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, December 6, 2006

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**
At 5:10 pm, Mr. Ferdinandi, Chairperson, call the meeting to order. Executive Session was moved to the end of the agenda.

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; Larry Gemma; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle; Dr. James Segovis, *Vice-Chairperson*; Harvey Simms; Lornette Uthman

Members Absent: James Bone; John Gregory; Robin Smith

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard, Brian Butler, Cheryl Carroll, Judy Valentine, Bernie Blumenthal, Vicki Phelps, Susan Paquin, Frank Barcellos, Vincent Ragosta

C. **Approval of Minutes** – October 4, 2006 and November 1, 2006 Regular Session Minutes
Dr. Segovis made a motion to accept the October 4, 2006 and November 1, 2006 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**
Recess into Executive Session was postponed until 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

A. Finance Report –*Cheryl Carroll, Business Office Coordinator*
(Refer to Supplemental Material: In$ite Detail Report and Memorandum: FY2007 First Quarter Financial Report)
Ms. Carroll distributed the two handouts to the Board. The In$ite Detail Report is an executive summary of the largest financial report she does in her department. This data links to RIDE's Infoworks so any time we go down to our budget hearings with the legislators and they make reference to "per-pupil costing" and the cost to run the school, it is information that comes from Infoworks that they

are talking about. This summary gives a thumbnail sketch of the FY05-06 school year. With state and grant funding, the school received $14,009,344 with a $18,241 per pupil cost. On a statewide average, the per-pupil cost is definitely higher because we wear two hats here. Davies offers both an academic and technical education. Even though the State hasn't of yet updated its website with all schools, she has not been able to calculate a State average of per pupil costing, but normally, Davies will run about 140% above the State average.

Mr. Beaupre asked about the article in the newspaper he read stating that the State wants to build three schools using the Davies model. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick responded they are looking at 2-3 Davies type model schools that are tuition free, the State will operate them, and have Board of Directors similar to ours. Right now they are doing a feasibility analysis on where they will be located. There is some concern about the model. Some of the Tech Centers which have a different model, are concerned because their programs are as successful as Davies. The controversy is coming from Peter McWalters, Rep. Crowley, Sen. Constantino, and other legislators saying that the Davies model is most successful. The Tech Centers are focusing on the fact that we are fully state funded. Funding is a part of it, but there are other elements that make a school successful and they are not looking at those pieces. One of the pieces that the commissioner is interested in is the integration of the academics and the technical programs because they are looking for proficiencies in the core content academic subjects. The State is looking at it and maybe in 2-3 years, there will be more Davies type models throughout the State.

Mr. Ferdinandi added that Davies has smaller class sizes so we can't compare to the other comprehensive schools that have larger class sizes. Also he hasn't seen any report on a comparison study between Davies and the other Tech Centers. Even though they may deliver the technical programs, they then integrate the students from the technical center into the academic comprehensive host school with all the other students so the class sizes are larger and by the end of the day, it isn't successful. It isn't easy to compare.

In summary, about 75% of what we spent in the budget was instruction and instructional support which is direct involvement and support of students. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick added that the cost of technical education at some of those tech centers is about $14-15,000 per pupil. They are only providing technical education. The state has this technical program approval system that they are data testing. They are looking at quality programs with performance indicators and outcomes. So it is not just the facilities, the model, and what the price is going to be for technical education as a whole. Technical education is going through a major overhaul in the State of RI.

There are eight area tech centers. Those centers are tuition based that serve the region throughout the state. For instance, Warwick services West Warwick and East Greenwich and any student that wants to attend Warwick Tech, the sending district pays Warwick tuition. The student spends part of the day at the center and the other part of the day at their sending district or they have the option to go to Tollgate.

Ms. Carroll then drew everyone's attention to the memorandum to the state's budget director the commissioner sends on a quarterly basis regarding the current budget year we are operating in. On a nondiscriminatory basis, every state agency was dealt an accounting adjustment equal to 5.1% of their personnel as part of the working budget and they wanted us to try to attain that. For Davies, this means $605,942. The Dept. of Ed and Ms. Carroll have been telling everyone who will listen, this is not feasible. Kids have already walked through the building before this accounting adjustment was pushed down to the agencies. We would have to cut student services so Mr. McWalters is reiterating that Davies and Deaf cannot sustain this cut so you need to understand that if we are held to it, Davies will run a deficit of $605,942 and Deaf will run a corresponding deficit, etc.

When we go downtown for the budget hearing process which unfolds in February and hopefully some of the board members will join us to help lobby for our budget, we will have to defend why we can not achieve this accounting adjustment. The positive note is that the State Budget Office told Ms. Carroll to read between the lines meaning that they took our dollars but left our FTE's alone unlike some other agencies. She is currently operating as if there will be a restoration of this money.

Ms. Carroll has been doing this for few years and she is concerned but not concerned. Every first quarter budget report always paints a gloomy picture. So at this point they did what they had to do. If Davies is held to this adjustment, then she has told the Dept of Ed that will end up in the red at the end of the year. She was told to do what we have to do. RIDE has a surplus and they will sustain that savings because they have had some natural attrition occur with some personal vacancies that they are going to hold. RIDE will help with some of our cuts.

B. **Human Resources Report**- *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

We still have a vacancy in Math with the retirement of Mr. Murgo and we recently reposted that position. The other vacancy that we are going to have is Mrs. Phelps' position due to her retirement. We have posted the job and screened about nine or ten applicants and found four that were credible. The interviewing process is being conducted. Hopefully we'll get two excellent candidates to go through the second level of the interviewing process and we will be calling on one of the trustees to sit in on the interviews.

This is Mrs. Phelp's last board of trustees meeting. She has been for Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick such an asset to the Board and everyone in the school with the knowledge that she brings. She is a personal friend of hers as well as somebody she was very honored to have the opportunity to work with. She didn't have to take Special Ed 101, 102, or 103 because she had an instructor right here and the knowledge she received through Mrs. Phelps on special ed students and ESL students is unbelievable. She will be a loss to the school. She will never be replace but there is somebody else who may be able to help us and continue the hard work Mrs. Phelps put in place.

C. <u>Nominating Committee Report</u>

There was nothing to report on at this meeting.

D. <u>Strategic Planning Report</u>- *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

At our recent general staff meeting, we rolled out the Strategic Planning preliminary proposal. We did a PowerPoint presentation giving the staff an overview of the mission statement, vision statement, the goals, and each of the chairs of the sub-committees did a brief presentation about their committee, their committee work, the recruitment process, how they want to start writing goals for the 3-5 yr strategic plan and some short term goals for the school improvement plan. It is working out well. All five subcommittees are up and running. On each there is an average of 10 or more members. The committees are: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Health and Safety; Grants; Technology; Community and Public Relations. It is up and running and we are moving forward to begin amending and rebuilding that strategic plan.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. **<u>Director's Report</u>**

1) <u>Teachers' Association</u>-Frank Barcellos, President

He had nothing to report but he wished Mrs. Phelps a happy and well-deserved retirement and he wished everyone present Happy Holidays. He wanted to thank Mr. Ferdinandi for signing off on one of the last documents that was a hold over from the last contract negotiations.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick added that we do not have any pending grievances or arbitrations due to the fact that the relationship between the Administration and the union continues to be a good working relationship and whatever issues that do arise, Mr. Barcellos and she are able to handle the situations and come to some kind of resolution.

Mr. Ferdinandi commended Mr. Barcellos for taking on that kind of spirit. There have to be a lot of issues because of all of the teachers and students. The question is do we have the spirit to solve the conflict before it gets to the next level.

2) <u>Teacher Assistants' Association</u>

There was no report at this meeting.

