

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #451

Farmington River Elementary School Library

MINUTES

Monday, July 1st, 2024

7:00 PM

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

Also Present: Timothy Lee, Caroline Stamm

- 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, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze
 - B. The meeting was recorded by the press and for archival purposes.
- II. **Public Comment:**
 - A. There was no public comment at this time.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes:**

- Meeting #450 from June 12th, 2024

 - A. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #450 (6/12/24)
 1. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 2. There was a brief discussion and a few small corrections to make.
 3. VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to accept the minutes from Meeting #450 (6/12/24).
- IV. **Annual Committee Reorganization:**
 - A. Public Comment Clarification:
 1. Denise recalled the decision on Public Comment from the 9/11 meeting where the School Committee would hold public comment at the beginning of the meeting, and as discussions take place, there would be a moment for public comment after the committee finished their deliberation.
 - B. Treasurer and Secretary:
 1. TREASURER: The decision on the Treasurer was decided in the last meeting.
 2. SECRETARY: Carl Nett made a motion to appoint Caroline Stamm as the School Committee Secretary. Stacey Schultz and Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 - a) VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to appoint Caroline Stamm as the School Committee Secretary.
 - C. Subcommittee Membership:

1. Denise sent around a sign-up sheet/survey to the committee members to indicate which subcommittees they would like to serve on for the next year. Denise will take this information to help organize the subcommittee.
2. RAAC Subcommittee:
 - a) There was a discussion that there was previously a school committee member from each town on the RAAC. With the resignation of Carol Lombardo, there is not a School Committee Member representative from Otis on the RAAC, and the Committee discussed how they should decide to appoint an Otis member to the RAAC.
 - b) Carl Net would like to address this discussion later in the meeting during the discussion on the RDA.

V. Superintendent's Report:

A. Memo from Commissioner:

1. The memo from the Commission confirmed that they have received and approved the district's plan to educate our students. DESE approves education plans through a letter outlining the plan and copies of the tuition agreements.
2. Tim clarified that FRRSD is listed as "non-operational" for 7-12 students since those students are tuitioned out.

B. Staffing Update for 2024-2025:

1. Katherine Silk (3rd Grade Teacher) resigned towards the end of the school year/ She has been with the school for many years and has decided to seek a position at SBRSD, which is closer to home and helpful for her childcare needs.
2. Jana Bush (currently the PK teacher) will be transitioning to be the 3rd Grade Teacher. She has worked with all ages of students and helped remediate both upper and lower-grade students.
3. We are waiting to hear if another paraprofessional is willing to drop from full-time to part-time to fill the paraprofessional services Jana was previously covering.
4. Open Positions:
 - a) **.5 FTE PK3 Teacher Position** - currently posted internally & will begin interviews for that position on Tuesday
 - b) **2 SPED Paraprofessional Positions** - both open due to retirements & have several applicants to begin interviewing on Tuesday.]
 - c) **7D Van Drivers** - or applicants willing to get their 7D license. We can temporarily fill with paraprofessionals, but are happy to receive interest from those from the community as well.
 - d) **.6 FTE Music Teacher** - Posted previously due to Mr. Flower's departure. The public posting was taken down, but planning to repost later this week.
5. All other staff are returning and happy to have an almost fully staffed school.

VI. School Committee Policies:

- A. There is no additional policy to bring forward at this time.

VII. Subcommittee Reports:

- A. There were no subcommittee updates at this time.

VIII. RDA Discussion - Topic: Apportionment:

- A. Tim was asked by the School Committee Chair to lead a discussion on the RDA and Cost Apportionment. He began the discussion by providing a brief context/timeline of the work revising the RDA from beginning to current.

- B. Tim then went through the 3 models (RAAC 4, EV%, and a combination of both) one at a time, and went around to each school committee member to give their feedback on that specific model. He posed the following questions to guide their feedback:
 - 1. Does it match the criteria previously decided (clarity, sustainability)?
 - 2. Is the model one you would be comfortable/not comfortable supporting?
 - 3. What concerns/benefits do you have surrounding the model?
- C. RAAC 4 Model:
 - 1. Some members expressed concern that this model doesn't create enough financial sustainability for the district. Other members expressed concern about considering any method that doesn't consider enrollment
 - 2. Tim encouraged the School Committee members to consider how much relief is enough relief and if there are other ways to provide relief to the towns in other areas of operations other than just apportionment.
- D. EV % Model:
 - 1. A few members expressed that this is their preferred method, whereas others expressed hesitation with this model. There was also discussion that this method considers that both towns are valued equally, however, some members emphasized that the district is not one town and has two separate voting bodies who vote differently, and that the solution should work for both.
- E. Combination RAAC 4 & EV%:
 - 1. Most members expressed that they would like more time to review the specifics of this model. There was discussion about the income-per-capita differences of the town and the impact of the changes to tax bills.
- F. This discussion will continue at the next meeting, held July 15th, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

IX. Public Comment:

- A. The School Committee received a letter from the Town of Otis Select Board encouraging them to consider bringing in a consultant for the work the RAAC is doing. Some committee members expressed that a consultant was not necessary and that the decision not to have a consultant was already decided by the School Committee. There was a question posed on if they were requesting a consultant or a mediator, who this person would work with (RAAC or SC) and what role would this person have?

X. RDA Discussion - Topic: Apportionment (Continued):

- A. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion that the work on the RDA transition back to the School Committee for the remainder of their work, in consideration of what has already been done by the RAAC, and with the transition occurring after the final meeting of the RAAC on July 18th, 2024.
 - 1. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - 2. Discussion involved considering how much work remained to be done. Some members expressed concerns about concluding the RAAC work so abruptly while others expressed that it was enough time and aligned with the timeline. Public comment was closed at this time.
- B. MOTION TO AMEND: Phil made a motion to amend Carl's previous motion to give the RAAC 2 more meetings to complete their work and bring forth a draft of the RDA no later than August 20th, 2024.
 - 1. Stacey seconded the motion.

2. Discussion involved deliberating if this was enough time for the RAAC to complete their work.
 3. VOTE: Deb Fogel, Stacey Schultze, Phil Magovern, and Denise Hardie were in favor. Melissa Bye, Carl Nett, and Douglas Miner opposed. The vote passed 4-3 to amend Carl's previous motion to give the RAAC 2 more meetings to complete their work and bring forth a draft of the RDA no later than August 20th, 2024.
- C. NEW MOTION WITH AMENDMENT: Motion that the work on the RDA transition back to the SC for the remainder of the work, with consideration of what has already been done by the RAAC, with the transition occurring after the RAAC has 2 more meetings and will bring forth a draft of the RDA to the SC no later than August 20th.
1. VOTE to accept: Stacey Schultze, Carl Nett, Deb Fogel, Phil Magovern, and Denise Hardie were in favor. Douglas Miner and Melissa Bye were opposed. The motion passed 5-1 that the work on the RDA transition back to the SC for the remainder of the work, with consideration of what has already been done by the RAAC, with the transition occurring after the RAAC has 2 more meetings and will bring forth a draft of the RDA to the SC no later than August 20th.
- D. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept the Combination of the RAAC 4 & EV% as the preferred method.
1. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 2. Discussion involved having a phase-in implementation process. There was general agreement that sketching out what a phase-in implementation would look like would help consider if this is worth considering, and there was also agreement that seeing this mapped out may affect opinions on which option to choose, but that members needed more time to consider.
 3. MOTION TO TABLE: Carl made a motion to table his previous conversation until the next school committee meeting. Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 4. VOTE to table: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to table the decision to accept the combination of RAAC 4 & EV% to the next school committee meeting.

XI. Suggested items for future agendas:

- A. The next meeting will take place on July 15th, 2024 at 6:00 PM to continue the apportionment discussion.
- B. There was general consensus to postpone any discussion on district planning until after apportionment conversations concluded.

XII. Adjournment:

- A. Carl Nett made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 PM.
- B. Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
- C. Vote - Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm