

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
FEBRUARY 9, 2023

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance: Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River, Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, Jeffrey Begin of Swansea, and Rajiv Nehra of Fall River.

Also in attendance were: Brian Bentley, Interim Superintendent/Director, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance, Gregory Brillhante, Legal Counsel, Helena Neves, Executive Secretary and Ryan Nadeau, Student Representative.

Absent: Joan Menard of Fall River

Mr. Jennings called for the roll call.

Mr. Jennings made the following announcement: In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, Section 20(f), any member of the public may make an audio or video recording of this public meeting. A member of the public who wishes to record a meeting must first notify the chair and must comply with reasonable requirements regarding audio or video equipment established by the chair so as not to interfere with the meeting.

Mr. Jennings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted to dispense with the reading of the January 12, 2023 minutes and approved them, as recorded. The motion passed with 4 votes in favor. Fr. Jay abstained.

Ryan Nadeau provided the student report which included an update on the current happenings such as clubs, sports and student events.

Mr. Jennings called for Citizen Input.

Mr. Matos acknowledged Mrs. Michelle DaSilva on all the work she has accomplished as a teacher. Mr. Matos invited the members to stop by Mrs. DaSilva's classroom to see what she has done. Mrs. DaSilva will be hard to replace and a huge loss for the department. Mr. Matos provided handouts on student data and enrollment in math classes. Mr. Matos asked that the Committee consider hiring two teachers in preparation for the projected student enrollment increase once the new school is built. Mr. Matos proposed attending a job fair at Bridgewater University to recruit new teachers.

Attorney Brillhante informed Members that the Suffolk Construction contract is not yet finalized. Information was submitted to the insurance carrier and a resolution is expected next week.

Mr. DiBiasio provided an update on the MSBA Project. He stated that the MSBA School Building Committee has voted to approve the Value Management list compiled and its submission to MSBA. Cuts were made and alternates were placed in the project in order to balance the budget. Mr. DiBiasio further stated that the District still maintains their commitment to the sending communities of a building that will offer the much needed space. At any point during the project and if cost savings are attained, items that were cut can be put back in.

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Fr. Jay asked if there is a possibility of getting additional per square foot money from MSBA.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that there is a bill being presented at the State House and hopes the MSBA will provide the additional funding to offset the rise in escalation.

Dr. Nehra asked if additional funding is received, will it be allocated to the items cut or alternates.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that the intent for any additional funds received will to bring back items that were cut. Mr. DiBiasio further stated that the square footage that was reduced will not be able to be added back in.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the MSBA project expenditures.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve the MSBA project expenditures as submitted.

Mr. Bentley reported on personnel.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if the appointments listed were new hires.

Mr. Bentley stated that these are grant funded afterschool positions that provide much needed support to students to help them be successful on passing the required MCAS tests.

Mr. Rebello stated that most of the positions are funded through Title I and have been occurring for many years.

Mr. Bentley stated that his intent is to be transparent and bring all advertised positions to the Committee's attention. Mr. Bentley further stated that Dr. Warren was present to answer any questions.

Mr. DiBiasio asked Dr. Warren why the district is losing so many students, although we offer many opportunities for student support through afterschool positions.

Dr. Warren stated that the MCAS Academy has been around for the past 15 years. The MCAS Preparation and Remediation programs offer additional support to students that are taking MCAS for the first time or are struggling to pass. The MCAS appeal process also takes into account if a student has taken advantage of any additional supports offered when making a determination. Dr. Warren further stated that students take a pre and post test which provides data that helps address any deficits.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to appoint the following members: *Emarys Barbosa – Automotive Technology, David Coon, Building & Property Maintenance, Chelsea DeMedeiros – Automotive Technology, Christine Roy, Graphic Communications and Michael Valerio – Advanced Manufacturing* as Industry/Business advisory board members of the indicated programs for a term of three years.

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by Backstage Dance Academy to use the Auditorium and Gymnasium for dance rehearsals and performances as follows:

June 1, 2023 – Rehearsal (3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.)	(Use of facilities fee – Auditorium
June 2, 2023 – Rehearsal (3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.)	\$3,500/Gymnasium \$1,600)
June 3, 2023 – Recital (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)	(Custodial fee - \$840.00)
June 4, 2023 – Recital (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)	(Security fee - \$748.34)
	Total Cost - \$6,688.34

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the request by the Diman Football Team to use the gymnasium on Friday, March 17, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for their annual Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser and to waive the use of facilities fee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by the Diman PTO to use the gymnasium on Sunday, March 5, 2023 from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, for their Scholarship Mattress Fundraiser and to waive the use of facilities fee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by the Diman School of Practical Nursing to use the auditorium, cafeteria and Room 251 Restaurant on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Friday, June 23, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for their graduation rehearsal and graduation ceremony and to waive the use of facilities fee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the request by Diman SkillsUSA to use Room 251 Restaurant and the cafeteria kitchen on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser/ parent informational meeting and to waive the use of facilities fee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by the South Fall River Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses to use the auditorium on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for their annual religious ceremony. The use of facilities fees are: Auditorium \$150, Security \$94.86. Total Cost - \$244.86

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the following student travel requests as presented:

- Ski Club trip to Pat’s Peak in Henniker, NH on Saturday, February 18, 2023
- BPA State Conference in Norwood, MA from March 4, 2023 to March 5, 2023
- BPA National Conference in Anaheim, California from April 25, 2023 to April 30, 2023
- DECA State Competition at the Marriot Copley Place in Boston from March 9 to March 11, 2023
- DECA ICDC Competition in Orlando, Florida from April 21, 2023 to April 27, 2023
- Sophomore Class field trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire on June 12, 2023.

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Mr. Bentley stated that he received a request by the family of Mr. Thomas McGarr to establish a scholarship in his memory. Mr. Bentley will work with the family to work out the details pertaining to the scholarship.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to establish a scholarship in memory of Mr. Thomas J. McGarr in cooperation with his family.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the Athletic Field Rental Bid Award.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to award the bid to Stoico/FirstFed YMCA at 271 Sharps Lot Road, Swansea, MA 02777 as the responsible and responsive bidder for the rental of athletic fields for the Greater Fall River Regional Vocational School District. The total rental fee is \$56,100.00) Fifty Six Thousand One Hundred Dollars 00/100.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the TRAK Bed Mills and Lathes Bid Award.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to award the bid to Southwestern Industries, Inc. /DBA TRAK Machine Tools, 2615 Homestead Place, Rancho Dominguez, CA as the responsible and responsive bidder for six TRAK DPMRX2 3 Axis Bed Mills for a total of \$268,130.40 and seven TRAK 1630 Lathes for a total of \$307,860.00 for the Advanced Manufacturing Department within the Greater Fall River Regional Vocational School District. The total bid award is \$575,990.40

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the monthly financial report, expenditures and Student Activity Agency account balances.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve all expenditures as submitted.

Vendor	Requestor	Total Amt.	Description
A.I.M. MUTUAL INSURANCE CO	Admin	\$58,346.00	Workers Comp Pymt
BALFOUR	Admin	\$7,037.75	
CORNER SPORTS	Athletics	\$7,952.00	Ice Hockey
TECHNICAL EDUCATION PRODUCTS	Auto Body	\$30,000.00	Virtual Sprayer for training
SOUZA & BRANCO ELECTRIC	Bldgs & Grounds	\$11,047.00	Re-Lamp & Mini-Split Installation
LIFTTRUCK PARTS & SERVICE	Bldgs & Grounds	\$37,920.00	Fork Lift Replacement (1994)
Business Professional of America	BPA	\$7,400.00	
MASS-DECA	DECA	\$8,100.00	
FIRST AMERICAN EQUIPMENT FINANCE	Grants	\$140,307.39	2nd Device Pymt
PATMON & COMPANY	Grants	\$10,000.00	Mental Heath Consultant
THOMAS C MURRAY	Grants	\$7,500.00	PD Speaker
RENAISSANCE LEARNING	Grants	\$6,000.00	Software service agreement
MASS TEACHERS RETIREMENT BOARD	Grants	\$6,216.00	Benefits Pymt.
SOUTHWESTERN INDUSTRIES INC	Machine Shop	\$575,990.40	Purchase of 7 Trak lathes & 6 TRAK bed mills
BLACKHAWK INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION INC	Machine Shop	\$15,391.13	Purchase of Special tooling system for 5 axis
COLLIERS PROJECT LEADERS USA NE LLC	MSBA	\$56,676.27	MSBA
KAESTLE BOOS ASSOCIATES	MSBA	\$499,758.00	MSBA
PLUMBERS SUPPLY CO	Plumbing	\$7,936.42	Ridgid 48553 Kit & Megapress
PRO AV SYSTEMS INC	Grants	\$30,255.34	Classroom Smart Boards
ALLDATA	Auto Body/Auto Tech	\$6,552.00	Software service agreement
Whalley Computer Associates	IT Dept	\$86,400.00	Chromebooks Class of 2027
Worth Ave. Group	IT Dept	\$17,600.00	Chromebook Insurance

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Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the list of surplus equipment. Equipment listed will be auctioned off and replacements purchased will transfer to the new building.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the list of surplus equipment as presented.

