

**FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Meeting
January 27, 2009
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 27, 2009 meeting of the Fremont School Board to order at 6:35 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, Deb Genthner, Marian Guidoboni, Superintendent Normand Tanguay, Financial Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, Middle School Interim Principal Bill Marston and Elementary School Principal Dawn Lewis. Secretary Susan Perry was absent but took minutes for the public session via tape recording. Ms. Sandstrom took minutes for the non-public session.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 15, 2009

Deb Genthner made a motion to approve the public minutes of January 15, 2009 as amended. Marian Guidoboni seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Christine Kenneway was absent.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. NEWSLETTER

The School Board liked the work done on the newsletter. Ms. Genthner said that the next newsletter would be directed more towards the Warrant Articles and protocol for the District Meeting.

Mr. Marston said that he was trying to contact Rose Colby in relation to having an informative meeting for parents on report cards. He said the meeting would address where the District was as regards report cards, what the reports would possibly look like, and what the benchmarks were. He said the meeting would be within the next two weeks. Ms. Pinkham suggested putting a notice in the newsletter to inform parents about the meeting. Ms. Genthner suggested instead to put information in the Town newsletter where there could be more of a description of what the new reporting was and what it did. The Board agreed.

Ms. Guidoboni had a concern with a statement under the Doers of All section of the newsletter, which read, "when the time comes on March 14 to vote in favor of rewarding

those who have served our school with approval of our support staff contract.” She said that there had been a policy at one time that stated that the School Board should not make political statements and she felt that this sentence sounded political. Ms. Genthner agreed to take out that sentence regarding the vote. Ms. Pinkham suggested to write: “when the time comes on March 14 to show a recognition and thanks for their outstanding services to the Ellis School and the Ellis School community. The School Board decided to just simplify and leave out the part about the vote.

Mr. Tanguay distributed to the Board members Gary Baker’s draft of the brochure on the Principal search. He asked if there would be a multi-year contract. Mr. Rowell and Ms. Pinkham thought it should be a 2-year contract. The salary would be between \$80,000 and \$85,000. Mr. Tanguay said that a bullet item (“authoritative disciplinarian”) was removed because of its negative connotation. Ms. Lewis said that PBIS would be spelled out too.

Mr. Tanguay distributed drafts of Warrant Articles. Open positions were: School Board member (3 years), School Board member (3 years), School Board member (2 years), School District Treasurer, School District Clerk, and School District Moderator. Ms. Guidoboni said that if no one ran and filled a seat, the Board could ask for letters of interest to find someone to that open position. Mr. Rowell asked if someone could be appointed before the meeting. Ms. Guidoboni thought that no one could be appointed until after the election itself.

Ms. Genthner had a concern about who would be serving as the moderator since one was elected in March 2008 (to run for the March 2009 District Meeting) who would not work at the District meeting this March (2009) if someone else was elected to that position. She wanted to clarify that. Mr. Tanguay said that Annmarie filed for the Moderator position but Ms. Genthner thought that was for next year’s meeting (March 2010.) Mr. Tanguay said they would find out.

Mr. Tanguay said other articles were support staff contract and teachers’ contract. Both Warrant Articles had language stating that, upon failure, there would be a special meeting.

Mr. Tanguay said that he would check on application for grant money and whether it was each year or not. Ms. Guidoboni thought it was a one-time thing.

Other warrant articles were separate bus cost (\$16,200) and contingency/capital reserve fund. Mr. Tanguay said that the advantage of having an expendable trust fund was that money could be put aside in case it was needed. If the money were not needed, it would remain in the fund. He said a benefit would be to have this “cushion” only to be used for Special Education. He said this was something to think about.

Mr. Tanguay had asked Atty. Dean Eggert if he could come up with a Warrant Article addressing the possibility of the District’s acceptance of money from the government towards facilities projects. He also asked if the District could hire an architect if the District did accept the funds. His reasoning was that an architect would need to be hired to come up with firm numbers before any money would be given to the District. He said

the District could fund it up front and then be reimbursed by the grant but no time would be lost. Mr. Rowell agreed that a special meeting would need to be held.

