

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #452

Farmington River Elementary School Library

MINUTES

Monday, July 15th, 2024

6:00 PM

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

Also Present: Timothy Lee

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 #451 from July 1st, 2024

 - A. MOTION: Phil Magovern made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #451 (7/1/24).
 1. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 2. There was no discussion.
 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 #451 (7/1/24).
- IV. **Subcommittees:**
 - A. RAAC Membership Review:
 1. According to the formation of the RAAC in August 2023, the RAAC shall include one school committee representative from each town.
 2. Carl Lombardo was previously a member of the RAAC representing the School Committee from Otis. Since she is no longer a member of the School Committee, she will need to be replaced with an active member from Otis.
 - a) Denise would like to commend Carol for all her hard work on the RAAC.
 3. MOTION: Deb Fogel made a motion to appoint Stacey Schultze to the RAAC as an Otis Representative from the School Committee.
 - a) Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - b) VOTE to appoint: 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 Stacey Schultze to the RAAC as an Otis Representative from the School Committee.

- B. RAAC Chair/Vice Chair: There was agreement to have Tim facilitate the remaining meetings of the RAAC in lieu of having a Chair or Vice Chair.

V. **RDA Discussion - Topic: Cost Apportionment**

A. Resource Document (in packet)

1. Carl prepared proposed language for the RDA to describe our current assessment methodology, as well as language for the models the Committee is considering (RAAC 4, EV %, and Combination RAAC4/EV%) to compare/review.
2. The Committee was also presented with a chart of the CEY% of each town from FY19-FY25 confirmed by the Treasurer, as well as an overview of the 3 models.

B. Review Criteria from 5/6:

1. Tim began the discussion with a brief review of the Cost Apportionment discussion so far and an overview of the 3 models they will deliberate on.
2. Stacey presented research from the state with an analysis of data comparing other districts in MA and their percentages of CEY, specifically looking at other 2-town school districts.
 - a) A few questions arose regarding further analysis of the data Stacey presented.

C. Review/Discuss 3 Apportionment Options:

1. The committee discussed the different measures of town wealth (such as EV%, CEY, etc.) to consider and the pros and cons of looking at apportionment with these measures.
2. They also discussed the pros and cons of including an enrollment factor in the formula to determine apportionment.
3. Some members expressed concerns about the EV% method, and the Committee discussed capital expenditure liabilities under specific methods.
4. Denise noted that many RDA's include a section on reviewing the RDA and apportionment method every 5-10 years, which the Committee should consider.
5. A few members would like to see DESE's response to the apportionment methods before deciding which method to proceed with.
6. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept the average of RAAC 4 and EV% as the assessment method.
 - a) Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - b) There was no further discussion from the School Committee members.
 - c) Public comment was opened regarding this motion: Terrie Gould, from Otis, expressed that it would not be a good idea to be voting on this motion tonight.
 - d) VOTE - Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor. Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, and Stacey Schultze opposed. The motion failed (3 - 4) to accept the average of RAAC 4 % EV% as the assessment method.
7. MOTION: Phil Magovern made a motion to accept RAAC 4 as the assessment method.
 - a) Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
 - b) There was a brief discussion on whether the assessment method would pass at the town level.

- c) Public comment was opened again regarding this motion: Terrie Gould, from Otis, again expressed opposition to be voting on this motion tonight.
- d) VOTE - Roll Call: Deb Fogel, Phil Magovern, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Melissa Bye, Denise Hardie, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were opposed. The motion failed (3 - 4) to accept RAAC 4 as the assessment method.

D. Timeline/Next Steps of Regional Agreement Work

- 1. The next steps to finding consensus on an assessment method were discussed, and the Committee considered the option of bringing in a mediator to help - Stacey shared knowledge of a mediator that her former employer used.
- 2. The discussion on assessment methodology will be postponed until the next meeting on August 5th, 2024.

VI. Public Comment:

- A. Public comment was considered during the votes.

VII. Suggested items for future agendas:

A. Reschedule September Meeting

- 1. The next September meeting is currently scheduled for September 2nd, 2024, which is Labor Day. The committee discussed moving this meeting to the following week on September 9th, 2024.

B. Future Meeting for District Improvement Planning:

VIII. Adjournment:

- A. Carl Nett made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM.
- B. Phil Magovern and 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