

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, October 3, 2007

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:22 pm, Dr. Segovis, called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: Carolyn Kyle, *Vice-Chairperson*; Dr. James Segovis, *Chairperson*

Members Absent: Richard Beaupre; James Bone; V. Michael Ferdinandi; John Gregory;
Larry Gemma; Robert Halkyard; Robin Smith

Nominees Present: Raymond Chartier; John Nardolillo

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Cheryl Carroll, Bernie Blumenthal, Gerry Manning, Susan Paquin, Fred Slemon, Joanne Andrews, Carolyn Dias, Vincent Ragosta, Adrienne Noelte

Dr. Segovis welcomed Mr. Chartier, Parent Board Nominee and Mr. Manning, Davies new Supervisor of Technical Instruction.

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, Carolyn Kyle made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues.

D. **Return to Regular Session**

At 7:00 pm, Carolyn Kyle made a motion to return to Regular Session and Dr. Segovis seconded the motion.

Mr. Chartier made a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, Mrs. Kyle seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

To note in the minutes, no votes were scheduled during the Executive Session and no votes were taken.

E. **Approval of Minutes** – June 6 and 12, 2007 Regular Session Minutes

Because a quorum was not present, approval of the June 6 and 12, 2007 Regular Session meeting minutes was deferred until the November meeting.

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

No comments were made.

II. Business Agenda

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

Report was given during the Executive Session.

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

Report was given during Executive Session.

C. **Nominating Committee Report** – *Dr. Segovis, Chairman*

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Segovis reported the committee will be scheduling a meeting with John Gregory, Bernie Blumenthal, Carolyn Kyle and him to discuss expanding the Board back to its original size.

D. **Board of Trustees 2007-2008 Meeting Calendar** – *Dr. Segovis, Chairman*

Because it is getting more and more difficult for Board members to meet at 5:00 pm and make a quorum to conduct business, we are going to look at having morning meetings which has already been cleared by the school's general counsel. 8:30 is better for Mr. Chartier and it will depend on which morning for Mr. Nardolillo. The last time we met in the morning the meeting started at 8:00 am and finished around 9:30 am. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick will have to get coverage for the union representatives so they can attend.

Susan Paquin is to poll the members to find out which morning is the best time for everyone to meet and if there is no morning, than a 7:00 pm meeting is another alternative. Other school committees meet later in the evening.

E. **Approval Strategic Plan 2007-2010/School Improvement Plan 06-08** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

This discussion was deferred until the next meeting, but at the June 12th meeting, Ms. Gailliard-Garrick gave an executive summary of the Strategic Plan and she asked the Board to look it over prior to the next meeting. She had to meet a deadline so she submitted the drafts to RIDE with a cover letter stating the Board had not approved them yet and upon approval, if any recommendations are made, they will be forwarded to them at that time.

F. **Formation of Board Sub-committees** – *Dr. Segovis, Chairman*

This discussion was deferred until the next meeting; however for the new members, the former sub-committees were Finance, Human Resources, Nominating, Parent, Strategic Planning, Mentoring, and Speaker Program. A proposed committee is Governmental Affairs given the nature of the work we do. We are constantly dealing with the government in one form or another. Marketing is another in terms of continually getting the word out that this is the place to be for students to be as well as the quality of the school for budgetary purposes within the legislature if we are going to be effective. Ms. Carroll suggested if there are not enough people to staff that particular committee than Finance can be a part of it since it deals with the budget. Also, the School Improvement Team needs a Board representative.

III. *Informational Time/Program Updates*

A. Director's Report

- 1) Teachers' Association-Adrienne Noelte, Vice President
No report
- 2) Teacher Assistants' Association-Lynn Tait-Romano, President
No report
- 3) Ice Cream Social-9th Graders - *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
This is an orientation for the incoming freshmen we hold every August. It is part of the Community and Public Relations Committee. It was very successful. It used to be the Freshmen Barbecue but it was getting very expensive. The agenda covered information for the Class of 2011 provided by the guidance counselor. Judy Valentine, Supervisor of Academic Instruction, did a presentation on the High School Diploma System followed with a tour of the building. The ice cream social was also an opportunity to do some outreach and awareness for the Davies Parent Council.

- 4) Opening of School – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
Enrollment

We began on August 29th with 822 students: 9th-258; 10th-245; 11th-170; 12th-149. As of October 1st, we lost 19 students which is pretty good: 9th-248; 10th-229, 11th-166, and 12th 150 for a total of 793. We are funded for 825. This has to do with not so much the incoming 9th graders because we can always go to our waiting list, but it is the 10th and 11th graders. This is what we talked about at one of the board meetings. What can we do to help these students move from grade to grade? We implemented two new programs this year for the 9th graders and the repeaters. The 9th Grade House consists of two teams of teachers who have been looking at strategies they will be using consistently across the board. For instance, if there is a certain discipline problem, homework assignments, class work, notebooks, the policies will be all the same in each team teachers' classrooms.

The second program is the Academic Enhancement Program and it is working. Three students who are in this program are already transitioning back into the general population. These are students who are repeaters who had attendance and discipline programs causing their grades to be not great.

Professional Development Day

Three workshops were offered on August 28th: One was on the Proficiency-based Graduation Requirements, SkillsUSA, Support to Staff with Fred Slemmons, Special Populations Coordinator, and Bernie Blumenthal, Partnerships in Education Coordinator.

- 5) Commissioner's Review – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
This agenda item was deferred until the November meeting because it is quite lengthy.

6) **Upcoming NECAP Testing** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

This is the new statewide assessment for proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics. It is going to be administered the week of October 8th in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Reading and Writing were incorporated into one part of the test, but they are now separate. This is the first year it is being done in October. Most of the state is not happy because it is measuring the 10th grade spans and a lot of the students coming into the 9th grade and 10th grade there is a lot of remedial work that needs to be done to get them up to grade level. Everyone felt the March date was a better time to test them. The 11th graders know it is coming but what is happening in the same month is the NECAP testing and the PSATs. They are testing these kids out.

Last year's scores were published in the newspaper and we went down from the previous year which is the case statewide. The director will be looking into why this is so with the staff and report on her findings at the next meeting, but one cause is obviously test fatigue.

7) **NEASC Report** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

This agenda item was deferred until the November meeting because it too will be lengthy because it aligns with the Commissioner's Review and with the School Improvement Plan. The report was good because there were no surprises.

8) **Parent Visitation Night – September 20, 2007** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

This evening was very, very successful. The Parent Council held a meeting just before the Open House began. The agenda covered a survey of topics they would like to do during the school year, reviewed the school calendar, and recruitment of more parents. 388 parents came to the Open House. They learned the teachers' expectations, the course overviews, grading policy, etc., and they had a lot of questions. A lot of freshmen parents were concerned about their child's transition. It was the largest turn out that she has experienced since she became director.

9) **Other:**

—There was a moment of silence for Harvey Simms. His organization wants to replace him on the Board. In the meantime, we need to think about what to do as a memorial to Harvey for all the commitment he gave to Davies.

—Regarding the two newspaper articles in the agenda packets, one was on the Pathways to Success. Mr. Blumenthal reported, for the third year in a row, Davies participated in a program with Rhode Island Hospital, Lifespan, called Seacole Scholars. It gives an opportunity for our students that are arising from junior to senior year to participate in a summer experience where they are assigned to a specific area within the hospital anywhere from the Jane Brown Unit working with the patients to Respiratory Therapy department. Over the course of the seven week program which is a paid experience, they are getting that practical experience and what we are finding is that with their background in the nursing shortage, the nursing assistants are getting hired right away. We

saw some of our graduates already hired by RI Hospital. It's a program that has not only been successful, but it is being expanded as well to fifteen to twenty of our students.

At the same time, we had a new program with Women and Infants Hospital, Pathways to Success. They are looking at the younger students and motivating them to understand what the nursing profession and other health occupations are all about. They were able to take six of our students for a six week paid experience. They went through a more leadership experience, but they had a wonderful opportunity to be on the floor to see how the different health occupations interact with the nurses and doctors.

IV. Adjournment:

At 7:30 p.m., Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn, Mrs. Kyle made the motion and all were in favor.

V. Next Meeting:

November 7, 2007