

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee Meeting

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
(#461, Information Session 1 with Selectboard, Town of Otis)

Otis Town Hall, Gymnasium
1 North Main Road, Otis, MA
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
6:30 PM

MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order (Chair, Otis Selectboard)

One item of Select Board business preceded the Superintendent's Presentation of the Revised RDA.

2. Superintendent's Summary Presentation

Superintendent Lee provided a presentation to the Selectboard, School Committee and members of the public about the proposed revisions to the FRRSD Regional District Agreement. The presentation included information about the background and rationale for the reopening of the agreement and provided a description of proposed new apportionment method and modeled possible impacts using FY25 budget information as a basis. The presentation also included information about other changes proposed by the revision of the RDA including sections I, II, IX and XIII.

3. Public Question and Answer Session

The Superintendent's presentation was followed by public comment and questions that were addressed by the superintendent and School Committee members present. These questions included follow-up inquiries about the apportionment method, the two-town assessment as a percent of CEY average throughout the state, and the use of CEY as an apportionment consideration. Comments were varied. Several comments shared support for the work of the school district and supported the intent of the RDA. Other comments questioned whether the town of Otis still needed to be part of a regional school district and if students might be better served if they were tuitioned to neighboring towns or districts.

4. Otis Selectboard Comments

Members of the selectboard thanked the superintendent and school committee for the presentation. The Selectboard suggested that more information sessions be conducted to share RDA information with more constituents. On the question of scheduling a special town meeting, the selectboard chair suggested that the preference of the board may be to wait until the regular town meeting in May.

5. Adjournment

The school committee portion of the meeting concluded at approximately 7:20 per the request of the Selectboard chair.

* If technical or network issues preclude the use of Zoom, the meeting may continue in person only.