

**Kennebec Intra – District Schools
Regional School Unit #2**

KIDS RSU #2

Dresden * Richmond * Monmouth * Farmingdale * Hallowell

**Informational Newsletter
October 2008**



DOE Commissioner Susan Gendron presented an award to the KIDS Regional Planning Committee

**Authorized by Maine Board of Education
July 23, 2008**

Vision: RSU #2 will provide every child in every school with a quality educational experience in a safe and healthy environment.

Referendum Vote Results by Town

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Dresden	322	82
Richmond	490	120
Monmouth	560	220
Farmingdale	329	66
Hallowell	<u>510</u>	<u>102</u>
	2211	590

Total 2801 78.94% in favor

INITIAL STAGGERED BOARD OF DIRECTORS TERMS

TOWN	# Reprs	June 2009	June 2010	June 2011	June 2012	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016
Dresden	2	3			3			3	
		1	3			3			3
Farmingdale	2	1	3			3			3
		2		3			3		
Hallowell	2	2		3			3		
		3			3			3	
Monmouth	3	1	3			3			3
		2		3			3		
		3			3			3	
Richmond	3	1	3			3			3
		2		3			3		
		3			3			3	

Town Vote Value / Board Member Vote Value Chart

Apportionment Plan: 12 Member – KIDS: Kennebec Intra-District Schools							
Municipality	2006 Est. Census	% of Population	Total Votes	# of Directors	# of Votes per Director	% of Voting Power per Director	Total Votes by Municipality
Dresden	1709	11.9%	1,709	2	855	5.9%	1,710
Farmingdale	2885	20.1%	2,885	2	1,443	10.0%	2,886
Hallowell	2510	17.5%	2,510	2	1,255	8.7%	2,510
Monmouth	3851	26.8%	3,851	3	1,284	8.9%	3,852
Richmond	3421	23.8%	3,421	3	1,140	7.9%	3,420
TOTAL	14,376	100.0%	14,376	12			14,378

The total votes by the directors of a municipality must equal the total population of the municipality (+/- 2%). Thus, the plan is in compliance with the one man – one vote principal.

Transition Team

Members: John Ottum, O'Neil LaPlante, Michaela Loisel, Jim Grandahl, Gary Getchell, Leighton Carver, Mike Rogers, Cindy McPherson, John Armentrout, David Lyal, Pam Longfellow, Jim Wallace, Richard Howard, Joan Drapeau, Jana Kennedy, Donald Siviski, Martha Witham, Leon Duff and Rick Cote

Purpose: To gather data and formulate recommendations for consideration by the RSU Board of Directors as four separate districts are re-created into a single regional school unit.

Sub Committees:

Building & Grounds, Food Service and Transportation – to analyze what exists for facilities and services and recommend next steps to be considered.

Central Office and Administrative Structure – to analyze what exists for an administrative structure throughout the district and what would be necessary to manage the regional school unit.

Information & Communication Technology – to analyze what exists for information and communication services throughout the district and recommend improvements.

Policy / Curriculum Instruction Assessment – to create a new set of policy drafts for the new RSU Board to consider for adoption.

Special Education – to review the current collaborative agreement between all four districts and recommend improvements.

Duties of New RSU Board

Upon citizen vote on November 4th, newly elected School Board members will take the “oath of office” from their local town officials. Upon notification to the Department of Education, the State Board of Education will set a date and time of the first RSU Board of Directors meeting.

DRESDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Dresden Elementary School is a Kindergarten to Grade 5 School. Our current enrollment is 103 wonderful students with a staff of 20 teachers and support members. Students in grades 6 – 8 attend Hall-Dale Middle School. Approximately 85% of our high school age students attend Hall-Dale High School. The remaining students have school choice at six different schools.

What a wonderful start of the school year we are having. Our custodial staff has made our school a wonderful place to learn. For the third year in a row our students did extremely well in the Maine Education Assessment in grades 3 – 5. Our teachers are very dedicated to their profession and are always looking at different ways to deliver instruction to all students. Some of the major programs of curriculum instruction are Everyday Math, Science Companion and Write Traits.

We are very fortunate to have part time specialist for Art, Music, Band, Physical Education (twice a week), and Library. Our Special Education Department handles many students who need assistance in the core subjects. The school employs a full-time literacy specialist who assists students in reading.

