

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #446

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Monday, March 4, 2024

MINUTES

7:00 PM

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

Also Present: Tim Lee, Carol Sauerhauser (via Zoom), Caroline Stamm

Absent: Denise Hardie

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Carl Nett.
 - A. **Roll Call:** Melissa Bye (via Zoom), Deb Fogel, Carol Lombardo (via Zoom), Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett. Denise Hardie was not present at this meeting.
- II. **Public Comment:**
 - A. There was no public comment at this time.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes:**
 - *Executive Session held on November 6th, 2023*
 - *Meeting #444 from February 5th, 2024*
 - A. Phil Magovern made a motion to accept the minutes from Executive Session held on November 6th, 2023. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 1. **VOTE:** Melissa Bye (via Zoom), Deb Fogel, Carol Lombardo (via Zoom), Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett voted in favor. Denise Hardie was not present at this meeting and therefore did not vote. There were no objections, and the motion passed to accept the minutes from Executive Session held on November 6th, 2023
 - B. Deb Fogel made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #444 held on 2/5/24. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 1. **VOTE:** Melissa Bye (via Zoom), Deb Fogel, Carol Lombardo (via Zoom), Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett voted in favor. Phil Magovern abstained from the vote. Denise Hardie was not present at this meeting and therefore did not vote. There were no objections, and the motion passed to accept the minutes from Meeting #444 held on 2/5/24.
- IV. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - A. Update on 7D Van Purchase
 1. Tim updated the School Committee on the status of purchasing a 7D license and the steps he has taken since the last meeting where the Committee approved the invitation to bid.
 2. Upon looking at the state-approved contracted suppliers, he found a vehicle quoted at \$115K (which is higher than his anticipated ballpark of \$80K - \$85K). This vehicle would be a 5+1 (meaning that it has 5 fixed seats for standard

passengers and 1 space for a wheelchair passenger) along with a wheelchair lift with side entry instead of rear.

3. Tim is currently looking into lease options with the ability to buyout at the end of the lease. He is also waiting to hear back on a few other quotes, but would be interested in moving forward with a choice at the April meeting as there is a 6-8 month turn-around.

B. Preview: Designating a capital stabilization revolving fund

1. Tim proposed beginning a capital stabilization revolving fund which would be used to respond to unforeseen capital needs (such as repairing the boiler). It is unclear if the fund was previously established but not funded.
2. Tim will be doing more research into how this fund would interact with our capital expenses line in the budget, including looking into how the funds going into this account are assessed to the towns.
3. This will be discussed further in the next Finance Subcommittee meeting.

C. FY 25 Preliminary Budget: Updates, Approval for Public Hearing

1. Background: At the January Meeting, there was a review of the anticipated expenditures in the FY25 proposed budget. At the February meeting, there was a presentation estimating what the offsets and revenues were going to be. At this point there is a presentation of the preliminary FY25 budget.
2. Carol Sauerhauser reviewed the Hearing File tab of the preliminary FY25 budget.
3. Douglas Miner made a motion to approve the Hearing File to be presented at the Public Hearing of the FY25 Budget. Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - a) VOTE - Roll Call: Melissa Bye (via Zoom), Deb Fogel, Carol Lombardo (via Zoom), Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett voted in favor. Denise Hardie was not present at this meeting and therefore did not vote. There were no objections, and the motion passed to approve the Hearing File to be presented at the Public Hearing of the FY25 Budget.

D. Public Hearing of the FY25 Budget, Date

1. Tim proposed the date of Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 at 6:30 PM for the Public Hearing in the FRES Library. He also requested that the School Committee Members attend to listen to questions posed during the hearing.
2. The alternative date if needed would be March 20th, 2024.
3. The Committee established a Special Meeting on Monday, March 25th, 2024 at 6:30 PM to discuss and approve the FY25 Budget following the Public Hearing.

V. School Committee Policies:

A. Policy EFD School Nutrition Charge Policy: Third Read and Adoption

1. The final copy of Policy EFD was distributed to the School Committee members.

B. Student Wellness Policy: Discussion

1. Douglas Miner moved to postpone the discussion of the Student Wellness Policy to the next meeting. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 - a) VOTE: Melissa Bye (via Zoom), Deb Fogel, Carol Lombardo (via Zoom), Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett voted in favor. Denise Hardie was not present at this meeting and therefore did not vote. There were no objections, and the motion passed to postpone the discussion of the Student Wellness Policy to the next meeting.

VI. Subcommittee Reports:

- A. Finance: There are no updates, they will meet next week.
- B. Facilities: There are no updates, they will plan to meet in the near future.
- C. Policy: There are no updates, they will meet when Denise is back in town.
- D. RAAC: The RAAC will meet later this week to continue discussing items in the RDA.

VII. RDA Discussion - Data RE: Financial Sustainability:

- A. Since the Special Meeting, Carl has updated the data in the Financial Sustainability file with the FY24 Data. he presented this updated data, as well as the Data provided by Brandi Page on the Town Tax Levy.
- B. Douglas Miner made a motion to ratify the Data presented in the Special Meeting to include the data from Brandi Page as credible data. Carl Nett seconded the motion.
 - 1. VOTE: Melissa Bye (via Zoom), Deb Fogel, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett voted in favor. Carol Lombardo (via Zoom) abstained from the vote. Denise Hardie was not present at this meeting and therefore did not vote. There were no objections, and the motion passed to ratify the Data presented in the Special Meeting to include the data from Brandi Page as credible data. Carl Nett seconded the motion.
- C. Jonathan Sylbert presented data on the Levy Limit and Levy Ceiling of both towns and the implications on the tax burden on taxpayers.
- D. Carl Nett presented additional information on the town assessment data, as well as those of neighboring districts and compared the cost per pupil.
- E. The School Committee decided to postpone a vote to accept the new data presented by Jonathan Sylbert and Carl Nett to give School Committee members an opportunity to review and process the data.

VIII. Other items not reasonably anticipated:

- A. Nothing at this time.

IX. Suggested items for future agendas:

- A. Nothing at this time.

X. Adjournment:

- A. Phil Magovern made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM.
- B. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
- C. Vote - Roll Call: Melissa Bye (via Zoom), Deb Fogel, Carol Lombardo (via Zoom), Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett. Denise Hardie was not present at this meeting and therefore could not vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm