

**Farmington River Regional School District
Otis/Sandisfield
555 Main Road, Otis MA 01253
School Committee Meeting #416
Monday, May 2, 2022, 7:00PM
Farmington River Library**

Members Present: Arlene Tolopko, Deb Fogel, Roger Kohler, Jen Hibbins, Jessica Drenga, Carol Lombardo, Carl Nett, Thomas Nadolny, Eric Jesner, and Teresa DellaGiustina, secretary.

Community Participation: Paul Adams commented on how he would like to see the School Committee continue to have their meetings on ZOOM so more residents can attend and listen to the topics each month.

1. **Accept the Minutes of #415 as submitted.** Jennifer Hibbins would like to have the minutes more detailed. Jess Drenga reminded the Committee of past discussions on keeping the minutes short and putting the audio online for the public to reference. Minute retention will be handled by the IT coordinator. Jessica Drenga motioned to accept Minutes #415. Deb Fogel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of accepting the minutes as submitted.
2. **Principal/Superintendent updates.** Tom Nadolny spoke about COVID cases. There were two cases over vacation. After school programs are still in place. Spanish was extended due to interest in students. Summer school was discussed. Interest in staffing is much lower this year. The program is going to be scaled back. Priority is given to special needs students. Transportation was discussed concerning the rest of the student population. Tom will look into this. Field day is on Saturday, June 11th. Graduation is on June 17th at 1:00. The first session of MCAS is over, the second is coming up on May 17th. Days of the Arts is back for students to apply for. It is a summer program through Tanglewood. COVID tests are distributed to staff and students every other week.
3. **Vote to accept school choice for all grades except 1st and 2nd.** Jess Drenga motioned to accept school choice for all grades except 1st and 2nd. Arlene Tolopko seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of accepting school choice.
4. **Discuss Vocational School tuition agreement.** Tom spoke to Smith Vocational School in North Hampton about possibly setting a tuition rate for our students. Smith Vocational is the most attended school for our District. The agreement presented by Smith was discussed. Transportation, trades, and tuition with other schools are a few areas to be investigated by Tom.

5. **Treasurer updates.** Current treasurer for Farmington River School District, Jane Gleason, was present to update the Committee on the job description and fiscal responsibility of the treasurer. Jane explained in detail the checks and balances that are in place with the Business Manager, banks, and auditors. A separation of duties is the priority in the business office. Also, there is a letter sent by the treasurer at the end of the year to each town containing the assessments. A brief discussion occurred concerning the end of the year process.

6. **Financial updates.** Eric wanted a vote to keep the FY21 van encumbrance open for a new van , in FY23. Arlene Tolopko motioned to keep the FY21 van encumbrance open for the upcoming FY23. Deb Fogel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed in favor of keeping the encumbrance open.

Eric spoke about the meeting he had with Larry Gould concerning the ceiling in the gym. A suggestion from Larry Gould would be to anchor the tiles to the ceiling. This method is much more cost effective than replacing the whole ceiling.

Eric went over the updated FY22 budget. Eric and Tom fielded the questions that were asked. The topic of summer school transportation was discussed. Tom will look further into this topic. Also, the Rural School Aid Grant was discussed. Tom would like to update the audio sound system in the gym.

Carol Lombardo spoke about ZOOM meetings. As of July 1, 2022, all meetings are to be held in person. Roger Kohler and Carol brought up a video recorder to have the public still attending the meetings via video but not participate. More discussion will be on the coming agendas.

7. **Vote to exit into Executive Session. Motion to move into Executive Session for the following purpose and to reconvene in open session for the purpose of adjournment only: Personnel Contract.** A motion to exit out of School Committee meeting to go into Executive Session was given by Deb Fogel. Jess Drenga seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

Roll Call: Roger Kohler-yes, Carl Nett-yes, Jess Drenga-yes, Deb Fogel-yes, Arlene Tolopko-yes, Jennifer Hibbins-yes, and Carol Lombardo-yes.

8. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn by Jess Drenga at 8:44 P.M. Seconded by Deb Fogel. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa DellaGiustina

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