

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES  
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA  
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
OCTOBER 10, 2024

In attendance: Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, Jeffrey Begin of Swansea and Joan Menard of Fall River

Also in attendance: Brian Bentley, Superintendent-Director, Linda Griffin, Director of Guidance and Admissions, Katie Warren, Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance and Operations, Gregory Brillhante, Legal Counsel, and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

Remote attendance: Decio Matos, Cassie Medeiros, Maria Torres and Eric Silva.

The meeting began with a roll call at 5:00 p.m.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Ms. Begin and voted unanimously to approve the May 14, 2024 minutes, as submitted.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mr. Bentley for an overview of the graduation requirements. Mr. Bentley stated that discrepancies were found on different documents. Mrs. Griffin and Dr. Warren worked together on a proposal to correct them. Dr. Warren stated that Mrs. Torres also collaborated and provided the vocational representation.

Dr. Warren stated that currently students need 210 credits out of a possible 240 which equates to 55 credits per year for academic promotion. Students must pass one ELA and one Math course each year. They must pass both 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade science courses and must pass three history courses. In addition, students must pass three courses of CVTE Theory (formerly called shop related) and must pass CVTE Program each year.

Mr. Bentley made the recommendation to replace the current language in all published materials with the proposed graduation requirements and the Student Pathway to Graduation.

Mr. Begin asked how is an error such as this missed. Dr. Warren stated that the policy was not updated since the school moved to a six period schedule. The student handbook and the program of studies were updated but in one instance the full language was not carried over and the other it looks like it was a typo.

Mr. DiBiasio asked for clarification on the three year shop related requirement. Dr. Warren stated that students must pass shop related each year. Mrs. Griffin stated that shop related/theory starts in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if the MCAS ballot questions passes in the November election will it have an effect on the proposed requirements. Dr. Warren stated that it will not impact graduation requirements. It will however, impact the master schedule. Dr. Warren further stated that she provided Mr. Kitchen and Mr. Bentley with two draft versions of the master schedule because it involves potential budget and teaching schedule scenarios. Mr. Bentley stated that the graduation requirements will remain the same but the course offerings will change.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mr. Bentley for the discussion on policies ADF – Wellness and IHCDA – Dual Enrollment. Mr. Bentley stated that the District is looking for clarification from the Sub-Committee on the intent of the athletic study hall. Language included in policy makes reference to an athletic study hall request form for grades 11 and 12 and to criteria that must be met to be eligible. Diman currently does not have an athletic study hall. Mr. DiBiasio stated that a few years ago there was a conversation about hiring a person to oversee the study hall.

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Mr. Begin stated that in the past, the athletic study hall was mostly used by 12<sup>th</sup> grade dual enrollment students who didn't come to Diman at all for classes. In order for those students to meet the PE requirements a study hall was created and assignments were given by the Physical Education Department that they had to complete. Dr. Warren stated that the DESE offers some leeway on the PE requirements if the student participates in a sport and allows districts to give credits for the sport.

Mr. Bentley referred to the minutes of the September 15, 2022 Policy Sub Committee meeting that make reference to the Wellness Policy being revised to include language pertaining to the exemption from physical education if a student plays a MIAA sport. Mr. Bentley requested clarification if it only applies to MIAA or any other sport and if it includes a gym membership. Mr. DiBiasio stated that the PE exemption was only intended for students that played a sport through Diman. If a student doesn't play a sport in a particular season, they would have to take a PE class.

There was further discussion on what would qualify for the PE exemption. Would a gym membership with proof of attendance qualify? If a student only plays a sport for one season do they have to take PE once the season is over. Is the exemption quantified by hours of the sport played vs the hours of PE classes?

Mr. Bentley stated that based on the discussion it is understood that the concept of the athletic study hall was to offer any student who plays a Diman sport to be exempted from the Phys. Ed requirement, and that particular student could take another course if it fit into his or her schedule or opt for an athletic study where they go to study or do homework.

Dr. Warren stated that the dual enrollment policy states that students that take dual enrollment classes can go to study hall during the day. In the past the librarian would monitor the study hall but that position is currently vacant. Dual enrollment students no longer have the option of a study hall. Currently there are students that are looking to take an additional class.

Dr. Warren asked for clarification on what sport level would qualify for the exemption for a student to take an additional class. Mr. DiBiasio stated that any sport, including intramurals, that is governed by the MIAA would be accepted for the exemption.

Attorney Brillhante suggested that Administration draft language for policies ADF – Wellness and IHCDA – Dual Enrollment and bring it back to the subcommittee for review.

Mr. DiBiasio began the discussion of the MASC revised policies. Mr. Bentley stated that the policies were revised to reflect the recent amendments to Title IX regarding discrimination of the basis of sex.

Mr. DiBiasio asked for a motion to recommend the updated graduation requirements and the revised MASC policies to the School Committee for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to recommend the updated graduation requirements and the revised MASC policies to the School Committee for approval.

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Administration will draft updated language for Policies ADF – Wellness and IHCDA – Dual Enrollment and bring back for review and approval.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to adjourn the Policy Sub-Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m.

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

**Materials Included:**

May 14, 2024 Minutes  
Graduation Requirements  
ADF – Wellness Policy  
IHCDA – Dual Enrollment  
AC - R – Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation  
ACA – R – Non-Discrimination of the Basis of Sex Under Title IX Sex-Based Harassment  
ACAB – Sexual & Sex Based Harassment and Retaliation  
ACGA – Civil Rights Grievance Procedure  
ACGB – Title IX Sexual Discrimination Grievance Procedure