

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, April 4, 2007

Minutes were accepted at the May 2, 2007 Board Meeting.

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:19 pm, Dr. Segovis, Chairman elect, called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: Richard Beaupre; Larry Gemma, John Gregory; Carolyn Kyle; *Vice-Chairperson*; Dr. James Segovis, *Chairman-elect*; Harvey Simms; Lornette Uthman

Members Absent: James Bone, V. Michael Ferdinandi, Robert Halkyard, Robin Smith

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Cheryl Carroll, Judy Valentine, Bernie Blumenthal, Susan Paquin, Joanne Andrews

There is one legal matter that needs to be addressed and nine members of the Board are required to be in attendance. The union has asked the administration to entertain a hearing for two of the lay-off notices that were rendered in February, Lucille DiCenzo and Amy Rivet. The process is a hearing before the Board of Trustees and nine members have to be present. It's like a mini court hearing when the legal counsel from NEARI and Davies' legal counsel has an opportunity to question the Director and the two teachers. The Board then reviews the evidence and makes a determination whether to overturn or uphold the decisions that were made regarding the lay-off notices. If it is upheld, it is then taken to the next level possibly, a hearing at RIDE.

The requirement of nine members comes from the Rhode Island General Laws. The lay-off notices will have to be rescinded if nine members are not present and not decided before the end of the school year. Mr. Gregory thought this was from an old quorum number and there wouldn't be any problem asking someone in the legislature if it can be a quorum rather than a numerical number.

C. **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 5:25 pm, Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to go into Executive Session; Mr. Gregory made the motion pursuant to R.I. G. L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues; Mr. Simms seconded the motion and all were in favor.

D. **Return to Regular Session**

At 6:18 pm, Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to return to Regular Session; Mr. Gregory made the motion; Mr. Simms seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to keep the minutes of the Executive Session sealed; Mr. Simms made the motion; Mr. Gregory seconded the motion and all were in favor.

- E. **Approval of Minutes** – February 21 and March 7, 2007 Regular Session Minutes
Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the February 21 and March 7, 2007 meetings. Mr. Simms made the motion, Mr. Beaupre seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

No comments were made.

II. ***Business Agenda***

A. **Finance Report** –*Cheryl Carroll, Business Office Coordinator*

Ms. Carroll was at the Senate Finance Committee hearing during the March Board meeting. She was asked not one question about the Davies budget. On March 16th, she, the Director and the President of the Teachers' Association went to the House Finance hearing. After sitting there for several hours, they did not ask one question either. They were told to take it as a good sign because generally questions mean someone is analyzing and taking apart the budget. RIDE was also there this year just to answer any questions they may have had and there were none. We can only assume and hope we will go forward with the budget left as it is with no further cuts.

Mr. Gregory said we will need to watch it closely. His people were down there every day and informed him that they do not want to think about the budget right now. They are not asking questions because there is a huge shortfall. They are not going to really talk about it until mid-May when they have to address; otherwise, they are going to have to shut the state down on June 30th like New Jersey did. For Davies, it is unfortunate because RIDE will be the only dept. involved in the 11th hour discussions. We lose the opportunity to communicate with them directly.

Can we advocate for our parents to contact their legislators? All it takes is three or four telephone calls to a representative. Our sending districts represent about 30-35% of the General Assembly delegation. The Board should send a letter to the parents asking them to make a call for action to their representatives. Some were concerned that this may cause an adverse effect with the legislators, but it will come down to the squeakiest wheels will get the grease. Dr. Segovis will draft the letter.

B. **Human Resources Report**- *Joanne Andrews, Human Resources Coordinator*

There were two new hires last month, 2nd-shift janitor and a senior maintenance technician, both transfers.

III. *Informational Time/Program Updates*

A. Director's Report

- 1) Teachers' Association-Frank Barcellos, President
No report
- 2) Teacher Assistants' Association-Lynn Tait-Romano, President
No report
- 3) SkillsUSA State Level Competitions—*Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
Davies won 39 state level medals: 12 Gold, 13 Silver, and 14 Bronze. The 12 gold medal winners will go on to Kansas City for the national competitions. We have set a pattern with sending the same number of students off to the nationals between 12-17 students. We did extremely well and in some cases we swept the contests.

Mr. Simms, once again, offered to donate some money from his foundation, to go toward the cost of sending these students to Kansas City. The administration was very appreciative of his offer. Dr. Segovis suggested sending a letter to the students congratulating them on winning their medals as a way of us recognizing academic excellence in the school.

In September, Mr. Suggs will report to the Board on the outcome of the national competitions which takes place in June.

- 4) 07-08 9th Grade Admissions –*Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
Admissions process has been completed and 300 students qualify for entrance, over 300; however, we only have a certain number of slots for each of the districts. We will accept 225-230 students and then we have to look at the repeaters. We always have a waiting list for Pawtucket and Central Falls. Pawtucket has 84 slots, Central Falls 32, Lincoln 30, Smithfield 22, and North Providence 32. Lincoln, Smithfield and North Providence never fill their quotas so they go to Pawtucket and Central Falls. Providence has 40 slots no matter what grade which reduced the number of slots for Pawtucket.

