

Report of the Fremont School Board

The 2012/2013 school year began with some new faces both on the School Board and in our SAU Office. After the elections in March of 2012, we welcomed Greg Fraize as a new member of the School Board and Ida Keane as a re-elected member. Later in June of 2012, we welcomed Michelle Langa as our new full-time Superintendent and Laurie Verville as our new Business Administrator. With our new SAU Leadership team in place, the School Board began to focus on the completion of several projects to support academic achievement at Ellis School.

Principal John Safina, Vice Principal Doug Totten and Special Education Director Sarah Krebs returned this fall and welcomed both students and staff back to Ellis School. These individuals continue to function as a highly cooperative leadership team under the supervision of Superintendent Michelle Langa. They all enthusiastically work well together towards the exciting goal of developing Ellis School into the best school in the State. Our community, students, and teachers stand to benefit enormously by the positive direction this team is planning for all of us.

We are very proud to report that the upgraded technology initiative that we began in 2011 has been completed for Ellis School. With this upgrade, the school is now operating on a single Windows platform that has led to improved efficiency in our classrooms. We know we are off to a good start in preparing for the up and coming Common Core Standards testing that will require a state of the art technology infrastructure. While technology can often cost a great deal to implement, it is safe to say that it can also assist in saving both time and money for our district. A very good example of this is the School Boards' ability to go paperless at meetings now by taking advantage of technology upgrades. The time and expense necessary to generate the school board packets and the cost of the supplies for the packets has been eliminated. This kind of efficiency is key to reducing district expenses.

This year, we have continued to work on the School Board policies – both the review and updating process. Recently, we reviewed the Board goals from last year, renewed some of those goals and set a few new, more specific goals as they relate to improved student achievement, the strategic plan, budgeting, collective bargaining, facilities and potential grant writing opportunities. Our Board members work well together showing respect for each other and their wide range of opinions.

Good things are happening everyday at Ellis School because of the great people we have working in our District. In addition, the many community and parent volunteers that give so generously of their time, especially the Fremont PTA and the Fremont Athletic Association are the best of the best. As a matter of fact, the Fremont PTA won the NH PTA Unit of the Year Award and their president, Shawn Perreault received Honorable Mention as Member of the Year. Please thank these wonderful people who make Ellis School a brighter place for our children and community.

The economy continues to cause the School Board great concern. We diligently review budgetary expenditures each month to remain accountable to the taxpayer while responsibly providing what is needed to educate both our elementary and high school students. Future increased required expenditures such as additional retirement contribution rates, the Affordable Care Act, and items like high school tuition rates and transportation costs, make for a difficult budget season. While we must attempt to identify the necessary cuts to cover these additional obligations, we must also protect the quality of the education we offer our students so that we can become the best school in the State. A challenge we are finding quite serious for the next school year.

We are proud to continue to serve our wonderful Town of Fremont NH. Thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted by the Fremont School Board,

Greg Fraize
Deborah Genthner
Sharon Girardi
Ida Keane
Andrew Kohlhofer