

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee Meeting

Meeting #441

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Monday, November 6, 2023

MINUTES

7:00 PM

Members Present: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett

Also Present: Tim Lee, Caroline Stamm, Carol Sauerhauser

Absent: Carol Lombardo

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Denise Hardie

- A. Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett

II. Public Comment:

- A. Darlene Deshane, one of the bus drivers for the district through Dufour Tours, spoke about concerns regarding the current bus routes and getting students to school on time.
- B. Susan Ebitz, Chair of the Fire Fund, discussed the background of the fund and how to apply, as well as the arts initiatives they have for more funding if applied for.
- C. Denise Hardie invited the School Committee to attend the Veteran's Day Brunch & Assembly held at the school on Thursday, Nov. 9th.

III. Acceptance of Minutes

- *Meeting #437 from August 23rd, 2023 (Special Meeting/Retreat)*
 - *Meeting #439 from October 2nd, 2023*
 - *Meeting #440 from October 17th, 2023 (Special Meeting)*
- A. Carl Nett made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #437 from 8/23/23.
1. Carol Lombardo seconded the motion.
 2. There was a discussion about amendments to the minutes.
 - a) Phil Magovern motioned to amend the minutes.
 - b) Carl Nett seconded the motion to amend the minutes.
 - c) VOTE to amend: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to amend the minutes from Meeting #437 (8/23/23).
 3. VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to accept the minutes from Meeting #437 (8/23/23) with the corrections.
- B. Carl Nett made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #439 from 10/2/23.
1. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 2. There was a discussion about amendments to the minutes.
 - a) Carl Nett motioned to amend the minutes.
 - b) Phil Magovern seconded the motion to amend the minutes.

- c) VOTE to amend: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to amend the minutes from Meeting #439 (10/2/23).
- 3. VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to accept the minutes from Meeting #439 (10/2/23) with the corrections.
- C. Carl Nett made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #440 from 10/17/23.
 - 1. Carol Lombardo seconded the motion.
 - 2. There was a discussion about minor typos in the minutes
 - 3. VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor. Phil Magovern abstained from the vote. There were no objections, and the motion passed to accept the minutes from Meeting #440 (10/17) with the corrections.

IV. Superintendent's Report:

- A. News from FRES: Tim Lee updated the School Committee on the latest events at FRES.
- B. District Wellness Plan:
 - 1. Wellness Policy: The Wellness policy was reviewed in the last year, however it has not been formally updated since 2017
 - 2. This year, there is a review of the Food Service Program by the state during the winter. Certain policies will be brought forth for updates based on this review.
- C. FY24 Report:
 - 1. The report was uploaded to the state by Carol Sauerhauser and is all set.
- D. Rural Schools Grant:
 - 1. Two weeks ago, we received word from DESE targeted for the Rural School Aid distribution. We are looking at receiving close to \$82,000 since we are a higher priority. There should be 2 payments - one soon and another later in the year.. Tim will update the Committee when the funds have been received.
- E. Requests for Approval of FY 24 Funds Transfer: (Instructional Salaries to Bus Driver Training/Transportation)
 - 1. Tim presented the request to transfer \$5,000 from the Teacher Salaries line to Bus Driver Training (a budget line that was not populated this year) to cover the costs of training completed and to have drivers medically cleared.
 - 2. Carl Nett made a motion to move \$5,000 from the Teacher Salaries budget line to the Bus Driver Training budget line.
 - a) Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 - b) VOTE: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to transfer \$5,000 from the Teacher Salaries budget line to the Bus Driver Training budget line.
- F. County-Wide PD on November 7th:
 - 1. The school will be closed for students for the county-wide PD day. There is a mixture of staff attending workshops across the county provided by Berk12 and staff remaining here for PD to look at ELA curriculum
- G. Veteran's Day Brunch/Assembly on November 9th:

1. Echoing Denise's sentiments at the beginning of the meeting, Tim also invited the School Committee members to attend the Veteran's Day Brunch on 11/9/23.

H. No Place for Hate:

1. 6th-grade students received training in anti-hate instructions and is sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League. The program is currently being led by Terri DiGrigoli and aided by Jamie Foster and Laura Catullo.
2. Students choose topics applicable to this school and have done a few already:
 - a) Have you filled a bucket today? (by doing nice things for others)
 - b) Pledge - written on a Dragon and hung by the stairs
 - c) Students will also lead 3 lessons a year for fellow students to promote inclusion, equity, and anti-bullying.

V. **School Committee Policies:**

A. Policy BG: School Committee Policy Development

1. Carl Nett made a motion to accept policy BG
 - a) Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - b) There was a brief discussion of the policy, but the consensus was it looked good.
 - c) VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to accept policy BG.

B. Policy BGB: Policy Adoption (3rd Reading)

1. There was a discussion of changes to the policy - amend to make policy by two-thirds vote:

The school committee may dispense with the above sequence to meet emergency conditions only by the affirmative vote of a 2/3rds majority.
2. Carl Nett made a motion to accept policy BGB as amended
 - a) Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - b) VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to accept policy BGB.

C. Policy IGA/IGD: Curriculum Development & Adoption (2nd Reading)

1. There was a discussion of changes to the policy - vertical alignment of curriculum and curriculum should be evidence-based. After the discussion, the decision was made to add language about sequencing and vertical framework to align better to state frameworks, and research/evidence based programs.

D. Policy BEDD: School Committee Rules of Order (1st Reading)

1. There was a discussion of the policy, including reviewing Robert's Rules and ensuring policy does not conflict with the RDA.

VI. **Other Policy Discussion and New Subcommittee Discussion:**

A. Discussion and Preview of Section B of the Policy Manual

1. The Committee decided to table this discussion to give the Committee members more time to review Section B.
2. Douglas Miner made a motion to accept policy BGB as amended
 - a) Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - b) VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor.

There were no objections, and the motion passed to delay discussion of Section B to a later date.

B. Subcommittee Discussion:

1. The Committee discussed clarification on who is on each Subcommittee:
 - a) FINANCE: Phil Magovern (Chair), Carl Nett, Douglas Miner
 - b) BUILDING & GROUNDS: Douglas Miner (Chair), Phil Magovern, Deb Fogel
 - c) POLICY: Denise Hardie (Chair), Melissa Bye, Douglas Miner
 - d) SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW: Denise and Carl are considering, but there should be 3 members.
 - e) Douglas, who is on 3 subcommittees, is willing to walk away from Finance or Policy to give others the opportunity to join.
2. The Committee also discussed adding the roles of Subcommittees to the Policy Manual.

VII. **Subcommittee Reports:**

A. Finance:

1. This subcommittee has not met since the last meeting. Their next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 20th at 3:30 PM.
2. They have requested copies of last year's budget detail since certain members are new this year.

B. Facilities:

1. Douglas is confirmed to be the chair, and will begin to schedule meetings.
2. Fixing the boiler is the most pressing issue to address.

C. Policy:

1. The Policy Subcommittee will work to review the subcommittee and advisory committee policies

VIII. **RAAC Update:**

- A. The RAAC had a meeting, and the School Committee has given the RAAC the terms for withdrawal and comments from DESE. They have reviewed a few sections of the RDA and have requested clarification on the on-person-one-vote based on consensus information.
- B. Their next meeting is scheduled for November 16th at 5:30 PM
- C. Tim Lee is identified to be the point of contact for legal matters to convey to the district's attorneys.

IX. **Other items for discussion not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours before the meeting**

- A. None at this time.

X. **Suggested items for future agendas:**

- A. The PTA will present at the next meeting
- B. School Committee's To-Do List Register (to-do/action/project list) - Carl will present at the next meeting.
- C. Finance: Discussion FY25 budget status-quo report. Look at fixed programs and then see if there is any opportunities for new programs.
- D. RAAC will update with clarification on the work-load

XI. **Executive Session:**

To discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

- A. Tim discussed the above reason for entering executive session with the district's attorney and the reason should be modified to student confidentiality under FERPA.
- B. Carl Nett made a motion to enter executive session for the reason of student confidentiality under FERPA at 8:42 PM.
 - 1. Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - 2. Vote - Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett.
 - 3. Tim Lee was also present for Executive Session

XII. Adjournment:

- A. Phil Magovern made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 PM.
- B. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
- C. Vote - Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm