

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #454

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Monday, September 9th, 2024

MINUTES

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

- Meeting #453 from August 5th, 2024

 - A. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #453 (8/5/24).
 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 #453 (8/5/24).
- IV. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - A. Opening Days:
 1. School opened with staff returning on August 26th, and students returning on August 28th. Laurie Flower gave a brief overview of the first few days of school.
 - a) Staff are building strong connections with the students and working on routines and getting kids ready for the year ahead.
 - b) There was an assembly on Friday where the school talked about core values, and sang a few songs together.
 - c) Lots of Community support - Otis Police Department School Supply Drive in collaboration with the Otis Food Pantry.
 - d) Dragon Bench from the Otis Cultural Council's drive to recycle cans & bottles. Kids were excited to see it and currently have a naming contest to name the adult and baby dragon. Thank you to the PTA for their warm welcome back and all of their support - including the Chalk the Walk event.
 - e) We are piloting new ELA curriculum, staff have spent a lot of time in training to be prepared along with reviewing student status

f) Biweekly School Newsletter came out on Thursday of last week.

V. RDA Discussion - Topic: Review sections I-XII and a new section, XIII

- A. Housekeeping: Some things have been added/highlighted with some remaining as they are through the RAAC revisions and input from the state, and recommendations from Tim. He has also noted where the RAAC has reviewed and approved.
- B. Title through Section 1: Type of Regional School District
1. There was a discussion on reviewing and amending the language of the title of the document through Section 1, including the suggestions from Tim, as well as including language about tuition agreements.
 2. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept the amended language from the Title through Section 1 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.
 - a) Melissa Bye seconded the motion.
 - b) 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 amended language from the Title through Section 1 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.
- C. Section 2: The Regional School District School Committee.
1. There was discussion on amending the language of Section 2, including revision of an item title.
 2. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept the amended language from Section 2 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.
 - a) Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
 - b) 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 amended language from Section 2 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.
- D. Section 3: Location of Regional District Schools:
1. There was discussion of continuing to include this section, modifying, or if this section is obsolete, however the committee opted to leave this section in.
 2. MOTION: Deb Fogel made a motion to accept the amended language from Section 3 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.
 - a) Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
 - b) 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 amended language from Section 3 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.
- E. Section 4: Apportionment of Expense Between Member Towns:
1. Tim suggested we hold on this discussion and discuss it later in this meeting.
- F. Section 5: Budget:

1. There was discussion on modifications to the language, specifically the terminology of Maintenance Budget vs. Capital Budget, and replacing Part C. Final Maintenance and Operating Budget with the CBRSD language.
2. MOTION: Stacey Schultze made a motion to accept the amended language from Section 5 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.
 - a) Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - b) 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 amended language from Section 5 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.

G. Section 6: Transportation:

1. There was discussion on using the language from CBRSD, as well as whether the statement include PK/EK students in the K-12 range.
2. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept the amended language from Section 6 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.
 - a) Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - b) 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 amended language from Section 6 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.

H. Section 7: Amendments:

1. Carl provided context on what work the RAAC did on this section specifically. The Committee then discussed if they should include a third option to bring amendments forward, but opted against it.
2. MOTION: Phil Magovern made a motion to accept the amended language from Section 7 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.
 - a) Carl Nett seconded the motion.
 - b) 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 amended language from Section 7 and to include it in the School Committee Draft of the RDA for DESE review.

The School Committee took a brief break at 8:44 PM and returned at 8:52 PM.

I. Section 4: Apportionment of Expense Between Member Towns.

1. Tim began the discussion on Section 4 with reviewing the definitions that are listed at the beginning of the section.
2. Carl Nett then presented the "Proposal Method," which is a new combination of EV% and RAAC 4. He also reviewed the proposed language for this method to use in the RDA.

3. Tim brought up the previous apportionment method (Average RAAC 4 & EV%) and asked the Committee members if the Proposal Method that was introduced was more favorable than the average RAAC 4 and EV%. The unanimous consensus is that this model is more favorable than previously proposed methods.

- J. The School Committee concluded to pause the discussion on RDA/Appportionment methods and at a scheduled Special Meeting

VI. Public Comment:

- A. There was no public comment at this time.

VII. Suggested items for future agendas:

- A. Special Meeting: The Committee discussed adding a special meeting to continue the RDA discussion.

1. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to schedule a Special Meeting be held on Monday, September 23rd at 6:30 PM to continue the discussion on RDA and the October Meeting Agenda

- a) Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.

- b) 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 schedule a Special Meeting be held on Monday, September 23rd at 6:30 PM to continue the discussion on RDA and the October Meeting Agenda.

- B. October Meeting Agenda / Future Meeting for District Improvement Planning:

1. These items were not discussed at this time.

VIII. Adjournment:

- A. Phil Magovern made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 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