RSU 9 Strategic Planning Survey Data 21/22

- ➔ To view the actual survey, please see here (this is the paper copy version, digital version was conducted through SurveyMonkey).
- ➔ All minutes and agendas can be viewed on the Mt. Blue Regional School District website.
- ➔ To view responses in individual surveys, please use the links below.
  - ◆ Question 2: Negative Responses & Positive Responses
  - ◆ Question 3: Schools in the Future
  - ◆ Question 4: Strengths & Weaknesses
  - ◆ Question 5: Hopes
  - ◆ Question 6: Outcomes
  - ◆ Question 7: Changes
  - ◆ Question 8: Ideas
- ➔ Other Survey Data
  - ◆ Grades 3-5 Survey Data Responses
    - What helps you learn?
    - What would make school better?
    - What doesn't help you learn?
    - What are important things you want to learn?
  - ◆ Small Groups Data

A summary and frequency of responses is compiled below. To go to a specific question, please select that question or scroll down.

Question 1: Please check any or all categories that apply to you:

Question 2 Part A: What is a word or phrase that best describes the current RSU 9 schools?

Question #2 Part B: What is a word or phrase that best describes the current RSU 9 schools? Negative Responses

Question 3: What is a word or phrase that best describes the RSU 9 schools you would like to see in the future?

Question 4: What do you think are the top three strengths of the current RSU 9 schools?

Question 4: What do you think are the top three weaknesses of the current RSU 9 schools?

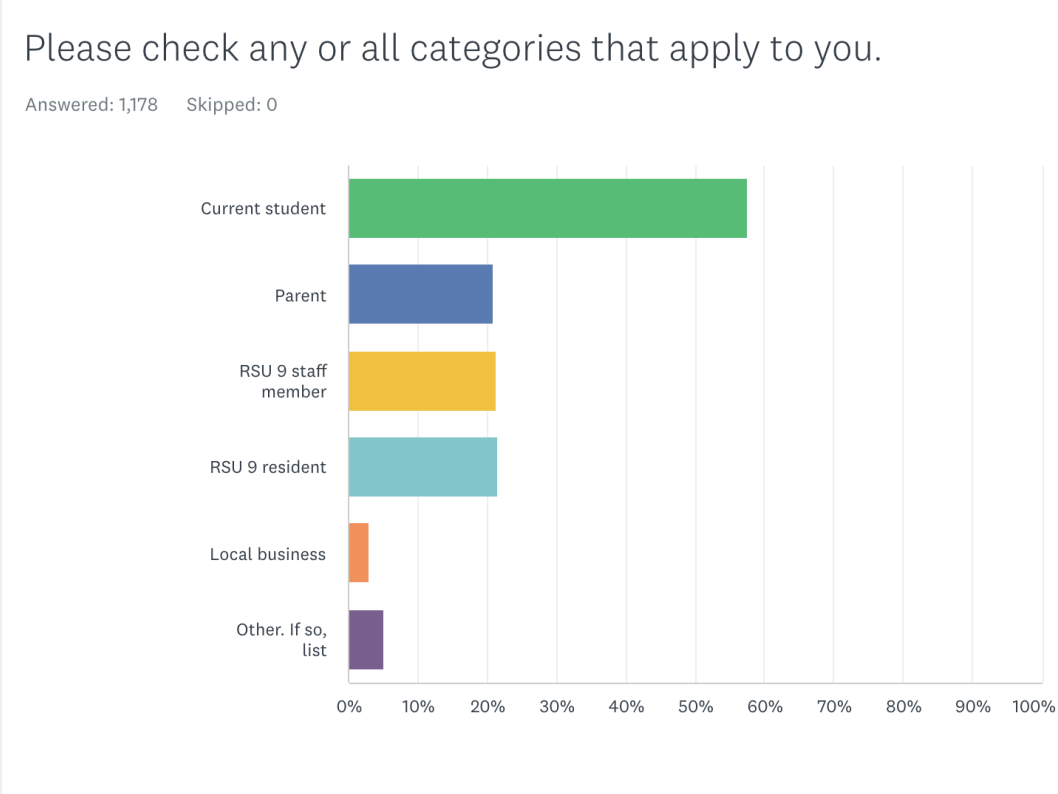
Question 5. What are three of your greatest hopes for what our schools will be like in the future?

Question 6: What student outcomes should our schools focus on to prepare our students to live and work in the 21st century and beyond?

Q7: What changes would you make in our schools to improve our ability to meet all students' needs?

Question 8: What ideas do you have that can make our schools the very best they could be in Maine and beyond?

Question 1: Please check any or all categories that apply to you:



Question 2 Part A: What is a word or phrase that best describes the current RSU 9 schools?

• Doing our best in difficult time, trying 10 • Good 89 • Awesome place to learn and work • Perseverance 6 • Safe, caring, helpful, supportive 21	• Aspiring • HS friendly, thoughtful supportive & respectful from top down to all staff, including ed techs • Community 2

- Trying to make due/adapt with circumstances presented 3
- Professional
- Conventional
- Connected
- Nice 7
- Sort of stressful but not horribly
- Brilliant! the best, Perfect 2
- Amazing, outstanding, great, vibrant 5
- I don't know 5
- OK, doing alright 35
- Fun 24
- Surviving, keeping head above water 7
- In transformation
- Committed to in -person learning during this pandemic
- Environmentally unstable but enjoyable
- Acceptable, satisfactory 2
- Open to change 2
- Compassionate, kind, serving students well 3
- Changing, getting better 3
- Helps prepare students for the future
- Supportive 3
- Challenging 3
- Very interested in making positive impact
- Transitioning 2
- Decent 14
- Satisfactory but could be better 2
- Be respectful, be responsible and be safe
- Under the radar
- Sufficient
- Not bad
- Safe place to work and learn
- Educational 4
- Average 8
- I'm loving it 3
- Enjoyable
- Good music program
- Hard working students 2
- Great opportunities for students to grow 4
- Open communication
- Adequate 4
- Well run. functional, sound 3
- Big yet small
- Determined to make it work
- Growing pains..(learning from our mistakes & making it better)
- Flexible 2
- Positive learning environment
- Wilton Schools are welcoming
- Struggling to keep up
- Best schools in the region
- Hard working
- Dedicated staff 2
- Student centered 2
- Committed to students and families
- Stretched 2
- Teamwork 2
- Collaborative 2
- Strong, solid 2
- Passionate
- Trying hard in trying times
- Challenged by circumstances 2
- Well intentioned
- Striving
- Loving
- Committed but siloed 2
- Consistently making changes to be better 2
- Creative
- Great place to work
- Technologically dependent instruction
- Trying to move ahead from Covid
- Students & staff on edge of crisis or great success
- Reflective about community engagement
- School 16
- New
- Fast

- Amazing, such a loving school 2
- Awesome, epic 5
- Interesting 6
- Average public school 7
- Great athletic program 2
- Meh, not bad but not the best 5
- I like it
- Respectful responsible safe 2
- Big 2
- Learning 3
- School…open 3
- Ahead of many schools in the area
- Excellent 2
- MBMS is cool
- MBMS is helpful
- Mid ////
- Definitely room for improvement but okay overall 2
- Loyal
- A little 90's but for the most part modern
- Just there
- Fair
- Fun and stressful
- MBMS is good 2
- MBMS is awesome 2
- MBMS is fun, people are good
- Fine 7
- Normal 2
- Welcoming 2
- MBMS is good and big school 2
- Good -bad/good
- Fun in some ways and a mostly friendly environment
- Very good-great teachers 4
- MBMS is funny
- MBMS is hard
- MBMS is happy
- Crazy, wild 3
- Normal 2
- Developing 7

- Best school ever
- Cougar 2
- Focused
- Absent
- Great
- Inclusive, diverse, accepting 3
- Slow
- Efficient
- liberal
- Stable
- Drama 2
- Lenient
- Competent
- Organized, orderly 3
- Reliable
- Laid back, easy going 2
- Always moving, busy
- Progressive 3
- Basic, essential 2
- Unique 2
- Order
- Resourceful
- Well equipped
- Rural
- Teaching life skills needed
- Essential

Question #2 Part B: What is a word or phrase that best describes the current RSU 9 schools?
Negative Responses

- Chaotic 13
- Lacking clear vision and leadership
- Tired, exhausted ,tired from teaching/learning during a pandemic for past 3 years 5
- Struggling 7
- Struggling to meet needs, over worked, stretched thin 6
- Mess 2
- Under a lot of stress, fractured, reactive
- Mental health issues, struggles
- Frazzled
- Inconsistent 2
- Reactive 2
- Horrible, terrible disturbing 4
- Not fun 2
- Lame 2
- Not unique
- Arrogant but reasonable
- Smelly
- Strained, stressed, stressful, low morale 15
- Bad 6
- Ineffective, insufficient 2
- Mediocre 9
- Lacking rigor
- Doing what they can with lack of leadership
- Authoritarian/logical/abusive
- Too much face to face learning/not enough hands on work
- We are in an ocean navigating the seas in many vessels, though not really headed in the same direction; going in different directions 2
- Doing the best we can within an outdated model 2
- Too progressive
- Makes students suicidal
- Rough around the edges
- Annoying 3
- Disappointing, inadequate, unfulfilled potential, declining 4
- Not good 4
- Crowded 2
- Lazy bad teachers doing less work than students
- Not factoring home life and viewing school as more important than students well being
- Communication not good
- Garbage
- No mask 3
- Uncaring of individual students 2
- Faculty not caring much about the kids
- Supposed to be a happy environment
- Demotivating
- Ridiculous
- Mean, rude, passive aggressive, harsh 2
- Embarrassing
- Teachers not so good

- Stupid, other S words 7
- Needs work 2
- Disjointed, discombobulated, hit or miss 4
- Underfunded 2
- I like it and hate it
- Needs work
- Dumb 3
- Boring 16
- Poor budgeting
- Plain
- A rip off
- Depressing 4
- Difficult, messy (academically), unorganized, not fun! 2
- Tiring 7
- Uneducated
- Tedious 2
- Unstable 2
- Not enough free time, short lunches 3
- Uncontrolled
- Snowflakes and asshats
- Bullying 1
- Awful 2
- Wild and some times people can be gross
- Loud 2
- An institution that is confused about its values; fractured philosophy, approach //
- More technology 2
- Old
- Bland
- Prison, jail, hell 5
- Beleaguered, broken 2
- Difficult
- Disorganized 6
- Lacking
- Understaffed 5
- Underpaid
- Stuck in the past 2
- Not accepting of a lot of things
- Liberal and censored 2
- Racist
- Unsafe, callous 2
- Lonely
- Political
- divided 2
- apathetic
- Obscene & unnecessary
- Could be worse 2
- Expensive
- Indecisive
- Working hard & maxed out
- Out of sorts. Some pulling, some pushing
- Too much control, not including parents
- Choppy
- Good education for those who fit the mold
- Too separate from real life situation 2
- too heavily influenced by UMF & social pressures
- A divided community w/communication focused on attack or defense
- Overwhelming
- Shooting for lowest common denominator

• Miscommunication, lacks good communication w/parents 3 • District lacks proper ties to community; ex UMF • Not transparent • Selectively inclusionary • Confusing, jumbled 4 • Worrisome 2 • Undisciplined • dysfunctional • Bias 2 • Unfair 2 • Tired 3 • Limited resources 2 • Nothing to write home about • Nervous, anxiety inducing, depression 2	

Question 3: What is a word or phrase that best describes the RSU 9 schools you would like to see in the future?

• Inclusive 36 • Successful 8 • Strong communication 9 • More staff/well staffed 8 • Top notch creative educating & cohesive commitments (sports, music arts) 3 • Cougar pride 2 • Best school in state/inspiring/legendary model 19 • More support , stronger support systems 12 • Meeting the needs of all students, future grads, full potential 9 • Organized 10 • Thriving 23	• Promoting curiosity, creativity & kindness • Technologically advanced 2 • Mission oriented coordination • Personalization • Leading the future • Great learning center supported by all 2 • Clear vision and plan 3 • Academic excellence 2 • On the same page • More awesome • More community connected 4 • RSU 9 effectively adapts in all situation for the success of the students

- Extraordinary, exceptional, fabulous, exemplary, excellence, outstanding, world class 41
- Recognized leader in inspirational education 5
- Academic, arts, music excellence 2
- Back to normal 15
- Common sense
- Acceptance, welcoming all 18
- Adaptable 8
- Intentional
- Free
- Complete & working as a team, collaborative 17
- Exceptional students 2
- Innovative 32
- Energized, invigorated , diligent 11
- High levels of student achievement 5
- Calm & happy 4
- Respected 4
- Meeting student needs & society expectations 4
- Safe 13
- Appreciated 3
- Continue to focus on education & not political education
- Embrace non-aggression principle
- Producing college & life ready kids who understand deadlines and meeting expectations
- Preparing for changes to come
- Unified 18
- Proactive 7
- Everyone has a chance, not just sports kids
- They say “No child left behind’, but I would like to see it implemented more
- More options for troubled students
- Consistency 9
- Less bullying, open minded & accepting of all students 2
- Diverse 6
- United, emotionally informed, celebrated by community
- Respect for all with an increase in in-person attendance
- School staff focused on all of its students’ individual and general needs 4
- Community focus
- More understanding
- Education-based
- Better academics
- Students embrace respect, work ethic & kindness to peers & staff 5
- Technology driven 3
- Less work
- Stable, safe, welcoming 9
- More sports 2
- More interesting 5
- I don’t know 30
- Less confusion, chaos 2
- Interesting
- More spirit days
- More clubs 4
- Non masked up etc 20
- Better 65
- Happy, joyful 5
- Better hall control
- LGBTQ+ friendly
- Good…great 40
- No homework or less at all 2
- Less projects 2
- Fun 55
- Cool 11
- Humanistic
- Less lonely
- More patience
- Learning that is engaging 6
- Exciting 6
- More school spirit 2
- Quiet
- Clean 3
- Warmer

- Competitive pay scale employers of teachers and support staff 5
- Teaching cursive, a class to teach how to prepare for life, like basic banking & money management 2
- Progressive, modern 26
- Farmington & New Sharon are excellent…don't know about Wilton
- Well supported with resources 4
- Student accountability
- Growth mindset
- More parent decision making for their child & input considered 2
- Low stress
- Educated
- Sports
- We overcame the difficulties of the pandemic & continue to educate our students well 2
- Even, stable 4
- Better special education in all classes
- Aligned
- Happy safe places 3
- More support from the community toward our schools 3
- Preparing for the future 4
- Engaging, relevant, interesting learning for ALL students 8
- Even more active with parents & community 4
- Committed, connected & confident 3
- Engaged, supportive of education 2
- Strong/rigorous /great 13
- More parent-inclusive relationship between teacher, students & parents, which I understand is challenging in a pandemic
- Organization, parent friendly communication 2
- Amazing, best, unique 6
- Mental health knowledge
- Effective & efficient 2
- Amazing, caring 10
- Second home
- More challenging, rigor 2
- Great learners
- More field trips, out of classroom learning 5
- Try your best
- More breaks for students
- More activities including everyone 2
- Happy, kind, awesome, accepting 8
- More space
- Longer vacations
- students better behaved
- More help for students trying to learn 7
- Good teachers, teaching 7
- Learning methods that help all student learn better
- More teachers at recess
- Comfortable 4
- Strong 2
- Less strict 5
- Creative, flexible, fluid
- More inclusive of parents/guardians 2
- Support staff and student mental health
- More help for students who are traumatized
- Enforcement of fair rules 2
- Shorter 4
- Not so judgey, mean students
- No more bullying, people being nice to each other 13
- Advanced
- Follow Cougar Code 2
- Bigger classes, more kids teachers 2
- Respectful, responsible, safe 6
- Workout place
- More choices for students 8
- Less boring
- Fine as is 7
- Smaller classes
- Active learning
- Following school rules

- Updated, MBMS, Wilton Schools'Back to pre covid days
- Advancement
- Community 4
- Helping each student thrive in a changing world 9
- STEM & trades based 2
- Providing opportunity
- Excelling in all areas
- Maskless when safe; end to Covid restrictions; back to normal as before Covid 11
- Schools the way they were in 2018-19.
- More of a return for the amount of taxes we pay/economical 2
- Best practice 2
- Teachers who feel supported 2
- Collaboration 10
- Courageous, resilient, caring, responsive
- Computer use based on quality to quantity
- Full of possibilities
- Sustainable 2
- Love of teaching and learning
- Normal education 2
- Honestly evaluates its academic results & makes changes necessary to excel in our state, even if difficult & painful
- Continue to care about students and staff
- Balanced 2
- Much improved , better 4
- Honesty & integrity
- Maintain offerings
- Vibrant & enthusiastic, exciting 4
- Creative, self-actualized, promoting well being
- Better than private school…opportunities for ALL students
- Focus on staff, teacher engagement 2
- Many sports opportunities 2
- Students prepared for their future 4
- Tackle football
- Hockey rink 2
- Big 2
- Less busy 2
- Best it can be 8
- Perseverance,..a rule ..so many give up
- Less stressful 7
- Fix clocks
- Fix girls bathroom door locks
- access to water
- Lunch food.. better, choices, & more food 5
- Less prison-like 2
- Less annoying 2
- Start time later 5
- Bright, colorful 2
- Better chairs
- More gym & gym stuff 3
- Better surveillance
- More comfortable
- Pets to school
- Volleyball
- Floor hockey club
- Let people use phones after work is done
- Games
- No people moaning, making weird sounds
- Better computers
- Longer/more recess & lunch 13
- Smooth sailing 2
- More time to turn in assignments
- Great school for students w/disabilities
- Less online, more paper 2
- More better learning 8
- More support for staff so we can feel supported & better able to work w/kids 4
- Open minded 5
- Hard working

• Less meetings & paperwork, more quality time with students • Dedicated, caring • Proactive • Student have real life learning 5 • Cohesive 2 • bigger & better • Prospering • RSU 9 schools help all students reach academic and/or technical excellence 3 • Energized 2 • Awe-inspiring • Inspiring 2 • Non-political • Equitable/fair 7 • Student centered 7 • Strong parental support 2 • A place that teaches how to think not what to think 2	• Good budgeting • Equality (mask, vaccination issue) • Supportive of individual ideas, viewpoints 2 • Holistic 2

Question 4: What do you think are the top three <u>strengths</u> of the current RSU 9 schools?

Finance, budget, operations (facilities, busses, food service)

Finance

1. Strong finances & resources 32
2. Responsible fiscal management 3
3. Able to get budgets passed
4. Fundraising

Facilities

1. Facilities 135 Final
2. New facilities; State of the art high school campus 8
3. Broadband
4. Buildings warm
5. Clean facilities 12
6. Good equipment 3
7. Supplies & materials 3
8. water fountains 2

Transportation

Good transportation system, bussing 9

Food Service

Good food program/space/free/salad bar/vending 128

Staff

1. Caring, hard working professional staff 626
2. Strong leadership, administration 108
3. Staff work well together 22
4. Strong in house professional development/ PLCs 5
5. Union
6. Plenty of staff
7. Improving positive staff culture
8. Empowered staff, feel valued 3
9. Resilience 4
10. Loyalty of staff 2
11. Admin concern for staff morale
12. Good communication within school
13. School Board 4

School climate/culture

1. Safe, positive place 62
2. Commitment to being a caring place for students to learn & thrive 60
3. People are helping 58
4. Good classes 56
5. Great hard working students 50
6. Friendly, nice environment 41
7. Students: kind, courageous, respectful 34
8. Welcoming, inclusive 35
9. Good student/teacher relationships 21
10. Recess 21
11. School pride, w/strong traditions, spirit..the logo 15
12. Making, enjoying friends 16
13. Classes are fun 20
14. Big 15
15. No or little bullying; takes control of bullying 13
16. Taking students' wants in planning..trust…student voice 13
17. Progressive culture….LGBTQ+…equality 12
18. Physical freedom (piercings, hair dye, hats etc 11
19. Fun things to do 11
20. Student resilience, perseverance in tough times 9

21. Good rules, strict, discipline 8
22. Not too much homework 7
23. Student diversity 5
24. Strong sense of community, good reputation 6
25. Good job keeping us in school; good with troubled kids 5
26. School is Cool 5
27. Rural 3
28. Challenging just right, not that boring 3
29. Outside free time 3

Structures/systems

1. Adaptability, Flexibility, collaboration 17
2. Good planning; always looking to improve the district..future focused strategic vision & plan; diligent w/changes 17
3. Cohesive, organized, departments work well 11
4. Transparent, open minded; willing to ask hard questions, learn from mistakes 10
5. Schedules 17
6. Strong communication from Central office to staff 2
7. We overcome challenges/Problem solvers 4
8. Some small class sizes 5
9. Good policies and guidelines..thoughtful process 2

Instruction: (Teaching & learning methods/processes)

1. Support for all students' needs good 32
2. Lots of great technology available to all 42
3. Lots of websites to use for learning 2
4. Good work with at risk students who need more help 12
5. Understanding of social-emotional impacts on learning/mental health/social skills 8
6. Freedom for teacher lesson planning & student creativity 5
7. Learning on multiple platforms & levels 4
8. Hands on classes 5
9. Growth mindset 3
10. Student engagement in learning good 2
11. Data driven practices
12. Teaching styles helpful; Looking at best practices, new ideas to improve instruction 2
13. Length of classes
14. PBIS, trauma informed practices 2

Curriculum/program (What we learn)

General Curriculum comments:

1. Strong curriculum 10
2. **Program options; large variety of options, opportunities; student interests &choice 92**
3. **Good learning happening 40**
4. **Variety of learning environments for students**
5. **Freedom to combine college prep & vocational classes**

Core Programs

Strong academics..emphasized 7
College prep program 4; Math 8; Science 10; ELA 5; reading 5; Phys Ed 29; Health 5; Geography; Great music program 53; social studies 9; library 14; Art 19; AP 3; social emotion learning 9;

Electives

Access to Foster Tech 115; Woodworking 4; Exploratories 8

Special Programs

Special Ed..great job 4; Day Treatment 1; Pre K; Alternative Ed; GATE program
Freshmen BARR program 4; Exchange program

Extra curricular Programs

Lots of clubs, extra curricular activities, enrichment programs, events for students that are inclusive 48

Sports/athletic Programs

Variety of sports opportunities; strong programs: 87
football 2; Track 4; Basketball; soccer 2; Ski team 3; Wrestling; Baseball
Sportsmanship

Learning Supports

Late Arrival Wednesday; Guidance 2; Mental health program/staff; Learning Lab 5; ASB time for interventions 10; Help w college scholarships
Students learning outside, beyond the classroom 2

Learner outcomes/achievement

1. Good education 16
2. Dedicated to academic success for student body 10
3. Good/great school system 5
4. Strong standards; Good learning goals 5
5. Strong learning environment 3
6. Solid foundation for education; growth focus 2
7. Ambitious, Challenging 2
8. Always looking to be better
9. Diverse pathways to graduation
10. High academic rigor…for those who want it
11. A small group of students make it to high ed and trades

School/community relations

1. Communication good 38
2. Good, strong, close knit, hard working, caring community 36
3. Support for education in communities 20
4. Community based schools w/strong collaboration 8
5. Relationship with/proximity to UMF 11
6. Community involvement 13
7. Supportive parents/families who care 13
8. Parents kept informed 6
9. Open to listening to community 4
10. School visibility in community 2
11. Community voice in strategic planning
12. Real desire by staff for more parent involvement
13. Schools highly appreciated
14. Diverse community
15. Zoom option for parent conferences
16. Support for families' needs

Assessment/grading/reporting

Easy grading system //

Covid/pandemic issues

1. In person school is open, not ZOOM 21
2. Managing Covid pandemic well 26
1. Screening
2. I keep my mask on
3. I'm healthy 3
4. Masks 15
5. School every day 2
6. Mask break 2
7. Pool testing 6
8. Covid info good 2
9. Persevering through Covid 3
10. Trying to adapt in trying times 4

Nothing 32

Question 4: What do you think are the top three weaknesses of the current RSU 9 schools?

Finance/budget, Facilities, Transportation, Food Service, Maintenance)

Finance/Budget:

1. Lack of resources, fiscally strained, budget cuts 21
2. Area poverty 6
3. Poorly crafted budgets..wasteful spending 7
4. High budget/taxpayer burden high 5
5. Need to be watchful on spending 3

Facilities

1. General facility issues comments..old buildings need work 17
2. Generally more space needed, overcrowding in CR & hallways 23
3. Specific areas of building needs:
   Bathrooms..more, better, all genders 24; larger cafeteria 5: library 1: Outside classrooms 1
   WiFi 6: Heating & cooling systems 19; classroom equipment 15; school furnishings 7; Disabled accessibility 1; lockers 4; drinking fountains 7; security apparatus 4; approaches to schools..roads, driveways parking 9
4. Athletic/sports facilities need work 3
5. Specific athletic/sports needs:
   Turf, soccer, baseball, field hockey, competition fields needed or need improvement 12;
   pool 1; outside basketball court 1; Better weight room 1
6. Playground needs work, needs equipment & repairs 15

Transportation

1. Busses crowded, late bus needed, Friday bus, monitoring 11
2. Bus garage needs attention 1
3. Bus drivers needed 11

Food Service

1. Need reusable materials plates, flatware..environmental issue 2
4. Cafeteria food needs to be more varied, better, allergy sensitive 55

Maintenance

1. Cleanliness needs attention esp. in bathrooms 19
5. Water damage repair needs work 3

Staff

1. Understaffed 94
2. Some weak teachers 95

3. Low pay, not competitive 53
4. Some positions overworked, stretched too thin, burnout 29
5. Some management/admin weak 29
6. Undervalued, unsupported employees; need appreciation, morale low; team building needed 23
7. Struggle to keep good teachers/staff..turnover 19
8. Inability to recruit/hire enough qualified good staff 15
9. Some staff mean, quick tempered, disrespectful 16
10. School board 10
11. Need more training/professional development time (ex. use of technology) 13
12. Need more & equitable prep/planning time 5
13. School board one sided, not listening, lost trust; run by employees, need moral courage 4
14. Too many or over paid admin 4
15. Too much union influence 1
16. Some staff disrespected, beleaguered by negativity, treated poorly 4
17. Accountability/supervision of teachers & support staff needed 3
18. Workforce too large 2

School climate/culture

1. Lack consistent discipline, behavior management 41
2. Lack of diversity 10
3. Not inclusive, accepting, welcoming to all; " I feel left out" 22
4. Bullying of students (bus, halls, lunch, classrooms) 61
5. Lack of listening, respect for others & property, rudeness, meanness, some homophobia, sexism, racism 98
6. Short lunch/recess times 76
7. Start time too early 26
8. Outside time needed (even classes sometimes) 10
19. Not enough free time in school day, breaks needed to get energy out, talk to others 18
20. Lunch time, class periods & school day too long 9
21. Strict, rigid, too many rules & outdated (hats/hoods, gum, dress code, phones) 57
22. Boring, tiring, too easy, too much work, not fun 41
23. School too big, confusing 15
24. Too many kids…loud..hard to hear, hard to learn 24
25. Students not valuing education, lazy, apathy 6
26. Stressful, low student morale, 'draining the life out of me' 21
27. Drugs 14
28. Vaping, smoking in bathrooms 15
29. Bathrooms locked; never open (supervision needed) 6

30. Problems in between classes; hallways crowded, rushed 22
31. Annoying kids 24
32. Some bad kids 6
33. Double standards; students not treated equally 15
34. Not enough help for kids going through mental health, emotional issues 8
35. Too much homework 17
36. Stress between students & staff (incl teachers & coaches) 9
37. More student voice needed 8
38. Middle school 'communities' divide, not unite 5
39. Student absence rate, incl skipping 13
40. MAC & LAC 8
41. Lack of supervision of students (ed tech staffing issue) 8

Structures/systems

1. Internal communication/coordination/collaboration systems weak; so system disorganized, disjointed, inefficient 38
2. Guidance/social worker/nursing understaffed; Loads of social work problems 15
3. Policies: too many, rigid, confusing, outdated, regressive w/inconsistent enforcement 13
4. Some crowded schools, w/some class sizes too large 4
5. Have an old stagnant educational model, lack a unifying vision for our future 12
6. More transparency needed; too top down 8
7. Too much inconsistency, resource distribution inequity, quality fluctuation across schools 18
8. Size of district problematic (student travel) 6
9. Schedules often problematic 29
10. System too politically run, politically 'correct' …liberal 9
11. Political atmosphere makes it difficult to be united 3
12. More teacher, staff, parent student interaction needed with board and administration 4
13. Spec Ed outcomes, IEP process weak 10

HOW we learn (instruction/teaching & learning)

Technology related comments:

1. Problematic that learning now required internet connection @ home; need better access 7
2. Better technology/computers needed 5
3. Need smarter use of technology; too often used for low level work 4
4. Need closer monitoring of computer use
5. Personal technology devices are distracting 9
6. No Kahn Academy 2

7. Overall too much technology use/laptop learning in classroom 17
8. No computer game time allowed; some apps banned 13
9. Too much video game playing 1
10. Broadband availability for students lacking
11. Remote learning is bad 2

Classroom practice comments:

1. Lack of academic & other support for needy struggling students 37
42. More focus on students' needs in order to succeed 16
43. Need to increase student engagement, motivation 22
44. Need more individualized instruction 4
45. Need more time to learn 3
46. Need more learning collaboration among students 2
47. Need real world applications to learn civil discourse & critical thinking 3
48. Community work experiences as part of learning 7
49. Resources needed for special needs, higher behavioral & atypical students 12
50. Not enough hands on learning 8
51. Too little outdoor, & experiential learning 5
52. No encouragement of student creativity..room for imagination 3
53. Some teaching styles problem, stuck in old ways 7
54. Pedagogy not innovative, not open to diverse needs, oppressive 3
55. Student input is not listened to; voice and choice important 7
56. Need to separate teacher political opinion & professional views in teaching; balanced view points needed 19
57. Need to recognize value of 'visual learning' 1
58. Teachers need to make connections, use rubrics, be clear, articulate 6
59. Too many levels of instruction
60. Too much use of irrelevant movies 3
61. Growth mindset needed 2
62. Higher level students get little support 4
63. Need to understand rural students' needs
64. Need to have trauma-informed education skills among staff 2
65. More learning lab time needed/Nothing to do during learning lab time 1/3
66. Lack of focus in the classroom
67. Very little time spent improving teaching & learning 3
68. Too much paperwork in learning
69. Bad field trips 3
70. Too much sexual stuff/gender stuff 2
71. Not aligned across district
72. Transitions for students between schools not good 1
73. Independent learning skills need attention

WHAT we learn (curriculum/program)

General Curriculum Comments:

1. Weak curriculum; need unified, evidence based, differentiated curriculum 10
74. Curriculum changes w/no materials 2
75. Too much in required curriculum, not doable 2
76. Too many special interest demands on curriculum
77. Need a progressive curriculum
4. Get rid of common core curriculum
5. Better planning of curriculum needed
78. Not following same curriculum at all elementary schools
79. Dumbing down of curriculum

Core Program Comments:

1. Academics weak 4
2. Language arts need to be stronger 10
3. Recommend phonics approach to reading
4. More focus on reading skills & critical thinking 5
5. More library time
6. Writing… more work needed esp for college prep 3
7. Social studies (real history, even the horrible stuff) 8
8. Lack of respect for US History based on christian values 1
9. Math 24
10. Need more & better music 11
11. Too much music, art 1
12. Science needed for all… 6
13. More and better art program needed, more creative 15
14. Lack of strong world language & culture program (incl ASL) 22
15. Physical education.. more needed & improvements needed 12
16. Health program weak 1
17. College Prep & Early College weak 4
18. Honors program too easy
6. Need more social emotional learning & attention to mental health services 18

Special Programs Comments:

1. GT program needed 4
80. Accommodations for the disabled needed 1
81. Day treatment program not fully developed; elementary, MS 1
82. PAL program not at all schools 2
83. GATE program poor
84. Special Ed program weak 2
85. Universal preschool needed 4
86. ADHD programming needed

Elective Program Comments:

