

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
AUGUST 14, 2025

In attendance: Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, Jeffrey Begin of Swansea and Paul Jennings of Westport.

Also in attendance: Brian Bentley, Superintendent-Director, Leslie Weckesser, Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Jennifer DeMariano, Assistant Principal of Technical Affairs, Linda Griffin, Director of Guidance and Admissions, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel, and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

Remote attendance: Decio Matos

The meeting began with a roll call at 4:45p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted to approve the May 8, 2025 minutes, as submitted.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mr. Bentley for an overview of Policy IHAQA-R – Rules and Regulations to be followed by the owner during the construction of a home to be built by the school. Mr. Bentley stated that the policy was revised to change the amount of the general liability as follows: Products/Completed Operations Aggregate was reduced from \$2,000,000 to \$1,000,000 and the General Aggregate was also reduced from \$2,000,000 to \$1,000,000. This change was due to homeowners being unable to get the coverage.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to approve Policy IHAQA-R – Rules and Regulations to be followed by the owner during the construction of a home to be built by the school, as submitted and make the recommendation to the School Committee for approval.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Mrs. Weckesser for an overview of the changes made to the Employee Handbook. Mrs. Weckesser stated that the approved Vision of the Graduate has been added to the handbook and will be included in all documents. A new logo will be redesigned by students.

Mrs. Weckesser stated that the faculty expectations were updated in the handbook. Language outlining topics such as staff attendance, Diman property, interaction with students, acceptable use of social media was added. It is important that staff know the expectations ahead of time before they can meet them.

Mrs. Weckesser stated that another topic that was updated through some work with the team was student behavior classifications. The intent was to make it clear with staff, give them some best practices and things that they should be trying before further action is taken.

Mrs. Weckesser stated that the section on reporting absences and lunch schedules were also updated.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if the proposed employee handbook was shared with the unions. Mrs. Weckesser stated that she did not but does not have a problem going back to them if there is an issue. Misuse of sick time is in the teachers' contract but it was not included in the handbook.

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Mr. Begin asked if progressive discipline is standard across the board. Mrs. Weckesser stated that it is and it is consistent between the three unions. Mrs. Weckesser stated that the goal of the updated employee handbook is to maintain consistency for everyone.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to approve the FY26 Employee Handbook, as submitted and make the recommendation to the School Committee for approval.

Mr. Jennings asked if the name change of positions is still being considered. Mr. Bentley stated that a group needs to be put together to review job descriptions. Once reviewed they will need to be presented to the unions for collective bargaining.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to adjourn the Policy Sub-Committee meeting at 4:56 p.m.

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

Materials Included:

May 8, 2025 Minutes

Policy IHAQA-R – Rules and Regulations to be followed by the owner during the construction of a home to be built by the school

FY26 Employee Handbook