

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
JUNE 15, 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: Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River, Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, Jeffrey Begin of Swansea, and Rajiv Nehra of Fall River.

Absent: Joan Menard of Fall River.

Also in attendance were: Brian Bentley, Interim Superintendent/Director, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel, Helena Neves, Executive Secretary, Tim Alix, Colliers and Ryan Nadeau, Student Representative.

Remote attendance: Decio Matos, Stacey Matos, Elizabeth Hyde, Linda Silvia

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 May 17, 2023 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

Ryan Nadeau provided the student report which included an update on current happenings such as clubs, sports and student events.

There was no Citizen Input.

Attorney Brilhante stated that negotiations on the contract for Suffolk Construction have been finalized and made the recommendation to approve the contract as negotiated and allow Mr. Jennings to sign the contract.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the contract for Suffolk Construction as negotiated and allow Mr. Jennings to sign the contract.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mr. Alix for the MSBA project update. Mr. Alix stated that finalizing the contract was a big step and took a lot of effort by everyone involved. The pre-construction phase work has continued although the contract was not finalized. The 60% construction documents estimates have been reconciled and the project is on budget. Value Engineering was not needed due to the OCIP insurance savings. The 60% construction documents have been submitted to MSBA and comments are expected back in two weeks. The construction team will be moving forward with work on the access roads, parking and site work, so that when the students come back in the fall the new traffic pattern will be in place. The pre-qualification process for the different trade packages will start soon. The requests for qualifications will be advertised in the central register,

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CommBuys and the local newspaper per Massachusetts Procurement laws. Once RFQ packages are received there is an evaluation process to qualify companies. If a company has had a significant problem on a previous job it will be disqualified. A community outreach meeting was held on Tuesday which was well attended by nearby neighbors. Mr. Bentley stated that representatives from the design team, construction team and the project manager were present to answer questions. Most of the questions asked were about traffic and construction noise. A second meeting will be held in early October to bring everyone up to date on the project.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the MSBA project expenditures.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditures: Colliers invoice #0000852302 dated 5/31/2023 for the amount of \$109,460.39, KBA invoice #20006.01-11 dated 5/31/2023 for the amount of \$965,250.00, Suffolk Construction invoice #003 dated 4/30/2023 for the amount of \$25,000.00 and invoice #005 dated 6/30/2023 for the amount of \$50,000.00.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that work on the temporary fence and parking lot will start soon. Parking for Room 251 Restaurant will be alongside the gymnasium. Signage will be in place to provide direction for the new parking. Fr. Jay asked if a groundbreaking ceremony date has been determined. Mr. DiBiasio stated that a groundbreaking ceremony will most likely take place in October but will notify members as soon as it is available.

Mr. Bentley reported on personnel.

It was moved by Dr. Nehra, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to appoint to the following individuals as Advisory Board Members of the identified programs for a term of three years: *Monique Francisco – Health Assisting, Benjamin Lebow – Plumbing, Matthew Lebow – Plumbing, John Marsula – Electronics, and Cynthia Mello – Health Assisting.*

Agenda items 3.1.c – One Year Individual Employment Agreement Renewals, 3.1.d – Discussion of Superintendent-Director Contract, 3.1.e – Discussion of Director of Finance and Operations Contract will be addressed after executive session.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the use of facilities requests by the Diman PTO for their scholarship fundraisers and to waive all use of facilities fees. *Car Show Scholarship Fundraiser - Sunday, September 24, 2023 and Craft Fair Scholarship Fundraiser - Saturday, November 4, 2023.*

Mr. Bentley stated that the Culinary Arts Program has submitted an out of state student travel request to Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI on June 13, 2023.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to reaffirm (approved by email) the approval of the student travel request as submitted.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to accept the donation made by the Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation of \$2,000 to the Golf Team to purchase golf equipment.

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Mr. Bentley provided an overview of the Athletics Use of Facilities Agreement. The agreement will allow for students to use the facilities for football games for the Fall 2023 season. Mr. DiBiasio stated that since the Bishop Connolly fields are now available to rent, the District needs to inquire about the possibility of renting them long term and for multi sports. The fields are closer to Diman and would make the transportation of students easier and more cost efficient. Dr. Nehra asked if the District can approach them and let them know of our intentions. Hopefully we could have the first right of refusal if there's any other interested party because we already have a history with them. Mr. Kitchen stated that he will discuss with Mr. Bailey and provide more information as it becomes available.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the Use of Facilities Agreement as submitted.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the surplus of equipment. Attorney Brillhante asked Mr. Kitchen how much money has been received from the surplus of equipment. Mr. Kitchen stated that to date the district has received about \$172,000 which will be used to pay a portion of the feasibility study for the new building.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the surplus of equipment as submitted.

Mr. Kitchen stated that he has requested bids for two Sinker & Wire EDM Machines for the Advanced Manufacturing Department. The bids are due after today's meeting and since the Committee doesn't meet in July, he's requesting authorization to have Mr. Jennings award the bid.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to authorize the Chair of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District to award the lowest and responsive bidder for the advertised bid for "Sinker & Wire EDM Machines" for Advanced Manufacturing Department.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the monthly financial report and expenditures.

