

Report of the Superintendent

I am so very pleased to serve as the Superintendent of Schools for SAU 83 and to provide this annual report to the residents of Fremont. The Fremont School District currently has 376 students enrolled in grades Pre-K through Eight at Ellis School and another 178 students attending Sanborn Regional High School.

We were so incredibly fortunate to be able to keep Ellis School open with in-person instruction for the majority of our students last year. With our in-person and our remote option, our learners were far less impacted than many throughout this state and the nation. As the 2021-2022 school year started, COVID-19 numbers had plummeted throughout the summer and all anticipated a return to normal. We soon learned this year would be as challenging, if not more challenging, than the last. As is to be expected at Ellis School, the dedicated School Board, administration, and staff have worked diligently on behalf of our students to keep our school open and our students learning. We have appreciated the positive comments and words of encouragement that we have received as we have done our best to navigate these uncharted waters.

In the fall of 2021, the School Board identified the following four goals for the 2021-2022 school year:

- ❖ The Fremont School District will support staff by providing quality professional development opportunities in learning and assessments, leading to increased student proficiency.
- ❖ The Fremont School District will continue planning for the future high school contract.
- ❖ The Fremont School District will structure the student support services to assist in providing a comprehensive educational program for our learners.
- ❖ The Fremont School District will utilize best practices for behavioral expectations and will continue to support social-emotional learning for the entire school community.

The above goals have served as a guide for much of the work we have done throughout this year. We are pleased to report the following accomplishments related to our annual goals:

- Teacher professional development days, early release days, and other professional time have been spent on a variety of important topics. Significant time has been dedicated to revising competency statements make them more specific and relevant as they use them in context and understandable to students and their families. Teachers have also been developing proficiency scale rubrics to help learners and families understand the proficiency levels and how they can strive to achieve at the highest levels. We have transitioned from NWEA assessments to the New Hampshire State Assessment System (SAS). Our teachers are analyzing the data to determine common strengths and weaknesses in math and English Language Arts. Ellis teachers adopted a new math program starting this school year and have been involved in multiple trainings to assist

with its successful transition. They are also piloting a new English Language Arts program for possible future implementation. Throughout this professional discourse, there have been thoughtful discussions about the effects of the pandemic and remote learning and how to address some of the gaps that have been noted.

- Our work regarding a future high school contract culminated last spring with the identification of three schools – Sanborn Regional High School, Pinkerton Academy, and Raymond High School. A new high school futures committee has now been organized to further consider what information we may still require and to work toward a Request for Proposals to bring us to our final selection. Our tentative timeline is to be able to bring our final selection to the voters in March of 2023.
- Our student support services were restructured at the beginning of this school year. We continue to analyze what changes need to be adopted to help provide a comprehensive educational programming for our students. We are currently working with a consultant to provide feedback and guidance on appropriate structures, professional development, and staffing. Work has been done with regard to schedules, training on paperwork regulations, and professional development to support our teachers and learners.
- With regard to our goal of providing best practices for behavioral expectations and social emotional learning across our learning communities, our teachers have done exceptional work. In early fall, regional experts spent time with our teachers sharing information and strategies around the topics of trauma informed instruction and addressing gateway behaviors. Our Responsive Classroom work continues to provide common language and expectations for our students. This learning is reinforced in our advisory time and throughout conversations about behavioral expectations. Our Ellis counselors provide weekly classroom lessons to help support the social and emotional skills of our learners. In addition, they continue to support individual learner's needs on an ongoing basis. Our counselors have provided Signs of Suicide training to our teachers and staff on a yearly basis. Ellis School partners with Seacoast Mental Health to provide services to qualified students within our building.

Our physical plant is meticulously maintained by our facilities staff. Under the direction of Paul Normandin, several improvement projects have been completed within the last year. We completed an LED light conversion of approximately 330 fixtures. Our large AC and air handler was replaced as well as several room ventilators and our front vestibule heater. We added an Arsenic water filtration component to our water filtration system. Windows and doors in need of repair and replacement were serviced. A chain link fence was installed on a portion of our property line and a gym divider was installed to provide us addition learning space. In addition to these projects, all the floors were refinished. Our team provides daily cleaning as well as deep cleaning and disinfecting related to COVID-19.

Ellis School's Word of the Year is **Cooperation**. What a fitting word it has been for this year! Our students have looked for examples of cooperation in their school work, they have practiced how to cooperate in small groups, and during classroom activities. Our teachers and staff demonstrate amazing cooperative skills each and every day as we work to make learning happen during these trying times. We are very appreciative of the cooperative relationship

with have with our parents and our community. Thank you to the Ellis and Sanborn staff for their dedication to our Fremont learners; to the Fremont School Board for their commitment to providing a quality education for each and every student; and to the parents and community members for their commitment to educating our future leaders.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen H. Halliday
Superintendent of Schools



Fremont Parks & Recreation's Annual Santa event held outdoors at Ellis School in conjunction with Town Tree Lighting at the Fremont Safety Complex on Friday December 3, 2021.

Fire Prevention Activities at
Ellis School

October 2021

Photos courtesy of
Michelle Gallant

