

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF LPN SUB-COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
NOVEMBER 13, 2025

In attendance: Jeffrey Begin, Richard Manuels, and Joan Menard.

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

Remote attendance: Decio Matos and Crystal Santos

The meeting began with a roll call at 4:34 PM.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Manuels and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the October 9, 2025 minutes and approve them as recorded.

Mr. Begin began the discussion about the LPN Program. The lease for the current location is up in June. There have been discussions and visits to BCC as an option. Mr. Begin stated that BCC is looking to utilize the Diman facilities for an HVAC evening class. Mr. Manuels asked for clarification. Mr. Bentley stated that BCC has requested to use Diman for their evening program and have submitted a proposal where they will pay a \$300 fee per session. BCC has agreed to charge Diman the same rental fee to use their facilities for the LPN Program.

Mr. Begin stated that relocating the program to BCC has many benefits. There is ample parking, there's a cafeteria and a library that the LPN students have access to. Mr. Begin further stated that BCC has bent over backwards to find the space that best accommodates our needs. Mrs. Menard agreed that BCC offers a great postsecondary atmosphere to the students.

Mr. Begin stated that he met with Ms. Petrasso to review the program's financials. The program will take a loss for FY25 due to the cost of the lease. Mr. Manuels asked how much the lease is. Mr. Begin stated that it's about \$160,000. Mr. Begin further stated that the program may see a little bit of a profit for FY26 without the high cost of the lease. The financial status of the program in FY27 will depend on the amount of in-district students enrolled. Although, the in-district students pay less tuition, the program receives Chapter 70 funds. The program is not looking to make money but it does need to cover the expenditures, including salaries and health insurance benefits.

Mr. Begin stated that based on all the facts presented, he is ready to make a recommendation to the School Committee to relocate the program to BCC. Attorney Brillhante asked if the District is ready to enter into negotiations with BCC. Mr. Bentley stated that it would be a two-step recommendation. One would be to make the recommendation to the School Committee for approval of relocating the program and the other would be to enter into a contract negotiations with BCC.

Attorney Brillhante asked if there is a notice requirement for the current lease. Mr. Bentley stated that he's not sure. The lease ends in June and an RFP would have to be issued if Diman was interested in staying at that location. Mr. Begin stated that this is the best time to relocate the program.

Mr. Manuels asked what will the logistics of the move be. Mr. Begin stated that the move is dependent on when the construction could be done at BCC. Mr. Bentley stated that BCC has submitted a proposed layout according to the rooms that were seen during today's visit. Attorney Brillhante stated that the logistics of the move

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need to be well coordinated to make it for a smooth transition. Mr. Bentley stated that the District intends to hire a moving company. Mr. Bentley stated that he will oversee the move.

Mr. Bentley stated that he and Mrs. Young met with the Massachusetts Board of Nursing to get clarification on a couple of questions regarding the move. They will be notified of the new location and petitioned to visit the program. Mr. Bentley stated that Diman will be responsible for modifications that need to be done to meet the needs of the program.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Manuels and voted unanimously to pursue the relocation of the LPN Program to BCC.

Mr. Begin asked if a secondary motion was needed to engage in contract negotiations relative to that prospective move. Attorney Brillhante stated that the secondary motion can be made by the School Committee.

Mr. Begin stated that the BCC partnership is a great opportunity for the program and it's students and staff.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Manuels, and voted unanimously to adjourn the LPN Sub-Committee meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helena Neves
Helena Neves, Executive Secretary

Materials:
October 9, 2025 minutes