



Regional School Unit 13
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Envisioning the Schools of Our Future 2.0

Community Conversations About Our Future

Dear RSU 13 Parents, Community Members, and Municipal Leaders:

Over the past three years, RSU 13 has experienced significant transformation and growth, both in programs for learning and in how the school district is organized. With the tremendous support and encouragement of our member communities, South Thomaston, Owls Head, Cushing, Rockland, and Thomaston, RSU 13 has advanced the district's firm and continuing commitment to high quality teaching and learning, and has completed the reorganization of facilities and resources to meet the shifting demographic and educational support essentials within the district. These efforts have included school/grade consolidations, the initiation of Pre-K programming, facility enhancements at both Oceanside Middle School and High School, and the new Ash Point Community School now serving the K-5 students of Owls Head and South Thomaston. These initiatives were inspired by the district's **Strategic Plan** and became known within the context of a comprehensive project - ***The Schools of Our Future***.

With these achievements being realized, RSU 13 is now preparing to enter a new phase of strategic planning that will look to our collective future and the ever evolving mission of providing a 21st Century education that meets the needs of every student – every day. We are pursuing this planning effort within the continuing theme of ***Envisioning the Schools of Our Future 2.0***. This effort seeks to refresh the strategic plan for RSU 13. In doing so, the school district intends to reaffirm its core values, declare its core purposes and the means that will be utilized to achieve those purposes, and clearly share that vision with students, parents, faculty, and the community-at-large. We also believe that in looking to the future and how best to equip our students for success, that the best ideas for continuous improvement are more likely to be found from among a wide range of ideas shared by a variety of stakeholders.

To this end, RSU 13 will be holding a series of community engagement meetings during the fall of 2019 - ***Envisioning the Schools of Our Future 2.0 – Community Conversations About our Future***. These events will be structured to share information about the work that our schools are currently doing, and to engage participants in conversations – seeking ideas and recommendations on how we can best help our students prepare for their future. We are sincerely hopeful that parents, parent group leaders, municipal leaders, and interested community members will join us for these engaging and meaningful exchanges. Please consider joining us for refreshments and lively conversation at one or more of the Community Conversation events scheduled for 5:45 to 7:30 PM at each of the following locations:

- October 8th Cushing Community School – Library
- October 15th Ash Point Community School – Library
- October 22nd Oceanside Middle School – Cafeteria
- October 29th Oceanside High School – Cafeteria

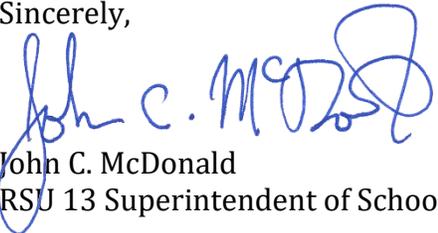
Our conversations will be focused around three central questions:

1. What is beyond school for our kids and are there pathways we should be building to help our students engage, learn in different ways, and become what they hope to become?
2. What can schools do to support the social and emotional growth of students, and why is it important?
3. What do you believe will be our greatest opportunities as a district community in the coming 3-5 years, and how might the community as a whole become more engaged in supporting students' learning?

For interested individuals unable to attend the public sessions, please know that RSU 13 will welcome responses to these three central questions through an interactive link on the district's website (<http://www.rsu13.org>). Simply look for **Schools of Our Future 2.0** and follow the links provided.

The future of our school system in supporting the success of all students is largely a matter of the priorities identified and choices that we make along the way – not luck. Please know that all voices are welcomed as we envision, plan for, and create the **Schools of Our Future 2.0**. Please join the conversation!

Sincerely,



John C. McDonald
RSU 13 Superintendent of Schools



Loren Andrews
RSU 13 School Board Chair