

**FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Meeting
May 22, 2007
7:00 P.M.**

**ELLIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
432 MAIN STREET
FREMONT, NH 03044**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Rowell called the May 22, 2007 meeting of the Fremont School Board to order at 7:02 pm in room 305 at the Ellis Elementary School, 432 Main St. Fremont, NH.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Chairman Jeff Rowell, Vice Chairwoman Peg Pinkham, Marian Guidoboni, Christine Kenneway, Deborah Genthner, Elementary School Principal Dawn Lewis, Middle School Principal Kelli Killen, and Superintendent Normand Tanguay.

Members of the public in attendance included: Kathy Schreiber, Debbie Sadler, Mary Hale (teacher and FEA President), Alexandra Smith (Literacy Coach and FEA Vice President), Sherri Ficker, Cathy Herrmann, and Ida Keane.

III. AGENDA REVISIONS

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 8, 2007

Motion made by Christine Kenneway "to approve the May 8, 2007 public meeting minutes as amended." Marian Guidoboni seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

V. PRESENTATION: NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (NESDEC)

John Kennedy, and Ellen Kelly presented a draft of the NESDEC Fremont, NH Long-range School Facilities Plan. Additional project team members include Arthur Bettencourt and Donald Kennedy. Ms. Kelly said that Harvard University founded NESDEC around 61 years ago to serve school boards and superintendents. There will be a final presentation of the Fremont plan at a later date.

Mr. Kennedy reviewed the demographic information collected by NESDEC and reported that the projected population growth will consistently grow slowly by the year 2020. The change in population for the Town of Fremont went from 93.2% in 1990 to 36.3% in 2000. There has been a decline in the percentage of people under the age of 18 in Fremont (from 1980 to 2000). He accounted this to the fact that less young families are buying homes and

establishing permanent residency and more “baby boomers” are remaining in Fremont. The community is getting older, as it is across the country. Because of the decrease during the 1990s of people aged 20-34 in Fremont, which is the “childbearing group,” Mr. Kennedy reasoned that there is unlikely to be a surge in the birth rate to affect Fremont schools in the immediate future. The number of Fremont Building permits went from 58 in 2005 to only 8 in 2006 and Tom Roy of the Building Department has said that this number will stand through 2007 (this is also happening throughout the state.)

Ms. Kelly reported that grades k-8 enrollment has grown consistently (1996 to 2006.). She said that the annual number of births through 2011 would remain in the range of 55-60. Mr. Rowell asked if the statistics include adopted children. Ms. Kelly said that the numbers are not significant enough, so adoptions are not included in birth statistics.

Ms. Kelly stated that the stable increase of about 45 students per year over the next ten years would help in Fremont’s building planning. She also reviewed the changes in school programs from the 1950s until now and she said that this information would help when having presentations at Town Meeting. The information shows that schools currently have more requirements to accommodate students than they had fifty years ago. She then gave a breakdown of the Ellis Elementary and Middle Schools, describing the history of renovations/additions, sizes, etc. The Current Occupant Capacity (COC) of the elementary school is 288 whereas the POC (Projected Occupant Capacity) is 178. The middle school COC is 242 and the POC is 176. She listed the deficiencies at each school, with the paramount problem being inadequate space, though, she noted that Fremont has been creative in the use of space at the schools. She gave options for Fremont: to build a new Middle School (grades 5-8) with the capacity to expand for a possible future high school (needing capacity for 300 students), or build a new middle school (grades 6-8) with a capacity for 225 students, or build a new elementary school and renovate Ellis as a middle school, adding a gymnasium.

Ms. Kelly noted that NESDEC does not make recommendations to School Boards; rather, they just give options to consider.

Ms. Kelly said that the State might pay a portion of reimbursement costs for school construction:

Elementary School	\$147/sq. ft.	(\$173 actual?)
Middle School	\$154/sq. ft.	(\$180 actual?)
High School	\$168/sq. ft.	(\$195 actual?)

