

**Fremont School District Deliberative Session Minutes
February 1, 2020**

Fremont School District Moderator, Peter Marggraf, called the 2020 Fremont School District Deliberative Session meeting to order at 9:03 am at Ellis School in the Gymnasium. He reminded the audience that voting day is March 10. There was an introduction of the School Board members Angela O'Connell, Greg Fraize, Amy Leslie, and Gordon Muench, as well as Budget Committee members Mary Jo Holmes, Joe Miccile, Patricia Martel, Josh Yokela, Steve Bonaccorsi and Gene Cordes. It was noted that Budget Committee member Michael Nygren and School Board Member Emily Philips were not in attendance.

School Board chair, Greg Fraize thanked Angela O'Connell for her years of service on the school board as she will not be running again. O'Connell spoke about her time on the school board for the past 5 years. She feels like she is leaving the Board and the District in good hands.

Moderator Marggraf went over the procedures and rules for the meeting and stated that only Warrant Article 2 is amendable. He informed the public that only Fremont residents can vote. He asked anyone that wishes to speak, please come to the front microphone and state your name and address prior to asking your question. Moderator Marggraf let the public know that all questions and comments are addressed to the Moderator and he will direct them to the right person.

Highlights of the School Board's goals for 2019-2020 were reviewed by School Board Member Amy Leslie and included; the student gradebook & parent portal update, focus on student mentoring and grants supporting learner needs. School Board member, Gordon Muench spoke on the safety, security and efficiency of the facility including the projects that were recently completed. In addition, future projects that include Phases 2 and 3 of the roof repairs, security window film, water filtration system, air handler, elimination of portable classrooms and the technology rotation plan. School board co-chair Angela O'Connell spoke on the community engagement piece which included broadcasting meetings, the High School Study Committee researching options, the Dare Program and Community Forums dealing with substance abuse, suicide prevention and school safety.

Moderator Marggraf read Article 1 and reminded the public that article one could not be amended.

Article 1 Election of School District Officers

School Board Member: 1 for 3 years
Lisa Marggraf

Moderator: 1 for 1 year
Peter Marggraf

School District Clerk: 1 for 1 year
No candidates declared

Treasurer: 1 for 1 year
No candidates declared

School Board member, Gordon Muench, made a motion to move article one to the ballot as written. School Board Chair, Greg Fraize seconded the motion.

Moderator Marggraf read Article 2 and school board chair, Greg Fraize made a motion to move the article forward and was seconded by Budget Committee Chair, Mary Jo Holmes. Article 1 will appear as written on the ballot.

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Article 2 Operating Budget

Shall the Fremont School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth, therein, totaling \$12,300.015? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$12,166.080, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Fremont School District or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13. X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required).

Recommendations: Fremont School Board 5-0; Fremont Budget Committee 8-0.

School Board chair, Greg Fraize made a motion to move article two forward and Budget Committee Chair, Mary Jo Holmes seconded this motion. School Board Chair, Greg Fraize discussed the budget increases and items that were removed from the budget. He asked the public to please support this budget, indicating that it is down overall by \$0.78 on the School portion of the tax rate. Mary Jo Holmes, Budget Committee chair, reviewed the process the Budget Committee conducted while working with each section of the town budget. She stated how the school board worked with them and thanked them for the savings they were able to make.

Resident, Andy Kohlhofer, 848 Main Street, asked the Board about Impact Fees and using them for capital improvements. School board co-chair, Angela O'Connell stated that the school board will discuss the best way to use the Impact Fees money. However, those funds will not be enough to cover all of the projects the school needs to have completed. The impact fees will help offset the tax impact placed upon tax payers.

Resident, James Thompson, 90 Red Brook Road asked why the default budget was not larger than the proposed budget. School board co-chair, Angela O'Connell stated that there are a lot of items that cannot be put into a default budget.

With no further discussion, school board co-chair, Angela O'Connell made a motion to restrict Article 2 from further consideration seconded by Gordon Muench. Moderator Marggraf brought this motion to the voting public. The motion passed and will be brought to the ballot as written.

Moderator Marggraf read article 3 and reminded the public that this article could not be amended.

Article 3 Appropriation to ETF from One Time State Grant

Shall the Fremont School District transfer the portion of adequacy aid (also known as the one-time infrastructure grant) to the Maintenance Trust Fund previously established. The estimated amount of \$285,000 will be transferred upon receipt. No amount to be raised from additional taxes. (Majority vote required).

Recommendations: Fremont School Board 5-0; Fremont Budget Committee 8-0.

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School board chair, Angela O'Connell motioned Article 3 and Greg Fraize seconded. Angela O'Connell explained the grant to the public. Informing the public that the State of New Hampshire recommends using the money for capital improvements. This will allow the school to work on building maintenance needs without asking tax payers for more money.

School board member, Gordon Muench thanked the Budget Committee for their time and effort. Budget committee member, Josh Yokela stated if this article doesn't pass and the money goes back to the state, the town would see a greater tax increase next year. Budget committee member, Gene Cordes reiterated that we need to take care of the building. If they wait to complete maintenance, they run into having larger problems that will cost more money.

Moderator Marggraf opened the floor for discussion.

Resident, Andy Kohlhofer said he is in favor of using the money toward the capital repairs.

Resident, Matt Thomas, 225 South Road, asked about what repairs need to be made to the building. School board co-chair, Angela O'Connell reviewed the list of future projects that need to be completed. The School Board did hire an outside vendor to evaluate the building needs. The company came in and identified weakness and made a timeline to show end of life to equipment. The Business Manager has this information on file to review.

Resident, Andy Kohlhofer asked the school board to put the document online for the public to review. He commented that if Fremont moves toward a cooperative situation, improving this school will make that more attractive to other communities.

School board co-chair, Angela O'Connell stated the school board wants a budget to replace the items and avoid the emergencies like the roof. Sue Penny, school district business manager, stated the study was on the website and was taken down, but they will put it back up.

Resident, Matt Thomas asked if the roof was for one section or the entire roof. School board member, Gordon Muench explained the roof is being done in phases and currently only phase one has been completed. Matt Thomas asked what the materials were being used. Gordon Muench explained the school board is trying to avoid needing to take out a bond for the roof, and are trying to space things out so the money can be included within the school budget.

Resident, Nancy Fiske 9 North Road, asked if solar would be considered. School board co-chair, Angela O'Connell agreed it is something that should be considered and looked into. Resident, James Thompson clarified that the town of Fremont is getting free money from the State to help repair our school and encourages voters to vote yes.

Budget committee chair, Mary Jo Holmes stated that the Budget Committee is always encouraging the school to apply for grant money. However, applying for grants is a lot of work and you still have to put money in. It is also something you cannot plan for, because you don't know who will be awarded the grant. School board chair, Greg Fraize told the public about the \$360,000 in grants received by the school board which was used to improve the building and security. Angela O'Connell stated our Superintendent and Principal are working very hard getting as many grants as possible. Angela O'Connell wanted to express to the public that although the school board is talking about the building a

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lot, our education and student/staff needs are going in the right direction. Both the school board and school administration are doing a lot of work to support the staff as well as the learners.

Moderator Marggraf moved Article 3 to the voters. Article three was passed by the voting public.

Article three will appear on the ballot as written. Moderator Marggraf, reminded the public about voting on March 10th. Town Administrator, Heidi Carlson wanted to make note that Betty Stanley has held the position of School Treasurer for about 50 years, and is not running again this year. She wanted to thank her for all her dedication to the Town of Fremont.

Motion to adjourn was made by Greg Fraize and seconded by Angela O'Connell. The voting public voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Marggraf
Fremont School District Clerk

Shawn Perreault
Recording Secretary



Ellis Garden work completed by Fremont Garden Club in 2020

Photo Courtesy of Mary Kaltenbach