

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
1082 DAVOL STREET, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, ROOM NO. 237, FALL RIVER, MA  
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
NOVEMBER 24, 2020

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance: Joan Menard and Rajiv Nehra of Fall River, Donald DiBiasio of Somerset and Jeffrey Begin of Swansea. Fr. Jay Mello participated via FaceTime. Also, in attendance were Elvio Ferreira, Superintendent-Director and Atty. Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel.

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. Decio Matos is recording the meeting.

Mr. Jennings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 5:33 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the following: 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, DAA, and AFSCME Contracts.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:47 p.m. to rise into Open Session. Mr. Jennings, Mr. Begin, Dr. Nehra, Ms. Menard, and Mr. DiBiasio voting yes. Fr. Jay left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Attorney Brilhante and Dr. Ferreira provided an overview of the issues that occurred in the cafeteria, which necessitated the actions of the administration over the weekend. Dr. Ferreira explained, in moving forward, the District should work with the unions and third party assistance to work through any issues which may occur. Dr. Nehra reported that, in speaking with Mayor Coogan, the City of Fall River may assist with any issues that the District may have. Attorney Brilhante explained that the District Administration will need to work out a scenario for a future plan to avoid a school closure.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously to direct Attorney Brilhante and District Administration to find an alternative plan for the future in working with the City of Fall River.

Dr. Ferreira requested that the Committee temporarily suspend the Covid-19 policy that will not allow faculty and staff to work from home while the school is fully remote for the next two weeks and to give the District Administration the ability to meet with all the unions to revisit the issues.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to temporarily suspend the EBC-S-1 (Addendum of Policy on Pandemic/Covid Related Issues) Policy, until December 4<sup>th</sup>.

It was agreed among members for Attorney Brillhante and Dr. Ferreira to meet with the unions to discuss the option of working remotely moving forward.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lucy Thompsen*

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Materials Included: None