The Director believes Providence's new C&T school will be opening in 08. She was told that they were renovating the Hanley Center but in the newspaper they are now talking about building one at Mount Pleasant. Mr. Simms met with the superintendent about trying to get a construction program started and he said they haven't decided if it was going to be added to Hanley or at Mount Pleasant. Regardless, the Providence students will go back to their district and it will increase the Pawtucket and Central Falls slots.

A concern of the Director is the number of repeaters. We take in roughly 250 students but because of the number of repeaters, it limits the number of new students we can accept. This academic recovery program she tried to implement was to try to retain and recover them to move on to the next grade so that we can increase our enrollment. Last year we had 40 ninth grade

repeaters so that was 40 students we could not take from the pool of new students. Hopefully we can work something out so we can recoup these students. Enrollment is a major concern of the director's. We are down to 759 students and we are funded for 825.

It's academic recovery because we are trying to recover them academically where the students get the opportunity to get to the point of passing the class or qualifying for Summer School and some of their behaviors are so inappropriate. Our population across the state is changing.

Mrs. Uthman asked how we came up with the name of the program, Academic Recovery Program. The Director believes it is politically correct. Coming from her mental health background, to Mrs. Uthman, it sounds like they are going into rehab for alcoholism or drug abuse. Dr. Segovis suggested Academic Center for Excellence, Achievement, or Enrichment which sounds more positive.

5) Professional Development Day-May 3, 2007- *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

This day is going to be spent giving teachers time to make revisions to their curricula, and a block of time is needed to get the revisions done by the end of the school year in preparation for some of the restructuring in career and tech education coming down the pike.

The Director will run a workshop on proficiency and looking at how we are going to define proficiency for our high school diploma system in those multiple measures: senior project, portfolio, etc. and then looking at proficiency based on the actual instruction in the classroom when it comes to writing, mathematics, and oral presentation. This is part of the whole High School Diploma System and part of the Commissioner's Review that will determine whether or not Davies is going to be one of the schools that is going to be awarded the Regents' Diploma.

There is a review that is going to take place on May 14, 15, and 16th. Ms. Valentine and a couple of teachers have been asked to sit on the review team. They will review our design of the High School Diploma System, and they have rubrics and standards that they will look at in each of the components. Based on their recommendation, sometime in the summer, the Director will have the opportunity to revisit the documentation and the recommendations, tweak them, and then have a face-to-face with RIDE. Sometime in October or in November we will know if we are awarded the Regent's Diploma. Some schools are not in good shape. The Director feels good about where we are.

It is also Teacher Appreciation Day when the Director will provide them with a lunch, a gift, and let them go home a half hour early.

6) Business Partnership Appreciation Breakfast – May 10, 2007-*Bernie Blumenthal, Partnership/Education Coordinator*

Each year at the end of the school year, we recognize the partners that help us with work-based learning experiences and we recognize the senior students

who went out on co-ops, job shadows, or internships. It is a very nice breakfast catered by our Culinary/Hospitality Program, and we invite the Governor, the Board of Regents, the Board of Trustees, and the business partners. This year it will be held on Thursday, May 10th, 8:30-9:30 am, in the Cafetorium. We will be awarding our two Business Partners of the Year to SuperCuts and Brown University Dining Services.

Mr. Blumenthal invited the trustees to attend. Hopefully one or two will be there to help award the Business Partner of the Year. They need to reply by May 1st to Pat Perillo in the School-to-Career Office.

7) Other

Two years ago, one of our teachers lost their daughter tragically from a domestic violence act. Mr. and Mrs. Burke are actively working with the Attorney General's Office in passing a legislative act, the Lindsay Ann Burke Act which will require schools to integrate a dating violence lesson into their Health curriculum. Next week the director, two health teachers, and some of our students will be testifying before the House Representatives sub-committee hearing.

Regarding Dr. Segovis's nomination as chairperson, he is meeting with RIDE on April 18th, at 2:00 pm.

Clark Greene, new Chief of Staff, and Roy Seitsinger, Director of Career and Technical Education and High School Reform from RIDE will be here on May 11th, at 11:00 am, for a tour of the school with Dr. Segovis, Mr. Blumenthal and Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick. Any trustees who would like to join them are welcome.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick asked Mr. Simms if he was still interested in helping with the mentoring program. Part of the High School Regs., the students have to have a mentor and we talked about having something at the school; getting some of the people involved in business and industry to hopefully hook our students up with some of the mentors. She as well as the chair of School Structures Committee, will give them a brief overview and answer any questions about their role as a mentor. She would like to move ahead with that. Mr. Harvey is still interested. Once we design exactly what we want to do, then Mr. Simms can start making his contacts.

IV. Adjournment:

At 7:18 p.m., Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

V. Next Meeting:

May 2, 2007