

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, June 18, 2008

The minutes were accepted at the July 10, 2008 Board Meeting.

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 8:11 am, Dr. Segovis called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: Richard Beaupre; Raymond Chartier; Robert Halkyard; John Quinn;
Dr. James Segovis, *Chairperson*; Robin Smith

Members Absent: James Bone; V. Michael Ferdinandi; Larry Gemma; John Gregory;
Carolyn Kyle, *Vice-Chairperson*; John Nardolillo;

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Cheryl Carroll, Bernie Blumenthal, Susan Paquin, Joanne Andrews, Judy Valentine, Gerry Manning, Frank Barcellos, Peter Fangiullo, Fouad and Gail Faraj-Musleh (Parents)

C. **Approval of Minutes** – April 10 and May 8, 2008 Regular Session Minutes
Approval of minutes was deferred until the next meeting due to no quorum present.

D. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

Dr. Segovis welcomed parents, Fouad and Gail Faraj-Musleh, who were present to speak to the Board and plead their case on an incident that occurred involving her daughter, Johana, and another female student on June 13th. Mrs. Faraj began by saying her daughter was attacked by another student by surprise. She thought it was important for the Board to know that the videos were uploaded to MySpace.com, PhotoBucket.com, and UTube.com as entertainment for the kids and whoever wanted to watch the attack and it was called, "A Day at Davies." She grew up and was raised in Lincoln; she went to Lincoln High School; at this point Davies has worked very hard for its reputation. Her daughter is a freshman, is very proud to attend here, and she loves the school. She is defending her daughter's opportunity to remain at Davies, safely. She brought with her a 30-second video she wanted to share with the Board so that they could see what she had to watch, her daughter being attacked. She directed them to watch her purse on her shoulder which shows she was caught off guard. During that time, there was no one of authority; it went on; it happened. Someone in authority came and the kids scattered. It occurred at 9:45 in the morning after the last exam her daughter had on the way to her homeroom.

The Board then watched the video. One of Dr. Segovis's first reaction was, "They had time to film it but not break it up."

About a month ago, this young girl's, Brittany, ex-boyfriend broke up with her; she was in a violent relationship with him, so the children say. He had his eye on her daughter; she didn't want anything to do with him; made it clear to Brittany she didn't want anything to do with him. Brittany told her from that point to watch her back; she sent messages through other kids telling her to watch her back. When softball season ends, I am going to get you. There was a hear-say of a threat; she has a police report stating that she told a friend she was going to bring in a knife and use it against her daughter. They brought it to the attention of the administration who were very good about bringing the police in and investigating it. There is a police report on that.

From that day, she continued to send threats through other people, watch your back, watch your back, watch your back. This is what her daughter was coming to school with everyday for three weeks. Finally, the detective who was assigned to the case who has worked with kids for seventeen years, said they get to a point where they've had it; it's a monkey on their back; they don't feel safe; they are going to take care of it themselves. She agreed that morning with Brittany face-to-face, "I'll fight you." "I'm tired of it; I'll fight you." So there was an agreement that she would fight and defend herself. When she was standing at the top of the hallway, Brittany sent a message through a girl, "Tell her to come down here." She has a written statement from one of the girls that were walking with her, stating that Johana said "No." She said, "Meet me in the gym." Johana said, "Tell her I am not meeting her in the gym." "I am not going to fight here on school grounds." She went down to tell Brittany she wasn't going to meet with her, she got very upset, and when her daughter came down the hallway that is when she fought her. Yes, my daughter gave her own camera that morning to a young boy named Brandon who filmed it and said if anything should happen I want you to get it on tape because there will be a fight today, a fight, not an attack.

Mrs. Faraj's point is there is nothing in the handbook. Supposedly this girl only has one thing in her file as far as a fight. She can bring in several students if she needs to that will give the reputation of this girl threatening other students, getting into fights with other students. The detective has other information on this girl that he is going to be pressing charges for. We are turning the simple assault before the attorney general into a criminal assault because she had one kick to the head and now it can be charged as a crime. Her concern is for the safety for the students. We know this goes on all of the time. She thanks God she isn't standing before the board in a situation like in Florida that we all know about where the girl now has brain damage, deafness in her left ear, and blind in the eye. Her daughter is fortunate; she only had contusions to the head, several blood spots where she tried to pull her tiny little braids out, and three cornea scratches on her eye and she has a medical report of that.

Her plea is this girl should not have the privilege to be in this school. There is protection for the teachers as far as a law that goes into the handbook. Her understanding is, and the law protects the teachers, if there is an assault there can be expulsion. Mr. and Mrs. Faraj is asking that the board do the same, protect the student, and take a stand as they took a stand as a school against violence with Mr.

Burke's daughter's fund. We stood up as a school, had a fashion show and took a stand against violence, and she is asking for Davies' board to stand up, take a stand against a violent attack against their daughter, and that child, Brittany, shouldn't have the privilege—it is a privilege to come here; you can go to your own town. She feels she should go back to her own town and she should not have the privilege of staying. So that is what they are asking. Mrs. Faraj is actually going to get involved in legislation to get something that would assist the administration, like Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick to be able to say, "Here it is in the handbook; the law states this; you cannot come back to this school." Kids nowadays have no fear of a consequence. This generation is very different. If they get a slap on the hand, as she did with the threat of the knife, it doesn't mean anything. They have no understanding of a consequence could be fatal—fatal means forever. Her background, before she became a full time mother, is in mental health human services. She was a mental health therapist with youth in a psychiatric ward. I find that today's kids it doesn't take to be in a psychiatric ward for the youth to be struggling with what they are dealing with today. It takes us as parents who believe in the old ways that she needs a punishment and she needs a consequence to an attack.

Mr. and Mrs. Faraj's plea on this day was so that the Board would hear this and that Brittany would not be allowed to come back to this school.

Dr. Segovis thanked for them for coming. He asked how did it get on UTube and the others. Mrs. Faraj has names of the kids standing there videotaping. They all have cameras; they all have phones, and they uploaded it. She is contacting the admin of all of sites, and she has the right as a parent to tell them to take it down. The reputation of Davies has gotten much, much better over the years since she was a kid, and we had some good administration come in over the past however many years, the last decade, and really work hard for that. She has personally kept it out of the media; she has not gone to the media; she does not want to go to the media. Her thing is we need to work together, and if there is any funding that needs to be done, she will seek after it. She was the chairperson for St. Patrick's School when they were going to close on Smith Hill several years back. She chaired a committee for \$120,000 to get that school to stay open. They had commercials; they went to legislators; they did everything, so if funding is needed, she is behind it 100% and she will dedicate whatever time she can. She has several parents behind her who will also come forward to try to help. There needs to be more for the administration and not have to come to the Board and have it right in the handbook for these kids the day they come to school and she is sure it will take some time and funding.

Mr. Halkyard thanked them for their presentation and thanked them for keeping it out of the media. Davies does not need that kind of publicity. We can handle this issue within our own house. He had a question: he thinks he heard her say that her daughter gave her cell phone to Brandon and said there is going to be something so tape it. She told Brandon she was going to fight this girl. It was a monkey on her back; she was going to defend herself. What she told Brandon is, "I don't trust her." "If anything happens, I want you to get it on tape so that I will have it." Is he the one who took the pictures that are now on UTube? "No", the ones on UTube are from the other kids who were standing there. Mr. Beaupre asked when did this happen. Friday at 9:45 in the morning; she just finished her last exam. Have they been in any conflict since then? No, immediately they pressed charges, Brittany

was arrested, and they had to leave to go to the police station. Ms. Valentine does not have Johana's statement; it is half written, but she was full of blood at the time, they cleaned her up while she had a fat-lip. Mrs. Faraj did not realize the damage to her eye at the time. Her daughter just had been punched, and she had blood in her scalp. They went to the police station and then she wanted her to be taken care of.

If the Board needs her for anything else, if they need other students, there are students who will come forward. Mr. Beaupre asked if either student have been back to school since. "No." It is her understanding too, that the minimum is five days suspension with a maximum of 10. She has a problem with the fact that she got five for such a violent act. She should have gotten 10 in her opinion. She thinks there needs to be whatever possible to let this girl know you can't do this in life. Mr. Faraj added that 30 years ago or when he was in high school, you wouldn't think twice about a fight. Normally it was just a regular fight, but now the ways things are going, you've seen what happened at Columbine, you've seen what happened in Florida, you cannot just say it is just a little thing anymore; that's the problem. Unfortunately you have to take it a little more seriously than just a regular fight. He wouldn't consider this a fight; this was an assault. A fight is face-to-face; people are ready to fight. This was definitely an assault, attacked from behind. That's the problem; things have changed since he was in high school. The rage you see in that video with a child going like this on top of someone else, can you imagine if that was a knife, if she actually had a knife. There are four teachers in this school who know what it was all about. She told the teachers that afternoon—my ex had his eyes on her—and that pissed her off. She cannot go on thinking that this is okay. This is the bottom line with a lot of these girls nowadays, but it is very dangerous and they don't think anything that there is consequence to violence. It wasn't just a fight; she was attacked.

Mrs. Faraj previously mentioned "after softball". Are they both on the softball team. "No", after school Brittany has softball practices. She told her friend who in turn told Johana, again it is all hearsay, but I don't want to get thrown off the team for getting in a fight. After softball watch your back. For weeks, it was weeks, watch your back, watch your back. She loves this school and did very well. She was an honor student up until the last semester. She doesn't think it is right for anyone to have that kind of control.

Mr. and Mrs. Faraj-Musleh thanked the board for listening and in turn, Dr. Segovis thanked them for coming in. He then asked Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick and/or Ms. Valentine if they had anything to add relative to legal issues, etc. There are some limited legal issues the Board can take, but they need to know more information from the administration on the background. Ms. Valentine is, at this time, still calling parents and students in for statements. The police were called on May 28th because there was some hearsay that Brittany was going to bring in a knife into school and stab Johana. Immediately when she found this out she called Brittany's mother at 2:30 pm telling her that she needs to address this. She was called in along with the students who heard Brittany. They then said, "Well, I heard her say something as I was walking by." Ms. Valentine only had one person who heard her actually say this. Then Mrs. Faraj-Musleh called her to say that she wanted the police called and she agreed to reopen this investigation. The police found more evidence leading to her going to bring in a knife. After that, she spoke to Brittany; she was under the impression that this was over and done with until this actual fight

on the 13th. She has been gathering statements from students on what was going on between them between the 28th and the 13th. It is still under investigation.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick met with the parents on the 13th and then over the phone regarding the videotape. She told them, and it was still under investigation, there aren't any rules or regulations that she can expel a student from school due to an attack or a fight, etc. She then called Mr. Ragosta to get some legal advice and he said basically, to continue getting the statements. She told him what the parents were doing at that time. He said basically we have to wait and find out what happens with the statements and they to continue with their plan to press charges against her. She didn't realize they changed it from a simple assault to something else, which is fine. If there is a "no contact" issued against Brittany, then she has no other choice; she would have to be removed from this building.

The parents of Brittany were in yesterday. Of course they are upset and Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick told them what Johana's parents are in the process of doing, wanting her daughter to be expelled from school. They wanted to know what their daughter's rights are as to remaining in this school. She told them what they needed to do if something does unfold and she is banned from the school due to the "No Contact" Law. So they are concerned about his because they want their daughter to remain in this school.

As an administrator in this building, she has to defend both sides because if she is asked to leave the school because of this "No Contact" law, then she has to write a letter, a written statement, explaining why she has to leave the school and provide her the right to go the Board of Trustees. If she is not happy there, then she can go to the Commissioner's Office when they will review all of the information and make a decision at that level.

At this point, it is still under investigation. The Faraj-Musleh family will continue to do what they are going to do. Brittany's parents are awaiting the trial date on the 23rd of June to find out what unfolds there. We are kind of in limbo here. She usually expels a student based on what is in their file. All the other outside things Mrs. Faraj spoke about, she is unaware of, what is happening in the neighborhood or whatever. Other fights in the school, the only thing we have on record is the one fight she learned about from Ms. Valentine back in December. If others have occurred, it is unbeknownst to her. Mrs. Faraj asked Ms. Valentine why they were in her office prior to this. Before Ms. Valentine could answer, Mrs. Faraj said there is more to this and we can continue what we need to do. She has an issue with and what she has been told is, well, there was going to be fight and it was going to be here. The detective himself said that irregardless of whether there was going to be one, there was an attack. That is the bottom line; that is her bottom line that there was an attack. Whatever the investigation tells us, what went on between the girls, or what was planned and what wasn't planned, she has an issue if that is going to be the bottom line. Actually, the investigation can be taken further because that is not what ended up happening. She takes issue with that.

She takes issue with the statements. Ms. Valentine keeps saying to us that it was planned here. Yes, okay, yes she had a monkey on her back; she wanted her off; she was going to defend herself; she didn't feel like anybody else was doing it. The police report didn't really back her up on anything; it was a hearsay thing. She has

been dealing with this; she got to a point which kids like her will get to, “You know what, I am going to stand up for myself.” “I am going to fight you.” The only way this girl could have taken my daughter was to take her from behind. She is a small girl with a lot of talk, apparently. There is skill in what she did. It is a lot of anger, and it was violent, and to her that is the bottom line.

Dr. Segovis then said 1) we have an ongoing investigation by our staff of which the Board has to rule on so it is probably inappropriate at this time to make a comment on this particular incident that Mr. and Mrs. Faraj shared with them. He urged them to continue on with their plan to file a criminal complaint. He understands as a parent why they would want to do that. 2) the policy side as a Board, he would like to get some recommendations on the table going forward to help the staff maintain a “Zero Tolerance” policy given the legal situation that both students have rights so what do we do as a school. Like on UTube when a student threatened a teacher, he was defended by the Civil Liberties Union for the right to threaten teachers. He thought that was an interesting stance to take. We will look at this and see what we can do in the policy whether it is to strengthen it; or take another educational posture. We will take a look at that and will get back to Mr. and Mrs. Faraj.

One last thing, Mrs. Faraj added that one of the kids that put it up online over the weekend, text messaged Johana and said that he would take it off if she would drop the charges. Johana is not charging her, but the kids are going to look at this and she is going to take a lot of flack when she gets back. This is why Mrs. Faraj wants it to come from the school and not necessarily that Johana had the kid kicked out. Johana is a minor who cannot defend herself. They are, as parents, fighting for her. This is why she is asking the school to help her with the responsibility of that and not have it all be on the parent.

At this point, Mr. and Mrs. Faraj-Musleh thanked the Board and exited the meeting.

Mr. Halkyard asked Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick to inform the Board on what basis she can expel a student. She answered, “Drugs, weapons, and an assault to a staff member.” No one is saying it wasn’t severe; however, she cannot expel a student unless there is a pattern of assault and behavior issues with that student who makes this environment not safe. She is stating stuff that she is not aware of. Once the Director establishes it then it is a different ball game. The students discipline report has five infractions one for fighting, one for tardy; one for vandalism, one for an obscenity to a staff member which was on MySpace. She hasn’t established a pattern here. Mr. Halkyard asked her what she means that isn’t a pattern. There are five violations but only one that deals with fighting. They are all different. Mr. Halkyard said, “Yes but we can’t tolerate that kind of behavior: vandalism, obscenities to a teacher and all of that.” In his opinion that student should have been out of here a long time ago and Mr. Beaupre agreed with him. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick has to take some action. The administration did take action and gave her ‘x’ amount of suspension no matter what it is, but based on her experience, the Director had three students who blew up a bathroom. She did a suspension a quarter for one and two quarters for the others. The parents said it was too strict. She went to RIDE. They didn’t overturn the one quarter decision, but she had to reduce the two quarter suspensions. That was an incident that really, really could have caused great harm. Kids could have been in that bathroom when the bomb went off. Brittany’s vandalism was writing on a desk. The fighting was with a young boy over an iPod. Ms. Valentine couldn’t recall what

the fight was about last December. She was tardy to class. The one with the staff member, she wasn't sure what that was about.

Mr. Halkyard said to Mr. Chairperson that the Board has to stiffen the penalties and get this type of behavior out of the school. We have too good of a reputation to have it ruined by unruly kids and the lack of consequences. Dr. Segovis was surprised that the staff didn't know this case backwards and forwards. Everyone is saying they don't know; well you should know. He is hearing five days suspension; well why not the ten days minimum. If the Board presses this to RIDE, the worse that could happen is probably to back down. Mr. Halkyard added, "Not if it is policy." We should have "Zero Tolerance" policy. Each side has rights, but the reality is this was an assault. It was after softball season, she should never played softball. Dr. Segovis knows the administration's hands are tied and they need something from the Board saying that this is it; that type of behavior isn't acceptable.

This is what Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick is working with Mr. Ragosta on. When you have a case this severe, then "yes" there should be some policy, but right now we don't have one in our handbook in regards to this. Right now you may look at it as there is a pattern being created, but she is looking at it in judgment of what her experience has been with RIDE. At this point, based on the information that she has, which is very little here, that there isn't a pattern here. She had a case similar to this and she did remove the kid from the school. She didn't expel her; she removed her because she was a safety issue with a number of students throughout the school as well with teachers. She removed her and put her on home instruction. She set up a contract with the mother and she had to do "x", "y" and "z" and then we would revisit that, but if the mother doesn't even like that, they have the right to go to RIDE and ask for an appeal of the Director's decision. Brittany's mother said that once this is all out, she will go to RIDE. Right now the Director is in the middle.

Dr. Segovis added that Mr. Halkyard's point is well taken in that this is not the type of school we want. At the next meeting when we have a quorum, we will say, "you assault like that, you are out." It doesn't matter how many times. If you use your fists that way, you are out of the school and the principal has the authority or her designee to say you are gone. It is a ten-day suspension until we determine the facts and once we do, you are out on your ear. The Director needs that type of authority. As a Board, we should be able to tell the Director that she has the authority to run the school the way she feels is appropriate.

Mrs. Smith admitted that an alarm went off in her head when Mrs. Faraj told them that Johana entered into an agreement that there would be some aggressive behavior, that we don't know the whole story. No, they don't know the whole story and the Director can't make a decision with partial information. We are still investigating it. When incidents like this happen, she refers them all to Mr. Ragosta because we have to do the right thing. He said that we have to do the investigation; get the statements and that is what we are doing, but Mrs. Faraj wanted us to immediately expel this girl. She told her she cannot do that. Mrs. Valentine has been getting statements from the students even those the parent recommended and some of those statements are not saying what she is saying. Right now, no one is questioning the severity of this and how dangerous it could have been for this young lady. That is not it, but there are some protocols that we have to work through before the decision is made. The Director is the one who told her to put a restraining order on the child and to move

forward on this with the criminal charge. She is the one who gave her the steps that she needs to do this by.

Mr. Halkyard understands what the Director needs to do regarding the investigation, but what he doesn't want to see again for the future is to not have a policy like the case in Johnston where the teacher had sex with a student, and there wasn't anything in the policy book that says you can't have sex with a student. You can't fight in school so we need to make sure it is in the handbook so it can be defended. Dr. Segovis added that the girls may have had an agreement on school property and during school, they have choices and that was not the right choice. A non-violence program was instituted in the middle schools and high schools. They started in Providence and Woonsocket and they had some successes. The other side of this you saw no one broke it up. No one helped in the process during that 30-40 minute altercation. Everyone loves to watch a fight versus that is not how we want our school culturally.

Mr. Manning informed the board that a student can only be suspended for a total of 10 days, so if she had two days prior, we couldn't give her a 10-day suspension. In the past a student could be suspended up to 35-days a year, but the state said we couldn't do that, a maximum of 10-days. After 10-days, you have to have a Socially Behavior Assessment when you have to bring a team of people around, review the file, it's a long drawn out process. The mother wants something done immediately, but there is a process in place and we have regulations. We know the educational laws backwards and forwards. We have to know those laws. The mother understands because she spoke in length with her. She knows our hands are tied until such time we can get more answers. You also have to look at the other side. We have two different students here, two different parents that are demanding their child stay here and they both afford due process.

Mr. Halkyard asked what is the school's cell phone policy. There is no electronic devices in the building. When it is reported, we remove the cell phones, the parents are called, and they have to come in to pick up the cell phone. First offense is a warning and if they get it again, we keep it until the end of the school year, but the problem is these kids are a total different generation. Sometimes you tell them to hand over the cell phone and they refuse to give them to you. You walk them down to your office, call the parents, and they say that they need the phones. It is unbelievable. You need to walk in our shoes for a couple of days as administrators. You have a policy in place, the teachers and the staff abide by that policy but the flack we get from the students, the flack we get from the parents, it's incredible.

Mr. Manning had a second point regarding the discipline policy. We need one that is progressive. We don't start with the strongest consequence and then go backwards, so we have to use a progressive approach. It may appear to be a pattern here with five incidences. We have files that are this thick with kids that have 100 situations. Yes, we would love a school where in which everyone does what they are supposed to do, but having been in Providence and dealt with kids with files an inch thick, even in Lincoln Middle School, a middle school with files an inch thick. The state isn't going to support an expulsion even with something like this with only five incidences. If we expelled a student for every incident, if we expelled a student every time they swore at a teacher, we wouldn't have any students. Yes, we don't think it should be in the school, we don't agree with it, as administrators we wish it would never

happen, but the reality is if we suspended every kid that swore at a teacher, we wouldn't have a school. The kids we have are the kids that we have. We give consequences, we have conferences with parents, we have files this thick with investigations, incident statements, and sometimes four, five, six, eight hours, a whole day, or three days of investigation that we have to do on one incident. We try to be thorough with the process making sure we have everything in place, but the reality is if you look at an expulsion with five incidents in their files, we have to think about that.

The statements Ms. Valentine is receiving, she made sure the witnesses knew that they have to state the truth because this could go to court; you could be sworn under oath; you need to state the truth. They knew they were going to fight in school on the last day after exams. Johana is saying she was attacked from behind and she has a witness statement that says s/he saw her get attacked from behind. She does not have a statement from Johana. Her parent took it. When she asked for the statement, the mother shut the door and said she needs to talk to her daughter. They then left without the statement and Ms. Valentine stressed to them that she needs it. Brittany had said that Johana walked up to her and said, "Go ahead, hit me, you are not going to hit me," so she hit her. She admitted throwing the first punch and took the girl to the ground. It wasn't hundred percent Brittany. She spoke to a witness on the phone at 6:00 pm and he said they had problems; they were going to fight; they wanted to wait until the last day; Johana gave him her camera at 8:00 am when we were leaving homeroom to record the fight in school. She told me a few days before that there was going to be a fight in school.

Another concern of Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick's is when they know of a fight, they should have reported it so this young man Brandon, there is going to be a consequence for him for having knowledge that could have stopped something in the building and he didn't contact any of the two administrators. There is a lot going on here. Johana didn't come forward either. Ms Valentine is going to go back to the handbook to see if there is anything on withholding evidence.

Dr. Segovis wants an update at the next meeting and then bring in Mr. Ragosta to talk about policy and what works. It is one thing to throw a punch; it's another thing to see what we saw. The Board needs to give the administrators the support they need to do their jobs properly.

Mr. Manning added that none of the administrators have a problem with strengthening the handbook as long as they know that the Board is going to be ready to back it because once you put it in policy, if we are putting out kids every time they swear in school, he supports it 100%. We are going to have schools that are 50% empty until people understand and adjust to the new policy. It is that growing thing that everyone is going to have to be ready to support.

Every year parents have to review the handbook and then sign off on a form indicating they reviewed and accepted it, and then they have to return the form to the school where it is kept on file.

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 8:59 am, Mr. Halkyard 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 for informational purposes only. Mr. Chartier seconded the motion and all were in favor.

F. **Return to Regular Session**

At 9:37 am, Mr. Halkyard made a motion to recess out of 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.

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to keep the minutes of the Executive Session confidential. Mr. Halkyard made the motion, Mr. Quinn seconded the motion and all were in favor.

No votes were taken during Executive Session. Labor and financial issues were discussed pursuant to the Rhode Island regulations on litigation and personnel issues.

II. Business Agenda

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

She informed the Board that money was taken out of the budget in this year. We had a fiscal 2008 budget reduction passed a few weeks ago that we needed to respond to. The teachers were all well aware that we had to put our spending onto this track called “Critical Only Spending” in order to meet the reduction we had to take in our budget for this year. With the 2009 budget still unfolding, we still have a far too fluid number to really fully understand what that is going to mean for us for next year. She is eagerly awaiting the process of the realization of what is going on with personnel, benefits, etc. We will soon be embarking on a full analysis of FY09 as it unfolds, and she will keep the Board apprised of that.

B. **Human Resources Report** - *Joanne Andrews, Human Resources Coordinator*
Report was given in Executive Session.

C. **Board Meeting in July** – *James Segovis, Chair*

There will be a Board meeting in July because we have a number of issues now that we didn't have before that we have to vote on. The Board will be polled ensuring a quorum will be present.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. **Director's Report**

1) **Teacher Association**—*Frank Barcellos, President*

Mr. Barcellos informed the board that the vice-president, Adrienne Noelte, resigned in May and Mr. Barcellos appointed Peter Fangiullo, Culinary Teacher, to serve as the interim vice-president until nominations are made in December. His term will be up at that time as well.

During the Executive Session he spoke with Mr. Manning, Ms. Valentine, and Mr. Blumenthal about the assault. To echo Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick comments, your hands are tied. You have to do what is bound by law, and while it may seem that there is a pattern, to suspend for every small infraction, he doesn't know how realistic that is. Maybe you as a Board will take it up under advisement with Mr. Ragosta whether you will afford the students the same rights as the teachers have. He doesn't know how it is going to play out, but the law, the way it is written, hasn't kept up with the type of students we have now, nor the technology such as finding a recordings on UTube because of cell phones. Everyone has to think like attorneys and not educators.

He wanted to make the Board understand that this is a small minority of students we are talking about. Out of the 80 students that he has, he can name just three in his program that may do something like that. Dr. Segovis was attack twice as a teacher at post-secondary ed. at a residential treatment center for troubled kids. It was not to be unexpected, but he almost lost his eyesight in one eye so he knows what it means to go through that process as a person more less a teacher. Then he had a scalpel pulled on him and again there was no training in the school on how to deal with that. You were left on your own with the more experienced teachers telling you how to handle it. Kid issues haven't changed since the 1960's when he was a student teacher. The law has gotten less helpful rather than more helpful so it is really tough for administrators. Whatever policies the Board can do that will help the process, then that is what they are going to do.

2) **Teacher Assistants' Association**-*Lynn Tait-Romano, President*

On behalf of Ms. Tait-Romano, Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick informed the Board that she is one of the retirees. She has resigned as of June 30th. At this point, Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick doesn't know who is going to replace her and what that process looks like. She is assuming when Mr. Eagen comes in, he will look at what they are going to do with that position because it is a separate union from the teachers' union.

4) **Student Placements/Student Technical Area Certifications** – *Bernie*

Blumenthal, Business Partnerships in Education Coordinator

(See Supplemental Material: Davies Graduates: 2008 Placement Data)

The Student Technical Area Certifications part of this report was postponed. Mr. Blumenthal reported on the Student Placements. The process he goes through at the end of each year is to get a sense of where our seniors are headed upon graduation. In the School-to-Career Office, they sit outside of the senior classes and they survey them, and then they try to track down those they hadn't heard from. As he does every year, he gets an opportunity to find out where they are headed. They are asked, "Are you going to a college, to a four year school; are you headed to technical training; are you headed to a job in your technical area or pretty much related; are you undecided, not sure what you want to do or may want to go to college or may want to find a job?" Others say they may want to go to the military. He then tabulates all of the results and puts together this report to give the Board a sense, by shop area, an overall analysis of what their current plans are. This year he had to actually analyze the data twice because he initially

did it on 143 students that were reported to be on track to graduate until their final grades came in. Then he had to reduce it to 112. When he updates this at the October Board meeting, they would have been called over the summer. They will ask them what their final plans are plus those students who went to summer school, he will be able to update it and give the Board an even bigger chart, end result.

What he is seeing is that 51% of our students said that they want to go on to post-secondary education. Of that group, one of the things he did this year was to say are they actually related to their technical area because in the past he saw a big number but he wasn't quite sure. About 60% of those students going onto college have some specific plans to stay in their technical areas. Some were not sure and some are interested on going onto other endeavors. With the technical training of 5%, we are looking at now roughly 56% of our students going onto higher education while 12% are going right into their technical training. This 12% is a little lower than what he was hoping but it is still higher than what he saw last year. The number that continues to concern him is the 27% who are undecided. He gets no enthusiasm, no energy, I'm not quite sure, I might want to travel, it's a quarter of our students. 5% is going into the military and this number could get higher in October because they can't until they graduate.

Looking at the Comparative Results with Past Graduating Classes on the second page of the report, Mr. Blumenthal only had a perspective from 2006 on, but he went back and looked at the figures prior to that. You can see there was a big number in related employment going back to 2004, and you can see over the years how that has dropped down. There is also bigger numbers with the undecided. One of the things he always wondered, when we started our lottery system, students who really may not of wanted to be here as oppose to those students who wanted to be here, that he wonders if we started seeing over time this notion of maybe I am not really sure of what I want to do. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick added that another reason for that is the shop selection. Some have to take their second or third choices. She and Mr. Manning are doing some work on trying to change this trend of kids going into the shops they are not interested in. This is possibly why we are getting the number of failures in the shop areas and it may have an impact on the "undecided" percentages. This is the group that he really feels like he said last year, that if we could redirect a little better, then we have done our mission and we are also helping them move into the area of choice. Again it is space, logistics, but if there is a way to transition some of them into the areas they are interested in, it might help us. If you see the last four years, a quarter of the group falls into this category.

This report gives you an idea of where we are standing, what he is seeing. In October, he expects "related employment" will pick up a little bit; "military" will pick up, "post-secondary" he thinks will be right where it is now. The big number in the "undecided" category, a lot of them didn't pass so that tells you something there. What he found interesting with the college selections, this year more students are going onto four-year schools than 2-year. He expects the CCRI number will pick up because those that are right now undecided, mentioned if they do decide to go to college, they will apply to CCRI. Mrs. Smith asked if they were aware of the JAA Program, a work-and-study program. Mr. Blumenthal

speaks about it and the Guidance Dept. does a great job as well. 82% are going to colleges/universities in RI and 18% are going out of state.

Mr. Halkyard recalls this is the same conversation we had last year with the concern about the undecided. We were going to try to do something about this number in trying to reduce it. He asked if he recalled the initiative we were going use to lower that number. Mr. Blumenthal recalled talking about it but we really didn't put any concrete steps into it. We were looking and thinking behind the scenes on how we could do that and then our year just took off on us.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick added, and the reason why the certifications report was postponed, she and Mr. Manning are going back to see what the sophomores first technical program choices were and why they didn't get into them. If they are not happy, they are not going to be successful. There is a lot of discussion between her and Mr. Manning. He is going to concentrate on some of the teachers while looking at why kids are failing in the shop areas. They are working on changing some of this. Last year we had 38 kids who wanted to go into our Health Careers program and we only have one teacher for that grade so where do the kids go?

5) **Management Team Retreat**– *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
Discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

6) **Davies High School Diploma System** - *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
Discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

7) **Graduation – June 10th** – *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
Dr. Segovis felt that Davies graduation was wonderful. The recognition of the students who passed away, Vickie and the staff did a great job on that. He appreciated it and the kids had a lot of energy. It was a great time by all.

IV. Adjournment:

At 9:37 am, Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

V. Next Meeting:

A poll will be taken for a meeting sometime in July.