

Greater Fall River Vocational School District  
MSBA School Building Committee Minutes  
251 Stonehaven Road  
Fall River, MA 02723  
January 8, 2024

In attendance:

Paul Beaudoin  
**Tina Bell** (remote)  
**Brian Bentley**  
Emanuel Botelho  
**Rebecca Collins**

Lisa Desrosiers (remote)  
**Donald DiBiasio**, Chair  
Kathryn Dufour  
**Ed Hill** (remote)  
**Paul Jennings**, Vice Chair

**Steven Kitchin**  
Decio Matos (remote)  
**Joan Menard**  
**Debbie Pacheco**  
**Andrew Rebello**  
**Carl Sawejko**

Also in attendance:

Tim Alix, Colliers  
Charles Roberts, Colliers  
Greg Joynt, KBA

Matteo Batista, Suffolk  
Erin Kenney, Suffolk  
Christian Riordan, Suffolk

Absent:

Neil Arruda  
**Glenn Benevides**  
Myles Brilhante

**Deborah Kenney**  
**Paul Kitchen**  
Thomas Librera

**Tracy Priestner**  
Aaron Soares  
**Maria Torres**  
**Katie Warren**

**\*BOLD –Voting Member**

Mr. DiBiasio called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm

Mr. DiBiasio called for a roll call.

Mr. DiBiasio called for a motion to approve the December 11, 2023 meeting minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Sawejko and voted on a roll call to dispense with the reading of the December 11, 2023 minutes and approve them, as recorded.

***11 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries***

Mr. DiBiasio stated that the Team has prepared a presentation and will be providing an update on the project. Mr. Alix stated that as construction work ramps up, representatives from MSBA will be doing monthly visits and doing a site walkthrough. A construction kickoff meeting will be taking place with MSBA representatives, the District and the Construction Team to discuss the Policies and Procedures of the project.

Mr. Joynt displayed a slide show presentation that included images of project renderings and aerial photographs of the job site. Mr. Joynt provided an overview of the location of the main building, maintenance outbuilding, and the athletic fields. The multi-use fields will be rebuilt in a slightly different location due to the access road and parking. The main athletic field's orientation shifts a little so that it sets into the natural hill. The field surface will be discussed at a later date as it is in the budget as an alternate. The construction schedule has not changed and the targeted move in date remains as the summer of 2026.

Ms. Kenney provided the Suffolk update. Ms. Kenney stated that a Community Outreach meeting held on January 3<sup>rd</sup> was well attended. Some of the questions and concerns raised were about dust control, demolition, construction noise and traffic. KR Rezendes has about twenty workers on site and the work pace is picking up.

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The following work has been completed: School Readiness Parking, Suffolk and Trade Partners mobilized on-site, existing conditions demolition, drainage enabling and construction access road. The jersey barriers will be put in place starting from Locust Street and all the way to the end of the drive lane.

Mr. Joynt displayed aerial photographs showing the progression of the work. Mr. Joynt thanked Mr. Paul Beaudoin for taking the pictures and sharing them. Ms. Kenney stated that as work is progressing the city engineer and the building inspector have been onsite. December 11<sup>th</sup> was established as the drainage enabling work start date and although there were a couple of weather days, work has moved right along.

Ms. Kenney stated that the construction access road has been completed and being used. The loam removed from the site has been put in a stockpile which will be seeded to be used at a later date. Rock crushing process is taking place at the furthest point away from the school to alleviate sound and noise. The next big milestones are the dirt work, excavation, backfilling process and the soil analysis. The soil of the wall against the current parking lot will be retained and stabilized to allow for the foundation wall.

Ms. Kenney stated that the dirt process, which has a crucial sixty day process window, is needed to prepare the site with structural fill product in order for the site to safely hold the building. The process involves excavating anywhere from 20ft to 28ft down, picking up the product, bringing it over to the crushing plant and blending it. After the structural fill is blended, it is tested and if approved it is brought back to the site. Mr. Joynt stated that when the existing building was built, the blasted rock was pushed down to the field causing a lot of void in the back corner of the site.

Ms. Kenney stated that if it all goes well, foundations will start in April. Mr. Bentley asked if weather will affect the timeframe. Ms. Kenney stated that the hope is that there are more good days than bad days. Mr. Joynt stated that the soil process is a balancing act. Finer soil can be used during good days and more rock is used in bad weather. The geotechnical engineer, contractor and materials testing company are onsite every day to monitor the process.

Ms. Kenney stated that several work orders have been submitted to the utility companies. National Grid will be putting in temporary poles and/or relocating others for both temporary and permanent power. The primary utilities for the new building will be coming in off Locust Street. The Hyacinth Street gas line work is expected to start in the summer.

Ms. Kenney stated that school traffic will shift slightly but should remain in place until the summer. Parking accommodations for visitors and Room 251 have been taken into account and spots have been designated for them.

Ms. Kenney stated that concrete and steel are on schedule for April and July.

Mr. Joynt stated that design documents are out to bid for a majority of the work scopes. A couple of requests were received from filed sub-bidders to extend the bid dates. The bids were released strategically to allow for extensions and to answer any clarifying questions.

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Ms. Kenney stated that due to the timing of the next meeting Recommendations to Award may not be ready for approval. The goal is to have RTA's ready by the end of February. The project is still on target for a spring time final GMP.

Mr. DiBiasio informed Members that Mr. Bentley and Mr. Rebello have coordinated with the Culinary Arts Program to have a daily breakfast and lunch menu available for project workers.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Bentley and voted unanimously on a roll call to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Helena S. Neves*  
Helena S. Neves, Executive Secretary

**Materials:**  
December 11, 2023 minutes