

## **Report of the Superintendent of Schools, SAU 83**

I am most pleased to be writing my second Superintendent Report for the Fremont School District. The past year passed by very quickly and it was filled with lots of hard work by everyone in the School District.

During the summer, we were fortunate to welcome a number of talented teachers to our faculty:

Jamie Carrier	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher
Jessica South	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher
Kelli Booth	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher
Andrea Smith	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher
Shona Emery	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
LeeAnn Wells	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher
Melissa Olms	Title I Teacher

Additionally, the following individuals joined our para-professional staff:

Martha Abney  
Suzanne Cohoon  
Adam Kenney  
Toulah Mylonas  
Julie O'Callaghan  
Sandra Roy  
Lydia von Ahn

Unfortunately, we lost two wonderful teachers this past year. Carol Foley resigned, taking a curricular position in Nashua, and Janis Daniels retired from the Special Education Department. We wish them well and thank them for their dedicated service to the District.

Additionally, Carol Cohen, Irma MacEachern and Leighann Maher took a leave of absence from the District. At this time, we anticipate the return of these teachers for the 2011-2012 school year.

During the past year, a major focus has been to settle a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fremont School District and the Fremont Education Association (FEA). As I pen this report, negotiations are still in progress with the hope to agree on a tentative agreement by January 11, 2011.

In an effort to continue to improve education for the children of Fremont, time has been devoted to create a Strategic Plan for the District, based on targets developed by New England School Development Council (NESDEC) in December 2008. The Strategic Plan has been juxtaposed with the goals developed by the School Board last year. The focus of this plan is on strategies to improve achievement for students and provide various ways to improve communication throughout the town and within the school.

A tremendous amount of time during the past year was devoted to reviewing our present Reading and Writing Programs. Through the analysis of what we presently have in place, we have been

able to determine what needs to be adjusted and have outlined an ongoing plan to improve the Reading and Writing skills of our children. The goal is to assure that the students are able to read and write at or above grade level, and to use literacy skills to think creatively and critically.

Efforts to improve the communication between the Fremont SAU Office and the Sanborn SAU Office have been ongoing. There have been routine meetings with Dr Blake, Superintendent of Sanborn, and myself. Additionally, the Ellis School staff has been involved in many student affair issues at Sanborn High School, as well as in dialogues to assure Ellis School students are prepared for the programs at Sanborn.

This past year has been a pleasure for me to work with such dedicated professionals at the Ellis School. In my visits to the school, I am continually impressed by what I see occurring. Because of this, I am concerned when I hear Ellis School criticized solely based on our performance on the standardized NECAP test. This test is only one piece of information regarding accomplishments of students. We use a number of tools to assess student progress and this information is, and will be reported to the School Board and community regularly. Using one tool, such as the NECAP, to rate the school, is like judging the weather by relying solely on the temperature: it could be 72 degrees outside, but be raining; or it could be 72 degrees outside, sunny with a nice breeze. We need to see the total picture to realistically assess the quality of the weather as well as evaluate the success of our school. Using a combination of assessment tools, as well as feedback from receiving High Schools, we do see the progress of our students. I need to emphasize that we continually strive to improve our performance on the NECAP test, and that we have seen continuous improvement of our scores over the years.

Prior to my coming to Fremont, the District adopted "Follow the Child", an initiative by the previous Commissioner of Education, Lionel Tracy. This policy looks at the total child: academically, socially, physically, and personally. I am proud to say, the Ellis School faculty and staff has a clear focus on these areas, assuring that our programs reach all aspects of the student needs. They are to be commended for this.

I would like to thank the Fremont School Board and community for their ongoing support. I would also extend my thanks to the School Administration, Dawn Lewis and John Safina, for their dedication to the young people of Fremont. The teaching staff at the Ellis School routinely provides quality programs for the students and I recognize them for this. Finally, I would like to extend special recognition to Bonnie Sandstrom and Yvonne Ouellette for their ongoing effort in the Central Office.

I look forward to the upcoming months and anticipate that the Fremont School District will continue to improve the quality of education for the students.

Respectfully submitted,

William P Lander  
Superintendent of Schools