

## Report of the Superintendent

It is my sincere pleasure 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 379 students enrolled in grades Pre-K through Eight at Ellis School and another 155 students attending Sanborn Regional High School.

The spring and summer of the 2022-2023 school year brought with it fond farewells to a handful of staff members leaving us for other work opportunities, retirement, or other ventures. Ellis School has been fortunate, however, to welcome wonderful new educators to our community who have already made lasting positive impacts with our learners and their families.

We continue to make great gains on the four ongoing goals previously identified by the School Board:

- ❖ *The Fremont School District will support staff by providing quality professional development opportunities in learning and assessments, leading to increased student proficiency.*
  - Teacher professional development days, early release days, and other professional time have been spent on a variety of important topics. Our teachers are continuing their work on our curriculum documents. They are revising competency statements to 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. They are working to identify gaps and overlaps in curricula as students move from level to level. Our teachers are analyzing the data from our SAS testing to determine common strengths and weaknesses in math and English Language Arts. Ellis teachers adopted a new math program last year and a new English Language Arts program this year. They have been involved in multiple trainings to assist with their successful transitions. We have a large cohort of teachers involved in an intensive course called LETRS. This learning will enhance their knowledge of essential literacy instruction. In addition to academic professional development, our staff has had multiple opportunities to engage on the subjects of social and emotional health for our students.
- ❖ *The Fremont School District will continue planning for the future high school contract.*
  - SAU 83 is continuing its work on the future high school project. The current tuition agreement with SAU 17 to provide educational service to our ninth through twelfth grade students concludes June 30, 2026.

We are grateful for the work that has been completed by the various search committees. It is the School Board's intent to have a proposed Tuition Agreement

on the March 2024 ballot. An approximate timeline of the for the next phase of this work is as follows:

- A Request for Proposals (RFP) disseminated January 5 of 2023
- Completed proposals due to the SAU 83 office March 30, 2023
- Evaluation of Proposals
- Negotiation of Tuition Agreement
- Presentation of proposed Tuition Agreement at 2024 Deliberative Session
- School District Vote on Proposed Tuition Agreement March 2024

❖ *The Fremont School District will structure the student support services to assist in providing a comprehensive educational program for our learners.*

- Our student support services were restructured at the beginning of this school year based on valuable feedback and guidance we received through consultation. Our programming has been revamped to better meet the needs of our current learners. We continue to analyze what changes need to be adopted to help provide a comprehensive educational programming



for our students. Special educators, paraprofessionals, regular educators, and counselors provide wrap around services for identified students. Work is ongoing with regard to schedules, training on paperwork regulations, and professional development to support our teachers and 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.*

- 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. During the summer, behavioral and educational strategists spent time with middle level teaching teams sharing information and strategies around such topics as student engagement, academic relevance and rigor, 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. A new playground structure was installed over the summer to replace aging equipment that had to be removed. Five new room ventilators were installed, sprinkler pipe was replaced as needed, and several mandatory inspections were completed. A new marque sign was installed at the front of the school to replace an older electronic sign no longer working properly. A new manganese filtration was added to our other filtration systems. Paving projects were completed over the summer. Through safety grants, additional safety features were added to our complex. In addition to these projects, all the floors were refinished. Our team provides daily cleaning as well as deep cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis.

Ellis School's Word of the Year is ***Together***. In today's society, learning how to work, play, and learn together successfully is a necessity. Our learners are often provided with learning experiences that are personalized to their needs and strengths but they are also involved in much cooperative learning where they practice communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity *together*.

We are very appreciative of how our school staff, school board, parents, and community work together to provide the very best for our learners – who are our future. 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

Photos courtesy of Theresa Blades