

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

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

Also in attendance: Joan Menard, School Committee Member, Brian Bentley, Superintendent-Director, Leslie Weckesser, Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel, and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

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

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Begin and voted to approve the August 14, 2025 minutes, as submitted.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mr. Bentley for an overview of policies ECAB – Access to Building and Grounds, EFBA – School Food and Nutrition – Meal Modifications, GBEBEC – Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff, JFABG – Admission of Staff Children, JJE – Student Fundraising Activities, KBE – Relations with Parent Organizations, KBG – Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and KI – Visitors to the Schools.

Mr. Bentley stated that policy ECAB is a new policy developed by MASC that addresses access to buildings and grounds. This is something that is covered by Diman's use of facilities policy. Policy EFBA is also a new MASC policy that addresses meal modifications. Policy GBEBEC was revised to include language pertaining to raffles and games of chance.

Mr. Bentley stated that Policy JFABG- Admission of Staff Children Attending Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School is being proposed as a result of the updated Admissions Policy and due to the admissions lottery. Policy JFABG gives priority admission to staff children. Mr. DiBiasio stated that he is in agreement with the proposed policy but feels it should include language regarding discipline. Mr. DiBiasio further stated that staff children should meet the same criteria as other applicants. Attorney Brilhante asked what effect will Policy JFABG have on admissions. Mr. Bentley stated that if the policy is approved, some seats will have to be set aside. Mr. Jennings stated that the School Committee sets the number of students to be enrolled and can adjust the number if needed.

Mr. Bentley stated that the following language will be added to the policy and brought back for approval: *Children of Staff who apply to Diman must meet the same criteria as all other applicants in accordance with the Admissions Policy.*

Mr. Bentley stated that Policy JJE was updated to reflect the state law regarding students and student groups participating in or organizing raffles or games of chance. Students cannot sell raffle tickets. Mr. Jennings asked how does this update affect the raffles usually held at Diman. Mr. Bentley stated that the Bengal Education Foundation can sponsor such raffles as long as students are not selling tickets.

Mr. Bentley stated that Policy KBE was updated to also include language about compliance with conducting raffles and games of chance.

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Mr. Bentley stated that Policy KBG is a new MASC policy that addresses the Massachusetts General Law that requires districts to have parent advisory councils for the Special Education (SEPAC) and English Learner (ELPAC) populations. Diman has a SEPAC and is looking to create an ELPAC.

Mr. Bentley stated that Policy KI has been updated to ensure that districts are in compliance and adhere to safety regulations for visitors.

Mr. Begin asked for a status update on the competency determination policy. Mrs. Weckesser stated that the competency determination policy will be brought forth in November. The Governor has asked districts hold off on submitting the policy as the state will be developing a model and making recommendations. There is a lot of discussion about adding a common final exam, a capstone project or a portfolio as a graduation requirement. There's also a lack of guidance for vocational schools on the comprehensive final exam and how to administer it.

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:**

August 14, 2025 Minutes

Policies:

ECAB – Access to Building and Grounds

EFBA – School Food and Nutrition – Meal Modifications, GBEBC – Gifts to and Solicitations by Staff

JFABG – Admission of Staff Children

JJE – Student Fundraising Activities

KBE – Relations with Parent Organizations, KBG – Parent Advisory Councils (PACs)

KI – Visitors to the Schools.