

**Farmington River Regional School District  
Farmington River School  
555 Main Road, Otis, MA 01253  
Via Zoom  
April 6, 2020 7:00pm  
Meeting # 384**

**Community Participation: none**

**Warrants: passed around and signed**

**Members Present: Nicholas DellaGiustina, Carol Lombardo, Arlene Tolopko, Jess Drenga, Billie Pachulski, Jennifer Hibbins, Deb Fogel, Thomas Nadolny, Eric Jesner and Teresa DellaGiustina, secretary**

**Guests: Meaghan Martin, Karen Yvonne, Kendra Rybacki, Laurie Flower, Amy Maxton**

**Nicholas DellaGiustina called the meeting at 7:02pm**

- 1. Approval of minutes #383. Nicholas motioned to approve minutes 383. Carol Lombardo seconded the motion. Vote unanimous.**
- 2. Principal/Superintendent updates: Tom Nadolny said there is not much new news going on. The only topic that is floating around is April Vacation. If we continue to supply work during April vacation we only have to go to school the 181 days. Monday is a holiday, but we would send work for the other 4 days of vacation. We have been supplying work since we closed. Plus the Teachers have also sent home blizzard bags to help with time as well. Participation of students vary with the homework. Students upstairs are using google classroom, the younger students are completing paper packets or google classroom. The packets are for students who are having a hard time with computer access or internet issues. There are questions about what we should do if a student does not complete any work. Should they stay back, or should we let them progress forward? Tom will look into that further. Jennifer Hibbins asked if the Teachers or Paraprofessionals could be proactive by contacting students to see if they need help or checking on how they are doing? Tom is working with Teachers to keep on top of who is working and who is not working on their homework. Tom has a list of students that he will be contacting the parents for that have not done anything yet. Jennifer then asked about Special Ed Students and their needs. Tom stated that Mike Saporito is working with his teachers in Special Ed to provide the best teaching strategy possible to help these students. Jennifer also stated that a parent reached out to her with a concern that the Teachers were told they could not Zoom or video call with the students at all, in the means of helping or**

instruction of assignments. Tom did not know about that. He thought it possibly had to do with confidentiality. Tom wanted to acknowledge the hard work that Kendra Rybacki, Candy Chaffee, Karen Yvon, Terri Digrigoli, Meaghan Martin and Teresa DellaGiustina have put in to get food and supplies to our families. There are approximately 35 student families being fed as well as 40 seniors. Tom Soules and Ralph and Jane Gleason are helping deliver the food to the seniors in Otis and Sandisfield. The Salvation Army has been a huge help with donated food to deliver to the seniors. Terri Digrigoli has helped a family having trouble with their child at home. Terri has been keeping in contact with that family. Farmington River is way ahead of other schools getting work and information out to our families. Billie Pachulski commented that Farmington is way ahead of other schools in this area. Other schools haven't even started getting work out yet. Jess Drenga also commented how prepared Farmington was with the closing. The students went home with everything they needed, along with blizzard bags too. Tom commented what a great job Laurie Flower did with the electronics. She made sure every student who needed a Chromebook to complete homework got one.

Also, Meaghan Martin is coordinating a Teacher's Wave Parade for all the students in Farmington. That will be done as soon as she hears back from both towns.

Jess Drenga also wanted to comment on Chris Keller's video for his students. A Day in Life of Mr. Keller is the name of his video. Many parents and students look forward to watching the videos each week.

Teresa DellaGiustina commented on how many emails she gets from parents thanking everyone for their help. There has not been any negative comments on how the school is handling the remote learning. Every Tuesday, Teresa sends an email out to all staff just to keep everyone in touch and up to date on any changes that have occurred. The staff enjoys the emails and reading what everyone has been doing in the past week. This keeps the line of communication open to everyone. Everyone "checks in" on a weekly basis.

3. **Financial Update:** Eric Jesner has been going to many Zoom meetings on how to pay vendors, and who to continue paying and how to go about handling that. The big one is transportation. Discussions are still going on about that at this time. The bus bids have gone out. Eric sent bids to both Dufour and Massini.

Eric would like to have the School Committee vote to reschedule the Public Hearing via Zoom. April 22<sup>nd</sup> or April 29<sup>th</sup>. Nicholas said to schedule the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jess Drenga motioned to change the Public Hearing to April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Carol Lombardo seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. 6PM is the time of the hearing.

Eric and Paula have taken advantage of the time off to catch up on the payroll system. This will be helpful from here on in on getting more accurate financials. The next step is getting the chart of accounts set up properly into the new payroll system. Eric and Paula need to get trained on the chart of accounts so journal entries will decrease. The audit is almost done. Paula is trying to work with UniBank and their new direct deposit system. The new van has been produced in the factory and is in the process of being shipped to the vendor to have the 7D package installed.

**Jennifer asked Eric if we are going into a 1/12 budget. Eric said yes. The Department of Education is planning that every single regional school district will start the 1/12 budget. There are a few small regional schools that did get there budget in on time so they do not have to go on the 1/12 budget. We did not make the time frame getting our budget in, so we will be a 1/12 budget to start.**

- 4. Unanticipated topics: Nicholas motioned to vote to go into Executive Meeting to discuss a personnel issue. Arlene Tolopko seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.**

**Roll Call: Jess Drenga—yes, Jennifer Hibbins—yes, Carol Lombardo—yes, Arlene Tolopko—yes, Deb Fogel—yes, Billie Pachulski—yes, Nicholas DellaGiustina--yes.**

- 5. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Teresa DellaGiustina, School Committee Secretary**

**tld**