

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, February 1, 2006

*(Minutes were approved at the March 13, 2006 Board meeting)*

**I. Routine**

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:10 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; V. Michael Ferdinandi, *Chairperson*; John Gregory; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle; Michael Marra

Advisor Present: Larry Gemma

Members Absent: James Bone; Deborah Lopes; Dr. James Segovis, *Vice-Chairperson*; Lornette Uthman

Others Present: Brian Butler; Joanne Andrews; Judy Valentine; Brian Butler; Cheryl Carroll; Bernie Blumenthal; Susan Paquin; Jean Halstead; Lynn Tait-Romano

C. **Approval of Minutes** – January 4, 2006, Regular Session Minutes

*A motion to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2006 meeting was made by Mr. Gregory, Mr. Halkyard 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**

At 5:11 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. Halkyard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

E. **Return to Regular Session**

At 5:45 pm, 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. Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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

*Mr. Halkyard made an emergency motion to add to the agenda the Board's approval of the Director's recommendation to hand out layoff notices by March 1, 2006, and the Board's approval to ratify the pending issue (School Improvement Team) within the Davies Teachers' Association contract. Both of these discussions took place in Executive Session.*

Jean Halstead, President of the Davies Teachers' Association, informed the Board on behalf of the union and the negotiation team, everyone is thrilled that this School Improvement Team issue was resolved because it seemed to have been a never-ending journey. They are also glad it could be done without the mediator and done face-to-face with the administration team. Now we can move forward and open up the committee work within the school.

It is Mr. Halkyard's understanding that the relationship between the current management and the union (all of the past negotiations have proven this) have been good. Ms. Halstead added that as of Feb. 15th she will no longer be the president of the union. Frank Barcellos will be stepping in as the new president. She commended Ms. Gailliard and her entire administrative staff. There has not been one grievance in three years, which set a precedent. The administrative team here is absolutely professional. We can agree to disagree and the next day you come to work and they want to know how your children are doing.

Ms Carroll and Mr. Butler, members of the Administration Team reciprocated Ms. Halstead's compliments. Ms. Halstead is someone who brings balance to the table. She understands what is fair and right and because of that ability to reason out stuff that shouldn't belong there and what does, we are able to come to a compromise and resolve issues that are positive to both parties. Mr. Butler thanked Ms. Halstead on behalf of the administration team for everything she has done.

*Mr. Halkyard made a motion to approve the summary of the contract mediation settlement mirrored both in the Davies Teacher's Association contract and the Davies Teacher Assistants' Association contract. Mr. Gregory seconded the motion and all were in favor. (See Supplemental Material: Summary of Teacher Contract Mediation Settlement.)*

*(See Supplemental Material: Teacher Layoff Proposal for Board Approval – February 1, 2006)*  
*Mr. Gregory made a motion to approve the Director's recommendation to hand out nine layoff notices: Layoff Component #1 – For Funding Purposes: Sheila Testa, Teacher Assistant; Kathy Musco, Social Worker; Dennis Richards, Reading Teacher; Layoff Component #2 – Performance Related/Better Qualified Candidates: Victor Scafuro, Math Teacher; and Layoff Component #3 – Highly Qualified Provision of "No Child Left Behind" Act: John Correira, Special Ed. Teacher; Lorene Scambio, Special Ed. Teacher; Mark Camara, Special Education Teacher; Scott Conley, Special Ed Teacher; Laura Domingoes, Special Ed. Teacher. If a memorandum of agreement is agreed upon by March 1, 2006, the layoff notices will not be handed out to those listed in Component #3.*

*Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion and all where in favor.*

## **II. Business Agenda**

### **A. Finance Report**- Cheryl Carroll, Business Office Coordinator

—Regarding the Aquaculture Building renovation for two additional classrooms, she had a long conversation with Mr. Gemma. He suggested we may have some in house shop, apprentice type labor in order to reduce the cost of the renovations. She then contacted the architect, Jim Castolucci, and met with him and Mr. Okerholm, Davies Facilities Coordinator. They reviewed the numbers for the 2400 sq ft area so the bids came in at approximately \$200.00 per sq ft range, which is the going rate. The architect under estimated it at \$100.00 per sq ft. The architect thought Mr. Gemma's suggestion was fantastic; however, he had expressed concerns regarding a general, overall contractor being responsible for the entire project. We would have no recourse should something go wrong after the building opens for service.

We are going to ask State Purchasing to call all of the bidders back to Davies for a meeting and we will ask them to sharpen their pencils and allow us to give them some alternate that we may be able to forego or modify or change in specification so that we can bring the price down to budget.

—We have a tentative date for the budget Senate hearing set on February 22nd in the afternoon. She will contact Dr. Segovis to let him know and she extended the invitation to the other board members to offer their support. Mr. Gregory mentioned to check on that date because the 22nd falls on school vacation and traditionally the legislators take their winter break.

### **B. Human Resources Report**

This report took place in Executive Session.

### **C. Nominating Committee Report** – Mr. Halkyard

Mr. Halkyard called Sharon Osborne at the Board of Regent's office and the three names we submitted last month will be put on the Regent's agenda for their Feb. 23rd meeting for their approval.

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

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

#### 1) Teachers' Association

Ms. Halstead had nothing further to report

#### 2) Teacher Assistants' Association

Ms. Tait-Romano, President, had nothing to report.

#### 3) H. S. Diploma System: Peer Support and Review Process

This was deferred until the next meeting in March. There will be more information to report on at that time.

#### 4) 9th Grade Admission Testing—Vicki Phelps, Special Populations Director

We just completed the admission testing. We tested a lot of students this year during the four Saturdays in January. Last year we tested the Providence kids separately in May, but this year they were tested with all of the other students from our other sending districts. There were 883 sign up's

and 665 actually took the test, almost 200 more than last year. We had 155 Special Ed students who needed accommodations for testing; 112 actually came for the testing. The accommodations ranged from one-on-one for a variety of reasons, extended time, and testing in small groups. The testing went very smoothly; the kids were wonderful; we were very organized in spite of the large numbers in the building; and they were here by 8:30 and left by 11:30.

The only problem we had was when Central Falls didn't provide a bus on the last Saturday. The 17 students who were left behind in CF will be tested next Tuesday here at Davies. Depending on the budget, usually 225 freshmen are accepted. Those entering 10th grade were also tested. The increase in numbers is probably due to our recent reputation (high performing status) and it was interesting to hear the parents who dropped off the students talk about the school. Everyone noticed the banner advertising our classification.

5) Professional Development Day-January 27, 2006—Ms. Gailliard

The staff attended a workshop on Franklin Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." The staff felt it was an incredible presentation. It laid the foundation for a pilot program where teachers will be asked to volunteer to incorporate Steven Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens' into their advisories with their students.

6) Other

Dr. Segovis's teaching schedule has him in class on Wednesday nights. Those board members present agreed to move the Board meetings to the second Monday of each month.

***V. Adjournment:***

At 6:13 p.m., Mr. Ferdinandi made a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

***VI. Next Meeting***

The next regular meeting is scheduled on Monday, March 13, 2006.