

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HOUSEBUILDING/FACILITIES SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES  
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA  
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
June 12, 2025

In attendance: Paul Jennings of Westport, Joan Menard of Fall River and Donald DiBiasio of Somerset.

Also in attendance: Brian Bentley, Superintendent-Director, Leslie Weckesser, Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance and Operations, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

Remote Attendance: Maria Torres, Jeffrey Cabral and Allison Medeiros

The meeting began with a roll call at 5:02 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Menard and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the May 8, 2025 minutes and approve them, as recorded.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mrs. Torres for the community projects update. Mrs. Torres stated that the community projects went well this year. There are a couple of projects that will move on to next year as there was not enough time to finish them or they weren't ready for us. Students were recognized for their efforts and for the work they did for the Day of Portugal event. The Day of Portugal Committee awarded two scholarships to two Diman seniors.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mrs. Torres for the 24/25 Housebuilding Program update. Mrs. Torres stated that tomorrow will be the last day students will be at the house. A blow test is scheduled for Monday, so that the occupancy permit can be obtained. There was a little glitch today with the smoke detectors that required one small thing to be done to correct the issue.

Mrs. Torres asked permission to hold the open house on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. There are a couple of things that will not be finished in order to complete the home. The homeowner was supposed to sub out all the counters and they did not. They chose to go with a butcher block in the pantry which will not be installed by students. They also decided to go with a laminate top in the laundry room that was not in the original plan and it took some time to install. There was also an issue with their refrigerator/freezer due to the cabinetry measurements being slightly off.

Mrs. Torres stated that the homeowners have been made aware that some things will not be finished because of the change orders they requested. Mr. Bentley stated that there was a meeting with the homeowners to inform them that June 13<sup>th</sup> is the last day that students will be onsite. They understood that some things will not be finished and apologized for the delays on their part. Mrs. Torres stated that there were some contributing factors to things not being finished that have been handled along the way otherwise the project may have been in worse shape. Everybody has been out there working diligently and effectively, so that the home can be left in god shape for the homeowners.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to hold the 24/25 Housebuilding Program Open House on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

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Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mrs. Torres for the 25/26 Housebuilding Program update. Mrs. Torres stated that she and Mr. Cabral have met with the homeowners to review the contract. Attorney Brilhante has also reviewed it. The contract has been signed by the homeowners and is ready for Mr. Jennings' signature. Lessons learned during the 24/25 house build were accounted for in the contract for next year's project.

Mrs. Torres stated that the homeowner expressed a desire to purchase the kitchen cabinets. Mrs. Torres and Mr. Cabral discussed it and thought it was the best thing for the upcoming year with the move to the new school and the shop preparing for the transition. The vanities will be built by Diman students. Mr. DiBiasio agreed that for the 25/26 project it makes more sense to have the homeowners purchase the kitchen cabinets but he would like to see the students go back to building them in the future.

Mrs. Torres stated that language was added to the contract that purchases of materials and appliances need to be made by December and need to be made in collaboration with Jeff Cabral, so that he can collaborate with all of the other trades.

Mr. Jennings asked why the language pertaining to CORI checks was removed. Attorney Brilhante stated that the language was repetitive and is listed in paragraph six.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to approve the 25/26 Housebuilding Program contract as written.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Jennings, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 PM.

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

**Materials Included:**  
May 8, 2025 minutes  
Community Projects List  
25/26 Housebuilding Contract