Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #481

MINUTES

Farmington River Elementary School Library
Monday, June 1st, 2026
7:00 PM

Members Present: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze

Also Present: Superintendent Timothy Lee, Carol Sauerhoefer, Caroline Stamm

Absent: Douglas Miner

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Superintendent Lee.
    a. Roll Call: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze. Douglas Miner was not present.
2. **Committee Reorganization:**
    a. CHAIR:
        i. MOTION: Stacey Schultze made a motion to nominate Denise Hardie for School Committee Chair.
            1. Carl Nett seconded the motion.
            2. Denise Hardie accepted the nomination.
            3. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to approve Denise Hardie as School Committee Chair.
    b. VICE CHAIR:
        i. MOTION: Stacey Schultze made a motion to nominate Carl Nett for School Committee Vice Chair.
            1. Kate Meierdiercks seconded the motion.
            2. Carl Nett accepted the nomination.
            3. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to approve Carl Nett as School Committee Vice Chair.
    c. SECRETARY:
        i. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to nominate Caroline Stamm for School Committee Secretary.
            1. Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
            2. Caroline Stamm accepted the nomination.
            3. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to approve Caroline Stamm as School Committee Secretary.

d. DISTRICT TREASURER:
    i. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to nominate Jane Gleason for District Treasurer, acknowledging that the School Committee is actively looking for a new District Treasurer due to Jane's retirement from the position.
        1. Kate Meierdiercks seconded the motion.
        2. Jane Gleason was not present to accept the nomination.
        3. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to approve Jane Gleason as District Treasurer until a replacement is hired.

e. MEETING TIME:
    i. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to change the regular School Committee Meeting start time to 6:00 PM moving forward.
        1. Kate Meierdiercks seconded the motion.
        2. The School Committee discussed whether this works in favor for the Superintendent and Secretary, as well as the benefit to the School Committee Member's families and FRES families
        3. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to approve changing the regular School Committee Meeting start time to 6:00 PM moving forward.

3. **Public Comment:**
    a. There was no public comment at this time.

4. **Review of Minutes:**

- Regular Meeting of May 2026 (#480)

- Executive Session from May 2026

    a. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to approve minutes from Meeting #480 (5/4/26).
        i. Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
        ii. There was no discussion.
        iii. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to approve the minutes from Meeting #480 (5/4/26).
    b. Executive Session Minutes from May 2026 were not presented for review, and will be voted upon at a future meeting.

5. **Superintendent's Report:**
    a. FY27 Budget Process Complete
        i. Superintendent Lee presented that the FY27 Budget Process is complete and was done so on time despite it being a challenging year for the budget. He extended his gratitude to members from both towns for their support and to Carol Sauerhoefer for her work on preparing and revising the FY27 budget.
    b. Invitation to Quote: Business Manager Services, School Committee Action

i. Superintendent Lee presented the quote from TMS to contract their services for the FY27 year. He also presented references from other districts from TMS. He expressed that he

ii. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept the quote from TMS to move forward with working with them for the FY27 year.
    1. Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
    2. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to accept the quote from TMS to move forward with working with them for the FY27 year.

c. SPED Audit Information
   i. This year, we have been under a DESE audit on the Special Education Department. Which is done every 3 years.
      1. Only cited for 1 full non-compliance in ELL translation services.
         a. We have already signed a contract with a Pittsfield company to provide translation services for events/meetings.
      2. One partial compliance in ELL required improvement in the area of WIDA citing that we were not testing frequently enough.
      3. SPED no areas of non-compliance and 2 areas of partial compliance (on IEP mail-out time-frame, and documentation on previous interventions prior to IEPs), which are being addressed.
   ii. We used a portion of the Friday 5/22 Professional Development Day to inform the staff on the findings/corrective actions to staff, as well as informing the School Committee of the audit findings.
   iii. Expect full compliance by winter break 2026, though we have until May 2027.
   iv. Superintendent Lee recognized Mike Saporito for his work to support DESE to conduct this audit and find documentation, as well as to Laurie Flower for support providing documentation.

d. 2026-2027 Staffing Update, Treasurer Candidate(s)
   i. Superintendent Lee presented a candidate for the District Treasurer position: Sharon Harrison.
      1. He noted that she has spoken to Jane Gleason about the District Treasurer position and she will be meeting with him to discuss things further.
      2. He anticipates another candidate coming forward as well.
      3. He sought guidance from the School Committee on how to move forward so the position is hired by the next school committee meeting. He asked if members would be willing to participate in forming a subcommittee to hire this position, perhaps through Zoom meetings. Carl Nett volunteered to participate with the District Treasurer hiring process.
   ii. Administrative Assistant Position Update:
      1. Caroline Stamm has been appointed to the positions of .4 FTE Art Teacher, .4 FTE Music Teacher, and .2 FTE Administrative Support for the next year.

2. The full-time position for Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent & Principal has been posted internally to help fulfill the position to cover the front office.

e. MOU FRREA/FRRSD Conditions for Summer Work
   i. He highlighted the changes to the MOU from previous year, noting the change in compensation for the Paraprofessional to $25.
   ii. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to accept as presented MOU for the Conditions for Summer Work as presented.
      1. Kate Meierdiercks seconded the motion.
      2. There was discussion on if 2-days/week is enough to fulfill our IEP requirements. While he can't answer specifically for every student, he noted that the program is designed to fulfill student IEP requirements.
      3. He also noted that in prior years when there were ESSR funds available, the summer program was much more robust and available to more students than the required IEP services.
      4. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to accept as presented MOU for the Conditions for Summer Work as presented.

f. Superintendent's Work Year-To-Date, Projected Extra Days
   i. Superintendent Lee presented an overview of his days worked in the FY26 school year. He noted that there were unexpected projects - such as the PRISM Grant, negotiations, absences in administration personnel, building repairs, residency investigation, etc. - that required his attention and caused a surplus in days than anticipated.
   ii. He sought approval for compensation for the excess days.
   iii. MOTION: Stacey Schutlze made a motion to approve compensating the Superintendent for additional 11 working days.
      1. Carl Nett seconded the motion.
      2. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to approve compensating the Superintendent for additional 11 working days.

6. **School Committee New Business:**
   a. Superintendent Contract 2026-2027, Proposal
      i. Superintendent Lee presented his proposed Superintendent Contract for 2026-2027. He initially presented this at the last School Committee meeting. He noted his current contract expires on June 30th, 2026, and his new contract is for one additional year.
      ii. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to approve the proposed Superintendent Contract for the 2026-2027 year.
         1. Stacey Schutlze seconded the motion.
         2. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There

were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to approve the proposed Superintendent Contract for the 2026-2027 year.

3. Denise Hardie and Timothy Lee proceeded to sign the Superintendent Contract for the 2026-2027 school year during the meeting.

b. Otis Community Day Program

i. Denise Hardie has spoken with Susan Ebitz and has secured a table for FRES at the Otis Community Day. She has spoken with teachers for GOTR and Laura Catullo who runs the Student Council who can bring Student Council students to talk about the school, PTA is doing popcorn, buttons for "ask me about the school"

ii. The School Committee discussed having a FRES specific flyer that says "come see us at Otis Community Day" on June 13th from 1-8pm. They discussed other ways to draw people to the table.

7. **Rotating Committee Focus (Capital and Facilities):**

a. Boiler and Heating Plant Update, Work Completed/Cost

i. Superintendent Lee gave an overview of the Boiler and Heating Plant repairs over the last few years.

b. PA/Phone System Project, Timeline of Work

i. Work to repair the PA system begins on June 22nd, as well as an update to the phone system that can also accommodate a backup PA line through the phones and some new features. Costs of this project will be spread out over FY26 and FY27.

c. Summer Facilities Work

i. Chris Graceffa coordinated with a cleaning company to do the - focusing on some carpets and bringing some lifts for some high area cleanings of the gym, exterior windows, etc.

8. **Ongoing Agenda Items:**

a. Strategic Planning: School Committee Summer Meeting

i. The School Committee discussed having a special summer session with a specific focus, in perhaps a longer, retreat-style meeting.

ii. They also discussed the dates of summer meetings:

1. JULY: No regular July Meeting on the 7/6 and will be shifted to a work session off campus on July 13th from 11am - 3pm. Focus of this session is Superintendent Search and Ongoing Enrollment discussions.
2. AUGUST: Will be as regularly scheduled
3. SEPTEMBER: Will be scheduled for Sept. 14th @ 6:00 PM because of Labor Day.

9. **Warrants for Review:**

a. Warrants are available in the front office if anyone would like to review them.

10. **Other Items not anticipated**

a. Carl Nett wanted to recommend that on June 13th @ 7:00 PM Ari & Mia will be performing at the Sandisfield Art Center

b. Gr. 6 Moving Up/Ceremony on June 16th @ 1:00 PM. We would like to have representatives from both towns available to hand out certificates. Carl will talk to Douglas to see if he is interested, but if not Carl is willing to be there.

11. **Executive Session:**

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an opening meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body, if the chair so declares.

   a. MOTION: Carl Nett made the motion to exit into executive session at 8:23 PM with the intent to adjourn immediately following executive session.
      i. Stacey Schutlze seconded the motion.
      ii. VOTE - Roll Call: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze

12. **FRREA 2026-2029 Contract:**

   a. The School Committee returned form Executive Session at 8:54 PM to vote on the FRREA 2026-2029 Contract.
      i. MOTION: Stacey Schultze made a motion to accept the FRREA 2026-2029 Contract
         1. Carl Nett seconded the motion.
         2. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Douglas Miner was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to accept the FRREA 2026-2029 Contract
         3. Denise and the School Committee thanked the teachers and our admin/lawyers to come to an agreement for both sides and thank you to everyone who participated in negotiations.

13. **Adjournment:**

   a. Carl Nett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM.
      i. Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
      ii. VOTE - Roll Call: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze

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Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm