

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
MAY 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance: Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River, Joan Menard of Fall River, Rajiv Nehra of Fall River, Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, and Jeffrey Begin of Swansea.

Also in attendance were: Brian Bentley, Interim Superintendent/Director, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel, Michael Zajac, Assistant Principal of Student Affairs and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary

Remote attendance: Paul Kitchen, Lori Gehan, Decio Matos, Crystal Santos, Stacey Matos, and Linda Silvia

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. Notification of intent to record was not received.

Mr. Jennings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the April 12, 2023 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

Mr. Jennings stated that agenda item 3.1.a – Student Presentations will be taken out of order to allow the students present to attend another school event.

Student representatives from BPA, DECA and SkillsUSA were present to express gratitude to the School Committee Members for the continued support provided to each of the clubs. A spokesperson from each of the clubs provided an overview of club happenings, competition participation and accomplishments.

Mr. Jennings called for nominations to elect the Chairperson of the School Committee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio to nominate Mr. Paul Jennings as the Chairman of the School Committee, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to elect Mr. Jennings as the Chairman of the School Committee.

It was moved by Mr. Begin to nominate Mr. Donald DiBiasio as the Vice Chair of the School Committee, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to elect Mr. DiBiasio as the Vice Chairman of the School Committee.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Jill Brilhante as the Treasurer of the School Committee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay to appoint Mr. Jeffrey Begin as the Assistant Treasurer of the School Committee.

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
MAY 17, 2023

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Helena Neves as the Secretary of the School Committee.

Mr. Jennings informed Members that he will review the subcommittee appointments and will notify them of any changes.

Mr. Rebello provided the student representative report which included an update on the current happenings such as clubs, sports and student events.

Mr. Jennings called for Citizen Input.

Mr. Rebello left the meeting at 5:53 PM.

Attorney Brilhante stated the contract for Suffolk Construction is almost finalized and will ready for the June meeting.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that there are no updates on the MSBA project. The School Building Committee is meeting on May 22nd and any updates will be provided at the June meeting.

Mr. DiBiasio reported on the following project expenditures:

It was moved by Fr. Jay, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to allow the treasurer to pay \$187,500 of the principal to pay down the debt obligation, as well as, the interest and fees for the second payment of the \$750,000 dollar Bond Anticipator Note for the school feasibility from excess and deficiency funds.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditure: Colliers invoice #0000834220 dated 3/31/2023 for the amount of \$73,549.32.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditure: Colliers invoice #00008424510 dated 4/31/2023 for the amount of \$96,883.46

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditure: KBA invoice #000020006.01-9 dated 3/31/2023 for the amount of \$1,287,000.00.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditure: KBA invoice #000020006.01-10 dated 4/28/2023 for the amount of \$1,287,000.00.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditure: Suffolk Construction invoice #004 dated 5/31/2023 for the amount of \$75,000.00.

Mr. Bentley reported on personnel.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Eden McCausland as a Student Advisory Board Member of the Electronics Program for a term of three years.

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
MAY 17, 2023

Agenda item 3.1.d may be addressed after executive session.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to accept the donation made by TRAK Machine Tools of two TRAK-Machines (combined value of the machines is \$109,712.000) to the Advanced Manufacturing Program.

Mr. Jennings asked if new equipment will be ordered before the new building is constructed. Mr. Kitchen stated that the Skills Capital Grant expire in June of 2024 therefore equipment needs be purchased and installed prior to end of the grant to meet grant requirements and will be moved to the new building.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to accept the donation by the Roger Williams Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) of a tool kit for a student that may be in need. The tool kit holds a value of \$500 and they have asked the instructor to identify a student.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the out of state student travel request for the annual SkillsUSA National Competition. The competition is being held in Atlanta, GA from June 19, 2023 to June 24, 2023.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by the MAVA Extended Campus Program to use a classroom for their summer semester course starting on Thursday, May 25, 2023 and ending on Thursday, July 6, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and to waive the use of facilities fee.

Mr. Bentley reported that the 2023/2024 School Calendar meets all requirements and has been reviewed and approved by the Diman Teachers Association.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve the 2023/2024 School Calendar as submitted.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mr. Zajac to report on the 2023/2024 Student Handbook. Mr. Zajac stated that the review of the student handbook was a collective effort involving staff, students and parents. The biggest change was the addition of e-Hall Pass language which was piloted in the current school year. Mr. Jennings asked that in the future the student handbook should be reviewed by the policy subcommittee first.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the 2023/2024 Student Handbook as submitted.

Mr. Zajac left the meeting at 6:13 pm.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve the 2023/2024 Student Improvement Plan as submitted.

Mr. Bentley stated that the Spring Advisory Reports were included in the packets and if any of the members have any questions to reach out to him.

Attorney Brillhante stated that agenda item 3.1.1 may be addressed after executive session.

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
MAY 17, 2023

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve Total Welding Supply, 114 Braley Road, East Freetown, MA 02717 as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder for the Lincoln 300C Welders & Equipment for the Metal Fabrication Department within the Greater Fall River Regional School District at One Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Seven Dollars 07/100 (\$137,797.07).

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the monthly financial report, expenditures and transfer of funds.

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

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve all transfers as submitted.

Mr. Kitchen left the meeting at 6:24 PM.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Ms. Gehan for the LPN Program update. Ms. Gehan provided an update on the program which included current enrollment, 23/24 admissions, upcoming TEAS test dates, upcoming interview dates and plan and recruitment. Ms. Gehan also reported on the 23/24 Student Handbook and stated that the only changes made were dates, names and job titles.

It was moved by Fr. Jay, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the 23/24 LPN Student Handbook as presented.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the Housebuilding/Facilities Sub-Committee report. He stated that most of work on the community projects has been completed. The work at the Westport cemetery is underway and plumbing will be completed in the fall due to a delay with the state plumbing license board approval. Mr. DiBiasio stated that he has asked Mrs. Torres to keep the committee updated on any new requests that are received. Mr. DiBiasio stated that Mrs. Torres has had a discussion with People Inc. on a possible project for the 23/24 housebuilding program. If the project is determined to not be viable, the two stall garage will be built. The 23/24 housebuilding program project was tabled to the June meeting by the subcommittee.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the Policy Sub-Committee report. The Allegations and Investigations Working Group has met several times and developed an allegations against a staff member policy. The intent of the policy is to have a procedure for staff to follow and ensure proper documentation of accusations.

Attorney Brillhante stated that both policies were recommended by the Policy Sub-Committee for approval. Language was added to policy IHAQA-R – Housebuilding Program that gives the committee more flexibility to waive provisions as needed. Mr. DiBiasio stated that the new language allows the committee leeway on certain projects.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve the Allegation Against a Staff Member policy and policy IHAQA-R Housebuilding Program.

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
MAY 17, 2023

Fr. Jay stated that staff will receive training on the Allegation Against a Staff Member policy and asked Mr. Bentley to make staff aware of the addition of language added to the student handbook pertaining to false allegations.

Dr. Nehra provided the Sick Bank Sub-Committee report. He stated that Ms. Jessica Tavares and Ms. Monica Camara submitted requests to access sick bank days. Medical documentation was submitted by both staff members. Attorney Brillhante stated that Ms. Camara's request was reviewed and taken up under the provision "Other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting" as it was considered an emergency. A third request was received from Ms. Linda Silva but it was tabled to June as it was not considered an emergency in nature.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the sick bank requests submitted by Ms. Jessica Tavares and Ms. Monica Camara.

Mr. Jennings stated that the Assistant Superintendent-Principal's report is included in the packet and to reach out to Mr. Rebello with any questions.

Mr. Bentley provided the Superintendent-Director's report which included an update on applications and admissions, OVS recognition awards and the co-op report. Mr. DiBiasio requested a report on the range of the application scores. Mr. Bentley will request the information and email it to members.

Attorney Brillhante left the meeting at 6:35 pm and returned at 6:37 pm.

There was further discussion on how many applications were received, how many were accepted, when placement testing is taking place and sending communities acceptance quota. It was determined that Westport is below their quota. Westport applicants will be given first priority as acceptance declines are received. An Admissions Sub-Committee meeting will be scheduled for June to review the application and acceptance process.

Mr. Bentley informed members that he met with representatives from HealthFirst to discuss the possibility of establishing a school based health clinic at Diman. The clinic will open to Diman students only and services will be provided free of charge. Sports physicals and referrals from the nurse's office can be done at the clinic. The clinic requires approval by the Massachusetts Department of Health and funded through a grant. Mr. Bentley stated a letter of support has been submitted and once approved by DPH an agreement will be issued.

Mr. Bentley reported on the calendar of events. Graduation for the Class of 2023 will be held on June 8th. Diman has entered into an agreement with the City of Fall River to use the facilities at Durfee High School.

The next school committee meeting will be on June 15, 2023.

Addendum to agenda item 3.1.w: Mr. Bentley reported on a student travel request by the Business Technology Depart to travel to Orlando, FL for the 2023 MOS US National Championship.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve the out of state travel request for the 2023 MOS US National Championship. The competition is being held in Orlando, FL from June 26, 2023 to June 28, 2023.

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
 251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
 DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
 MAY 17, 2023

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 7:06 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Jennings, Fr. Jay, Mr. Begin, Mr. DiBiasio, Ms. Menard and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

a) Approval of March 9, 2023 Minutes

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 - Bobby Bailey –Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Director of Athletics & Social Media, Eric Benoit – Network & Systems Administrator, Craig Brogan – Carpentry Teacher’s Aide, Steven Cunha – Paraprofessional, Jordan Freitas – Storekeeper, Karen Glover – District Data Specialist, Mary Elizabeth Perry – Parent Liaison, Crystal Santos – LPN Administrative Assistant and Liaison, Colby Sylvia – Technology Assistant, Patricia Tolan – Paraprofessional, Rebecca Ward – ESP/Medical Assistant

c. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a), paragraph 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares: DTA MOA – Extra Curricular Positions

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously on a roll call at 7:59 p.m. to rise into Open Session. Mr. Jennings, Fr. Jay, Mr. DiBiasio, Mr. Begin, Ms. Menard and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

3.1.1 – DTA MOA – Extra Curricular Positions

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously to approve the DTA MOA – Extra Curricular Positions as negotiated.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helena S. Neves
 Helena S. Neves

Materials Included:

April 12, 2023 Minutes 2023/2024 School Calendar 2023/2024 Student Handbook 2023/2024 Student Improvement Plan Spring Advisory Reports Monthly Financial Report Expenditure Report	2023/2024 LPN Student Handbook Community Projects List Allegation Against a Staff Member Policy Policy IHAQA-R Housebuilding Program Principal’s Report Superintendent’s Report 2023/2024 List of School Committee Meetings
--	---