

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA  
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
AUGUST 22, 2025

The special meeting of the Greater Fall River Vocational School District Committee was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Chairman Paul Jennings, with the following persons in attendance, Joan Menard of Fall River, Richard Manuels of Fall River, and Donald DiBiasio of Somerset and Jeffrey Begin of Swansea.

Absent: William Flanagan of Fall River

Also in attendance were: Brian Bentley, Superintendent/Director, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

Mr. Jennings called for the roll call.

There was no Citizen Input.

Mr. Jennings introduced Melissa Petrasso as the internal candidate for the Director of Finance position interview. Ms. Petrasso thanked the School Committee for the opportunity. The School Committee members each asked two questions. Ms. Petrasso answered the questions accordingly.

Mr. DiBiasio requested permission to ask an additional two part question. Permission was granted.

Mr. DiBiasio asked how will Ms. Petrasso handle the financial needs of the district as department heads come to her with wish lists. The cost of utilities in the new building will increase substantially which will may impact the budget. Ms. Petrasso stated that she will review wish lists to determine wants vs needs and why are items needed. Mr. DiBiasio asked how Ms. Petrasso will handle the request for additional teachers when there is a possibility of needing someone to maintain the equipment in the new building. Ms. Petrasso stated that she would discuss the request with the Assistant Superintendent-Principal. She would also look at things such as the schedule to see what might be the issue. Ms. Petrasso stated that she would seek funding from the Bengal Foundations, the SkillsCapital grant or any other avenues that could be used.

Attorney Brilhante stated that the reason to go into executive session is for the purpose of approving the amended minutes of the May 8, 2025 meeting.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted on a roll call at 4:20 pm to enter into Executive Session with Mr. Jennings, Mr. DiBiasio, Mr. Begin, Mr. Manuels and Ms. Menard voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted on a roll call at 4:23 p.m. to rise into Open Session with Mr. Jennings, Mr. DiBiasio, Mr. Begin, Mr. Manuels and Ms. Menard and voting yes.

It was moved by Mr. DiBiasio, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Helena S. Neves*

Helena S. Neves, Executive Secretary

**Materials Included:**

Candidate Resume  
Interview Questions