

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #462

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Monday, February 3rd, 2025

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

1. **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.
2. **Public Comment:**
 - a. Nothing at this time.
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:**
 - Meeting #460 from January 6th, 2024
 - a. **MOTION:** Phil Magovern made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #460 (1/6/25).
 - i. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 - ii. There was no discussion.
 - iii. **VOTE to accept:** Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. The motion passed unanimously to accept the minutes from Meeting #460 (1/6/25).
 - b. For the minutes from the special joint meeting (#461), Tim asked what we should have for those meetings. Denise suggested that they use the brief notes that Tim took during the meeting, and draft separate minutes rather than use the Select Board's minutes.
4. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - a. **Bus Contract IFB, Selected Bidder:**
 - i. Tim reported that we had 2 bids - Dufour (our current provider) and another from Adma from Quincey, MA. The quote from Dufour was considerably lower (approx. 4.4% increase over the current contract). The other contract was significantly more, and Tim noted it was a bit odd logistically.
 - ii. Tim noted that the bid from Dufour has been accepted, signed, and implemented into the FY26 budget.
 - b. **Balance of Regional Transportation Revolving Fund:**
 - i. Tim reviewed the recent capital projects - including the cost and completion of those jobs, such as the fuel line for the boiler.
 - ii. For the remainder of the capital budget, there was another capital project scheduled to do - replacement of carpet in another classroom.
 - iii. Tim also noted that the grant to improve the indoor air quality, however the costs exceeded the budgeted grant amount, so he anticipates using capital funds to

- cover the overhead costs.
- iv. Tim reported that during the last cold weather during MLK Jr. Day, there was some issues with the heating/boilers. During the investigation on the boilers, one of the boilers continuously shut down. Due to the efforts of Chris Graceffa, he was able to isolate Boiler #2, and have heat to most of the building, however it was not enough to heat the whole building, and school needed to shut down for Wed, Jan. 22nd. Technicians were able to come out and resolve the boiler issue.
- c. FY26 Draft Expenditure Budget, Offsets Applied, Preliminary FY26 Assessments:
 - i. Carol presented the FY26 Drafted Expenditure Budget, with Offsets applied and the preliminary FY26 Assessments. She stepped through the FY26 budget, reviewed any changes since the last time it was presented to the School Committee, and answered various questions the Committee members had.
 - ii. Carol will correct line 10 in the Budget Document to use straight E&D funds.
- d. Balance of Regional Transportation Revolving Fund
 - i. Tim would like to explore the Regional Transportation Fund/Reserve and investigate why we received the amount we did this year.
- 5. Subcommittees Reports:**
 - 1. Denise reminded all the subcommittees to review the website for missing minutes and send them to Caroline for posting as soon as possible.
 - 2. FINANCE:
 - 1. The Finance Subcommittee had a meeting at the request of Tim with questions that he wanted to discuss budget planning and to get a sense of how much we pull out of certain funds/how much to leave in the budget.
 - 3. FACILITIES:
 - 1. Nothing to report at this time.
 - 4. POLICY:
 - 1. The Policy Subcommittee met and hoped to work on both Policy DBD and JLCD.
 - 2. Policy DBD: Budget Planning, First Read
 - 1. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept this evening as the first reading for Policy DBD.
 - a. Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - b. There was a brief review of the contents of the policy and edits.
 - c. Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. The motion passed unanimously to accept this evening as the first reading for Policy DBD.
 - 3. Policy JLCD Administering Medications to Students
 - 1. The state is changing some of the requirements for JLCD so the Subcommittee opted to hold off on reviewing this until Nurse Grace receives the new requirements.
 - 5. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION:
 - 1. The Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee will be meeting next meeting on Monday 2/10 around 3:00 PM in the Library.
- 6. Regional District Agreement**
 - 1. Update on Status, Report of January Special Joing Meeting with Otis Select Board
 - 1. At the joining meeting, the selectboard discussed having a branched vote - with

having the RDA vote at the annual meeting in May and then the school committee would vote afterwards on one of two budgets.

1. This would put the vote on the RDA after the DESE date of having the budget decided and sent to the towns by April 30th.
2. The School Committee discussed the schedule of town special town meetings to vote on the RDA in relation to the schedule of passing the budget.
 1. Sandisfield Select Board selected their special town meeting to discuss the RDA vote on 2/28.
 2. Denise would like to formally request a special town meeting for Otis separate from the Annual Town Meeting. The Committee discussed requesting that they hold a special meeting no later than the first week of April, which would give them ample time before the deadline and with time to plan informational nights.
3. There was consensus that they need to begin planning the town information meetings so there is ample time to notify the public and encourage attendance.
4. There was a discussion on the logistics of changing the composition of the school committee. This change is something that would need to be resolved regardless of the amendments to the RDA due to compliance with the one-person, one-vote requirement. Tim will be reaching out to DESE to discuss how the committee can go about the composition change and seat re-elections.
2. Work Session: Public Information Planning: Schedule, Needs of Both Towns
 1. First Public Information Night held at FRES: Monday February 10th at 6:00 PM in the Gymnasium (childcare in the library with help of Susan Ebitz).
 1. Letting families know of the info night through town ROBO calls & emails
 2. This would be a joint town information meeting.
 2. Daytime Informational Meeting.
 1. There are concerns about logistics coordinating a daytime meeting during the school day at the school.
 2. Instead, there was discussion regarding going to the COA's in each town, councils, committees, etc, and other places where people are already gathering to discuss RDA information.
 3. Second Joint Informational Meeting at FRES: March 3rd at 6:00 PM.
 1. The School Committee Meeting schedule for 3/3 would be shifted to 5:00 PM with the RDA Public Information meeting immediately following.
7. **Future Agenda Items:**
 1. Nothing at this time.
8. **Other Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of meeting:**
 1. Nothing at this time.
9. **Adjournment:**
 1. Stacey Schultze made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 PM.
 2. Carl Nett seconded the motion.
 3. Vote - Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm