

**FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
School Board Meeting  
January 28, 2010  
6:30 P.M.**

**School Administrative Unit #83  
Blackrocks Village  
5 Hall Road, Unit 1  
Fremont, NH 03044**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jeff Rowell called the January 28, 2010 meeting of the Fremont School Board to order at 7:25 PM at the School Administrative Unit #83, Blackrocks Village, 5 Hall Road, Unit 1, Fremont, NH 03044.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present were Fremont School Board Chairman Jeff Rowell, Vice Chairwoman Peg Pinkham, Deb Genthner, Sharon Girardi, Ida Keane, Elementary Principal Dawn Lewis and Superintendent Bill Lander.

Members of the public included: Julie Ryan, Jodi Donahue, and Bridget Paine.

**III. OLD BUSINESS: Q & A**

Mr. Lander reviewed questions from the minutes of January 11, 2010. He verified that the vote on the charter amendment would be September 11, 2010. He clarified that "municipal office" did mean the School Board. He said that they think SB2 voting happens in March. Ms. Girardi asked if the taken at the meeting stating that SB2 would be effective upon passage was written in the order. Ms. Keane said that the minutes read that Atty. Eggert stated it had to be in the order. Ms. Pinkham said it would be on the ballot. Ms. Girardi said that Atty. Eggert had said he would put the date at the bottom as an amendment rather than changing the effective date part. Mr. Lander said he'd have to double-check that with Atty. Eggert tomorrow.

Ms. Girardi asked about the other amendment and Mr. Lander replied that he had nothing that supports it being sent to the Secretary of State's office, where he sent a message to see if anything was on file. He said it was forwarded to DRA after it was voted on, with the original charter and the ballot used for the vote tally stapled to it. He is waiting to hear from Dave Scanlon. People at Atty. Eggert's office have found no copy. An email from Atty. Eggert's office states that he doesn't think there is a major problem with it and that the issue now is what will be voted on in September. Whatever the state of the charter is now, if it passes the vote in September, they would have to redo work that was done. If it doesn't pass, they would need to revisit that. Mr. Lander said that the attorney felt that if the voters voted on it, it would stand in effect. Ms. Keane was concerned that someone else could request the same treatment on any Warrant that they want to place against the charter. Mr. Lander understood.

Mr. Lander reviewed the questions from the minutes of January 14, 2010. He said that Mr. Brown was working on the hot water issue. Ms. Girardi mentioned that there is hot water now in

the ladies' room by the gym. She said that the first faucet was removed and that there is hot and cold water now. Ms. Keane asked if Mr. Brown is going to get an estimate to repair the water and Mr. Lander said yes.

Regarding the Warrant Article to accept federal grants, Mr. Lander said that he emailed Atty. Eggert who replied that if it passes, they don't have to put it on again.

Mr. Lander said that they did need to adjust the collective bargaining cost for teachers to include FICA and retirement and this is done on the Warrant Articles that they have. Ms. Keane asked if the Budget Committee had the correct numbers and Mr. Lander said yes.

Ms. Girardi asked about an email that Ms. Sandstrom sent out regarding a glitch in calculating retirement and Mr. Lander explained that it was for next year's budget. Ms. Pinkham said that the Budget Committee has been notified of that.

Mr. Lander said that Ms. Sandstrom is working on grant reports and line items. Ms. Pinkham said that Greta St. Germain had emailed a request but Mr. Lander said he did not receive it at that time but he did get a copy. Ms. Pinkham said that the question was what the required number of principals was per a certain amount of students. Mr. Lander said that there needs to be at least one principal and an assistant principal or second administrator (or two administrators) for over 500 students.

Ms. Keane said that the Budget Committee would like a copy of the transportation contracts for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

#### **IV. AGENDA REVISIONS**

#### **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*Ida Keane made a motion to approve the public minutes for January 11, 2010 as amended. Deb Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.*

*Deb Genthner made a motion to approve the public minutes for January 14, 2010 as amended. Sharon Girardi seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:1 (abstention from Peg Pinkham).*

#### **VI. BOARD, SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Lander said that NECAP scores came out today and he would have information on that in an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Lander said he met with Ted Comstock who said his associate is willing to work with them on a mission statement for approximately \$1,000 - \$1,500. Since this money is not in the budget, Mr. Lander agreed that he (the District) could work on the mission statement.

