

Report of the Superintendent

A YEAR OF RAISING STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS

There is a talented and dedicated group of people who both work for and volunteer in the Fremont School District and it has been worthwhile to enlist their help to continue to improve our school system. First, Scott Brown and his custodial staff have worked extra hard this year to bring a shine to everything in the school building. The floors sparkle! Then with the assistance of Lyn Healey, our short-term curriculum consultant, the teaching staff has been meeting to discuss and align curriculum all across the school. New grade level and program curriculum guides are on the new SAU 83 website launched this last summer. Yes, we have a new website that was created by a committee of volunteers last spring and went live last summer. A Strategic Plan Committee came together over the spring and summer and completed the new 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for the Fremont School District. This Committee was made up of community members, parents, staff, administration and School Board volunteers who surveyed the town to help build the new plan. It is on the new website for your information. Administration is working with the teaching staff to pilot the new Teacher Support and Evaluation Plan in an effort to support high quality teaching. The School Board continues to work to create, correct, and enforce policy, oversee and administer the budget, and to be a good steward of our school in a fair and open manner.

THE ELLIS SCHOOL BUILDING

Fifty percent of the school buildings in the State of New Hampshire were built before 1950. The original section of the Ellis School was built in 1950. That is over 60 years ago. There was an instructional wing added in the 1970's, and the Kindergarten/Pre-School wing was added in 2005. At the SAU, it is our job to oversee all building and grounds of the Fremont School District to assure that the students have a safe and productive environment in which to learn, hence the title, Superintendent.

Last year, the School Board authorized the expenditures of funds to begin catching up the repair and replacement cycle of capital items at the Ellis School. The Board voted to authorize the following repairs and replacements:

- The replacement of three electrical subpanels, dated 1950 (1) and 1966 (2)
- The replacement of the water pump
- The replacement of the carpet in the library and administrative offices (20 years)
- The replacement of the carpet in the modular classrooms (20 years)
- The replacement of the roofs (20 years) on the two modular classrooms
- The purchase of a new floor scrubber, and vacuums.
- Re-equipped school nurses' office
- New cabinetry and sinks in the art room, 5/6 science room and teachers' room

The School Board also voted to expend funds at the close of the 2013-2014 school year to install a science laboratory in the grades 7 and 8 science room so that the grades can receive

instruction to meet today's science curriculum standards. When the arrangements began to make this happen, it was determined that the 1970's wing of the school contained asbestos flooring and contaminated mastic that had to be removed before the new laboratory could be installed. Therefore, the School Board has authorized, with the consent of the Budget Committee, to expend funds to abate the asbestos after school is out this June. It is our hope that this will be done as quickly as possible so that the Parks and Rec Summer Program will not be displaced for long. Once the asbestos is gone and the new flooring installed, the science laboratory will be installed as well.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

And finally we come to the reason that the Fremont School district is here, student learning for all of our kids. The fall of 2013 was the final administration of the NECAP test as required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act's "No Child Left Behind." Now, the State of New Hampshire begins a new chapter in state accountability testing with the Smarter Balanced Consortium's assessment. This test not only moves to assessing student knowledge of the Common Core State Standards for math, reading, and writing, but also moves to an adaptive computerized test. Students will be asked to answer questions and depending upon how they answer, new questions will be used by the computer to dig deeper into exactly just what each individual student knows. We are all hoping that this assessment will assist us further in pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of our curricula so that we may correct them and produce greater learning among all students.

In the last year of the NECAP test, Ellis School was showing continued improvement in student learning as illustrated in the School Board Annual Report Charts. Because of the switch to a new test, our baseline score will be reset and Ellis will need to move forward from this new starting line. The staff continues to learn how to read test scores and use that information to help our students learn and grow to new levels. I expect that will continue in earnest under this new system.

MANY THANKS

The personnel and School Board of the Fremont School District work every day to provide the best education possible to Fremont's preK-8 students. They are to be lauded and encouraged for their continuous improvement as they move forward into this new system of accountability. I particularly want to thank the other Town of Fremont groups and committees for their partnerships this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr Betsey Cox-Buteau
Superintendent