

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF LPN SUB-COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING  
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA  
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
DECEMBER 12, 2024

In attendance: Jeffrey Begin and Joan Menard.

Also in attendance: Donald DiBiasio, School Committee Member (4:18PM), Brian Bentley, Superintendent-Director, Leslie Weckesser, Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Paul Kitchen, Director of Finance and Operations, Lori Brogan, LPN Program Director, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

Remote attendance: Decio Matos, Liz Hyde, Crystal Santos, Cassie Medeiros, Stephen Alves, Caitlin Bird, and Kimberly Harrison.

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 October 10, 2024 minutes and approve them as recorded.

Mr. Begin stated that the intent of the meeting is to discuss the LPN Program and how to move forward. Mr. Bentley stated that an update was provided in the packets and deferred to Mrs. Brogan for a summary. Mrs. Brogan stated that currently there are 15 students enrolled in the part-time program. Students are doing well and just about finished with the third term. The goal is for them to graduate in June. Seventeen students have been accepted for the full time program in the 25/26 school year. All seventeen students have paid the \$500 seat fee. These seventeen students were given priority as they were from 24/25 full time program that was suspended.

Mrs. Brogan stated that four potential students attended an info session that was held on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Information sessions will be held on a monthly basis as part of recruitment. TEAS tests will be administered two times per month. An Open House will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Mrs. Brogan stated that it will not be an issue in recruiting the remainder of potential students to fill the 35 seats in the program. Interest in the program typically picks up in the new year. There have been a lot of phone calls asking about the program. A total of 124 applications were received for the 24/25 school year. Mrs. Brogan further stated that the current faculty plan to stay and are actively working on a plan for the upcoming school year. The hiring of a permanent director may be the biggest issue the program will face.

Mrs. Brogan stated that an Advisory Board meeting was held last week and it was well attended by members of the community. They expressed concern about the future of the program and asked that it not be closed or suspended. Closing the program would have a detrimental effect to the local nursing homes, health facilities and medical centers. State programs are offering help to students as there's a great need for LPN's.

Mrs. Brogan reiterated that she does not believe that filling the 35 seats will be an issue. She has been a strong advocate of the program and will continue to be at her new employment. Mrs. Brogan thanked members for the support given during her time as program director.

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Ms. Menard asked if the program goes to the local middle schools to encourage 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to get into the field. Mrs. Brogan responded that recruiting starts at the local high schools and college fairs. A new brochure promoting the LPN Program has been developed and will be distributed to the local high schools. The brochure provides prospective students with detailed information about the program and the LPN occupation. Ms. Menard suggested bringing in graduates of the program to talk to students. Mr. Bentley stated that the current staff have a strong skill set and will be able to support the students. The program is well known in the community and its reputation will surely help with recruiting.

Mr. Begin and Ms. Menard thanked Mrs. Brogan for the great job she has done and wished her well in her new position.

Mr. Begin deferred to Mr. Bentley for the program director position and the ACEN accreditation update. Mr. Bentley stated that Barbara Pitera has been appointed as the interim LPN Program Director. Mrs. Pitera has been meeting with Mrs. Brogan to be brought up to speed on the program, concerns and any pending certifications. Mr. Bentley stated that the ACEN accreditation report is not due until December. Mrs. Brogan stated that she has completed four out of the five standards in preparation for the ACEN site visit in October.

Mrs. Brogan thanked everyone for the support and is hopeful for the successful continuation of the LPN Program.

Mrs. Weckesser asked if the LPN Program participates in the Diman Open House. Mrs. Brogan stated that the LPN Program holds their own open house.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to adjourn the LPN Sub-Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Helena Neves*  
Helena Neves

**Materials:**

October 10, 2024 minutes  
LPN Program Update