

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
NOVEMBER 7, 2022

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, 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.

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. Notification was not received of intent to record.

Mr. Jennings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the October 13, 2022 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

Ryan Nadeau, Student Representative provided the student report which included an update on the current happenings such as clubs, sports and student events. Student Government elections will be taking place on November 8, 2022.

There was no Citizen Input.

Item 3.4 was taken out of order. Mr. Jennings requested to go into Executive Session.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 5:36 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Jennings, Fr. Jay, Mr. DiBiasio, Mr. Begin, Ms. Menard and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

- a. Approval of October 13, 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 – Assistant Superintendent/Principal

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:19 p.m. to rise into Open Session. Mr. Jennings, Fr. Jay, Mr. DiBiasio, Mr. Begin, Ms. Menard and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

Item 3.1.1 MSBA Selection Committee was taken out of order.

Mr. Joynt provided a brief project update.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra, and voted unanimously to accept the following recommendation:

“The Greater Fall River Vocational School District Selection Committee recommends that the Selection Committee, or its designees, enter into non-fee contract negotiations with Suffolk Construction Company Inc., the top ranked CM at Risk firm, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 149A.”

Fr. Jay left the meeting at 6:28 pm.

Mr. Bentley reported on personnel.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Chapin Dean as an industry/business advisory board member of the Advanced Manufacturing Program for a term of three years.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Jason Lebeau as an industry/business advisory board member of the Drafting Program for a term of three years.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the request by the Diman Bengal Education Foundation to fund the requests made by the Culinary Arts and Metal Fabrication Programs for a holding proofing cabinet (\$3,874) and a Sonates 500S Flaw Detector (\$8,400).

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the donation made by Mr. Verne and Mrs. Muriel Schoonover of various trade tools (estimated value \$50.00) to the Building and Property Maintenance Program.

Mr. Bouzan, IT Director, reported on the Chromebooks Surplus. He stated that most of the chromebooks to surplus are in rough shape and cannot be upgraded to the version 102 which is needed for MCAS.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by the IT Department for the surplus of chromebooks and acceptance of the purchase offer provided by Refreshed Tech.

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by the AAA Driving School to use a classroom for a Driver's Education class on the following dates:

Spring 2023 Session

March 21, 2023 – May 16, 2023 (15 days)
Tuesdays and Thursdays - 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Use of Facilities Fee = \$70.00 per day (\$1,050)
Security Fee = \$63.24 per day (\$948.60)
Spring 2023 Session cost = \$1,998.60

Fall 2023 Session

October 3, 2023 – November 21, 2023
Tuesdays and Thursdays - 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Use of Facilities Fee = \$70.00 per day (\$1,050)
Security Fee = \$63.24 per day (\$948.60)
Fall 2023 Session cost = \$1,998.60

Mr. Bobby Bailey, Athletic Director, reported on the athletic fields – spring sports. He met with staff from Bishop Connolly, Atlantis Charter School, Fall River Parks Department and Swansea YMCA regarding the use of fields for the spring and fall sports seasons. The only available options at this time are Fall River Parks and Swansea YMCA. An estimated budget was provided. Transportation cost is the biggest concern.

Mr. Begin expressed concern regarding the use of the city parks due to the multiple locations. This would pose a safety concern due to the lack of onsite support staff, such as the athletic trainer.

Mr. DiBiasio also expressed concern with the use of city parks. They are public parks which we wouldn't be able to control who attends practices and/or games. One location would make it easier and safer.

Mr. Bailey stated that it would make it easier to have sports at one location. He is concerned about transportation.

There was further discussion regarding transportation, the possibility of purchasing a bus, hiring a bus driver, using school vans, student drivers, staggering practices and condition of fields/facilities. Swansea YMCA is currently performing renovations to prepare the fields for use.

Ms. Hart, Athletic Trainer, stated that if more than one location is used, it is required that each location have an AED onsite. She also stated that it would make it easier to be at one location in order to best support the students and staff. Ms. Hart stated that Swansea YMCA has the ability to accommodate indoor use in case of severe weather.

Dr. Nehra left the meeting at 6:56 pm and returned at 6:58 pm.

Mr. Kitchen questioned if the use of facilities would fall under the 30B provisions.

Attorney Brillhante stated that he was unsure and suggested further research. Attorney Brillhante provided the following motion language in order to not delay the process.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to:

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“Subject to Mr. Kitchen and Attorney Brillhante determining if the use of facilities falls under the 30B provisions. If it is subject to 30B provisions, allow to post the request for bids and if it is not subject to 30B provisions, allow to enter into contract negotiations with Swansea YMCA.”

Mr. Kitchen reported on the mini splits bid. He stated that the units are being purchased using ESSER grant funds and will be installed in different classrooms, Room 251 and the cafeteria.

Mr. DiBiasio questioned the purchase of equipment that will not be able to be transferred to the new building.

Mr. Kitchen stated that areas such as the cafeteria need better ventilation.

