

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #475

Farmington River Elementary School Library

MINUTES

Monday, January 5th, 2026

7:00 PM

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

Also Present: Superintendent Timothy Lee, Carol Sauerhoefer, Caroline Stamm

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Denise Hardie.
 - a. **Roll Call:** Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett and Stacey Schultze.
2. **Public Comment:**
 - a. There was no public comment at this time.
3. **Review of Minutes:**
 - *Regular Meeting of December 2025 (#474)*
 - *Executive Meeting of December 2025*
 - a. **MOTION:** Stacey Schultze made a motion to approve minutes from Meeting #474 (12/1/25).
 - i. Kate Meierdeicks seconded the motion.
 - ii. **VOTE to accept:** Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Carl Nett abstained from the vote. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to accept the minutes from Meeting #474 (12/1/25).
 - b. **MOTION:** Stacey Schultze made a motion to approve the minutes from the Executive Session from Meeting #474 (12/1/25).
 - i. Kate Meierdeicks seconded the motion.
 - ii. There was a brief correction to a typo within the minutes.
 - iii. **VOTE to accept:** Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Carl Nett abstained from the vote. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to accept the minutes from the Executive Session from Meeting #474 (12/1/25).
4. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - a. **Preliminary Expenditure Budget for FY27**
 - i. Carol Sauerhoefer presented an overview of the preliminary budget comparisons from FY26 and FY27.
 - ii. Carl fielded questions from the School Committee regarding the revolving fund usage and other revenue sources.
 - iii. Carol noted that since the last meeting, they were able to look further into the E&D amount projected and better estimated E&D to be certified around \$218K.
 - iv. Superintendent Lee noted that he is coming to the end of his 3-year contract. His plan, if rehired, is to take a reduction in hours now that things have settled, which is reflected in the lower costs to the projected Administration line.
 - b. **Check-In on FY27 Budget Calendar**

- i. Carol reviewed the FY27 Budget Calendar and reviewed items that have already been accomplished and what is next on the priority list.
 - c. 2025-2026 Mid-Year Enrollment Summary, and projected enrollment for 2026-2027
 - i. Superintendent Lee reviewed a summary of our current projected enrollment in comparison to FY24, FY25, and FY26. He noted areas where enrollment has dropped vs. plateaued, as well as potential variables that could impact the budget.
- 5. School Committee New Business: Continued Discussion: Town/School Committee identification of 'preferred' vocational technical schools, second read sample policy**
- a. Superintendent Lee refreshed the Committee the context behind the need for this policy adoption and gave a status update on where we are in the policy review/approval process.
 - b. JFABG Policy (Selection of Schools For Vocational-Technical Students), Second Reading
 - i. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to adopt this reading of JFABG as the 2nd reading and approve this as policy.
 - 1. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - 2. There was discussion on requiring students to apply to all preferred schools listed that have the program the student is interested in.
 - 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 unanimously to adopt this reading of JFABG as the 2nd reading and approve this as policy.
 - ii. The next step is communication with families to reflect this change across various platforms (newsletter, websites, with towns, etc.)
- 6. Rotating Committee Focus: Long-Range Capital Needs:** More detail re: possible van purchase and possible communication system needs
- a. BUDGET: Superintendent Lee noted that a more pressing discussion on we want to set aside for Capital Expenditures for next year.
 - b. VAN: Superintendent Lee has done research on the cost of a new van and noted the range of the cost for a new van is in the range of \$68K - 89K depending on the features. Tim is also looking into a 5 year lease-to-own option to give a predictable cost
 - c. PA SYSTEM: Superintendent Lee brought to the School Committee's attention that there are issues with our current PA system, which is old and is less than reliable.
 - i. Superintendent Lee will assess the current capital funds to see if this can be addressed sooner than this summer. He is hoping that by the next meeting in February, he will be able to have a Capital Plan for addressing this issue.
- 7. Ongoing Agenda Items**
- a. Strategic Planning: Enrollment: LYA Aftercare/Extended Day Programming for Fall 2026-2027: Next Steps
 - i. Superintendent Lee did reach out to the two vendors that the School Committee met with, and LYA was thrilled to hear back. The next steps with the LYA is to organize a building assessment with the State which would put them on track for their license application, and then later in the year communicate with families on their projected aftercare enrollment for the next school year.

- ii. There was a clarifying question from the public on which ages would the after

8. Warrants for Review:

- a. Warrants are available in the front office if anyone would like to review them.
- b. Denise Hardie will be out of the town

9. Executive Session:

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an opening meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body if the chair so declares.

- a. Carl Nett made the motion to exit into executive session at 8:09 PM with the intent to adjourn immediately following executive session.
- b. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
- c. Vote - Roll Call: Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze.

10. Adjournment:

- a. Adjournment was of the meeting was held at 8:42 PM during the executive session.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm