

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2018

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings of Westport, with the following persons in attendance: Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, and Renee Howayeck of Fall River, and Jeffrey Begin of Swansea. Absent were Rajiv Nehra and Joan Menard. Also in attendance were Thomas F. Aubin, Superintendent-Director, Elvio Ferreira, Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Deborah Kenney, Business Manager and Atty. Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel.

Mr. Jennings did the roll call.

The public hearing commenced. Mr. Aubin thanked the administration for their work in reducing the budget by \$500,000 – items include: \$125,000 from Chromebooks, \$20,000 textbook accounts, and all proposed budgets were cut by ten percent. The District has an Automotive Technology instructor retiring in June, the position will not be filled in order to balance the budget and the school psychologist position was also removed from the budget. Mrs. Kenney added that every department had reductions in their budgets and maintenance accounts were also reduced. Mr. Aubin explained that the District is in a negotiating year, which includes raises and health insurance rate increases. Mr. Begin asked about the impact of not hiring an Automotive Technology instructor. Mr. Aubin explained that not every program can sustain a loss in instructor, but the District needs to find additional sources of revenue. He further explained that the Machine Tool Technology program also has an instructor retiring at the end of the year, but the program will be beginning an evening school program.

Attorney Brilhante explained that the budget will be approved in the regular session.

Mr. DiBiasio asked how many seniors are in the cooperative education program, Mr. Lazaro stated that there are 12 seniors currently. Mr. DiBiasio further asked about safety issues with one less instructor and how many seniors are in shop. Mr. Arruda explained that there are six on one cycle and five on the other. The juniors will start cooperative education in the third trimester. Mr. Farias explained that he has one junior on co-op. Mr. Tom Menchi from Toyota of Dartmouth stated that he hears that students are not spending enough time with instructors. He further explained that it is difficult to obtain technicians in the workforce. Mr. Begin and Mr. Aubin thanked Mr. Menchi for his input.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to close the public hearing on the FY19 budget.

Mr. Aubin explained the District does not recommend school choice for the 2018-19 school year because there are 700 applications for only 375 slots.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to close the public hearing on the school choice.

Mr. Jennings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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. The meeting is recorded.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the February 8, 2018 minutes and approve them as recorded

The superintendent evaluation will be carried to the next meeting.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to appoint Jeffrey Gifford as a business/industry member of the Plumbing program for a term of three years.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to appoint Joshua Teixeira as a business/industry member of the Plumbing program for a term of three years.

Mr. Jennings requested that the FY19 Budget be carried to the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting for approval.

Dr. Nehra arrived at 5:26 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously that the District not be school choice for the 2018-19 school year.

Mr. Aubin provided the Housebuilding/Facilities Sub-Committee report. To date, the District does not have a housebuilding application. Mrs. Torres explained that the Town of Swansea has requested a project for a garage on Gardner's Neck Road, which will include all the trade shops.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to approve the request from the Diman Parent Advisory Council for a Ceramic Paint Night on Friday, April 6, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. There will be no charge for this use of facilities.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to approve the request from the Diman Parent Advisory Council for a Yard Sale/Car Wash on Saturday, April 28, 2018 (set-up Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.) from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the gymnasium/parking lot. There will be no charge for this use of facilities.

Mrs. Kenney explained that in light of potential increases in salary, the District is recommending a \$500 increase to LPN tuition for the upcoming school year. Mr. Aubin explained that there is a demand for the program. Mr. Jennings asked how the program is being marketed. Mr. Lazaro explained that a 90 second video is in the process for the program, which will be shared on social media. Mrs. Donna Theodore provided a report on the visits she has done in the communities for recruitment as well as the open house night.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to approve the increase of the LPN tuition (2018-19) to \$11,100 for in-district, \$17,700 for out of district and \$19,100 for out of state.

Mr. Aubin clarified that the District has a placement test, not an admissions test.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to approve the admissions of 375 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, for the 2018-19 school year and to fill any vacancies in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade up to 365, based on the current admissions policy.

Mr. Aubin and Mrs. Torres provided a background on Mr. Matthew Zenni and Mr. Richard Urban as proposed 2018 Honorary Diploma and Distinguished Graduate recipients, respectively.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to approve Matthew Zenni as the 2018 Honorary Diploma recipient and Richard Urban as the 2018 Distinguished Graduate recipient.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to approve the National Honor Society field trip on May 27, 2018.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to approve the following expenditures: Airgas East – welding table, legs and kit – Metal Fabrication - \$20,960; Flynn Scientific, Inc. – Chemistry textbooks - \$8,012; Follett Education Services – English supplemental books - \$10,330; and, Image Technology Specialists – quarterly prints for Business Tech copier - \$6,000.

Mr. Aubin explained that the District looked at the market for a Medical Assisting Program – there is a demand for a program in the area. Mrs. Torres has submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education an application and has been approved for Part A of the application. Mr. Aubin is requesting that the District approve the program to move onto the Part B of the application process. Mr. Begin questioned the difference between Medical Assisting and Health Assisting – Mrs. Torres explained that Health Assisting students are trained to be Certified Nurses Aids (direct care) as well as Dementia Training is mandated and Medical Assisting students are trained to work the front desk, preparing patients for the doctor, and taking vitals. Mr. DiBiasio asked about the set up in other schools for the program. Mr. Aubin explained that the District is looking to use Perkins funds for the salary and obtaining donations for supplies in the program.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the Medical Assisting Program.

Dr. Nehra asked when the program is anticipated to begin – Mr. Aubin stated in the SY19.

Mrs. Kenney provided the monthly financial report. Transfers will be brought to the School Committee. Mr. Jennings questioned the lines that are zero-ed out. Mrs. Kenney explained that the District no longer uses those lines (re-categorized) – a result of the audit report findings– to use the same numerical coding as the Department of Education. The lines will be eliminated once the report is cleaned up.

Mr. Aubin provided the superintendent's report. He reported on the data from Mrs. Miller regarding why students leave Diman. Mr. Ferreira further provided a report on an opportunity to find an alternative for the juniors and seniors who are not satisfied with their shop and to keep them engaged by exploring other programs. Mr. Jennings asked for a breakdown on the grade levels where students are leaving. Mr. Begin asked whether an exit interview is performed – Mr. Aubin responded yes. Ms. Howayeck asked where the students attend when they leave – Mr. Aubin responded that he

will get that information. Mr. Aubin requested that Ms. Miller be on the April agenda to provide more information. Ms. Howayeck asked that the social emotional item be broken down.

Mr. Andrew Rebello provided an overview of initiatives for students with a number of absences – to work in collaboration with the Guidance Department. Mr. Ferreira further explained that many of the students with social emotional issues that return to school after an extended absence are not able to handle the school work load. The administration is exploring ways to assist students with these issues.

Mr. DiBiasio asked about freshman placement in shops. Mr. Ferreira responded that seven students transferred and the District accepted five.

Mr. Aubin explained that an MSBA Informational Meeting is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> for area businesses and he recommends that the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting be rescheduled due to the Massachusetts OVS Banquet being held on the same night. Ms. Torres provided an update on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event that will be held in September. A Committee has been formed and will be soliciting sponsorship for the event as well as a theme.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:04 p.m. to rise to Executive Session for the following: Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a), paragraph 3, to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares: DTA Contract and Pursuant to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto: Safety/Security.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:55 p.m. to rise into Open Session.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lucy Thompsen*

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Materials included: February 8, 2018 Minutes  
FY19 Budget  
2018-19 School Calendar  
Monthly Financial Report