

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #472

MINUTES

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Monday, October 6th, 2025

7:00 PM

Members Present: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, 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: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze
2. **Executive Session:**
Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; specifically, to discuss a grievance filed under the Farmington River Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.
 - a. Carl Nett made the motion to exit into executive session at 7:00 PM.
 - b. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - c. Vote - Roll Call: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze
3. **Return to Open Session:** The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:11 PM.
4. **Public Comment:**
 - a. There was no public comment at this time.
5. **Review of Minutes:**
- *Regular Meeting of September 2025 (#471)*
 - a. **MOTION:** Carl Nett made a motion to approve minutes from Meeting #471 (9/8/25).
 - i. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - ii. There was a discussion on a few corrections to the minutes.
 - iii. **VOTE to accept:** Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to accept the minutes from Meeting #471 (9/8/25).
6. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - a. **Presentation from Healthy Kids (an Extended Day Program Provider):** Superintendent Lee reached out to a representative from Healthy Kids to present more information on their program, but opted to postpone this visit till the November Meeting.
 - i. Superintendent Lee met with representatives from the Lee Youth Organization (LYO), who would be open to beginning a satellite program through FRES to run an after-school program. Their after-school program they run at Lee Public Schools is separate from their school system, but they operate in the building successfully.
 - ii. Superintendent Lee is looking to present more information on the LYO program and the Healthy Kids program at the November School Committee Meeting.
 - b. **FRRSD Recognized for Accountability and Performance by DESE:**

- i. Recently, DESE did an analysis of the school districts that exceeded their MCAS scores from before the pandemic and recognized school districts that excelled.
- ii. FRES was open for sessions for most of the pandemic when other schools were closed, but also received recognition that our accountability and performance has been steady.

7. **School Committee New Business:** Issues and Questions re: Vocational/Technical Education, initial discussion:

- a. The School Committee discussed the MA law regarding Vocational/Technical education, what the current acceptance process and operation is, and if/how the district can work with the towns to improve efficiency.
- b. The Committee discussed whether it was beneficial for the district to identify a preferred Vocational/Technical School and the implications of identifying one would be.
 - i. Superintendent Lee agreed that the towns should be involved in this discussion and would be reaching out to the town managers for input/representation.
 - ii. The Committee agreed that they should review the various programs/schools offered nearby and compare.
 - 1. Tim agrees that this should include town representatives to discuss/advocate for preferences. Tim will be reaching out to the town managers to get their input.
 - iii. The Committee discussed whether or not the district could identify Vocational/Technical programs at partner schools (such as the Vocational programs offered at Monument Mountain), but there was concern if it would be applicable because of the difference in their curriculum. Superintendent Lee will be looking into this further for the November meeting.

8. **Rotating Committee Focus:** Policy, overview and discussion

- a. **Policies for review**
 - i. **IJNDB, Acceptable Internet Use/Technology, second read, sample policies**
 - 1. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to approve this reading of policy IJNDB as the second reading and to adopt.
 - 2. Douglas seconded the motion.
 - 3. There was no discussion.
 - 4. **VOTE to accept:** Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to approve this reading of policy IJNDB as the second reading and to adopt
 - ii. The Committee decided that policy IJND & IJNDC will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.
 - iii. **JLCD, Administering Medicines to Students, first read**
 - 1. This newly proposed policy was brought forth by Nurse Grace Terry.
 - 2. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to approve this reading of policy JLCD as the first reading.
 - a. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - b. Discussion involved needing more time to review, but initial thoughts involved that this policy felt more procedural than policy. Denise will follow up with Nurse Grace to see if they can modify it.

- c. VOTE to approve: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to approve this reading of policy JLCD as the first reading.

9. Ongoing Agenda Items

- a. Strategic Planning: Enrollment
 - i. Superintendent Lee is still exploring options to make the before- and after-school care more robust to better meet families needs. The Committee discussed the current program pros and cons.
- b. FREA Contract Negotiations 2025-2026
 - i. Invitation to Open Negotiations (H):
 - 1. Superintendent Lee noted that they have received an invitation from the FRREA to open negotiations for all units.
 - ii. Nomination of SC representative to negotiate
 - 1. NOMINATE: Stacey Schultze nominated Denise Hardie to be the School Committee representative for negotiations.
 - a. Carl Nett seconded the nomination.
 - b. Denise Hardie accepted the nomination.
 - c. There was discussion on identifying an alternative for negotiations should Denise Hardie be absent.
 - 2. There was discussion on needing to identify an alternate in Denise's absence. Denise Hardie accepted the nomination
 - 3. NOMINATE: Stacey Schultze nominated Kate Meierdiercks as an alternate representative for negotiations.
 - a. Douglas Miner seconded the nomination.
 - b. Kate Meierdicks accepted the nomination.
 - 4. VOTE to approve: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. There were no objections, and the motion passed to nominate Denise Hardie as the School Committee Representative for negotiations, and nominating Kate Meierdiercks as the alternate.
 - iii. Outreach to town representative per statute, next step
 - 1. The Committee discussed next steps for negotiations, which includes inviting representatives from either town who would be interested in sitting-in on negotiations as a town representative. Superintendent Lee has already received interest from a member of Otis. This will be discussed further at the next meeting, and Superintendent Lee will attend each of the Select Board meetings to explain what the School Committee is looking for in a representative to nominate.
- c. Future Agenda Items:
 - i. Upcoming, the Committee will need to discuss contract negotiations and budget preparations for the spring, so there is a consensus to postpone enrollment discussions until the spring/summer. They agreed that it may be better to discuss this in the summer due to limited distractions, and can set a specific agenda for these items.

- ii. Densie encouraged all Committee members to review Superintendent Evaluation videos so they are able to prepare for upcoming Superintendent Evaluations.

10. Warrants for Review:

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

11. Adjournment:

- a. Stacey Schultze made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 PM.
- b. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
- c. Vote - Roll Call: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm