

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
DECEMBER 14, 2023

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance, Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, Joan Menard of Fall River and Rajiv Nehra of Fall River.

Absent: Jeffrey Begin of Swansea, and Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River

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

Remote attendance: Lori Brogan, Decio Matos, Stacy Matos, Debbie Pacheco, Maria Torres and Katie Warren.

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. Matos provided notification of intent to record.*

Mr. Jennings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the November 16, 2023 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

Ms. Perreira provided the student report which included updates on school events, extracurricular clubs and sports. A coat collection is currently taking place and coats will be donated to families in need. Student Government members have been invited to the State House by Senator Michael Rodrigues and will be visiting in April.

There was no Citizen Input.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the MSBA Project update. Construction work has begun. The site plan review was approved with the exception of one item that needs an additional response from the Project Team which is expected to be submitted by next week. The temporary access road to the site has been built and paved and the athletic storage facility has been abated. The 100% construction documents set has been completed and has been made available to prequalified sub-contractors. Approximately 25% of the project's scope has been procured and is trending on budget. Mr. Bentley informed members that a community outreach meeting has been scheduled for January 3, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

Mr. Bentley stated that the Massachusetts Electric Company Grant to License needs to be signed in order to authorize the installation of poles to provide temporary electrical service for the project.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the Massachusetts Electric Company Grant to License.

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Mr. DiBiasio stated that Suffolk Contract Amendment 003 and iGMP003 incorporates all the approved RTA's, change orders, general conditions and requirements into Suffolk's contract.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the Suffolk Contract Amendment 003 and iGMP003.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the MSBA project expenditures. Invoices from Colliers, KBA, and Suffolk reflect monthly billing for the project. An invoice was received for the initial BAN fee from Moody's Investors Service for a total of \$7,000. National Grid submitted an invoice for the temporary electric service in the amount of \$139,206.27.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditures: Colliers invoice #0000905638 dated 11/30/2023 for the amount of \$82,312.33, KBA invoice #20006.01-17 dated 11/30/2023 for the amount of \$965,250, Moody's Investors Service invoice #P0452218 for the amount of \$7,000, National Grid work order #WR30883270 for the amount of \$139,206.27 and Suffolk Construction application no. 2 dated 11/30/2023 for the amount of \$2,572,197.61.

Mr. Bentley reported on personnel appointments and resignations.

Mr. Bentley reported on student travel requests.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to approve the student travel request by the DECA Club for an overnight student travel to attend the DECA State Conference in Boston from March 7, 2024 to March 9, 2024.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the out of state student travel request by the Ski Club for their annual ski trip to Pat's Peak in Henniker, NH on February 10, 2024.

Mr. Bentley reported on the acceptance of gifts.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to accept the donations by the Diman Bengal Education Foundation to the Automotive Technology Program in the amount of \$10,000 and to the Electricity Program in the amount of \$10,000.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to accept the donations by the Diman Community Outreach Group to the College Fee Fund (\$2,000), Guitar Club (\$1,000) and the Groundbreaking Ceremony (7,097.76).

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to accept the donation by Mr. Kenney Bettencourt of cedar wood (\$500 estimated value) to the Carpentry and Cabinetmaking Program.

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Mr. Jennings thanked all of the donors for the generous donations.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mr. Rebello for the proposal submitted by students to initiate a Chess Club. Mr. Rebello stated that students collected the necessary signatures and have met the requirements. Mr. Mitchell Paiva has been identified as the advisor and there are no funds or stipends associated with the request.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to approve the request to initiate a Chess Club. Mr. Mitchell Paiva will be the advisor and there are no funds or stipends associated.

Mr. Kitchen provided a summary of the monthly financial report. The negative balance in the extraordinary maintenance line will be supported once free cash is certified and the accounts will be rectified in January.

Mr. Kitchen provided a summary of the expenditures in excess of \$10,000. Mr. Kitchen revised the total expenditure amount being requested for Akins Machinery Inc. for a new total amount of \$14,800.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the expenditures as submitted including the revision to Akins Machinery Inc. for a new total amount of \$14,800.

Mr. Kitchen provided a summary of the transfer of funds. The request is being made to correct some of the negative balances. Athletics has a negative balance in the miscellaneous line item which will also be rectified by the transfer request. A total amount of \$198,011 will be charged to the extraordinary repairs line item.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the Reduction of Capital Assessment. He stated that in accordance to the DOR Informational Guideline Releases that address the use of premium payments “premiums and accrued interest received on notes sold on or after December 13, 2021 must be applied to the first payment of interest on the notes.” Therefore, the capital assessment shall be adjusted to reduce the FY24 capital assessment by the community’s respective percentage of the total premium payment of \$324,500.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the reduction of the Capital Assessment by premium amount as submitted.

Mr. Bentley provided a summary of the Cooperative Education Program report. Mr. Jennings asked if an update was available regarding the placement of Culinary Arts students. Mr. Bentley stated that he has met with Mr. Lazaro, Cooperative Education Coordinator to discuss student placements. Mr. Lazaro will be working with Mrs. Torres and Chef Benevides to increase participation.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mrs. Brogan for the LPN Program report. Mrs. Brogan stated that there are 47 students currently enrolled. Four students were dismissed due personal reasons. Recruitment is ongoing and interviews for the Fall 2025 Class will begin in January. Currently, there are 34 applicants for next year. Open house is scheduled for January 24, 2024 from 5-8 pm.

Mr. Kitchen left the meeting at 6:03 PM.

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Mr. DiBiasio provided the Housebuilding Sub-Committee. Students are working on several community projects throughout the four sending communities and are getting hands on experience. Mrs. Torres stated that a design contest, based on the wish kid's likes and wishes, was held for the Rosemary's Wish Kids Playhouse. The design chosen was submitted by a student from the Business Technology Program. Mr. DiBiasio stated that Mrs. Torres, Mr. Kitchen and Attorney Brilhante will be meeting to review the Housebuilding Program contract.

Mr. Kitchen returned to the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Mr. Rebello provided the Assistant Superintendent-Principal report which included an update on student achievement, current happenings and events.

Mr. Bentley provided the Superintendent-Director's report which included student enrollment and admissions. Mr. Bentley informed members that Diman Security Officer, Douglas Swass was commended and recognized by the Fall River Police Department at a ceremony held on December 10th. Mr. Bentley also informed members that Diman is a recipient of the APEX Award which recognizes the work Diman does in the community.

The next school committee meeting will be on January 11, 2024.

Attorney Brilhante stated the reasons to go into executive session.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:16 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Jennings, Mr. DiBiasio, Ms. Menard, and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

It was moved by Ms. Menard seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:37 p.m. to rise into Open Session with Mr. Jennings, Mr. DiBiasio, Ms. Menard, and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena S. Neves

Helena S. Neves, Executive Secretary

Materials Included:

November 16, 2023 Minutes	Transfers
MSBA Project Expenditures	Reduction of Capital Assessment
Massachusetts Electric Co. Grant to License	LPN Program Update
Suffolk Contract Amendment 003 & iGMP003	Community Projects
Monthly Financial Report	Assistant Superintendent-Principal Report
Expenditure Report	Superintendent's Report