

FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Joint School Board Meeting
May 21, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Ellis School, 432 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044

Fremont Chair Greg Fraize and Sanborn Chair Peter Broderick called the May 21, 2019 meeting of the Fremont and Sanborn School Boards to order at 6:02 PM at Ellis School, 432 Main St., Fremont, NH 03044. Those present included Fremont School Board members Greg Fraize, Amy Leslie, Gordon Muench, Angela O'Connell and Emily Phillips, Superintendent Allyn Hutton, Business Administrator Susan Penny and Secretary Susan Perry. Members of the Sanborn School Board included: Pamela Brown, Electra Alessio, James Baker, Jameson Fitzpatrick, and Tammy Mahoney, as well as Superintendent Thomas Ambrose. Also present were Kathy Schreiber and Matthew Angell. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and roll call was given. Introductions were given.

PUBLIC INPUT (none)

INFORMATION

A. PROPOSED CHANGES AT SANBORN HIGH SCHOOL

Class Sizes:

There was a question about how proposed changes at the high school (grades 7 and 8 moving to the high school) would affect class size. Mr. Ambrose clarified that no decision had yet been made and that the Board would be deliberating on June 5 and 12, 2019. The online proposal stated that the small gym would be used by grades 7 and 8 (with a locker room), but not all day. There were no proposed teacher reductions at the high school level. Master schedules were not used yet. Phase two of the plan would include bus runs and café services. Phase three would be implementation. The following would be necessary: 1. Office; 2. Multi-student bathroom; and 3. Locker room. Core classes would be in their own locations and the Freshman Learning Communities would stay intact. The travel times of foreign language and band would not be negatively affected.

Curriculum Changes:

There was discussion about the detriment of the SAT testing being done during Junior year when many students have not yet had Algebra 2. Mr. Ambrose has reached out to NHDOE Commissioner Frank Edelblut to address this, as the test would be a better assessment of curriculum if taken during Senior year. The Administrative team was working to reorganize the preschool – grade 8 structure. There would be professional development during the summer to increase academic achievement through the use of Columbia University's "Teachers' College" reading/writing workshop.

Facility:

The initiative would begin in September 2020. Facility work depended on School Board decision dates. Projects such as the locker room would be done over the summer so there would be no real disruption to students. The District was in negotiations for a rental space for the SAU office (giving the current shared school space back to students). There was concern about Fremont 7th and 8th graders not being as used to the building/facilities as the peers from Sanborn and Kingston when they get to high school. It was agreed that this would be considered and addressed appropriately (by staff, administration, etc.). It was noted that the Freshman Team was a self-contained, reflective group that ensures every student is taken care of. Ideas to help the transition included having field trips to the school and inviting the Fremont School Board to tour where grades 7 and 8 would be (on June 5th or 12th before the meeting); this is significant as Fremont was part of the (Sanborn Regional District) community.

Per Pupil Costs:

Sanborn's per pupil cost had a direct impact on Fremont's per pupil cost (at the high school, there was no intended reduction of staff so there would be no change in ppc). Resources would be reallocated to make a tier 2 intervention program for students struggling in math and reading. Mr. Ambrose stated there would be an estimated cost (ppc) savings in K-8. There was concern about Fremont's position in the financial impacts of this project; Mr. Ambrose stated that there would be discussions/negotiations during the process. Mr. Baker said that this was a large project and that more information would be available at the June 5th meeting. There was discussion about both Boards creating a committee to look at the future with transitioning grades 7 and 8 to the high school, as well as the next 7 years of the tuition contract and any solution past that (long term). A suggestion was to meet in the summer.

B. DISCIPLINE ISSUES

Ms. Hutton noted that Fremont students and parents sometimes report about discipline issues, and they get reported to Sanborn's Administration. Mr. Ambrose said that a plan is being worked on for a structured after school supervisory in the building so that students would not just be hanging out. Similarly, there would be more structure during lunchtime which is currently "too loose" (maybe more focus for grades 9 and 10 but not as much for grades 11 and 12). There was discussion about the reality of vaping being a sizable problem. It was necessary to catch students with vape pens/paraphernalia, which can be difficult to do when some are the size of thumb drives. The District was keeping data on these offenses. Mr. Ambrose noted that it was not just tobacco products that are of concern. There was consideration that, with zero tolerance, an innocent person might be involved e.g. a student asked to hold a vape pen while another student uses the restroom (everyone was treated the same). Ms. Leslie

commended the recent assembly by SOROCK where she learned that one vape was equivalent to a pack of cigarettes. Mr. Ambrose reported that the consequence (vaping) was 10 days of suspension and he noted that, often, it was preferable for it to be done in-school, especially for mental health reasons. The Kingston police department was near the school. Ms. O'Connell asked if there was a report to show behavior trends; Mr. Ambrose said he would pull the data.

C. TEST SCORES

Mr. Ambrose was concerned about K-8 internal and external assessment performance. The Everyday Math program was not being used with fidelity but the assessment work was well. Teachers felt that they needed support. About 8 years ago, RTI programs were cut and reconfiguration was now needed to help students who were struggling. The SAT was not designed to test high school effectiveness; it was now the 11th grade assessment in NH and some students did not take it seriously enough. Sanborn had adopted 9 of the 12 components of (college ready) Student Success (Every Student Succeeds Act). There was discussion about having more assessment/proficiency tools (PACE, NWEA, ASFAB). Mr. Baker said that early intervention was important and that taxpayers (community support from people with no children in school) would want to see their money go to that in order to increase proficiency scores. Intervention in grades K-5 was critical to learning how to read and do basic math skills (which should be practiced every day). This should be the focus for all students. A math teacher had been allocated to help with students who were struggling at the high school. Mr. Ambrose noted that behavior problems evolved from not being engaged. He would like to have more intervention at the high school but if there were budget issues, it made sense to start with the early grades.

FUTURE AND FOLLOW UP AGENDA ITEMS

NEXT MEETINGS: OCTOBER 2, 2019 (Sanborn) and MAY 19, 2020 (Fremont)

ADJOURNMENT

SANBORN SCHOOL BOARD: At 7:07 PM, James Baker made a motion to adjourn. Pam Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0.

FREMONT SCHOOL BOARD: AT 7:08 PM, Angela O'Connell made a motion to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (b) "The hiring of any person as a public employee". Amy Leslie seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0. Roll call vote.

(SEE MINUTES OF REGULAR MAY 21, 2019 FREMONT BOARD MEETING THAT FOLLOWED)

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Perry, School Board Secretary