

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, May 2, 2007

Minutes were approved at the June 6th Board of Trustees meeting.

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:28 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: James Bone; John Gregory; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle; *Vice-Chairperson*; Dr. James Segovis, *Chairman-elect*; Harvey Simms; Robin Smith; Lornette Uthman

Members Absent: Richard Beaupre; Larry Gemma; V. Michael Ferdinandi

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Cheryl Carroll, Judy Valentine, Bernie Blumenthal, Susan Paquin,, Fred Slemon, Joanne Andrews; Gerald Suggs, Adrienne Noelte; Davies' SkillsUSA State Medal Winners/Team Davies and Family Members

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**

Executive Session was deferred toward the end of the agenda.

D. **Return to Regular Session**

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

E. **Approval of Minutes** – April 4, 2007 Regular Session Minutes

Approval of the minutes was deferred toward the end of the agenda.

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

No comments were made.

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 Medal Winners and National Competitions**—*Gerald Suggs, Davies' SkillsUSA Advisor*

Mr. Suggs annually speaks before the Board prior to the SkillsUSA national competitions in June. He presents Team Davies, the gold medal winners at the State level. He then makes a prediction on how well Team Davies will succeed in Kansas City.

This year Davies' SkillsUSA program experienced some high times and some low times. There were three untimely passing of influential participants: a student leader who had just completed the Leadership Training Program at Quonset Point Air National Guard Station, a teacher who had been instrumental in developing outstanding state and national competitors, and lastly, SkillsUSA State Executive Director.

In spite of these losses, our students did very well in the State competitions. After the awards night, Mr. Suggs e-mailed the staff and basically told them that he witnessed a Davies educational miracle. He was asked prior to the ceremony for a number of medals he thought our students had won. His response to that question was, "I would be happy if we won six contests." He was afraid that the rest of the state had caught up to us and passed us at the competitions, but he had forgotten how much time and effort that the staff in this school routinely puts into the education of our students. He had forgotten how good they are at what they do. At the ceremony, he sat in awe as the names of Davies students were repeatedly called out as medal winners in different competitions. We won gold medals in eleven contests. We won silver medals in twelve contests and bronze in thirteen contests. We won a total of 38 medals. We won contests against other schools. None of the other schools brag about winning contests when they only compete against themselves. Our students won all 38 of their medals in actual competitions against other schools.

Medals won:

—**Electrical:** Won 3 out of 6 possible medals in two contests with a Silver and Bronze in Motors and Controls and a Silver in Residential Wiring.

—**Auto Careers:** Won 3 out of 6 possible medals in two contests with a sweep in Collision Repair, Bronze, Silver, and a Gold won by Dennis Brennan.

—**Carpentry:** Won a silver medal.

—**Culinary:** Won 2 out of 6 possible medals in three contests with a Bronze in Culinary Arts and a Gold medal in Commercial Baking (Jonathan Reinhardt).

—**Graphic Arts:** Won 2 out of 6 possible medals in two contests with a Silver and a Bronze.

—**Machine:** Won 2 out of 3 possible medals in one contest with a silver medal and for the second consecutive year, a Gold medal won by Jacob Gretchner.

—**Electronics:** Won 4 out of 6 possible medals in two contests with two Bronze medals, one Silver medal, and one Gold medal by Peter Navarro.

—**Cosmetology:** Won 3 medals out of 6 possible medals in two contests with a Silver and a Gold in Cosmetology and a Gold in Nail Care. Alexis Emery won the Gold in Nail Care, and Andrea Dupont in Cosmetology.

—**AoIT:** Won two medals of a possible three medals in one contest with a Silver medal in Technical Computer Applications and a Gold medal won by Sean Hall.

—**Job Interview Contest:** Won a Bronze and a Silver medal.

—**Related Technical Math:** Won a Silver medal.

—**Health Careers:** Won 11 medals out of 21 possible medals in seven contests with 5 Bronze Medals, 2 Silver Medals and 4 Gold Medals. The Golds were won by Britney Goodhart in Medical Math, Michelle Rosa in Health Occupations Portfolio, Marguarita Lima in First Aid/CPR, and Rachelle Koenig continued Davies 6-year winning record in Basic Health.

The medal winners that were present were at this point asked to stand and Mr. Suggs introduced them as Team Davies who will represent the Board and the school at the National SkillsUSA Conference in Kansas City in June (*applause*).

At the recent leadership training, six members of our Student Council and SkillsUSA Council successfully completed the program and received certificates and pins. At that time, Mariama Krubally was elected as the new state officer representing Davies and will be the student head of our delegation in Kansas City.

Davies is a 100% participation chapter of the SkillsUSA program. This means that all students and staff have access to all elements of the SkillsUSA program offerings including a curriculum called Professional Development Program that provides learning and training in a wide ranging set of basic employability, teamwork, and community service skills that have been identified by employers as crucial to America's future workforce. The program is divided into six major steps or levels with an additional introductory level for ninth grade exploratory. At the successful completion of each level, students will have earned certificates that can be and should be included in their professional portfolios. This year we instituted the PDP program into the ninth grade exploratory program.

In closing, Mr. Suggs mentioned that in years past, he has spoken before the Board and informed them that Davies is Number One in Rhode Island and in Region One, and have also been in the top ten chapters in the entire country. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. This year, SkillsUSA has recognized Davies for this by awarding Mr. Suggs the 2007 Region One Advisor of the Year and, at Kansas City at the nationals, he

will be one of five finalists for National Advisor of the Year. He thanked the entire Davies Community for their support in this program.

On behalf of the Board, Dr. Segovis thanked Mr. Suggs for all he has done and continues to do for the program (*applause*). To the students he told them that we are proud of them and he thanked them for all of their hard work. “It is always great to win a medal and get recognized for what you are doing. We appreciate the teachers that helped get you there, but it is through your efforts that make the teachers’ work shine.” He then asked the students to walk around and shake hands with the Board and he thanked their families and friends for coming. They must be very proud of their children and what they have accomplished.

Mr. Simms asked how many students were going to Kansas City and the answer was 11 or 12. Dr. Segovis would like “36 medals” on the sign out front on the other side.

4) **Senate and House of Representatives Proposed Bill** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

Mrs. Garrick recently became aware of two proposed bills, one in the Senate and the other in the House from the Johnston School District. They are proposing that Johnston students would attend Davies Regional Technical High School vs. Cranston Technical High School. The purpose of this is for financial reasons. She immediately called Mr. Simms and RIDE’s legislative liaison, Mr. Andrade. She has some concerns about this bill because she did not want them to do the same thing they did to us with Providence. Mr. Simms told us that the bills are basically dead.

Mr. Simms did not talk with the Senate, but he did speak to the House Chairman. Mr. Simms told him that we are very concerned about this. He was told that he didn’t have to be too concerned because this bill didn’t have a hearing; it didn’t make the crossover; and unless something miraculous comes down from Mr. Murphy’s office, this bill is dead. This was just an effort on Johnston’s part to fix their budget problems. Johnston has to pay tuition for their students to attend Cranston Career and Technical Center at approximately \$12,000 per pupil. They wouldn’t have to pay it if they went to Davies because we are state funded. This is a problem across the state and it ties into the whole restructuring of career and technical education looking at replicating the Davies type model and then they will all be tuition free.

Dr. Segovis added that unless they dramatically increase our physical size, teaching staff, and the infrastructure, the only other way is they would have to reallocate the maximum numbers from each sending district decreasing Pawtucket and Central Fall’s numbers. Mr. Simms mentioned the School for the Deaf’s relocation project. Mr. Okerholm, Facilities Coordinator, attended the last building sub-committee meeting when he learned that they are 90% sure they will not build on Davies land because they have a concern about the new courthouse. It is still on the table but they think they will end up building in Corliss Park in Providence.

Relative to the courthouse, Lincoln is now saying that this land is designated for education.

- 5) **Reorganization of Student Discipline** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
Some reorganization of student discipline had to be done since the last two weeks because of the departure of one of our administrators. Ms. Valentine and Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick will be sharing this duty. Ms. Valentine will be doing 11th and 12th grade discipline and Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick will be doing 9th and 10th. In either of their absences, Mr. Slemon will cover. This was a concern of the staff that we make sure the discipline is taken care of in the building. Some changes were made in how we will address some of the discipline issues. One of those changes is we have been getting the parents involved, and in some cases, they are being called for the first time, especially by the principal of the school, and are very surprised when they learn about their child's behavior in the classroom. Some teachers have already noticed a change in the students' behavior.

We have a new breed of kids these days and a lot of them are very disrespectful; they have no respect for authority; and some of the language that comes out of their mouths is unbelievable. Upon their return after April vacation, the Director had a meeting with each grade. She informed them of the regulations; who is doing discipline; and informed the parents of those regulations as well. We will be engaging in more parent communication in regards to the discipline, grades, and attendance records of their kids.

