

**FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 4:00 PM**

**This meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provision of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, Section 20 using Google Hangouts Meet at or call**

MINUTES

Present: Chair Robert Halla, Robert Decker, III, Judy Pierce, Philip Kantor, Bill Smith, Lyn Roberts, Damien Fosnot, Olivia Leone, Keith McFarland and Mary Ramon; Principal George Lanides, Director of Business Administration Shelley Poreda; and Superintendent Darius Modestow

Others Present:

Absent: Ashley Dion

Chair Robert Halla called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

On a motion from Judy Pierce, and a second from Olivia Leone, the Minutes of April 10, 2020 were approved.

Roll Call:

Bob Halla	yes	Bob Decker	yes	Philip Kantor	abs
Keith McFarland	abs	Olivia Leone	yes	Mary Ramon	yes
Damien Fosnot	yes	Judy Pierce	yes		
Bill Smith	abs	Lyn Roberts	abs		

Shelley Poreda presented the Financial Statement. There were 17 warrants totaling \$1,913,071.80. She stated that we currently have just over \$700,000 in the general fund budget to be spent by June 30th. We will have about \$310,000 of that remaining at the end of the year due to frozen expenditures. The Budget Subcommittee has had several conversations on the use of those funds and their relationship to E&D as well as other revolving sources such as School Choice. We are anticipating that state and local revenues will be down; the amount is unknown at this time but Chapter 70 funding and transportation reimbursement could be reduced.

Under Public Comment: NONE

Under Unfinished Business:

Shelley Poreda presented the FRS Financial Report 5/12/2020. Shelley explained that from the FY20 Budget there is \$738,707.13 (as of 5/11/20) remaining to be spent between now and June 30th. \$428,000.00 is estimated to be spent this fiscal year, which includes an additional \$40,000 for technology needs (repairs and new devices), leaving \$310,000 which we would be looking to roll into E&D or utilize those funds for support for next year. In Excess & Deficiency we currently have a balance of \$312,162.96 which is certified for FY20 which includes almost \$85,000 for Capital Projects that have not yet been completed. We are currently looking at having \$312,000 available in this year's E&D.

She said that normally any balance remaining that was certified in your current year would roll over into the calculation to be certified for the following year however, Massachusetts Division of Local Services recently modified the law around E&D whereby if a regional district does not have an approved budget by June 30th, the regional district can now carry over its entire balance from the current year for use in FY21 and then still certify an additional 5%. We are not looking at having that 5% as we will only have about \$310,000. If we do have an approved budget by June 30th, then we would be slightly over that 5% and would be looking to make some changes. We would be looking to relocate some of our school choice expenses back onto the general fund to help reduce that balance and increase our school choice account so that we could further support next year.

FY20 Considerations - Recommendation to reallocate school lunch salaries/wages and to reallocate school choices expenses to the general fund.

FY21 previously approved budget was approved at \$11,792,437 which is a 2.84% increase over FY20. Increase is related to teacher step and cola increases, IA step and cola increases, non-union personnel wage increases, a new English Teacher and a new SPED Teacher.

Revenue losses for FY21 were discussed as well as Chapter 70 funding and transportation reimbursement. Town requests to reduce the budget have already occurred but the amount is unknown at this time as there is not enough information coming from the State at this point in time.

The Frontier Subcommittee Meeting, in previous meetings, recommended moving ahead with a level funded budget so that we could see the numbers. This would mean that we would reduce the current approved budget of \$11.8 million by \$326,000 down to \$11,466,392.00. In order to do that we would need to eliminate the new hire English Teacher, the new hire SPED Teacher, not fill a vacant IA position and bring non-salary expenses back down to FY20 levels. With these reductions we have reduced the budget by \$215,648 which is a reduction of 1.88%. We are still looking at reducing by \$110,397 that we would need to reduce or fund elsewhere to get the budget down to level funding. The primary source of that increase is due to raises for non-union and union personnel. School Choice funds could further support those reductions or the option would be to make additional cuts that would include some cuts in personnel and/or programming changes. Shelley presented Assessments for the 4 towns if we were to go to a level funded budget there is a savings of an average of about 4% for each of our member towns if we do a level funded budget.

Additional concerns going into FY21 are Chapter 70 reductions and transportation reimbursements. For instance, a 10% reduction in Chapter 70 would be \$287,29650 and a 25% reduction in transportation reimbursement would be approximately \$100,000. If we do have additional cuts after this level funded budget is approved and we adjust the town assessment if the state budget comes out and shows us that we have to make some further reductions we will have to make some decisions to find some other funding sources or make some personnel cuts at that point as we would be looking at another \$400,000 potentially. Two other factors could potentially be out-of-district placement expenses of \$130,000 and possible COVID-19 related back to school expenses between \$20K-50K.

Shelley stated that the district has free cash such as E&D and School Choice. If no further capital projects are done this year \$312,162.96 would be remaining in FY20 E&D with an estimated \$310,000 for FY21 with School Choice funds at \$993,374.

After lengthy discussion the committee moved to amend the previously proposed budget. On a motion from Robert Decker, seconded by Damien Fosnot, the committee agreed to present to the towns a reduced budget of \$11,466,392.00.

Roll Call:

Bob Halla	yes	Bob Decker	yes	Philip Kantor	yes
Keith McFarland	yes	Olivia Leone	yes	Mary Ramon	yes
Damien Fosnot	yes	Judy Pierce	yes		
Bill Smith	yes	Lyn Roberts	yes		

Robert Halla thanked Darius and Shelley for all their hard work.

Policies were discussed. On a motion from Robert Decker, seconded by Bill Smith, the committee to remove Policies IHA-Basic Instructional Program, JOA-Student Insurance Program, JLD-Guidance Program and JP-Student Gifts and Solicitations are redundant and/or unnecessary.

Roll Call:

Bob Halla	yes	Bob Decker	yes	Philip Kantor	yes
Keith McFarland	yes	Olivia Leone	yes	Mary Ramon	yes
Damien Fosnot	yes	Judy Pierce	yes		
Bill Smith	yes	Lyn Roberts	yes		

Policy BEDH-Public Comment, was tabled.

Under New Business:

1. Graduation and Senior events - The week of August 2nd through the 8th has been selected for Graduation and Senior events with graduation on Saturday, August 8th at 9:00 am at FRS. Senior Prom is currently rescheduled to August 6th with Awards night (virtually) during this week as well. Principal Lanides thanked Senior Advisor Colin Hosley and Assistant Principal Scott Dredge for working with the student leadership and for their continued efforts in putting this all together.
2. Curriculum and Instruction during COVID-19 - Remote learning continues with a credit/no credit system going into quarter 4.
3. Superintendent Modestow discussed stipends for spring coaches. There was no spring season this year due to COVID-19 but some coaches had already done their pre-planning for the season. Superintendent Modestow suggested that those coaches receive 10% of their coaching stipend in recognition of their work. Alison Walter, FRS Union President, agreed with this proposal.

On a motion from Robert Decker, seconded by Damien Fosnot, the committee agreed to pay the spring coaches who have already done their pre-planning work a 10% portion of their coaching stipend.

Roll Call:

Bob Halla	yes	Bob Decker	yes	Philip Kantor	yes
Keith McFarland	yes	Olivia Leone	abs	Mary Ramon	yes
Damien Fosnot	yes	Judy Pierce	yes		
Bill Smith	abs	Lyn Roberts	yes		

4. Transportation - Superintendent Modestow, Robert Halla, Chair of Frontier Regional School District and Kenneth Cuddeback, Chair of Union #38 School Committee, amended the contract with Grybko Transportation. Grybko is continuing to pay their drivers' wages. We requested a fuel credit which is \$214 per day across the districts (\$101 per day for Frontier).

5. Joint Meeting discussions - a) Superintendent's Evaluation and b) School Calendar & School Committee Meeting Schedule. Superintendent Modestow spoke to the fact the Joint School Committee will need to convene in June to go over the Superintendent's Evaluation and to possibly vote on School Calendars and School Committee Meeting Schedule. The calendars are still in draft form as we do not know what the upcoming school year will look like. Also, as to School Committee meetings, if school committee meetings are still virtual we would not be able to have "stacked" meetings.

Under Reports:

- a. Committee/Chair - NONE
- b. The Collaborative - NONE
- c. Principal - NONE
- d. Superintendent - NONE

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM.

Roll Call:

Bob Halla	yes	Bob Decker	yes	Philip Kantor	yes
Keith McFarland	yes	Olivia Leone	yes	Mary Ramon	yes
Damien Fosnot	yes	Judy Pierce	yes		
Bill Smith	yes	Lyn Roberts	yes		

Summary of Documents Presented:

- 1. Minutes of April 10, 2020
- 2. Monthly Financial Report
- 3. FRS Financial Report 5/12/20
- 4. Various Policies
- 5. School Calendars

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Donna Hathaway  
School Committee Recording Secretary

Access video recording of meeting [HERE](#)