It was moved by Mr. Begin seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted on with Mr. Jennings, Mr. Begin, Ms. Menard voting yes and Mr. DiBiasio voting no to award the Mini Splits bid to Air Masters of 59 Turner St., Fall River as the responsible and responsive bidder.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to award and issue a notice to proceed for the Auditorium Rooftop HVAC Bid to Dwight D Silvia HVAC, 250 Ace Street, Fall River as the responsible and responsive bidder.

Mr. Kitchen provided the monthly financial report.

Mr. Jennings asked if 23/24 budget discussions have started.

Mr. Kitchen stated that packets were sent to Administrators and Department Heads and drafts are due back before Thanksgiving break. Mr. Kitchen also stated that the athletics budget will see a significant increase, mainly due to field usage fees and transportation costs. The budget increase will be tied in with Chapter 70 funds.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the expenditures. Mr. Kitchen stated that the Kaestle Boos expenditure is the second request for payment. There was a payment made last month for the amount of roughly \$768,000 which came out of regular appropriation.

Mr. Jennings asked if the payments are reimbursable.

Mr. Kitchen stated the payments will be reimbursed at about 72%.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that it is important for the payments to be made in a timely manner in order for Kaestle Boos to continue their work on the new building project.

Mr. Kitchen asked for clarification on who should be approving the new building project expenditures.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that regular monthly expenditures should go before the MSBA School Building Committee for their approval. The Oversight Committee will approve any last minute expenditures.

Ms. Menard left the meeting at 7:08 pm and returned at 7:10 pm.

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

Vote to approve the following Expenditures:

Vendor	DAC	Total Amt.
ABLE MACHINE TOOL SALES	SKILLS Capital Grant 2.5	\$64,265.00
ABLE MACHINE TOOL SALES	SKILLS Capital Grant 2.5	\$69,625.00
BALANCED LEARNING CENTER INC	Mental Health Grant	\$43,000.00
BRISTOL COUNTY REHABILITATION SERVICES	IDEA Grant	\$9,000.00
CENTURY PAVING CONST CORP	Building Grounds	\$9,750.00
COLLIERS PROJECT LEADERS USA NE LLC	MAIN OFFICE	\$65,820.84
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS INC	IDEA Grant	\$25,000.00
DOCUSIGN INC LOCKBOX	MAIN OFFICE	\$5,500.00
DWIGHT D SILVIA	ESSER III	\$157,300.00
ENGINEERS DESIGN GROUP INC	ESSER III	\$9,500.00
HANDS IN HARMONY INC	IDEA Grant	\$6,000.00
KAESTLE BOOS ASSOCIATES INC	MAIN OFFICE	\$770,507.00
KEYSTONE	Auto Body	\$6,387.33
LEARN BY DOING INC	IDEA Grant	\$8,494.00
LITEMOR	MAIN OFFICE	\$32,580.00
MARLA J SHREFFLER PSYD ABSNP NCAP	IDEA Grant	\$40,000.00
MASS ASSOCIATION OF VOCATIONAL	Title I Grant	\$5,000.00
MASS DEPT OF EDUCATION		\$12,703.82
MSC INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CO	Machine Shop	\$9,102.44
SKILLS USA	VICA	\$17,049.13
SKILLS USA MASSACHUSETTS	VICA	\$5,940.00
SOUTH COAST EDUCATIONAL	IDEA Grant	\$5,000.00
ST ANNES HOSPITAL	IDEA Grant	\$20,000.00
WHALLEY COMPUTER ASSOCIATES INC	ESSER III	\$7,089.23

Mr. Kitchen notified Members that there are two older vehicles a 2002 Ford 250 & a 2002 Dodge Ram, which he would like to dispose of through auction and solicit price quotes for a replacement vehicle

Mr. Kitchen provide the Student Activity Accounts report.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the Housebuilding Sub-Committee report. The garage project is completed. Work should begin next week on the People Inc. project. There are various community projects that students in electricity, plumbing, carpentry and building and maintenance programs are currently working on. Mr. DiBiasio requested that Mrs. Torres be present at the December meeting to provide the Committee with an update.

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Mr. Rebello provided the Assistant Superintendent-Principal's report. Mr. Rebello stated that senior Adam Kettle's PSAT score was one of the highest in the nation. Two Diman students, Sadie Krauzyk and Lylah Thibeault, are finalists in a public contest to create the next city logo. College Day was a great success with over 40 two-year and four-year colleges, universities, trade schools and military representatives in attendance.

Mr. Bentley provided the Superintendent-Director's report which included updates on current happenings in the District, grants and student enrollment.

Mr. Jennings left the meeting 7:17 pm and returned 7:20 pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

Attorney Brilhante notified the Committee that a meeting of the Grievance Sub-Committee will need to be scheduled to address a grievance submitted by the Diman Teachers Association (DTA). A tentative meeting date of December 1, 2022 was agreed up and will be confirmed.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helena S. Neves
Helena S. Neves

Materials Included:

October 13, 2022
Chromebook Buyback Quotes
Swansea YMCA Athletic Field Proposal
Monthly Financial Report
Expenditure Report
Student Activity Agency Account Report
Community Projects List
Principal's Report
Superintendent's Report