 2nd
**FEATURING FAMILY STORYTIME**
9:30 - 10:00
Join me for stories, songs and crafts

All PES students and siblings accompanied by an adult are welcome at anytime during open hours, to participate in the storytimes and/or to come in and ‘shop’ for books.

FREEPORT COMMUNITY LIBRARY
10 Library Drive, Freeport, ME 04032 • 207.885.3307

Monday & Wednesday 10am-8pm
Tuesday & Thursday 10am-5pm
Friday 12pm-5pm
Saturday 10am-2pm (Labor Day to Memorial Day)