

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
DECEMBER 8, 2022

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: Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River, 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, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

Absent: Jeffrey Begin of Swansea.

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 7, 2022 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

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

There was no Citizen Input.

Attorney Brilhante asked if Members would be in favor of taking item 3.1.o out of order.

Item 3.1.o MSBA SBC Update was taken out of order.

MSBA Borrowing - \$25 Million BAN

Mr. Kitchen reported that the \$25 million dollar bond was put out for sale and had four financial institutions express interest. A vote is required to award the bid to the lowest bidder - Oppenheimer & Co., Incorporated. Mr. Kitchen explained that the bond is for one year and it is based on cash flow between feasibility, KBA, Colliers and about six months of preconstruction costs.

There was further discussion on what the initial project expenditures will be, when sending communities will receive their first project bills and what the long term financial plan for the project is.

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to:

Voted: *We hereby determine, in accordance with G.L. c. 70B, that the cost of the school design and construction project authorized by vote of the Committee duly passed on February 10, 2022, being financed with proceeds of a portion of the Notes, together with all other bonds and notes of the District previously issued to pay costs of this project, does not exceed the portion of the total cost of the project that is not being paid by the school facilities grant and we hereby approve the issuance of notes and bonds to finance this project under G.L. c. 70B.*

Further Voted: *to approve the sale of \$25,000,000 4.50 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (the "Notes") of the District dated December 15, 2022, and payable December 1, 2023 to Oppenheimer & Co., Inc., at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$324,500.*

Further Voted: *that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated November 22, 2022 and a final Official Statement dated December 1, 2022, each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.*

Further Voted: *that the District Treasurer and the Chair of the Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Notes for the benefit of the holders of the Notes from time to time.*

Further Voted: *that we authorize and direct the District Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures and continuing disclosure procedures in such forms as the District Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Notes and to comply with relevant securities laws.*

Further Voted: *that any certificates or documents relating to the Notes (collectively, the Documents"), may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a ".pdf" file or by other electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Document; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the purposes of the Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures.*

Further Voted: *that each member of the Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.*

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Discussion of Contract Negotiations with Suffolk

Attorney Brillhante informed Members that the District is still waiting to hear from the insurance company regarding their recommendations and have not received the documentation needed.

Mr. Kitchen stated that he spoke with a representative from the insurance company and received some recommendations late in the day. He forwarded the recommendations to Colliers for their review. The recommendations primarily address policy limits and who should be responsible for carrying the policy.

Attorney Brillhante stated that a final document will be prepared and brought back to the Committee for approval.

Project expenditures

Mr. Kitchen reported on the MSBA project expenditures.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve the following project expenditures as submitted.

Vote to approve the following Expenditures:

Kaestle Boos Associates		
August	200006.01-2	\$ 770,507.00
September	200006.01-3	\$ 768,857.00
October	200006.01-4	\$ 768,857.00
November	200006.01-5	\$ 768,857.00
		\$ 3,077,078.00
Colliers Project Leaders		
August	781058	\$ 65,820.84
September	788634	\$ 47,942.23
October	798672	\$ 63,752.91
		\$ 177,515.98

Mr. Alix informed Members that as the contract is being finalized, Suffolk Construction has begun working on estimates. An independent estimator, hired by the design team, is estimating the design development set. Design reviews are being conducted and details are being cleaned up based on constructability, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, architectural and site civil perspectives. The document reviews and estimates are expected to be finished by the holidays. The teams will reconvene in the first week of January to reconcile the estimates and have a package ready to submit to MSBA by mid-January for their approval.

Mr. Bentley reported on personnel.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the donation by Mr. David Ferreira, MAVA Communications Coordinator of six “Hands-On Achievement” books to be given to the School Committee Members.

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the donation request by Ms. Emma Watson to donate a 1996 Toyota Camry to the Auto Collision Program.

Mr. Bentley reported on the Fall Advisory Reports.

Mr. DiBiasio asked for clarification on the Physical Education report and the Quill platform.

Mr. Rebello stated that a community wide Wellness Day was held last spring. Events provided mental health and social emotional related activities that promoted social emotional learning, which have been embedded into the curriculum. Quill is an online platform that provides real time student data and is being used in ELA classrooms.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that some of the reports mentioned a possible change in the schedule and asked if Administration is looking to making a change.

Mr. Rebello stated that there have been some internal discussions on the rigidity of the schedule but doesn't foresee any changes.

Mr. DiBiasio asked Mrs. Torres if vocational instructors raised any concerns.

Mrs. Torres stated that there were no major concerns. Mrs. Torres also stated that Advanced Manufacturing solicited an employer, who is on the advisory board, to attend open house and provide parents and potential students with a better understanding of what current manufacturing jobs entail.

Mr. Bentley reported on the After School Adjustment Counselor position.

There was a discussion regarding the licensing requirements, the hours and the scope of functions of the proposed After School Adjustment Counselor position.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve the creation of an After School Adjustment Counselor position and post the position.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the 5 Axis Machining Bid Award.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to award the bid to Able Machine Tool Sales, 253 Silver Street, Agawam, Massachusetts as the responsible and responsive bidder for the 5 Axis Machining Center for the Advanced Manufacturing Department within the Greater Fall River Regional School District at Two Hundred Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Dollars (\$262,770).

Mr. Kitchen reported on the 7 Axis Swiss CNC Turning Center Bid Award.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to award the bid to Marubeni Citizen-Cincom, Inc., 68 Moylan Lane, Agawam, MA as the responsible and responsive bidder for the 7 Axis Swiss CNC Turning Center for Advanced Manufacturing Department within the Greater Fall River Regional School District at One Hundred Sixty Seven Thousand 00/100 Dollars (\$167,000).

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

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

Vendor Name	Requester	Amount	Description
COLONIAL SOUTH CHEVROLET INC	Paul Kitchen	\$56,549.00	Chevy 2500
WHITES OF WESTPORT	Ashley Teasdale	\$26,461.60	Homecoming
HUDI	Bobby Bailey	\$9,400.00	Athletics
CAREER SAFE ONLINE	Maria Torres	\$9,152.00	Vocational Depts
XENEGRADE	John Narcizo	\$8,895.00	Evening School - Software
PLUMBERS SUPPLY CO	Glenn Benevides	\$7,936.42	Building Grounds
PRINTER PRO SOLUTIONS	Sean Bouzan	\$7,140.71	Toner Supplies
SNAP ON TOOLS	Auto Tech	22,000	Snap On Stations (2)
Xerox	Graphics	20,000	Envelop Printer
AIRGAS	Metal Fabrication	8,400	Miller Mobile Arc (3)
PLUMBERS SUPPLY CO	Plumbing	8,000	MegaPress Kit
B&H Photo	AV Club	5,500	AV Equipment
B&H Photo	Graphics	6,500	Photography Equipment
DECA	Ray Machado	\$6,330.00	District 8 DECA

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

Vote to transfer from available funds:

AccountDescription				Transfer From:	Transfer To:
100	2325	4 000	304 Daily Substitutes	123,735	
100	2430	4 513	503 Supplies - HVAC	1,500	
				\$ 125,235	
100	2440	4 513	600 Field Trips - HVAC		1500
100	1210	8 315	603 Superintendent Director - Conferences		2,600
100	1210	8 315	604 Superintendent Director - Miscellaneous Expense		18,000
100	1230	8 550	413 Academics - College Courses		761
100	1410	8 000	408 Business Office - Equipment Maintenance Contracts		5,500
100	2420	4 507	611 Repairs - Drafting		3,101
100	2420	4 527	610 Equipment - Programming & Web Development		438
100	2430	8 500	629 Clothing Allowance		675
100	2453	4 527	508 Instructional Hardware - Programming		200
100	2455	4 550	614 Instructional Software - Academics		4,800
100	2710	4 311	415 Guidance - Promo of Students - Contracted Srvcs		250
100	4220	8 000	405 Maintenance of Building - Alarm Contract		5,000
100	4220	8 557	307 Maintenance of Building - Summer Project Salaries		6,710
100	2455	4 551	614 Instructional Software - English		800
100	2420	4 502	610 Equipment - Auto Mechanics		22,000
100	2420	4 511	610 Equipment - Graphic Arts		20,000
100	2420	4 515	610 Equipment - Metal Fabrication		8,400
100	2420	4 516	610 Equipment - Plumbing		8,000
100	1230	8 500	413 Vocational - College Courses		4,500
100	1230	8 550	604 Miscellaneous Exp. - Academic		5,500
100	2420	4 511	610 Equipment - Graphic Arts		6,500
				\$ 125,235	

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Mr. Kitchen reported on the request by the Culinary Arts Program and the Business Professional of America Club to establish a Student Activity Agency Account.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to establish Student Activity Accounts for Culinary Arts and for Building Professionals of America (BPA) as presented.

Mr. Bentley provided the Admissions Sub-Committee report.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to accept the recommendation from the Admissions Sub-Committee to: *Implement the residency verification procedure to include the school admission residency affidavit for red flagged applications during the SY23/24 application process. Starting with the SY24/25 applications, the school admission residency affidavit will become part of the application for all applicants and the in house residency verification procedure will continue as part of the application process. The following language will be added to the application and to the admissions policy - the District deserves the right to verify residency.*

Dr. Nehra asked why Diman was not allowed to go to Case High School.

Mr. Bentley stated physical access to the building was denied, which prompted written action by DESE. Mr. Bentley and the Superintendent had a telephone conversation and the Superintendent felt that an in person presentation would take students out of classes and that the same information could be shared through a mailing. The District was provided with student mailing addresses and invited to attend open house.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the Policy Sub-Committee report. He stated that the nonunion employee withdrew the contract change request. The policies submitted for review were revised by MASC to reflect the new requirements, clarify language, ensure proper legal citation, and added further appropriate cross-referenced policies.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the following policies: AC – Non Discrimination including Harassment and Retaliation, AC-R - Non Discrimination including Harassment and Retaliation, DB-1 – Regional School District Annual Budget, DB-1-R – Budget - Apportionment of Expenses for Regional School Districts, DBC – Budget Deadlines and Schedules, DBD – Budget Planning, DBG-1 – Regional School Budget Adoption Procedures, DBJ-1 – Regional School Budget Transfer Authority, DD – Grants, Proposals, and Special Projects, DGA-1 – Regional School District Authorized Signatures, DH-1 – Regional District Bonded Employees and Officers, DI – Fiscal Accounting and Reporting, DIE-1 – Regional School District Audits, DJ – Purchasing, DJE – Procurement Requirements, DK-1 – Regional School District Payment Procedures, GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity, GCF – Professional Staff Hiring, JB – Equal Educational Opportunities, JFBB-1 – School Choice, JIC – Student Discipline, JICA – Student Dress, KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools.

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

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Mrs. Torres stated that the Route 24 sign project has been cancelled by the Mayor, as they decided to go in a different direction. Diman students will be fabricating two smaller signs once the Route 24 sign is completed. Mrs. Torres also stated that work is being done on other projects such as the Fall River Masonic Temple, Bio Reserve, Luther Museum and Westport Cemetery. Students in the Carpentry and Metal Fabrication Programs fabricated the selfie stations for the Winter Wonderland at Kennedy Park.

Attorney Brilhante left the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Mrs. Torres stated that the 22/23 Housebuilding project has hit a little snag with the Massachusetts Plumbing Board. She stated that parts of the project are currently on hold due to not having received written approval by Board. The project was presented and received verbal approval. Plumbing is not able to proceed as written approval is required for permitting purposes.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that the Housebuilding Sub-Committee asked Mrs. Torres and Mr. Rebello to work on advertising the 23/24 Housebuilding Project.

Mrs. Torres stated that signage will be made to place on the school vans. The project will also be advertised on the District's website, Herald News, social media and Fred-TV. Pamphlets will be distributed to local financial institutions and contractors.

Attorney Brilhante returned to the meeting at 6:32 PM.

Mr. Rebello provided the Assistant Superintendent-Principal's report.

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

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 12, 2023.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:41 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Jennings, Fr. Jay, Mr. DiBiasio, Ms. Menard and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

a. Approval of November 7, 2022 Minutes

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 – Executive Secretary to the Superintendent/Director/School Committee.

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously on a roll call at 7:01 p.m. to rise into Open Session. Mr. Jennings, Fr. Jay, Mr. DiBiasio, Ms. Menard and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena S. Neves

Helena S. Neves

Materials Included:

November 7, 2022 Minutes
Fall Advisory Board Reports
Monthly Financial Report
Expenditure Report
Transfers Report
Student Activity Agency Account Report
Admissions Residency Affidavit
Residency Verification Procedure
Policies: AC – Non Discrimination including Harassment and Retaliation, AC-R - Non Discrimination including Harassment and Retaliation, DB-1 – Regional School District Annual Budget, DB-1-R – Budget - Apportionment of Expenses for Regional School Districts, DBC – Budget Deadlines and Schedules, DBD – Budget Planning, DBG-1 – Regional School Budget Adoption Procedures, DBJ-1 – Regional School Budget Transfer Authority, DD – Grants, Proposals, and Special Projects, DGA-1 – Regional School District Authorized Signatures, DH-1 – Regional District Bonded Employees and Officers, DI – Fiscal Accounting and Reporting, DIE-1 – Regional School District Audits, DJ – Purchasing, DJE – Procurement Requirements, DK-1 – Regional School District Payment Procedures, GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity, GCF – Professional Staff Hiring, JB – Equal Educational Opportunities, JFBB-1 – School Choice, JIC – Student Discipline, JICA – Student Dress, KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools
Community Projects List
Principal’s Report
Superintendent’s Report