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

Mr. Bentley provided the LPN Program update. The full time day program has 38 accepted students and the part time program has 14. Twenty five applicants will be taking the TEAS exams. The new enrollment goal is 45 full time students and 20 part time. A new instructor has been hired and another candidate was interviewed for the full time lab clinical. The LPN graduation is coming up next Friday, June 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Ms. Gehan and her staff continue their efforts to advertise the program and are working towards a successful year.

Attorney Brillhante and Mr. Kitchen left the meeting at 5:59 PM.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the Housebuilding/Facilities Sub-Committee report. He provided an overview of the 22/23 and 23/24 community projects. As other requests are received the lists will be updated. The Housebuilding Program does not have a house project for the 23/24 school year.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the Policy Sub-Committee report. Mr. Begin provided a summary of the LPN Financial Aid Handbook. Mr. Begin stated that dates and titles were updated and no major changes were made.

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Attorney Brillhante returned to the meeting at 6:02 PM.

Mr. Begin provided a summary of the changes made to the Admissions Policy. Per Mrs. Miller's recommendation a broader range of point values given for attendance on excused absences was added. In the past, there have been numerous applicants with 16 to 66 absences who received the same score on their application. A cutoff date of December 31st was added for attendance from the sending schools. Tiebreaker language was added in the event there's a tie score on applications. The application date will serve as seniority for a tiebreaker. The residency verification and affidavit language was also added to the policy.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that minor changes were made to the use of facilities fee schedule. The hourly rate for the custodial and security staff will be updated to reflect current rates and will be reviewed yearly. The other change made was to add a maximum fee of \$500 per day for the auditorium under the for profit category of the fee schedule. Mr. DiBiasio provided an overview of the MASC updated policies. The Policy Sub-Committee upon reviewing the policies is making the recommendation to accept the policies as presented.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to accept the recommendation by the Policy Sub-Committee to approve the following:

- LPN Program Financial Aid Handbook
- Admissions Policy JF
- Policy KF & KF-R and Use of Facilities Fee Schedule
- MASC Updated Policies

Agenda item 3.1.q – Sick Bank Sub-Committee Report was not discussed.

Mr. Rebello provided the Assistant Superintendent-Principal's report which included current school events, student achievement & excellence, parent and community partnerships.

Fr. Jay left the meeting at 6:07 PM and returned at 6:09 PM.

Mr. Bentley provided the Superintendent-Director's report which included: LPN Graduation, SkillsUSA National Competition, MOS National Competition, Admissions and the Co-operative Education Report. Mr. Bentley also informed members that he had a second meeting with representatives from HealthFirst and a memorandum of understanding for the school based program is being finalized.

Mr. Kitchen returned to the meeting at 6:14 PM.

Fr. Jay asked for clarification on the September meeting date. The meeting was listed in error as September 7, 2023. The September meeting will be on September 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

The next school committee meeting will be on August 10, 2023.

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

- a) Approval of May 17, 2023 Minutes

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b. 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 - Bobby Bailey –Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Director of Athletics & Social Media, Eric Benoit – Network & Systems Administrator, Craig Brogan – Carpentry Teacher’s Aide, Steven Cunha – Paraprofessional, Jordan Freitas – Storekeeper, Karen Glover – District Data Specialist, Mary Elizabeth Perry – Parent Liaison, Crystal Santos – LPN Administrative Assistant and Liaison, Colby Sylvia – Technology Assistant, Patricia Tolan – Paraprofessional, Rebecca Ward – ESP/Medical Assistant, Paul Kitchen – Director of Finance and Operations, Brian S. Bentley, Interim Superintendent-Director*

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:48 p.m. to rise into Open Session. Mr. Jennings, Fr. Jay, Mr. DiBiasio, Mr. Begin, and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

It was moved by Dr. Nehra, seconded by Fr. Jay, and voted unanimously to accept all the individual contracts as negotiated, those being *Bobby Bailey –Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Director of Athletics & Social Media, Eric Benoit – Network & Systems Administrator, Craig Brogan – Carpentry Teacher’s Aide, Steven Cunha – Paraprofessional, Jordan Freitas – Storekeeper, Karen Glover – District Data Specialist, Mary Elizabeth Perry – Parent Liaison, Crystal Santos – LPN Administrative Assistant and Liaison, Colby Sylvia – Technology Assistant, Patricia Tolan – Paraprofessional, Rebecca Ward – ESP/Medical Assistant.*

It was moved by Dr. Nehra, seconded by Fr. Jay, and voted unanimously to re-date the contract for the Superintendent-Director, Brian S. Bentley to have an effective date of July 17, 2023. All other terms and conditions of the contract already signed are to be kept in effect.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay, and voted unanimously to amend the contract of the Director of Finance and Operations, Paul Kitchen to reflect his doctorate degree in the amount negotiated, and to enter into an amendment to his contract as negotiated.

It was moved by Fr. Jay, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helena S. Neves

Helena S. Neves, Executive Secretary

Materials Included:

May 17, 2023 Minutes	Admissions Policy JF
Monthly Financial Report	Policy KF & KF-R and Use of Facilities Fee Schedule
Expenditure Report	MASC Updated Policies
Community Projects List	Principal’s Report
2023/2024 LPN Financial Aid Handbook	Superintendent’s Report
	Veteran’s Association of Bristol County Correspondence