

Farmington River Regional School District

School Committee

Special Planning and Strategy Work Session

Meeting #482

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Monday, July 20, 2026

MINUTES

6:30 PM

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

Also Present: Timothy Lee, *Superintendent*

1. Call to Order:

D. Hardie called the meeting to order at 6:30

2. Public Comment

D. Hardie stated the importance of including the public and members of the school staff and community in the important conversations related to leadership transitions and configurations.

D. Miner agreed.

3. Review/Approval of Minutes

Regular meeting of 6/7/2026.

MOTION to APPROVE: C. Nett

D. Hardie asked for the Committee to clarify the meeting time of regular meetings: 6:30 or 6:00.

Discussion and agreement that 6:00 shall be the meeting time of regular meetings for 2026-2027.

SECOND as revised: S. Schultze

APPROVED: Unanimous

Meeting Date for August: Mr. Lee asked the Committee to change the meeting date for August to the second Monday (8/10) instead of the first.

MOTION: C. Nett moves that the August meeting date be the 10th of August instead of the 3rd.

SECOND: S. Schultze

APPROVED: Unanimous

4. Superintendent's Report

(H) indicates "handout," supporting document

** If technical or network issues preclude the use of Zoom, the meeting may continue in person only.*

- a. Staffing Changes: Mr. Lee summarized some staffing shifts for the new school year: Ms. Hamill reassigned to first grade to fill the resignation of Ms. Martin. Ms. Loubier to PreK EK to fill the vacancy left by Ms. Hammil's reassignment. Mr Scaglione hired as paraprofessional to fill resignation of Ms. Krans. Ms. Goulange hired as assistant to the superintendent/principal after Ms. Stamm reassigned to .8FTE Art/Music. One position possibly pending to position of EC Co-teacher. Mr. Miner suggested that since a school committee member's relative was hired into the role, a review of state ethics guidelines be conducted to see if some sort of disclosure is indicated.
- b. Financial FY26 indicators: the year ended well in the black with tuitions, personnel and curriculum from School Choice revolving in good shape.
- c. State budget process ended well with supplemental FY26 Rural Aid allocated to FRRSD for FY26 and FY27 use.
- d. FY27 Rural Aid per Governor's budget based on allocation of \$20M state-wide. Could mean more for us in FY27.
- e. Circuit Breaker also up per final adopted state budget in Conference Committee.
- f. Capital updates: PA System repair complete. New van expected in next week.

S. Schultze brought up the topic of window film for intruder protection. Asked to keep this topic on the agenda for future meetings.

5. New Business:

- a. Action on Treasurer Appointment: Mr. Lee recommended the appointment of Sharon Harrison to the position of Treasurer to replace Jane Gleason who is retiring after more than 30 years of service to the district.

MOTION to approve Superintendent's recommendation: C. Nett

SECOND: D. Miner

APPROVED: Unanimous

Mr. Lee shared that the Committee should expect a hire annual cost that is significantly higher than the current treasurer compensation at about \$10,800 per year.

6. Old Business

Mr. Lee led a strategy session re current issues and responding to district leadership transition.

- a. Current conditions.

Mr. Lee shared worksheet to review current conditions and solicit input from members.

Assets/positives: fiscal stability, improving student outcomes, operational/transportation improving, engaged PTA and community, ability to be flexible/use creative solutions.

Challenges: declining enrollment, staffing our rural, far-removed school, unable to implement some curriculum topics (e.g. world language.) pending capital liabilities.

Aftercare and staffing challenges.

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- b. Mr. Lee shared a document intended to serve as a guide to the different options available for filling the superintendent role into the 2027-2028 school year. Options on this document included options to replace the part-time role in the same way, with another part-time superintendent, combining the role of DSS and Supt, combining the role of Principal/Supt, entering a shared superintendent relationship with another district or joining an existing superintendency union, or possible reconfiguration to join another regional district.

There was significant discussion and questions on these options.

The Committee did not make a choice as to which model to pursue but consensus showed that the options of shared superintendency and/or joining a superintendency union or other regions; were not favored at this time. The Committee asked Mr. Lee to seek more information about the options of Principal/Superintendent and DSS/Superintendent from districts that use this model (Richmond and Hancock, respectively).

- c. An agenda item re: 'Grant Options for Consolidation/Regionalization Studies' was not discussed.

7. Adjournment

MOTION to ADJOURN at 8:28 pm: C. Nett

SECOND: S. Shultze

APPROVED: Unanimous

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