

We have some good news to report on the enrollment front. Due to an increase in actual VS projected Kindergarten enrollment, a paraprofessional will be assigned to FES to support our current staffing needs for our Kindergarten students. I want to welcome those new parents and their children to our family.

On Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the School Board held our annual goal setting discussion. This important meeting serves as our opportunity to look back as well as ahead to determine what we feel are the most important items that need our attention for the next school year. The intent of the meeting is to host a robust discussion between the Board and the SAU to that will help shape our priorities for the 2009-2010 school year. We debate, discuss and challenge each other as we identify needs, opportunities and gaps that need to be addressed. This year the chairs of each committee as well as the SAU directors reviewed their respective lists that were generated from discussions at the committee level. A preliminary list by committee follows: Education, graduation requirements, curriculum development and assessment, review of guidance, the health curriculum were highlighted. Communication will be re-named the Communications and public relations committee to more accurately reflect their mission. The top priority if the committee will be to develop a comprehensive communication plan that will include how and when various communication will be issued as well as how to improve community engagement across the entire district. Budget and Property will continue to refine the way we approach the budgeting process, will continue to evaluate the possibility of developing a more long-range budgeting approach, infrastructure needs, and the future approach to bonding. A request to create an ad-hoc committee to re-look at the articles of agreement was also discussed.

The SAU's list includes technology improvements and upgrades, including the creation of a technology director who can oversee the District tech needs, also discussed were performance standards for teachers, the hiring of a new assistant superintendent is a very high priority, budgeting and use of stimulus monies, curriculum assessment and development,, negotiations and policy review.

As you can see we covered a lot of ground. Our next steps will be for the Board and the SAU to winnow down our lists followed by prioritization at the Board and SAU level. Once we complete our list, we will post them for all to see and provide routine updates on our progress

On Monday May 11th I was pleased to meet with a dozen members of our community. We had a lengthy discussion on the organizational make-up of our District which led to discussions of how to navigate through the system when you or your child is experiencing a problem. Always start with the classroom teacher. He or she has the best perspective on what has happened and what was done to resolve the issue. If after that meeting you do not feel that your concerns have been adequately addressed, seek out the building principal. In the chain of command, they are the next level that needs to be brought into the loop. It is my hope that most issues should be able to be resolved at this level. The Principal who is the building administrator should be in the best position to resolve the problem. However, if you still do not feel satisfied, for Special Educational related matters reach out to the Director of Special Education, Linda Potter. She can be

reached at 924-3336 ext 2027. For all other matters please reach out to the Assistant Superintendent, until July 1<sup>st</sup> Don Johnson at 924-3336 ext 2026, and if you still feel that your concerns have not been addressed then reach out to the Superintendent, Richard Bergeron at 924-3336 ext 2028. I want to stress how important it is to work through the SAU system using this path. It will ensure that the people with the right level of authority have been apprised of the situation and that the correct steps have been followed as you move up the line. I would ask that you provide me with feedback both positive and negative if and when you have situations that require this approach so that I can also provide the SAU Administration with feedback so that we can make sure that the system works the way it was designed.

By now the first meeting of the Parent Involvement Team, PIT has taken place. I hope that you were able to attend and provide support and input to this important new group. The success of the PIT will largely be measured on how involved the parents of Francestown are. The group is going to play a pivotal role in providing input to the school, SAU as well as the Board on important issues that affect our children. The PIT will also be an important new channel of two-way communication between the school and our community. So if you were at the meeting I want to thank you, if you were not, please try and attend or reach out to one of the members to provide input. This is YOUR group

Did you know that you can read copies of my articles on Francistown's official web site Francestown-nh.gov? Once you are on the home page, go to the quick links section and select schools, then click on school articles link and you can read the current months article. I have also had the links to the SAU and School Board loaded onto the website. You can also find out the next time I will be hosting the School Board Representative open house (formally meet your representative night), this will be located under the announcements section of the Town news section of the webpage

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