

FREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2013 DELIBERATIVE SESSION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2013
Ellis School, 9:00 am

School District Moderator Michael Rydeen called the 2013 School District Deliberative Session to order at 9:00 am. He asked all in attendance to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Fremont Police Sergeant Jason Larochelle.

Moderator Rydeen informed the audience that the Town of Fremont Deliberative Session will be held Tuesday, February 5, 2013, beginning at 7:00 pm. in the Ellis School Gymnasium. The Town and School District voting will take place on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, in the Ellis School Gymnasium. There were 119 registered voters of Fremont present at the 2013 Deliberative Session.

Moderator Rydeen explained the general rules of order and that a modified version of Roberts Rules of Order would be used as a guide to run the meeting. He stated that Articles can be amended at this meeting, but will not be voted on. Voting on the Articles will take place on Election Day, March 12, 2013. He also explained that only Fremont residents can speak with the exception of School Board Members, School Council, or experts of School Council, and that Fremont voters must register with the Supervisors of the checklist and receive a card to vote. The articles will be read and will be followed by up to 10 minutes of Board presentation or discussion, after which time the public is welcome to speak by going to the microphone, and begin by stating your name and address. There will be a limit of four minutes per person to speak at the microphone. Only one motion will be allowed on the floor for discussion at a time, as only one amendment will be allowed for discussion at one time.

He then asked for members of the head table to introduce themselves to the audience. Seated at the table were Gene Cordes, Budget Committee Chair; Mike Nygren, Budget Committee Representative, Charles Kimball, Budget Committee Vice Chair; Joe Miccile, Budget Committee Representative; Griffin Cordes, Budget Committee Representative; Deb Genthner, School Board Member; Greg Fraize, School Board Member; Sharon Girardi, School Board Member; Ida Keane, School Board Chair; School District Attorney David Sayward; Michelle Langa, Superintendent of Schools; Laurie Verville, Financial Administrator; Doug Totten; Ellis School Vice Principal; Sara Krebs, Ellis School Special Education Coordinator; and John Safina, Ellis School Principal.

Superintendent Langa was introduced and noted improvements under the Fremont School Board leadership have included a restructured School Administration, a full-time Superintendent, Math and Language Arts being taught each day, and an established technology infrastructure.

Students at Ellis School made Adequate Yearly Progress in Reading for the 2011-2012 School Year. Also noteworthy, the Fremont School District scored at 3.4 out of 4.0 possible points from the New Hampshire Department of Education Accountability System, which judges the ability of a school district to provide the requirements contained in receiving an adequate education. This sets Ellis School above schools such as Bedford and other areas.

Ellis School's Michelle Farrar received the distinguished Guidance Counselor of the Year award. Carla Smith, Ellis School Nurse, won first place for the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services teaching model Flu Awareness. The Fremont Parent Teacher Association received the New

Hampshire Teacher Associations Unit of the Year Award, and Shawn Perrault, parent and volunteer, received Honorable Mention as the PTA Volunteer of the Year. We are very fortunate to have administration, teachers, parents, and volunteers who are so dedicated to Ellis School and Ellis students.

During the Budget season, Fremont faced a multitude of influences beyond their control, and yet they are trying to move forward to make Ellis School the best school in the State. The New Hampshire Retirement System has deemed that school systems must pick up 25% of the cost of the Teacher's Retirement System, resulting in an increase of \$98,000 for the Town of Fremont; in areas such as Exeter, this increased amount is over \$2,000,000. Additionally, the ever-changing requirements of the new Affordable Care Act will affect the budget, however as the demands are continually changing, the end result is not yet known. The School District is required to absorb all grant positions into the operating budget, as required by rules of gross budgeting. The Federal cuts in the Entitlement Program will result in a cost of \$14,579, and the State is reduction funding for catastrophic aid by \$5,643. Additionally, tuition costs for our high school students, both regular education and special education, will rise 5.8% over last year, as all school districts must absorb these new State and Federal costs.

To reduce costs, the Administration and School Board, with agony, suggest that the following be removed in an effort to have the Budget come as close to level funding as possible: two regular education teachers; one special education teacher; one speech service provider; one paraprofessional; one half-time nurse; and one half-time occupational therapist, for a total of \$315,015. Additionally, the following reductions are being proposed: substitute pay, website design; laptops; science room sink/piping; SmartBoards; thin clients; supplies; textbooks, and work books, for a total of \$69,335; a total reduction of \$384,350.

When the School District Budget was presented to the Fremont Budget Committee, the Budget Committee further suggested the reduction of one guidance counselor, one paraprofessional, and one bus route for an additional amount of \$154,000. The School Board has presented a very lean budget, however by reducing the budget by an additional \$154,000, this is going into the bone marrow of what Ellis School will be able to offer for its students.

Moderator Rydeen stated that there were nine Articles on the School Warrant and noted that only three Articles can be amended. Moderator Rydeen read aloud ARTICLE 1 and explained that it does not require any action and cannot be amended at this time.

ARTICLE 1: To choose the following School District officers:

Two (2) School Board Members – 3 Year Term

1 Moderator – 1 Year Term

1 Clerk – 1 Year Term

1 Treasurer – 1 Year Term

Moderator Rydeen read aloud ARTICLE 2.

ARTICLE 2. 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 amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purpose therein set forth, totaling Ten Million Nine Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixty Three Dollars (\$10,939,863). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be

\$11,429,325 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. NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations proposed under any other warrant articles.

(Not Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5 - 0)
(Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 5 - 3)

Article 2 was moved by Gene Cordes and seconded by Mike Nygren.

Budget Committee Chair Gene Cordes stated that the additional reduction of \$154,000 was due to reduction of one bus route, one guidance counselor, and one paraprofessional, as enrollment is down. The guidance counselor position may need to be reviewed, as it was learned at a Budget Committee meeting that the guidance counselor also teaches classes, and that these classes would have to be covered by a teacher.

School Board Chair Ida Keane stated that the School Board worked with Superintendent Langa to develop the Budget for the upcoming school year, and that they unanimously approved the Budget. The Budget will allow Ellis School to continue to have class sizes that remain at less than 20 students per class. The Budget for next year will support the same number of classroom teachers less one, the same number of Unified Arts teachers, and the same number of administrators as this year. The Budget has reduced other staff positions.

Classroom supplies and Unified Arts supplies are funded in the proposed Budget, and the Budget will continue to fund the after-school sports programs, with the exception of the Eagle League program. All other after-school programs remain in place and are funded. New and/or replacement furniture/equipment is funded at a little over \$14,000 for the upcoming school year, with an additional \$37,000 slated for computer equipment replacement.

The School Board was diligent and responsible for the review and oversight of the school budgetary requests and expenditures. The Board is aware as to where and why money is being spent and how to work together to prioritize their resources, which are limited. With that being noted, the School Board respectfully does not recommend the Budget Committee's proposed budget listed in Warrant Article 2. On behalf of the entire School Board, Mrs. Keane made the motion to amend the Budget Committee's Budget number of \$10,939,863 to \$11,093,863. The motion made and was seconded by Sharon Girardi.

Moderator Rydeen indicated that Article 2 was open for discussion to increase the Budget Committee's number to \$11,093,863. Monitor Rydeen indicated that a yes vote would be in agreement to increase the budgeted amount to \$11,093,863; a no vote would indicate that the amount would remain at \$10,939,863. The motion was voted upon and was passed. A motion was made Deb Genthner and seconded by Sharon Girardi.

Resident Angela O'Connell is very pleased with the way that Ellis School has continued to improve. As a means to continue to allow Ellis School to improve, she would like to amend Warrant Article Two by adding \$171,852 for a total of \$11,265,715. This will allow for a full-time teacher, a part-time nurse, school supplies, and improvement needs for the students. To attract new families to Fremont, we must continue to improve Ellis School and meet the needs of the students.

