

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
1082 DAVOL STREET, 2nd FLOOR, ROOM NO. 237, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
DECEMBER 10, 2020

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance: Joan Menard and Rajiv Nehra of Fall River, and Donald DiBiasio of Somerset. Absent was Jeffrey Begin of Swansea and Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River. Also, in attendance were Elvio Ferreira, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent/Principal 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 Dr. Nehra, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes, as submitted. Mr. DiBiasio abstained.

It was moved by Dr. Nehra, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to approve the November 24, 2020 minutes, as submitted.

Ms. Jaime Rebello spoke under citizens input regarding agenda item 2.1 – “Discussion of Potential Suspension or Change of Diman Covid-19 Policy – EBC-S-1 – Addendum of Policy on Pandemic/Covid Related Issues; Vote, If Necessary.” Ms. Rebello expressed her concerns about educators not being permitted to teach remotely and the impact it has had on students.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 5:44 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the following: 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 and 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 Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:34 p.m. to rise into Open Session. Mr. Jennings, Ms. Menard, Dr. Nehra, and Mr. DiBiasio voting yes.

Dr. Ferreira requested that the Committee give the District Administration the ability to make decisions on an individual basis for employee requests to work remotely for Covid-19 related issues and if telework is possible and until the policy is further reviewed by the School Committee. Attorney Brilhante explained that the request includes a suspension of the current policy (EBC-S-1).

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously to give the District Administration the ability to make decisions on an individual basis for employee requests to work remotely for Covid-19 related issues and if telework is possible and until the policy is further reviewed by the School Committee. This includes a suspension of the current policy (EBC-S-1).

Dr. Ferreira provided an overview of the expenditure approvals.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to approve to following expenditures:

Career Safe Online	\$11,000	OSHA Training
JDI Productions	\$7,950	Graduation Staging/Camera Operator
MA Teachers Retirement	\$9,338	MTRS Payment
Wiseguy Productions	\$9,500	Graduation Video Production

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously to approve the donation from Walter A. Furman, Co. of hardware, sheet stock, fabric, and tools (\$25,911 value) to the Carpentry/Cabinetmaking Program.

Dr. Ferreira reported that the winter sports program will be postponed.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to approve the FY20 District Annual Report, as submitted.

Dr. Ferreira reported that the current electricity agreement with Liberty Power expired in September of 2019. Since then, the rate for power went from nine cents per kilowatt hour to 17 cents per kilowatt hour from October 2019 to October 2020. The District has negotiated with Nextera Energy for a rate of nine cents per kilowatt hour. The agreement will begin in December 2020 until December 2023, with a savings of approximately \$100,000/year. Attorney Brilhante stated that he has reviewed the agreement.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to approve the three-year agreement with Nextera Energy Electric.

Dr. Ferreira requested that he and Attorney Brilhante be permitted to reach out to an outside counsel for additional advice regarding Special Education issues.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to permit Dr. Ferreira and Attorney Brilhante to reach out to outside counsel regarding Special Education issues and to negotiate the attorney fees.

Dr. Ferreira requested that the District be permitted to post the Interim Assistant Principal – Student Affairs position for the remainder of the school year at step 1 (prorated).

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio, and voted unanimously to post the Interim Assistant Principal – Student Affairs position for the remainder of the school year at step 1 (prorated). The position will be posted both in house and out.

Dr. Ferreira requested permission to post the Athletic Director position and to increase the salary.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously to post the Athletic Director position and to increase the salary up to \$15,000 for the remainder of the school year. Attorney Brillhante explained that \$15,000 was budgeted for the entire school year, but since the position has not been filled, the account still has the funds for the position.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio, and voted unanimously to renew the Powers and Sullivan three year agreement.

Dr. Ferreira provided a report on the Admission Sub-Committee meeting that took place on December 7th. The requested changes on the Admission policy includes adjusting the language to modify the criteria for current 7th and 8th graders due to the pandemic and the pass/fail grading.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to approve the recommended changes to the Admission policy. Mr. Jennings further stated that the Admissions Policy Sub-Committee will meet again in the coming months for a final draft of the policy to be submitted to the state for approval.

Dr. Ferreira provided the monthly financial report.

Ms. Menard left the meeting at 6:46 p.m. The meeting was recessed due to a lack of quorum. Ms. Menard returned to the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Dr. Ferreira provided the superintendent’s report.

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously to approve the following expenditures:

CDW Government	51 Lenova Thinkbooks – Dental Assisting (Coronavirus Relief Grant)	\$49,753
MD Stetson	PPE Supplies (Coronavirus Relief Grant)	\$46,663
Technology Education Concepts, Inc.	Roland NDX-50 PCB Mill – Electronics	\$9,115
Trident Machine Tools	5 Axis Attachment for the HAAS Miller Proposal	\$38,326

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Thompsen
Lucy Thompsen

Materials Included: November 12, 2020 Minutes
November 24, 2020 Minutes
FY20 District Annual Report
Monthly Financial Report
Superintendent’s Report