1. More variety needed; interest based choices 12
2. Lack of availability of Foster Tech 3
3. Lack of classics, ex. Latin 1
4. Need expanded ELA & social studies offerings
5. Economics class needed
6. Real world life skills programming needed, Home Economics 9
7. Need science, math electives 2
8. Need typing 1
9. More STEM, STEAM, integration of two 4

Extracurricular Comments:

1. More after school enrichment programs, clubs/activities needed 13
87. More school social events
88. Model United Nations
89. Leadership training
90. Improved student government
91. Whole school activities chaotic, unorganized 3

Athletic/sports Comments:

1. Not enough athletic choices 9
92. Not enough athletic choices @ MS 6
93. Too much emphasis on sports 2
94. Soccer 2; Football MBAYF, Football 2, swimming, MS basketball & baseball 6

School/community relations

1. Communication weak, lacking, untimely, unclear, inconsistent 62
2. Schools need more community support 8
3. More communication/collaboration/engagement/partnerships with families needed 40
4. Need more promotion of student successes 5
5. More student engagement/involvement in the community 3
6. Lack of opportunities for parent involvement; more needed 5
7. Relationship betw RSU 9 & community needs work; deal w/community disconnect/anger 22

Learner outcomes/achievement

Expectations Comments

1. Low expectations/challenge of students; no push for success 7
95. No expectation of mastery
96. Very high expectations

97. Need more rigor 8
98. Creativity not encouraged
99. Too much complacency 2
100. Inconsistent expectations of students 4
101. Too much focus on low performing students & don't challenge middle & high performing //
102. Unrealistic standards for students & teachers

Results Comments:

1. Academic achievement lacking
103. Lack of student accountability, academic & behavioral 8
104. Students not passing even with low bar set
105. Too many students fall through cracks 5
106. MS needs to better prep students for HS 4
107. Students not adequately prepared for college or workplace in changing world 5
108. Poor performance on the basics, math, sciences & English 3
109. AP results not good
110. Graduation rate good; needs to be better; Too many drop outs 4
111. Written & oral presentation skills lacking
112. Don't allow students to fail

Assessment/grading/reporting

1. Testing more important than teaching
2. Stuck w/dual reporting system; traditional grades & standards based grades
3. Grading system… Tests
4. Some teachers care more about grading than learning

Covid/pandemic issues

1. Covid issues 22
2. Too political 3
3. Masks 52
4. Not enforcing masks above noses 7
5. Lack of clear communication esp about vaccination, quarantines, changing protocols 9
6. Taking students out of school because of close contact 4
7. Woke & progressive
8. Divisive opinions of parents 2
9. Constant covid cases, absences 11
10. Not recognizing pressures of Covid on students
11. Low pandemic support for staff, burnout 2
12. More mask breaks needed 3

13. Too many external influences; current circumstances put us in reactive mode 2
14. Need to keep better track of those with Covid, siblings etc.
15. Low staff vaccination rate

NONE 6

Question 5. What are three of your greatest hopes for what our schools will be like in the future?

Finance, budget, operations (facilities, busses, food service)

Finance/Budget

1. Sustainable, economical budget that is fiscally responsible 10
2. Well funded w/state & local support 26
3. Budget that supports strong technology, meaningful learning experiences
4. Prosperous communities
5. Lack of funding could impede growth
6. More fundraisers
7. Hope for more funding for charter schools

Facilities:

1. Facilities generally better 10
2. More & well maintained space 9: Climate control improvement 11
3. State of the art equipment, furnishings 26
4. Athletics/sports facilities:Swimming pool 2; fields, incl turf 23; basketball courts 5; bowling;
5. More bathrooms, Fix & clean bathrooms 6; Work on cleanliness, esp bathrooms 17
6. Improve pick up spots, parking lots, driveways 3
7. Bigger gym, workout room 6; Private lockers/bath facilities for genders 5; science lab; more tech center space; some classrooms too small
8. Wheelchair accessibility universal 2; Learning lab for exploratories
9. Replace portables; Better security 2
10. Playground, well equipped 8; Cafeteria; ATM; Better WiFi 5
11. Centralized administrative space, not in a school
12. More night use of facilities
13. Green campuses: recycling; energy conservation 5

Food Service

Better, varied healthy food 72; Plastic free & recycling

Transportation

More busses, electric 13; Great bus system 4; Late run busses 5

Staff

1. Good dedicated teachers, kind, joyful, skillful 44
2. More fully staffed 39
3. Fair, competitive pay 27
4. Build support, appreciation for staff 25
5. Attract great highly qualified teachers, diverse (plan needed) 21
6. Support for meaningful strategic professional development 11
7. Planning time 5
8. Good leadership, administrators 10
9. Good school board members 8
10. Higher teacher retention 6
11. Strong support for teachers & admin 7
12. Process for dealing w/teachers who treat students poorly
13. Strong staff collaboration supported 8
14. Staff voice 2
15. Staff collaboration with other school systems

School climate/culture

1. Caring, kind, respectful to ALL 96
2. Inclusive, accepting of all identities, life experiences, gender, race, ethnicity, disabled, et al 72
3. More fun classes/ less boring 68
4. Successful in learning 48
5. Reduce bullying w/more, better solutions to bullying/harassment 40
6. A friendly welcoming diverse place 45
7. Safe 34
8. Staff working well w/kids, always helpful 34
9. Student accountability for poor behavior 26
10. Everyone helps reduce ‘drama’, student conflicts 21
11. Warm, supportive learning climate: high expectations w/high support 25
12. Happy students 29

1. Empower students, listen to them 18
2. Equitable treatment of all students 17
3. Less school work 9; Less homework 21
4. Whole child approach/humanistic 5

5. Phone issue: No phones 5; Phones allowed all day 8; Phones allowed homeroom & lunch only 14
6. Good bathrooms, well supplied, w/no issues (vaping), non binary 14
7. Schedule issues: Shorter class periods/days/week 10; More breaks, recess 77: Longer lunch time 26: Later start time 30; More passing time between classes 7
8. Outside time, better space needed 16 ; Outdoor classes 6
9. Rules issues: Better fair rules 11; Loosen dress code 20; Stronger dress code 2; more freedom 2; allow music listening 7; less censoring 2; Gaming apps allowed 2
10. Minimal stress 5
11. Accessibility for all w/disabilities 3
12. Quiet spaces needed 2; noise cancelling headphones
13. More time to turn in work 4
14. More 'fun' days 10
15. Bigger 7
16. Less interruptions in school day..focus, focus 3
17. Less class skipping, better attendance 2
18. No drugs 3
19. More Cougar pride 8
20. Respectful of our country

Whole systems/structures issues

1. Student learning centered system: Students First 21
2. Continuous improvement mentality, Everything better overall 18
3. Develop, implement/maintain a clear shared vision outlining where we want to go 15
4. Transparency/collaboration throughout the system 15
5. Depoliticize any/all instruction, programs 4
6. Strong system, cohesive, organized, disciplined 11
7. Flexibility/adaptability/ open minded, listening 12
8. Reduce some class sizes 9
9. Schedules 7
10. More equity, consistency in operations across elementary schools 8
11. Progressive 10
12. Policies needing change: ex.bullying
13. Build small communities within large structures

Instruction: (Teaching & learning methods/processes)

1. More innovative, creative, interactive, inspiring instructional practices..cutting edge 53

2. Differentiated support to meet all students needs 40
3. More student interest based, engaging learning/classes 33
4. Encouraging/celebrating varying students' learning styles & interests 28
5. Cutting edge technology for learning & creative savvy use for learning by teachers/students 29
6. More mental health, social/emotional help for students 20
7. Extra early supports for those struggling, at risk, disabilities, behavioral, ADHD 20
8. Hands on learning 18
9. More project based experiential learning 10
10. Tailor learning to individual needs; personalized plan 14
11. Involve students more (voice) ownership in their learning 10
12. More cooperative learning in student teams 2
13. OK to make mistakes—part of learning; growth mindset approach 5
14. More integration of academics (interdisciplinary) & real world applied learning 10
15. Better dynamic grouping for instruction, based on learning level
16. Permanent ZOOM options…better for some kids
17. More team teaching 2
18. Restorative justice practices/system to address behavior 6
19. Less laptop use in class; Less laptop based homework 5
20. Reduce tech distraction (phones)
21. Movement important during learning day
22. 504 plans implemented more closely
23. Careful about injecting personal views in teaching..balance 10
24. Best instructional materials 9
25. Positive feedback /rewards given more often 9
26. Data & research driven decisions 3
27. Strengths vs deficits model of teaching/learning 2
28. Some teacher autonomy 2
29. Class prep based on universal design (a way of designing a unit/lesson)
30. Equitable instructor time

