

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA  
ROOM 251 RESTAURANT  
May 24, 2022

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance: Rajiv Nehra of Fall River, Joan Menard of Fall River, Fr. Jay Mello of Fall River, Donald DiBiasio of Somerset and Jeffrey Begin of Swansea.

Also in attendance were: Elvio Ferreira, 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. Mr. Decio Matos provided notification that he was recording.

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 April 21, 2022 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to re-elect Paul Jennings as the Chairperson of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to use the same slate of officers and re-elect members of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee as follows: Donald DiBiasio - Vice Chairperson; Jill Brilhante – Treasurer; Jeffrey Begin - Assistant Treasurer; Helena Neves - Secretary.

Mr. Jennings will appoint the Sub-Committee Officers

Ryan Nadeau, Student Government representative, was not in attendance but provided a written report. Mr. Rebello provided the student report on current happenings such as the powderpuff game, sports, class field trips and prom.

There was no Citizen Input

Dr. Ferreira requested that members complete the FY22 Mid-Cycle Formative Evaluation and return completed evaluations to Mrs. Neves.

Mr. Kevin DaCosta has been appointed as an Electricity Instructor for the 2022-2023 school year at step 10 (\$72,378) of the 2021-2024 DTA salary schedule.

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Mr. Nicholas Desmarais has been appointed as an Advanced Manufacturing Instructor for the 2022-2023 school year at step 9 (\$68,222) plus Masters (\$3,926) for a total salary of \$72,148 of the 2021-2024 DTA salary schedule.

Mr. Richard Medeiros has been appointed as an Auto Technology Instructor for the 2022-2023 school year at step 10 (\$72,378) of the 2021-2024 DTA salary schedule.

Ms. Amanda Pedersen has been appointed as a Biology Instructor for the 2022-2023 school year at step 10 (\$72,378) plus Masters (\$3,926) for a total salary of \$76,304 of the 2021-2024 DTA salary schedule.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Luis Ferreira 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 appoint Mr. Warren Levesque 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 Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Kelianis Ruiz as student advisory board member of the Building and Property Program for a term of three years.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Angel Tavares as student advisory board member of the Auto Collision Program for a term of three years.

Ms. Kristie Garcia, Human Resource Coordinator has submitted her letter of resignation, effective May 20, 2022.

Ms. Stacey Marchand, Cafeteria Worker has submitted her letter of resignation effective June 23, 2022.

Mr. Robert Medeiros has submitted his letter of intent to retire. Mr. Medeiros' retirement will be effective June 30, 2023.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to accept Mr. Medeiros' letter of intent to retire, effective June 30, 2023.

Attorney Brillhante requested that agenda item 3.1.b Individual Contracts be addressed after executive session.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the Canobie Lake Park field trip for the Sophomore Class as presented.

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve Deborah Kenney, James Clarkin and Jeanne Hill as the 2022 Honorary Diploma recipients and Edward Hill as the 2022 Distinguished Graduate recipient.

Dr. Ferreira requested approval of the Committee to change June 21, 2022 to a half day for students and a full day for staff. Staff will participate in professional development to assist with the Google migration.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar change as reported.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the 2022-2023 School Calendar change. Changes were made to align Parent Teacher Conferences with semester dates.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar change as reported.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the request to establish a LPN scholarship.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to contact the individual making the request and have them meet with the Business Office to set up account.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the 2022/2023 LPN Financial Aid Handbook as presented.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the proposal submitted by Mr. Pimentel, Programming and Web Development Instructor to develop a Business Professionals of America Chapter.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to develop the BPA chapter and create a stipend for an advisor.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the request made by Mr. Bouzan, IT Director to offer 3 unpaid IT Summer Internships to assist the IT Department with summer projects.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to accept the proposal for 3 unpaid IT Summer Internships.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the request made by Mr. Machado, DECA Advisor to use the monitors in the school hallways and the school website to sell advertising space to local companies. Dr. Ferreira further reported that Mr. Machado and Ms. Boscombe will be responsible for monitoring all ads and the funds collected would revert back to DECA and BPA.

Fr. Jay asked who can advertise.

Dr. Ferreira stated that Administration will have the final say on who can advertise and the content of the advertisement.

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Ms. Menard stated that she is uncomfortable with this proposal as it brings the commercial aspect into the school. Ms. Menard also questioned who would be responsible for completing background checks on companies.

There was further discussion on the proposal and some of the concerns raised were: who can advertise, how long the ad will run, who will monitor. It was decided that parameters need to be developed. Administration will work with Mr. Machado to develop parameters and will report back to the Committee at the June meeting.

Dr. Ferreira stated that Spring Advisory Reports have been provided to all members for review.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the request made by Mr. Narcizo, Director of Continuing Education to offer the remote instruction option if enrollment deems appropriate.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously offer a remote instruction option if enrollment deems appropriate.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to develop a book club and create a \$500 advisor stipend.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to the accept donation made by the Fall River Garden Club to the Carpentry Program.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to the accept donation made by Kia of Dartmouth to the Automotive Technology Program.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to **not** accept the donation request from Mr. Roland Patenaude to donate a 1959 Caddy and a 1959 Edsel, due to not being able to store them in the shop once repairs have been made.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to accept the donation from Olympus Corporation of Americas of a video measurement system to the Advanced Manufacturing Program.

