

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
AUGUST 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance, Jeffrey Begin of Swansea, Joan Menard of Fall River and Rajiv Nehra of Fall River.

Absent: Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River, Donald DiBiasio of Somerset

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

Remote attendance: Decio Matos, Lori Brogan, Kate Warren, Debbie Pacheco and Jeanne Hill

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 Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the June 15, 2023 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

There was no Citizen Input.

Mr. Bentley provided an update on the MSBA Project. The school readiness construction work has started for the new temporary staff parking lot and new student parking lot entrance. Jersey barriers will be put in place to define the parking spaces and entrances.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the MSBA project expenditures. Invoices from Colliers, KBA and Suffolk reflect monthly billing for the project. CR Solutions is for the Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP), HUB International is for the insurance and Liberty Utilities is for the infrastructure of the gas lines.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditures: Colliers invoice #0000862258 dated 6/30/2023 for the amount of \$106,610.87, Colliers invoice #0000869791 dated 7/31/2023 for the amount of \$87,862.93, CR Solutions dated 7/13/23 for the amount of \$63,000.00, HUB International dated 7/12/2023 for the amount of \$82,875.00, HUB International dated 7/21/2023 for the amount of \$86,190.00, KBA invoice #20006.01-12 dated 6/30/2023 for the amount of \$965,250.00, Liberty Utilities dated 7/18/2023 for the amount of \$29,285.00 and Suffolk Construction invoice #006 dated 7/31/2023 for the amount of \$25,000.00.

Mr. Bentley reported on personnel.

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Agenda item 3.1.c - Part-time LPN Administrative Assistant was withdrawn by Mr. Bentley.

Agenda item 3.1.d- Discussion of Director of Guidance and Admissions will be addressed after executive session.

Mr. Bentley provided an overview of the proposal submitted by Mr. Luke Bahry, Football Coach to create a social media account to promote the Diman Football Program.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the proposal submitted by Mr. Luke Bahry, Football Coach to create a social media account to promote the Diman Football Program.

Mr. Bentley and Mr. Rebello provided a summary of the End of the Year Report. The report includes an academic and vocational section and it also highlights the programs that happened throughout the year, awards, recognitions, extracurricular events as well as athletics.

Mr. Bentley and Mr. Rebello provided an overview of the employee handbook. The handbook includes pertinent information for all our employees to know. The most significant change was the addition of the new District policy regarding accusations against staff member which is listed on page 44.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the 23/24 Employee Handbook as submitted.

Mr. Kitchen provided a summary of the Student Activity Account Audit Report. There were no significant findings and minor comments were issued.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the Student Activity Agency Account Balances. All accounts have positive balances. There are three accounts that have not had any recent activity. Mr. Kitchen reached out to the club advisors to determine if they should be closed. Cross Country and Health Assisting requested that the accounts remain open. The Diversity Club requested that their account be closed.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to close the Diversity Club Student Activity Account.

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

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve all expenditures as submitted.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the request submitted by the IT Department for the surplus of equipment. The list of items include chromebooks, laptops and carts that are outdated. Mr. Begin asked if there is any benefit to purchase vs leasing chromebooks. Mr. Kitchen stated that leasing does not offer much benefit

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as after a period of time it will cost just as much as purchasing. As the chromebooks are purchased the District is also purchasing insurance. Chromebooks are sent out for big repairs and small repairs are done by the IT staff.

Attorney Brilhante informed members that he received a telephone call from Mr. Higgins asking that the list of surplus equipment be as exhibit A on the agenda and included in the packet.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by the IT Department for the surplus of the equipment as submitted.

Mr. Bentley provided the Superintendent-Director's report which included: enrollment update, student transfers, LPN program update, and the SkillsUSA National Competition. Mr. Bentley stated that one student from the Advanced Manufacturing Program has been invited by the Welding Association to represent the USA at a competition in France. Mr. Begin asked if the transfer students are coming in from the four sending communities. Mr. Rebello stated that there have been applicants from all four communities.

Mr. Bentley invited members to the staff orientation day on August 29, 2023. Any member interested is welcomed to attend and speak to staff.

The next school committee meeting will be on September 14, 2023.

Mr. Bentley provided a brief summary of the correspondence from MASC/MASS Joint Conference, NEASC and COE Team visit notification.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:00 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Jennings, Ms. Menard, Mr. Begin, and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:21 p.m. to rise into Open Session. Mr. Jennings, Ms. Menard, Mr. Begin, and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

Attorney Brilhante stated that agenda item 3.1.d is not going to be discussed and there will be no votes taken.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena S. Neves

Helena S. Neves, Executive Secretary

Materials Included:

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| June 15, 2023 Minutes | Expenditure Report |
| MSBA Project Expenditures | Surplus Equipment List |
| Employee Handbook | Superintendent's Report |
| Student Activity Account Audit Report | MASC/MASS, NEASC & COE Correspondence |
| Monthly Financial Report | |