

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF LPN SUB-COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
OCTOBER 9, 2025

In attendance: Jeffrey Begin and Joan Menard.

Absent: William Flanagan

Also in attendance: Donald DiBiasio, School Committee Member, Brian Bentley, Superintendent-Director, Leslie Weckesser, Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Melissa Petrasso, Director of Finance, Lisa Young, LPN Program Director, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

Remote attendance: Barbara Pitera

The meeting began with a roll call at 4:03 PM.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the December 12, 2024 minutes and approve them as recorded.

Mr. Begin began the discussion about the LPN Program. There are options that can be looked at going forward. Some of the questions to this of are: do we move forward with a full-time program; do we go to a part-time program or do we scrap the program altogether? The lease for the current location is ending and its cost is more than what the program can take on financially.

Mr. Bentley has presented an option of relocating the program to Bristol Community College (BCC). Mr. Begin, Mr. Bentley and Mrs. Young met yesterday at BCC to look at their health assisting space. Although the space was well organized it may not be the best option for our program. An empty space would be a better option considering that we already have all the equipment. We did look at some open spaces that are available and would meet our needs. Mr. Begin stated that BCC is looking to utilize Diman facilities for some of their trade-related programs.

Mr. Begin stated that relocating the program might be a viable option but wanted to review the program's expenses and revenue prior to making a decision.

Ms. Petrasso stated the expense report provided is for FY25. It includes expenses such as the cost of the lease, salaries, and other things such as payroll fees that are absorbed by the District. The audit fee of \$4,900 was also included in case the program was going to sustain on their own. A breakdown of the health insurance benefit was also provided. Currently, there are three employees that do not take the health insurance offered by the District but receive the \$3,000 incentive and two employees that take the individual plan. If a person is hired to replace a current employee and they take the family plan, that would be an additional cost of about \$27,000 to \$32,000 per year. Ms. Petrasso further stated that if all employees were to take the family plan it would be an additional \$130,000 expense.

Ms. Petrasso provided a summary of the program revenue. Chapter 70 funding is based on the past year's enrollment of the part-time program. Revenue for the part-time program was collected during the first year of the program. Revenue received from student tuition and fees would equate to \$496,000.00 Based on the October 1, 2024 census, the Chapter 70 funds would be \$204,552.00.

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Mr. Begin stated the based on the information received, he will present an overview of the discussion to the School Committee but will not recommend any changes at this time.

Ms. Petrasso stated that if the program is fully staffed the salaries would be about \$419,000 plus benefits.

Mr. Begin stated that other districts have dissolved their programs due to the cost and restrictions of running the program. In order for the program to continue the District needs to ensure that it is financially feasible.

Mr. Begin stated that an option to consider would be to open an evening school program. Mrs. Young stated that an evening school program would require a program administrator. Mrs. Young further stated that the current staff have not demonstrated any interest in the evening program.

Mr. Bentley stated that BCC is a good option for the program. Mr. Begin asked what would happen if BCC doesn't want to use the Diman facilities anymore. Mr. Bentley stated the President Harris (BCC) is very much interested in using Diman as a skill center to offer college students the opportunity to study a trade.

Mr. Begin asked what is the liability for BCC to use Diman and would Diman need additional insurance for BCC. Mr. Bentley stated that they would assume the same liability as the evening school program. Attorney Brilhante stated that liability insurance needs to be looked at carefully so that there no issues.

Mrs. Young stated that she needs to notify the Board of Nursing of the program's change in location. Mr. Bentley stated that the discussion with BCC will move forward. Mr. Begin stated that the program can't run on a financial deficit as the District cannot continue to take the financial hit.

Mr. Bentley asked Mrs. Young if there has been any student interest for next year. Mrs. Young stated that the program receives at least four phone calls per day. Due to not knowing the status of the program, recruitment is behind, there have been no info sessions and TEAS testing has not been administered.

Mr. Begin is hopeful that the closing of other programs will be a benefit to our program.

Mrs. Young stated that ACEN is schedule for a site visit in March. Mr. Begin stated that the visit should not be an issue as they can review the program in its current state and location.

Mr. Begin stated that he will provide the School Committee with an update on today's discussion.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to adjourn the LPN Sub-Committee meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helena Neves
Helena Neves, Executive Secretary

Materials:

December 12, 2024 minutes

Financial Analysis

Building Lease