Western Foothills
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Buckfield, Hanover, Hartford, Mexico, Roxbury, Rumford, Sumner

Matthew P. Gilbert
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Dear RSU #10 Staff,

Welcome back! I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved time with family and friends and return to the school year refreshed and ready for another great year.

As we begin the 2026–27 school year, I want to come back to the foundation of who we are as a district. It is our mission to *"Engage all students to maximize their potential to lead fulfilling lives."* That mission is at the heart of everything we do. Our vision is equally ambitious, *"To be the best rural school district in Maine."* That is not simply a slogan. Working to Be the Best is a commitment to our students, our families, our communities, and to each other.

Preparing our schools for the return of students takes an incredible amount of work, much of which happens behind the scenes. I want to recognize and thank our custodial and secretarial teams for the many hours they have spent preparing for the school year. Their work helps ensure that our students and staff return to schools that are safe, welcoming, and ready for learning. Please take a moment to thank them when you see them.

This year will bring both successes and challenges. We know there will be times when things don't go exactly as planned, and there will be days when the work feels difficult. There will also be moments when we see a student accomplish something they once thought was impossible, a teacher make a meaningful connection with a child, or a colleague step up to support someone who is in need. Those are the moments that remind us why we do this work and specifically, why we chose to work in RSU #10.

This year, we will have a split opening day for our staff. It will begin on **August 20th** at MVHS for the Custodial staff. I will be meeting with them from 12:00-1:30.

Then on **August 25th** I will start the day in the Mountain Valley Region with Teachers, ed techs, counselors, nurses, nutrition, technology, and secretaries. We will meet in the Mountain Valley Community School cafeteria from 8:00–10:00 AM. There is overflow parking available at Meroby.

Later in the day on **August 25th** I will be in the Nezinscot Region with the Teachers, ed techs, counselors, nurses, nutrition, technology, and secretaries. This meeting will be in the Buckfield Junior-Senior High School from 12:30–2:30 PM.

Beverages and light snacks will be provided at both locations.

Each and every employee of RSU 10 plays a crucial role in educating our children. Whether you are a teacher, ed tech, counselor, nurse, secretary, nutrition worker, custodian, technology specialist,

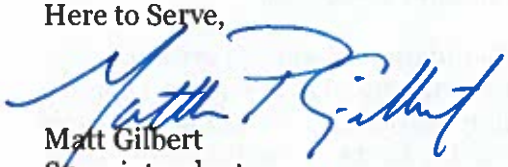
administrator, or serve our district in another capacity, what you do matters. Every interaction, every decision, every lesson, every meal, every clean hallway, every repaired device, and every word of encouragement contributes to the experience our students have in our schools.

Public education has the power to change lives. For some of our students, school may be the place where they discover a talent, find a trusted adult, build confidence, or begin to imagine a future they had never considered. We have the privilege and the responsibility to help make those opportunities possible.

It is exciting to think about what we can accomplish together this year. Let's challenge ourselves to be better, support one another, hold high expectations for every student, and continue working towards turning our vision into a reality, "The best rural school district in Maine."

Thank you for choosing to be part of RSU #10 and for the difference you make every day. Let's make it a great year (the choice is yours).

Here to Serve,



Matt Gilbert
Superintendent
RSU #10