

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee Meeting

Meeting #443

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Monday, January 8, 2024

MINUTES

7:00 PM

Members Present: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo (via Zoom), Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett

Also Present: Tim Lee, Carol Sauerhauser, Caroline Stamm

- I. **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, Carol Lombardo (via Zoom), Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett
- II. **Public Comment**
 - A. Sue Ebitz: She attended the PTA Holiday Shop and expressed how wonderful it was and enjoyed a delicious lunch in the school cafeteria when she was volunteering for a shift.
 - B. Denise Hardie commented on the Holiday Concert, which was well attended and well received. It brought in many family members, including extended family. She also wanted to thank the school and Michael Flower for their work to make it a success.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes**

- Meeting #442 from December 4th, 2023

 - A. Deb Fogel made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #442 from 12/4/23.
 1. Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 2. There was a brief discussion about the minutes but there were no amendments.
 3. VOTE to accept: All were in favor, with no objections. The motion passed to accept the minutes from Meeting #442 (12/4/23).
- IV. **Superintendent's Report:** Tim presented his report with the following highlights:
 - A. PTA Holiday Shop: The longstanding tradition of the school of holding a Holiday Shop for students to shop for their family/friends on their own was a success and students enjoyed it. Thank you to the PTA for running the event.
 - B. Holiday Concert:
 1. Echoing Denise, Tim shared that the turnout for the Holiday Concert was amazing - there were more families there than anticipated. Parking was a challenge but was worth it to be able to host so many people.
 2. Kudos to Mr. Flower for organizing the concert, as well as to Chris Park (one of the 6th-grade parents) who accompanied the students during the concert. Thank you to the PTA for hosting the Potato Roast before the Holiday Concert. Also thank you to the Cultural Council Grant to be able to support.
 - C. Looking Ahead to Dates:
 1. Monday, Jan. 15th - No School in observance of MLK Jr. Holiday
 2. Math Night will be on Thursday, Jan. 18th. Dinner begins at 4:30 and the event begins at 5:30. (Snow date is Jan. 25th).

- a) Teachers have been doing a thorough job planning and have also recruited some FRES alumni from the middle and high schools to help run the event.
- D. Update on the Boilers: We avoided major issues by having minor repairs done earlier in the season to get them operational, which was working until we had an issue with the fuel delivery system.
1. Due to a rusted junction at the cover of the oil tank, water was leaking into the tank which is buried in front of the building, allowing water to mix with the oil and pulling water into the system.
 2. Over the winter break, Chris Graceffa with the aid of 2 different contractors was able to diagnose the issue where the water was entering the tank and brought in the oil company to remove the water from the fuel tank. Boiler maintenance contractors also came out to purge water from the lines and the boiler is now up and running (approx. 140 gallons).
 3. In assessing the whole system, they discovered that the entire supply line will need to be replaced, but should be able to be done without excavating.
 4. Huge thank you to Chris Graceffa for his efforts to make sure the boilers are back up and operational again.
- E. Update on White Van (#4):
1. Van #4 did not pass its 7D inspection and has now been taken out of service due to significant rust to the frame. This van is a 2016 van with 110K miles.
 2. The district uses 3 vans daily for routes, and this van has been used as a replacement if one of the others is out of service.
 3. Thank you to John who has done a great job to ensure that service work is done on the weekends and over breaks while this van is out of service.
 4. Next Steps: Tim and John are looking at the process of purchasing a new van in the next year (lead time to process is 6-8 months)
 - a) Cost will be approximately \$75,000 - \$85,000 and they are looking to equip the van with a wheelchair lift and ideally 4-wheel drive and a configuration where the wheelchair lift can fold up so seats can be used.
 - b) At the next meeting, Tim will have more information on the process.
- F. IVAQ Grant for Air Quality Improvement:
1. Tomorrow, Mike Saporito will be applying for a state grant that has been offered to improve indoor air quality. We would be eligible for up to \$100,000 with our proposal to improve 5-6 areas of improvement.
 2. Tim reviewed the areas the grant would be used to improve based on the Air Quality Study from Sept. 2022 by the Department of Public Health.
- G. FY23 Closeout Update:
1. Tim reviewed highlights of the Closeout Report including the E&D budget line.
 2. There was a discussion on expectations of where the end of FY23 closed out and concerns about a balance/use of the Regional Revolving Fund and E&D.
- H. FY25 Preliminary Budget: Projection of Expenditures:
1. Tim explained that their first step in looking at the budget process is to see the pure costs - specifically looking at them without adjustments that offset costs built in. For comparison with previous years, the costs have also been adjusted without offsets.

2. Carol Sauerhauser reviewed the projected expenses and went through each of the DESE line codes in the report to discuss anticipated changes, including potential reasons for each change.

V. School Committee Policies:

A. Policy BEDD (School Committee Rules of Order): 3rd Reading & Vote to Approve

1. Carl Nett made a motion to approve Policy BEDD. Deb Fogel and Melissa Bye seconded the motion
 - a) VOTE: All were in favor, there were no objections, and the motion passed to accept Policy BEDD.

B. Policy EFD (School Nutrition Charge): Second Reading

1. Carl Nett made a motion to accept the second reading of Policy BEDD. Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
 - a) VOTE: All were in favor, there were no objections, and the motion passed to accept the second reading of EFD.

C. Policy ADF (Wellness Policy): First Reading:

1. Due to the need to reschedule the Policy Subcommittee meeting, the first reading of Policy ADF will be done at the next meeting.

VI. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Finance:

1. Much of what the Finance Subcommittee is working on was discussed tonight as part of the Superintendent's report - including E&D funds, and revolving transportation funds. Other topics included the equalized evaluations of the towns (which the RAAC is working on), and utilization of the Rural Schools Grant.
2. They are also discussing a plan for the Public Hearing intending to get financial numbers to the towns as soon as possible.
3. The next meeting is 2 weeks from today.

B. Facilities:

1. The subcommittee was working with some scheduling issues but will schedule the next meeting following the adjournment tonight.

C. Policy:

1. There is no update. The next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 11th following the RAAC.

D. Superintendent Evaluation:

1. Carl Nett & Denise Hardie have agreed to participate on the subcommittee.
2. Denise would like to proceed moving forward, first with some Superintendent Evaluation training from MASC and scheduling a meeting.

E. RAAC:

1. Denise first gave some background on the RAAC and the history leading up to the review of the RDA and then put forth 2 different versions of withdrawal amendments for reference.
2. Update from the RAAC:
3. They are continuing to review the RDA and are discussing the assessment methodology in great detail.
4. There will be more information at the next school committee meeting.

VII. Other items for discussion not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours before the meeting:

A. Shared Services:

1. Denise and Tim have made a commitment to meet with the Lee School Committee Chair and Lee Superintendent to being an exploratory meeting for shared services in a very casual manner - either looking for next year or in the future.

B. MARS Presentation on Regional Agreements:

1. Denise has sent an email to MARS about their upcoming Zoom Presentation on Regional Agreements (Is your RDA current/do you understand it/ does it meet the needs of the school district).

VIII. Suggested items for future agendas:

- A. Withdrawal Amendment
- B. Revenue Sources

IX. Adjournment:

- A. Phil Magovern made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 PM.
- B. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
- C. Vote - Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Carol Lombardo (via Zoom), Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm