

Report of the Superintendent

The year 2013 saw significant changes in personnel at the SAU 83 office with the exit of Superintendent Langa in June, and Mrs. Verville, the Financial Administrator in August. This was followed by my entry as Interim Superintendent in July, the hiring of Ms. Susan Penny as Financial Administrator at the end of September, and my appointment by the School Board as Superintendent in December. Ms. Yvonne Ouellette has been graciously assisting with the transitions and her loyalty to the school district and her patience in all of this is to be commended. It is my belief that this office is now properly staffed with a team committed to effectively running the school district for the long term. Stability at the SAU will make a difference in its ability to look for and capture efficiencies for the benefit of the School District and taxpayers of Fremont, as well as continue to support the Ellis School as it continues its successful student learning improvement plan.

The Ellis School continues to make gains in student learning as evinced by the consistent improvement in NECAP test scores in reading and math over the past few years. Principal John Safina and his staff have worked diligently and expeditiously over these few years to bring in a new, research-based reading program, also to upgrade and evaluate the existing math program, and most importantly provide targeted intervention for students who struggle to learn the curriculum. They have also overseen improved student behavior and building culture.

However, due to the gap (difference) between the New Hampshire state average NECAP scores for special education students and students of low economic status, the New Hampshire Department of Education has given the Ellis School the status of a "2013-14 Focus School." This allows the Ellis School to receive funds in the form of a federal grant to provide for the use of data to drive targeted student achievement improvement and also for professional development for staff to improve instruction, assessment, and intervention practices. Since the Ellis School has been on the road to improvement for several years now, Ellis is considered to be doing very well as compared to other schools just beginning the improvement process.

The personnel and School Board of the Fremont School District work every day to provide the best education possible to our preK-8 students. I would like to extend my thanks to them for their dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Betsey Cox-Buteau
Superintendent