Dresden Elementary School offers a wide variety of after school programs. Students can choose from Nature Nuts, Legomania, Krafty Kritters, Soccer, Omnikin Ball, Basketball and other activities. Being a small school we try our best to expose the students to many different experiences (field trips and assemblies) to broaden their horizons. Some of the activities are Ocean Adventures, Planetarium, Local Farms, Art Museum and many more.

Our school is a place where we truly care about each child and their development. We believe in “Children First”.





HALL-DALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Respect, responsibility, and honesty are our value words that guide students and staff at Hall-Dale Elementary School.

There are 360 students learning here, including 47 four-year olds in our Pre-K program. The class-size average for our students in grades K-5 is usually about 18. Our school serves children in Hallowell and Farmingdale. All of our curricula are aligned with the Maine Learning Results and our students do quite well on the annual Maine Educational Assessments. The majority of our teachers are veteran, many having worked at HDES together for over 20 years. We treasure their history, their skill, and their creativity. We've also recently welcomed several new staff members who are impressive with their new teacher enthusiasm and commitment to education.

We are proud of many things at Hall-Dale Elementary School, but three items of interest will be mentioned here. The first is this beautiful building which was opened in 2006. We continue to feel incredibly fortunate to be teaching in such a state-of-the-art facility. If you haven't visited, you are welcome to stop by and tour the school! The second item of interest is that we continue to offer three languages, as we have for many years. Students in kindergarten learn Spanish, first graders learn Japanese, and French is taught to 2nd graders. In grades 3, 4, and 5, the students have one trimester of each language. When the students reach Hall-Dale Middle School, they select one language to continue studying. Thirdly, our literacy wave is a daily event in which we utilize Title I and Special Educators to assist classroom teachers with small guided reading groups. This enables every student to receive direct instruction in reading focused on providing the specific reading skills needed by each student. Above and beyond all the wonderful things that happen at this school, we are most proud of our students, our staff, and our supportive parents!

HALL-DALE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Hall-Dale Middle/High School serves the communities of Hallowell, Farmingdale and Dresden, and the sending communities of Chelsea, North Whitefield, Jefferson and Windsor. It is our mission to develop honest, respectful, responsible and courageous students. We seek to address our students' intellectual, social, physical and cultural/ethical development through a variety of programs ranging from academics to sports, drama, foreign language and the fine arts.

A total of 95 staff members serve nearly 600 students in grades 6-12. Our two buildings are connected and we share our theater, library, cafeteria and two gyms. Class sizes vary, but a typical class size is about 22. We are located on Maple Street, in Farmingdale.

Standards-based learning and reporting are currently a central focus of our school district's philosophy and academic programming. We believe that students learn best when standards are clearly understood and students are assessed in relation to those standards. Our lessons and assessments have long included standards-based rubrics to guide teaching and learning. This year our middle school will join our elementary school in reporting student progress in relation to district standards. Rather than reporting A's and B's, our report cards will reflect student success in terms of "Exceeding", "Meeting", "Partially Meeting", or "Not Meeting" well-defined curriculum standards. Experience has shown that children respond positively to standards based learning and standards offer a baseline for determining teaching interventions as needed.

Our unique academic programming includes French, Spanish and Japanese from early elementary through high school and our Amori exchange program supports yearly student visits to and from Japan. District students use personal laptops, provided by the district, in grades seven through twelve for home and school use. Students in grades three through six have access to 1:1 technology at school.

Hall-Dale students enjoy a variety of sports and extra-curricular activities. Sports participation is very high in both the high school and middle school. Co-curricular activities at the middle school include drama, Civil Rights Team, Math Team, Student Council, Yearbook and Science Club/Lego Competition. At the high school Drama, Student Senate, Academic Decathlon, Varsity Club, Yearbook, Math Team and Key Club are popular.

We are very proud of our school, our students, and our staff and we are thankful for the generous and helpful support offered by our parents and our greater school community.



HENRY L. COTTELL SCHOOL, MONMOUTH

The Cottrell School is located in Monmouth, Maine. In 2006, we celebrated our 50th anniversary. At that time we shared with the community our pride in our school and history. Our student population has remained relatively stable at about 215 children. Our average class size is about fifteen, with three full time kindergartens, three first grade-looping classes, three-second grade looping classrooms and three third grades. We also offer reading and math support through Title 1 and special education services. Our children have art, music, library and physical education each week. This year we have included a four-year-old program into our school as part of collaboration with Head Start.

In my ten years as the principal of the Cottrell School I have been so impressed by the dedication and commitment of our staff. When presented with research about children, this staff embraces change and strives to improve. This year, the classroom teachers are working together in professional learning communities to set goals, analyze research and improve student programs.

This year, we are completing the development of a mathematics curriculum with the help of a consultant from the University of Maine, Farmington. We are also fine-tuning our phonics, spelling and writing programs with the goal being to improve our language arts curriculum by year's end.

In 2006, I was very fortunate to be named Maine's National Distinguished Principal. The honor was most appreciated and is truly representative of the talented and devoted staff of the Cottrell School consistently working for children.

MONMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Monmouth Middle School has approximately 295 students in grades 4-8 with 40 staff and support staff members for regular and special education. We are located on Academy Rd. directly across from Monmouth Academy. The middle school is actually five different building projects that started with the original building in 1803 (the original Monmouth Academy). Our school consists of two very different structures. Grades 7 & 8 have a modified two-day block schedule with some classes 40 minutes long and others in 80-minute blocks. P.E., Art, Band and Chorus supplement our traditional core subjects. All students in grades 7 & 8 have access to family Consumer Science, Tech Ed., French, Spanish, and a new offering of Exploratory Language, which introduces students to both languages for one semester. Starting this year we are able to provide tutorial classes during the day in math and literacy for all 7th and 8th grade students that need added support. 7th and 8th grade students have MLTI laptops and all other grade levels have access to laptop computers that are located in each grade level. Grades 4, 5, and 6 are broken into three teams with three homeroom teachers on each team. Our grade 5 and 6 students loop for two years before transitioning to grade 7. Teacher teaming and team building activities for students are a strong focus in these grade levels. Students participate in a number of activity based learning opportunities that take place here at school and off school grounds. Student progress in grades 4-6 is measured with a standards based reporting system for all subjects while grades 7 and 8 use a more traditional number grading system.

Co-curricular activities include a number of different sports teams plus drama, student council, Civil Rights team, and yearbook.

We will be breaking ground on a new community playground this fall that will be utilized by all students in grades 4-8. Through the efforts of a parent led playground committee this three-year project is close to reaching its funding goal.





MONMOUTH ACADEMY

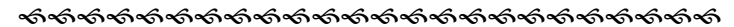
The town of Monmouth and Monmouth Academy are rich in history and tradition. Established in 1792, first as Bloomingboro, then Freetown, General Henry Dearborn named it Monmouth after the battle of Monmouth in the Revolution. Cumston Hall, a local and state landmark used as a townhouse, training area for militia, a library and The Shakespearean Theatre of Maine, was erected in 1900. It serves as a town center for a rural community with acres of orchards, farmland, and lakes with nearly four thousand residents.

Monmouth Academy was established in 1803 and served as a private school until it was officially turned over to the town as a public school in 1977. In 1989, an increase in town population and a school enrollment of 218 necessitated a new building for Monmouth Academy, which is located approximately one half mile from Cumston Hall and the town center. In the past three years enrollment has ranged between 255 and 281 students, and currently, 35 staff serve 266 students.

Monmouth Academy, which is a MELMAC Education Foundation grant school, operates on a modified block daily schedule with three 80 minute periods, three 40 minute lunch periods, and a 20 minute meeting and make-up time (M&M) period. Edline provides students and parents electronic access to student progress in their academic programming, and mid-quarter progress reports and quarterly grade reports are issued. A comprehensive academic program is available to students beyond English, math, science, and social studies, including courses in French, Spanish, art, band, chorus, business, physical education, wellness, and technical education, as well as access to the Capital Area Technical Center. AP courses are offered in English, Biology, and Calculus. Monmouth offers an effective special education program for identified students, and a learning center (ASPIRE) to support students in reaching for higher aspirations. All academic programs are designed to meet the needs of all learners, and provide opportunity for all students to reach their highest potential.

Staff and students consistently refer to Monmouth Academy as a "family." The school has created a monthly student and staff recognition program, and the work of clubs and committees is focused on school improvement and community service. Much of this can be linked to a dedicated staff that goes "above and beyond" and invests in student education beyond the classroom, including assisting at and attending student extra and co-curricular events. Specifically, Monmouth Academy staff organize and facilitate "Big Week" for all students. During this week, ninth grade students and staff study the Bar Harbor coastline, tenth graders attend an Awareness Week, eleventh graders receive leadership training, and twelfth graders visit college campuses and connect with the local business and banking community.

Monmouth Academy appreciates and honors its tradition, while also embracing new ideas to make substantial, sustainable progress. There is optimism regarding the partnership in the new KIDS RSU, as the town and school leaders in each area share fundamentally similar goals and philosophies regarding the futures of their region and youth. They all wish to "do what's best for kids," and this attitude fosters great hope.



Learn more about your schools in the new KIDS RSU #2.
Check out our websites!

Dresden: <http://desdragons.wordpress.com>

Hall-Dale: www.halldale.org

Monmouth: www.monmouth.k12.me.us

Richmond: www.richmond.k12.me.us

KIDS RSU #2: www.kidsrsu.org



MARCIA BUKER SCHOOL, RICHMOND

Our 300 pupil PS-5th grade elementary school is a proud feature of Richmond's community. Our academic emphasis for the past 20 plus years has been on a multi-pronged early childhood program focusing on the developmental needs of its youngest learners. This consists of a public preschool for 4 year olds, 4 half-day kindergarten classes and a Transitional 1st grade program. In addition, we pride ourselves in the excellent mainstreaming support for our special education population.

The basic structure of Marcia Buker was built in 1955, with additional classrooms added in the 1960's and another in 1988 creating a stage, multipurpose area, satellite kitchen and a variety of smaller learning spaces. In 1994 a new library/media center, 6 additional classrooms with whole building system upgrades completed the present space for our students.

This facility is within "shouting distance" of the area Medical Center, Town Office and Police station. We are surrounded by several outdoor play spaces including an awesome community fund raising of our \$60,000 Schooner Playground in 2002.

Our committed educators are involved above and beyond the classroom by participating in a variety of collegial, athletic, leadership and/or mentoring opportunities. Various school and community sponsored activities such as Destination Imagination, chess club, concert choir, drama club, as well as soccer, basketball, and baseball are available to our elementary children.

We are proud educators teaching in a community rich with unique history and culture. Our town supports our schools and commits generous resources to its children through volunteerism, participation in school activities, and funds dedicated each year at the annual town meeting. The Marcia Buker Elementary School provides a solid academic, social and emotional base for the rigors of middle school, high school and beyond!



RICHMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Richmond Middle School is a small, friendly school housed in the same physical plant as the high school, with a designated wing for our 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The students and staff both agree that the size of the school adds to its academic success, repeatedly making AYP. The eight home base teachers along with the four shared teachers of art, music and PE/health, provide our students with a good learning environment, that's fun, interesting and a safe place where everyone knows your name and learning needs.

Teachers are displaying the recently revised Maine's Learning Results with their lessons, providing relevance to the age old question, "Why am I learning this?" Algebra I is taught at the middle school to avoid the early transition to the high school classroom. More 8th graders are enrolled without interrupting their middle school curriculum. Algebra I in the middle school also allows for the opportunity of a rigorous set of math courses in high school, such as AP Calculus or college in their senior year.

The Athletics, Chorus and Band opportunities allow our students to continue their learning outside of the walls of a traditional classroom, making learning about the whole student. The successful laptop program of one to one learning is picked up locally for sixth graders which compliments the state initiative. Students create projects, research topics and demonstrate being life long learners in the 21st century.



RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL

Richmond High School is a NEASC accredited high school for students in grades 9-12, located on the banks of the Kennebec River, just off Interstate 295 about half way between Brunswick and the state capital -Augusta. The staff, students and community are committed to providing a comprehensive education to all students where no one is left behind. Education is personalized, where students who need help, are provided with the resources to meet the standards and beyond.

Our school's programming covers a wide range. Successful athletics teams are consistently in post season play. The six AP courses are available for all students to stretch their learning and prepare for post secondary education. The Music Department receives accolades for knowing their students, their subject matter and making it fun to harmonize. And this year we are fortunate to have our new Spanish teacher directly from Spain. Olé!

Richmond Bobcats enjoy celebrations of athletic events and academics successes while working in a close community which believes in independent work, personal integrity and healthy interpersonal relationships. A graduate is well prepared for career, college and citizenship.

Special Education Collaborative 2008-2009 Dresden, MSAD16, Monmouth, and Richmond

This school year the special education programs of the five communities have formed a special education collaborative under the leadership of co-directors, Susan Hunt and Debora Marshall.

Susan Hunt begins her third year in special education administration, serving as the director in Richmond for the past two years. Susan arrived in Richmond following a long career as a teacher of special education in the Cumberland school district. Debora begins her sixth year of special education leadership, the past five in Monmouth. Debora came to Monmouth to teach in the Aspire program, Monmouth's program for student's identified at risk of academic success as a result of a variety factors in their lives. Debora begins her twenty-fourth year in special education.

