

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #453

Farmington River Elementary School Library
Monday, August 5th, 2024
7:00 PM

MINUTES

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 for archival purposes.
- II. **Public Comment:**
 - A. There was no public comment at this time.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes:**

- Meeting #452 from July 15th, 2024

 - A. MOTION: Stacey Schultze made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #452 (7/15/24).
 1. Phil Magovern 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 #452 (7/15/24).
- IV. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - A. 2024-2025 Staffing Update:
 1. We have 3 New Paraprofessionals joining us this year:
 - a) Paige Jelliffe - former student teacher
 - b) Bridget Krans - former substitute teacher
 - c) Carla Champiney - community member with paraprofessional experience
 2. Teacher Changes:
 - a) Jana Bush (former PK3 Teacher) will transition to teach Grade 3
 - b) Jamie Foster (former Gr. 6 Teacher) will transition to teach Grade 5
 - c) Christopher Keller (former Gr. 5 Teacher) will transition to teach Grade 6
 - d) Grace Egan will begin as the new PK3 Teacher. She was a former student teacher in 22-23, and joined us in a paraprofessional role in 23-34.
 - e) Music Teacher: After Michael Flower's departure at the end of last year, we've had an active open job posting, but to fill the need in the meantime, we have 3 people taking on long-term substitute positions:
 - (1) Laura Catullo (current Art Teacher) will teach 1 day per week

- (2) Jerilyn Beauregarde (former substitute teacher) will teach 1 day per week
- (3) Isabelle Marcheselli (spring musical accompanist) will teach individual music lessons/band/chorus
- (4) The Music Teacher posting will remain active until it is filled. There was 1 previous applicant that didn't pan out.

B. Beginning of the school year preview:

1. Teachers will return on August 26th and 27th with full-day Professional Development. There are many great sessions included in the PD - including reviewing operating policies as well as focused trainings and sessions related to Math and ELA instruction.
2. Students return on August 28th with a half-day.
3. Transportation: We are finalizing transportation for both bus and van routes - we hope to have them to parents by the end of next week. If anyone has questions related to transportation, they should direct them to Tim or Caroline.
4. Enrollment: We are starting this year with similar enrollment numbers

C. Van Driver Lead designation and MOA:

1. Tim presented an MOA for the position of Lead Van Driver. Due to the duties, responsibilities, and supervision elements required in the position meant that this position could no longer be a part of the ESP bargaining unit, which Tim has already discussed with the union.
2. MOTION: Carl Nett motioned to approve Tim moving forward with the MOA for the Van Driver Lead as presented.
 - a) Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - b) There was no discussion.
 - c) 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 approve Tim moving forward with the MOA for the Van Driver Lead as presented.

D. Preschool Tuition:

1. It has been the practice of the district over the last few years to not charge tuition to in-district students attending the PK3 or EK4 year old programs. This year we have a situation where there is at least 1 out-of-district student, and Tim believes it would be appropriate to charge tuition for out-of-district students, but not charge in-district students tuition.
2. In determining how much to charge for tuition, Tim provided a document to the Committee that outlined FY22 tuition rates, and would like to use it as a basis for determining this year's out-of-district PK/EK tuition rates.
3. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to approve Tim's request to charge tuition to out-of-district PK students.
 - a) Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 - b) MOTION TO AMEND: Phil Magovern made a motion to amend Carl's previous motion to include out-of-district EK tuition in addition to PK.
 - (1) Stacey Schultz seconded the motion to amend.
 - (2) VOTE to amend: 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 amend Carl's previous motion to include out-of-district EK tuition in addition to PK.

- c) AMENDED MOTION: to approve Tim's request to charge tuition to out-of-district PK and EK students.
- d) 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 approve Tim's request to charge tuition to out-of-district PK and EK students.

V. RDA Discussion - Topic: Status of RAAC

- A. Denise provided context around the disbandment of the RAAC due to the resignation of the Sandisfield RAAC members. Denise reviewed previous minutes and concluded that the RAAC was an advisory committee of the School Committee, and outlined the previous action the School Committee took in regards to the formation of the RAAC.
- B. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to disband the RAAC and return the work of the RAAC to the School Committee.
 - 1. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 - 2. 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 disband the RAAC and return the work of the RAAC to the School Committee.
- C. Denise shared her gratitude for the work of the RAAC members to update the RDA.
- D. Sections/Articles remaining for Revision: Working Draft of RDA:
 - 1. Tim and Carl shared with the Committee the sections of the RDA that the RAAC was able to review.
 - 2. Tim will update the RDA document with notations on what has been reviewed by the RAAC and what still needs initial revision, as well as a document that has the original RDA and the RAAC-proposed amendments side-by-side.
 - 3. Tim suggested that the next sections to review should include: 6. Amendments, 7. Admission of Additional Towns, 8. Withdrawal.
 - 4. There was a discussion of looking at the RDA of other school districts - including CBRSD and Manchester-Essex

VI. RDA Discussion - Topic: Apportionment

- A. Presentation: Data related to other two-town regional districts "Two Town CEY Analysis"
- B. Review/discuss two remaining apportionment options
 - 1. Carl shared his presentation analyzing the RAAC 4 and Average RAAC 4/EV% models
 - 2. Following the presentation, the School Committee discussed conclusions from the data and any concerns brought forward regarding the current apportionment methods up for discussion.
 - a) Some of these concerns involve enrollment in the apportionment method as well as the stability of some of the methods. There were also concerns that some of the methods don't go far enough to correct the issue of financial sustainability.
 - b) At the former Sandisfield Select Board meeting, they voted to create a Municipal School District Formation Committee due to concerns regarding

passing an apportionment method.

- c) After reviewing the Minutes from the June meeting where the methods were narrowed down to RAAC 4, EV %, and derivatives of those methods. Stacey would like to consider other derivatives of RAAC 4 and EV% that would be more amenable to both sides rather than just the Average Method.

C. Public Comment:

1. Denise opened public comment, but there were no comments at this time.

D. MOTION: Carl Nett made a Motion to accept the average of the RAAC4 & EV% method as the district's apportionment method.

1. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
2. There was no discussion at this time.
3. VOTE to accept: Denise Hardie, Carl Nett, Douglas Miner, and Melissa Bye were in favor. Deb Fogel, Stacey Schultze, and Phil Magovern opposed. The motion passed 4-3 to accept the average of the RAAC4 & EV% method as the district's apportionment method.

E. Timeline/Next Steps/Discussion:

1. There was a discussion of considering a modification of RAAC 4 as long as there is a contingency that defines the gap between the towns is not greater than the state mean.
2. A few members expressed concern that a vote that was closer to 7-0 would carry more weight for the RDA to be approved by the towns and discussed what it might take to get closer to a unanimous decision on an apportionment method.
3. There was a clarification discussion on including the state mean as a factor in calculating an apportionment method and if this would be more desirable to members. The discussion also involved how practical and approachable the language would be written out, both for the RDA and in layman's terms. There was consensus that it would be beneficial to see this model mapped out with numbers to fully understand the impact of this method.
4. Denise asked Carl Nett and Stacey Schultze to work together to look at another derivative that includes RAAC 4 and EV %.

VII. Public Comment:

- A. Sue Brofman, Otis Resident, expressed concerns about the status of the RAAC, which was previously discussed at the beginning of the meeting and will be discussed further at the Otis Select Board meeting.

VIII. Suggested items for future agendas:

- A. Reschedule September Meeting / Future Meeting for District Improvement Planning:

IX. Adjournment:

- A. Carl Nett made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 PM.
- B. Deb Fogel 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