Mr. Rowell said that the School Board is aware of the crowding issues and that building expansion was just done.

Ms. Pinkham said that a vote to have an addition and a gym five years ago failed. She said that Fremont has been working on a cooperative for over 10 years with different school districts. She stated that Fremont high schoolers now attend Sanborn High School as part of a twenty-year contract Fremont has with Sanborn. Fremont pays for a third of the high school building cost. Eighteen years remain in the contract.

Ms. Kelly asked if Sanborn could opt out of the contract if they needed more space. Ms. Pinkham replied that this could not happen “per the contract” (it would have to go through the Town.)

Ms. Kenneway mentioned that Fremont citizens have consistently voted to approve cooperatives, but, not for the cost to operate the building. An issue is what the children might be exposed to.

Ms. Guidoboni stated that she has heard over the years that, as the population ages, there would be a drop in support for schools. Ms. Kelly replied that some communities combine senior centers with new schools and this brings in the community. Mr. Kennedy noted that, with the size of the site that Fremont now owns, there is flexibility to have community involvement. He said that the Town is working hard to involve various stakeholders.

Ms. Guidoboni asked if grants are given for such “community schools.” Mr. Kennedy responded that the opportunity for grants changes state to state. If a facility is used for the community during the day, it might qualify for reimbursement. He said that 10-15 years from now, schools would be more than they are today, with expanded opportunities for learning.

Mr. Tanguay said that it was interesting to see the planned capacity number vs. the actual capacity number. He said that the study would be of interest to the Planning Committee.

Mr. Kennedy said that the report shows that operation is now over-capacity, but, unless there is a significant change in the variables, any adjustment will be good for the short term for Fremont schools.

Ms. Kelly and Mr. Kennedy announced that the School Board members could email them with any questions.

Ida Keane asked if NESDEC looked at other buildings in Fremont or at buildings that are up for sale as options. Ms. Kelly replied that they are not options for classrooms and that is the biggest piece of the plan to improve. Mr. Tanguay responded that the State has strict requirements. Ms. Pinkham said that the meetinghouse is beautiful, but it is not conducive to educating children there.

Mr. Tanguay said that the report gives an opportunity to phase in projects.

VI. BOARD, SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Tanguay talked about Senate Bill 88 regarding collective bargaining law. Now, up to five (vs. three) people can form a union.

Mr. Tanguay mentioned that, per the Right to Know, School Boards are limited to the information they send via email, telephone, etc.

Mr. Tanguay stated that there is a new law, by US Supreme Court ruling, that states that parents do not need attorneys to represent themselves.

VII. NON-PUBLIC: RSA 91-A: 2 1(c)

Peg Pinkham moved to enter non-public session at 8:20 pm. Christine Kenneway seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0. Roll call was taken.

VIII. RETURN TO GENERAL SESSION

Peg Pinkham motioned to come out of non-public session at 8:36 pm. Deborah Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0. Roll call was taken.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. MANIFEST #28

Motion made by Deborah Genthner to approve Manifest #28, dated May 22, 2007, in the amount of \$132,901.3. Marian Guidoboni seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

B. NH SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS 2008

The NH School Board Association has requested support for the proposed 2008 NHSBA Resolutions. The Fremont School Board may propose new resolutions no later than July 9, 2007.

C. HEALTH COMMITTEE

Christine Kenneway made a motion to authorize the Wellness Committee to add additional members that will become part of the Health Committee. Deborah Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

D. POLICY REVIEW

Mr. Rowell pointed out that "parent/guardian" should be typed consistently throughout. Ms. Pinkham wondered if it should be "legal guardian."

Motion made by Christine Kenneway to approve Section B: School Board Governance and Operations as amended with the policies as listed. Peg Pinkham seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

E. TRANSPORTATION BID

Regarding the transportation bid, Mr. Tanguay reported that First Student seemed to be the best choice for Fremont. It offers new busses that are up to code and it has an added security feature whereby the bus driver resets a switch located in the back of the

bus when leaving the bus. This allows the driver to observe the whole bus before leaving. Sanborn uses First Student. He said that there is money in the budget (money from health insurance rates amounting to around \$45,000), which can aid in funding the bussing. Bussing will accommodate kindergartners as well.

Peg Pinkham made a motion to award the transportation bid to First Student for 2007-2008 for a 3-year contract per bid document of new busses. Deborah Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

X. PUBLIC INPUT

Ida Keane asked where she could get a copy of school policy. Ms. Killen said that she has a copy in her office. Ultimately, there will be copies available in the Ellis library and in the central office as well as on the website. Ms. Genthner said that there would be updated dates of approval on the policies.

Cathy Herrmann asked when a long-term facilities group could be started. Mr. Tanguay said that he is looking for more members and will schedule a meeting soon.

Mary Hale mentioned that teachers would like to have a waiver to have the last day of school be June 15 instead of June 19, saying that teachers put in a total of 7 hours over the two days when school was canceled due to telephone system failures. Mr. Tanguay explained that there is not enough reason to request the waiver, which teachers were told that they could leave early with the children on June 19 and then have a half-day in the fall. Teachers rejected this offer, saying that teachers would need to stay later to pack.

Mr. Rowell said that this year is different and that there is not enough justification to honor a waiver.

Mr. Tanguay noted that he had made available a memo listing the conditions that the State would allow a waiver. Fremont used the days it had put aside for the calendar. The safety officer had made the call that it was not safe those days and so the students were dismissed early, before the 3-hour official school session limit. It was not an approved educational day.

Alexandra noted that some teachers will retire by the end of this year. She requested that Mr. Tanguay communicate to the school the decision of Board in regards to school closing on June 19, 2007.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Guidoboni mentioned that the School Board might want to revisit the Wellness Committee survey.

Ms. Pinkham asked if Mr. Rowell had been in contact with Sanborn. Mr. Rowell said that he had emailed Kurt and left a voicemail for him today. He will continue to try to contact him.

The Superintendent review should be done by the end of June 2007. The School Board agreed to have a work session on June 26, 2007 at 6pm.

XII. FUTURE AND FOLLOW UP AGENDA ITEMS

Board Goals	TBD
Safety Plan Adoption	TBD
Adult Education Program	TBD
E-Mail Policy	TBD
Schedule Change for Middle School Program Survey	TBD
After School Programs Proposal Survey	TBD
Trimester Schedule Survey	TBD
Board Policies	Ongoing
Fall Coaching Positions	Ongoing
Facility Needs	Ongoing
Budget FY09	May 2007
Special Education Transportation Bid	June 2007
School Nurse Report	June 2007
Heating Oil Bids	July 2007
Approval of Handbooks	July 2007
Coop Report	July 2007

XIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: 91-A: 2 1 (b)

Peg Pinkham moved to enter non-public session at 9:20 pm. Marian Guidoboni seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0. Roll call was taken.

XIV. RETURN TO GENERAL SESSION

Peg Pinkham motioned to come out of non-public session at 9:48 pm. Deborah Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0. Roll call was taken.

Peg Pinkham motioned to approve salaries as presented and to offer a contract for FY 2007-2008. Christine Kenneway seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

Peg Pinkham motioned to accept with extreme regret the resignation of Ellis School Health Education Teacher Francine Torge and to thank her for her contribution to Ellis students' education. Marian Guidoboni seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

Christine Kenneway motioned to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2007 non-public meeting (RSA 9 1-A: 3 II (a) and 9 1- A:3 II (c)), as amended, and seal them indefinitely. Deborah Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 4-1, with the abstention of Peg Pinkham who was not at the May 8, 2007 meeting during the non-public session.

XV. NEXT MEETING DATE: JUNE 12, 2007

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:51 pm, Peg Pinkham motioned to adjourn. Deborah Genthner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Perry, School Board Secretary