Ms. Genthner said that there had been a discussion about who would be the clerk at the District Meeting after the vote on March 9. Ms. Genthner said that the clerk felt that after the March 9 vote, there would be a re-count on March 12 (evening), and then the new clerk would be sworn in and would take minutes on March 13 and also be the moderator. Ms. Genthner said that there

was a discussion about confusion regarding the moderator last year and she felt that there should be more clarification. Mr. Lander said he would check on that.

Mr. Rowell said that, in the Board of Selectmen's minutes, there was a vote on a release of funds to the District. Mr. Rowell did not think that got voted on. Mr. Lander said he wrote the Board of Selectmen a letter last week asking for clarification because he thought they had to pay for education and that it was not a choice. Mr. Lander said he has had no response yet.

## **VII. PUBLIC INPUT**

Jodi Donahue (Ingalls Lane, Fremont) read a letter she and her husband, James, wrote to the Board regarding a request to add a fourth teacher to second grade next year due to the high number of identified students in the first grade. They have a child in the first grade this year and she volunteers in the classroom. They realized the cost issue but felt it would benefit children in the whole grade. Ms. Pinkham thanked Ms. Donahue for volunteering. Mr. Rowell said that the administration made recommendations to the Board and can take this into consideration though it is uncertain how the budget will turn out. Ms. Pinkham noted that the School Board elected to keep that position in the budget but the Budget Committee has voted to cut that position. Ms. Pinkham said that there will be opportunities for parents to address the Budget Committee before the final town vote on March 13: at next Wednesday's review and a public hearing on February 8.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. FINALIZE WARRANT ARTICLES**

Mr. Lander asked if the order of the Articles was correct. He is waiting to hear back from the attorney about wording, etc.

Ms. Girardi noted that there was a dollar amount in Article 6 (budget) but she said that the Board only voted on a preliminary budget and did not revisit it. She wondered how they got to that figure. Mr. Lander said it is the figure they have at this particular time but if the School Board wanted to adjust that figure, they would need another session to come up with what it would be. Ms. Pinkham said that, typically, the School Board tries to meet after the Budget Committee makes final recommendations/justifications. Mr. Lander suggested meeting next Thursday night. The Board agreed.

Ms. Pinkham said that there were several items that the Budget Committee has voted to take out of the budget since monies weren't spent last year (there is no history of needing money for certain line items). She said the District had a frozen budget last year and she needed to know how it made up the money with line item transfers. Mr. Lander did not know of any tracking where transfers came from. He thought it was "played off the bottom line". Ms. Pinkham said it was hard to justify where the District got the money (such as occupational therapy equipment). Mr. Lander asked if he could get a copy of the email and things could be finalized on Thursday.

Ms. Girardi was concerned about having an increased budget in light of the state of the current economy.

Ms. Keane said that the request for Special Education transportation for 2010-11 has \$115,000 more than the bid requires. She asked for a breakdown of the \$115,000 (what the cost was made up of). Ms. Lewis said she would work on that. She said it is an estimate (average) based upon what she knows happened this year and what she anticipates having next year with 3 or 4 more students out in the community. Ms. Lewis said it is difficult to put an exact number on transportation, especially with community placements. Mr. Lander suggested getting a history of what was spent for transportation last year, where they were so far this year and what is projected for next year (per school estimate). Ms. Girardi suggested a function report against that line item.

Mr. Rowell noted that usually contracts are handled within the first few Warrant Articles. Ms. Pinkham said that there was rationale either way because the issue is tax and time appropriation.

Ms. Girardi asked if the tax impact should be put in. Mr. Rowell said that has been done before. Ms. Genthner said that the tax impact would be in the newsletter two weeks beforehand. Ms. Pinkham said that there would be information that will explain that in handouts.

Regarding the late bus, Mr. Lander said that North Reading Transportation gave a rate of \$69/day so Ms. Sandstrom calculated 180 days and came to the number. He said they could put it in for 150 days or whatever the Board wanted. Ms. Pinkham suggested getting the late bus enrollment/usage figures to provide to the Budget Committee (cost per student).

Mr. Lander said that he just needed Board direction to finalize the Warrant Articles.

## B. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

### 1. FIRST READING: POLICIES FROM SECTIONS I and J

#### IHBAA:

Ms. Lewis said that new regulations as of 2008 require a policy only dealing with specific learning disabilities.

Ms. Lewis reviewed this policy, cross-referencing what the Fremont School Board had and what she put together using what the NHSBA had (based on what Special Education Directors have used for two years).

Ms. Lewis said the top of page 19 (green sheet) should read: IHBAA-R EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES. She said that the intent is to determine a specific learning disability.

Ms. Pinkham asked if was typical to put an individual's name in a policy rather than a position (e.g. Director of Special Education). Ms. Lewis said yes so parents know who to file a complaint with immediately. Mr. Rowell said that Ms. Lewis' name was on the appendix of IHBAA-R.

Mr. Lander said that this would be an approved procedure to the policy.

Ms. Girardi asked if the policy (IHBA) would need to be amended if someone else had Ms. Lewis' position in the future. Mr. Lander said that the Board would just change the contact name in the procedure. He suggested putting "call the Special Education Director" and not Ms. Lewis' individual name.

JICH: DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE BY STUDENTS (DRUG FREE ZONE)

Mr. Rowell suggested doing a cross-comparison of the policy versions that were presented to see what makes more sense for Fremont.

Mr. Lander suggested adding something about expelling students from school. Ms. Girardi was concerned about expelled students not receiving education. Mr. Lander explained that if the case involved breaking the law, such as in the hypothetical case of a student who deals drugs in school, the student should be expelled from school. Ms. Lewis added that if the student were identifiable, he/she would need to be placed so he/she would be educated. Mr. Lander felt it was important to cover all bases.

Mr. Lander said he would combine the versions add in a part about student expulsion from school in Policy JICH.

Mr. Lander suggested having a subcommittee made up of two School Board members and him to review policies before coming to the Board.

2. THIRD READING FOR ADOPTION: SECTIONS E, G, and J

EBCF: PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EMERGENCIES

Ms. Girardi revisited her question of head lice being considered a communicable disease and if so, the procedure done for lice would need to be changed to keep it out of school. Mr. Lander said he would find this out.

*Peg Pinkham made a motion to adopt Policies EEAEC, GBEC, GBJ-R, GCEB, and JICC. Deb Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.*

**IX. FUTURE AND FOLLOW UP AGENDA ITEMS**

Board Policies	Ongoing
Fremont Cooperative Planning Committee	Ongoing
Public Relations, Newsletter	Ongoing
Adult Education Program	TBD
Policy: Project Management Plan	TBD
Long Range Facilities Planning Committee	TBD
Strategic Plan	Ongoing
Fixed Asset Appraisal Company	Ongoing
Health Care Study Committee	TBD
Special Needs Overview	TBD
Grant Overview	TBD
Literacy Overview	TBD
Invitation to Kingston Charter School	TBD

**X. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: N/A**

**XI. RETURN TO GENERAL SESSION: N/A**

**XII. NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 4, 2010 at 6:30 PM and FEBRUARY 11, 2010 at 6:30 PM**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Deb Genthner made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 PM. Sharon Girardi seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Perry,  
School Board Secretary

**QUESTIONS****1/28/2010**

1. Ms. Genthner said that there had been a discussion about who would be the clerk at the District Meeting after the vote on March 9. Ms. Genthner said that the clerk felt that after the March 9 vote, there would be a re-count on March 12 (evening), and then the new clerk would be sworn in and would take minutes on March 13 and also be the moderator. Ms. Genthner said that there was a discussion about confusion regarding the moderator last year and she felt that there should be more clarification. Mr. Lander said he would check on that.
2. Ms. Keane said that the request for Special Education transportation for 2010-11 has \$115,000 more than the bid requires. She asked for a breakdown of the \$115,000 (what the cost was made up of). Ms. Lewis said she would work on that. She said it is an estimate (average) based upon what she knows happened this year and what she anticipates having next year with 3 or 4 more students out in the community. Ms. Lewis said it is difficult to put an exact number on transportation, especially with community placements. Mr. Lander suggested getting a history of what was spent for transportation last year, where they were so far this year and what is projected for next year (per school estimate). Ms. Girardi suggested a function report against that line item.
3. Ms. Pinkham suggested getting the late bus enrollment/usage figures to provide to the Budget Committee (cost per student).
4. Ms. Girardi asked if the policy (IHBA) would need to be amended if someone else had Ms. Lewis' position in the future. Mr. Lander said that the Board would just change the contact name in the procedure. He suggested putting "call the Special Education Director" and not Ms. Lewis' individual name.
5. Mr. Lander said he would combine the versions and add in a part about student expulsion from school in Policy JICH.
6. EBCF: PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EMERGENCIES  
  
Ms. Girardi revisited her question of head lice being considered a communicable disease and if so, the procedure done for lice would need to be changed to keep it out of school. Mr. Lander said he would find this out.