Cornersto FREMONT PUBLIC

FREMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS Fall 2008

Fremont's Children Through Philanthropy



Fremont Public Schools Prepare for Growth Bond Issue Planned



The mission of the Fremont Public School Foundation is to support the Fremont Public Schools by:

SCHOOL



Raising funds to support programs for the enhancement and enrichment of public education, which would not be possible through local tax funds.



Recognizing excellence in Public Education.



Enhancing the quality of education for all students.



Reinforcing positive relations within the community.



Enriching the quality of life for the Fremont Community.

Increased giving by Fremont Public School supporters put the first annual sustaining fund campaign over the top of its \$40,000 goal. In addition to providing for the operational expenses of the Foundation Office, the successful campaign will allow funding to be added to the Creative Teaching Endowment Fund. According to Foundation Board Chairperson, Jane Dugan, giving came from a variety of sources including alumni, faculty, area businesses, and friends. For the first time this year teachers and staff were also given the opportunity to utilize the payroll deduction plan to make donations to the Foundation, and responded generously to help the Foundation reach its \$40,000 goal. Thanks to all who contributed to this successful campaign!

Annual Campaign Reaches Goal



Fremont Financial Institutions played a key role in helping the Foundation to reach its goal. Pictured from left: Chuck Johannsen, President, First State Bank; Bart Qualsett, President, Fremont National Bank; Jane Dugan, President, Fremont Public School Foundation; and Toni Vering, Vice President, American National Bank.

It is no secret that Fremont's location places it in the next circle of growth for the Metropolitan Omaha Area. As the building boom has marched steadily west along Dodge and Maple Streets. Fremonters have watched as Elkhorn grew from a small community with a Class D school system. to one that now surpasses Fremont in terms of the number of students being served. Recent reports indicate that Elkhorn is growing at the rate of 350 students per year (nearly the equivalent of a 3 section elementary school). That expansion has now moved west across the Elkhorn River, and platted and approved subdivisions west of Valley leave no doubt that Fremont will soon feel profound effects from the expansion of the metropolitan community. Even with the recent opening of Kindergarten through 3rd grades at Archbishop Bergan, Fremont's enrollment grew by 47 students this year.

With these signs of coming growth, and with the knowledge that the growth projected during the 2000 bond issue has taken place on schedule, the Fremont Public Schools Board of Education on April 21st voted to provide to voters a plan for meeting the present and future needs of the District to as far out as 2015. Enrollment projections indicate that district enrollment will grow by approximately 700 to 800 students to a total of 5400 students over the next 7 to 10 years, creating the need for additional instructional space at all levels.

The current plan, known as Phase II, has been under study and development since the last bond issue passed in 2000, and continues the process of maintaining current facilities, and allowing for

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rom the Executive Director's Desk



Dr. David Pinkall, Executive Director

Readers may have noticed that the "Cornerstone" is coming out a little later than usual this fall. Tragedy struck the Fremont Public Schools in late summer when one of our elementary principals, Wes Lamberson, was killed in an accident days before the opening of teacher workshops. As a result, I returned to active duty for the first guarter of the school year and served as interim principal of FPS's Platteville Elementary School, delaying my work on the fall "Cornerstone." I was glad to be able to help out, and it gave me the opportunity to again experience first-hand the excellence that defines Fremont Public Schools. This is the excellence that our Foundation seeks

to preserve and grow, and it reinforced for me the importance of having a strong foundation to support the Fremont Public Schools in these difficult times. (continued on page 2)

Cornerstone-

61 State Championship Team Contributes to Technology Project

The State Champion Fremont High School Basketball team of 1961, has stepped forward to provide a projector in support of Fremont Public School's technology upgrade project. Fourteen team members donated to the cause, raising the necessary \$2100 to equip a classroom with an LCD projector. The donation is being made in memory of deceased team members Dr. Ed Rainey. Dr. John Taube

and Coach Al Bahe. The goal of the FPS technology upgrade project is to equip each classroom in the Fremont Public Schools with a projector that will enable teachers to use classroom computers as a teaching tool.

Even with the \$100,000 grant for this project from the Fremont Area Community Foundation, and a \$187,000 contribution from the school district budget, the project is still in need of funding for projectors for 238 classrooms or \$499,800.

The School District has developed a sequential plan for the purchase and installation of the projectors based on educational priorities. Ideally, all projectors would be purchased and installed at once, but funding the entire project from district funds must necessarily be spread over several years.

Donations such as the one from the 1961 basketball team can push the project ahead so that all Fremont students can have access to the same current technology immediately.

It is the hope of the 1961 basketball team that other individuals and groups will follow their lead, and support this important project by providing funding for a classroom projector.



Fremont Public Schools Prepare for Growth Bond Issue Planned (continued from page 1)

the orderly absorption of new growth in the District. Phase II calls for the following:

- Take down the old two-story section at Linden and replace it with single-level structure of approximately 15,000 square feet and replace the boiler. The plan retains the existing single story structure and additions to Linden approved in 2000. The proposal will add to the existing single-story sections of the school.
- Add 7,500 square feet of space to Clarmar, remodel space for student services, upgrade the media center, replace the boiler unit and improve the front entry area.
- Improve the front entry areas of Grant, Howard and Washington schools.
- Build a new facility of approximately 98,000 square feet for grades 5 and 6.
- Add approximately 11 classrooms and a commons area to the high school totaling approximately 23,000 square feet. Remodel the Family and Consumer Science classrooms/lab.

According to FPS Superintendent, Dr. Steve Sexton, The proposed plan can be accomplished for a cost of approximately \$22 to \$24 million without raising the tax levy in the debt service fund, and will provide adequate facilities to 2010 to 2015, depending on the District's rate of growth. The addition of the 5/6 center will create space in every elementary building and the current middle school, thereby avoiding the cost-prohibitive issue of adding space to all schools and building a new one as well. The proposed plan will also require fewer boundary adjustments than other possible solutions.

Sexton noted that the same standards of management and oversight that enabled Phase I to be completed on time, within budget and for less cost than similar projects, will be applied to Phase II. The exact date of the 2009 bond election will be set by the Fremont Board of Education at their January meeting.

Foundation to Provide Bond Account

The FPS Foundation Board has voted unanimously to provide an account for the accumulation of funds for the support of the Phase II Bond Issue. Those wishing to utilize this opportunity can make checks to the Foundation, and earmark the donation for the bond campaign fund. Because the Fremont Public School Foundation is a 501[c]3 organization, donations are tax deductible.

From the Executive Director's Desk (continued from page 1)

In the mean time, the Fremont Public School Foundation has experienced a banner year. Our first sustaining fund drive reached its goal, we increased our endowment fund, we received a \$100,000 grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation for technology upgrades in all schools, and, as noted elsewhere in this newsletter, groups and individuals are responding to this technology need through the FPS Foundation. We now have a new principal at Platteville, and I'm glad to once again be working on foundation issues. It is my hope that more groups and individuals will follow the exemplary lead of the 1961 basketball team, and help the Foundation to fully implement the technology upgrades for all Fremont Public Schools.



Foundation Webpage to Highlight Projects

ne of the issues wrestled with by the FPS Foundation, is how to make it possible for interested FPS supporters to provide support for Undividual building projects. Coming early in 2009 will be an addition to the Foundation webpage that will allow interested supporters to view building-level proposals from all Fremont Public School buildings. Not only will school district patrons be able to read about projects in need of support, but they will be able to then directly provide support for the project through tax-deductible donations to the Foundation.

This project is the brainchild of two members of the Fremont Board of Education, who learned about the concept at a recent School Boards Association Convention. Sandi Proskevec and Dan Moran were looking for ways to increase the involvement of community members in the Fremont Public Schools. When they saw this concept, they felt it provided the opportunity for increased involvement, and also has the potential to provide funding for deserving classroom projects that otherwise are not implemented due to a lack of funding.

The FPS Foundation website is located at http://www.fpsweb.org/foundation/foundation.html Recent editions of the Cornerstone Magazine are available there electronically, and soon access to a list of deserving school projects will be available as well. Watch for this helpful addition to the website. 🏠

Perfect Day, Hole-In-One Highlight Golf Outing - Date set for 2009

reat weather and great playing conditions made for a great day of golfing and fellowship at the annual Fremont Public School Foundation Golf Tournament. The event was staged at the Fremont Golf Club on August 8, and was played in near perfect weather by a record number of golfers. Teams made up of alumni, business supporters, and friends of the Fremont Public Schools vied for prizes in a 4-person team scramble. Every player received a gold golf shirt, compliments of the FPS Foundation and RL Fauss Co.

The highlight of the day was a hole-in-one on hole number 17 by Fremont Public School supporter Dale Olson. Olson used an eight iron to score his ace, the fourth of his career. For his efforts, Olson won a stereo radio-CD player. The date for next year's event has been set for July 31st at the Fremont Golf Club. It's never too early to mark your calendar for this fun event!

Stones & Mortar

The Board of Directors of the Fremont Public School Foundation is pleased to publicly acknowledge the following businesses and individuals who have made financial contributions to the foundation in the past 6 months.

Annual Sustaining Funds Donations: Cornerstone - \$5000

The Allyn Foundation Inc. Sid Dillon Cadillac-GMC-Mazda-Chevrolet-Buick-Pontiac, Inc. Fremont National Bank

Pathfinder - \$2500

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