

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

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance: Jeffrey Begin of Swansea, Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, Rajiv Nehra of Fall River and Joan Menard of Fall River.

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

Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance, participated remotely.

Absent: Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River

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 Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the December 8, 2022 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

Ryan Nadeau provided the student report which included an update on the current happenings such as clubs, sports and student events. Ryan asked Mr. Rebello if there will be an opportunity to expand extracurricular activities in the new building.

Mr. Matos provided notification through the Google Chat feature that he wanted to provide citizen input on agenda item 3.1.a Personnel- Appointments – Directed Study Tutor.

Mr. Jennings called for Citizen Input.

Mr. Matos asked for the Committee's consideration in creating a Directed Study Teacher or Study Hall Teacher in place of the Directed Study Tutor. Mr. Matos stated that if the intent of the class is to provide lesson plans and direct instruction to students, those duties fall within a teacher's position and not a tutor. The current class size is a challenge for anyone to manage such a high load of students. Mr. Matos further stated that if the intent is to maintain that person as a nonunion employee, that additional support be provided.

Mr. Jennings stated that 3.1.a personnel will be coming up in the agenda for discussion.

Item 3.1 MSBA SBC was tabled. Attorney Brilhante stated that the contract has not been finalized as there is still one issue regarding pollution coverage. He is confident that it will shortly be resolved and

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available for review at next month's meeting. Attorney Brilhante further stated that Suffolk Construction has been very cooperative and have been working right along.

Mr. Bentley reported on personnel. Mr. Bentley stated that most of the appointments are for after school extracurricular activities and are grant funded.

Mr. Begin asked if the directed study class has a requirement to have a teacher, being that it serves as a study hall and students are working on assignments from other classes.

Mr. Rebello stated that because the class is a study hall, there is no requirement to have a teacher assigned to the class. It's a no credit and no instruction class. Ms. Camara is being assigned a mentor that will offer support. Mr. Rebello further stated that the administration is looking at scheduling to reduce the class size.

Mr. Begin asked how the after school extracurricular positions work. Are there set days that staff is staying to provide the support to students and how is it scheduled.

Mr. Bentley stated that students are referred for the extra support and the positions offer an added dimension of help to those students. Mr. Bentley also stated that these positions are grant funded.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Jordan Hubert as an Industry/Business advisory board member of the Electronics Program for a term of three years.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the contract between Mrs. Neves and the District as negotiated.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by Diman LPN Students to use Room 251 Restaurant for a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser to be held on Friday, February 10, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM and to waive the use of facilities fees.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the request by the Veterans Association of Bristol County to use of the Gymnasium for a Basketball Game Fundraiser to be held on Friday, April 21, 2023 from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM and to waive the use of facilities fee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the SkillsUSA State Conference student travel request as presented.

Mr. Bentley stated that he has spoken with the Blythe Egan, Facilities Manager for the Fall River Public Schools and they are providing their facilities for Diman's graduation ceremonies. Mr. Bentley further stated that he has spoken with Mrs. Pontes, FRPS Superintendent and Mr. Pacheco, Director of Operations and they have offered the facilities, security guards, and custodians at no charge and no restrictions. We are finalizing the details with the audio company and have been notified that FREDtv will be live streaming the event.

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Mr. Jennings asked if the event could be livestreamed to the other sending communities.

Mr. Rebello stated that may be a possibility. He also stated that graduation is live streamed on YouTube and the link is shared on the Diman Facebook page and sent to parents.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if it would be possible to work something out with FREDtv to transmit the event on the public access channels of the other sending communities.

Mr. Bentley reported on the Temporary Part Time Cafeteria position. Mr. Bentley stated that the request for this position was a result of a grievance that was filed by the cafeteria staff. Mr. Bentley stated that staff is preparing and serving more meals due the universal free breakfast and lunch. This is a temporary 3 hour per day position that will offer prep support and fill in for staff breaks and lunches.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if this is a union position.

Attorney Brillhante stated that it is a temporary nonunion position that was agreed upon by the union and will be revisited at the end of the year.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that his understanding was that there is a teacher and students from the Culinary Arts Program that work in the cafeteria.

Mr. Bentley stated that there is a teacher and students from the Culinary Arts Program in the cafeteria but to keep in mind that it is a teaching environment and at times may not be able to offer the help needed.

Mr. Kitchen stated that this proposal was a mutual agreement and feels it will be beneficial for everyone.

Mr. Torres stated that the number of culinary arts students in the cafeteria varies depending on absences or other student activities happening.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the posting of the Temporary Part Time Cafeteria Position.

Mr. Bentley reported on the award of the Capital Skills Grant.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the Capital Skills Grant as presented.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the HAAS Machines bid award.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr.Nehra and voted unanimously to award the bid to Trident Machine Tools, LLC of 651 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT as the responsible and responsive bidder for the HAAS Machines for the Advanced Manufacturing Department within the Greater Fall River Regional School District at One Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Two Dollars and 87/100(\$166,872.87).

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Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the monthly financial report, expenditure and transfers reports.

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

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

Mr. Kitchen reported on the Student Activity Agency Account balances. Mr. Kitchen stated that he is working with the class of 2022 advisor to close out the account.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the Housebuilding Sub-Committee report. He asked Mrs. Torres to provide an update on the Community Projects.

Mrs. Torres stated that work on the Community Projects is ongoing and active projects are moving along nicely. The Westport cemetery project is currently underway. A new bathroom is being built and replacement wooden gates will be installed.

Mrs. Torres reported on the 22/23 Housebuilding Project. The first phase of plumbing is completed and framing is underway. Electricity is expected to begin work during the next shop cycle.

Mrs. Torres reported on the 23/24 Housebuilding Project. Mr. Manny Lindo, a local developer, reached out with a proposal to build three houses. The new brochure was approved and will be distributed to local financial institutions and contractors. The car wrap was also approved and will be placed on the school vans.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that the Housebuilding Sub-Committee agreed to have Mrs. Torres meet with Mr. Lindo to gather more information regarding his proposal. Mrs. Torres will report back with the details. The Housebuilding Sub-Committee will review and make recommendations on the project for next year.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that there was nothing to report on the MSBA Project. MSBA Project expenditures will be added to the monthly School Committee meeting agendas for approval. The next MSBA Oversight Committee meeting will be held on January 23, 2023 at 3:30 pm and the MSBA School Building Committee will held on Jan 24, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the MSBA Project expenditures as presented.

Mr. Bentley provided the Superintendent-Director's report.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 9, 2023.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Helena S. Neves

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Materials Included:

December 8, 2022 Minutes
Monthly Financial Report
Expenditure Report
Transfers Report
Student Activity Agency Account Report
Community Projects List
Superintendent's Report