Resident Carla Smith spoke with regard to the position of the half-time nurse. Having a half-time nurse allows for adequate care of all students, coverage for times that the nurse must educate and train staff and students, and the time that the nurse must attend to a sick student. There has been a recorded increase of 30% more visits to the nurse's office from students over the last five years. As the number of health concerns for students has increased, so has the severity of health concerns, constituting additional personnel time and medical skills needed in the nurses office. Not only is the nurse responsible for the health of students of Ellis School, but also for the 80+ adults who are part of Ellis School. The National School Nurse's recommendation is for 2.5 nurses to cover the population of a school the size of Ellis School. The cost of a part-time nurse is much less than the cost to the District of a law suit filed for inadequate care provided due to lack of coverage.

Resident Elizabeth Torre spoke on behalf of a parent of a student attending Ellis School who has critical care needs. The Ellis School nurses have always provided exceptional care for all children at Ellis School. As the ever-present needs and demands for the school nurses are varied and take place at a moment's notice, the parent emphatically asks for reconsideration of elimination of the half-time nursing position.

Resident Marcia Soares reminded the audience that Ellis School is actually two schools within one building, as the building houses both a middle school and an elementary school. Most towns separate these schools. It would be much more costly for the Town of Fremont to fund both a middle school building and an elementary school building, with the requirements needed for the daily operations for students and staffs.

Resident Annmarie Scribner asked the School Board why they cut the half-time nurse, as there is a high rate of special needs in nursing at Ellis School.

School Board Chair Ida Keane stated that the School Board asked the Administration what the Town can afford to spend and how Ellis School can meet the needs of the students. The School must accommodate needs as they arise. Per Diem nurses can be used for field trips, and the Administration is analyzing what will work, as they will not allow children to suffer. Decisions were made after much fact finding.

Resident Angela O'Connell asked if the School Board would also stand upon their decision for cutting of a Social Studies teacher, and if this would act would allow the school to be accredited.

Superintendent Langa indicated that they were not cutting a position, but were reducing staff for this one year due to the small number of incoming eighth grade students. One option is to have Language Arts teachers add Social Studies as part of their Reading Program for information text which is required for Common Core Standards. As there will be only 34 students in the eighth grade, it is hard to justify four full-time teachers.

Speaking to the reduction of a part-time nurse, Mrs. Langa stated that at the time that the recommendations were made, the family which was mention did not have children in the District. As the staff and administration of Ellis School became more knowledgeable of the depth of care required of this student, they made adjustments accordingly.

Resident Angela O'Connell asked if there would be a request to increase the Budget next year due to the increase in the number of teachers needed to accommodate the Ellis School student population.

Superintendent Langa suggested that staff could be moved from one grade level to another, to maintain low class sizes to allow for student achievement. Cuts that were made have been due to unforeseen mandatory expenditures. If funds are added back to the Budget, positions may remain.

Resident Cheryl Rowell asked if the seventh grade would receive Social Studies, should the position be cut, and does this teacher have to be highly qualified.

Superintendent Langa indicated that a highly qualified teacher must teach more than three classes per day of a dually-taught subject, and this would not apply. The Language Arts teachers in both seventh and eighth grade would be assisting in Social Studies.

Resident Sue Levine noted that the education of students is now being reduced as a result of decreasing enrollment and rising retirement costs. It is still necessary to keep Ellis School on the path to adequately educate our students.

Resident Mary Kaltenbach asked a question with regard to the \$30,000 website. Is the School Board planning to hire someone for this position?

Resident Angela O'Connell stated that she is not the expert, and that there is much that needs to be done to make the school website interactive for students, teacher, and parents, and to move the website to the 21st century.

School Board Chair Ida Keane indicated that this \$30,000 was not asked for by the School Board in this Budget and was asked for by the Administration. This amount would allow for a new design to the website. School Board Chair Keane asked Principal Safina to speak to the question. Principal Safina indicated that the District Tech Plan, which has been in existence for several years, calls for the redesign of the website, and this is a necessary cost.

Resident Breeda Royer addressed the issue of eliminating the Social Studies teacher, as the current teacher has made a significant impact on the education level of students who are then prepared to enter high school. The two current Language Arts teachers have also prepared students to be more than ready to enter high school. Every student matters. The number of students per grade should not be indicative of asking fewer teachers to teach more within their curriculum.

School Board Chair Ida Keane stated that classes are being taught differently now, as the Common Core dictates. She assured the audience that the School Board has worked diligently with Superintendent Langa who is extremely knowledgeable in what is needed to go forward in teaching our students successfully, and has the best interest of the students at heart.

Principal Safina stated that the Administration is continuing to look at the structure of next year's seventh and eighth grade classes to meet State Certification requirements. The Common Core Standards will be integrated into all subjects.

Resident Shawn Perrault stated that if we ask our Middle School teacher to be even more creative in their classrooms to save a few pennies a day, it is not worth the education of our students. She then asked that if a teacher who is at the top tier of the pay scale were to retire, is a teacher at the top tier necessarily hired to replace that position?

Superintendent Langa indicated that a teacher is generally hired at a Masters level seven, in order to hire an experienced teacher. This would provide at least a \$15,000 salary savings, and these funds could be used for supplies and resources, or to restore a paraprofessional position or other needs.

Resident Felicia Augevich congratulated the School Board and Administration for the difficult decisions they have had to make. She asked for the dollar amount of the motion being made. The motion is to add \$171,852, but not necessarily to add the positions. Mrs. Augevich asked that the School Board consider these monies to be used for the positions and the vital services that have been requested. Superintendent Langa stated that the School Board would consider putting the positions back in place as requested by the voting body in attendance, but should the New Hampshire Department of Education decide to reduce the amount of their contributions, the Board would have to make those adjustments as well.

Moderator Rydeen asked for a School Board response. School Board Chair Ida Keane stated that the Board would have to meet, discuss, make a motion, and that they would have to take a vote. Mrs. Keane state that she could not answer the question today, however she stated that she stands by the Budget presented today and doesn't know what kind of a Chair she would be if she didn't.

Resident Augevich stated that she asked the question for clarification. She also noted that the State has made cuts and this is why the Town has had to make cuts. She strongly supports the addition of \$177,852, and indicated that once you loose something, it is hard to get it back.

Resident Chris Kenneway feels that removing a Social Studies position is a deep cut and is a move backward. She then asked how eliminating a Social Studies teacher speaks to moving Ellis School toward accreditation.

Superintendent Langa stated that she could not answer with absolute certainty, as she was a commissioned member of NEASC prior to the adoption of the Common Core Standards requirement of the integration of disciplines to be taught. However, if it is necessary for a Social Studies teacher to teach Social Studies, she is not certain and will have to investigate.

Resident Jeff Rowell stated a concern regarding the curriculum. The Common Core does not cover the content of the curriculum, it covers the Language Arts aspects. However, content is found in the New Hampshire Frameworks. The standards are not tested, and we should not loose the rigor of the depth of content of the standards when subjects are combined. He would like to see a curriculum that will cover the Frameworks.

Superintendent Langa stated that what Mr. Rowell was describing is Curriculum Mapping, which is being done with Social Studies currently. Curriculum Mapping allows Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies to be taught each day, as content of the standards are covered. Common Core standards are process skills that help children to obtain, read, analyze, and put to use all of the information that is available to them. This is the backbone of Curriculum Mapping. With our skilled and dedicated teachers, we will be able to cover all subject areas.

Resident Jeff Rowell asked if the reduction of a Social Studies teacher would be for only one year.

Superintendent Langa stated, yes, and indicated that she has maintained that this would be for one year all along.

Resident Sharon Girardi asked the audience if spending more money means a better education, and if they were willing to tax their neighbors out of their homes? She further asked Mrs. Royer why she wanted to align Ellis School Social Studies classes with Sanborn if she feels that Sanborn has inadequate teaching.

Resident Royer stated that it has been her experience that Ellis students feel that they are very well prepared when entering the Global Democracy class, and that Sanborn Middle School students were also prepared to enter their high school classes.

Resident Sharon Girardi called the question and Resident Leon Holmes seconded.

