

Farmington River Regional School District RAAC Subcommittee

Farmington River Elementary School Library

Meeting #3

Thursday, November 16, 2023

5:30 PM

Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

Members Present: Jon Sylbert, Sue Brofman, Carol Lombardo, Steve Seddon, Carl Nett, Frank Tolopko

Absent: Terry Gould

Guests: Denise Hardie

Note: The meeting is not being recorded. Jon will work with Tim to set up recording in the future.

1. The minutes from meeting #1 were reviewed with an amendment to item 3. Minutes were accepted as amended.
2. The minutes from reading #2 were reviewed and amended in item 3. Minutes were accepted as amended.
3. The RAAC accepted the recommendation of the School Committee to appoint Heidi Utenis as the secretary for the RAAC.
4. Update on status of withdrawal – Denise said the School Committee would look at the completed Regional District Agreement with withdrawal terms added to it. They would accept the RDA in its entirety from the RAAC when it is completed.
5. Review of comments from DESE on current Regional District Agreement.

NOTE: It was decided that Jon Sylbert would make the agreed upon changes to the RDA with tracking, rather than have the secretary try to record all changes in the minutes.

Section I – Regional School District Committee

- A. Composition – It was agreed that we would continue to elect 7 members total with the number of members from each town determined by the Census every 10 years to satisfy one-person-one-vote. Members all agreed to remove the original sections B and C from Section I.
- B. The new section B will contain the last current paragraph regarding the annual town elections in which a member's term expires, the successor shall be elected for a 3-year term.
- C. Section C will be the Apportionment review (former section D)
- D. Vacancies – Any vacancy in the membership of the Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Select Board of the Member town for the remainder of the unexpired term within 2 School Committee meetings.

- E. Organization – removes language referring to the first School Committee for the District and focuses on all ongoing and future School Committees.

Section II – Type of Regional School District

Wording was changed to make Kindergarten through twelve to read PreK through twelve and strike the highlighted text from DESE beginning with “and also...by the Committee.”

Section III – Location

- A. Location – strike the first sentence in that paragraph leaving only the sentence referring to future schools.
- B. Leasing – as we no longer lease, this section is being removed from the agreement

Section IV – Apportionment of Expenses Between the Member Towns

Before we started on this section, Carl Nett passed documents previously provided to the School Committee that he found relevant to this discussion. They are the FY 24 Assessment for each town with student enrollment for both towns, The Latest Equalized Valuations, Historical Valuations, and the Average Single Family Tax Property Values, Tax Bills & Per Capita Income. Carl used these documents to show how the current valuation affects the tax rates for both towns and compared it to the average income of the members of each town.

This discussion will continue at our next meeting on December 7, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the Farmington River Regional School Library

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Utenis
RAAC Secretary