

# Farmington River Regional School District

## School Committee

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**Meeting #450**

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Wednesday, June 12th, 2024

MINUTES

7:00 PM

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

**Also Present:** Timothy Lee

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Timothy Lee
  - A. Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze
- II. **Annual Committee Reorganization:**
  - A. Tim Lee gave a brief overview of the objective and process of the Annual Committee Reorganization and welcomed Stacey Schultze as a new School Committee Member from Otis.
  - B. School Committee Chair Nominations/Vote:
    1. Phil Magovern nominated Denise Hardie to be the School Committee Chair. Carl Nett seconded the nomination. Denise Hardie accepted the nomination.
    2. There were no other nominations.
    3. Vote to Appoint Denise Hardie as School Committee Chair - Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Denise Hardie abstained from the vote. There were no objections and the motion passed to appoint Denise Hardie as the Chair of the School Committee.
  - C. School Committee Vice Chair Nominations/Vote:
    1. Phil Magovern nominated Carl Nett to be the School Committee Vice Chair. Melissa Bye seconded the nomination. Carl Nett accepted the nomination.
    2. There were no other nominations.
    3. Vote to Appoint Carl Nett as School Committee Vice Chair - Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Carl Nett abstained from the vote. There were no objections and the motion passed to appoint Carl Nett as the Vice Chair of the School Committee.
  - D. Treasurer: Denise noted that Jane Gleason will remain the School Committee treasurer.
  - E. Subcommittee Reorganization: Denise noted that reorganization of the subcommittees will happen either later in this meeting or at the next school committee meeting.
  - F. Denise gave Stacey Schultze a moment to introduce herself and share her background in education and connection to Otis and to FRRSD.
- III. **Public Comment:**
  - A. There was no public comment at this time.

#### IV. **Acceptance of Minutes:**

- Meeting #449 from May 6th, 2024

- A. **MOTION:** Deb Fogel made a motion to accept the minutes from Meeting #449 (5/6/24)
1. Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
  2. There was a brief discussion and a small typo to amend.
  3. **VOTE to accept:** Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, and Carl Nett were in favor. Stacey Schultze abstained from the vote. There were no objections and the motion passed to accept the minutes from Meeting #449 (5/6/24).

#### V. **Superintendent's Report:**

- A. **Recent/Upcoming School Events/Summer Programs: Tim provided an overview of recent and upcoming events:**
1. The **EK Bridging/Moving-Up Ceremony** took place on Monday, June 10th, where the EK students celebrated their transition to Kindergarten next year.
  2. **Step-Up Day** also took place on Monday, June 10th. This time is when each grade can meet their teacher and visit the classroom for the upcoming year.
  3. **Grade 6 Recognition Ceremony** took place on Tuesday, June 11th. It was a great departure for our 6th grade students and lovely to see them be honored by their community. Denise added that this is one of the valuable parts of our district - that every student can be individually recognized by their community.
  4. **Summer School Programming:** Scheduled to run July 9th - August 8th. It is slightly scaled back from where we've seen it before to 3 days per week, and the participants are mainly students who need services and academic support.
- B. **Annual School Choice Participation Vote (Amend Vote of 5/6/24)**
1. Following up with the discussion and vote on School Choice participation from the last meeting, Tim provided more context surrounding school choice for grades 7-12 as it pertains to our tuition agreements. There is an ongoing discussion with DESE to explore K-6 or K-8 school districts' obligation to pay tuition for School Choice students in grades 7-12.
  2. Our current practice is that students in 7-12 apply for School Choice directly with BHRSD or LPS when they transition to 7th grade.
  3. Tim introduced the idea to amend the School Choice Participation vote from 5/6/24 to close school choice in grades 7-12 so no new students can enter the district at those grade levels.
  4. **MOTION:** Carl Nett made a motion to close School Choice enrollment for students entering grades 7-12 for the upcoming 2024-2025 School Year.
    - a) Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
    - b) There was no discussion.
    - c) **VOTE to accept:** Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to close School Choice enrollment for students entering in grades 7-12 for the upcoming 2024-2025 School Year.
    - d) This vote is contingent that the amendment is permissible with the state.
- C. **Bid for SBA Services, TMS**
1. Tim provided an overview of the process of looking for a full-time School

Business Administrator, which was unfortunately unsuccessful, as well as the Bid process for SBA services. Tim then presented the Bid from TMS and highlighted the changes between the current and new contract - noting that the new bid includes having someone here for 2 full days per week, which increases costs.

2. MOTION: Phil Magovern made a motion to accept the bid from TMS for SBA services for FY25.
  - a) Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
  - b) There was no further discussion.
  - c) VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to accept the bid from TMS for SBA services for FY25.

D. Proposed Policy Amendment, Civil Rights (for Food Service CAP)

1. Tim introduced a request to amend the Nondiscrimination Policy (Policy AC), which is coming from the Food Service Audit corrective action plan. The amendment would be to add the clause to clarify that discrimination based on the need for meal modification would not be prohibited to be in compliance.
2. MOTION: Douglas Miner made a motion to temporarily suspend the policy adoption rules to make an immediate change to the Nondiscrimination policy.
  - a) Melissa Bye seconded the motion.
  - b) There was no further discussion.
  - c) VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to temporarily suspend the policy adoption rules to make an immediate change to the Nondiscrimination policy.
3. The change would read: "No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town or in obtaining the advantages, privileges, and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability discrimination, **or the need for meal modification.**"
4. MOTION: Stacey Schultze made a motion to amend the Nondiscrimination Policy to add the terms "or the need for meal modification" as stated.
  - a) Phil Magovern seconded the motion.
  - b) VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to amend the Nondiscrimination Policy to add the terms "or the need for meal modification" as stated.

E. FRREA Pay Grivence: Verbal Update:

1. Tim provided an update on the status of the FRREA Pay Grievance. Following the initial discussion, the FRREA compiled a list of 8-10 action items to address their concerns. As of this meeting, the administration is satisfied that corrections have been made to resolve the issues, but Tim has not yet heard back from the union regarding withdrawing the grievance.

F. Additional Superintendent Work Days 2023-2024

1. Following his last update on work days in April, Tim provided an updated leger on the days he has worked through the remainder of the fiscal year, along with noting the provision in his work agreement regarding compensation for this extra time beyond the contracted 94 days pending School Committee approval.
2. Since this final leger of days is within the estimated days that Tim provided in April which was approved, there is no need for a further vote at this time.
3. There was a discussion on the anticipated schedule for the upcoming year in comparison to the previous year, and the factors that caused the extra days.

**VI. School Committee Policies:**

- A. There is no additional policy to bring forward at this time.

**VII. Subcommittee Reports:**

- A. Finance: The Finance Subcommittee forwent their update until the RDA Discussion.
- B. Facilities: There is no new update at this time.
- C. Policy: They met tonight and provided an overview of the work they have completed this year: they met a total of 7 times and adopted 6 policies this year.
- D. RAAC: They have another meeting scheduled for 6/20, which is hopefully the last. They are working on reviewing their work over the last year, and are working to resolve any lingering discussions. Carol Lombardo wanted to note that Heidi is working on typing up the final RDA document, and the agenda has been set and will be posted soon.

1. Tim noted that since the last RAAC meeting, Tim has had a few discussions with Michelle Griffin focusing on the withdrawal and termination articles within the RDA, and Michelle provided some draft language as examples for these articles.

**E. Evaluation of the Superintendent:**

1. They met before the last School Committee meeting and agreed to modify the evaluation process for this year. They distributed the survey and Denise provided the data and responses from this survey. The overwhelming majority of responses commented that Tim has created a positive and supportive work environment with staff, and engaging with families and students.
2. There was a discussion on how to encourage staff and families to participate in future evaluation surveys.
3. MOTION: Denise Hardie made a motion to publish the results of the Superintendent Evaluation Survey as part of Tim's Superintendent Evaluation.
  - a) Carl Nett seconded the motion.
  - b) There was no further discussion.
  - c) VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to publish the results of the Superintendent Evaluation Survey as part of Tim's Superintendent Evaluation.

