

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #440

Farmington River Elementary Teachers Room
Tuesday, October 17, 2023
7:00 PM

Special Meeting:
School Committee and District Goal Discussion

Members Present: Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett

Also Present: Timothy Lee

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Denise Hardie. Technical issues prevented the use of the ZOOM
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **School Committee Clarification of RAAC Vice-Chair**

Carol Lombardo was nominated as vice-chair of the RAAC. School Committee accepted nomination unanimously. There was some discussion of the role of Ms. Lombardo on the Facilities subcommittee and the membership of that subcommittee. This discussion was tabled until 11/6

4. **Introduction and Orientation** (DH)

Ms. Hardie reviewed the need for school committee and district goal setting and shared samples of strategic plans (and excerpts of strategic plans) from three school districts. These plans were briefly.

5. **SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Exercise** (TL)

Mr. Lee led the committee in a pre-goal setting discussion using the SWOT protocol. Members identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as follows:

Strengths:

SCHOOL: "Welcoming school, high staff satisfaction, strong staff, respect for students and staff, students feel belonging, positive culture (admin), small school size, students are known, effective SEL practices, good community involvement/PTA, well supported, beautiful rural campus, special needs students well-supported, readiness to innovate"

SC: "Dedicated and ready to work, Optimistic, Wants each child to reach their full potential."

Weaknesses:

SCHOOL: "Transportation, (travel time), homogeneous population, little diversity, limited staff for English Learners, Curriculum cohesiveness, food (must ascribe to NSLP requirements), small school funding challenges, finding staff (sometimes), safety and security, lack of before and after school options (support of working families), location limits choice enrollment

SC: Knowledge, relatively few current parents on committee

Opportunities:

SCHOOL: More music, world language, more PD days for staff, vocational strategies, grant seeking, writing, cultural partnerships, attract and recruit more choice participation, robust models of tiered instruction, partner with other small schools

SC: MASC Training, Collaboration, Regional Agreement

Threats:

SCHOOL: Funding factors linked to declining enrollment and birthrates, staffing challenges, no vocational or pre-vocational programs

SC: Succession, finding individuals willing to serve

6. Discussion and Proposal of Goals

The Committee discussed results of the SWOT activity. The proposal of goals was tabled for a time when the full Committee could be present and after means were developed to seek the input from the community of the school district.

7. Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:56