

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
JULY 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee was called to order at 3:19 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance, Joan Menard of Fall River, Rajiv Nehra of Fall River, and Donald DiBiasio of Somerset and Jeffrey Begin of Swansea.

Also in attendance were: Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel, and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

Remote attendance: Brian Bentley, Superintendent/Director, Andrew Rebello, Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Debbie Pacheco, Director of Special Education, Maria Torres, Assistant Principal of Technical Affairs, Katie Warren, Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs, Decio Matos, Elizabeth McPherson, and Elizabeth Hyde.

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 Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the June 13, 2024 minutes and approved them, as recorded.

There was no Citizen Input.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mr. Bentley for the MSBA project update. Mr. Bentley stated that ledge has been found on the main drive lane that will require blasting. A meeting was held on July 8, 2024 to inform neighbors and city officials of the discovery and the plan to address it. Another meeting will be scheduled as soon as there is more information to share. It is imperative that the work on the main drive lane is completed before the start of the school year. The construction team is working against the clock to get the work done as staff returns on August 27th and students on August 28th. Mr. DiBiasio stated that the construction team is prepared to work Saturdays if needed. Construction on the new building is progressing well. They are working on the elevator shafts and masonry is onsite.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to approve the Suffolk Amendment #05 and iGMP#05, as submitted.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the MSBA project expenditures. Invoices from Colliers, KBA, and Suffolk reflect monthly billing for the project. There were also two invoices from the City of Fall River for permits. Mr. DiBiasio asked if the Suffolk invoice includes the cost for the over excavation. Mr. Kitchen stated that it does not as it has not been resolved.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the following MSBA Project expenditures: Colliers invoice #0000959187 dated 6/30/2024 for the amount of \$141,069.85, KBA

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invoice #20006.01-24 dated 6/30/2024 for the amount of \$115,538.00, Suffolk Construction application no. 9 dated 6/30/2024 for the amount of \$5,286,578.43, City of Fall River invoice for building permit for the amount of \$52,818.92 and City of Fall River invoice for the fire permit for the amount of \$19,500.90.

Agenda item 3.1.c-Individual Employment Agreements will be discussed after executive session.

Mr. Rebello provided an overview of the Equity Audit. A proposal was submitted that described in detail what the intent of the audit is. Phase I will consist of a virtual project kickoff meeting to further understand Diman's needs and goals for the SRA and finalize scope, process, and work plan. Phase 2 will gather and analyze relevant data and artifacts to understand the school's current status, approach toward ensuring equitable access, opportunities and outcomes. Phase 3 will be a site visit and stakeholder engagement to collaborate with school leaders to communicate about the SRA purpose, process and engagement opportunities to ensure and increase participation. Phase 4 will be to finalize the report and present key findings. ESSER III/Title I grant funds have been identified to cover the cost of \$67,800. Mr. Kitchen stated that quotes were solicited from three vendors. One quote was higher and one vendor was non responsive. The recommendation is to engage with Mass Insight to perform an Equity Audit during the 2024-2025 school year.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. DiBiasio and voted unanimously to engage with Mass Insight to perform an Equity Audit during the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of \$67,800.

Mr. Kitchen provided an overview of the Belfab Dust Collection System bid award.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to award Akins Machinery, 9 Delta Drive, Unit F, Londonberry, NH 03053 as the responsible and responsive bidder for the Belfab Dust Collection System for the Carpentry Department within the Greater Fall River Regional School District at Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Three Hundred Dollars and 88 cents (\$350,300.88) from the ESSER III grant.

Mr. DiBiasio acknowledged Mr. Kitchen's work in pursuing grant funds to purchase equipment that can be moved into the new building.

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

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

Mr. Bentley began the discussion on the new job description for Systems Administrator/IT Service Desk Lead. This is a reclassification of the Network Administrator position. The new job description is more inclusive to meet the needs of the department. The individual will also handle the website. Dr. Nehra asked what the anticipated pay scale is. Mr. Bentley stated that it would be in the \$70,000-\$75,000 range.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to approve the Systems Administrator/IT Service Desk Lead job description, as submitted

The next meeting scheduled for August 8, 2024 will be rescheduled to August 15, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

Attorney Brilhante stated the reasons to go into executive session.

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It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously on a roll call at 3:44 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Jennings, Mr. DiBiasio, Mr. Begin, Ms. Menard, and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously on a roll call at 4:20 p.m. to rise into Open Session with Mr. Jennings, Mr. DiBiasio, Mr. Begin, Ms. Menard, and Dr. Nehra voting yes.

Agenda item 3.1.c-Individual Employment Agreements.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Dr. Nehra and voted unanimously to enter into an individual employment contract with Bethany Mendes as negotiated, retroactive to July 1, 2024.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena S. Neves

Helena S. Neves, Executive Secretary

Materials Included:

June 13, 2024 Minutes
Suffolk Amendment #05 & iGMP005
MSBA Project Expenditures
Equity Audit Proposal
Expenditure Report