

**Fremont Community Schools
Board of School Trustees
Meeting Summary - #4 Regular
April 15, 2013**

Board Members Present: Tim Knoblauch, Laura McLatcher, Cindy Saltzman, Christine Seiler, Sheri Thomson

Representing Administration: Lori Vaughn, Superintendent
Dick Wirtz, Corporation Business Manager

Representing Head Start: Susan Swager, Director

Visitors: Arlene Adams, Robin Byler, Daniel Cairl, Shawn Caldwell, Mark Fowerbaugh, Stacey Grimm, Amber Kuespert, Drew Kuespert, Melissa Marckel, Kim Quick, Tammy Quick, Mary Sacquitne, Mark Sherbondy, Nancy Swager, Joni Thompson

Special Guests: Leyton Byler, Cody Crawford, Eva Foulk, Zach Folland, Tom Fron, Ellie Kuespert, Bree Marckel-Rodriguez, Kate Matthews

President Thomson welcomed guests, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. She also asked that a moment of silence be observed for the injured and deceased at the Boston Marathon bombings.

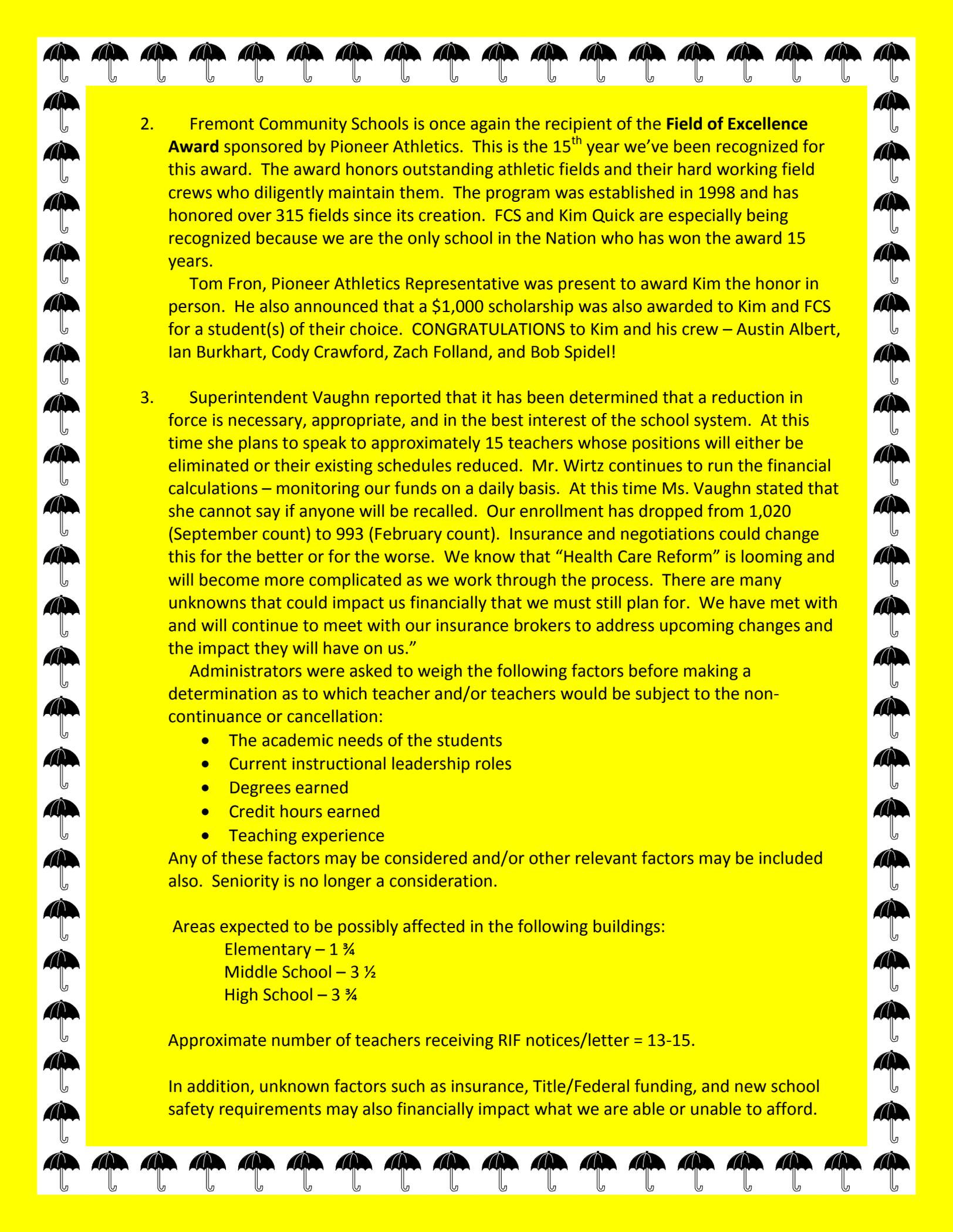
FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CLAIMS APPROVAL

Mr. Wirtz reported that the monthly Financial Statement is for the month of February, 2013. The statement compares the General Fund Expenditures to the Total Annual Budget, the January portion of that budget, actual expenditures for the month and the year, and the (over)/under. The line items listed are the ones used in preparing the budget. The monthly Financial Report was approved.

Also included for the Board was the monthly financial statement for General Fund which was approved as submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

1. Arlene Adams introduced the following students who qualified and participated in the 2013 Trine Regional Science Fair: Leyton Byler, Eva Foulk, Ellie Kuespert, Bree Marckel-Rodriguez, and Kate Matthews. Ethan Bock and Collin Fulton also participated, but were unable to attend the meeting. Each student briefly described their project. Students were commended for their outstanding effort and representation. Kudos to Mrs. Adams for helping our students learn and grow!

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2. Fremont Community Schools is once again the recipient of the **Field of Excellence Award** sponsored by Pioneer Athletics. This is the 15th year we've been recognized for this award. The award honors outstanding athletic fields and their hard working field crews who diligently maintain them. The program was established in 1998 and has honored over 315 fields since its creation. FCS and Kim Quick are especially being recognized because we are the only school in the Nation who has won the award 15 years.

Tom Fron, Pioneer Athletics Representative was present to award Kim the honor in person. He also announced that a \$1,000 scholarship was also awarded to Kim and FCS for a student(s) of their choice. CONGRATULATIONS to Kim and his crew – Austin Albert, Ian Burkhart, Cody Crawford, Zach Folland, and Bob Spidel!

3. Superintendent Vaughn reported that it has been determined that a reduction in force is necessary, appropriate, and in the best interest of the school system. At this time she plans to speak to approximately 15 teachers whose positions will either be eliminated or their existing schedules reduced. Mr. Wirtz continues to run the financial calculations – monitoring our funds on a daily basis. At this time Ms. Vaughn stated that she cannot say if anyone will be recalled. Our enrollment has dropped from 1,020 (September count) to 993 (February count). Insurance and negotiations could change this for the better or for the worse. We know that “Health Care Reform” is looming and will become more complicated as we work through the process. There are many unknowns that could impact us financially that we must still plan for. We have met with and will continue to meet with our insurance brokers to address upcoming changes and the impact they will have on us.”

Administrators were asked to weigh the following factors before making a determination as to which teacher and/or teachers would be subject to the non-continuance or cancellation:

- The academic needs of the students
- Current instructional leadership roles
- Degrees earned
- Credit hours earned
- Teaching experience

Any of these factors may be considered and/or other relevant factors may be included also. Seniority is no longer a consideration.

Areas expected to be possibly affected in the following buildings:

Elementary – 1 ¾

Middle School – 3 ½

High School – 3 ¾

Approximate number of teachers receiving RIF notices/letter = 13-15.

In addition, unknown factors such as insurance, Title/Federal funding, and new school safety requirements may also financially impact what we are able or unable to afford.

Approximate number of actual teaching units being eliminated or reduced = 9-11.

Changes in past RIF policies or procedures:

- Recall criteria will align with the criteria used to determine RIFs
- Additional RIFs may now be issued anytime between May 1 and July 1

Conversations about RIF were discussed in the monthly March DISCUSSIONS meeting. Approximate number of RIFs were presented during April DISCUSSIONS.

Ms. Vaughn plans to send RIF notifications and would like to meet with each affected teacher prior to their receiving the official letter from their building principals on May 2 or 3.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing on Additional Appropriations

A public hearing was held to review a proposed additional appropriation for year-end budget adjustments. Mr. Wirtz explained that the appropriation is necessary due to actual dollars remaining at the end of the year differing from the budgeted amount. An additional appropriation is needed to allow expending these dollars. The Board may reduce, but not increase the amount of the proposed additional appropriation. The resolution was adopted as presented.

2. Employment Recommendations

Resignations/Retirements	Lucy Cress, MS Teacher Cathy Darnell, Bus Driver Greg Griffis, HS Art Teacher Macey Lee, Varsity Cheerleading Coach
Hires	Brent Byler, MS Intramural Tennis Coach Kevin Shoppell, Varsity Volleyball Coach
Leave of Absence	Stacey Grimm, EL Teacher

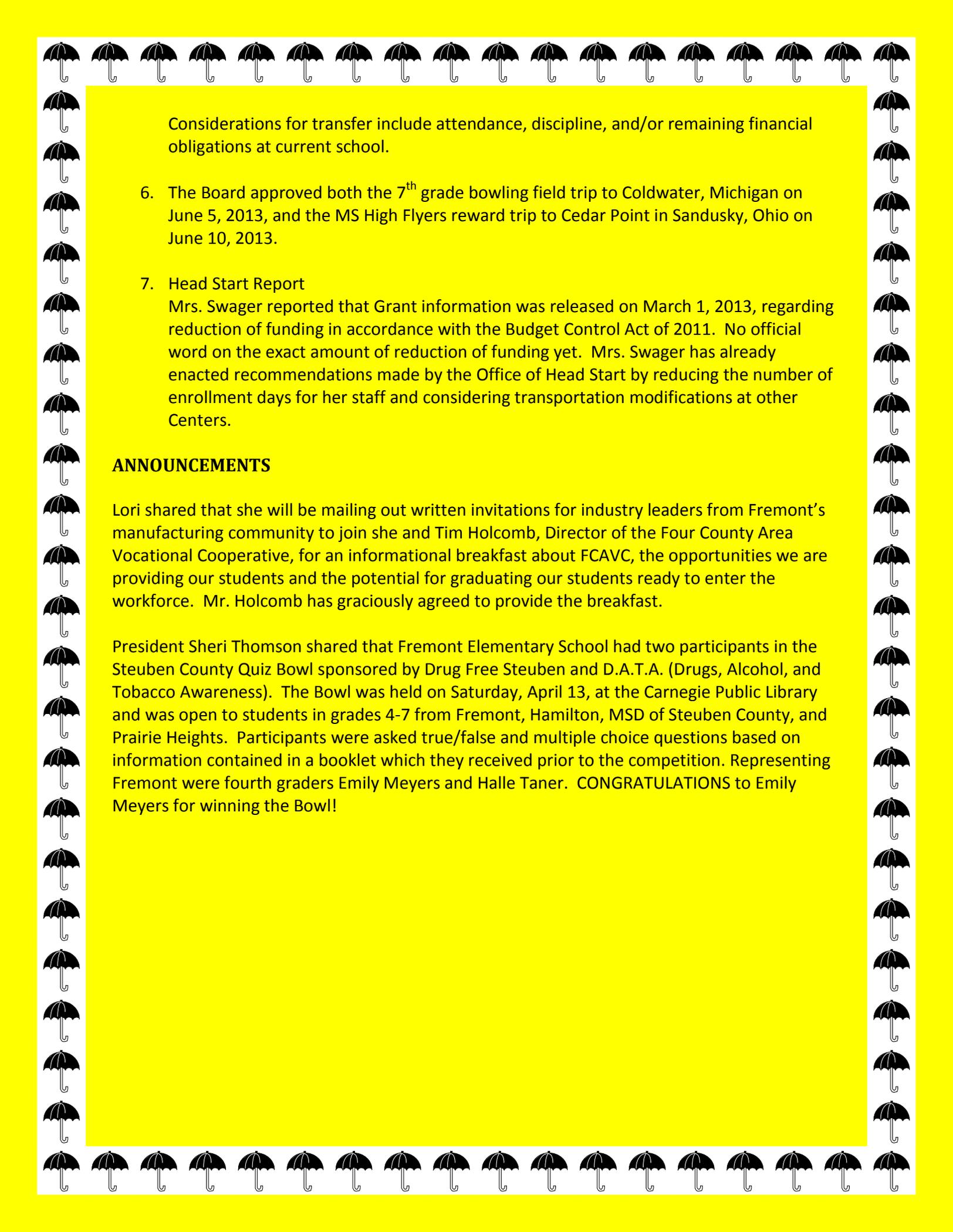
3. High School Volunteer Chaperones for Prom/Post Prom were approved.

4. Driver Education

The Board unanimously approved outsourcing driver education to Drive Right Academy Inc. There will be no fee for us to do this. The only obligation would be that we allow them to use one of our classrooms for the classroom sessions. They have agreed to hire both Neal Frantz and Scott LaPlace as instructors. Student cost will be \$365 which includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of instructional driving.

5. 2013-14 Student Transfer Requests

The Board approved revisions and updated instructions for Student Transfer Requests beginning in school year 2013. We will no longer accept out-of-state transfers.



Considerations for transfer include attendance, discipline, and/or remaining financial obligations at current school.

6. The Board approved both the 7th grade bowling field trip to Coldwater, Michigan on June 5, 2013, and the MS High Flyers reward trip to Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio on June 10, 2013.

7. Head Start Report

Mrs. Swager reported that Grant information was released on March 1, 2013, regarding reduction of funding in accordance with the Budget Control Act of 2011. No official word on the exact amount of reduction of funding yet. Mrs. Swager has already enacted recommendations made by the Office of Head Start by reducing the number of enrollment days for her staff and considering transportation modifications at other Centers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lori shared that she will be mailing out written invitations for industry leaders from Fremont's manufacturing community to join she and Tim Holcomb, Director of the Four County Area Vocational Cooperative, for an informational breakfast about FCAVC, the opportunities we are providing our students and the potential for graduating our students ready to enter the workforce. Mr. Holcomb has graciously agreed to provide the breakfast.

President Sheri Thomson shared that Fremont Elementary School had two participants in the Steuben County Quiz Bowl sponsored by Drug Free Steuben and D.A.T.A. (Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Awareness). The Bowl was held on Saturday, April 13, at the Carnegie Public Library and was open to students in grades 4-7 from Fremont, Hamilton, MSD of Steuben County, and Prairie Heights. Participants were asked true/false and multiple choice questions based on information contained in a booklet which they received prior to the competition. Representing Fremont were fourth graders Emily Meyers and Halle Taner. CONGRATULATIONS to Emily Meyers for winning the Bowl!