

REPORT OF THE FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD

The Fremont School Board is pleased to present to our community, this report outlining various aspects of the state of our schools.

Despite a number of significant challenges over the years – steady population growth, increasing academic accountability standards on the State and federal levels, and school funding issues – we believe the state of the Fremont School District is one of great promise.

We have seen progress on a number of levels. Based on a positive vote at last years meeting, a Kindergarten program was implemented at Ellis School in September. The program offers a solid core Kindergarten curriculum that integrates with curriculum and programs established in the elementary school as well as specials in computer, physical education, health, art, music, and library. We expect that these children will truly hit the ground running when they enter first grade in September, and that the positive effects of this program will be recognized for years to come.

A Gifted and Talented Program is also being implemented this year. This program offers engaging and challenging programs to students throughout the school, and especially challenges those students that have exceptional capacity and talent. The School Board welcomes this program as we strive toward a goal of personalized learning for each student. We view this program as essential to recognition as a Follow the Child school district. The Follow the Child initiative is a New Hampshire Department of Education Initiative that “captures and expands upon the spirit of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and the urgency to move each child to academic proficiency and beyond.” More information on this program is available at <http://www.qisa.org/follow.php>.

While we can point to these successes and many others, we can't overlook the very real issues that we, and many other school systems, face. The federal NCLB Act of 2001 established standards and assessment requirements for states. While the Board applauds the spirit of No Child Left Behind, we would welcome federal funding consistent with the expanded information systems that are needed to implement the necessary programs.

Overcrowding continues to be an issue at our school. The building addition of several years ago was much-needed but less than adequate to address the long term education needs of our Town. A Long Range Facilities Planning Committee was established to deal with this perennial issue. This committee is looking at options available to help alleviate the space issues presently facing the school.

As we reflect upon the past year, perhaps the most significant impact on the lives of our young people is a cooperative and collaborative effort of educators, parents, community leaders, and elected officials all working together to further public education. We are thankful to have the support of the Town and its Departments, Ellis School staff, PTA and its members, and citizens of Fremont, who all help with this goal.

Recently, the Fremont Athletic Association donated time and materials to install two baseball playing fields on school property. We expect this project will be completed in the Spring of 2008. It is this spirit of volunteerism and goodwill that makes Fremont a special place to raise children.

Children are our future and we must provide them with the necessary knowledge to be successful in life. The School Board takes this responsibility seriously, and we attempt to keep this thought foremost in our minds as we set policy and make important decisions that impact future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fremont School Board



2007 Memorial Day Parade

Photo Courtesy of Bob & Janice O'Brien