Point of order, Resident Chris Kenneway suggested that members of the audience may now be reluctant to speak if they are called to the microphone by another resident for something that they had said. It was stated in the beginning that questions needed to be address to the Board or Administration, and that people who had spoken could not be called out of the audience.

Moderator Rydeen clarified that that a member of the audience cannot speak directly to a member of the School Board or Administration from the floor or the microphone, however residents would be allowed at the microphone to question residents who have previously spoken in a professional manner.

Resident Margie Diggins was standing in line prior to the questions being called, and was invited to speak, should she wish. Resident Diggins spoke and is concerned that tax rates in Fremont could possibly be a deterrent for potential incoming residents.

Moderator Rydeen asked for a vote. A vote of yes would indicate that the body has heard enough and would vote on the current motion; a vote of no is a request to hear more discussion. The vote was passed.

Point of order from a member of the audience asking if someone else wanted to speak?

Moderator Rydeen stated the Resident O'Connell wanted to confirm the number presented by Resident Girardi.

Moderator Rydeen asked the audience if they were in agreement to call the question. A yes vote indicated an agreement to increase the budget amount to \$11,265,715 and was passed by the audience.

Resident O'Connell called the question and it was seconded by Theresa Blades. The vote was made and agreed to move forward to Article 3.

Resident O'Connell asked to vote to restrict reconsideration of Amendment 2; resident Jeff Rowell seconded. A vote was cast and Article 2 has been restricted as amended.

Moderator Rydeen called for a five minute recess.

Moderator Rydeen called the meeting to order once again. He stated that due to the increase in the budget number and the two positions that were requested, a word from the School Board was in order to add the positions back in, and that the next Article is the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the teachers.

Superintendent Langa stated to the audience that the School Board has the authority to use the money that was added back into the Budget as deemed necessary. It is not an absolute guarantee that the 1.5 teachers will be added back into the Budget, and therefore the numbers (in Article 3) stand, according to the legal advice of our attorney.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud ARTICLE 3:

ARTICLE 3. To see if the District will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the School Board and the Fremont Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits over those that would be paid at current staffing levels minus five (5) teachers:*

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increases
2013-2014	\$44,940.
2014-2015	\$85,110.

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Dollars (\$44,940.) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels minus five (5) teachers.*

*(Note: The School Board anticipates reducing the teaching staff for the 2013-2014 school year by five full time positions.)

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 4 - 1)
(Not Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 5 - 3)

Sharon Girardi moved the Article; Deb Genthner seconded.

School Board Member Sharon Girardi explained that the Collective Bargaining Agreement was made in agreement with School Board representatives and the teachers from the Union. This will reflect an additional \$1,700 for each step for each year for the next two years, an additional 15 minutes will be added to each teacher's day for use by the Administration's discretion for meetings, etc., and Blue Choice health insurance will be replaced by School Care as the insurance option. For this contract only, we increased the number of people who can retire from 2 to 4, and the required years of service for retirement from 20 years to 10 years in the District. We have also added a \$200 stipend for those teachers required to move their classroom during the Summer.

Resident Cyndi Turkington asked what consists of the five teachers mentioned, as it may not be just classroom teachers as approved in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Superintendent Langa stated that in the proposed Budget there was a request for a non-classroom teacher, a regular education teacher, a special education teacher, a nurse, and a guidance counselor.

Resident Turkington further asked if the monies requested to be put back into the Budget today could be used for these stated positions.

Superintendent Langa, stated yes, but the School Board has final authority to make that decision, but yes, they definitely can be added in again.

Resident Turkington noted that the wording in Article 3 indicates the reduction of five teachers and wanted confirmation that Article 3 can not be changed as far as the number of positions except at the School Board meeting. Superintendent Langa confirmed.

Resident Scott Boisvert stated that he liked to see the step increase, and asked if the teachers do not get a contract, do they get the step increase, or is this an additional increase?

School Board Member Sharon Girardi stated that this adds an additional \$1,700 for each step that is in the Collective Bargaining Agreement for each year. This does not change the duration clause; therefore anyone that is not at the top step in the second year, will move up a step. Anyone at the top step will receive \$1,700, and everyone else will move a step each year.

Unidentified Resident (from the floor) asked that if this doesn't pass, what happens to those at the top step.

School Board Member Girardi indicated that if this does not pass, everyone at the top step will remain frozen and everyone else will move one step.

Resident Kathy Picone stated that according to the New Hampshire Department of Education website, teachers in Fremont are the lowest paid beginning teachers in the Southern tier of the State and that they have not received a raise in five years, except for a one time \$1,000 bonus. The teachers at Ellis School are taxpayers also, and they have not had a raise in five years.

Resident Chris Kenneway asked how many teachers are at the top step and would not get a raise if this does not pass.

School Board Member Girardi stated that she believes the number to be 21 teachers.

Moderator Rydeen indicated that as there was no more discussion, that Article 3 would go on the ballot as stated. He then read aloud ARTICLE 4.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Fremont School District, if Article Three (3) is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article Three (3) cost items only?

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5 – 0)
(Not recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 5 – 3)

A motion was made by Deb Genthner and seconded by Sharon Girardi.

Moderator Rydeen indicated that the Motion was open for discussion.

Resident Annmarie Scribner stated that she knew this didn't fall under no means no because it would be a separate warrant article, but when we go to the polls to vote and if this gets to be an Amendment, if everyone who goes out to vote says no we don't agree with Warrant Article Three, then this gives an opportunity now to reopen it and vote on it again. She personal feels that no means no, and that if it is voted no, than we should not vote to have the cost of a special meeting to reopen it again.

School Board Chair Ida Keane asked Resident Scribner if she is stating that we shouldn't have the Warrant Article or was she just suggesting to vote no on the Warrant Article?

Resident Scribner responded that she feels that we should vote no on the Article and that we should not have Warrant Article 3.

Resident Chris Kenneway asked what the process would be if this is passed, is there still a deliberative session and a special meeting, and we vote again?

Moderator Rydeen indicated that there would be a special public hearing.

Resident Kenneway asked to clarify that people would then attend that meeting and asked if what is voted, pass or fail, would be the vote. She stated that this is a great opportunity to amend this number at a special meeting, which would be a whole different thing which people are voting on and it would not be the same Article. If there is an opportunity to renegotiate, would that be brought forth to that meeting?

School Board Chair Keane stated that if the Article passes at the ballot in March, then we can have a special meeting and have the same thing that we have here. We would go to the ballot box to vote on it again.

Resident Kenneway asked if there would be a deliberative session.

School Board Chair Keane indicated yes. As there was no more discussion, and no amendment, the Article will go on as stated.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 5

ARTICLE 5. To see if the District will vote to approve a collective bargaining cost item amending the current support staff collective bargaining agreement to cover the cost of the District's share of health insurance premiums for paraprofessionals in the amount of Sixty Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Dollars (\$62,980.00) and raise and appropriate Eighty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$88,000.00) to avoid imposition of the Affordable Care Act penalty that the District will otherwise be required to pay, if health insurance is not available to these employees. If this article is approved, the appropriation for the default budget in Article Two (2) shall be reduced by Twenty Five Thousand Twenty Dollars (\$25,020.00) which is the amount of the penalty the District would otherwise be required to pay if this article is defeated and health insurance is not made available to paraprofessionals.

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5 – 0)

(Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 5 – 2 (Abstained – 1))

The Article was moved by Ida Keane and seconded by Greg Fraize.

School Board Member Deb Genthner stated that the Affordable Care Act, or Obama Care, is anticipated to begin in January 2014, however the exact timeframe is still being worked on. There are continual changes to this moving target. All full-time staff are to have health care. The amount currently would be \$62,980. If we do not pay for this health care, we will be assessed a penalty of \$88,000. Mrs. Genthner has been asked to clarify the wording of the Article, as currently \$88,000 is being asked for; however, an amount of \$62,980 is the amount required. Currently \$88,000 is in the Default Budget. If

Warrant Article 5 passes, the \$88,000 comes out of the Default Budget, as we do not have to include this amount, as the voting body will have approved \$62,980. Also, the \$25,020 amount is incorrect, and this amount should have been \$88,000. Mrs. Genthner made the motion to amend Article 5 as follows:

