

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES  
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA  
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM  
MAY 8, 2025

In attendance: Donald DiBiasio of Somerset, Jeffrey Begin of Swansea (arrived at 5:34) and Paul Jennings of Westport.

Also in attendance: Brian Bentley, Superintendent-Director, Leslie Weckesser, Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Katie Warren, Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs, Barbara Pitera, Interim LPN Director, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel, and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

Remote attendance: Michael Zajac, Crystal Santos, Cassie Medeiros, Stephanie Ferreira, Stephen Alves, Liz Hyde and Lisa Young.

The meeting began with a roll call at 4:33 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Mr. Jennings and voted to approve the December 12, 2024 minutes, as submitted. *Mr. Jennings abstained.*

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mr. Zajac for an update on the changes made to the 25/26 Student Handbook. Mr. Zajac stated that changes included grammar edits and updated website links. Mr. Bailey's job title was also corrected. Language pertaining to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in school was added to read: Assistance from an AI system is not allowed when it interferes with the educational objectives or assessment of a submitted work. The use of generative AI to complete one's work can also be forbidden at the discretion of the student's teacher. Students who use any generative AI systems without teacher approval and proper citation are subject to consequences that fall under the academic dishonesty policy. This language was added as a beginning policy to bring attention to the importance of using AI responsibly. The other change that was made was to the dismissal policy. The change will align student unexcused dismissals with the present unexcused tardy policy. Unexcused dismissals shall not exceed three (3) in semester. Exceeding the limit will result in discipline similar to the tardiness policy.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to accept the 25/26 Student Handbook as submitted and make the recommendation to the School Committee for approval.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Ms. Pitera for an update on the changes made to the 25/26 LPN Student Guidelines. Ms. Pitera stated that three major changes were made. The school year dates were changed. The title of the director was changed to Program Administrator to be in line with the Board of Registration in Nursing and the accrediting agencies. Any language referencing to the part-time program was removed due to the suspension of the program.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if the part-time program will be reinstated. Mr. Bentley stated that the part-time program was suspended due to the lack of faculty. Mr. Begin stated that the goal is to bring back the part-time program.

It was moved by Mr. Begin, seconded by Mr. Jennings, and voted unanimously to accept the 25/26 LPN Student Guidelines as submitted and make the recommendation to the School Committee for approval.

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Mr. Bentley stated that the 25/26 Financial Aid Handbook, which informs students about the availability of financial aid, costs and how to apply, was updated to reflect the correct dates and grammar.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to accept the 25/26 LPN Financial Aid Handbook, as submitted and make the recommendation to the School Committee for approval.

Mr. Bentley deferred to Dr. Warren for a summary of the proposed policy - KBA-1 – Family Engagement. Dr. Warren stated that the Family Engagement Policy is a Title I requirement. The revised policy is more comprehensive and it addresses items such as family rights, the school-family compact, translation services and student academic needs.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to accept the Family Engagement Policy (KBA-1), as submitted and make the recommendation to the School Committee for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Begin, and voted unanimously to adjourn the Policy Sub-Committee meeting at 4:44 p.m.

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

**Materials Included:**

December 12, 2024 Minutes  
25/26 Student Handbook  
25/26 LPN Student Guidelines  
25/26 LPN Financial Aid Handbook  
Policy KBA-1 – Family Engagement