

WILLIAM M. DAVIES, JR. CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
50 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln, RI 02865

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 3, 2004

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:20, Mr. Mitchronev called the meeting to order

B. **Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: Richard Beaupre; James Bone; V. Michael Ferdinandi, *1st Vice Chairman*; John Gregory; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle; Domenic Mitchronev, *Chairman*; Dr. James Segovis, *2nd Vice Chairman*

Members Absent: Timothy Csanadi, Deborah Lopes, Michael Marra, Guy Medaglia Lornette Uthman

Others Present: Victoria Gailliard, Brian Butler, Catherine Collins, Susan Paquin, Vicki Phelps, Frank Barcellos, Adrienne Noelte, Lynn Tait-Romano

C. **Approval of Minutes** – October 13, 2004 Regular Session

Approval of the October 13, 2004 Regular Session minutes was postponed to the end of this Regular Session until a quorum was present.

D. **Recess to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues**

At 5:19 p.m., the chairman made the decision to postpone recessing into Executive Session until the end of the meeting for two reasons: 1) two members had not arrived yet and a quorum was needed and 2) it was going to be a lengthy session and did not want to keep those people sitting in the audience.

E. **Return to Regular Session**

Did not recess out of Regular Session at this point in the agenda.

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

There were no audience comments.

II. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. **Director's Report**

1) Teachers' Association

Frank Barcellos, Vice President Davies Teachers' Association, asked about the status on the possibility of having union representation on the Board, which was said would be provided by the November meeting. Mr. Mitchronev corrected him that at the October meeting he announced the

association would be notified by the middle of November in the form of a letter. That was satisfactory to Mr. Barcellos.

- 2) Teacher Assistants' Association – Ms. Lynn Tait-Romano, Davies' Teacher Assistants' Association president, was not present at this time.
- 3) Outreach and Awareness Program 04-05 – Ms. Gailliard
We are gearing up for the outreach and awareness program for the incoming 9th grade class. Our guidance counselors started their presentations in 14 middle schools both public and private. They go over Davies technical programs, academic programs, and the admissions process as well as the testing schedule and the criteria for the lottery. Future Student Night is scheduled on November 16th. About 800-850 perspective students are expected to come in and walk throughout the school to see some of the technical programs and talk with some of the staff about what we offer. We also do testing sign-up's that night as well. There are four testing dates, three in January and one in February.
- 4) State House Career and Technical Kick-off Campaign – Ms. Gailliard
The State House Career and Technical Kick-off Campaign was on October 26th. She feels it went very well. There were about 200-300 people there including Mr. Mitchronev and Mr. Halkyard. Most were C&T educators and a few comprehensive high and middle school people were there as well. There's a new career and technical education initiative for K-12. RIDE provided a statewide brochure that was distributed to the Board members. As of yesterday's elections, the Bond Issue #4 was passed which will provide funding for the repair and upkeep of other career and technical facilities, although not for Davies.

There were a number of speakers at the kick-off: the Governor, the Commissioner, the Chair of the Board of Regents, and one of our students, Lynn Pise, '03. Ms. Pise did an extraordinary job talking about career and technical education; how she was apprehensive about coming to Davies; she wasn't sure if the school would prepare her for college. When she finished that speech, she received a standing ovation. She is extremely bright and articulate. Mr. Halkyard mentioned that they taped that whole session and Ms. Gailliard assured him that the tape is coming.

Mr. Mitchronev reiterated that Ms. Pise's presentation was absolutely outstanding. It was something he positively wants the Board members to see when the tape arrives. She is a very nice role model and compliments to the teachers and the school. If you want an ambassador for career and technical education, she is the one.

- 5) Parent Council Meeting/Edgar Allan Poe Night-October 27th – Ms. Gailliard
We traditionally conduct the Edgar Allan Poe program immediately follow the October Parent Council meeting. It gets the parents in here along with the students involved in the program. This was the first meeting of the year with 25 parents. It was a quick agenda but we talked about the state assessment results that she is required to report, their role as parents with the

mission here at Davies and how they can get involved, and a survey was conducted on what they would be interested in doing and how they can help us with our endeavors here at the school.

Following the meeting, 200-250 people attended the Edgar Allan Poe Night. Ms. Gailliard distributed the program, which shows how it is linked to our English Language Arts curriculum with the literacy work they do in grades 9 through 12. There are art exhibits demonstrating some of Edgar Allan Poe's readings, stories, and poetry. For the first time this year, they created a piece linking technical math using Poe's Pit and the Pendulum with the help of a math teacher. It was very successful; it gets bigger and bigger every year; the kids love it.

- 6) School Improvement Celebration and Recognition – Ms. Gailliard
Ms. Gailliard has had a number of discussions with Mr. McWalters, Commissioner of Secondary and Elementary Education and at a meeting a couple weeks ago she asked him what was the criteria to get him to come to the school because our performance classification has been “moderately improving” for two years in a row. She would like him to come and address the staff. At this meeting, she found out that in English Language Arts, we were high performing, but in Math we missed it by one point.

Ms. Gailliard has contacted the commissioner twice to no avail, but she is looking for something during the day when he will speak to the staff in an assembly type forum and talk about the performance and the good things we are doing here. This will happen and she will let the Board know when she gets a date. At that same time she will give the students an ice cream party along with the staff. She will also do something special for the staff to show appreciation for the good job they are doing.

On October 20th, Mr. Mitchrone drafted a letter to Ms. Gailliard copying it to the teachers, staff, Board and the Commissioner. It was in reference to the recent recognition of our moderately performing and improving status and in addition to that there was a newspaper article about the bond issue #4 and Rep. Crowley took the opportunity to praise Davies and made some reference our performance classification. Because of those two events, he felt the teachers, staff and Ms. Gailliard should get some formal recognition; hence the letter.

- 7) November Davies Newsletter – Ms. Gailliard
It talks about the performance classification and the increased influence from business and industry. We had people from the Academy of Information Technology Advisory Board speak to the students, members from the PBS family, IKON, Verizon, were also here. I-Car came in which is a auto collision and repair organization. They had their regional Board meeting at the school. They toured the building and are working on curriculum and program certification as well. That is our new endeavor that we are working on. I-Car is an acronym for International Collision Auto Repair, a consortium of all auto trades: collision, auto mechanics, auto reconditioning, auto repair parts. They were quite impressed with Davies after reviewing our curriculum and program.

8) Other

—We are doing something new this year, we started a Student Council Advisory Committee. One of the staff members did some research and designed the program to include students in grades 9-12. It seems to be going well. Ms. Gailliard will report on it again once it is fully developed.

—Next month, Mr. Butler will present a background on our technical programs and the number of articulation agreements, certifications, student certifications, and program certifications we have along with some of our partnerships and advisory boards. It will be a snapshot of what we are doing in the technical areas and how well they are doing, extremely well. This is where we get our Perkins money and it is very important that we have those programs tied to business and industry standards. They are doing an excellent job with the curriculums as well. 95 % of the curriculums are done through the Programs Committee.

—Relative to the outreach and awareness program for the additional 40 students, Ms. Gailliard had a meeting with Dr. Spera who is the curriculum director for the Providence school system. She gave him two proposals for the current Providence ninth grade outreach and awareness. We will either have the principals come here or in Providence at one central location of their choice where we will do our typical outreach presentation. We will have them come in for the Future Student Night.

For the eighth graders, our Guidance Director and Ms. Gailliard will address those principals at a leadership meeting at the Providence School Department on November 4th. There will be 35 slots for Providence kids for this year. We already have five of the expected 40. Hopefully the language in the legislation will be changed so that we can carry the monies over the next couple of years until we succeed in recruiting them. However, she is concerned about what kind of support we are going to get from Providence especially since Bond Issue #4 was passed and Hanley will get the money to renovate their facility. We haven't been getting very much and she doubts it will continue, but she feels she must show due diligence here with the outreach and awareness.

Mr. Mitchrone asked when will we know how many students we get from Providence? We will probably know by the end of November after they have been tested. They have to go through the same admissions process as all the other students where they have to meet the same criteria in Math and English Language Arts. To refresh everyone's minds, Mr. Mitchrone believes that if Providence does everything they should be doing to meet the spirit of the legislation that provided the additional funding to Davies, there is a possibility that the students' parents do not want their children going outside of their district. Lets assume that they did it with the right spirit, but we

do not end up with the additional 40 students, we need to have a meeting with Rep. Crowley to explain the process we went through and the results so that he has the facts because we will be submitting our budget for hearing next year assuming we received the students, we utilized the money, and we will be asking for money to continue to support those students. If that system isn't working, then he needs to be made aware of the effort we did put into it and analyze why.

Mr. Bone asked if there will be any training for the Providence teachers to try to get some connection between the two schools/systems. That is part of the proposal for grade eight. There will be a breakfast here at Davies for the middle school guidance counselors where they will get a presentation on our technical programs.

There is a lot of dynamics going on with the Hanley Center and the Met School that we sort of got dumped in the middle of with this additional money. The House of Representatives Sub committee on Education toured the school last year to see what we do here after the state told the municipalities that they were going to turnover the career and tech facilities over to the districts. They liked what they saw and heard that we tried to get additional funding in years past for an additional 100 students. We'll just have to wait and see what happens.

III. Business Agenda

A. Strategic Plan – Mr. Mitchrone

Mr. Mitchrone wanted to clarify what he said at the last month's Board meeting. He asked Ms. Gailliard when she said the Strategic Plan needed to be modified, as to whether or not the mission or the vision or anything along those lines were going to be changed. He had a meeting with her to clarify to her what he meant because he didn't think she understood what he was asking. First thing is he does not want and he doesn't believe the Board has voted on eliminating a strategic planning process. In reviewing the opening part of our strategic plan, there is an executive summary, the purpose for developing the strategic plan, the mission of the school, and so forth. What he clarified for her and what he is clarifying for the Board and the audience, is that the Board of Trustees are the policymakers; we are the school committee. So what he wants the Board to clearly understand is that when we modify the strategic plan, they will vote on modifying it and that is the reason why he was asking the question.

What the Dept. of Education really has done is say they would like to see specific things included in our strategic plan. They weren't saying that they are dictating the plan, but they are going to say that when we modify it, did we include in our goals the things that they would like to see in it. This was spelled out in a letter from them to Ms. Gailliard prior to him becoming Chairman of the Board. So to clarify the position, when Ms. Gailliard drafts something, it will be presented to the Board for their approval as policymakers. If it is in conflict either by misunderstanding or anything else, then it would be our responsibility to have conversations with the Dept. of

Ed., specifically those individuals who are asking us to include these specific things into the goals and objectives. They have a responsibility and we have a responsibility. The mission may change but it will be changed not exclusively because of what they say, it will change because of what we mutually agree upon.

He has been involved in a lot of strategic plans and spent an awful lot of energy only to see certain people change within the administration with the plans ending up on desk or shelves collecting dust. That is not what a strategic plan is for. It is for continuity. We are not getting away from the use of the strategic plan. At the end of this year, you will be talking about putting a new one together, which will include the Dept. of Ed's goals and anything else we get from the input of the staff and teachers through the strategic planning process.

IV. Return to Routine

B. Approval of Minutes – October 13, 2004 Regular Session

Mr. Gregory made a motion to accept the October 13, 2004 Regular Session minutes and Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion. All were in favor.

C. Recess to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues

At 5:51 p.m., Mr. Halkyard made a motion to recess into Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Gregory seconded the motion and all were in favor.

D. Return to Regular Session

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Gregory made a motion to recess out of Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Mitchrone asked for a motion to keep the minutes of the Executive Session closed/confidential, Mr. Halkyard made the motion and Dr. Segovis seconded the motion; all were in favor.

V. *Adjournment:* At 7:04 p.m., Mr. Ferdinandi made a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

V. *Next Meeting* December 1, 2004

NOTE: *Minutes unanimously approved on December 1, 2004.*