**VIII. RDA Discussion - Topic: Apportionment:**

**A. Sandisfield Letter of 5/21/24**

1. Denise presented a letter from Sandisfield dated 5/21/24 as a response to her letter following the last School Committee meeting.

**B. Review Criteria from 5/6/24 & Finance Subcommittee Recommendation**

1. Phil Magovern gave an overview of their discussion at the last Finance Subcommittee meeting. He initially gave an overview of the criteria discussed at

the last school committee meeting, and provided some context to understand commonly used terms such as Combined Effort Yield (CEY), Equalized Valuation (EV), Average Single Family Tax Bill, (ASFTB), and “Runway”/Margin. He and Carl Nett then gave context to the models that were previously presented and how the Finance Subcommittee narrowed down from 11 models to 2 models.

2. The School Committee conferred around the two models up for discussion (RAAC #4 and EV%) to directly compare and contrast them, and many members discussed their opinions on the models and how the towns may react to them.
  3. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to narrow down the options to the 2 models (RAAC #4 and EV%) to decide from as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee.
    - a) Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
    - b) There was a discussion regarding if the school committee approves narrowing down to these 2 models, how much flexibility within the two models presented would there be.
    - c) MOTION TO AMEND: Carl Nett made a motion to amend his previous motion to include allowing the school committee to consider derivatives or combinations of the two models as they come to a final decision.
      - (1) Douglas Miner seconded the motion to amend.
      - (2) There was no further discussion.
      - (3) VOTE to accept the amendment to the motion: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to amend the previous motion to include allowing the school committee to consider derivatives or combinations of the two models as they come to a final decision.
    - d) UPDATED MOTION: The amended motion now reads “to narrow down the options to two models (RAAC #4 and EV%) to decide from as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee while allowing the school committee to consider derivatives or combinations of the two models when coming to a final decision.
    - e) There was a brief discussion that clarified that the School Committee has not decided between these two models, but that they are narrowing down the models to better aid in a decision.
    - f) VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to narrow down the options to two models (RAAC #4 and EV%) to decide from as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee while allowing the school committee to consider derivatives or combinations of the two models when coming to a final decision.
    - g) There was a note to ask the district’s legal representative to ensure that these models are legal assessment methods to continue to pursue.
- C. Following the Assessment Models discussion, there was a discussion regarding the timeline for the RAAC to finish their work, what work is still outstanding deciding on an assessment method, and getting items to the towns before the September deadline.

- D. There was a discussion of drafting a hybrid model of RAAC #4 and EV % in preparation for the next School Committee meeting and what variables to adjust.
- E. The discussion on Apportionment Methods will continue at the next meeting held July 1st, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

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

- A. No new items at this time.

**X. Suggested items for future agendas:**

A. Need for July Meeting

- 1. In order to meet the goals for the RDA and Apportionment methods, there was a discussion on scheduling an additional meeting in July.
- 2. MOTION: Douglas Miner made a motion to schedule a special meeting for July 15th, 2024.
  - a) Melissa Bye seconded the motion.
  - b) There was no discussion.
  - c) VOTE to accept: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously to schedule a special meeting for July 15th, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

B. Summer Meeting for District Improvement Planning

- 1. Previously, there was discussion on having a School Committee retreat held in July - similar to last year - to discuss district goals and planning. This meeting/retreat will be postponed until August and scheduling the specific date will be discussed at the regular August School Committee meeting.

**XI. Adjournment:**

- A. Phil Magovern made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 PM.
- B. Deb Fogel seconded the motion.
- C. Vote - Roll Call: Melissa Bye, Deb Fogel, Denise Hardie, Phil Magovern, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze

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Respectfully submitted,  
Caroline Stamm