

Farmington River Regional School District School Committee

Meeting 457 SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

Farmington River Elementary School Library
Wednesday, October 16, 2024
6:30 PM

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

Member Absent: Phil Magovern

Also Present: Timothy Lee

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Denise Hardie. The meeting was recorded for archival purposes.

II. Public Comment:

A. There was no public comment.

III. Superintendent's Report:

A. There was no Superintendent's Report

IV. Work Session: Public Information Planning re RDA

Denise Hardie led the committee in a discussion of possible communication strategies related to the revised RDA. No motions were made during this working session. Committee members contributed to strategies to inform constituents about the revisions and their possible impact.

Denise shared a brief survey to focus the discussion containing the following questions:

1. What is the story of the RDA (and why we are revising the RDA)?
2. Who needs to hear this information?
3. How do we tell [the story]?
4. Who tells the story?
5. What is the timeline?

School Committee responses to this survey included:

What?

- Elements of the story should describe the financial burden, without relief, as prompting revision of the RDA

- Explain what the RDA means and what it is
- History- describe the long-standing partnership between the two towns to solve mutual concern about education
- What it means to both/each town
- Understand who might vote “no” and why
- Guiding principles
- Local control - through school committee
- Relationships between staff, students and families
Safe place, size, meeting the needs of students
- If nothing happens or it is voted down, preview possible implications
- Current status: Where we are now - changes to the RDA because Unanimous vote of school committee
- What happens - process, DESE, votes, union letter

Who

- Selectboards, finance, planning
- Fire departments
- COA's
- Recreation committees
- PTA
- Direct mail- bulk mail
- Parents
- Posting locations: Transfer stations, Town halls, Libraries, Social Media, Stores, restaurants, Personal outreach

Other messaging

- School Committee - why i voted this way
- Formative Education - timing
- Testimonials, Students, Parents

Next steps:

- Schedule Joint Meeting of Select Boards...one SC member should be responsible for follow-up.
- Draft messaging in a presentation of 15m that could be shared with multiple groups.

V. Other Items Not Reasonably Anticipated

None

VI. Adjournment

Move: Carl Nett

Second: Deb Fogel

Vote: Unanimous Aye at 8:24pm