

## **Report of the Fremont School Board**

The 2010-2011 school year began with a smooth school opening on August 30, 2010. Superintendent William Lander, Middle School Principal John Safina, and Elementary School Principal and Special Education Director Dawn Lewis all returned, providing continuity of leadership and stability for the students and staff at Ellis School.

In March 2010, the School Board welcomed newly elected member Nancy Bernhardt and re-elected member Deborah Genthner. In early summer, Nancy Bernhardt announced she would be relocating to New York and so the board solicited for folks interested in serving in her stead. The Board received requests from 7 interested parties. In December 2010, the Board selected and welcomed Eric Abney as the newly appointed Member. The Board extends thanks to Nancy Bernhardt for her service as well as our appreciation to all of the individuals who stepped up to be considered for her open seat.

A major amendment to the Fremont School District Charter took place on Election Day in September 2010 when the voters of Fremont overwhelmingly voted to change the method of voting at School District Meeting from the Traditional School District Meeting to SB2.

SB2 changes the process of School District Meeting for 2011. The process of deliberating the warrant articles and voting on whether or not to implement them in one meeting will not occur this year. The new process involves a separate Deliberative Session and an Election Day when the voting will occur. The Deliberative session is held prior to the Election Day in March and is a town meeting style session where all School Warrants including the proposed School Budget are presented to the voters for discussion. The Deliberative Session is a very important part of the SB2 process because it gives the voters the opportunity to weigh in on what is placed on the official ballot. Just as the Traditional School District Meeting allowed voters to speak and amend warrant articles and school budget appropriations, so too does the Deliberative Session. Based on the decisions made during the Deliberative Session, the final School Warrants are then placed on an official ballot for the final vote by the citizens of Fremont on Election Day.

Economically, this has been and continues to be a tough time for Federal, State and Local Government all of which affects School District funding. Superintendent Lander has advised that Governor Lynch is proposing significant cuts from the State budget; including Department of Education funding. This news brings difficult funding challenges to the School Board when attempting to meet the educational goals for our community. The School Board recognizes that when State Aid decreases, the school district must request additional funds from our local property owners. This is the unfortunate reality of the way education is funded in New Hampshire.

With this in mind, additional challenges face the Fremont School District as Ellis School is one of the 85% of NH schools that have been recognized as a SINI (School in Need of Improvement) or DINI (District in Need of Improvement) based on the standardized testing requirements of No Child Left Behind. While there are some State and Federal funds available to help with the planning and implementation of a District-wide Improvement Plan, the School Board must work

to balance the needs of reducing educational costs where possible and funding an adequate education for our students and community.

Our goals of improved student achievement and staff development continue to remain our focus as we work through this school year. We continue to support our administration in their efforts to meet State and soon-to-come Federal Education Standards and to develop programs that meet these needs. Our Strategic Plan is in place and an Action Plan has been adopted by the School Board to keep our goals at the forefront of our work for the District. We also continue to work on updating and reviewing all School District Policies on a scheduled basis.

Even in these difficult times, Ellis School continues to be enriched by the great work of our staff and the endless dedication and selfless volunteering of our parents and community members. We are forever grateful for the work of the PTA and their generous donations of time and equipment for the school. The FAA and the Parks and Recreation Department continue to be great advocates for the programs that the school appreciates and supports. The Town of Fremont should be proud of Ellis School and all who work and learn there.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Rowell

Deb Genthner

Eric Abney

Sharon Girardi

Ida Keane

The Fremont School Board



Fremont Daisies Visit the Complex with Officer King