

## Report of the Fremont School Board

Holding student success as our central focus, the work of the School Board is driven by our mission statement, district goals, and policy. Efforts are made to live up to our mission statement and achieve our goals in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.

After the Board reorganized in March of 2018, our focus was on end of school year activities and planning. We met with the Ellis leadership team in June to set our goals for the upcoming school year. In discussion with administration and taking community and staff survey feedback into account, we developed the following goals for FY19:

- **The Fremont School District will support staff in developing and implementing quality student- centered learning and assessments, leading to increased student proficiency.** Goal Update: This fall we were pleased to welcome Sharon DeVincent as our Principal at Ellis. Ms. DeVincent has deemed the school year “#yearofthelerner” and the staff have been working hard to improve student learning through a number of initiatives. While we were unable to find a Spanish teacher, students now have a monitored personalized learning block where they can take Spanish or other courses online using VLACS or explore other learning goals. A wellness teacher was also hired to provide students with additional movement time and to address the many social and emotional needs of today’s learners. Professional development is being provided to staff to help them to interpret data and assist students with meeting their growth goals. We were pleased to extend our contact with Superintendent Hutton which will provide some much needed continuity in district leadership.
- **The Fremont School District will provide consistent communication including two-way communication and interaction with the greater Fremont community and Sanborn School District.** Goal Update: Superintendent Hutton and Principal DeVincent communicate with the community on a regular basis. Our School Board newsletter is published twice / year. In an effort to be fiscally conservative, we no longer mail the newsletter but it is included in the town newsletter, and it is emailed out to parents. A limited number of printed copies are available at the school, library and town hall. We continue to hold public forums as needed, including a forum on safety at the school in the spring of 2018. There have also been several surveys asking for feedback from parents and community members. Our meetings are now televised live on Channel 13. On the High School front, the Fremont School Board has continued our joint board meetings with Sanborn. We are looking for opportunities to ensure our curriculum and grading are aligned. We are also exploring possibilities to share professional development.
- **The Fremont School District will develop and implement consistent behavior expectations for the entire school community which supports a mutually respectful environment for teaching and learning.** Goal update: The student handbook was updated to include clear behavior expectations and consequences. Staff have clear expectations of

what to expect when they ask administration to assist with a behavior issue. Staff have been trained on Responsive Classroom practices which has been shown to have a positive impact on creating a mutually respectful environment.

- **The Fremont School District will create and implement a facilities plan to provide a safe and clean learning environment.** Goal update: Over the summer, there were a number of projects taking place at the school, including a security project which redesigned the main access point to the school to ensure we are keeping students and staff safe. The majority of the funding for this project came in the form of a security grant from the state. In addition, bathrooms were remodeled and other small projects took place. The building was also given a deep clean. Our facilities committee is doing further work on this and we have commissioned a study of the school to investigate any potential issues that would compromise the safety or integrity of the building. This fall we found faulty sprinkler heads which had to be replaced as well as leaks in the roof which will need to be repaired. It's critical that we invest in the school to maintain this asset.

**Budget update:** In the fall of 2018, the school returned \$574,231 to the town to offset taxes. The majority of the return was from the Sanborn tuition line. This was due in part to fewer students attending Sanborn than was projected and also tuition costs coming in lower than budgeted. We continue to refine our budgeting process and the current year (FY19) budget is projected to be much closer to actual, so we do not anticipate a return next fall. We anticipate that we will need to access our tuition trust fund this year to meet our Sanborn tuition line as we budgeted lean to ensure we were not raising funds from taxpayers that were not needed. We also had to access the maintenance trust fund to repair the faulty sprinkler heads. Finally, we negotiated a 3 year contract with our teachers this fall which will be on the ballot for voters in March. We have been working with the budget committee and made cuts to this year's budget to lower tax impact to the town. Cuts were made in a number of areas, with the most significant impact to administrative staffing and also removing the roof repair from the budget.

The Fremont School Board is pleased with the progress made toward our goals 2018 and we know there is more work to be done. We are proud, as a school, to work in a partnership with the parents and community to ensure students achieve their full potential.

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Fremont School Board

Greg Fraize, Chair	Sue Levine, Vice Chair	
Angela O'Connell	Gordon Muench	Brittany Thompson