

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

Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

:

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: V. Michael Ferdinandi, *Chairperson*; Larry Gemma; John Gregory;
Robert Halkyard; Deborah Lopes; Harvey Simms; Robin Smith;
Lornette Uthman

Members Absent: Richard Beaupre; James Bone; Carolyn Kyle; Michael Marra; Dr. James
Segovis, *Vice-Chairperson*

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard, Brian Butler, Cheryl Carroll, Judy Valentine, Bernie
Blumenthal, Vicki Phelps, William Okerholm, Susan Paquin

C. **Approval of Minutes** – April 10, 2006 and May 8, 2006 Regular Session Minutes
*Mr. Gregory made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 10th and May 8th
Regular Session minutes; Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion and all were in
favor.*

D. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

None were made.

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

Executive Session was deferred to the end of the agenda.

F. **Return to Regular Session**

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

II. Business Agenda

Finance Report

No report at this time.

B. **Human Resources Report**

Report was postponed for Executive Session.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. Director's Report

1) Teachers' Association

No report at this time.

2) Teacher Assistants' Association

No report at this time.

3) Graduation Placement Report—*Mr. Blumenthal*

(See handout: "Davies Graduates: 2006 Placement Data [as of 6/12/06])

School-to-Career Coordinators conduct a senior survey every year just before their final exams. It's a survey that asks them what their future plans are upon graduation: 2 or 4-year post secondary institution, full-time or part-time work in their related career and technical field, military, or some other plans. A follow up survey is done during the summer or early September. The graduation class is a little smaller than last two years at 138 students, and 134 of them were surveyed.

Results of survey: 47% are going on to either a 2 or 4-year post secondary education which is higher than last year's class at 36%. Of that group, 64 students that are going onto college or reported it and 41 are going directly to CCRI. That is 2/3 of this group are saying they are going to the Community College because they found it was a great fit for their program or it fits their financial situation. 2% are going on to further their education in a technical training program.

The percentage (16) of those students who are going into the world of work in their trained field represents half of the numbers of a year ago. There is time over the summer for students to say, "I am interested in going on into my career/technical field." 4% are going into the military.

What is interesting about this report is that 34% of the students are now saying that they are not interested in going onto college yet or are not interested in working in their career and technical field. This is an area that Mr. Blumenthal would like to start focusing on at the School-to-Career level or even at the management level. How do we address these students early on during their experience at Davies and try to assist them in some career redirection or maybe make a better fit so that they are more excited about what they are studying? Some of our programs that fit very nicely that allow students to go right into their technical field. In some programs, the students realize that they need additional educational experience and they are willing to go right away into college.

In conclusion, we have a good number of students that want to continue their education in their technical field; there's still a good number that we are going to wait and see what their plans are and try to follow-up with them; and then also, try to do some strategic planning at the School-to-Career end to try to reach out to the students a little earlier in the technical areas starting in their freshman year. See what their commitments are and build some strategies to keep that commitment going.

Relative to the employers hiring the Woodworking and Electrical graduates, Mr. Simms noticed none of them are ABC members and he will make the ABC directory available to Mr. Blumenthal because it is those members who are familiar to the training the students have received. They have already received up to four years of the training classes.

Through the efforts of Mr. Simms' predecessor, got CCRI to approve a construction degree that will give 30 hours credit, one half of the 60 hours needed for people who complete the NCCER courses. Mr. Gemma and Mr. Simms are expanding that specific to plumbing. Have some on-line classes through CCRI for those students who are maybe working and can earn credits on-line or through the TV. It's another outlet for the students who would be half way there coming out of Davies. Ms. Smith will set up a meeting with the coordinator at CCRI. Mr. Simms and Mr. Gemma will work to get this completed by September. What is not reflected in this report is there are several students who want to burn the candle at both ends. They are actually going to work full-time and continuing their education part-time at CCRI. These are the students who would benefit from the on-line courses. Also, Mr. Gemma mentioned the students obtaining an apprentice card so they can work with the apprentice card while they are going to school. It will open up more opportunities when they graduate. Mr. Simms is willing to approach the State's Apprenticeship Council.

With the "working, unrelated" group, Mr. Blumenthal looked back at the Sept. 2004 data; it was 12%. He thinks during the summer there is some shifting, but this year the group may be a little higher and if so, we need to find out why this is the case. When he presents again in September, this updated report will be a truer picture. The numbers have increased both in those interested in continuing their education and those going out to work unrelated to their field. Don't know what to make of it though. When you listen to some administrators and educators, it is college or career. You never hear college and career. When you think of Davies and career and technical, we have motivated students that want both. Also, Davies has increased the quality of its academic program. If this trend is really what the students want, if we didn't invest in the academics, you wonder how it would have played out. Would they have been prepared; would as many have been accepted? In the long term, what does it mean to the mission of the school?

- 4) Student Certification Report—*Mr. Butler, Supervisor of Tech. Instruction*
(See handout: "William M. Davies Career and Technical Industry Certification")
This is comparative report between the 2005 data and this year's data. We have 22 areas that are offering some form of certificate-based instruction. These are competency certificates that are industry-standard issued. They are not certificates of completion; they are actually exam-based certificates that quantify exposure and relationship to those respective disciplines. In 2005-2006, of the 22 certified areas, we had 10 areas that showed some increase in percentage of successful examinees. Seven areas showed a decrease but not of significant value, i.e., 1-2 percent decrease.

The NCCER program accreditation in Electrical and Carpentry are still in process as they were last year. The problem is the NCCER is an agency that will give an accreditation in a program but not necessarily to a student. They do certify the instructors as our instructors are. Part of that industry standard is that all of the students must be exposed to some form of a safety training, which they do go through with OSHA. They do get their 10-hour certificates for that but it is still not a certificate per say in terms of having to take an exam and passing that exam. Mr. Butler along with Mr. Simms will be addressing the people from NCCER to see exactly what we can do in terms of looking to get an exam on site for our students to take to get a certificate.

A significant number of students passed a certification exam but the total numbers of students this year is reduced from last year's numbers. This is the smallest class Davies had in some time at 132.

The one area that sticks out to Mr. Ferdinandi is the A+. Out of 15 students only two passed, same as last year. Mr. Butler said this certification is not working by the way it is right now. It was decided to abandon the A+. The amount of money and time being spent, the payoff just isn't there. We will be looking at other possible certification programs such as ETA (Electronic Technician Assoc.); however, Electronics has done wonders with IPC.

The difference between A+ and IPC is the A+ is a three-part exam. If you pass the hardware and the software pieces, but you fail the engineering piece, you don't get certified. Many of our students will pass two parts of it but fail the third. Many students at the post-secondary level have a difficult time passing it. Our electronic students are a group of our brightest students and if they are having a difficult time, we need to look at other alternatives that are just as reputable as the A+.

5) Admissions/Applications 2006-2007—Ms. Gailliard

655 eight graders completed the admissions process and met the criteria. We accepted 233 in the first round for ninth grade; 203 confirmed and we did an additional acceptance from our waiting list (13 from Central Falls and 23 from Pawtucket). For the 06-07 school year we are looking at total of 860 students: 250 in 9th, 231 in 10th, 209 in 11th, and 170 in the 12th grade.

The reason for the low number of 132 seniors this year is because some realize their perception of the education here at Davies was not what they expected so they go back to their sending district. Another reason is because we do not offer the sports they are interested in. They miss it so they go back. They also miss their community. We lose most of our students in the 11 & 12 grades. Those we lose in the 9th are replaced. At Davies if you fail the technical area, you automatically repeat the grade so they go back to their sending district. We can test for aptitude for admissions but the question is will they remain motivated enough to adhere to the standards here?

Some parents send their children here because it is a safe school. We are the only high school in the northern region that does not have a full-time policeman on duty. There are a lot of reasons why the students leave but basically it is failing their shop and they cannot adapt.

6) 2006 Senior Graduation Ceremony—June 12, 2006—*Ms. Gailliard*

The night before this meeting was Davies' 31st annual graduation ceremony at CCRI in Warwick. Next year it will be at CCRI in Lincoln; they alternate campuses. Over a thousand people attended friends, family, staff along with Mr. Ferdinandi and Mr. Bone. The program went extremely well. Ms. Gailliard always enjoys graduation; it is a special moment in their lives and for hers as well and the rest of the staff. As she was leaving to go to her car, 10-15 parents stopped her and expressed such kind words about the school and the staff as it relates to the educating and nurturing of the students both academically and technically.

Mr. Ferdinandi noticed the exemplary conduct and when you walked away, you realized you owed it to the quality of education the students receive here at Davies.

IV. *Back to Routine*

A. **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 5:45 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. Gemma seconded the motion and all were in favor.

B. **Return to Regular Session**

At 6:52 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. Gemma seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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

7) Rhode Island School for the Deaf

Ms. Smith made a suggestion that some of the Board members get together to draft a letter to those on the committee working on the plans to relocate the School for the Deaf. Mr. Ferdinandi responded that he will have Mr. Ragosta draft the letter.

Mr. Gregory made a motion to have a letter drafted by our lawyer that expresses the Board's willingness to work with the Department of Education and the School for the Deaf as long as our mutual concerns are addressed based on the information we have at this time. Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

8) Other—*M. Gailliard*

—In the agenda packet was a letter from Frank Colletta of Turn to Ten News. He gave us a Coffee Cup Salute on the Sunrise Show on May 25th and he sent

this letter thanking us for the great gifts we presented to both he and Kathy Bates in beautiful baskets.

—On May 31st, Davies had its third annual Davies Community Showcase (previously known as Multicultural Night). It was very successful and it was reflected in a couple of newspapers.

—Our boys' and girls' baseball teams were very successful this year. They both made the quarter or semi-finals. Our Athletic Director along with his coaches does a wonderful job with the school's athletic program.

—Ms. Smith announced that CCRI will be closing its technical training facility in Quonset and is looking to donate some of the equipment to Davies. DOT will move everything and set it up at no cost. The Army National Guard is expanding and wants to take over their land. It affects other personal businesses as well. CCRI will not set up another training facility but will improve the other existing programs and relocate them to the other campuses. It was a good opportunity for CCRI because the training facility did not live up to the potential that was expected.

V. *Adjournment:*

At 6:58 p.m., Mr. Ferdinandi made a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

VI. *Next Meeting*

Next meeting to be determined some time in September after summer recess.