Dr. Nehra reported on the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion position. Dr. Nehra further stated that 13 applications were received and reviewed. Three finalists were interviewed. One applicant fulfilled the needs of the district and was the most appropriate for the position.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the SRO Memorandum of Understanding which is mandated by law.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if we are paying the SRO's salary during school vacations and summer. Mr. DiBiasio further stated that it is his belief that other school districts only pay for time spent in the building with no benefits.

Attorney Brillhante stated that this contract is more comprehensive and it should be given the opportunity to see how it works out. Attorney Brillhante further stated that the whole SRO program has been revamped due to the mandate.

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to accept the SRO Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the FY21 End of Year Report

Mr. Kitchen reported on the Student Activity Agency Account Financial Report.

Mr. Kitchen provided the monthly financial report

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview on the transfer of funds request.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the transfer of funds request as submitted.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the expenditure approvals

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the expenditures as submitted.

Mr. Kitchen asked if the Committee would be open to approving the purchase of a backhoe attachment for the small tractor being purchased.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the additional expenditure of a backhoe attachment not exceeding \$11,000.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the request from the Diman Boys Basketball Team to use the Gymnasium on Monday, June 13, 2022 for their 3 on 3 tournament fundraiser and to waive the use of facilities fee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the request from the School of Practical Nursing to use the Auditorium on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 and Thursday, June 16, 2022 for the graduation rehearsal and graduation ceremony and to waive the use of facilities fee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request from the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) to use one classroom on the following Saturdays: May 14th, May 21st, June 4th, June 11th and June 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for their College Vocational License Course and to waive the use of facilities fee.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to not approve the use of facilities request by the Resendes Soccer Academy due to preserving the condition of the fields.

Attorney Brillhante left the meeting at 7:59 pm

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Mr. DiBiasio provided the MSBA update. Mr. DiBiasio stated that the last vote needed passed last week.

Mr. Kitchen left the meeting at 8:01 pm

Dr. Ferreira stated that he has notified MSBA of the approval votes and vote certification documents will be mailed. MSBA will provide District with the next steps. Dr. Ferreira further stated that contracts for Kaestle Boos and Colliers will be forth coming.

Attorney Brillhante and Mr. Kitchen returned to the meeting at 8:02 pm

Mr. DiBiasio stated that the School Building Committee will be meeting soon. Mr. DiBiasio is looking to reorganize the School Building Committee.

Dr. Ferreira asked for clarification if the Committee was approving the Kaestle Boos and Colliers contracts prior to their presentations at the June meeting. Dr. Ferreira further stated that both companies need the contracts to be executed in order to move forward.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that Colliers needs to send out specifications and would hate to lose three weeks waiting for the approval of the contracts.

Mr. Jennings stated that the contracts were not an agenda item therefore a vote cannot be taken.

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

Dr. Ferreira provided the Superintendent's Report

There was a discussion regarding the effectiveness of the admissions policy and the requirement of having 3 letters of recommendation as part of the application. It seems as though this is slowing down the process and delaying acceptances. Dr. Ferreira stated that this issue could be revisited as the admissions policy has to be reviewed annually and submitted to DESE for their approval.

Dr. Ferreira reported that there is a time conflict for the June meeting due to the School of Practical Nursing Graduation.

Mr. Jennings stated that an earlier meeting time can be agreed upon in order to accommodate the scheduling conflict.

Addendum to agenda item aa. Other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Mr. Shawn Smith has been appointed as an Auto Collision Instructor for the 2022-2023 school year at step 10 (\$72,378) of the 2021-2024 DTA Salary Schedule.

The following vote is under agenda item "aa. Other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting".

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the expenditure request for the SkillsUSA National Competition travel expenses - \$40,065.

The next School Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2022. Time of meeting to be determined.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 8:23 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the following:

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 - Paraprofessionals, Part-time School Adjustment Counselor, Junior IT Technician, LPN Administrative Support Staff, LPN/ Practical Nursing Program Director, Athletic Director, Division of Continuing Education Bookkeeper, Director of Continuing Education Program, Storekeeper, Cooperative Employment Coordinator, Transition Coordinator, Parent Liaison, ESP/Medical Assistant, District Data Specialist, Evening Security Officer, LPN Clinical, Director of Diversity and Equity, Webmaster*

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously on a roll call at 8:47 p.m. to rise into Open Session. Mr. Jennings, Mr. Begin, Ms. Menard, Fr. Jay, Mr. DiBiasio and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the following Individual Contracts: Peter Beatrice – Security Officer; Steven Cunha – Paraprofessional; Jordan Freitas – Storekeeper; Karen Glover – District Data Specialist; Krissie Harrington – Transition Coordinator; Joan Laflamme - Division of Continuing Ed – Bookkeeper; Kevin Lazaro - CO-Op Employment Coordinator; Cassie Medeiros - LPN Clinical/Lab Educator; Michael Medeiros, Paraprofessional, John Narcizo - Director of Continuing Education; Mary Elizabeth Perry – Parent Liaison; Christine Powers - Part-Time School Adjustment Counselor; Crystal Santos - LPN Administrative Assistant; Colby Sylvia – Technology Assistant; Patricia Tolan – Paraprofessional; Rebecca Ward - ESP/Medical Assistant.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

**Materials Included:**

April 21, 2022 Minutes  
2022-2023 Revised School Calendar  
2022-2023 LPN Financial Aid Handbook  
SRO Memorandum of Understanding  
FY21 End of Year Report  
Student Activity Agency Account financial report  
Monthly Financial Report  
Request for Transfer of Funds  
Expenditure Approvals  
Assistant Superintendent/Principal Report  
Superintendent's Report

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Helena S. Neves*

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