

## **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, five year strategic plan and policy. Decisions effecting the District are based on their effectiveness to meet our goals (both long and short term), positive impact on student outcomes and financial ability.

In 2017, Ellis School welcomed a new building level administrative team eager to support staff and students in a personalized learning approach. Integrating new technologies and collaborative teaching allowed for more opportunities, giving learners a broader spectrum of curriculum and content to access. Our aging physical plant posed several challenges throughout the year, including well/water interruption, oil tank failure and the discovery of asbestos during a summer hallway tile renovation. All of these unexpected situations were addressed swiftly and professionally, coming to resolution with the reminder that we must be diligent in ongoing maintenance of our 60+ year old building. The original boys and girls bathrooms received a much needed remodel, improving utility and cleanliness. Ineffective doors on the gymnasium and front end were replaced, increasing security and insulation. The rooftop air handler unit continues to be carefully monitored as it is nearing end-of-life, but was too costly of a project to accomplish in FY17 with the other unanticipated needs that arose.

The SAU team moved into the Ellis School building, eliminating the expense of a separate office space. All School Board meetings were held at the Ellis School library, unless otherwise posted.

In the fall of 2017, the school returned approximately \$650,000 in unspent funds, which offset the tax rate. The majority of the return resulted from the Sanborn tuition line. Budgeting for our high school tuition has always proved challenging, because "estimates" must be used due to the timing of the process. The Fremont School District now has approximately \$200,000 in a tuition trust fund, which will allow for more conservative budgeting in the future, so additional funds for tuition aren't unnecessarily raised and appropriated.

The Fremont School Board is pleased with the progress made in 2017 in the focus areas of student learning, curriculum & instruction, staff development, facilities and communication. 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

Jennifer Brown, Vice Chair

Angela O'Connell

Susan Levine

Brittany Thompson