Department	Item Description	Action
Adv Manufacturing	0001 Doosan Lynx 220L Turning Center	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0002 Clausing 2276 Drill Press	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0003 Sharp Milling Machine	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0004 Sharp Milling Machine	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0005 RF Benchtop Mill Drill	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0006 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0007 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0008 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0009 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0010 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0011 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0012 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0013 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0014 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0015 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0016 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0017 Clausing Metosa Lathe with Plow	Auction
Adv Manufacturing	0018 Clausing Metosa Lathe	Auction
Carpentry	0019 Vitap Horiz/Vert Boring Machine	Auction
Carpentry	0020 Buss Model M Planer	Auction
Carpentry	0021 Multicam SF CNC Machine	Auction
Carpentry	Putch SVP950 Panel Saw	Auction
Carpentry	SCMi Olympic K300 Edge Bander	Auction
Bldg & Grounds	0022 2000 Genie S-65 Lift	Auction
Bldg & Grounds	0023 2008 Genie IWP-30S Lift	Auction
Bldg & Grounds	0024 2002 Ford F250 Super Duty Extended Cab Flat Bed	Auction
Bldg & Grounds	0025 2002 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab Flat Bed	Auction

Mr. Begin reported that the LPN Sub-Committee conducted interviews for the school nurse position. Mr. Bentley, Interim Superintendent-Director and Ms. Jennifer Rocha, School Nurse also participated in the interviews. Four candidates were interviewed. Mr. Begin stated that a decision was reached to make the recommendation to appoint Ms. Chelsea DeCosta.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Chelsea DeCosta as the school nurse.

Mr. Bentley provided an update on the LPN Program which included current enrollment, 23/24 enrollment, tuition and planned open houses.

Fr. Jay asked what the capacity of the program is.

Ms. Gehan stated that the full time program can accept 50 students and the part time program can accept up to 20 students. The goal for the 23/24 school year is to have 40 full time and up to 20 part time students. As of today there are fifteen accepted students, three are pending and five students have took the TEAS exam today.

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Mr. Begin stated that student enrollment in the healthcare field is down but would like to see the LPN Program increase their enrollment and fill as many seats as possible. Mr. Begin asked Mr. Kitchen for a profit and loss report for the LPN Program. A detailed report will be able to provide data on the current financial status of the program.

Fr. Jay asked if staffing fluctuates based on student enrollment.

Ms. Gehan stated that permanent staff remain the same. Adjunct staff is based on enrollment. Ms. Gehan further stated that the program is collaborating with a pathway grant to increase admissions for local CNA's. Health First is funding full tuition and fees for one student to attend the program. Financial aid, grants, HERF funds and loans are available.

Mr. Kitchen left the meeting at 6:41PM

Fr. Jay left the meeting at 6:42 PM and returned at 6:44 PM.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mrs. Torres for the update on the Community Projects, 22/23 and 23/24 Housebuilding Projects.

Attorney Brilhante left the meeting at 6:45 PM and returned at 6:46 PM.

Mrs. Torres stated that work on the Community Projects is ongoing and active projects are moving along nicely. The 22/23 Housebuilding Project is going well. Rough electrical, framing and plumbing and insulation inspections have been completed. Exterior siding, windows and doors have been installed. Sheetrock and blue board has started and it should be completed before February vacation. Plastering will be done by an outside company hired by People Inc. Priming should begin after vacation. The proposal received for the 23/24 Housebuilding Project has been placed on hold. Mr. Lindo is looking to build a tri level house, which is not appropriate for our students. Mrs. Torres further stated that she will be continue communicating with Mr. Lindo to see if they can reach an agreement on the design of the house.

Mr. Rebello provided the Assistant Superintendent-Principal's report.

Mr. Bentley provided the Superintendent-Director's report.

Mr. Kitchen returned to the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Agenda item 3.1.p – Two invoices and a quote to purchase a piece of equipment were received after the 48 hour requirement. The invoices were for the MSBA Project (Colliers - \$45,677.50 and Suffolk Construction - \$50,000.00). The quote was from Weld Systems Integrators, Inc. totaling \$7,010.00

It was moved by Fr. Jay, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to approve the expenditures as presented.

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The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 7:07 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Jennings, Fr. Jay, Mr. Begin, Mr. DiBiasio, and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

a. Approval of Minutes

- November 7, 2022
- December 8, 2022

b. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a), paragraph 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel:

Individual Contracts – Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Andrew Rebello and Interim Superintendent-Director, Brian S. Bentley.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously on a roll call at 7:51 p.m. to rise into Open Session. Mr. Jennings, Fr. Jay, Mr. DiBiasio, Mr. Begin and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helena S. Neves
Helena S. Neves

Materials Included:

January 12, 2023 Minutes
Monthly Financial Report
Expenditure Report
Surplus of Equipment List
Student Activity Agency Account Report
Community Projects List
Principal's Report
Superintendent's Report