

My First Year in Fremont

By Superintendent Brad Reyburn

It feels like just yesterday we were starting the school year, and now we're already wrapping it up. Reflecting on my first year as superintendent, I feel incredibly humbled and grateful. The warmth and support from this community have made my transition smooth and rewarding.

As a Newaygo County native, accepting this position in my home county was deeply meaningful, given our shared heritage and traditions that we all cherish. Although I've lived next door to Fremont Most of my career, joining Packer Nation has opened up a new world and community that I am proud to be a part of.

Our district had a lot to celebrate this year. The girls' volleyball and boys' soccer teams each reached the Regional finals, we're sending middle school delegates to our sister school in Yahaba, Japan for another year of cultural enrichment, the basketball teams dominated the conference and district, we integrated a Severe Multiple Impairment (SXI) special education room in Pathfinder, our Packer musicians continued to excel, Daisy Brook collected 597.4 pounds of treats for our troops, and our FHS academics set a high standard for the region. We also had some very impressive individual accomplishments with Tee Ward winning a state championship in wrestling, and Gavin Richards beating out 2000 plus competitors to win the state MITES competition with his Walnut Whiskey Cabinet. We had more athletic and academic scholarships than I have time to list, and we graduated 161 at FHS and 27 at Quest High School.

This year also marked the beginning of our next chapter. In early 2024, the district began its Strategic Planning process with the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB). After months of community forums and online survey feedback, results were synthesized into one final report. The report identified the district's most pressing needs and defined tangible goals in five key focus areas: Academics and Programs, Learning Environment and Culture, Communication and Community Engagement, Personnel and Leadership, and Operations/Finance.

My biggest takeaway is that we urgently need to focus on operations. I think this will take up much of my time for the next few years. We have a sinking fund, which is incredibly valuable to a community of this size, and next fall, we will navigate renewing it and gauge community interest in a larger bond to fund bigger projects such as building a new Daisy Brook.

To see the full Strategic Plan report as well as a summary with my commentary, please visit <https://www.fremont.net/> Thank you to everyone who contributed their ideas and insight to this report!

Finalizing our Strategic Plan was a significant first step as we write our next chapter. Now, it's on us to continue the progress. We will develop a reporting and school board monitoring calendar, a communications action plan, and plan mid-year progress reports and annual planning updates.

This summer, I plan to continue my "Coffee with the Community" office hours. This is a chance for anyone in our district to stop by, ask questions, or come to me with your concerns directly. Stay tuned to our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for upcoming dates and locations.

Next school year, my personal goal is to become even more visible in our district. I hope that when you see me in the stands at a football game or out in the community, you'll feel comfortable asking any questions you might have.

I've had a lot of fun this year. I feel very lucky because not everyone can say that about their job. We have good, solid people in this district—excellent administrators, caring staff members, and a hard working, unified board. I am Packer Proud. There is so much to look forward to and to celebrate.

Thank you for a wonderful school year.

Warmly,

Brad Reyburn
Superintendent