3) <u>Enrollment Data</u>—*Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick*

We are down about 53 students. Our current enrollment to date is 772 with the highest enrollment in Grade 9 with 252, 10th grade with 196, 11th grade 174, and 12th grade 150. We are bringing in 25 new 9th graders and 5 or 6 10th graders to increase those figures. She is also asking the Guidance Director to do an exit study by conducting exit interviews for those students who are leaving Davies. Some of them are no-shows, for some 9th graders they can't adjust here because the standards and expectations are greater then they thought they would be and are returning to their sending districts. She wants to know exactly why they are leaving because we are funded for 825 students and we are well below that number. We need to know why they are leaving so we can

come up with a plan to keep them here. If they are moving out of State or district, that is one thing, but if they are returning to their district, there has to be reason why.

4) Revised Regents' Regulations – Nov. 14, 06— *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick*
She has been reviewing and getting feedback on the Regents' most recent revised Regents' Regulations. They are no longer called the High School Regulations. Middle schools are now included. A couple of things have changed at the high school level and one has to do with proficiency requirements in Reading. It is not something that is going to be a major issue for us, but for some districts it may be because we do standardized testing in grades 9-12. We are going to have to begin reporting two things to RIDE as it pertains to Reading: 1) all students who are not doing well in proficiency on the new NECAP testing, which is the new state assessment testing that will start in October 2007, 2) and all those students who are not at grade level in Reading. We are going to have to come up with a plan on how we are going to support these students and how we are going to move them up in grade and proficiency. This is all part of the Literacy piece in the regulations.

The other change in the regulations is the graduation requirements which consists of quite a few changes and quite controversial. They are looking at a two-diploma system. One is a regents' diploma and the other is the traditional diploma. They will be giving out both from 2008-2012 (it was until 2014). This means that those children who have not reached proficiency will get the traditional diploma. Those who have reached proficiency will get the regents diploma. The controversy is will it be demeaning for those kids who get the traditional diploma when they try to apply to a post secondary institution. Another controversy is kids can stay in school until they are 21 and possibly 25 years of age. We will have to give them the access and the opportunity to reach proficiency and a regents' diploma.

This is in the new regs and probably will be instituted starting in January 2007. This is Rhode Island's compliance to the federal "No Child Left Behind" Act. Right now you have students under the IDEA with disabilities who can stay in until 21. We have kids in this building who are 21, but they are special ed. It doesn't mean that they have to sit side by side in a classroom. We have to be a little creative and develop alternative programs for these kids to become proficient. She may have to lobbying to look at alternative programs after school for these kids that want to and have a right to work on proficiency in the content areas to reach that Regents' diploma. They are looking a lot of different ways how to service those students.

It's not a cookie cutting approach in education anymore. All kids do not learn in four years. There may be some that take 5, 6, or 7 years. The schools will have to come up with a system to assess those kids not meeting proficiencies. Mrs. Kyle asked about having a partnership with Job Core. It is alternative education that we are going to have to look at. Davies is a stand alone district so we don't have a lot of those alternatives. There are a lot of different programs out there that we can model, but the concern is going to be the funding. We are going to have to be very creative and have to lobby for the additional funding if we are going to meet these regulations.

The Regents' Regulations is a living document and everyday it changes. The Commissioner invited principals from around the state to meet with him to get some feedback. From the conversation they had, there will be changes. By the time they finalize this, everything is going to change again.

Another change in the graduation requirements is, they are requiring as part of the high school diploma system, that NECAP testing has to be a part of the our diploma system. If the diploma system is 100%, 10% has to be NECAP testing, a certain percentage for the PBGR's, the portfolio, senior project, Carnegie Units, etc. and it has to be a part of the student's permanent record.

Lastly, Common Planning Time is going to be increased from once a week to twice a week. The professional development requirements that were initially just for teachers are now for administrators, teachers, supervisors, and anyone else in the field of education.

