

## FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK REPORT – 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Session 1- Deliberative session. March 5, 2011.

Meeting was opened at 9:03AM by Moderator Rydeen.

Pledge of Allegiance by Neil Janvrin.

Moment of silence for veterans and military people overseas by Neil Janvrin.

'Rules of meeting' read by Rydeen.

Explanation of HB 77 by Rydeen ("To see"... clause eliminated by legislature).

Introduction of Budget Committee and School Board.

Explanation by Rydeen that 'simplified' version of 'Roberts Rules to apply.

Rydeen explains that Voters can over rule Moderator.

'Officials' can speak for 10 minutes, public can speak for 4 minutes.

One motion allowed on the floor at one time.

Superintendent Lander explains his 'goals'.

1. Achievement improvement.
2. Communication
3. Professional development
4. Strategic planning

Accomplishments

1. Increase of student achievements on tests
2. 'List of initiatives'

9:16 AM – Article #1 (actually #2) - (pay raises) called. Moved by Gertner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keane.

Rydeen explains that this article cannot be amended.

Gertner explains that this agreement found a new health plan that would save \$100,000. Explains 'steps' plus \$750 bonuses to steps. Teachers have to pay more in co-pay and health insurance costs.

9:20. Kohlhofer speaks for Budget Committee. Budget Committee has 2 issues. "Duration clause" and pay increases should be performance related and not rewards.

Citizen Kenneway asks: If contract does not pass, what happens?

Kohlhofer replies; You need to address that to Lander.

Kenneway: Not the budget committee?

Kohlhofer: Bud. Com. Does not write the contract.

Kenneway: How do things go on?

Kohlhofer That's up to the District. Arbitration. The 'duration clause' of the 1990's was not good.

9:25 – Citizen (teacher) explains that the children "are not products". And that test scores do not measure student's abilities.

9:26 Citizen Pinkham Q: Is the budget committee focus to have staff pay more? She is confused by Bud. Com votes. "Does Bud. Com. Understand the Union contract?"

Kohlhofer: What is the question?

Pinkham: The contract does not need to be negotiated. Doesn't it save money?

Kohlhofer: It adds to costs with the duration clause.

Pinkham: Is this a two-year contract? What is the obligation?

Citizen Dawn Dibilo (?): The Evergreen law is law. Should commend staff for voting for the new health insurance plan. The new company is a non-profit company. Cigna is long term.

Kohlhofer: The duration clause covers the entire contract.

Citizen Guibidoni: Q: Is the Budget Committee aware of teacher obligations that they pay for their own tuition?

Kohlhofer: We are only addressing this contract.

Guidoboni: That's fine. That's fine, That's fine. Teachers are required to keep up their certification. The contract does not cover professional development.

Citizen Matt Byer (?): I appreciate what the school is doing. "I don't get these kind of bennies where I work. I make less than I did two years ago. I pay a lot of taxes. I need to see results to justify increases".

Citizen Dennis Howland: Q: Can you estimate the tax impact. Are the raises still 1 ½ %?

Gertner: Yes. Zero impact because of the new health insurance plan. There is a 'low angle' at having this contract. Lawyers cost money".

Citizen Mike Miller: The School Board are volunteers. Asks to 'move the question'.

Citizen Abney: We don't need to take money away to make things better. It's ridiculous to hold teachers accountable for the test scores.

Nancy Fiske: Where do we stand in teacher salaries?

Ida Keane: Comparable.

Rowell: Makes a motion to allow non-residents to speak. Second by Abney.

Rydeen clarifies that a motion was made to allow non-residents to speak.

Rowell withdraws motion.

Kenneway: Check out the school website. We are not on a par with other schools. Feels that contract is fair and the right thing to do.

Dennis Howland: Are there increases in insurance buyout?

Matt Buyer: Explains that there is a \$150,000 increase in the 'administration costs'.

Rydeen: Asks if they are in favor of ending discussion.

Voters agree.

Rydeen explains article #2 (actually #3).

Moved by someone. Second by Ida Keane.

Discussion – none. Goes on ballot as is.

Rydeen explains Article #3 (actually #4). And explains 'default budget'.

Motion to move – A. Kohlhofer. Second by Greta St. Germain.

Kohlhofer explains that when the Budget Committee looks at a budget they take into consideration what is happening in Town right now. They take into consideration and look at spending. And make recommendations based on last years spending. Explains the difference between the two numbers. Spending is \$800,000 less than what was spent last year.

Jeff Rowell thanks the Budget Committee on their input. Say that the School Board looks at the budget differently. Investing in the administration. The oath of office requires them to look at the regulations. Tells everyone to look at the 2 budgets (on projection screen). Says Federal government is not responding to 'bad economic times'. Explains reductions made by Budget Committee. Explains the School Board looks at "what we need". Defends their right not to agree to cuts by Budget Committee. Explains big cut to Sanborn tuition.

Angela O'Connel: Q: How much money spent last year compared to this year and why?

Lander: Some savings in special education and teacher attrition.

O'Connel: What happens to money not spent?

Lander: Goes back to General Fund.

Kohlhofer: Look at the class size. The Budget Committee goes "line by line". The School Board can spend the money any way it wants.

O'Connel: Why is the tuition less in the Bud. Com number?

Kohlhofer: If the teacher contract does not pass.

Greta St. Germain: It is a bottom line budget. School Board has the authority to spend money any way it pleases.

Citizen: Amend Budget Committee number up to the School Board number.

Second by Shawn Perrault.

Kohlhofer: The School Board presentation failed to note that Ellis is considered an "elementary school". He explains the legal aspects of 'reductions' by Budget Committee.

Rydeen declares the "discussions over".

