

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
August 11, 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, Rajiv Nehra of Fall River and Joan Menard of Fall River. Jeffrey Begin of Swansea was absent.

Also in attendance were: Brian Bentley, Interim Superintendent/Director, Elvio Ferreira, Superintendent/Director, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance and Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel.

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 July 18, 2022 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

There was no Citizen Input

Dr. Ferreira reported that he is waiting for two members to submit the 2022 Mid-Cycle Formative Evaluation.

Attorney Brilhante reported on the proposal submitted to obtain legal services from Nutall, MacAvoy & Joyce Legal Services on Title IX issues. Attorney Brilhante stated that Administration should follow the same process as the Special Education Department when requesting legal services. All legal services requests will be submitted to Attorney Brilhante for initial review. If outside counsel services are needed, Attorney Brilhante will seek such services. No action was taken.

Dr. Ferreira reported that by law the Superintendent's 2022 End of Cycle Summative Evaluation still needs to be complete. Dr. Ferreira stated that he would make himself available to answer any questions.

Mr. Bentley and Mr. Rebello reported on staff resignations.

Mr. Bentley reported on the need to hire a carpentry aide.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that the need for a carpentry aide is significant. This person will support that carpentry instructor at job sites by assisting with teaching, student safety and other duties.

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Attorney Brillhante requested clarification on the position title.

Mr. Jennings stated that the position will be reclassified as a carpentry aide.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the position as a carpentry aide.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to accept the request made by Diman Bengal Foundation to make a direct donation of \$4,650 to the Metal Fabrication and Welding Program in memory of Mr. Roger Cote.

Mr. Bentley reported on the request by the Bengal Foundation to seek School Committee support to raise funds for the CAP Program.

Dr. Warren provided a description of the CAP Program and how students benefit from it.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to accept the request made by Southcoast Physicians Group to donate an assortment of expired supplies to the Medical Assisting Program for practice in the classroom.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mr. Rebello to provide the report on the Skills USA and End of Year Reports.

Mr. Rebello provided an overview of the End of Year reports. Mr. Rebello acknowledged all staff for their hard work throughout the year.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mr. Rebello to provide the report on the School Improvement Plan.

Mr. Rebello provided an overview of the School Improvement Plan. Mr. Rebello stated that the plan encompasses the needs of the school and promotes a welcoming and healthy environment for students and staff.

Mr. Jennings requested that the School Improvement Plan be moved to September in order to allow Members the opportunity to review the document submitted.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to move the School Improvement Plan to the September meeting.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mr. Rebello to provide the report on the Staff Handbook.

Mr. Rebello provided an overview of the Staff Handbook. Mr. Rebello stated that minor changes were made to the handbook.

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
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DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
August 11, 2022

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to accept the Staff Handbook as presented.

Mr. Bentley reported on the request made by the Rotary Club to plant a tree on school grounds to honor a former superintendent.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the request by the Rotary Club of Fall River to plant a tree on the grounds of the new Diman in honor of a former superintendent. This request will be re-submitted to the Committee when the new school building is completed in order to determine the logistics of final placement of the tree.

Mr. Bentley reported on the Staffing Coverage position. Mr. Bentley reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the position and requested that the person appointed be allowed to work from home up to 7 AM and handoff the responsibilities to the Principal.

Mr. DiBiasio questioned who will be responsible to fulfill the duties of the position in the event the Principal is not available.

There was further discussion on who will be responsible to fulfill the duties of the position in the event the Principal is not available. It was agreed upon that in such case, the staff coverage duties will revert to the Superintendent.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to appoint Mrs. Debbie Pacheco as the District Staffing Coordinator for the 2022-2023 school year and to allow her to work from home up to 7:00 am. Coverage duties will be handed off to the Principal and/or Superintendent after 7:00 am.

Mr. Bentley reported on the request by the LPN Program staff to create a Facebook and Instagram account. The new account will follow the guidelines set forth by the social media policy.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the request by the LPN Program staff to create a Facebook and Instagram account. These accounts will be controlled and monitored by the LPN Staff and the Assistant Superintendent/Principal.

Mr. Bentley reported on the request by the Student Government to create an Instagram account. The new account will follow the guidelines set forth by the social media policy.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve the request by Student Government to create an Instagram account. This account will be controlled and monitored by the Student Government Advisor and the Assistant Superintendent/Principal.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview on expenditures.

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
August 11, 2022

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

Mr. Kitchen reported on the Student Activity Agency Accounts.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to accept the active Student Activity Agency Accounts as presented.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to establish Fund Code 306 (Class of 2026) by transferring \$2,500 from Fund Code 300 (Class of 2020 & prior).

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to close Fund Code 300 (Class of 2020 & prior) and Fund Code 301 (Class of 2021) by expending \$1,500 on SY2023 student cookout and transferring the remaining balance to Fund Code 303 (Class of 2023).

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to close Fund Code 605 (Athletic Advertisements) by transferring available funds to Fund Code 703 (Athletics Revolving Account).

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Attorney Brilhante for the Housebuilding/Facilities report.

Attorney Brilhante made the recommendation to have the Committee vote and authorize the Chairman to execute the 2022-2023 Housebuilding Project contract.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to execute the 2022-2023 Housebuilding Project contract as presented.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve the Housebuilding Program Rules and Regulations as submitted.

Mr. DiBiasio requested that the Policy Sub-Committee report be tabled to September.

It was moved by Fr. Jay, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Brian Bentley as Interim Superintendent/Director at a per diem rate agreed upon by the parties.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred the MSBA update to Mr. Tim Alix from Colliers and Mr. Gregory Joynt from Kaestle Boos for a schedule update.

Mr. Alix provided a schedule update and next steps on the project. Mr. Alix stated that currently they are in the early stages of the design and development phase of the project. An application was submitted to the IG's Office and approval was granted to start the process of requesting qualifications for Construction Management at Risk Services. Mr. Alix further stated that once a CM is onboard they will be able to provide a better timeframe for beginning of construction and move in dates.

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Mr. Joynt stated that equipment that won't be able to be moved to the new building will need to be disposed of according to District policy. It will be crucial and helpful to dispose of such equipment prior to the move as this will make it for a smooth transition. Mr. Joynt further stated that the winter break move in is not ideal but is needed to allow the time needed to complete the project.

Mr. DiBiasio provided an overview and discussed the duties and responsibilities of the Selection Committee.

It was moved by Dr. Nehra, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to create the Selection Committee and appoint members as submitted.

Item 3.1.q – Addendum

Mr. Bentley requested approval to post for a Directed Study Tutor. Mr. Bentley stated that this position will be play an active role in providing direct services to students. This person will be a constant and familiar staff to students throughout the school year.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Fr. Jay and voted unanimously to approve and post the Directed Study Tutor position.

Mr. Bentley requested approval to create and post for a Simulation Lab/Clinical Rotation Support Staff person to support the Health Assisting and Medical Assisting Programs. This person is needed to go to offsite locations to support students. This person will also assist staff and students with the simulation mannequin which is an important learning tool that is currently being underutilized.

It was moved by Fr. Jay, seconded by DiBiasio and voted unanimously to approve and post the Simulation Lab/Clinical Rotation Support Staff position.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard, 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. Approve July 18, 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 – District Legal Counsel, Human Resources

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:52 p.m. to rise into Open Session. Mr. Jennings, Fr. Jay, Mr. DiBiasio, Ms. Menard and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
August 11, 2022

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helena S. Neves
Helena S. Neves
(EAF/hsn)

Materials Included:

July 18, 2022 Minutes
Superintendent's 2022 End Cycle Summative Evaluation
22-23 School Improvement Plan
Expenditure Report
Student Activity Agency Account Report
22-23 Housebuilding Project Contract
Housebuilding Program Rules and Regulations