5) Future Student Night – Nov. 21, 2006—*Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick*
There were 800 plus prospective students, families, and friends. We did the open house a little differently this year. The open remarks took place in two locations and talked about the school, the mission, standards, expectations, etc. Then the building was opened up to all of the different technical areas so the parents could go visit and listen to the teachers' presentations. Some teachers had the students doing the presentations, which was wonderful. 600 students signed up for the admission testing during the four Saturdays in January.

6) Building Security – Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick
We had a few uninvited guests in the building over the last month. Our population is changing and we are just getting kids that are just a little more unruly that we have never had in the past. They are taking some liberties that the environment is not used to. We had an incident about a month ago when a member of the Latin King Gang came into the building looking for his girlfriend, etc. At this point, she decided that we must do something with the building's security. It has been a long time coming; it's everywhere else. Mr. Okerholm, Facilities Coordinator, is looking into a couple of security measures. The doors will be updated with alarms; the main entrances will be equipped with TV monitors and a buzzing system. The doors will be locked at 8:00 am and the staff and students will be required to be here at 7:45 and 7:55 am respectively. All students will be wearing ID's. This is a step toward securing the building. She will contact Mr. Bone because of his expertise in risk management and get some feedback from him. He was very helpful the last time we looked at this and restrict the flow of traffic. Funding will have to come out of the operating budget to a tune of about $7500.00.

7) Update on School for the Deaf's Relocation Plans – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick*
It will be located on Davies land. Bill Okerholm has been going to the Building Committee meetings. There have been two since the beginning of school. They have given us a timeline on how this whole construction will unfold. To date, they have sent out a letter of intent to all the prospective bidders for the architectural design.

The timeline is about 18 months to be completed by 2008. Davies falls in sometime in between. They do realize they have to add on our addition prior to them doing anything. Mr. Okerholm is representing us very well at these meetings. She will continue to give the Board updates as she is informed. The entrance to the School for the Deaf will be through CCRI because our biggest concern was the traffic. The State will be building a courthouse next to CCRI as well. They are currently surveying the land.

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 5:55 pm, Mr. Simms 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.

B. **Return to Regular Session**

At 6:33 pm, Mr. Simms 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. Beaupre seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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

Mr. Halkyard made a motion that the Board accepts the resignation effective December 31st of Mike Ferdinandi as chairperson; Mr. Beaupre seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Simms made the motion to appoint Mr. Jim Segovis as the chair of the organization subject to the approval of the Board of Regents. Mr. Gemma seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Simms runs a non-profit organization and the way they operate is they always have a chairman, a vice chairman, and a second vice chairman. The purpose of having the two vice chairmen is for them to participate in the organization at a higher level then the normal board member so they are familiar with and understand their role when they take over as chairman. It is similar to what Mr. Ferdinandi had to do with Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick. A lot of times, he had to consult on issues and problems. He does it a lot with his chairman. It's a training ground to prepare them. They serve on a couple of committees and after that two-year process, the third year they move up to chairman. This is the reason why we do this. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick believes there is language incorporated in the by-laws that explains the role of the chair, vice chair, and second vice-chair.

Mrs. Uthman is uncomfortable with this approach. If someone is unhappy with this person's performance, what do we do if this is selection process is the normal practice. Mr. Simms answered that she doesn't accept the motion. Mr. Halkyard added that if the vice-chair is not satisfactory in his/her role, it would be evident long before the end of the two-year term when it is time to vote him/her in as chair. We would then stop grooming him. To Mr. Halkyard, if Mr. Segovis didn't come to the meetings, didn't participate, and didn't show any interest, then he would have said a

few months ago to Mr. Ferdinandi that we need to rethink this because he is not sure that Dr. Segovis is ready to step in as chair.

Mr. Halkyard asked Mrs. Uthman what would be an alternative. She will bring her thoughts back at the next meeting.

IV. Adjournment:

At 6:40 p.m., Mr. Ferdinandi asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

V. Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 3, 2007