Curriculum/program (What we learn)

General comments:

1. More outside of school learning opportunities in community ex career exploration visits, internships, field trips, nature based learning etc. 38
2. Well rounded diverse rigorous research based curriculum 23
3. Supports diverse career pathways for students 15
4. Increase/improve programs 13
5. District consistency in common curriculum across schools/grade levels
6. Learning that is relevant, useful in read world 10
7. Back to basics 3

<u>Core programs:</u>

Strong core academics 6…liberal arts education..Focus on challenging academic program…rigorous 12

Math 5; Science 7; ELA, writing, reading 11; Social studies/History/Civics 10; Global issues;

Music 6; Art 11; Phys Ed/fitness 14; STEM,STEAM 4; FTC/HS collaboration 5; Critical, creative thinking skills 12;ELO's for core classes (extended learning opportunities) 4; social emotional learning 9; World Languages 25; multicultural learning; No CRT 4; Health, drug, alcohol, tobacco prevention; Library 4

Electives: More based on students' interests..Diverse learning opportunities, classes, electives for all learners 26

Life skills, $ management etc. 24; Dance, theater 5; Career exploration 3; truck driver Class A class; Career prep; Foster Tech 33; Foster Tech for MS; Home Ec 4; AP classes..math, computer sci, artificial intelligence programming; Exploratories 10; Environmental studies 2; Public service; engineering; expand Adult Ed offerings

Special Programs:

Advanced courses for college prep, incl early college & dual enrollment 11; preschool for four year olds; GT program; Alternative ed program 5; Special ed program 5; Program for behavioral & academically delayed students 3;

Extra curricular programs:

More student interest based school clubs, activities (elementary too) (w/transportation) 54

Student run activities; Model UN 2; Video game making; school newspaper;

Athletics/sports programs:

Better more successful sports 7

Better sportsmanship 2

More sports options 15

Hockey 2; football 7; swimming 3; basketball 4; baseball 2; lacrosse; swimming/

water polo; volleyball 2; ski team

Learner supports:

Mental health classes/ supports 6; Tech as tool for fun learning; Continue ASB;

Outdoor education 3; More learning lab 2; Help with college or career planning 7;

Strong ethical/moral approach 2; Prayer allowed; Better at home learning options;

After school student work space needed

Learner outcomes/achievement

1. All graduating students prepared to pursue their life goals, college, trades 44

2. Produce independent successful caring workers, leaders, members of community who will make a difference in their world 38
3. Measured by all indicators a successful place; Very high attendance rate, 100% graduation rate; very low failure rate, apprenticeship/tech school college/even Ivy League acceptances high. 24
4. A rigorous high quality education for all students producing high levels of achievement 23
5. Aim to be the Top School in Maine (incl.STEM) 14
6. Students learn/explore in an innovative place that meets the needs of all learners and inspires them to be life long learners 12
7. RSU 9 has a stellar reputation; an awesome place of great learning, excited students & staff. Viewed as being a vibrant, thriving place w/5 star reviews, great inspiring learning, excited students & staff; word of our greatness has families moving to our area 16
8. Seeking the will of God for the education of our youth
9. Strong moral and biblically based character

School/community relations

1. Better communication from schools to students parents & community (more digital) 30
2. More school/family partnerships in support of students' learning. 32
3. Strong community engagement/involvement with more/better partnerships w/community organizations, (ex.UMF, FMH) & outside groups, individuals in as resources for learning, volunteering , work internships/mentorships/experiences in local businesses 28
4. Solid relationship with parents & community 16
5. Schools fully supported by community; Public values education & prosperity it provides 9
6. More school events & projects w/families involved 4
7. Community inclusion center
8. Community holds district responsible/accountable2

Assessment/grading/reporting

1. Eliminate SAT; Less testing 3; No NWEA tests;Less pressure from tests & test scores 3
2. Standardized test scores higher than state average 2
3. Effective Student centered grading in place 2
4. "Meets/exceeds' more difficult to understand
5. Focus on individual student achievement, not standardized test scores //
6. All grades have grading rubric, assessments & pacing guide

7. Data for informing learning, not penalty 2
8. Constant increase in ‘proficient’ performance in core subjects

Covid/pandemic issues/

1. Maskless 68
2. Back to normal, no covid 41
3. Masks optional 3
4. Maintain safety protocols 5
5. Everyone vaccinated, masks 4
6. Less testing required 3
7. Less Covid 4
8. Use remote learning via tech when needed 5
9. Work with challenges of the time 8
10. School fully open 8; No more remote learning 2

Question 6: What student outcomes should our schools focus on to prepare our students to live and work in the 21st century and beyond?

1. Supporting our learners in achieving THEIR GOALS/ desired outcomes 10
2. Prepared for chosen work/career 85
3. Prepared for further education 61
4. Productive, informed good citizen of local and global community, civic responsibility 43
5. Knowledgable & smart use of technology 57
6. Functional life skills (lots re. financial literacy) 220
7. Social emotional intelligence, mental strength 50
8. Core academic knowledge Math, ELA, science, social studies 51
9. Productive worker w/strong work ethic 47
10. Critical and creative thinking, reasoning & decision making skills 37
11. Strong communication skills, oral (speaking & listening), written 37
12. Kind, thoughtful, empathetic human being 27
13. Perseverance, grit, resilience; make mistakes & learn from them, growth mindset 20
14. Self confidence, belief in oneself, independent, self advocacy 20
15. Ability to problem solve 18
16. Ability to work respectfully & collaboratively w/others 17
17. Appreciation for, ability to live and work with diversity in our world 19

18. Ready for the ‘real world’ 19
19. Be good well rounded people 13
20. Happy & healthy 11
21. Interpersonal skills for personal and professional life 14
22. Honesty, integrity, ethical 3
23. Constructive respectful disagreement skills
24. Evaluate the credibility of information 11
25. Prepared to be a skillful life long learner 12
26. World languages 12
27. Understanding of the basics of our democratic system, civics 9
28. STEM 8
29. Give back to our local and global community; service 5
30. Positive can do attitude 3
31. Flexibility, adaptability to inevitable changes ones life & in the world 6
32. Willingness to take responsible risks
33. Open mindedness to new possibilities in life/work 4
34. Understanding of climate and its changes 9
35. Explore career options 27
36. Goal oriented 12
37. High graduation rate for Mt Blue 14
38. High post secondary education rate 5
39. Executive functioning skills 10
40. Be creative, one who can ‘imagine’, innovate 5
41. Maine careers: natural resource management, agriculture, local sustainable business
42. Mindfulness…fully present, focused
43. Pride in one’s work 3
44. Universal achievement of reading/writing goals/expectations by end of grade 2

Q7: What changes would you make in our schools to improve our ability to meet all students’ needs?

