

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #476

Farmington River Elementary School Library

MINUTES

Monday, February 2nd, 2026

7:00 PM

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

Absent: Kate Meierdiercks

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

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Denise Hardie.
 - a. **Roll Call:** Denise Hardie, Douglas Miner (via Zoom), Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze (via Zoom)
2. **Public Comment:**
 - a. There was no public comment at this time.
3. **Review of Minutes:**
 - *Regular Meeting of January 2025 (#475)*
 - *Executive Meeting of January 2025*
 - a. **MOTION:** Carl Nett made a motion to approve minutes from Meeting #475 (1/5/26).
 - i. Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
 - ii. **VOTE to accept:** Denise Hardie, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Kate Meierdiercks was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to accept the minutes from Meeting #475 (1/5/26).
 - b. Executive Session Minutes from Meeting #475 will be reviewed at the February meeting.
4. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - a. **Expenditure Budget for FY27 with Preliminary Revenues and Offsets**
 - i. Carol Sauerhoefer presented a FY27 Preliminary Budget Update, including updates on Revenue Funds, Revolving Fund Usage & Undesignated Balances, Grant Offsets, Summary of Expenditure Updates, and Revised Expenditure Budget with Offsets. She fielded questions from School Committee Members.
 - b. **Check-In on FY27 Budget Calendar**
 - i. Following her presentation, Carol also reviewed the current status of the FY27 Budget Calendar.
 - c. **Set Date for Public Hearing of the Budget, Public Notice Timelines**
 - i. Superintendent Lee suggested holding the Public Hearing on the FY27 Budget on Wednesday, 3/4/26; however, some School Committee members had concerns about the timeline being too close to the regular March meeting.
 - ii. The Committee set the Public Hearing for Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30 PM.
5. **School Committee New Business**
 - a. **Adopted Policy: Preferred Vocational Technical Schools, Notification to Students, Parents, and Towns (Policy JFABG)**
 - i. Superintendent Lee sought guidance from the School Committee on the next steps for disseminating this newly adopted policy information to the families/towns.

- ii. Discussion involved sending this out via Robo from the District, alerting families who are impacted or considering vocational technical schools of this change, as well as posting to the District website.
 - iii. They also discussed letting the Vocational Technical Schools know that they have been identified as a preferred school, since a lot of information about the application process is provided to potential students by these schools directly, as well as guidance counselors of private schools, if a student is interested.
- b. Parent Letter Requesting Exception to Policy JEB and its 2012 Addendum (Kindergarten Early Entrance Option)
- i. The School Committee was presented with a letter from an Otis Resident requesting an exception to Policy JEB on the early-entrance option for Kindergarten.
 - ii. Denise recommended that this discussion be tabled until there are more members present.
 - iii. Superintendent Lee provided a brief context on how/why the policy was created, and its implications on the exception request or changing the policy.
 - iv. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to table the discussion on this parent petition for an exception to policy JEB till the March meeting.
 - 1. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - 2. There was no further discussion.
 - 3. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Kate Meierdiercks was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to table the discussion on this parent petition for an exception to policy JEB till the March meeting.

6. Rotating Committee Focus: FY27 Capital Budget

- a. Other Project(s): PA System
 - i. Superintendent Lee reported that he has spoken with the administration team and front office regarding the issues with the PA system and found a solution, which he would like to push to complete in FY26 rather than waiting till FY27.
- b. Vehicle Assessment Reports:
 - i. Superintendent Lee noted that Mike Saporito, who oversees transportation, suggested getting each of our current vans assessed for status and longevity. So far, 2 of the 3 vans have been assessed and are in good shape and should be for a while. Therefore, Superintendent Lee would like to consider holding off on the purchase of a new van for another year if we are able to.
- c. Options for New Van Purchase:
 - i. Superintendent Lee presented a quote for purchasing a new van.
 - ii. There was discussion on continuing to pursue the quote even with the good condition of the van reports so there is a backup option, especially while the quote is so low.
- d. Superintendent Lee reported that other maintenance projects are going well, including statuses on IVAQ, boiler, mini-split/heating.

7. Ongoing Agenda Items: Strategic Planning: Enrollment:

- a. Superintendent Lee has not yet heard an update from the LYA. The last update that he heard was that they are working on scheduling the inspection for their license application.

8. Warrants for Review:

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

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. MOTION: Carl Nett made a motion to postpone the executive session until the March meeting.
 - i. Douglas Miner seconded the motion.
 - ii. There was no further discussion.
 - iii. VOTE: Denise Hardie, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze were in favor. Kate Meierdiercks was not present. There were no objections, and the motion passed 4-0 to postpone the executive session until the March meeting.

10. Adjournment:

- a. Carl Nett made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM.
- b. Denise Hardie seconded the motion.
- c. Roll Call: Denise Hardie, Douglas Miner (via Zoom), Carl Nett, and Stacey Schultze (via Zoom)

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm