GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF LPN SUB-COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
251 STONEHAVEN ROAD, FALL RIVER, MA
DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
APRIL 9, 2026

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, and Helena Neves, Executive Secretary. *Gregory Brilhante, Legal Counsel joined the meeting at 4:06 pm.*

The meeting began with a roll call at 4:01 PM.

It was moved by Mr. Manuels, seconded by Ms. Menard, and voted unanimously to dispense with the reading of the December 11, 2025 minutes and approve them as recorded.

Mr. Begin began the discussion on the LPN Program and deferred to Mrs. Young for an update on the Board of Registration in Nursing (BORN) site visit and their recommendations. Mrs. Young noted that the directives issued by BORN are mandatory requirements, not recommendations, and several items are due by June 1. Many of the required items are tied to the new building. Mrs. Young expressed concern regarding the possible construction and room completion delays. The certificate of occupancy, installation and operation of learning technology, simulation equipment, televisions, mannequins, and related instructional tools must be installed and operational by June 1st in order to meet BORN's deadline.

Mr. Begin stated that construction of the new space is being managed by BCC and is outside of Diman's direct control. He asked whether the nursing program's approval status could be negatively impacted if the required items are not completed by the June 1 deadline. Mrs. Young responded that any delays should be communicated to BORN. Mrs. Young also expressed concern regarding the logistics associated with vacating the current building by June 30, including the storage and transportation of supplies and equipment.

Mrs. Young noted that there are additional directives from BORN that include providing documentation demonstrating communication with all clinical affiliates regarding relocation plans, as well as the transition from Moodle to Google Classroom and the implementation of a separate testing platform. Mrs. Young further explained that BORN is requiring a chart clearly delineating authority and decision-making responsibilities between the parent institution, program director, and faculty. The documentation must also outline participation in decisions related to curriculum, staffing, policies, and resource allocation, along with reporting and consultation processes that support operational and strategic decision-making.

Mr. Begin noted that directives are often broad and vague and stated that Mrs. Young as the Program Administrator is in charge of the program's structure. Mr. Bentley noted that the directives are written in general terms and do not provide specific guidance.

Mr. Bentley noted that Mrs. Young has made progress in securing the required clinical experiences in pediatrics and obstetrics. He explained that pediatric clinical placements are necessary for program approval by BORN and noted that an adjunct instructor has been hired.

Mr. Bentley expressed frustration related to the fact that the nursing program must comply with requirements by the Department of Education and the Board of Registration in Nursing regulations. Faculty

licensure and educational requirements fall under the Department of Education, while nursing program operations fall under the Board of Registration in Nursing.

Mr. Begin also expressed frustration regarding the results of the site visit. He noted that he has served on the School Committee for more than 10 years and that the nursing program had operated successfully for many years prior to his tenure on the Committee. Mr. Begin further stated that this was not the program's first visit from BORN and questioned how the program had reached a point where significant operational changes were now being required.

Mr. Bentley stated that one of the concerns raised by BORN was that the program had three directors within a three-year period. Mr. Bentley expressed frustration with that finding, noting that changes in program leadership were not preventable and the program should not be held responsible for circumstances related to staff departures.

Mr. Bentley highlighted the program's recent student retention success, noting that the program has retained more students this year than it has in many previous years.

Mrs. Young noted she is in the process of securing additional clinical opportunities, noting that Southcoast has agreed to allow students to attend a clinical shift in the hospital setting. She added that students will be participating in childbirth education classes. They will also participate in clinical experiences within the school nurse offices at Diman and Durfee.

Mrs. Young also expressed frustration that the regulatory expectations have become more prescriptive across nursing programs, including increased demands of clinical learning outcomes. She stated that other programs have been placed on warning status or were required to reduce admissions when clinical requirements were not fully met.

Mr. Bentley noted that BORN is requesting more formalized documentation noting that faculty are actively participating in curriculum meetings, policy development and program related decisions. Mrs. Young noted that she has meeting agendas and minutes that demonstrate participation. Mr. Begin noted that BORN appears to be seeking evidence that not only those meetings occurred, but also how decisions are documented, implemented, and tracked through formal procedures such as standard operating procedures (SOPs) and policies.

Mrs. Young noted that BORN noted in their findings that some existing policies are ambiguous, requiring further review and revision to ensure clearer language and alignment with regulatory expectations.

Mrs. Young reiterated that the documentation addressing the Board of Registration in Nursing (BORN) findings must be submitted by the June 1 deadline.

Ms. Petrasso stated that it was her understanding that BORN accepted the floor plan for the BCC location and were aware that the space would not be ready for an on-site visit at that time. Mrs. Young noted that the new location plans were presented at a Board meeting for discussion, during which the proposed space was reviewed and approved. Mrs. Young noted she had arranged and offered to visit the BCC however, the individual declined to attend.

Mr. Bentley noted that he's working with BCC to seek an alternative space to store the LPN equipment until the construction is done.

Mr. Begin asked when is construction expected to be finished. Mr. Bentley noted that the space needs to be ready for the beginning of the school year. Mrs. Young noted that BORN will need to conduct a site visit prior to the start of the school year. The first day for students is September 2, 2026.

Mr. Jennings, School Committee Member joined the meeting at 4:24 pm.

Mrs. Young asked who would be responsible for notifying BORN. Mr. Bentley responded that he would provide the notification. Mr. Begin suggested waiting until May, when the project is closer to the anticipated completion date, to provide an update outlining the progress made, the current status, whether the deadline can still be met, and the reasons if it cannot.

Mrs. Young expressed concern about the impact any delay could have on the incoming class, noting that 15 students had already been admitted to the program.

Mr. Begin stated that he did not want to prematurely notify BORN of a potential delay if circumstances could still improve and the project ultimately be in better shape than anticipated. He recommended waiting until the project was closer to completion. He also noted that, at that point, if construction was still ongoing, representatives from BORN could visit the site to view the progress firsthand and gain a better understanding of the project status.

Mr. Begin continued the discussion regarding the items that needed to be completed by June 1st, as well as additional items to be addressed afterward. Mrs. Young noted that an OB faculty member has been hired, satisfying a directive related to specialty instruction. She also reported that the OB clinical rotation and the coverage for the nurse's office are expected to be finalized soon.

Mrs. Young also noted that job descriptions are being revised and other outstanding item are in the process of being completed. Clarification on timelines had been requested to ensure that no required dates were being overlooked.

Mr. Bentley reported that a walkthrough was scheduled for Monday morning to assess the scope of materials and equipment that would need to be moved. Information technology work associated with the relocation for necessary network and connection work is pending approval. Mr. Bentley noted that a consultant has been identified to assist with organizational and operational preparation efforts related to the ACEN accreditation and the transition.

Mr. Begin asked how the recruitment efforts for the 2027 class are going. Mrs. Young reported that 15 students had already been accepted into the program, all from within the district. Additionally, 12 applicants were taking the TEAS examination that evening, with 13 more registered for the April 30 testing session and two additional testing dates scheduled in May.

It was moved by Ms. Menard, seconded by Mr. Manuels, and voted unanimously to adjourn the LPN Sub-Committee meeting at 4:41 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,
Helena Neves
Helena Neves, Executive Secretary

Materials:
December 11, 2025 minutes