

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA  
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance, Joan Menard of Fall River, and Donald DiBiasio of Somerset and Jeffrey Begin of Swansea.

Absent: Rajiv Nehra of Fall River, and Ryan Pacheco of Fall River.

Also in attendance were: Brian Bentley, Superintendent/Director, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance and Operations, Gregory Brillhante, Legal Counsel, Joseph Minson, Student, and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary

Remote attendance: Amy Arruda, Caitlin Bird, Lori Brogan, Kurt Chouinard and Cassie Medeiros

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. Jennings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted to dispense with the reading of the August 15, 2024 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

There was no Citizen Input.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the MSBA project update. The summer work on the drive lane is completed. There are three new sets of stairs of which two are currently being used. Steel is going up. Concrete is just about done. Masons are still onsite. Once one section of the building is done, it will be tarped to allow for inside work during the winter. Mr. Bentley stated that Ms. Kenney from Suffolk has been working with him about installing four televisions in the current building to show a live feed view of the construction site.

Mr. Bentley provided a brief summary of Suffolk Amendment #06 and iGMP #06.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to approve the Suffolk Amendment #06 and iGMP#06, as submitted.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the MSBA project expenditures. Invoices from Colliers, KBA, and Suffolk reflect monthly billing for the project. The Suffolk invoice includes the cost for the over excavation.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditures: Colliers invoice #0000976904 dated 8/31/2024 for the amount of \$142,228.10, KBA invoice #20006.01-26 dated 8/29/2024 for the amount of \$133,156.15 and Suffolk Construction application no. 11 dated 8/31/2024 for the amount of \$6,180,585.99.

Mr. Bentley reported on personnel appointments, Advisory Board appointments and resignations.

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to appoint the following individuals to the Advisory Board of the identified programs for a term of three years: Robin Leatherwood, Culinary Arts/ Payton Pereira, Advanced Manufacturing / Matthew Witzgall, Graphic Communications.

Mr. Bentley reported on the student travel requests.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to approve the out of state student travel request submitted by the Culinary Arts Program for students to attend the Cook Around the World Culinary Competition being held in Orlando, Florida from April 24, 2025 to April 28, 2025.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the overnight student travel request submitted by DECA Club for students to attend the DECA District 8 Competition being held in Hyannis, MA on January 9, 2025 and January 10, 2025.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to reaffirm the approval of the out of state student travel request for freshman players to participate in a football scrimmage at Barrington High School in Rhode Island on August 31, 2024.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the afterhours student travel request submitted by the Diman Soccer Team for soccer players to attend the 28th Annual High School Night being held in Foxboro, MA on October 5, 2024 from 3:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Mr. Bentley reported on the acceptance of gifts. Kurt Chouinard, Advanced Manufacturing Department Head provided further details on the donation of a tool vending machine by Black Hawk Industrial. Diman will own and maintain the machine.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to accept the donation to the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Program by Black Hawk Industrial of a tooling vending machine.

Mr. Bentley reported on the use of facilities requests.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the request by the Diman Alumni Association to use Room 251 for their meetings to be held on 9/12, 10/10, 11/14, and 12/12 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and to waive all use of facilities fees.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the request by Diman Family Advisory Council to use Room 251 for their monthly meetings to be held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for December from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and to waive all use of facilities fees.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the request by Diman Football Team to use the cafeteria for their Team Dinners on 9/12, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/24, 11/1, 11/21 from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM and to waive all use of facilities fees.

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the request by the Rotary Club of Fall River to use the Cafeteria and Room 251 for their Annual Pancake Breakfast to be held on Sunday, November 3, 2024 from 6:30 AM to 12:30 PM and to waive all use of facilities fees.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously approve the request by the Journey Christian Church to use the Auditorium for their Christmas Program to be held on December 6, 2024 and December 7, 2024 and to grant permission to include a Live Nativity on the show date of December 7th.

Mr. Bentley provided a summary of the monthly financial report.

Mr. Bentley provided an overview of the expenditures in excess of \$10,000.

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

Mr. Kitchen stated that a student activity agency account has been created for the Class of 2028. The account for the Class of 2024 will remain open for the time being.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to accept the list of student activity agency accounts, as submitted.

Mr. Begin requested for a historical revenue of the school store. He would like to see those funds go back to the students but wants to make sure all students benefit. Mr. Kitchen stated that he may be looking to use funds to purchase new jackets for the SkillsUSA program.

Mr. DiBiasio provided the Housebuilding Sub-Committee Report. The community projects list includes projects throughout the four sending communities. Work at the house on Tess Abigail Lane in Swansea has started and students are onsite.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mr. Kitchen to provide an overview of the FY25 budget for the LPN Program. Mr. Kitchen stated that this year it won't be an issue. The revolving account has funds to cover the cost of the lease. The issue will be to fund next year's program. The program will need to bring in new students and the lease needs to be discussed. Staffing needs will also need to be discussed. Employees may need to change from full time to adjunct or part-time. Mr. Bentley stated that all the students have been reimbursed. Mr. Bentley further stated that the LPN Sub-Committee will need to meet to discuss the future of the program. Mr. Begin requested that a meeting be scheduled.

Mr. Jennings stated that the Admissions Sub-Committee met and it was decided to file an extension with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to submit the admissions policy. Mr. Jennings requested that a meeting be scheduled once notification of the extension's approval has been received.

Mr. Bentley provided the Superintendent-Director's report which included an update on the opening day, student enrollment, admissions and family orientation night.

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. The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for October 10, 2024.

Attorney Brillhante stated the reasons to go into executive session.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously on a roll call at 6:51 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Jennings, Mr. Begin, Mr. DiBiasio, and Ms. Menard voting yes.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously on a roll call at 7:19 p.m. to rise into Open Session with Mr. Jennings, Mr. Begin, Mr. DiBiasio, and Ms. Menard voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Helena S. Neves*

Helena S. Neves, Executive Secretary

**Materials Included:**

August 15, 2024 Minutes  
Suffolk Contract Amendment #006 & iGMP006  
MSBA Project Expenditures  
Admissions Policy  
Monthly Financial Report  
Expenditure Report  
Student Activity Agency Accounts Report  
Community Projects  
LPN Program FY25 Budget  
Superintendent-Director Report  
MASC/MASS Conference Information