

Report of the Fremont School Board

The 2013/2014 school year will definitely be remembered as a time of change for our school district. The unexpected superintendent resignation in late June 2013 created a void in our SAU Office. After several School Board work sessions, we were fortunate to secure Dr. Betsey Cox-Buteau as Interim Superintendent. Dr. Cox settled in quickly and, after yet another unexpected resignation in August, took on one of her first challenges of hiring a new Financial Administrator, Ms. Susan Penny.

With the rocky start behind us, we continued our work that covered the gamut of School Board self-evaluation, goal setting, teacher and support staff negotiations, curriculum committee work, policy review, budgeting and strategic planning. The positive collaborative nature of our work with Dr. Cox as Interim Superintendent along with the obvious need to secure a professional leader for our District led us to offer Dr. Cox a long-term superintendent contract in late November. This decision now allows the work at hand to continue seamlessly. Principal John Safina, newly appointed Assistant Principal John Bridle, Special Education Coordinator Sarah Krebs and Facilities Director Scott Brown head up the Ellis School building leadership this year. Under the continued direction of Dr. Cox and our administration we know the students and staff will benefit from the steady leadership that is now in place.

This year we wished Deb Genthner many thanks for her long years of dedication and service to the School Board. We welcomed Tammy Kitt as the newest member of the School Board. We also welcomed back returning member Andy Kohlhofer after his successful re-election.

Improved student achievement is the main focus of the work we do as a school board. We are happy to report that as of this past spring, NWEA scores indicated that 85% of Ellis students are proficient in reading and math. The Focus School designation we have been assigned by the NHDOE is a reflection of an achievement gap between average New Hampshire whole school student performance and the educationally disadvantaged students in each school. With this in mind, we continue to set specific goals for improving student achievement to ensure that all of our students are benefiting from an excellent educational experience.

Improving communication to the community is another very important goal that we have been working hard to address. Thanks to the technical assistance of School Board member Greg Fraize, the School Board meetings can now be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/SAU83FremontNH or you may click on the YouTube link on the school website at www.sau83.org. We would like to encourage everyone to take the time to view our meetings and keep informed of the important work we are partaking in for the Fremont School District on behalf of the community. Also, please watch your mail for our school district newsletter that offers you a window to what is happening at Ellis School each and every day.

Throughout the years, many community members and organizations have been instrumental in the ongoing programs and overall success of Ellis School. Many thanks go out to the volunteers that grace our halls offering help whenever it is needed and to the Fremont PTA for all of their

hard work and support. Each community group like the Girls Scouts, the Boy Scouts and the Fremont Athletic Association, to name a few, deserve our special thanks for lending a hand to help raise the children of Fremont into outstanding citizens.

This March, when you exercise your right to vote, please keep in mind that we always remember and appreciate your financial commitment to the education of Fremont's youth. It is a privilege to serve such a wonderful community.

Respectfully submitted by the Fremont School Board,

Greg Fraize

Sharon Girardi

Ida Keane

Tammy Kitt

Andrew Kohlhofer