The changes seem to be working. The students are attending detention and are now taking it seriously. Ms. Valentine mentioned that her juniors and seniors are attending the morning detention. Some of the afternoon detention cuts were due to the students having to get home after school to help out their parents or they couldn't miss work. We will have to post for an AM Detention monitor.

- 6) **Graduation – June 12th** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
Graduation is on June 12th, at 6:30 pm, at CCRI, Lincoln Campus, and invitations will be distributed at the June 6th meeting.

- 7) **Other:**

—*Teacher Appreciation Day*

This day is May 3rd, a time when we celebrate and recognize our teachers for the work they have done over the last year. We also have our workshop on that day and this year's focus is on meeting some of the high school diploma requirements that are going to be in place June 2008. We will be working on the proficiency requirements. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick will be doing a workshop on defining proficiency in the content areas and helping them with how we are going to break out those requirements based on our high school diploma system. In addition, some departments are continuing to align the GSEs to their curriculum. The state is mandating that students be proficient in those GSEs, and they will be tested on them next fall.

Mr. Simms asked if the school does anything for Teacher Appreciation Day. A luncheon buffet will be provided along with a gift, and they will be allowed to leave an hour early. Mrs. Uthman asked how the teachers who received lay-off notices, felt about this day. They seem to be fine. It happens; it's just the nature of the profession. Mr. Simms then asked if there was some sort of award recognition program that have the students voting for teachers. The school from where he is from has what they call the "Blue Apple" Award. It's a glass apple and the students in each grade would all be allowed to vote for five teachers they felt were the most effective teacher. So when each class voted, there were 20 awards given out on Teacher Appreciation Day. This might be something the Board could sponsor next year. Dr. Segovis liked the idea of having a number of recipients.

—*Board of Trustees Retreat*

Dr. Segovis has been thinking about a strategic retreat. The Board hasn't had one in a very long time. He feels this is part of the process for school improvement.

—*Articles in Agenda Packets*

One article is on our RISD program that has been going on for the last three or four years. They will be coming here for the Board's June meeting to give a presentation on what our students have been doing in the program. Also, the ADSUM Project is completed and they want to give the Board a demonstration. Mrs. Noelte added that RISD awarded two of our students a scholarship for their summer program. They have applications from all over the world. About two or three years ago one of our students received one and this year we were awarded two. Dr. Segovis added that this is a very prestigious program and it will open the doors for these students into other places.

Other articles were on our Cosmetology Program when they cut hair for "Locks for Love"; our Culinary Program when they attended a job shadowing workshop at the Radisson Hotel sponsored by Johnson and Wales; Davies Students Come in First at the Auto Tech Competition; and Davies students in the building and construction programs attended a job fair sponsored by the RI Builders Association, Associated Builders and Contractors of RI, RIDE, and NEIT.

II. Business Agenda

A. Finance Report –Cheryl Carroll, Business Office Coordinator

Ms. Carroll asked the Board members who lobby at the State House to keep an ear out for Davies should discussions come up regarding our budget. We are looking for preservation of what the Governor recommended for us which will put us in a very good position next year in spite of all the other state agencies' cuts. Mr. Gregory mentioned that there is a lot of discussion about the inefficiencies with some of the other agencies in state government. This seems to be where a lot of the focus is. Ms. Carroll added that a lot of the legislative talk has been on

agencies being required to put forth information on purchased services from that Smart Staff contract (temporary employment agency) the state had awarded a year ago after DataLogic no longer could _____ their temporary payroll anymore. Davies does not have any Smart Staffing and we have very limited use of temp services. Mr. Gregory suggested as part of our strategic plan, we should look at continuing to enhance our relationship with the area members of the General Assembly. The RIPEC report says that if there aren't dramatic changes in the way government is operating, we are looking at an average of \$375,000,000 deficits for the next five years. So it is time that we have good relationships.

Ms. Carroll publicly thanked Mr. Simms and the Associated Builders and Contractors of RI for putting forth 4-year apprenticeship scholarships for some of our construction and electrical students. We are to provide Mr. Simms with some names so certificates could be awarded for an opportunity that would be valued at \$1400.00 a year. Mr. Simms asked that preference be made to women and minorities (*applause*).

B. **Human Resources Report** - *Joanne Andrews, Human Resources Coordinator*
The report was deferred for Executive Session.

C. **Strategic Plan/School Improvement Plan 06-08** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

Copies of the 06-08 School Improvement Plan [SIP] were disseminated to the Board of Trustees. This plan was a long time coming because she has been trying to compile various data from three sources and incorporate their recommendations into the document once they became available: the recent Commissioner's Review that occurred during the summer and a face-to-face in March; the SALT Survey completed by students, teachers, and parents and reviewed the learning indicators that came out in January; and the NEASC report that came out April 23rd.

She will give the Board a detailed report on those NEASC findings at the next meeting, but we did get our continuation of our 10-year accreditation. We did extremely well. With the overall report, there were five accommodations and eight recommendations throughout the entire report.

The first section in the SIP is the Instructional Operations. This is the piece that she develops with the help of the academic and technical department coordinators and it is the most lengthy. This component of the plan is a two-year plan. Some of it is in progress and some of it is completed because the staff has been working on it since September. The other four sections are for the 06-07 year: Business, Human Resource, Facilities, etc. Those coordinators will update their sections for the next school year based on some of the recommendations that came out of NEASC particularly in the facilities area.

This plan was given to the trustees prior to the Strategic Plan. She has been developing both plans hand-in-hand. The Strategic Plan is complete except for the subcommittees' action plans. The chairs need to crosswalk their action plans with the SIP to ensure everything in the SIP is being covered either by adding objectives to their action plans or expanding upon them for the 5-year plan.

The Strategic Plan will be mailed out to the Board of Trustees to give them an opportunity to review prior to the next meeting so that they can approve it at that time. The Board is to review the SIP for their approval at the next meeting as well. In addition for the June meeting, she will provide the Board with an executive summary of the NEASC Report.

D. **Wellness Policy** – Cheryl Carroll, Business Office Coordinator

The Wellness Committee is a sub-committee of the Health and Safety Committee made up of a well-rounded group of professional: the school nurse, a PE teacher, the on-site Chartwells Director, Ms. Carroll, and Culinary Arts teacher.

We are required to develop a policy on wellness. She distributed a draft of the policy to the Board for approval at the June meeting. By Sept. 1st, each district is required to have an adopted wellness policy filed with RIDE. Upon approval, she will work over the summer to ensure the initiatives in the policy are in place and is communicated to all involved. The plan goes in depth that includes physical activity in trying to adopt an overall healthy environment. This requirement goes hand-in-hand with last year's legislative session when vending machines with soda became the topic of discussion. When the changes were made legislatively, more rigid guidelines were required of the elementary and middle schools.

In this policy, the committee is proposing we have nothing harder than diet soda and focus more on the vitamin waters and juices with no more than 50% added sugars. Any candy fundraisers can no longer happen on the premises during the school day. This policy follows a template put out by the Dept. of Ed. and we customized it to Davies.

While on the topic of food, the Board thanked Chef Ken and his CCRI Adult Education Culinary students for preparing the excellent meal for tonight's meeting (*applause*).

Mr. Blumenthal mentioned that on May 31st, Davies is having its annual Community Showcase. This year a fashion show has been added and the after-school activities will be highlighted. That morning at 5:45, Channel Ten's Frank Collette will do a Davies Coffee Cup Salute.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick informed that Board that Mr. James DiPrete, the Chairperson of the Board of Regents, will be retiring in June. We have had a wonderful relationship with him. He is very supportive of Davies and his retirement will be a great loss to us. We already lost an advocate of the school, Jennifer Wood, who left RIDE to become the Chief of Staff for Lieutenant Governor Roberts.

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**

At 6:36 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.

F. **Return to Regular Session**

At 7:02 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.

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

- G. **Approval of Minutes** – April 4, 2007 Regular Session Minutes
Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2007 Regular Session; Mr. Gregory made the motion to accept them, and Mrs. Kyle seconded the motion.

Before adjournment, Dr. Segovis mentioned that the Nominating Committee has met and reviewed potential board members' resumes. A report will be provided at the next meeting. He also thanked everyone for the kind words, flowers, and plant that he received upon the passing of his mother.

A special Board meeting needs to be scheduled to address the non-renewal teachers' hearing request. We cannot get nine members to attend the June 6th regular scheduled meeting. Ms. Paquin will coordinate this meeting.

IV. Adjournment:

At 7:05 p.m., Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

V. Next Meeting:

June 6, 2007