GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOUSEBUILDING/FACILITIES SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
FEBRUARY 12, 2026

In attendance: Paul Jennings of Westport, Joan Menard of Fall River and Donald DiBiasio of Somerset.

Also in attendance: Brian Bentley, Superintendent-Director, Leslie Weckesser, Assistant Superintendent-Principal, Jennifer DeMariano, Assistant Principal of Technical Affairs, Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary.

Remote Attendance: Jeffrey Cabral

The meeting began with a roll call at 5:00 p.m.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Jennings, and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the January 8, 2026 minutes and approve them, as recorded.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Ms. DeMariano for the community projects update. Ms. DeMariano noted that that a mini-split system was installed at the Fall River Police Department and the project is now complete. The HVAC Program students have since transitioned to the Somerset project. Drafting students are currently preparing laser-engraved plaques for the directory sign at the Government Center. Programming and Web students have completed the Diman Alumni website and are waiting on some assets to build the child pages of the website. In Somerset, work at the Water Department is ongoing. Electrical students have completed pre-wiring and inspections have been completed. Facilities Management students have constructed and insulated walls and are currently installing sheetrock, with painting scheduled after vacation. HVAC students are installing a mini-split system and will return to complete final installations once electrical work and inspections are finished.

Mr. DiBiasio reported that he discussed with Barry Fontaine, Somerset Recreation, the request to replace the shed project, which has been on the docket for two years without coming to fruition, with the Pierce Beach project. Mr. Fontaine is seeking to replace the existing gate shed due to its condition.

Ms. DeMariano noted that included in the packets was a four-page supplement that provides visual updates on the house project. The photos reflect progress as of approximately two weeks ago, with no updates available since then.

Mr. DiBiasio deferred to Mr. Cabral for 25/26 the Housebuilding Program update. Mr. Cabral noted that the house project is progressing well overall. Electrical work is approximately 75% complete, and plumbing is expected to have a rough inspection tomorrow. A rough electrical inspection is anticipated by the end of the week following vacation. Final carpentry framing inspection will follow, with insulation scheduled to begin approximately two weeks after vacation. Insulators will also be completing sheetrock installation and plastering over the two-week period. Exterior work is ongoing, with vinyl siding currently in progress while interior work is mostly complete.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if students will be able to do any of the sheetrock installation. Mr. Cabral noted the plan is to reserve several basement walls for student participation to provide practical learning experience.

Mr. DiBiasio asked if the septic system has been installed. Mr. Cabral noted that the well pump and the pressure tank in the house have been installed. The septic system has not yet been installed due to the ground conditions.

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Mr. DiBiasio began the discussion of the 26/27 Housebuilding Program. Mr. Jennings asked if the program has been advertised. Ms. DeMariano noted that the advertisement has been posted on the website but hasn't been pushed out further than that. Graphics students are developing postcard designs, similar to what was done for community work materials. Ms. DeMariano further noted that she is looking to include social media campaigns and branding of school vehicles. Mr. Cabral added that he is available to assist with advertising and any other project details that will help the program.

Mr. DiBiasio stated that it is important that the square footage of the house is reasonable for the students to complete the work. Mr. Cabral noted that the goal is to avoid projects that are too technical and too high so that students are able to complete the work.

Mr. DiBiasio asked Mr. Cabral if there were any delays due to the weather. Mr. Cabral responded that the homeowners had done a great job keeping the site clean. He noted that the roof presented a challenge, but the students are working around it.

Mr. Cabral suggested reaching out to local nonprofit organizations, such as People Inc. or Community Connections, to gauge their interest in having a project built for them.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 PM.

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

Materials Included:
January 8, 2026 minutes
Community Projects List