

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #467

Farmington River Elementary School Library

MINUTES

Monday, May 5th, 2025

7:00 PM

Members Present: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner (via Zoom), 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. Susan Ebitz, a town resident, expressed congratulations to the School Committee for passing the RDA changes, and for the success of the recent Wellness Night.
 - b. Denise Hardie noted that this is the last meeting for 2 of the members and extended her gratitude for their hard work and dedication: Deb Fogel (who has served 3 terms on the School Committee) and Melissa Bye (stepping down after a few years).
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:**
 - Meeting #466 from April 7th, 2025
 - a. **MOTION:** Phil Magovern made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #466 (4/7/25). Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 - i. There was no discussion.
 - ii. **VOTE to accept:** Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. The motion passed to accept the minutes from Meeting #466 (4/7/25).
4. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - a. **School News/Events:**
 - i. **NATURE'S CLASSROOM:** The recent trip to Nature's Classroom with the 5th & 6th Graders was a great success, filled with team-building and nature-focused activities. Superintendent Lee would like to extend his thanks to Terry Ferrara for coordinating and chaperoning the trip, as well as the other chaperones on the trip: Corey Roberts and Paige Jelliffe.
 - ii. **STAFF APPRECIATION:** Last week, the PTA hosted their Staff Appreciation Week - which included a salad bar, sweet treats, smoothie bar, and gifts to show their appreciation for the hard work of educating our students.
 - iii. **SCREEN-FREE WEEK:** The PTA is hosting their Screen-Free Week with a series of 4 activities this week to engage families and students in non-screen centered activities, including Bingo, planting, Crafternoon, and a Hike/Story walk.
 - iv. **PRISM LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** Today was the first kickoff meeting of the PRISM Leadership Team (Partnership for Reading Success Massachusetts) which FRRSD was granted in collaboration with Gateway School District. This

grant is generous funding from the state specific for PK-3 so hopefully the district can engage a reading specialist or literacy coach, and Superintendent Lee is excited for the district to have another district to collaborate with and will look towards coordinating common PD days so FRRSD & Gateway can work together.

- v. **MATH MCAS:** Grades 3-6 will begin their Math MCAS testing from May 12th - 16th.
- vi. **SPRING MUSICAL:** The Spring Musical is coming up later this month. This is a student-scripted performance that students have been working on throughout the year. There is a performance on May 29th @ 6:30 PM and May 30th @ 1:15 PM.
- b. Staffing Update 2025 - 2026: 3 Positions Posted Externally:
 - i. **UPPER ELEMENTARY TEACHER** (Grade 5 or 6) to fill the vacancy left by CJ Keller's retirement at the end of the year. The position was posted mid-April and received 7 applications. There is an interview team that will be interviewing 4 of the applicants on Thursday, who will then pick 2 finalists to teach demo lessons to students.
 - ii. **SPEECH & LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST:** Currently have no applicants or interests, but this position is hard to fill - they are looking for someone to come in on a contracted basis to help with evaluations of student in younger grades. The District already has someone who is an SPL Assistant, but are looking for someone to prescribe services/direct the assistant in providing those services. (SPL Licensure is a requirement)
 - iii. **VAN DRIVER:** Superintendent Lee anticipates needing one more driver and possibly for an afternoon SPED transport. Looking for 5 days per week, either 2 or 4 hrs per day. 7D Licensure is required, preference to someone who already has it, but is willing to support someone getting licensed.
- c. Quote: Business Manager Services FY26 - vote to accept
 - i. Due of the cost of the Business Manager Services, Superintendent Lee did have to go through a IFQ process. He received one quote from TMS, and is looking for a motion to approve the quote to employ TMS for another year.
 - ii. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept the quote for Business Manager Services from TMS for the FY26 year. Phil Magovern & Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 - 1. VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. The motion passed to accept the quote for Business Manager Services from TMS for the FY26 year.
- d. 2025-2026 Superintendent's Work Agreement
 - i. Superintendent Lee reviewed the proposed amendments to his Work Agreement - including amending the number of workdays and compensation to move to .5 FTE, Remote Work, & Additional Work Days.
 - ii. MOTION: Stacey made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Employment Agreement for FY26. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
 - 1. Discussion included clarification on the changes made.
 - 2. VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. The motion

passed to accept the Superintendent's Employment Agreement for FY26.

5. Subcommittees Reports:

1. FINANCE: No current meetings due to committee members' health, but are planning to have a meeting on 5/19 @ 3:00 PM at FRES.
2. FACILITIES: Nothing at this time.
3. POLICY: Nothing at this time.
4. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION: They met before this meeting, with Denise attending. They discussed the timeline and when to get the evaluations out, and will coordinate with Caroline to distribute to families. They plan to use the same format as last year and have the evaluation prepared for the June meeting.
5. Denise noted that due to the recomposition of the School Committee, there will be impact on the Subcommittees. They will need to adjust from 3 members on a subcommittee and drop down to 2 per subcommittee. This discussion continued later in the meeting.

6. Regional District Agreement

1. Update on Status:
 1. Superintendent Lee shared that the RDA amendment process is done and he has received the final piece of the actual document signed by the Interim Commissioner. This will be updated on the website and distributed to the town officials and select board.
2. Discussion of School Committee Composition under new RDA: Transition Planning
 1. The Committee discussed the recomposition of the committee.
 1. They confirmed with Otis that when Deb's term is up, the position will not be posted for reelection. With Phil resigning, Otis will have 3 months to fill the position for the remainder of his term. They discussed what suggestions they would like to extend to the town of Otis for filling the position.
 2. For Sanisfield, Douglas is on the ballot since his seat is up for reelection (he is running uncontested. Melissa Bye will be resigning and her seat will not be reelected.

6. Future Agenda Items: These items were on the agenda for the last meeting, and Superintendent Lee wanted to keep these items on the radar.

1. Strategic Planning
2. FREA Contract Negotiations 2025-2026: Reminder that next year is a negotiation year - beginning negotiations ideally in November, and that we will need a School Committee representative present at the Negotiations.

7. Other Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of meeting:

1. Currently, the last day of school is on June 17th (which will be a ½ Day)

8. Adjournment:

1. Deb Fogel made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM.
2. Melissa Bye 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