

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

**Board of Trustees**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

**I. Routine**

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:25, Mr. Ferdinandi, Chairperson called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: Richard Beaupre; Timothy Csanadi; V. Michael Ferdinandi, *Chairperson*; John Gregory; Michael Marra; Domenic Mitchrone; Dr. James Segovis, *Vice Chairperson*; Lornette Uthman

Members Absent: James Bone; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle; Deborah Lopes

Others Present: Brian Butler; Cheryl Carroll; Catherine Collins; Vickie Gailliard; Susan Paquin; Vicki Phelps; Stephanie Sullivan

C. **Approval of Minutes** – February 2, 2005 Regular Session

Mr. Ferdinandi asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the February 2, 2005 meeting. Mr. Mitchrone made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Gregory seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

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**

Recess into Executive Session was postponed until the end of Regular Session.

E. **Return to Regular Session**

The meeting did not recess out of Regular Session at this point on the agenda.

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

Chemart Company has been manufacturing the White House ornament for the last 25 years. Every year there is a contest when you submit the designs and this year Chemart won the contest and the designer just so happens to be a Davies graduate of the Class of 1998, Carlos Ferrara. Mr. Beaupre, President of Chemart, wanted the Board and Davies aware of this accomplishment. Ms. Sullivan offered to work with Mr. Beaupre's staff to do some PR in the Patriot News and in the local newspapers. Carlos started as a Co-op student at Chemart when he was a senior, and Mr. Beaupre hired him after he graduated and has been at Chemart ever since.

## **II. Business Agenda**

### **A. Finance Report**

Cheryl Carroll, Business Coordinator, announced that the House and Senate hearings for the budget have been scheduled. Davies will be going before the House Finance Committee for the Education budget on March 8th at 10:00 am, and the Senate Hearing is April 7th at 2:00 pm. Hopefully a couple of Board members can be there spearheaded by Mr. Mitchroneo our State House champion. Ms. Gailliard informed the teachers' union representatives of those dates.

The Yearbook Advisor, Jean Halstead, asked Ms. Carroll to ask the Board one more time to please consider placing an ad in the yearbook. She could really use the revenue to help defray the cost of the yearbook for the students.

### **B. Human Resources – Mr. Ferdinandi**

Dr. Segovis reported that the committee on contract negotiations met to discuss overall issues and some general approaches. They will be meeting again sometime in the near future while awaiting the teachers' union response.

### **C. Strategic Plan – Ms. Gailliard**

The Steering Committee met just prior to this meeting when we reviewed our current goals and objectives in the 04-05 Annual Operating Plan. Each committee reported on the status of their goals and we discussed how we are going to go about amending the current, five-yr Strategic Plan while looking at other assessment tools that are data driven.

## **III. Informational Time/Program Updates**

### **A. Director's Report**

#### **1) Teachers' Association**

There was no union representation at this meeting.

#### **2) Teacher Assistants' Association –**

There was no union representation at this meeting.

#### **3) Business Partnerships Report – Mr. Butler**

*(See attachment: Davies Certification/Equipment Data 2003-2004)*

At the January meeting, the Board asked for information on business partnerships and types of donations they provided (funding for curriculum and equipment). Listed is each program with the number of graduates who received certifications compared to the total number who graduated. Also listed are the names of the partnerships or ex-partners and the asset value of the equipment they have either donated or loaned to the school. There is an obvious need to further our outreach to pull in more valued partnerships in order to have our students trained on state-of-the-art equipment at a minimal cost to us.

IKON's equipment should be listed because our students are trained on it also we have an in-house trainer for free. That is an asset of over 1 million dollars. Also Tasca's donated cars should be added. Mr. Mitchroneo wants

to be able to go the State House and tell them we have capital money in the school that the state did not have to spend. Dr. Segovis would like another column added on the report titled, "Donated Personnel" at "x" amount of salary. Personnel is another type of loan, in fact, it is the best kind. Mr. Butler will update this report for the next meeting.

Mr. Mitchronev asked what will it take to get 100% of the students certified in ProStart? Ms. Gailliard answered they have to pass the test, but at this point with the new teacher evaluation system we have in place, we are looking at the actual instruction that is going on and where the students are and where they are missing in the instructional process. Since 2003-2004, the demands and the standards have changed and Mr. Butler as the technical teachers' supervisor will be looking at what the instructional process is.

The ProStart exam is a three-part test and if the students do not pass all three parts, they do not get certified. The only purpose of Mr. Mitchronev's question was if we have students capable of passing the test, what steps are we taking to make that happen. Coming out of the Strategic Plan's Program Committee, they found that a lot of our programs had the certifications, but they didn't have the curricula to go along with them. What are they teaching to get the students from Point A to Point B to become certified? We need to increase these numbers not only for the students but also for the school's accountability and funding.

How is the performance of certifications figured into the teachers' evaluations? Mr. Butler will sit down with the teachers and look at curriculum, make sure it is matched to the industry standards and if they are aligned with one another, then the certifications will follow along naturally. Also, not only through the evaluations, each dept. has a budget tied into that as well.

Mr. Ferdinandi would like a comparison report presented at the June Board meeting indicating 2003-2004 student certifications vs. 2004-2005 student certifications. If the numbers do not improve then we will have to determine why and what we have to do to improve. Mr. Mitchronev said this should be a standard procedure in monitoring the number of student certifications in order to provide continuous improvement because we are not providing the business community with graduates with certifications. Steps have been taken in the last two years to get these numbers because before than, there was nothing.

The other side of the coin is the academics, which is a part of the formula to get these certifications. That is why ramp-up programs were put in place. We also have deficiencies as it relates to instruction in the technical program that we are trying to work through with the evaluation process and providing professional development that they need. Technical teachers are not trained to be teachers. They are experts in their field but were not trained in instruction. They are hired with six years experience in a business/industry field and they have to take the NOCTI exam that allows them to get a two-year provisional certification required to teach in RI. Then they are given a certain amount of time to go and get a bachelors degree to get some of those instructional courses. Unfortunately they are already in the door teaching classes without the appropriate education courses they need.

In the evaluation process, the teachers are keenly aware that we are looking at those issues, but where we are now compared to where we were two years ago with the number of certificate programs being offered is ten-fold, and where we are going will double that. They have also been told religiously that the programs in regards to state money, have to reflect a certificate criteria and if they don't we will not get the funding.

4) 2004 Graduate Placement Report – Stephanie Sullivan-

*(See attachment: Davies Graduates: 2004 Placement Data)*

Another report the Board has been asking for and it is finally in place. The report addresses how the data was gathered along with the results. Through surveys and telephone calls, it was determined that 50.6% are enrolled in post-secondary education or training, 36% are working in jobs related to their technical area and 3% are in the military out of 162 graduates. Mr. Mitchrone would like to see the column "post-secondary education or training" split into two columns because he sees "training" as on the job as an apprentice because many of the general public has the impression that you go to career and tech and then you go to work. For the record as is stated in the report, there are only three in an apprenticeship program so the percent going to a post-secondary institution is just under 50%. Where the math doesn't add up it means that the graduates are in jobs unrelated to their technical area.

Mr. Ferdinandi asked if there is a program more prone than others to have graduates who do not go on and work in their field. "Yes" and Ms. Sullivan can provide that information. He would like to see those numbers because we would have to start questioning the effectiveness of the program.

5) March 2005 Newsletter—Ms. Gailliard

The March newsletter is always dedicated to the March State Assessment Testing for the juniors in English Language Arts and Mathematics. We like the parents to know the testing is coming up and to ask them to encourage their student to do well. The second part of this newsletter is for the 9th grade parents to let them know we are coming to a closure with our 9th Grade Exploratory Program. It provides them with a little information on the programs we offer here, and that the students will be making their final decision at the end of the month.

**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. 6:02 pm, Mr. Gregory 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. Dr. Segovis seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Return to Regular Session**

At. 6:47, Mr. Gregory made a motion to return to Regular Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Dr. Segovis seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Gregory made a motion to keep the minutes of the Executive Session confidential and sealed. Mr. Mitchrone seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**IV. Adjournment:** At 6:50 p.m., Mr. Ferdinandi made a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

**V. Next Meeting** April 6, 2005