

REPORT OF THE FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD

The 2009-2010 school year can very simply be referred to as a year of vast change for students, staff, teachers and the community at large in our beautiful town of Fremont NH. Last Spring began with a search for a new Middle School Principal followed by a search for a new Superintendent of our SAU#83. In addition to these major administrative changes, two newly vacated seats on the School Board were filled by new members. It was clear that with so many new faces leading our District, Ellis School looked forward to a level of renewed energy and commitment that often accompanies new-found, experienced, innovative and motivated leadership. Through the collaboration of community members, staff and teachers – we have been most fortunate to hire both William Lander as our Superintendent and John Safina as our Middle School Principal.

By July 1, 2009 our new administration was in place alongside our Elementary School Principal, Dawn Lewis. Our new team jumped into the beginning of the school year eager to continue the work their predecessors had begun with the School Board. The Strategic Plan has been and continues to be an ongoing effort. With great commitment and teamwork, the Board and Administrators completed a set of 3 – 5 year goals which can be viewed at www.sau83.org under the School Board tab. These initiatives were derived from the feedback collected by three different Focus Groups – one made up of Community Members, one consisting of Teachers & Staff and one consisting of Fremont School Board members, the Principals, and the Superintendent. The Strategic Plan and the new 3-5 year goals set the stage for the 2009-2010 school year expectations. Main target areas are the improvement of student achievement, improved communication, and the need to support Professional Development of our administrators, educators and staff.

The Long Range Facilities Planning Committee that was formed in 2008 completed their work and presented their findings to the School Board earlier this year. This final report concluded the work the Committee had been charged with. The recommendations of this Committee are available at www.sau83.org under the School Board tab and provide an important resource when determining future decisions for the needs of our District. We thank the community members that served on this Committee and give special thanks to Kevin Herrmann who volunteered to Chair this group.

Earlier this year, the School Board adopted a new Report Card for both the Middle School and the Elementary School. The development of a new format of communicating student achievement has been an ongoing project for the past two years. The Middle School Report Card has a Standard Based Reporting format which now incorporates Traditional Letter Grades while the Elementary School Report Card includes Standard Based Reporting only. Importantly, these new report cards communicate progress of student proficiency at the New Hampshire Grade Level Expectations, an important metric in assessing student achievement. Much time and effort has been spent to be sure academic performance is being communicated effectively to students and their families through both Progress Reports and Report Cards. We want to thank everyone that assisted with this challenging project on behalf of our students.

Results of the 2008-2009 New England Common Assessment Program testing indicate that 96% of our students at Ellis School achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements. One section of the Districts scores however did not meet AYP - the educationally disabled sub-group. Ellis School continues to strive for all students to reach AYP understanding that the goal of NCLB is to reach 100% proficiency by 2014. An important goal of the District is to continue to improve student achievement through focused and measured efforts for all students.

While we look towards the future of our District we realize the economic concerns of our community and understand the financial constraints this can place on our local educational system and our Town. We as a School Board are charged with the very important task of improving student achievement through community engagement. We must use the resources granted to us by the community to provide the best education possible for our students. In order to accomplish this challenge, we must work collaboratively as a community to find a sustainable balance.

In closing, Ellis School would not be the special place it is for our students without the commitment and dedication of so many generous community members. At the risk of forgetting someone, we wish to thank the parents that volunteer their time, the Fremont PTA for their programs and support, the FAA for offering a tremendous number of sports activities, the Parks and Recreation Department, the local businesses for their generous donations, the dedicated teachers for educating the students and the competent, friendly Ellis School staff for keeping everything running safe, clean and efficiently.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Rowell Peg Pinkham Deb Genthner Sharon Girardi Ida Keane

The Fremont School Board

“Time is a companion that goes with us on a journey.
It reminds us to cherish each moment, because it will never come again.
What we leave behind is not as important as how we have lived.”

~ Captain Jean-Luc Picard