

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOUSEBUILDING/FACILITIES SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
APRIL 12, 2023

In attendance: Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, Joan Menard of Fall River and Paul Jennings of Westport

Also in attendance: Jeffrey Begin, Rajiv Nehra, Brian Bentley, Interim Superintendent-Director, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

The meeting began with a roll call at 5:13 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the March 9, 2023 minutes and approve them, as recorded.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mrs. Torres for the Community Projects update.

Mrs. Torres stated that the community projects are going really well. The staff and students have finished the playhouse project which involved several shops. The playhouse was on display at the Rhode Island Home Show and presented to the recipient at the reveal event held at Bryant University. Mrs. Torres congratulated and thanked all the students and staff on the excellent work done to make a beautiful playhouse for a special young girl.

Mrs. Torres stated that the work continues on the other community projects. Plumbing has finished work in Swansea and are now working at the cemetery in Westport.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mrs. Torres for the 22/23 Housebuilding Project update.

Mrs. Torres stated that the work on the addition is coming along well. There are only a few things to finish and the project is expected to be completed at the end of April. Mr. DiBiasio asked Mr. Cabral for his input on the project. Mr. Cabral stated that the project is expected to be completed at the beginning of May. Plumbing has to install a sink and the toilet and Building and Property will have to do some touch up painting. Mr. DiBiasio asked if the students will be doing the landscaping. Mr. Cabral stated that landscaping will be done by the homeowner.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if the work at the Somerset Water Department is finished. Mr. Torres stated that there are a couple of things that need to be finished. Mrs. Torres further stated that students are working on the cabinetry for the Somerset High School trophy cases.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mrs. Torres for the 23/24 Housebuilding Project update. Mrs. Torres stated that she met with the gentleman and that he intended to purchase and develop the lot himself. There are some issues with grading and he has a lot of engineering work to have done. Mr. Cabral reached out to the gentleman for an update and he stated that "he's having issues with the town not issuing permits." Mrs. Torres stated that based on the information available, this project will not be ready and viable to start at the beginning of the 23/24 school year.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if there are any other applications. If not, could it be offered to staff? Mrs. Torres stated that she has met with representatives from BayCoast Bank to discuss project expectations and provided written material on the program. They are going to look at individuals that were not able to get their first or second choice contractor and who just missed the eligibility guidelines to see if anyone would qualify for the program.

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Mr. DiBiasio asked Attorney Brilhante and Mrs. Torres to meet and review the housebuilding program policy. He would like to see a revision pertaining to the residency requirement. A Policy Sub-Committee meeting will be scheduled for May to review the policy.

Mrs. Torres asked to advertise again. Mr. DiBiasio asked when the wrap around advertisements will be placed on the school vans. Mrs. Torres stated the Graphic Communications students are working on it.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Helena S. Neves

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Materials Included:
March 9, 2023 minutes
Community Projects List