Ms. Pinkham said that she was told that the Town was going to request that the School District have a Warrant Article to seek funding for a generator.

Ms. Guidoboni had a concern with the wording on Article Six about the high school late bus. She thought it read that Fremont was asking for an additional late bus. She said the question was if Fremont should keep the bus from last year. Mr. Rowell agreed that it should read, "continue" the high school late bus.

Mr. Rowell asked about #9 regarding grading. He noted that it said: " deleted: this article is not legally binding or enforceable." Mr. Tanguay said that Atty. Eggert had put that in. Mr. Rowell noted that Atty. Eggert took out the part about not being recommended because it was not a money article (language was only needed if it involved expenditures). He asked Mr. Tanguay to find out why Atty. Eggert did that.

V. ACTION ITEMS

WORKSESSION:

A. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

FIRST READING:

SECTION E: SUPPORT SERVICES

ECA: Buildings & Grounds – OK

Ms. Pinkham asked if there was compensation for District employees who were required to be present for activities and Mr. Tanguay replied that there was a fee for that. He said this was in the budget.

ECAB: Access to Buildings – OK

EF: Food Service Management – OK

Peg Pinkham made a motion to accept the first reading of Section E: Support Services (ECA, ECAB, and EF) as presented. Deb Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

SECTION J: STUDENTS

JG: Assignment of Students in Classes and Grade Levels - TABLED

Ms. Lewis said that she had just looked at this. The School Board agreed to table JG and JJA in order for Ms. Lewis to review them more.

Jl: Student Rights and Responsibilities

Ms. Guidoboni noticed a typographic error (“policy”)

JIC: Student Conduct

JICC: Student Conduct on School Busses

Ms. Guidoboni asked if it was necessary to specify Fremont and Sanborn separately as regards what to do about student conduct on busses. Mr. Tanguay said he looked at it in terms of the District and said that Fremont dealt with this. Pickup to delivery at the high school is Fremont’s jurisdiction. This should be added to the policy.

JJA: Student Activities and Organization

Bottom of page: Students who are residents of the district and/are being educated...”

Ms. Lewis had a concern with the language of Number 2: Last line: not sponsored activity: students in out-of-district schools have the right to participate in activities at their home school, even if their school has similar activities at out-of-district school.

Mr. Rowell said to just take out the language about sponsoring the activity: (omit everything after “if the school” and end it at parochial school.)

JLCD: Administering Medication to Students: TABLED for confirmation about injectable medications

“Superintendent shall be responsible for establishing specific procedures.” Mr. Rowell asked how that was done. Mr. Tanguay said that it just meant it was his responsibility.

“... if a student finds it necessary to use his/her auto-injected pen, he/she shall immediately report to **the** nearest supervising adult.”...” other injectable medications necessary to treat allergies.” Mr. Rowell said that this doesn’t take into account children with diabetes. Ms. Guidoboni thought this had to do with anaphylactic shock. Mr. Rowell said that the policy limited this. Mr. Tanguay said he just got the information today and he suggested tabling JLCD until information was confirmed.

JLD: School Guidance Program – OK

Deb Genthner made a motion to accept the first reading of Section J: Students (JI, JIC, JICC, JJA and JLD) as amended (tabling JG and JLCD.) Marian Guidoboni seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

SECOND READING:

SECTION G: PERSONNEL: TABLED

ADOPTION:

SECTION E: SUPPORT SERVICES (reviewed by counsel)

EEA

SECTION J:

JICD

Deb Genthner made a motion to approve for adoption Policies EEA and JICD. Peg Pinkham seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS (FOR INFORMATION)

VI. OTHER

Ms. Pinkham distributed and reviewed the Budget Committee's highlights on the School Budget. Ms. Sandstrom and Ms. Lewis were requested to attend the Budget Committee's meeting tomorrow night.

Ms. Pinkham said that on Jan. 27 The Budget Committee began the budget review/process. Ms. Pinkham needs clarification of the request from Ms. Sandstrom and Ms. Lewis to get accurate answers to questions the Budget Committee had. The Budget Committee said that the numbers being shown as appropriated for the 2008-009 budget don't match those that the Budget Committee actually approved at the 2008 District Meeting. Ms. Guidoboni said that they could consult the taped meeting. Mr. Tanguay said that the 2007-2008 budget was audited and everything including the meeting tied in correctly. He would have to check the numbers for 2008-2009 but he was comfortable that they were correct.

P. 4 of Budget Book: there was a question by the Budget Committee about the estimated Sanborn tuition amounts for 2008 vs. the actual charge. She said that Ms. Sandstrom had already provided information on that. The estimate was for 212 students and Fremont were billed for 207 students so an adjustment needed to be made. She said there was now an overage of \$135,000. Mr. Tanguay said it was important to look at the "entire equation" (e.g. where is the School District under-budgeted.) Ms. Pinkham said it was important to show both sides of the equation.

Mr. Rowell said the Budget Committee seemed to be auditing the school budget, which was wrong. Ms. Pinkham said the Budget Committee reviewed each line item in detail. Ms. Guidoboni said the Budget Committee could not "audit" the school budget. Ms. Pinkham said that patterns were used to "cull" percentages down. She said it was important to understand what the Budget Committee was going to present and why.

There was a question about the number of students leaving grade 12 and the number of eighth graders entering grade 9 this year. Ms. Sandstrom said these numbers were from Sanborn. Mr. Tanguay said they would get the specific numbers. She said the report showed Fremont had 9 additional students in the high school base next year. She said 223 were projected (a difference of 16 students) so she asked where those were coming from. Mr. Tanguay thought perhaps some were from Epping. Ms. Lewis said that some students could be fifth-year seniors. Ms. Pinkham said they would need to know this or tuition lines could be cut by that difference. Ms. Pinkham will tell the Budget Committee that more information/explanation would be available by Monday.

Ms. Lewis said she would only give numbers as regards Special Education (no names, etc.) Ms. Pinkham said she was only asking for justification on the number of identified students in speech and throughout because there was a concern that the District was consistently over identifying students.

Ms. Lewis said that the Budget Committee also asked for OT and PT services listed under psychological services, which are contracted services. She said that she could not give any information that could identify students. Ms. Pinkham said that the Budget Committee wanted to know the actual dollars spent year to date for contracted service because there was an increase of \$36,000 in one line item (psych) and they want to know why. Ms. Lewis said that was in the forecast but that she would not have time to provide information by tomorrow.

Ms. Lewis said it was recommended also to cut certain positions. She asked if parents would hear that part of it. Ms. Pinkham stated that the Budget Committee asked if COLA was included in the Evergreen Clause. Mr. Tanguay said it had already been told to the Budget Committee that only step increases were covered in the Evergreen Clause.

Ms. Pinkham stated that \$301,008 was cut (by 5:2 vote) under the Regular Education Line (supplies by \$1,154; book line reductions by \$200; equipment reduction line by \$11,447, furniture line by \$2729, new computer equipment by \$500.) The rationale for the cuts included: size of classrooms for grades 1 – 3, cut first and second grade teacher positions, and eliminations of a math teacher, a health position and the Gifted and Talented teacher. The School Board had already discussed cutting a math and health teacher. Ms. Lewis wanted to see the math done by the Budget Committee. Ms. Pinkham said that the Budget Committee used Ms. Lewis' math to figure classroom sizes. Ms. Pinkham said that she told the Budget Committee that the School Board had discussed the Gifted and Talented position and voted to keep it.

Ms. Guidoboni thought another rationale was that parents were upset with test scores a few years ago and class size was brought up as an issue.

Ms. Lewis said she wanted minutes to reflect where the Budget Committee wanted cuts and that this was not reflective of what she or the School Board wanted.

On page 16, the Budget Committee wanted to know how figures were broken down.

The Budget Committee wanted Ms. Lewis to speak about why the ratios were higher and whether services for children under 3 (preschool) should be provided She said that Andy

Koelhoeffer stated that the minds of children under the age of 6 were not developed enough to test if they have developmental problems. Ms. Lewis said she could speak about this because it was clear in the law and that determinations for IEPs for age 3 started at age 2 1/2.

The Nurse's new equipment line was cut.

On p. 59 the School Board wanted to know who got \$11,500 for staff development. They cut the \$11,500 and \$880 for FICA. Ms. Genthner said that there was no FICA. Ms. Guidoboni said they got reimbursed.

Library media, bookcases.

Mr. Rowell asked on p. 63 why the Budget Committee cut \$4800 \$400 was cut from the new a/v equipment, library books were reduced to \$1300. \$200 for computer software. All items were broken down on the other side of the page.

Regarding the Superintendent line, the Budget Committee cut the difference of \$26,052 (SAU office salaries), they froze the Superintendent's salary line item to reflect a figure of the previous year and no increases (this cut \$26,537.32) They also did this with administration in Town. Cut \$1192 under FICA adjustment. Prof. Improvement \$1560 they cut Special Education \$2330 sped dir. Salary was taken out, as did the School Board. 4208 FICA was taken out. \$1000 was taken from staff workshops and \$6000 was left in. \$1900 was cut from staff travel; the School Board had kept \$3800 in, justified by the fact that travel costs are still being incurred for work tasks that were previously done by two positions (out of district coordinator and resource coordinator.)

Ms. Pinkham said that a motion was made to cut athletic programs. Athletic salaries were cut by \$17,600, FICA by \$1346, officials by \$3000, sports insurance by \$700, assembly programs by \$1500, and the new equipment line item was reduced. Ms. Pinkham noted that some Districts had parents pay stipends for children to participate in athletic programs but under the collective bargaining law, the School District could not collect money (has to go back into the general fund.)

The Budget Committee met half way re. oil in all departments in Town.

Ms. Pinkham said that the Budget Committee cut \$ 684,000 prior to considering the tuition line.

VII. BOARD, SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Tanguay read an adopted policy regarding people in violation of Policy BBC (Board Member or District Office Resignation). He said that the School Board required early notification of intent to resign so that the Board could plan on getting a replacement. Resignation letter is due to the Chairman and District Clerk. Bodies shall serve on the Board until the next District election. Mr. Rowell said this didn't impact the Moderator.

VIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Marian Guidoboni made a motion to enter into non-public session at 8:35 PM to act upon a matter or matters referenced in RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) and 91-A: 3 II (d) and 91-A: 2 I (b). Deb Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

IX. RETURN TO GENERAL SESSION

Peg Pinkham made a motion to return to general session at 9 PM. Deb Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:0.

Ms. Genthner asked what administration find out when the newly elected moderator would actually start.

X. NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 10, 2009 AT 6:30 PM

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 PM, Deb Genthner motioned to adjourn. Peg Pinkham seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 4:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Perry,
School Board Secretary

01.27.09

QUESTIONS:

1. Ms. Genthner had a concern about the moderator who was elected in March 2008 (to run for the March 2009 District Meeting) who would not work at the District meeting this March (2009) if someone else was elected to that position. She wanted to clarify that. Mr. Tanguay said that Annmarie filed for the Moderator position but Ms. Genthner thought that was for next year's meeting (March 2010.) Mr. Tanguay said they would find out.
2. Mr. Tanguay said that he would check on application for grant money and whether it was each year or not.
3. Mr. Rowell asked about #9 regarding grading. He noted that it said: " deleted: this article is not legally binding or enforceable." Mr. Tanguay said that Atty. Eggert had put that in. Mr. Rowell noted that Atty. Eggert took out the part about not being recommended (?). HE asked Mr. Tanguay to find out why Atty. Eggert did that.