

FREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2019 DELIBERATIVE SESSION
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019
ELLIS SCHOOL, 9AM

School district Moderator, Peter Marggraf, called the 2019 School district Deliberative session to order at 9:00 am. He welcomed the audience and asked all in attendance to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was lead by the Girl Scouts. Moderator, Peter Marggraf, introduced Greg Fraize, Chair of the School Board, followed by other School Board members introducing themselves; Angela O'Connell, Gordon Muench, Brittany Thompson and School District Attorney Meghan Glynn. Greg Fraize announced that Sue Levine, School Board Vice-chair, was unable to attend today's meeting due to a death in the family. Greg Fraize continued by introducing Superintendent Allyn Hutton and Business Administrator, Sue Penny. Moderator, Peter Marggraf, introduced Mary Anderson, Chair of the Budget committee, followed by other Budget Committee members introducing themselves; Mary Jo Holmes, Vice-Chair, Patricia Martel, Jonathan Starr, Joe Miccile, Josh Yokela and Selectman Neal Janvrin.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, explained the General Rules of Order and that a modified version of Robert's Rules of Order would be used as a guide to run today's meeting. He further explained that the rules are established in order to provide fairness to all individuals. He continued by stating that he is here to monitor the meeting and keep the meeting flowing smoothly. He explained that after an Article is read, it would be followed by up to ten minutes of School Board presentations, followed by time for voters to discuss the Article. He asked that anyone wishing to discuss an Article, that they come forward to the microphone, state their name and address followed by their question/statement. He asked that speakers remain at the microphone while the response is being delivered. Each subsequent speaker must add to the discussion and not repeat what has been said. There will be a limit of three minutes per person speaking at the microphone. Only Fremont residents can vote, a voice count will not be taken, you must have a voting card from the Supervisor of the Checklist to vote. One motion at a time will be on the floor for discussion and negative motions will not be accepted. Voting on the Articles will take place on Election Day, March 12, 2019. He asked the audience to please turn off your cell phones, or turn to vibrate. Today we have five School Warrant Articles only two can be amended.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, turned the meeting over to Greg Fraize, Chair of the School Board. He spoke about the Fremont School District goals and accomplishments that the district achieved such as; students raised a substantial amount of money to donate to the families in Massachusetts that were affected by the natural gas explosion, they raised money to donate to the Veterans' Transition House, collected food for the Fremont food pantry, gathered food for local pet shelters, organized Toys for Tots donations, and sent Halloween treats to our Military overseas.

School Board member, Brittany Thompson, informed the audience of administrative accomplishments such as; Superintendent Hutton securing a grant in the amount of \$204,000 used to defray costs of enhancing building security for students and staff, coordinating a facilities committee to oversee short term, mid-term and long term building maintenance needs and hired a proactive facilities manager. Unanticipated issues have been identified; roof repair and maintenance of the sprinkler system. Staff and student have been updated with clear behavior expectations and consequences along with what to expect when administration assists with a behavior issue. Lastly, Superintendent Hutton, signed a three year contract ensuring she will remain at the Fremont School District for another three years.

She is trusted by both the School Board and Ellis School Staff members and has accomplished many goals for the district in the short amount of time she has been here.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, reminded that audience that the School District Warrant has five Articles and only two can be amended.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, read Article 01: To choose the following School District officers:

Article 01: District Officers

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| 1. Two (2) School Board Members: | 3 year terms | Amy Leslie and Emily Phillips |
| 2. One (1) Moderator: | 1 year term | Peter Marggraf |
| 3. One (1) School District Clerk: | 1 year term | Lisa Marggraf |
| 4. One (1) Treasurer: | 1 year term | Elizabeth J. Stanley |

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, stated that this Article is not amendable. He stated that the Article 01 would go on the ballot as written.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, read Article 02: Collective Bargaining Agreements

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 Fremont Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2019-2020	\$67,947
2020-2021	\$67,207
2021-2022	\$58,361

And further to raise and appropriate \$67,947 for the 2019-2020 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:
Fremont School Board 5-0
Fremont Budget Committee 7-1

Article 02 was moved by Greg Fraize, second by Brittany Thompson.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, opened the floor for presentations. Gordon Muench, School Board Member thanked the audience for coming to the meeting. He spoke to the details of the negotiations between the collective bargaining unit and the school district stating that three of the four teachers were also taxpayers in town and they worked long and hard to come up with a good contract. He commended their willingness to find solutions to problems; the entire process was respectful to the taxpayer. He continued to convey that the contract consisted of employees contributing more towards the rising cost of health insurance, probation period of 90 days for new hires that can be terminated by either party. New hires will contribute at the 2020 health insurance contribution amount. Staff members put onto an improvement plan will not receive a yearly increase and scheduling of personal days will be planned with no more than 2 staff members being out the same day.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, opened the floor for discussion. State Representative Denis Action, 93 Rislove Way, spoke as a resident, thanked the School Board members for the time put into the bargaining process. He recognized that teachers have options and could leave for higher paying districts. He is in favor of this contract and wants to make sure Fremont retains their experienced teachers.

With no further discussion, Moderator, Peter Marggraf, stated that Article 02 will go on the ballot as written.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, read 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 - not recommended 2 -6

Article 03 was moved by Angela O'Connell, second by Brittany Thompson.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, opened the floor for presentations. Angela o'Connell stated a second meeting would mean a public meeting to address the cost items. With no further discussion, Moderator Marggraf, said Article 03 will go on the ballot as written.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, read Article 04: Operating Budget

Shall the Fremont School District vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as needed by vote of the first Session, for the purposes set forth, therein, totaling \$12,792,215? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$12,686,630 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.

NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations proposed under any other warrant articles. (Majority vote required)

Recommendations:

Fremont School Board 5-0

Fremont Budget Committee 8-0

Article 04 moved by Brittany Thompson, second by Greg Fraize.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, opened up the floor for presentations. Mary Anderson, Chair of the Budget Committee read the budget committee report that was prepared for the town. This past year, the Budget Committee met in April and August and then weekly from September to January. During these meetings, members of the Budget Committee discussed with members of the School Board, School Superintendent, and Business Administrator as to the rationale for their recommendations. After careful consideration and analysis, the Budget Committee agreed with some recommendations and other times they recommended reductions. As a matter of reference, it is important to remember that for every \$416,000 increase in spending, the tax rate will increase \$1.00. So, as an example a \$1.00

increase in the tax rate means that for every \$200,000 valuation of your property, your taxes will increase \$200 annually.

Fremont School District - The proposed School budget for 2019-20 is \$12,792,215 which represents an increase of \$328,901 (2.74%). However, the amount to be appropriated by taxes is anticipated to be an increase of \$821,983. The \$821,983 increase is after the budget Committee requested that the School Board cut \$410,550 from the School budget and this was done. The reason for the large difference between the budget and the appropriation is that there were revenues in previous years to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes as there were funds that were appropriated for Sanborn tuition which were not paid, which in turn were "returned" by the school district to reduce the tax impact. With the \$821,983 increase in appropriation and the collective bargaining contract changes for teachers (\$67,9470 for year 1 of the contract, this represents over a \$2.00 increase per one thousand dollars of property valuation. In other words, if everything is approved, for every \$200,000 valuation of your home, your taxes will increase approximately \$400 for the year.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, opened the floor for discussion.

Brittany Thompson, school board member, commented that the budget process is extensive and starts in September when the school staff and parents take a look at what the needs of the school. Following an initial presentation to the Budget Committee, a request was made to reduce the budget. The School Board approved reductions of \$410,550. The reductions included: reducing staff hours and benefits, reducing of the number of buses (and increasing the age of the fleet), reducing the substitute line, and delaying the roof repairs.

State Representative, Denis Acton, Rislove Way, spoke as a resident, stating that the avalanche of spending and the tax impact on families is overwhelming.

Angela O'Connell, school board member, responded that unfortunately because of the funds returned to the taxpayers, that it seems like this year is projecting to be a larger tax burden.

With no further discussion Moderator Marggraf closed the discussion.

School Board member, Angela O'Connell, motioned to restrict from reconsideration Articles 2, 3 & 4, second by Greg Fraize. Moderator, Peter Marggraf, stated that there had been a motion to restrict articles, 2,3, & 4 for reconsideration. He then opened the floor for discussion there being no discussion he asked voters to use their voting cards for this vote. He asked for "All in favor of restricting Articles 2, 3 & 4 to please raise your vote cards, "All of those who opposed", Moderator, Peter Marggraf, declared that Articles, 2, 3, & 4 were now restricted for reconsideration

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, read Article 05: Appropriate to ETF Fund Balance

Shall the Fremont School District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$200,000 to be added to the previously established expendable trust fund, known as the Ellis School Building and Grounds Maintenance Fund. This sum to come from June 30, 2019 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2019. No amount to be raised from additional taxation. (Majority vote required)

Recommendations:
Fremont School Board 5-0

Fremont Budget Committee 8-0

Article 05 was moved by Brittany Thompson, second by Gordon Muench. Moderator, Peter Marggraf, opened up the floor for presentations. Angela O'Connell spoke to the trust fund and the district has set up many funds in the past which have focused on maintenance of the building. The roof will need to be repaired over the summer. As a community we need to focus on our aging building and develop a facilities plan to address the building needs. Mary Anderson, Chair of the Budget Committee, agreed that no additional money will be raised for the roof project. The school board will have to find money within the current budget to complete his project. She encouraged voters to support this on voting day.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, opened the floor for discussion, with no further discussion he asked voters to use their voting cards for this vote. He asked for "All in favor of Article 05 as written please raise your voter cards, All those who oppose please raise your voter card. Moderator, Peter Marggraf, declared that Articles 05 will go on the ballot as written.

Moderator, Peter Marggraf, turned the meeting over to school board member, Angela O'Connell. She stated that two members of the school board will be ending their term, members Brittany Thompson and Sue Levine. She commented that both have worked hard and attending School Board meetings is a very small piece of what they do as a member. She thanked their families for giving up family time, members have missed numerous sports games and events while they dedicated themselves to the School Board. The town deliberative session will be here in the gym on Monday night at 7pm. She thanked the Budget Committee for all their hard work and support.

School Board member, Brittany Thompson moved to adjourn, second by Gordon Muench. Moderator, Peter Marggraf, thanked the audience for coming and encouraged them to attend the Town Deliberative session. Meeting Adjourned.



Ellis Athletes in Action
Photos courtesy of Theresa Blades