

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee Meeting

Meeting #442

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Monday, December 4, 2023

MINUTES - DRAFT

7:00 PM

Members Present: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner (via Zoom, arrived late), Carl Nett

Also Present: Tim Lee, Caroline Stamm, Carol Sauerhauser

- 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, Carl Nett. Douglas Miner was not yet present at the meeting.
- II. **Public Comment:**
 - A. There was no public comment.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes**
 - *Meeting #441 from November 2nd, 2023*
 - A. Carl Nett made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #441 from 11/6/23.
 1. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 2. **VOTE to accept:** Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, and Carl Nett were in favor. Douglas Miner was not yet present and therefore didn't vote. There were no objections, and the motion passed to accept the minutes from Meeting #441 (11/6/23).
- IV. **Superintendent's Report:** Tim presented his report with the following highlights:
 - A. **News from FRES:**
 1. The school year is flying by - last week marked the end of the first Trimester.
 2. Tim presented the biweekly newsletter to illustrate some of the events going on at the school.
 3. Thanksgiving Baskets - once again donation collection for the Thanksgiving baskets was a huge success.
 4. We currently have 4 student teachers for this year, which is remarkable for the size of our school but is due to the dedication and welcoming nature of our staff.
 5. Tim highlighted upcoming events, specifically the PTA Holiday Shop, which Trish Tetreault from the PTA overviewed how the Holiday Shop works.
 - B. **Enrollment Update:**
 1. Tim discussed that we began the school year with 132, but we are currently at 127 due to a number of individual circumstances.
 - C. **Report: November 7th Professional Development Day:**
 1. The day after our last School Committee meeting was a PD day where the school was closed, and staff participated in professional development. A few staff left campus for other workshops provided by Berk12, but a majority of staff stayed for a ELA-curriculum specific workshop lead by Laurie, Mike and Tim. They

evaluated a new reading/ELA program and made quite a bit of progress towards consensus on steps to move forward.

D. Request for Approval of FY24 Funds Transfer (Instructional Salaries to Maintenance and Repair).

1. Tim was prepared to ask for this transfer, however the transfer is no longer needed and Tim rescinded his request.
2. This was due to an increase in Rural Schools Funding, and will use some of these funds to cover maintenance costs.

E. FY23 Budget: Information on EOY Report:

1. End of Year (EOY) procedure report for DESE and DOR is more complicated since we changed Business Administrators.
2. All of the steps needed to be take were completed by Carol Sauerhauser and Jane Gleason last week.
3. Tim discussed the amount of E&D that we have projected and how much is unreserved beyond that projection.

F. FY25 Budget: Overview of Process & Calendar:

1. Tim distributed handouts of the Budget Calendar prepared with Carol, and reviewed the steps of the budget calendar as well as the areas of anticipated increases/decreases/stabilization.

V. School Committee Policies:

A. Policy IGA-IGD: Vote to Approve

1. Carol Lombardo made a motion to approve Policy IGA-IGD. Deb Fogel seconded the motion
2. There was discussion on amendments to the final paragraph.
3. Carl Nett made a motion to approve Policy IGA-IGD with the amendments. Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - a) VOTE: All were in favor, there were no objections and the motion passed to accept Policy IGA-IGD with amendments.

B. Policy BEDD: Second Read & Discussion

1. The committee discussed any changes to Policy BEDD
2. Carl Nett made a motion to approve Policy BEDD. Carol Lombardo seconded the motion.
 - a) VOTE: All were in favor, there were no objections, and the motion passed to accept Policy BEDD>

C. Policy EFD - School Nutrition Charge Policy: First Read:

1. The committee discussed any changes to Policy EFD, including adding the clarification of "eligible" students in the language.

VI. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Finance:

1. Met on Monday November 20th.
2. Discussed the Budget Calendar, offset funds, transportation, health care, and the possible need for a new van (E&D), ESSER funds (identified ESSER III is being spent on summer school and after school, and technolog refresh, so they will need to discuss how to replace these funds moving forward).
3. Lee Tuition Agreement: We have 1 more fiscal year in the current agreement, but the tuition rate for this agreement is based on current CPI and we may not want

to continue that method moving forward. They plan to continue for the next year, but will begin renegotiations early.

4. The subcommittee is also looking at the assessment method of both towns along with the RAAC.

B. Building & Grounds:

1. Planned to meet during the first week of December, but will be rescheduling for next week if possible.
2. They plan to address short-term maintenance issues that are most pressing. They will then look at what capital improvements to focus on next.

C. Policy:

1. Met tonight prior to the School Committee meeting.
2. In addition to the policies that were presented to the Committee, they are also looking at the wellness policy that will be brought forward soon, as well as consistency in policy within the handbook (what items are procedure vs. policy).
3. They will plan to meet again next month.

VII. PTA Report:

- A. Cecily Goulange, President of the PTA, presented an overview of the outreach and financial goals of the PTA, as well as what they've been able to accomplish last year.

VIII. RAAC Update:

- A. Carl Nett and Carol Lombardo discussed some highlights of the RAAC's last meeting:
 1. They are making progress reviewing the RDA - they are currently reviewing the assessment methodology.
 2. There was discussion on options for electing School Committee Members.
 3. Clarified that Quorum is a simple majority, with the provision that School Committee can't meet/deliberate unless a simple majority has at least 1 member of each town.
 4. Reviewed last year's assessment worksheet to give individuals an idea of how the assessment methodology works in context.
- B. At the RAAC, Carl prepared a presentation on the financial breakdown of each town and will discuss this further at the next Finance Subcommittee Meeting.
- C. The next RAAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12/7 at 5:30 PM
- D. They will also need to appoint a new person from Sandisfield - a poll has been sent out to town members, but will need to update if any responses have been received.

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

- A. Nothing at this time.

X. Suggestion for future agendas:

- A. Nothing at this time.

XI. Adjournment:

- A. Phil Magovern made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM.
- B. Carl Nett seconded the motion.
- C. Vote - Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner (via Zoom), Carl Nett.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm