

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, June 1, 2005

**I. Routine**

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:12 pm, 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; James Bone, Timothy Csanadi; V. Michael Ferdinandi, *Chairperson*; John Gregory, Robert Halkyard, Deborah Lopes, Michael Marra, Dr. James Segovis, *Vice-Chairperson*, Lornette Uthman

Members Absent: Carolyn Kyle

Others Present: Brian Butler; Cheryl Carroll; Vickie Gailliard; Susan Paquin; Vicki Phelps; Stephanie Sullivan; William Foley, Carlos Ferreira, '99

C. **Approval of Minutes** –

*Mr. Ferdinandi made a motion to accept the May 4, 2005 regular session meeting minutes, Mr. Beaupre seconded the motion and all were in favor.*

D. **Introduction of Carlos Ferreira, '99** —*Mr. Beaupre*

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Beaupre at which time he introduced a Davies graduate, Carlos Ferreira, a graphic arts student, who has been working for Mr. Beaupre at Chemart Company since he left Davies except for one year when he was called up for active duty in the Marines.

Chemart has been manufacturing the official White House Christmas ornament since its inception in 1981. Every year there is a contest that is sponsored by the White House Historial Association where companies all over the country submit designs, four of which came from Chemart and Mr. Ferreira won the competition. Mr. Ferreira had an ornament for each Board member and management staff members. This year's theme was on President Garfield and Carlos's inspiration came from some pictures and fine china pieces from the Garfield Museum. The statistics is that one out of every 100 families will own one of these ornaments but unfortunately Carlos and Chemart can not get any recognition.

Mr. Ferreira was congratulated on his success and was thanked for the ornaments.

E. **Presentation of the Domenic Mitchronev Scholarship**—*Mr. Beaupre*

Mr. Beaupre presented Ms. Gailliard with a letter that read,  
*"Dear Vickie, enclosed is a check for \$500.00 for the scholarship in honor of our beloved past chairman of the Davies Board of Trustees. We are all aware of Mitch's love and passion for Davies and the contributions he made over the years while he was a member of the Board of Trustees. We are also cognizant of the fact that Mitch was an engineer consultant. I would suggest with the Board's approval, that this money be made available to either one or two students who are graduating this year and have exemplified themselves as a student. I would also suggest that the student(s) be selected who are entering school of higher learning in the technical areas of engineering and electronics."*

It just so happens Davies has two seniors who will be recipients of this scholarship: Timothy Cababbi who is going to Brown University in Electrical Engineering and Rebecca Tobin is going to Northeastern University in Engineering. They are both National Silver Medalists from this year's SkillsUSA national competition. Ms. Gailliard thanked Mr. Beaupre for his generosity.

F. **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 5:33 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. Mr. Beaupre seconded the motion and all were in favor.

G. **Return to Regular Session**

At 5:53 pm, 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. Beaupre seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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

**II. Business Agenda**

A. **Finance Report**

No report at this time.

B. **Human Resources Report**

This report took place in Executive Session

C. **Strategic Plan Steering Committee Report**

This report took place in Executive Session

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

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

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

There were no Teachers' Association representatives present.

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

There were no Teacher Assistants' Association representatives present.

##### **3) Graduate Placement and Student Certification Report– S. Sullivan/B. Butler**

The School-to-Career staff surveys the graduates one-on-one. The report that was distributed to the Board was in draft form because there are still about 44 more seniors to be surveyed (122:168). Some are in situations where they have not made any decisions on what they will be doing. Over the summer the staff will make follow-up calls to check on their status. For the first Board meeting in September, she will provide a comparison of the data from this year and last year as a beginning to be looked at over time.

One headline of this report is there is a positive correlation between the numbers of co-op or intern placements and the number of job placements upon graduation. They are the students more likely to continue working in the same company if they have entry level positions available. Her on-going goal is to raise the number of students in co-op placements because they result in strong job placements. Another headline of the report is in the Electrical and Health Career areas. We will always be able to place those students because of the strong job market for people with those skills.

Mr. Butler gave a follow-up of a report he gave to the Board a few months ago on the number of senior certifications. It's still a little too early to get numbers for some of them because test scores are not back as of yet. Those are the tests that are taken and mailed out to the industry for scoring. Others are on-line and the scores are given instantaneously. Another reason why a few are still pending is because Machine Technology, Electrical and Carpentry are continuing to work on becoming certified programs with NIMS and NCCER respectfully.

He went on to explain the poor outcome with A+ in Electronics, 1:17. The problem is the students do not have enough time on task with the Windows XP and Windows NP software where the students in AOIT program do (3:3). Discussions are going on about possible alternatives to provide those students with more time on task, i.e., changing the schedule. Mr. Ferdinandi asked about the quality level of the Electronics program. Excluding A+, the program does an incredible job with the IPC certification that we recently engaged in with the Electronics Technician Association Certificate Program. Electronics does an exceptional job in the preparation of the industry standards with the exception of A+ in the senior year.

Ms. Gailliard and Mr. Butler will be looking at the programs with the poor number of certifications along with their instructional practices and offer some professional development in order to increase these numbers. If not, changes will need to be made and teachers are aware of this.

Each one of these programs has an advisory group to ensure currency, state of the art technology and relevance to curriculum. Each discipline's advisory group is aware of where we are with the number of certifications and they work toward improving the outcomes.

The senior certification exams are very expensive. Some consist of three parts and each part costs, i.e., \$65.00. Davies pays for it the first time around. If a student needs to take the exam a second time, the student pays so they are encouraged to do their best the first time. There are practice tests to help prepare them.

Dr. Segovis asked for an update at the next meeting, but he asked if there was anything the Board could do to help improve these certification numbers. What do we push for strategically? That is a very good question for the advisory groups that work with each of these tech areas, but Mr. Ferdinandi's interpretation of Dr. Segovis's question was what can the Board do strategically to keep up with the demands of the state's economic development to ensure we are teaching our students the skills needed to position them for jobs in upcoming business and industry. Ms. Sullivan believes hooking up with a representative from RIEDC would be a great idea. Mr. Gregory suggested Louis Soars. He manages the Every Business Counts Network comprised of small business partners. Mr. Ferdinandi would like to try to get Mr. Soars here for a discussion. Dr. Segovis mentioned not only inviting Mr. Soars but also inviting the leaders of the growing industries, i.e., Cox Cable.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Ferdinandi asked Ms. Gailliard to draft a letter to Mr. Soars asking him if he would address the Board about business and industry in RI that are showing continuing growth.

#### 4) Admissions/Applicants Report 2004-2005 – Ms. Gailliard

Ms. Gailliard presented a summary of applicants over the past three years. Every year there are over 500 students who take the required entrance exam and approximately 50% of those students qualify. We have an excellent graduation rate at 91% over the last few years with a 4-5% dropout rate. The summary also broke down the number of withdrawals by how many returned to there sending districts, discontinued schooling, or obtained a GED. Graduation, attendance and dropout rates are factored into the state assessment performance classification.

Part of the withdrawal rate is due to the misconception that Davies is strictly the old stereotypical vocational school and once they get here, they realize we offer a very rigorous, academic program along with technical programs that are all industry standard-based requiring students to graduate with a certification after passing an exam. Once the freshmen go through the rotation program, they realize all of this and decide to leave.

One other reason for the number of withdrawals is, and we have to thank Mr. Butler for this, we run a tight ship here at Davies. There is no nonsense. They have to go to class; there is no study hall; there is a task to do, and we monitor every move they make. There is no wiggle room here and they

realize that. We also require more credits in Math and Science than other traditional high schools. So when the students look at academics as well, they realize there is no time to do anything else.

5) 2005 Senior Graduation Ceremony-June 14th—Ms. Gailliard

This agenda item was a reminder and to say that it will be held out on the athletic field. The rain date is the following day.

6) Status on Providence Enrollment- Ms. Gailliard

Davies presented an outreach and awareness program to the Providence guidance counselors. They came to the school and we served them breakfast. The presentation was on the school's mission, on the admissions process, the admissions criteria, and they were given a tour of the building. They were given a copy of our video and were shown how to setup their presentations to their eighth graders. Everything went well and it was very successful.

We had 88 eighth graders from Providence come in on a Saturday for the admissions testing. Out of that 39 of them qualified at the first level meaning they met the reading requirement at 6th grade level. Students who are English Language Learners or are in Special Educ. will go through the 2nd level of the testing process. For the ELL, it is the MacII testing and for the Spec. Ed. students, it is usually the Woodcock Johnson. After the scores come in from this level, the acceptance letters will be mailed out to those who are accepted.

Jennifer Wood, Legal Counsel for RIDE, is looking at getting additional funding for the busing of these Providence students. Ms. Gailliard feels confident that we will get the 40 students from the Providence district this year. She and Ms. Carroll have been looking at the budget, moving classrooms, etc. to accommodate these students. In addition, there is the additional 20 from Pawtucket's waiting list so we are looking at 60 additional students on top of the 207 freshmen already accepted for next year.

7) Arts in Education Celebration – June 8th– Ms. Gailliard

This agenda item was an FYI. This event is when we display all of our after-school programs' work, which is either through visual arts or performance arts. Our RISD Arts Program students designed toys; the Everett Dance Company will perform; our Photography Club will display their photographs; and then there is our Multicultural Program who will perform and provide food dishes. In addition there will be a Scholastic Book Fair that sells books for all ages at 50% off. These programs are tied into the Literacy funding. They had to provide a curriculum and the students had to write essays explaining what they are doing.

It's a fun night when we get the whole Davies community together, and it starts at 6:00 p.m.

8) Board of Regents Commended School Award – Ms. Gailliard  
—Excellence and Improvement in English/Math

James A. DiPrete, Chairman of the RI Board of Regents, and Peter McWalters, Commissioner of the Dept. of Ed. sent Ms. Gailliard a letter informing her Davies was awarded the "Regents' Commended School" award for excellence in the improvement in English and Mathematics. They honored us along with the other 43 schools that were also awarded. This is quite an accomplishment and there is a lot to be said with the recognition. The Governor spoke and he recognized one school, which was Davies. He talked about his visit here and how impressed he was with the school. He definitely has become a champion of Davies.

Our accomplishments wouldn't have been possible without the staff's hard work and dedication; therefore, Ms. Gailliard will recognize their efforts by awarding them with an early dismissal during exam week. Mr. Ferdinandi commented that we had a great school year; Davies is a good school; and it's getting better. It is clearly because of Ms. Gailliard's great leadership and he thanked her on behalf of the Board.

***IV. Adjournment:***

At 6:45 p.m., Mr. Ferdinandi made a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

***V. Next Meeting*** September 14, 2005