Doug Kenny: Asks difference between donor and receiver towns.

Greta St. Germain: We are a receiver town.

Bonnie Sandstrom to Greta: "What numbers are you using?"

St. Germain: We received \$480,000 that is not on the records.

Sandstrom: "Don't count your chickens before they hatch".

Ann Marie Schriebner: Spoke to D.R.A. Lynch said don't expect more or less. Could be \$600,000 or more.

Sandstrom: Tax rate not set until Fall.

Gertner: We are not asking for a \$1,000,000 increase, just \$1,000,000 on Budget Committee number. She reads correspondence from State of New Hampshire.

Mike Miller: Would like to clear up language on the 'amendment'. People will not have a choice of two different numbers. It is being decided now instead of at the polls.

Rydeen: That is correct.

Miller: These people are taking away our choice to vote on two numbers.

Rydeen: Yes.

Pinkham: Clarification. This is 1<sup>st</sup> year of SB 2. Would this amended number go on the ballot?

Rydeen explains. Yes.

Pinkham continues, not audible.

Gertner asks for poll of School Board if extra money will go back to the Town.

School Board affirms.

Kohlhofer asks for the 'power point' presentation to be shut off.

Power point shut off.

Tom Fontana: Question to S.B.: The \$10,875,000 figure from Nov. 2 has changed, Why?

Sandstrom: S.B. working on "general fund" at that time.

Troy Mazzella: Is the \$400,000 tied to our performance?

No answer

Mike Miller: Please go over the wording of the article/amendment.

Rydeen explains.

Mike Miller: Isn't it absolutely untrue to use the phrase, "recommended by the school board?"

Rydeen explains that they are only changing the number and not the wording.

Resident of Tuck Dr. asks for explanation of raises and why Federal employees are not getting COLA's yet these people are?

Resident (from crowd) objects to the "line of talk" and says that it is not part of the amendment.

Over ruled by Rydeen

Resident: "Are we amending the default budget or the Budget Committee number?"

Teresa Blades: "Our numbers are changing all the time".

Rydeen reads revised article.

10:58 AM – recess for voting.

11:25 AM – meeting re-opened

Results

YES – 64

NO – 66

Amendment does not pass.

Mike Miller moves Bud Com. number. Second by St. Germain.

Kenneway asks: “Can default budget be amended”?

Rydeen, NO.

Keane has question on ‘procedure’.

Rydeen explains.

Rydeen conducts ‘hand count’.

YES – 53

NO – 55

Bud Com number does not pass.

Rydeen calls Article #3 (actually # 4) open for discussion.

Kenneway: “Explain how default budget is figured”.

Sandstrom: Last years budget plus some more.

Tom Fontana: Motion to change \$10,250,000 to \$10,846,317. Second by Ann Marie Schribner.

Gudiboni asks Board to explain what extra money left over from last year was for.

Sandstrom: “Tuition, etc.”

Pinkham: “Is Sanborn teacher contract up for vote again this year?”.

Sandstrom: YES

Kohlhofer calls the question (11:47 AM). Seconded by Fremont resident.

Poll taken to take vote by Rydeen.

Majority – YES

Polls open 11:49AM

Polls closed at 12:09 PM

Stanton asks Rydeen if 1 hour required. No answer.

Meeting resumes at 12:13.

YES – 83

NO – 38

Article # 3 (#4) passes as amended.

Rydeen reads Article #4 (actually # 5):

Shawn Perrault says that anything over \$5,000 must have a ‘special meeting’. RSA 198:20 is not amendable.

Fred Lamare asks if unanticipated funds are also included in unanticipated funds from State.

Lander: Money from the State is ‘existing’.

Pinkham gives a history lesson and says: It’s tying the hands of the School Board and voters not to spend it.

Candy Bond: People should have done their research. I’m active in the PTA. If you can’t change the wording, can you change the recommendation?

Cheryl Rowell: Can we change the wording?

Matt Clark, brown Circle: We (the voters) should approve ANY spending which we have not approved already.

Resident Jorski, Hooke Rd: What if a generous donor gives money?

Rydeen explains that it only applies to Government money.

Resident asks: Why do we need to have a ‘special meeting’?

Rydeen: Public hearing not sufficient enough.

St. Germain: A public hearing is sufficient.

Kenneway mentions something about a grant to retrain teachers.

Kohlhofer makes motion to adjourn.

Seconded by many.

Rydeen "adjourns" meeting at 12:51PM (Actually, meeting should have been 'recessed' to March 8<sup>th</sup>)

Motion to adjourn passes.

Session 2 - March 8

Meeting reopened at 7:01 AM at Safety Complex, Main Street, Fremont.

Voting continues until 8:00 PM. Polls closed.

Counting of ballots starts immediately.

Results of electronically counted ballots at 8:25PM.

Counting of 'write-in's' starts.

Final results:

Article #1

School Board 1 for 3 years

Girardi – 359

Abney – 252

Pitkin – 165

Girardi declared winner

School Board 1 for 2 years

Kohlhofer – 423

Dobson – 286

Kitt – 44

Kohlhofer declared winner

Moderator 1 for 1 year

Rydeen – 393

Stanton – 323

Rydeen declared winner

Treasurer 1 for 1 year

Stanley – 685

Stanley declared winner

Clerk – 1 for 1 year

Ficker – 97

Ficker declared winner

Article #2

YES – 347

NO – 469

Article does not pass.

Article #3

YES – 292

NO – 517

Article does not pass.

Article #4  
YES – 421  
NO – 389  
Article passes

Article #5  
YES – 444  
NO – 370  
Article passes

2011 Fremont School District Annual Meeting – officially adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith J. Stanton  
Fremont School District Clerk