

**FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Meeting
January 8, 2008
7:00 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 8, 2008 meeting of the Fremont School Board to order at 7:05 pm at the School Administrative Unit #83, Blackrocks Village, 5 Hall Road, Unit 1, Fremont, NH 03044.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Chairman Jeff Rowell, Vice Chairwoman Peg Pinkham (entering at 7:10 pm), Christine Kenneway, Marian Guidoboni, Deborah Genthner, Superintendent Normand Tanguay, Financial Administrator Annmarie Scribner, and Elementary School Principal Dawn Lewis.

Members of the public included: Mary Hale, Carol Ann Foley, Kathy Bailey (Rockingham News), Cathy Herrmann, Nancy Bernhardt, Tracy Brann, Sue Mazur, Ellen Canty, and Ida Keane.

III. AGENDA REVISIONS: addition of personnel matter

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deborah Genthner motioned to approve the minutes of the public session of December 11, 2007 as amended. Marian Guidoboni seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

V. PRESENTATION: EAGLES CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Gifted & Talented Coordinator Carol Ann Foley presented information on the E.A.G.L.E.S (Eager and Gifted Learners Enriched Studies) program at Ellis School.

First, Ms. Foley noted some famous "gifted" people such as Winston Churchill, Isaac Newton and Walt Disney.

Ms. Foley said that a mission statement is being drafted and that there would be a packet distributed to School Board members at the next School Board meeting.

Ms. Foley reviewed the qualifications and roles of the EAGLES Coordinator position. She then discussed the differences between “bright learners” (e.g. those who know the answers) and “gifted learners” (e.g. those who ask questions.)

Ms. Foley listed methods of implementation, including classroom support, extension activities and small interest and ability groups. Next, she described a typical day of the EAGLES program and she reviewed thinking-skill behaviors.

Ms. Foley demonstrated how programming components fit within the 3-tiered model for progress monitoring and interventions, abiding by the NH Gifted and Talented Curriculum Frameworks.

Ms. Foley ended by inviting Board members to contact Ms. Lewis or herself with any questions.

Ms. Pinkham asked how/when an assessment piece might be produced and Ms. Foley replied that assessment has started in classrooms a bit and that teachers are working on combining different forms from other places. Commercial tests were purchased before the holidays and are due in soon. Ms. Lewis said that a lot of the identification work has been done and that IQ testing, etc., are part of the identification process. Ms. Pinkham asked if there was a formal way to appeal identification. Ms. Foley responded that the packets would include information stating that 3/4 of criteria need to be met to be at the high level (1-5%) but that there were always exceptions.

Ms. Pinkham asked if the coordinator had adequate time to bring EAGLES programming to other teachers. Ms. Lewis said that no extra staff was requested for this program in the budget and that they have tried to do the program with existing resources and with a different use of staff in order to affect students in the best way.

Mr. Rowell likened the EAGLES program to the work towards personalized education for every student. He asked how extra work was integrated into the program. Ms. Foley said that some ways include agenda books and outdoor recess time (grade 4.)

Ms. Lewis said that she sampled similar programs done in states like New York and Colorado and some attributes were borrowed for the EAGLES program.

Ms. Foley pointed out that children do not always test well and that this does not mean that they are not good thinkers. She said that students in the EAGLES program would do things with competitions nation- and world-wide, working with children’s strengths and enhancing any weaknesses to be strengths. She said this is a “challenge for all.”

Ms. Kenneway asked if any ideas for the program were student-generated and Ms. Foley replied that some of her previous students had given her feedback about the project, such as doing collaborative projects with people online as real-life research and participation and she expects there would be more student-generated ideas.

Ms. Guidoboni asked about student referrals by staff. Ms. Foley said that depended on what the referral was and that there wasn’t a formal process. Usually, the idea of a child entering the EAGLES program is brought up during parent-teacher conferences. Parents need to be involved. Ms. Foley mentioned the Renzuli Learning System whereby students take learning style tests online and parents can access it at home as well. Teachers can set up projects in this way.

Ms. Pinkham asked about the possibility of parents donating items to help the EAGLES program and Ms. Foley said that there was a “wish list draft” that included items such as baby food jars. She said that students are currently doing inventory for the Conservation Commission at the middle school level.

Cost for the EAGLES program would be provided at a later date.

VI. BOARD, SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Tanguay discussed having a Parent Information Meeting, noting that putting information in flier and website formats would reach more people.

Ms. Kenneway said that she has worked with Sonja Gonzales to learn software that requires a password to use on one computer which allows for downloading information onto the school website. Mr. Rowell asked if links could be uploaded and Ms. Kenneway said that the program allows that. She said that there is training and tutorials with the program.

Mr. Rowell suggested having a work session to come up with proposed content for the website. Ms. Pinkham noted that future forums should be videotaped for viewing. Ms. Kenneway mentioned that having forums be accessible via cable TV would be beneficial to reach more people as well. Ms. Genthner mentioned that one forum that could be taped would be the Follow the Child forum. She suggested that there be mention in the school newsletter of the fact that there was new content on the website so people would be reminded to look at the site to view any new material. Ms. Pinkham suggested that information also be put on the Town website for those who do not have children in Fremont schools.

Ms. Guidoboni did not think that having forums with possible guest speakers should be ruled out; Ms. Kenneway agreed that the interaction possible at forums was beneficial.

