

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMISSIONS POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES  
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA  
NOVEMBER 16, 2022

In attendance: Paul Jennings of Westport and Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River and Jeffrey Begin of Swansea

Also in attendance were: Brian Bentley, Interim Superintendent/Director, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Lois Miller, Director of Guidance and Admissions, and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary

The meeting began with a roll call at 3:01 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the September 6, 2022 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

Mr. Bentley began the discussion of the residency concern that was brought to his attention. The concern is, when a student applicant uses an address, such as a Fall River residence, for the sole purpose of applying to Diman and once accepted, the student's address is changed back to the actual residence address (such as Westport). This is concerning because the applicant is providing false information, taking another applicant's spot and placing the budgetary burden on the town of residence.

Mr. Bentley presented the application verification procedure he created to assist with the concern of residency during the application process.

There was further discussion on how best to implement a residency verification requirement. The concern was that sometimes an applicant's parent may live in a different town/city than the student. The concern also extends to applicants that attend a private school, charter school or are homeschooled in one town/city but live in a different town/city.

Mr. Bentley suggested that a report is generated after the first round of applications and reviewed for any red flags. If any applications are red flagged, they should be sent to Assistant Superintendent-Principal and/or Superintendent-Director for review.

Mrs. Miller stated that a report can be produced right after the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, which would provide enough time to review red flagged applications before records are received.

Mr. Bentley stated that if an application is red flagged for residency verification, the applicant would not lose his/her spot.

Attorney Brillhante recommended adding language to the application to reflect the new residency verification requirement. He suggested "The District deserves the right to verify residency".

Upon further discussion, it was agreed that a school admission residency affidavit will be used as part of the application. For the 2023/2024 school year applications, the affidavit will only be used for the red flagged applications. For the 2024/2025 school year applications, the affidavit will be part of the application and will apply to every applicant.

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

"Implement the residency verification procedure to include the school admission residency affidavit for red flagged applications during the SY23/24 application process"

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMISSIONS POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES  
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA  
NOVEMBER 16, 2022

“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.*”

It was moved by Fr. Jay, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to adjourn the Sub-Committee meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Helena Neves*  
Helena Neves

Materials Included: Proposed Application Verification Procedure