

**Fremont School District Deliberative Session-Minutes
January 30, 2021
9:00am At the Ellis School**

Present were: School Board Members: Greg Fraize, Amy Leslie, Gordon Muench (Zoom), Emily Phillips, Brittany Thompson; Superintendent: Allyn Hutton; Finance: Susan Penny; School District Attorney; Meghan Glynn (Zoom) School District Clerk: Shawn Perreault, School Moderator: Jamie Thompson; School Principal: Sharon DeVincent; Town Moderator: Michael Rydeen; Selectmen: Roger Barham; Gene Cordes; Neal Janvrin; Budget Committee: Mary Jo Holmes; Jon Benson; Steve Bonaccorsi; Josh Yokela; Michael Nygren; Pat Martel; Town Departments: Chief Twiss; Leon Holmes, Jr.; Officer Larochelle; Public: there were approximately 29 registered voters

Due to Covid-19, there was a limit place on the number of people that could be in the gym. Therefore, arrangements were made to allow anyone to join via Zoom. The link was posted on the Town website and Facebook.

Perreault opened the meeting with the Pledge of Alliance. She then informed the body that the first order of business would be to elect a School Moderator. Fraize nominated Jamie Thompson for School Moderator, Leslie seconded the nomination. Perreault asked for any other nomination from the floor. Vote was taken for those in favor of Jamie Thompson as School Moderator, all opposed. Yes votes have it. Perreault gave J. Thompson the oath of office, which he took and signed. Perreault then turned the meeting over to J. Thompson.

J. Thompson started with the agenda and rules of the meeting. Board members were introduced. Leslie spoke about 2019-2020 Ellis Highlights, such as teacher training, communications and student learning. She also went over work done on the building and equipment. She stated that currently Ellis has 83% of students attending in person 5 days a week. The School Board will be searching for a new Superintendent, as Ms. Hutton is retiring.

Article 01 District Officers

The following people were announced as having declared their candidacy:

- a. Two (2) School Board - 3 years
Greg Fraize
Gordan Muench
- b. One (1) School Board - 2 years
Brittany Thompson
- c. One (1) School Moderator - 1 year
Jamie Thompson
- d. One (1) School District Clerk - 1 year
Shawn Perreault
- e. One (1) School Treasurer - 1 year
Angela O'Connell

Article 02 Collective Bargaining Agreement-Support Staff

Shall the Fremont School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Fremont School Board and the Ellis School Support Staff (AFT - Local #6223) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2021-2022	\$29,221
2022-2023	\$23,510

2023-2024 \$21,220

and further to raise and appropriate \$29,221 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. (Majority vote required)

Recommendations:

Recommendations:

Fremont School Board 5-0

Fremont Budget Committee 8-0

J. Thompson began by reading the article. B. Thompson moved the article and Fraize seconded. B. Thompson spoke about the negotiation process. She stated they added .40 cents to every line. They are trying to be more competitive with salaries so they can retain staff and become more attractive to new hires. This is about a 2% increase in salaries, compensation for paras with increased training, a holiday was added. She asked that voters support the new Contract. Andy Kohlhofer – Main Street, asked if was there were any merits or direct care added. B. Thompson stated that compensation was added for those Staff members that were asked to do something outside their scope of employment. J. Thompson moved the question to the ballot.

Article 03 Special Meeting

Shall the Fremont School District, if Article 2 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 2 cost items only? (Majority vote required)

Recommendations:

Fremont School Board 5-0

Fremont Budget Committee 5-3

J. Thompson read the article. Fraize moved the article and B. Thompson seconded. No discussion.

Article 04 Operating Budget

Shall the Fremont School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth, therein, totaling \$12,113,330? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$12,089,294, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Fremont School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

Recommendations:

Fremont School Board 5-0

Fremont Budget Committee 8-0

J. Thompson read the article. Holmes moved the article and Muench seconded. J. Thompson reviewed the prepared slide showing the public how the School Board approached the numbers. Muench went over the details of the budget, how it was arrived and the overall decrease from last year. Andy Kohlhofer stated he would like to see the school hirer a full time language teacher. He made a motion to add \$100,000 to the regular programing school budget. This would make the new School Operating Budget \$12,213,330, seconded by A. O'Connell. O'Connell – Gristmill road. She stated that a few years back parents number one request was to add a language teacher. She was on the board when the School tried to hire someone for this position. The School lost three or four teachers in a very short period of time due to getting better job offers. She has a junior in High School and because he didn't have language her student has to take the required course at High School, which limits the classes he can take. This has also shown to help students learn. Holmes – 602 Main street, She stated that they have had an understanding with the school to return unused funds to the Town. She feels this would make the education better and supports this motion. Nicole Cloutier – Danville Road, feels this would be amazing. This would increase how far students could go. She asked

Andy how he came up with the number, she wanted to make sure it was enough to hire someone. Andy stated he based it on a basic level person and then the average of health insurance and materials that would be needed. B. Thompson stated she believed the School hired a full time person. DeVincent – Ellis School Principal, stated the school did hire three or four full time teachers that left is quick session. Then they tried hiring a part-time Spanish teacher to try and offer at least the 7th and 8th graders the opportunity, which did not work out either. Further discussion was held. Josh Yokela – Tibbets Road asked if there was space and enough students to add this position. DeVincent stated there are ways to get creative if they were able to hire a staff member to fill position. Question was called by Holmes, seconded by Bonaccorsi. Motion to increase the School Operating budget by \$100,000. Yes votes have it.

So, the new School Budget is that will appear on the ballot is \$12,213,330. Cordes moved the question and Bonaccorsi seconded. Leslie made motion to restrict questions 2, 3 and 4, seconded by Fraize. Yes, votes have it.

Article 05 Appropriate to ETF from Fund Balance

Shall the Fremont School District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the previously established expendable trust fund, known as the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund. This sum to come from June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. No amount to be raised from additional taxation. (Majority vote required)

Recommendations:

Fremont School Board 5-0

Fremont Budget Committee 8-0

J. Thompson read the article. Phillips moved the article, Fraize seconded. Phillips stated that these funds would be taken from unused funds. The Boards goal is to get the funds in this account up to \$300,000. It was recommended by the Budget Committee that the School Board slow the amount of money requested this year due to Covid-19. There was no further discussion.

There was a question on the floor to see if the School Board and the Budget Committee could take a new vote on recommending or not recommending the new School Operating Budget. M. Rydeen stated that in the past, after the meetings, the Budget Committee and the School Board usual hold a special meeting to review changes and make their new recommendation. When asked by the Budget Committee if they could just revote now, the School Attorney stated that this should be a separate meeting. She stated the reason being that was not the intention of today's meeting. Carlson stated that there is not a lot of time due to the need to send everything to the printer and in other years recommendations were not changed. Further discussion was held on the proper procedure to follow.

Perreault made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Leslie seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shawn Perreault, Fremont School District Clerk