AMENDED ARTICLE 5. To see if the District will vote to approve a collective bargaining cost item amending the current support staff collective bargaining agreement to cover the cost of the District's share of health insurance premiums for paraprofessionals in the amount of \$62,980 and raise and appropriate \$62,980 to avoid imposition of the Affordable Care Act penalty that the District will otherwise be required to pay, if health insurance is not available to these employees. If this article is approved, the default budget in Article 2 shall be reduced by \$88,000, which is the amount of the penalty the District would otherwise be required to pay if this article is defeated and health insurance is not made available to paraprofessionals.

Deb Genthner made the motion, and it was seconded by Greg Fraize.

Moderator Rydeen opened the Amendment for discussion. Resident Shawn Perrault asked why the \$88,000 had to come out of the Default Budget, when the School Board is asking for \$62,980.

School Board Member Deb Genthner stated that \$88,000 would come from the Default Budget, however if Warrant Article 5 passes, we would not need this amount, as we would have the necessary \$62,980.

Resident Cyndi Turkington stated that she is in favor of paraprofessionals having insurance, as this may enable employees to be healthier, as they now would be able to have insurance necessary to help with the cost of doctor visits and prescribed medications. This may also alleviate the need for the additional cost to the District for substitute teachers.

Resident Dennis Howland asked for a comparison between the Article 2 Budget plus \$62,980 and the Default Budget less \$88,000.

Financial Administrator Laurie Verville indicated that the Default Budget adjusted would be \$11,341,325. If the proposed Budget were passed, the amount would be \$11,328,695.

Resident Annmarie Scribner asked that if the penalties described wouldn't be inflicted until 2015 because of the Ellis School fiscal year, how does that effect the Default Budget at this point, as it won't be required. If we are required to pay a penalty, would you add that penalty amount to the Default Budget, and the law states that we don't have to, how would you handle that? According to the Federal Government, because of our fiscal year, penalties won't be inflicted on school districts until 2014-2015. Did you take that into consideration?

Superintendent Langa stated that the postponement of penalties is in proposed regulations that won't be finalized until the end of the Summer, most likely. If the \$88,000 were not to be imposed upon us, then we would not have the authority to include it in the Default Budget, and therefore, it would not be contained in the Default Budget.

Moderator Rydeen asked if there were any more discussion. There was no more discussion on amended Article 5. He indicated that a vote of yes would be to accept the Amendment as shown; a vote of no would be not to accept the amendment. The vote was passed to accept the Amendment.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud ARTICLE 6.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the Fremont School District, if Article Five (5) is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article Five (5) cost items only?

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5 – 0)
(Not Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 4 – 4)

A motion was made by Sharon Girardi and seconded by Greg Fraize. There being no discussion, the Article was passed.

Moderator Rydeen read aloud ARTICLE 7.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the previously established expendable trust fund, known as the Ellis School Building and Grounds Maintenance Fund. This sum to come from the June 30, 2013 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2013. No amount to be raised by taxation.

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5 - 0)
(Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 8 – 0)

A motion was made by Greg Fraize and seconded by Deb Genthner.

School Board Member Greg Fraize stated that funds from this account were used to repair the boiler this year, and by having this account available, we did not have to go to the Town for funding, nor draw from the operating budget.

Resident Jeff Rowell asked for the current balance of this account, and was this account on the ballot last year.

Financial Administrator Laurie Verville indicated that yes, this account was on the ballot last year, and that approximately \$44,000 was needed to repair the boiler. The available balance is approximately \$35,000.

There being no further discussion, Article 7 will go on the ballot as stated.

Moderator Rydeen stated that as Article 5 was radically amended, and the School Board as well as the Budget Committee were asked if they would like to change their recommendation. The School Board would like to stay with their recommendation number as stated.

Resident Jeff Rowell asked if they want to change their recommendations on all Articles.

Moderator Rydeen stated that they could change their recommendations on all Articles, as they would like them to appear on the ballot.

