

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Meeting #480

Farmington River Elementary School Library

MINUTES

Monday, May 4th, 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 7:00 PM by Denise Hardie.
 - a. **Roll Call:** Denise Hardie, Kate Meierdiercks, Douglas Miner, Carl Nett, Stacey Schultze
2. **Public Comment:**
 - a. There was no public comment at this time.
3. **Review of Minutes:**
 - *Regular Meeting of April 2026 (#479)*
 - *Executive Session from April 2026*
 - a. **MOTION:** Carl Nett made a motion to approve minutes from Meeting #479 (4/6/26).
 - i. Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
 - ii. There was no discussion.
 - 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 unanimously, 5-0, to approve the minutes from Meeting #479 (4/6/26).
 - b. **MOTION:** Carl Nett made a motion to approve the executive session minutes from Meeting #479 (4/6/26)
 - i. Stacey Schultze seconded the motion.
 - ii. There was no discussion.
 - 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 unanimously, 5-0, to approve the executive session minutes from Meeting #479 (4/6/26).
4. **Superintendent's Report:**
 - a. **End-of-Year Events Reminder:**
 - i. 5/6: Special Olympics at Monument Mountain High School
 - ii. 5/7: Spring Concert at 6:00 PM, with the Scholastic Book Fair open beforehand
 - iii. 5/11-5/19: MCAS Math & Science for Gr. 3-6
 - iv. 5/15: PTA Ice Cream Social
 - v. 5/16: Otis Town Meeting in the Gym
 - vi. 6/4: Spring Musical at 6:00 PM
 - vii. Lots of great field trips going on as well - Lupa Zoo, Storowtown, Eric Carle, etc.
 - b. **Invitation to Quote: Business Manager Services**
 - i. Every year, TMS asks for a formal invitation to quote. Superintendent Lee

presented a copy of the invitation to quote, should anyone like to read it.

c. Annual Request for Exemption and Approval, DESE

- i. Superintendent Lee explained the context of the annual request, which satisfies the legal requirement to inform the Commissioner about how we are educating all our students, including students in grades 7-12.

d. Superintendent's Work Year-to-Date:

- i. Superintendent Lee presented a chart of how many days he has worked so far, and how many more he anticipates by the end of the year. The School Committee discussed how this would compare to previous years, and the consensus is that it seems fairly consistent.

5. School Committee New Business:

a. Superintendent Contract 2026-2027, Proposal

- i. Superintendent Lee explained that he is coming to a conclusion of his 3-year contract, and brought forth a new Superintendent Employment Agreement Proposal, which would reduce his hours as well as be a one-year term. Following this one-year term, he would conclude his time with Farmington River.
- ii. He then proceeded to give the School Committee an overview of the agreement and how that would change compared to his current agreement.
- iii. Superintendent Lee explained a few ideas of how he planned to help reduce his administrative footprint to better economize the administrative team, such as delegating certain tasks and oversight to Laurie Flower and Mike Saporito.
- iv. The committee will revisit this discussion in the June Meeting.

b. Otis Community Day Program

- i. Otis is hosting a Community Day on June 13th from 1:00 - 8:00 PM at Otis Ridge, where local businesses can set up a table to get the word out about what the town has to offer. They have invited Farmington River Elementary to have a table to promote the school and encourage enrollment.

6. Rotating Committee Focus (Capital and Facilities):

a. Boiler and Heating Plant Update, Work Planned

- i. Superintendent Lee explained the ongoing issues with the boiler that are currently being worked on.

b. PA/Phone System Project, Timeline of Work

- i. Superintendent Lee noted that they had their first orientation meeting with Valley Communications to replace the PA system, with work scheduled to begin on June 22nd. The phone updates will also begin on June 22nd.

c. New Van Purchase, Status Report

- i. The new van is scheduled to arrive mid-late July 2026. The cost will be the same municipal lease-to-own as we have done in the past.

7. Ongoing Agenda Items:

a. Strategic Planning: 2026-2027 Enrollment Projections

- i. Superintendent Lee presented a chart of the projected enrollment from the last 3 years, along with the anticipated enrollment for this year.
- ii. The School Committee noted that they would like to focus more on this in the

July meeting. They will look to revisit the District Goal Planning session they had with Berk12 representatives in 2023.

b. LYA Afterschool Program Update

- i. LYA is currently working on staffing for next year's program. Specifically, they are currently looking for the positions of "Site Coordinator" (to coordinate students) and "After-School Support Staff" (can be 16+ years old, and can include local students in high school).
 1. School Committee members will help spread the word to people they know who may be interested in picking up extra hours (such as part-time town employees, volunteers, high school students, etc).
- ii. LYA is working on gathering paperwork to register for the after-school childcare licensure at FRES specifically. They are hoping to have things sent to the state by the end of May, and will schedule a site visit inspection when school is out.

8. Warrants for Review:

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

9. Other Items not anticipated

a. District Treasurer Position:

- i. Superintendent Lee received an application for the District Treasurer position for someone based out of Wilbraham. She comes highly qualified and serves as a District Treasurer for smaller districts; however, she costs almost double what the district has been paying in the past.
 1. The School Committee felt they would prefer to have someone more local who is familiar with the towns/district.
- ii. The School Committee entrusted Superintendent Lee and Carol Sauerhoefer to continue to pursue applications for this position and conduct initial interviews, but the School Committee would like to participate in final interviews of candidates before a final decision is made.

10. 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.

To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements. (Confidentiality - FERPA, IDEA)

- a. Kate Meieredicks made the motion to exit into executive session at 8:13 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

11. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Stamm