Finance, budget, operations (facilities, busses, food service)

Finance:

Well funded schools 3;Well constructed & balanced budgets; Multi year fiscal planning;

Raise taxes; More fundraisers 2

Facilities:

Air conditioning;More handicap accessibility;Some facilities need work: fields 4;

Replacement of some furnishings needed 7; Handicapped accessibility 3

Transportation/food service

Electric busses; Better food, more options ///// //

Staff

1. More & diverse staff, esp teachers better pay 45
2. Better, highly qualified teachers 7
3. PD: provide trauma informed training and support for all staff who work w/students; ed tech training; training to improve teaching methods; training on how to deal w/difficult kids, diversity/inclusion/nonviolent communication training; team building 26
1. Work to build supportive climate/resources for staff & admin 9
2. Work to get staff 'on the same page', esp w/district vision, curriculum etc 9
3. Deal with ineffective teachers/staff/admin 11
4. Too many administrators
5. Peer observation practices 3
6. Insist on leaders who are fully engaged, highly effective
7. More ed techs 5; special ed teachers 4; Need bus monitors
8. More highly qualified guidance counselors/social workers, nurses 12
9. Planning/prep time/collegial consultation time 5
10. Professional Learning Community time data based, required & supported
1. Strong school board members 2

School climate/culture

1. Find ways to frequently check in w/students…understand their problems, what they are facing, make them feel needed/appreciated 32
11. Listen to students voices (voice & choice) 39
1. Deal more effectively w/behavior issue students…too disruptive to others (restorative justice approach) 20
12. Work more effectively on the bullying/harassment (homophobia, transphobia, sexism, racism, body shaming, etc.) issue 21
13. Make students feel comfortable & safe in school building/grounds ("eliminate hostile student environment") 17
14. Find ways to build a respectful, kind climate for all (goes both ways) 21
2. More lunchtime & break times, snack breaks, passing time between classes…less stress, more focus 63
15. Later start time 19
16. Work together to resolve multiple bathroom issues (locked, vaping..(ban it), smoking, supplies, gender neutral) 12
17. Create safety for students of all identities, races, ethnicities, LGBTQ+ 10
18. Tougher no phones policy 5; Build in limited but regular phone time 5

19. Access to drinking fountains
20. More outside time & space 3; More outdoor classes ..biking/exercise classes 2
21. Less homework 9
22. Looser dress code 9; Stricter dress code 1; Uniforms 1
23. Allow fidgets, music..helps people focus 4
24. Treat all students equally 4
25. Be more flexible in completion time for assignments
26. Less strict 4; Rules that make sense
27. Complaints about blocking computer games 2
28. More interest-based exploratory opportunities in high school 5
29. More student ability to choose classes 2
30. ZOOM to help kids who are isolated at home…need support 2
31. Sports participants exempt from gym 3

Whole systems/structures

1. Strong leadership w/shared student focused vision 2
32. Some smaller class sizes 14
33. More collaboration/connection/consistency across elementary schools & beyond 5
34. Encourage disruptive innovations 2
35. Please be more flexible 3
36. Take individual politics out of teaching 2
37. Make major scheduling changes, ex. 4X4; longer day, flex schedules 4

Instruction: (classroom practice.. HOW we learn)

1. Less whole class instruction: more differentiation of instruction, individualized learning ("in ways that fit them best"..learning style) 28
38. Make sure all students' needs (define them well) are met , extra help provided 58
39. More project based learning in teams 8
40. More experiential learning 7
41. More hands on learning 14
42. Allow students to learn at varying paces…with limits 12
43. More learning experiences outside the classroom 12
44. No more "sit & get" learning/ make learning more interesting/engaging 11
45. More flexible grouping/regrouping in classes 2
46. More classes offer different levels of learning within 2
47. Group students by readiness to learn, learning styles 2
48. More flexible learning structures less on traditional grade levels, more on learning levels 3
49. Greater effort to understand where each student is & how to move them to next level 8
50. Community based learning: service, job shadow, internships etc 8

1. Clear student goals known & taken into consideration in instruction
51. More independent learning
52. Adventure/nature based learning opportunities 2
53. More outdoor classrooms surrounded by nature (mitigate predominance of screens) 2
54. Need better relationships between students & teachers 3
55. More and cutting edge technology for all (laptops, not iPads) 7; Less screen time 8
56. More community involvement @ MS & HS
57. More choice built into the education program..student & parent input 5
58. More collaboration across disciplines
59. More co/team teaching

Curriculum/program(What we learn)

General Comments

1. Use student interests in determining parts of the program of studies 17
2. Support students in ALL options beyond HS..work, trades, college 5
60. Reevaluate, strengthen curricula regularly..too many standards..not doable 4
61. Higher academic & behavioral expectations of all 5
62. Structure the curriculum around individual students and offer what fits their needs for their future 4
63. More choice built into the education program..student & parent input /////
64. Back to basics ////
65. Career pathways approach to implementation of curriculum
66. More diverse learning opportunities for all

Core Program

1. High level sciences..biology, chemistry options 8; World languages, better Spanish MS program 10; World issues; Dialog skills for difficult/controversial topics, conflict resolution 4; Consistent program for social emotional learning 17; Creation & evolution together; No art 4;
67. More arts; math & reading specialists; how to check validity of information; Health class.. misogyny/domestic violence, understanding gender identity, better sex ed classes 3; creative problem solving; music; civics/current events; math; ELA; social studies; elementary level science; Library; Physical education 23
68. Avoid CRT, gender confusion in teaching

Elective Program

1. Life skills learning 25; Work study @ HS 5; Sustainable green environmental living; Drivers Education; JMG (Jobs for Maine Grads); more higher level courses earlier grade levels 2;

69. Need career awareness/exploration. Wide range of careers explored…on line or in person visits to some work places…Inspirational for learners (from a geologist who is a Farrier!) job shadowing, internships 11
70. Exploratory electives needed: art, movie making, game making 16; mechanical engineering program; FTC expansion 13;
71. Integrate CTE connections, academic support wAdult Ed

Special Programs;

1. Stronger real alternative ed program 4; Early childhood education for all families 2; More Sp Ed resources (staff included) in regular classrooms..integrated, not pull out approach 8
72. Special Ed referral process that is less complicated & dragged out 5; More effective classes for students w/learning disabilities 5; More robust program/resources/support for Gifted 10
73. Universal pre-school for 4 year olds; Pay more attention to 504 plans;

Extracurricular Programs

1. More after school clubs, activities and sports, whole school activities (dances, spirit week) & add younger students (elementary) 36

Support Programs

1. Focus onUrgent need for more mental health/social services (stress, abuse, addictions, sexual assaults etc) resources for students & staff 35
74. Every student assigned an advisor grade 4 and up..guidance on achievement, career goals etc
75. Allow testing out of some courses…go to more advanced levels
76. Invest in early years interventions & supports..more economical 2
77. Before and after school care at all elementary schools
78. More support for homeless students
79. More better learning materials
80. More support for students college search/application process
81. More attention to students physical health/appearance
82. More individual meetings/counseling w/every student..help steer them in ways that interest/benefit them 8
83. Better transition planning between grades for individual students
84. No more remote learning, Zoom 4; Some remote learning might need be be a part of future 4
85. Closer tracking of standards mastery by students prior to moving on
86. More science @ element level
87. Suicide prevention efforts
88. Everyone should have a “further learning plan”, w/college/technical school apps etc

School/community relations

1. More continuous outreach/communication to community 15
2. More community involvement 4
3. More collaboration/partnership with families..listen to parents 27
4. More support to build healthy families..collaboration w/community resources 5
5. Deeper collaboration with UMF
6. Parent volunteers in schools 2

Learner outcomes/achievement

1. Encourage student aspirations, high expectations 2
2. Make schools rigorous and challenging..insist students rise to the challenge
3. "Deliver accomplished students"
4. Require students to meet performance standards to graduate
5. "prepare our students for the real world outside of RSU 9."

Assessment/grading/reporting

1. Less tests 4
89. Less standardized testing 3

Covid/pandemic issues

1. Pandemic issues using huge amount of staff time…tracing, etc
90. End mask mandates, vaccine mandates & testing 8
91. Insure mask breaks 3
92. Support for those in quarantine 4
93. Back to normal some time soon
94. No more remote learning

Question 8: What ideas do you have that can make our schools the very best they could be in Maine and beyond?

Finance, budget, operations (facilities, busses, food service)

Finance/budget

Greater financial support.. local and state 12; Multi year budgets, less frequent expectation of votes on budget; More sustainable, economical; More fundraisers 6

Facilities

1. General improvements needed 3
2. Space needs

Bigger; Renewable energy; Climate control improvements 5; water fountains 4;

modernize equipment 4; free feminine hygiene supplies in bathrooms;
a campus w/dorms for those w/family problems; more, but smaller classrooms 2;
better furnishings 5; better wifi sorely needed in some areas 4; icy parking lots;
Cleanliness needs work 2; security; bigger cafeteria 2; gender neutral bathrooms 2;
equipment for kids w/disabilities 3; updates needed at small schools;

3. Athletic needs

Turf field, general fields improvements; baseball field; indoor pool; beer equipment 3; bigger gym, weight room 3; game room for pool, ping pong etc.;

Food service

Food waste reduction; free/inexpensive drinks; metal silverware (environmental issue)

Free lunch & snack for all..more lunch options 21

Busing

More, better & new buses 2; Friday bus 3

Staff

1. Better pay 20
2. More & better teachers/staff 30
3. More/better professional development needed (ex. SP ED learning, UMF PD opportunities) 13
4. Provide consistent support and appreciation for staff 10
5. Recruit & retain the best 7
6. High expectations for all 5
7. Need good supervision & evaluation system for teachers & administrators 3
8. Better job descriptions
9. Eliminate unions
10. Strong leadership, mutually supportive, keep great leaders 5
11. More planning time needed 3
12. Encourage staff voice, input on school improvement planning
13. Peer observation, reflection needed 3
14. New school board
15. Better system/calendar for staff workshops/breaks, ex summer for staff learning, curriculum development, lesson planning 2
16. Add student(s), parent(s)to school board
17. Better teacher contract
18. Staff doing a great job during very challenging times

School climate/culture

1. A work hard, 'never stop trying' culture
2. Make sure every student feels seen & heard..pay close attention to each one. 31
3. Listen to your students 13
4. Safe, kind, respectful, compassionate, caring inclusive environment 27
5. Less bullying 10
6. Use research based anti-bullying programs..include parents & community 4
7. Real accountability for bad behavior, incl homophobia, transphobic, bullying, racist behaviors 14
8. Use restorative justice model dealing w/behavior issues 5
9. Truly care for our kids: provide both academic & social emotional support to students 10
10. Better rules 2: No/restrict phones 5; Phone time 4; snacks 2; Little less strict 2; Better dress code;Play music in class; Fidgets for stress breaking; No gaming, social media apps…Some computer gaming allowed 2 21 total
11. Better schedule: More breaks, longer lunch 33; Shorter day/year/shorter classes 6; Longer day w/4 day week; later start time 9 ; new schedule, no block 3 51 total
12. No drugs
13. Less homework 15
14. More time, flexibility to get work done in school 5
15. Increase diversity 2
16. Outside time 6
17. Functioning bathrooms 2
18. Increase school pride, ex. school 3
19. A more festive joyful physical space…///

Whole systems/structures

1. Total restructuring/radical change in structure only way we stand a chance at being top school 8
2. Real change is needed; let's take risks, innovate, set up our system differently 3
3. Attendance policy w/teeth
4. Find ways to bring people together w/open communication/collaboration across schools..one district..students first 6
5. Smaller class sizes 4
6. Board & admin not listening..lack transparency..overhaul needed
7. Flexible, adaptable, open minded thinking 6
8. Establish a Visioning committee that monitor's the progress toward actualizing vision 5
9. Consistency in educating students to high standards across schools/teachers 5
10. Keep politics out of schools 4
11. Make decisions in best interest of all students…not reactive to loud minority in communit

Instruction (How we learn, classroom practice)

1. Community based learning for student career exploration..internships, job shadowing, community service w/local businesses/organizations (ex UMF, hospital), mentors, tutors field trips 48
2. More supports for student who need help w/academics or mental health 36
3. Make the learning more interesting, engaging for students 33
4. Support student pursuit of their own interests 20
5. Find ways to interest more students in careers, post secondary learning; college or trades 15
6. Focus on teaching methods proven successful elsewhere (ex. Finland) 7
7. More project based learning 10
8. Hands on learning 23
9. More active, experiential learning 17
10. More individualized learning..a plan for each student, differentiation 20
11. Allow students to move at their own pace..w/expectation of mastery 5
12. More opportunities for students to choose their classes 6
13. Have students work at their current preparedness level & pace, change groups as needed 4
14. More small group learning..team building skills, problem solving
15. Better technology, & cutting edge use for student learning 5
16. Expectation of a capstone project for Seniors 2
17. Provide curriculum/tools/materials needed to do the job 4
18. More interdisciplinary teaching/learning
19. Connect kids w/other kids in other parts of the state/nation/world 3
20. School day tutoring centers
21. Less laptop time, esp non academic purposes 6
22. School choice and competition
23. Push students to explore the unknown/
24. Smart use of specialists, ed techs to support those behind or ahead 2
25. Implement a co-teaching/team teaching model 6
26. Teach to spark student passions for curiosity and learning 5
27. No do overs allowed
28. Universal MTSS process (multi tiered support system..intervention system)

Curriculum/education program(What we learn)

General comments:

1. Lots of great programs..keep them going (ex. music, art, FTC) 7
2. Eliminate common core, proficiency based education 3
3. Collaborate w/technical schools and colleges re. curriculum
4. More academic rigor
5. Need much improved curriculum; in some areas nothing to guide a teacher

6. Honor God; don't cave to pressure to teach CRT, gender issues, prayer in schools 4
7. Revamp English & math K-12 curriculum

Core Programs

1. Programs needed/or need improvement:

-World languages incl ASL @ elementary & more @ MS & HS 4; STEM 3; Civics 3; Arts 3:

Strong basics/academics11; Advanced academic classes; Digital/media literacy 3; communication listening, dialog skills; 4 Social emotional learning 6; opportunities for creative expression; current world/societal problems (climate change, social justice) 3; back to basics, reading, writing, math 6; Library, more books 5:improve Algebra 1 & 2; focus on real world of work/real world situations 13;

Electives

1. Programs needed/or need to be increased/improved

-more nature based outdoor learning 15; life skills 30; theater, music 3; Sustainability issues (energy, food waste, environment 3; Coding; Maker space; Leadership; FTC/HS collaboration esp regarding student achievement of standards 4; Make FTC Best in State..ex. pre-veterinary studies, agriculture studies, entrepreneurship 19;

Special Programs

1. Programs needed/or need to be increased/improved

-PreK at all elementary schools 3: International exchange students; Summer education/enrichment programs (student interest based); Opportunities for Early College, UMF courses 6; GT not working; focus on it..invest in bright kids 2: A real Alternative Program 6:

Extra-curricular Programs

1. After school programs needed/or need to be increased/improved

-Tutoring; martial arts; social activities 2; whole school competitions/field days 5; Video game making; Gaming 2; flight simulation 2;

Athletics/Sports Programs

1. Athletics programs needed/or need to be increased/improved

-swimming, volleyball, hockey, football, archery 18

Student Support Programs

1. Assistance w/college apps, & visits & in finding financial assistance for college 8; before and after school care programs; Health clinic 3; Support & Innovation Center..bring back 5; more/ longer exploratories 7; Outsourced student counseling services (FMH, HCC medicaid/ insurance billable); review learning labs and ASB periods..productive? 2; Food/clothing drive to help those in need

School/community relations

1. Increase community relationships, involvement/support, ex. work experiences, job shadow, volunteer tutors, site visits 23
2. More outreach to work w/parents to support learners (supports for whole family; more parent contact (Zoom if needed).. build trust 23
3. Improved communication (two way) 10
4. Need resources/supports for families in need
5. PTO/PTA at every school, parent involvement 4
6. Create alumni association
7. More community activities for young people..arts, music sports, language 3
8. Make RSU 9 education a true partnership among staff, students, parents, community

Learner outcomes/achievement

1. High expectations for all, rigor 10
2. Strong work ethic 4
3. Best education possible; prepared to succeed in life 2
4. Giving back to community
5. Grad requirements; 4 yrs English, math, science
6. Grads who are resilient problem solvers
7. "Never settle for anything but your best…you owe it to yourself"
9. Responsibility and accountability for students & staff 2
10. Truly… no student left behind
11. Academic standards too high
12. Help every student reach their fullest potential
13. All students meet standards in order to graduate
14. Focus on preparing and empowering student to create positive change in the world.

Assessment/grading/reporting

1. Get rid of standardized tests 5
2. Find a user friendly way to track standards
3. No grades
4. Differentiated diplomas
5. Community service graduation requirement 2

Covid/pandemic issues

1. No masks 17
2. Pool testing
3. In school learning 2
4. Monitor mask wearing 2
5. Staff for remote learning for quarantined 3
5. General improvements in masking etc Covid practices
6. Everyone gets vaccine…just stop the Covid 2