

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF LPN SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA

ROOM 251 RESTAURANT

APRIL 21, 2022

In attendance: Jeffrey Begin, Joan Menard, Fr. Jay Mello, Elvio Ferreira, Superintendent-Director, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance and Operations, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel, Helena Neves, District Committee Secretary

The meeting began with a roll call at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Begin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Fr. Jay, seconded by Ms. Menard to dispense with the reading of the January 13, 2022 minutes and approve them as recorded.

Attorney Brilhante reported that the sub-committee will not be taking any additional evidence or have further discussion regarding student dismissal SY 2022-01 and will only be deliberating and making a decision.

Mr. Begin reported that the sub-committee has made the decision to move forward with the recommendation of re-admittance of student. The student must complete the prerequisite of a CNA program and provide proof of successful completion prior to being re-admitted to the LPN program.

Mr. Begin stated that the current policy needs to be reviewed to address the appeals process. Mr. Begin further stated that an appeal process was allowed which gave the student an opportunity to share his side of the story, which is a process that doesn't exist in the policy.

Attorney Brilhante stated the following recommendation:

The LPN Sub-Committee will bring forward to the full Committee the recommendation of re-admittance of the grievant upon successful completion of a CNA program and provide the school evidence of completion at the time of re-admittance.

Mrs. Theodore requested permission to speak and expressed her concerns regarding Mr. Gillespie's lack of basic fundamental skills and safety issues. Mrs. Theodore reported that patient safety was the number one concern. Mrs. Theodore further stated that the student did not act in a safe manner and that faculty feel the student is not safe to practice.

Mrs. Theodore does not agree with the re-admittance. Mrs. Theodore further stated that other students have been dismissed in the past for safety violations.

Mr. Begin stated that he understands Mrs. Theodore's concerns but also wants to acknowledge that Mr. Gillespie has performed well academically. The Sub-Committee has reviewed the evidence provided and are looking to move forward.

Mr. Gillespie stated that he is currently enrolled in a CNA program and received a score of one hundred on the practical /hands on part of the exam.

Mr. Begin stated that the clinical setting can be more challenging but feels that with the successful completion of a CNA program and under the right clinical guidance, the safety risks that were presented can be mitigated and we can move forward in the right direction.

Fr. Jay stated that district policy allows for any student that disagrees with an administrative decision to appeal to the Superintendent and the School Committee, which this policy encompasses the LPN program.

Dr. Ferreira stated that the current policy does allow for an appeal to be submitted to the Superintendent and to the School Committee. Dr. Ferreira further stated that Mr. Gillespie submitted an appeal to him. Dr. Ferreira reviewed the appeal to ensure that proper procedural practices were followed. Dr. Ferreira determined that procedures were followed properly and did not approve the appeal. Dr. Ferreira stated that Mr. Gillespie was not in agreement with his decision and submitted an appeal to the School Committee.

Mr. Begin requested that the sub-committee move forward with their recommendation and provide Mr. Gillespie the opportunity to perform in the program. Mr. Begin further stated that if at any time further safety concerns that are outrageous and egregious are brought forward, dismissal from the program could be eminent at that time.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the proposal submitted by Director Theodore to increase the tuition for in-district students to go in effect in the 2022-2023 school year.

Fr. Jay asked if financial aid is available to students

Dr. Ferreira stated that any student can apply for financial aid

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Fr. Jay, and voted unanimously to make the recommendation to the Committee to accept the proposed tuition increase for in-district students

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Fr. Jay, and voted unanimously to adjourn the Sub-Committee meeting at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Helena Neves*

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