

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #473

MINUTES

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Monday, November 3rd, 2025

7:00 PM

Members Present: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze (via Zoom)

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. **Public Comment:**

a. Susan Ebitz, Otis resident, shared her congratulations to Caroline Stamm, to the School for their recent positive publicity in the Berkshire Eagle, and for their success with the new structure of the 5th & 6th grade, and gave a shout-out to the Taconic FIRE Fund and those involved in awarding the grant.

3. **Review of Minutes:**

- *Regular Meeting of October 2025 (#472)*

a. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to approve minutes from Meeting #472 (10/6/25).

i. Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.

ii. There was a short discussion on a typo in 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 #472 (10/6/25).

4. **Superintendent's Report:**

a. Presentation from Healthy Kids (an Extended Day Program Provider):

i. Superintendent Lee introduced Jodi Angers, the Senior Regional Director from Healthy Kids, to provide more information on their extended day services.

ii. She provided context of the areas they currently serve and their focuses, as well as the services they provide (length of after-school program, half-day coverage, etc) and the potential costs/subsidies.

iii. During the discussion, questions from the public were posed by Susan Ebitz (Otis resident), and Alexa Bunnell and Meghann Arnold (potential PK/EK parents).

b. FY27 Proposed Budget Calendar

i. Carol Sauerhoefer presented the proposed budget calendar for FY27, noting significant milestones. There was no further discussion.

c. FY26 Grant Changes, Request for Budget Transfer

i. Carol Sauerhoefer noted that FRRSD is no longer considered a Title I and noted the impact of these changes on grant funding. Superintendent Lee explained the context of this change and noted that the district is planning to use some of the PRISM grant funding to help offset some of the cost of staffing.

ii. Superintendent Lee and Carol Sauerhoefer explained the context behind the request for a motion to transfer funds.

iii. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion for a budget transfer from the Technical Equipment & Software budget line to the Paraprofessional Salary budget line.

1. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
2. There was a discussion noting that this plan for funding was established prior to when the PRISM grant was in place.
3. 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 for a budget transfer from the Technical Equipment & Software budget line to the Paraprofessional Salary budget line.

d. PRISM Update

- i. Superintendent Lee provided context for what the PRISM (Partnerships for Reading Success – Massachusetts) grant covers and how we have put the PRISM grant into motion. He recognized Rebecca Hamill, Amy Sturmer-Maxton, Jana Bush, Meaghan Martin, Jonina Decker, Bethany Mather, Patty Melville, Laurie Flower, and himself, who have formed a PRISM leadership team to check in with an action plan and are grateful for their work and coordination.

e. Facilities Update, Recent Boiler Work and Completion of IVAQ Project

- i. Superintendent Lee reported regarding recent boiler work that was completed to replace 3 large sections totaling approximately \$15,000 from the Capital Budget. He and Chris Graceffa are much more confident about the condition of the boiler as we head into the winter months.
- ii. Superintendent Lee also reported an update on the IVAQ Grant Project noting that tomorrow represents the last bit of that project before we close it out and send out a final report. The results of the project include that we now have multiple spaces with AC and Dehumidification to use during the summer months.

f. Preview of 11/4 Professional Development Activities

- i. Tomorrow, we will not have school as it is closed for the County-Wide Professional Development Day. There are several activities planned on campus, with a few staff going off campus for activities across the county. Superintendent Lee gave an overview of the on-campus activities, and gave a shout-out to Bethany Mather & Amy Maxton for leading PD's on-campus tomorrow.

5. **School Committee New Business: Continued Discussion: School Committee Adoption of 'Preferred' Vocational Technical Schools**

- a. Superintendent Lee recalled the context of the discussion on 'preferred' Vocational Technical Schools. He addressed some of the questions that were raised during the previous school committee meeting and the answers he was able to gather.
- b. Superintendent Lee also noted that he reached out to other superintendents in the area on whether they've encountered this issue and how they addressed it in policy.
- c. Superintendent Lee identified that the next steps should be to consult with each of the Selectboards to discuss their preferred schools. If the Committee can adopt policy during the January meeting, it can be in place to guide Superintendent Lee's approval process for the next school year.
- d. There was a discussion on how to inform families of the change in policy.

6. **Rotating Committee Focus: Policies for Review**

a. DCAP Policy (District Curriculum Accommodation Plan)

- i. The discussion on this policy is postponed to a later meeting.

- b. JLCD Policy (Administering Medicines to Students). Second Reading
 - i. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to adopt this reading of JLCD as the 2nd reading.
 - 1. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - 2. There was a discussion on ensuring the policy does not include procedure.
 - 3. 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 adopt this reading of JLCD as the 2nd reading.
 - ii. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to adopt Policy JLCD.
 - 1. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - 2. There was a discussion on ensuring the policy does not include procedure.
 - 3. 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 adopt Policy JLCD.
- c. The School Committee thanked Nurse Grace Terry for her work to create this policy.

7. Ongoing Agenda Items

- a. Strategic Planning: Enrollment: Lee Youth Association
 - i. Superintendent Lee presented an informational overview of the Extended Day Program provided by the Lee Youth Association (LYA) following a meeting with representatives from the LYA. He noted that currently, they provide a program for K-6, but have the ability to provide an afterschool program for PK students if needed.
 - ii. There was a discussion on comparing the extended programs provided by LYA and Healthy Kids.
 - iii. Superintendent Lee would like to send out a survey to families to find out their interests and needs, and potential enrollment. There is also a survey currently through Berkshire United Way surveying childcare needs, which might help inform further discussions as well.
 - iv. There was also a discussion on the impact on staffing
- b. FREA Contract Negotiations 2025-2026
 - i. There are possible dates to set a calendar and ground rules later this month, and then negotiations later.
 - ii. Brandi Paige has been selected as the town representative, with the agreement to rotate between the towns for the representatives in negotiations.

8. Warrants for Review:

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

9. Adjournment:

- a. Carl Nett made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 PM.
- b. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
- c. Vote - Roll Call: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze (via Zoom)

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm