

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
OCTOBER 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance, Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, Jeffrey Begin of Swansea, Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River, Joan Menard of Fall River and Rajiv Nehra of Fall River.

Also in attendance were: Brian Bentley, Superintendent/Director, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance, Gregory Brillhante, Legal Counsel, Bobby Bailey, Athletic Director and Stephanie Ferreira.

Remote attendance: Decio Matos, Stacy Matos, Lori Brogan, Crystal Santos, Maria Torres, John Narcizo, Debbie Pacheco, Kelly Carneiro and Hailie Perreira

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 September 14, 2023 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

Ms. Hailie Perreira provided the student report which included updates on school events, extracurricular clubs and sports.

There was no Citizen Input.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the MSBA Project update. Construction Documents are at 90% and will be going out to the estimators. Once reconciled an update will be provided. The final set of documents are expected to be completed in December. Suffolk currently has site work, concrete and structural steel packages out for bid. Bid packages for masonry, windows, waterproofing for the foundation and elevators have been released. Bid packages for items with long lead times such as generator and switchgear have been received. A request to award will be presented for approval. A meeting of the Oversight Committee will be scheduled to review and approve the RTA's. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Friday, November 3rd.

Ms. Menard asked who was invited to the groundbreaking ceremony. Mr. Bentley stated that the list of guests include state and local officials, School Committee, School Building Committee, staff and students. Several vocational shops are involved in the planning and preparation for the event. The focus of the celebration are the students and there will be a heavy student participation at the event.

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Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the MSBA project expenditures. Invoices from Colliers, KBA and Suffolk reflect monthly billing for the project. An invoice for the amount of \$32,983.04 from the City of Fall River for the foundation permit was previously approved by the Chairman.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditures: Colliers invoice #0000878676 dated 8/31/2023 for the amount of \$87,552.46, Colliers invoice #0000887358 dated 9/30/2023 for the amount of \$96,197.28, KBA invoice #20006.01-15 dated 9/29/2023 for the amount of \$965,250.00, Suffolk Construction invoice #008 dated 9/30/2023 for the amount of \$50,000.00 and invoice from the City of Fall River for the amount of \$32,983.04.

Mr. Bentley reported on appointments, advisory board appointments, resignations and retirements.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to appoint the following individuals to the Advisory Board of the identified programs for a term of three years: Kyle Medeiros, Electronics Program, Von Marie Moniz, Business Technology Program and Robert Teves, Advanced Manufacturing Program.

Mr. Bentley provided an overview of the donation request by Southcoast Physicians Group.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the donation of assorted medical supplies by Southcoast Physicians Group.

Mr. Bentley provided an overview of the request by Waters Church to collaborate in their Thanksgiving Outreach event in donating Thanksgiving meals to families in need.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by Waters Church to donate Thanksgiving meals to families in need.

Agenda item 3.1.d - LPN Administrative Assistant, Crystal Santos will be addressed after executive session.

Mr. Bentley reported on the out of state student travel requests.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the following student travel requests: DECA Regional Competition, Hyannis, MA on 1/4 & 1/5 / Hockey Team, Schneider Arena in Providence, RI on 10/25 or 11/1, International Club, Scotland and Ireland – Spring 2025, English Department, RISD Museum in Providence, RI on 12/5 and 12/12.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mr. Rebello for a summary of the proposal to start a Table Top Role Playing Game (TTRPG) Club. Mr. Rebello stated that a group of students have collected the required signatures and have met the requirements to establish the club. Club members will participate by acting out as physical board pieces of the game. Chef Botelho has volunteered to be the club advisor and is not seeking compensation therefore it will not create a financial burden to the District.

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Attorney Brillhante expressed concern that compensation for the advisor might be sought at a later date. Mr. Rebello stated that if that was to occur it would have to be done through collective bargaining. Attorney Brillhante stated that language should be added to the motion that there will be no monetary compensation for the duties performed by the advisor of the club. Mr. Bentley stated that if the club is successful a request can be made to establish it permanently and negotiate it into the DTA contract.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to accept the proposal to establish the Table Top Role Playing Game (TTRPG) Club. There will be no monetary compensation for the advisor to perform the duties of the club.

Mr. Kitchen provided a summary of the monthly financial report. The negative balance in the extraordinary maintenance line will be supported when the E&D funds are certified. The other negative balance under the employee retirement contributions is an encumbrance to pay the city.

Mr. Kitchen provided a summary of the expenditures in excess of \$10,000.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the expenditures as submitted with the exception of the MSBA expenditures as they were previously approved.

Mr. Kitchen provided a summary of the transfer of funds.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the transfer of funds as presented.

Mr. Kitchen provided a summary of the fuel oil bid award. Two bids were received but one of the bids was not on time. The recommendation is to award to Sprague Operating Resources.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve Sprague Operating Resources, 185 International Drive, Portsmouth, NH 03801 as the most responsible and responsive bidder for the Fuel Oil Bid for the SY2023-24 for the Greater Fall River Regional School District at a cost of \$143.54 per barrel of 42 gallons of No. 4 Oil .025% Sulfur.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mrs. Brogan for the LPN Program update. Currently, there are 54 enrolled students. Two TEAS exams and information sessions have been scheduled for the next three months. Twelve applications for the fall of 2024 have been received. DESE Safety visit was completed in September. MassHire performed a site visit and has issued a letter of good standing. Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) needs to be completed by January 24, 2024. Council on Occupation Education (COE) visit is scheduled for May of 2024.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mr. Bailey for the athletic director report. Mr. Bailey stated that currently there are 389 students enrolled in athletics. The transportation cost has increased significantly from last year. Transportation to and from practices and games have greatly impacted the program. Alternative transportation means are being looked at to accommodate all the student athletes. The Bishop Connolly fields were secured for football but they were oversaturated and had to pivot to Atlantis Charter School. The recommendation is to look

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at Atlantis Charter School field use as a long term solution for football. The football team started off the season at Talbot but within two weeks six athletes were injured and the program has since been moved to Henry Lord. A quote in the amount of \$5,800 has been received for the guardian helmets for the entire football team. The hockey team will be going to PC Hockey to give students the opportunity to experience of a college sport practice.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if the fee to use the Bishop Connolly fields was paid ahead or per usage of field. Mr. Bailey stated that it was paid ahead but there is a credit on the account. Due to several issues it's not recommended to use the fields. Practices and games are currently taking place at Diman and other local fields. If Henry Lord is a long term option for practices it is recommended to take the uprights and put them there as it has been a good option.

Mr. DiBiasio that a bus could possibly be bought in order to alleviate some of the transportation issues. Mr. Kitchen stated that the cost of a bus is about \$60,000. A CDL license is needed in order to drive a school bus. There is a shortage of bus drivers which also complicates things. Mr. Jennings requested a proposal with costs.

Mr. Begin asked if the guardian helmets were ordered. Mr. Bailey stated that he wanted approval prior to ordering.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of the guardian helmets.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mrs. Torres for the community projects update. Mrs. Torres stated that projects that were left over from last year are on track and work is being completed. Building and Property students will be going to Somerset to an exterior rehab and some interior work at the baseball concession stand building. Work will also begin soon on a boiler replacement project for the Westport Fire Department.

Mr. DiBiasio provided an overview of the 23/24 housebuilding project. Mr. Kitchen will be working with Mrs. Torres and HUB to address the insurance issues. Attorney Brillhante stated that the two insurance issues are the builders' risk and liability coverage which were brought to the District's attention by HUB. Mrs. Torres stated that the homeowners have contacted their insurance agent to add Diman to their policy and have been informed that 13 insurance brokers have rejected their request.

There was further discussion amongst members about the insurance issues, contract language, past project contracts and how to proceed with the project.

Mr. DiBiasio requested that members not act on the proposal to let the district look further into the insurance issues and once that's resolved have a quick meeting next week to approve it.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that the only other sticking clause on the contract is if Diman is not able to finish the project by June. Mr. DiBiasio stated that the students can return in September or the homeowners can choose to finish it. He specifically asked the homeowners that question and Mr. DeMelo stated that he would not have an issue finishing up the work. Mrs. Torres stated that if the job is not finished, they can go out and finish it in September. Language will be added that if the homeowners choose to finish the work they will pay the remainder of the fee in June.

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Mr. Rebello provided the Assistant Superintendent-Principal report which included an update on student achievement, current happenings and the school's rating issued by the Department of Education.

Mr. Bentley provided the Superintendent-Director's report which included student enrollment, groundbreaking ceremony, the Fall Advisory Board meeting and the upcoming flu clinic.

The next school committee meeting will be on November 16, 2023.

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 7:13 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Jennings, Mr. DiBiasio, Fr. Jay, Ms. Menard, Mr. Begin, and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously on a roll call at 8:00 p.m. to rise into Open Session with Mr. Jennings, Mr. DiBiasio, Fr. Jay, Ms. Menard, Mr. Begin, and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena S. Neves

Helena S. Neves, Executive Secretary

Materials Included:

September 14, 2023 Minutes
MSBA Project Expenditures
Monthly Financial Report
Expenditure Report

Community Projects
Assistant Superintendent-Principal Report
Superintendent's Report

SF/hsn