

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA

DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance: Rajiv Nehra of Fall River, Jeffrey Begin of Swansea, and Donald DiBiasio of Somerset. Also, in attendance were Elvio Ferreira, Superintendent Director, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance, and Atty. 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. Decio Matos will be 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 January 13, 2022 minutes and approve them, as recorded.

Ryan Nadeau, Student Government representative, provided a report on current happenings. Ryan reported on winter sports, SkillsUSA and DECA.

Mr. Decio Matos provided citizen input. Mr. Matos asked for the Committee's consideration to go back to in person meetings. He asked that the live streaming options still be made available.

Dr. Ferreira reported that he has received four End of Cycle Summative Evaluation and still needs the two that are outstanding. Dr. Ferreira also reported that the school year Superintendent 2022 Formative Evaluations have been sent and need to be completed and returned. Dr. Ferreira is available to answer any questions.

Dr. Ferreira reported that item 2.1 Grievance Sub-Committee and 2.2 LPN Su-Committee were cancelled due to not having a quorum.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the following resignations:

Lindsey Wood, Girls Tennis resignation  
Catherine Noversa, Freshman Advisor resignation  
Suzanne Raposo, Sophomore Advisor resignation  
Jonathan Root, Sophomore Advisor resignation

Mr. DiBiasio asked what the reason for the resignations was.

Mr. Rebello stated that three resignations were due to work load and having other staff interested in these positions. One resignation was due to personal reasons.

Dr. Ferreira reported that a letter of intent to retire was received from Mr. Michael Valerio, Advanced Manufacturing Instructor/Department Head. Mr. Valerio intends to retire effective January 31, 2023.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the expenditures in excess of \$5,000.00.

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

Equipment - Auto Body	Snap On Tools	\$ 14,450.00
Equipment - Auto Body	Festool Sanding System	\$ 8,704.00
Equipment - Auto Body	Miracle Dent Pull System	\$ 21,995.00
Equipment - Building Technology	SCAG 870J 52"	\$ 9,382.00
Equipment - Carpentry	2022 ITI Cargo	\$ 12,000.00
Equipment - Drafting	Epilog Fusion Cutter	\$ 33,764.00
Equipment - Electronics	GCC Laser Cutter	\$ 21,682.00
Equipment - Health Careers	Arjo Patient Lift	\$ 7,776.00
Equipment - Plumbing	Orion Fuse Machine	\$ 5,055.00
Equipment - Medical Assisting	Virco Flip Top	\$ 5,500.00
Equipment - Dental Assisting	Virco Lab Stools	\$ 7,455.00
Equipment- Metal Fabrication	Doringer Cold Saw	\$ 7,950.00

Attorney Brilhante reported that matters related to MOAs/Contracts will be addressed in Executive Session

Dr. Ferreira reported on the International Club's request for an international trip to the Amazon Rainforest during the 2023 April Break.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request by the International Club for an international trip to the Amazon Rainforest during the 2023 April Break.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the bus contract submitted by Tremblay’s Bus Company 284 Myrtle Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts for the SY2022-23, SY2023-24 and SY2024-25 school years.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the bus contract submitted by Tremblay’s Bus Company, 284 Myrtle Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts for the SY2022-23, SY2023-24 and SY2024-25 school years.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the request for the following transfers:

<b>Transfers</b>		
<b>From Account</b>	<b>To Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Assessments – Vocational	Equipment	\$8,637.00
Maintenance of Plant – Extraordinary	Equipment	\$146,808.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155,445.00</b>

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the transfer from available funds.

Mr. Kitchen reported on the monthly financial report.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the Chapter 70/Minimum Contribution FY23 report.

Dr. Ferreira provided an update on the FY23 Budget. A draft budget is being prepared using the preliminary numbers currently available and will be presented at the March 10, 2022 meeting. A final budget will available at the April 14, 2022 meeting.

Dr. Ferreira provided the Superintendent’s Report.

Mr. Rebello further reported on school updates, initiatives and upcoming events.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Dr. Ferreira to provide the MSBA update. Dr. Ferreira reported that the request for an extension from the MSBA has been granted and a written notification of the approval has been received. The new deadline to submit all community approvals to MSBA is July 15, 2022. Dr. Ferreira is in constant communication with the sending towns regarding this project.

Dr. Ferreira informed the Committee of the option to rescind the December 16, 2021 vote and take a new vote.

Dr. Ferreira read the following language pertaining to the MSBA project vote:

Pursuant to the agreement establishing the Greater Fall River Vocational School District, and the provisions of Section 6(d) of 703 of the Acts of 1962, as amended, I hereby notify you that the following is a true copy of the vote passed by the Regional District School Committee at a meeting held on February 10, 2022:

VOTED: That the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee hereby appropriates the amount of \$293,479,760 for the purpose of paying costs of designing, engineering, constructing and equipping the New Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School and related athletic facilities located at 251 Stonehaven Road, Fall River, MA 02723 including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the Greater Fall River Vocational School Committee. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under and pursuant to Chapter 703 of the Acts of 1962, as amended, the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) seventy-nine and seventy-seven one hundredths percent (79.77%) of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA. No amounts shall be borrowed pursuant to this vote in the event that a member city or town of the District shall express disapproval of the debt authorized by this vote within sixty (60) days from March 22, 2022.

FURTHER VOTED: That within seven (7) days from the date on which this vote is adopted the Secretary be and hereby is instructed to notify the city council of the city and the board of selectmen of each town comprising the District as to the amount and general purposes of the debt herein authorized, as required by the District Agreement and by Chapter 703, Section 6(d), of the Acts of 1962, as amended.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to rescind the vote taken on December 16, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to take a new vote as stated in the new language above.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred the Housebuilding/Facilities Sub-Committee Report to Mr. Jennings. Mr. Jennings reported that the community projects are going well. The advertisement for the FY23 House Building Program was placed in the newspaper. Applications received will be discussed at the March 10, 2022 meeting.

Dr. Ferreira reported on the use of facilities requests.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request from the Diman PTO for the following and to waive the use of facilities fee.

Scholarship Mattress Fundraiser - Sunday, March 6, 2022 from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm (Gymnasium)

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the request from Backstage Dance Academy for the following and to charge the same use of facilities fee as last year.

June 2, 2022 – Rehearsal (3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.)  
June 3, 2022 – Rehearsal (3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.)  
June 4, 2022 – Recital (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)  
June 5, 2022 – Recital (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

(Use of facilities fee – Auditorium & Gymnasium \$1,500)  
(Custodial fee - \$1,380)  
(Security fee - \$969.68)  
Total Cost - \$3,849.68

Dr. Ferreira provided report on calendar of events.

Other items not reasonable anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

Dr. Ferreira reported on the Mask Requirement memo received from Commissioner Jeff Riley on February 9, 2022 regarding the mask requirement in schools. The Commissioner did not renew the mask requirement which is expiring on February 28, 2022. Masks on school buses are still required as this is a federal order. Dr. Ferreira asked the Committee to consider extending the mask requirement two weeks after February's school vacation.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to keep the mask requirement in place for all students and staff through March 11, 2022. Effective March 14, 2022, masks in school will be optional.

Mr. Jennings reported on the Citizens Input by Mr. Matos. Mr. Matos asked the Committee for their consideration to go back to in person meetings and also keep the live streaming options available.

Mr. Jennings thanked Mr. Matos and the viewing audience for their patience and understanding. The Committee will move to in person meetings starting with the March

10, 2022 regular school committee meeting. Meetings will be held in Room 251 and will also continue to be live streamed.

The next School Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2022.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:35 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the following: b. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a), paragraph 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares: Grievance SY 2022-01, AFSCME, DTA

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:39 p.m. to rise into Open Session.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the AFSCME contract, as negotiated.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Helena S. Neves*

Helena S. Neves

Materials Included:

January 13, 2022 Minutes  
Expenditures  
International Trip Proposal  
Bus Contract  
Monthly Financial Report  
FY22 Transfers  
Chapter 70/Minimum Contribution FY23 Report  
Superintendent's Report  
Use of Facilities Requests  
DESE Mask Requirement Memorandum