The collaborative leadership responsibilities of the five communities are divided with Sue covering Dresden and Richmond, Debbie covering Monmouth and both directors share the MSAD 16 school district. As part of this transition year the co-directors along with the superintendents continue to identify areas where duplication of services can be minimized and sharing of resources maximized. Transportation for students attending specialized schools continues to be an area where collaboration can be identified. Professional development opportunities are being planned to reach special education staff members throughout the collaborative.

We look forward to a successful school year as this collaboration grows through the opening transition year.



HALL-DALE MIDDLE SCHOOL



HALL-DALE HIGH SCHOOL

About the Candidates...

Rich Howard, RSU Board Candidate from Monmouth:

A Monmouth Resident since 1976, Rich is a civilian working at NAS Brunswick as Director of Navy Housing. Received a bachelors degree in Management and his MBA from Southern New Hampshire University. Retired after 22 years in the Naval Reserves. Active in youth sports, certified softball umpire, volunteers as a middle school soccer coach. Past volunteer activities include the Monmouth Fire Dept., American Legion Post 204 and Academic Decathlon Judge. Currently on the board of Monmouth Community Players, Chairman of the Board, Monmouth Federal Credit Union and member of Monmouth School Board. Married with 3 grown children and one grandson.

James Grandahl, RSU Board Candidate from Monmouth:

James is the owner and president of GA Consulting, a telecom and media consulting group serving clients worldwide. He has been involved with numerous exciting technologies over the past 15 years, including Internet, wireless and satellite ventures. Mr. Grandahl has been active within the Monmouth community, including coaching, school activities, and local fundraising events. He has also participated in the school consolidation process for the past two years, as an active member of the RPC and Transition Team. Mr. Grandahl currently resides in North Monmouth with his wife Robyn and their three daughters.

Dawn Gallagher, RSU Board Candidate from Hallowell:

Dawn is a resident of Hallowell. She is married to City Counselor Phil Lindley. Dawn is the chair of the Hallowell Comprehensive Plan Review Committee and a member of the Steven's School Complex Committee. She works for the Maine Department of Health and Human Services leading the Project Management Unit for MaineCare Services. Dawn has over 25 year's experience in federal and state government positions. She has undergraduate work in Business Administration and Public Administration, graduate work in Alternative Dispute Resolution from MIT and Public Health Policy, graduate work at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, and a law degree from the University of Maine law school. Dawn is also an adjunct professor for the University of Maine System.

O'Neil LaPlante, RSU Board Candidate from Richmond:

Neil was born and raised in the Waterville/Winslow area. After graduating from the University of Maine he spent 36 years as a teacher in the public school sector. He is currently a member of the Richmond School board and is presently employed as a police detective for the Richmond Police Department.

Gary Getchell, RSU Board Candidate from Dresden:

Last year Gary completed his fiftieth year as a professional educator. He taught mathematics for seventeen years in four public school systems in Massachusetts, was principal of one of the largest middle schools on Cape Cod for eight years, and was a mathematics professor and distance education administrator at Cape Cod Community College during the rest of his career. Retiring to his family home in Dresden in 2002, he is currently completing his fifth year on the Dresden School Committee (the last three of which as Chairman), is Dresden's representative on the MSAD #16 (Hallowell/Farmingdale) Board of Directors, and a member of the KIDS/RSU #2 Transition Team.

Joan Drapeau, RSU Candidate from Dresden:

Joan was born and raised in Minnesota. In 1996 she graduated from Metro State in Minnesota with a bachelor of science degree. She bicycled 2½ years from Texas to Argentina and Paris to Poland. Currently she lives in Dresden, is married and has 3 small children who go to school at Dresden Elementary School. She is a co-owner of CODEWEAVING INC., a small computer consulting company. She plays softball in Brunswick and loves to water ski. She is a member of the school board in Dresden.

NOMINATION UPDATE DIRECTORS OF KIDS RSU #2

DRESDEN (2 positions – 1 year, 3 year):

Joan Drapeau
Gary Getchell

FARMINGDALE (2 positions – 1 year, 3 year):

No Papers returned

HALLOWELL (2 positions – 2 year, 3 year):

Dawn Gallagher
Sara McNaughton

MONMOUTH (3 positions – 1 year, 2 year, 3 year):

James Grandahl
Richard Howard

RICHMOND (3 positions – 1 year, 2 year, 3 year):

O'Neil LaPlante
Corey Munsey
Mark Pearson
Peter Warner

Remember to vote on November 4, 2008!