It was reported by Budget Committee Chair Gene Cordes that the Budget Committee would like to recommend Article 5 by a vote of 5 to 3. Moderator Rydeen then accepted a motion to reconsider Article 5 as an update to the Article 5 recommendation by the Budget Committee to reflect "Recommended by the Budget Committee 5 – 3". This motion was seconded by Gene Cordes. A vote was taken and passed to accept Article 5 as amended.

Deb Genther asked for a motion to Restriction Reconsideration for Article 3, Article 4, Article 5, Article 6, and Article 7. This was seconded by Ida Keane.

Jeff Rowell called for a point of order, asking for clarification that we are voting to show an accurate reflection of the support of the Boards, as there was no change in the wording of the Article 5.

Moderator Rydeen agreed and asked for a vote to restrict Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. The Restriction was passed. Moderator Rydeen indicated that Article 8 and Article 9 are not amendable, but are up for discussion. He then read aloud ARTICLE 8.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the Fremont School District accept the provisions of RSA 198:20-b providing that any School District at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the School Board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the School District meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal, or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year?

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5 - 0)
(Not Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 5 – 2 (Abstained -1))

A motion was made by Sharon Girardi and seconded by Greg Fraize.

School Board Chair Ida Keane stated that this Article will allow the School Board to accept unanticipated funds without having to hold a special meeting. Instead, if the amount of the unanticipated funds is more than \$5,000, the School Board would have to hold a public hearing regarding the unanticipated money. If the unanticipated funds are less than \$5,000, the School Board would have to announce the receipt of the unanticipated funds at a public hearing. They currently do not have the ability to receive unanticipated funds without arranging a special meeting, due to a citizen petition that was passed last year or the year before, and they are asking to reinstate this.

Resident Cheryl Rowell asked why the School Board's mind has been changed. This was specifically discussed previously and questioned as to why they would not want to receive any grants without a voting on it.

School Board Chair Keane indicated that they could receive grants; they can not receive unanticipated funds with the citizen's petition that went forward.

Resident Rowell again asked if there was anyone who could speak to this. School Board Chair Keane stated that they did not bring the citizen's petition forward.

There was no more discussion to Article 8. Moderator Rydeen read aloud Article 9.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the Fremont School District vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, the retention of year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment. In accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II. Such fund balance retained can only be used to reduce the tax rate or for emergency expenditures and over-expenditures under RSA 32:11 which are approved by the Department of Education.

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5 – 0)
(Not recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 4 – 4)

A motion was made by Greg Fraize and seconded by Deb Genthner.

Financial Administrator Laurie Verville stated that the purpose of the Article is in response to legislative action to give authority to the school board, at the close of their books, to hold back up to 2.5% of a tax levy to set aside monies for emergency purposes such as an unanticipated Special Education placement, or repair of a septic tank or boiler. The funds must be approved at the close of the books and be approved by the School Board. The School District must spend this amount in the next fiscal year, and must go before the Department of Revenue and the Department of Education for approval.

Moderator Rydeen stated that this Article is not by statuette and is not recommend to be amended by the Secretary of State.

Resident O'Connell asked what would happen to those funds if they were not used. Financial Administrator Verville indicated that the amount must be returned to the future years balance and that next year, the amount would have to be recalculated and will not continue to grow.

There being no more discussion, Moderator Rydeen read aloud ARTICLE 10.

Article 10. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

There being no other business, Moderator Rydeen asked School Board Chair Ida Keane to the microphone.

School Board Chair Keane stated that unfortunately Deb Genthner will not be running for School Board again this year, and that she wanted to thank her for her years of service supporting our School District and our children. Moderator Rydeen thanked Mrs. Genthner for all of her hard work.

School Board Member Deb Genthner asked for a motion to restriction reconsideration Article 8 and Article 9. After a vote was taken, Articles 8 and 9 were restricted.

Moderator Rydeen ask for motion to adjourn. Mike Nygren made said motion and Gene Cordes seconded the motion.

The 2013 School District Deliberative Session was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherri C. Ficker
School District Clerk