Ms. Pinkham suggested having Sonja brief the School Board on what is possible to do as far as getting information online.

Mr. Tanguay said that progress reporting would continue for it’s full duration until the year-end.

Mr. Tanguay also reported that the Chair needs the Board report by January 15 for the Annual Town Report. Warrant articles include the operating budget and late bus, support staff agreement and grants.

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Ms. Lewis reported on events at Ellis:

- People Map training continues at the elementary school
- Mock election at middle school; winners Mitt Romney and Barak Obama
- First edition of Ellis school newspaper will soon be out

- Review of Premium and Gold Card Status percentages
- Follow the Child Update: letters written to Commissioner

Ms. Lewis said that Ellis is in alignment with Follow the Child. Staff has been asked to form a volunteer team. Mr. Rowell asked how long the process takes to get recognized as a Follow the Child district by the State. Ms. Lewis replied that it happens once the Commissioner accepts the request and Mr. Tanguay said that this should happen soon. Mr. Tanguay, Ms. Killen and Ms. Lewis will attend a workshop on January 22, 2008.

Ms. Kenneway inquired about the My Voice Survey. Ms. Lewis said that it was a middle school survey, which becomes useful after there is adequate involvement.

Mr. Rowell asked if there was a plan to track the data regarding the pilot standard-based system. Ms. Lewis said that things were unsure at the middle school level (since Ms. Killen was absent tonight). At the elementary level, progress can be tracked with tools such as the NEWA through the Performance Pathways Program. Ms. Kenneway asked if the objective was to eventually have profiles of each student and Ms. Lewis confirmed that the objective indeed was to have individual student profiles.

Ms. Pinkham asked if there were any compilation modules/software. Ms. Lewis said that Performance Pathways was the best way to go. Mr. Rowell asked if assessment data could be added to the software and Ms. Lewis said that informal data could not be added.

There will be a Parent Leadership meeting on January 18, 2008.

A building report for January 8, 2008 by Mr. Brown was provided.

B. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FY06-07

Ms. Scribner presented the general fund-operating budget through December 31, 2007 the balance of which was \$147,735.47.

Ms. Scribner said that she would provide this information each month until the end of May when real numbers should be established.

Ms. Kenneway inquired about the criminal background fees. Ms. Scribner explained that these fees are for checking the backgrounds of new teachers and substitutes entering the building. Since this is based on needs, she reasoned that checks could be halted now that there is enough staff but if more substitutes are needed, checks could begin. Ms. Pinkham agreed that it needed to be cost effective.

C. PUBLIC HEARING: NESDEC

Mr. Tanguay reported that information on the NESDEC Public Hearing is on the website and would be on the newsletter. He hoped to get a good turnout.

Ms. Pinkham suggested putting a general brochure regarding upcoming warrants together to send to voters ahead of time. Ms. Scribner suggested having this be added to the work session.

D. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. TOWN CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Pinkham said that the Cable Advisory Committee will have one more meeting but that there has been no change since she last spoke.

2. BUDGET COMMITTEE

Ms. Pinkham reported that the Budget Committee met on January 5, 2008 and will meet again on January 9, 2008 to take votes on all Town budgets.

3. FREMONT COOPERATIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

There was no meeting of the Fremont Cooperative Planning Committee.

4. LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ms. Kenneway said that there would be a meeting tomorrow night at 6 pm at Ellis.

Mr. Rowell reported that he got word that Kurt Baitz was retiring and that Sanborn would need to do a long-range report before reconsidering a cooperative.

VIII. PUBLIC INPUT:

Ida Keane said that the mock elections got students interested in the election process.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. MANIFESTS #11 and #12

Deborah Genthner motioned to approve accounts payable manifests #11 and #12 in the amount of \$360,359.21. Christine Kenneway seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. FUTURE AND FOLLOW UP AGENDA ITEMS

Board Policies	Ongoing
Long-range Facilities Planning Committee (NESDEC)	Ongoing
Budget FY09	Ongoing
Adult Education Program	TBD
Web Page Designer	TBD
AYP Report	TBD

XIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91 – A: 3 II (b), (c) and RSA 91 – A: 2I (b)

Marian Guidoboni motioned to enter non-public session at 8:33 pm per RSA 91 – A: 3 II (b), (c) and RSA 91 – A: 2I (b). Peg Pinkham seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0. Roll call was taken.

IX. RETURN TO GENERAL SESSION

Peg Pinkham motioned to return to general session at 10:02 pm. Deborah Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0. Roll call was taken.

Christine Kenneway motioned to ratify the support contract between the Fremont school district and the Ellis School support staff from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011. Deborah Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

Peg Pinkham motioned to accept the appointment of Jacqueline Driscoll as (long term sub) preschool teacher. Christine Kenneway seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

Christine Kenneway made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of the December 11, 2007 meeting as amended. Deborah Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

Christine Kenneway made a motion to seal the non-public minutes of the December 11, 2007 meeting, per RSA 91-A: 2 I and /or RSA 91-A: 3 II. Deborah Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

Peg Pinkham made a motion to seal the non-public minutes of January 8, 2008, per RSA 91 – A: 3 II (b), (c) and RSA 91 – A: 2 I (b). Marian Guidoboni seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

X. NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 22, 2008 at 7 pm

- WORKSESSION: JANUARY 29, 2008 at 6 pm

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:15 pm, Deborah Genthner motioned to adjourn. Marian Guidoboni seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Perry
School Board Secretary