

Report of the Superintendent

The 2020 school year for the Fremont School District has been like no other. On March 13, 2020 we transitioned to remote learning per the Governor's orders. We anticipated it might be for a few weeks, but ultimately it lasted for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. We were very pleased how parents and teachers collaborated to guide student learning and make the best of a very difficult situation.

During the summer of 2020, we brought together a re-opening committee to guide us through the planning options for the start of school in the fall. The committee reviewed the state guidelines and planned for instruction, health and safety protocols and the logistics including



food service, bussing and day to day operations. This collaborative effort was greatly appreciated and led us to a unique model that allowed us to re-open in September 2020 with a choice for parents.

Ellis students were offered the choice of in person instruction 5 days a week or remote instruction at home led by a certified teacher via the use of technology. The administrative team worked hard to re-assign staff and create new classroom spaces and school procedures, while maintaining social distancing.

While many others thought it would be a short-term solution, we are pleased to share that as of January 1, 2021 we have 85% of our students receiving in-person learning five days a week. Many of the remaining students are participating in remote learning or home schooling by parent choice. A small number are waiting to return to Ellis School as soon as we have space available to meet the safety protocol guidelines and add students to a classroom.

While the obstacles we have encountered continue to challenge us

daily, the reality is that Ellis School is one of the few in the state that has found way to offer in-person instruction every day for the large majority of students. This is in large part due to the hard work, flexibility and “CAN DO” attitude of the Ellis staff.

While closing down the building last spring was not in the plans, it did present us with an opportunity for an extended period of time to complete several much needed facility projects. Between March and September, we were able to complete all phases of the roof replacement, expand our security camera system, install window security film and exterior doors, repair the parking lot and upgrade the fire alarm system. Our maintenance crew once again went above and beyond!

The work of the High School Study Committee continues this year. During COVID-19 building closures, we paused this work, but we anticipate sharing what we have learned with the public early in 2021 and will be surveying citizens for input during the March election.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Superintendent of SAU #83 and to work with committed educators, caring parents and an involved community. We are looking forward to a healthier and less stressful 2021 for all!

Respectfully Submitted,

Allyn W. Hutton
Superintendent of Schools



Ellis School Gardens redone in 2020 by the Fremont Garden Club
Photos courtesy of Mary Kaltenbach