

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #474

MINUTES

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Monday, December 1st, 2025

7:00 PM

Members Present: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Stacey Schultze

Absent: Carl Nett

Also Present: Superintendent 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, and Stacey Schultze. Carl Nett was absent.
2. **Public Comment:**
 - a. There was no public comment at this time.
3. **Review of Minutes:**
 - *Regular Meeting of November 2025 (#473)*
 - a. **MOTION:** Stacey Schultze made a motion to approve minutes from Meeting #473 (11/3/25).
 - i. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - ii. There was a discussion on taking attendance of public members present, and potential options to have a better summary of attendance.
 - iii. **VOTE to accept:** Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Carl Nett was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to accept the minutes from Meeting #473 (11/3/25).
4. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - a. **School Highlights:** Superintendent Lee gave an overview of school/district events:
 - i. November began with the annual PD Day with a majority of staff attending on-campus activities and a few participated off-campus. On-campus activities were led mostly by staff (Michael Saporito, Bethany Mather, and Amy Maxton).
 - ii. November 12th was our annual Veterans Day Brunch & assembly, which was a warm and welcoming event to our local veterans
 - iii. November 20th was Parent-Teacher Conferences, half-day of school, and Scholastic Book Fair organized by our Librarian Jenna Daley.
 - iv. November 21st was the end of the 1st Trimester.
 - v. December 5th Grades Due, and Report Cards go home December 9th
 - vi. December 11th & 12th is the annual PTA Holiday Shop
 - vii. December 18th is the Winter Concert at 6:00 PM, and traditionally the PTA throws a Baked Potato Dinner beforehand.
 - viii. December 23rd is a ½ Day leading up to December Break from Dec. 24th - Jan. 2nd.
 - b. **2025-2026 DESE Review of FRRSD Special Education Programs**
 - i. This year, DESE is conducting its 3-year audit of the SPED, Section 504, Civil Rights, all equal opportunity for education programs, now called "Targeted

Monitoring." This review will span the entire year, so we will ask Mike to come in and give a verbal report at the end of the school year, after the report is available.

c. The District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP)

- i. Superintendent Lee explained the purpose of the DCAP and how it functions in the context of supporting student learning.
- ii. The presentation of the DCAP was recommended by the DESE representatives doing the DESE Audit, but does not require action from the School Committee.

d. FY25 Close of the Fiscal Year; Revised E&D Projections

- i. Carol Sauerhoefer presented a finance update, noting that we are looking to certify around \$118K in excess E&D, and is looking to verify this amount with Jane Gleason & representatives from TMS. Carol also explained the context of what E&D is, where it comes from, and the certification process.

5. **School Committee New Business: Continued Discussion: School Committee Adoption of 'Preferred' Vocational Technical Schools, first read sample policy**

- a. Superintendent Lee explained the context behind the need for this policy adoption and gave a status update on where we are in the process.

b. JFABG Policy (Selection of Schools For Vocational-Technical Students), First Reading

- i. MOTION: Stacey Schultze made a motion to adopt this reading of JFABG as the 1st reading.
 1. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 2. There was a brief discussion.
 3. VOTE to accept: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Carl Nett was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to adopt this reading of JFABG as the 1st reading.

6. **Rotating Committee Focus: Long-Range Capital Needs:** Superintendent Lee noted 2 things to focus on for Long-Range Capital Needs:

- a. **7D VAN:** One of the vans in the fleet that is going to hit 100K miles, which has been the threshold of retiring it from regular use and turning it into a backup van.

- i. Tim has done some preliminary vendor search on the state contract list for a new 7D van with the same requirements as our current vans.
- ii. There was a discussion on transitioning to a larger capacity van, but the issue is that having more than 8 student passengers would require a more intensive license requirement/certification of vehicles than the 7D license.
- iii. The discussion also included consolidating routes to optimize them, but there are geographic limitations.
- iv. There was also discussion on purchasing a lightly-used vehicle rather than brand new to lower costs.

- b. **BUILDING ROOF:** The roof is beginning to show signs of wear. Tim would like to have the roof assessed so that we know how much longer we have till it needs to be replaced and can budget/plan accordingly.

7. **Ongoing Agenda Items**

a. Strategic Planning: Enrollment: Results to Date of Aftercare Extended Day Survey

- i. The School Committee reviewed a summary of the results from the Extended Day Survey and noted highlights from the summary, including the high need

across age groups, the reaction to the potential costs, etc.

- ii. The next steps would be for the School Committee to provide guidance to Tim on which program they would like to continue to pursue more information about.
 - 1. The general consensus is that both programs could be successful, but many members leaned more towards Lee Youth Organization (LYA) due to the ties to LMHS and would help continue to foster the connection to the LYA and LMHS, and support a local business with a proven track record. There was also discussion on having teachers/staff work for the LYA to continue to keep things local.
 - 2. There was a discussion on how to address the financial component for families and finding ways to offset costs. There was also discussion on having the District provide scholarships and creating a system for evaluating & providing these.
 - 3. Next Steps: for Tim to reach back out to LYA to continue to move forward with the process to get licensed and in place with the goal to begin at the beginning of the next school year. There was discussion on including Ms. Maxton and Ms. Olds in the transition process.

8. Warrants for Review:

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

9. 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

- a. Douglas Miner made the motion to exit into executive session at 7:53 PM with the intent to adjourn immediately following executive session.
- b. Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
- c. Vote - Roll Call: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, and Stacey Schultze. Carl Nett was absent.

10. Adjournment:

- a. Adjournment of the meeting was held during the executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Stamm