

WILLIAM M. DAVIES, JR. CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
50 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln, RI 02865

Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Minutes approved at the 9/9/08 Board of Trustees Meeting

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:13 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: Richard Beaupre; Robert Boisselle; Raymond Chartier; Lawrence Gemma; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle, *Vice-Chairperson*; Dr. James Segovis, *Chairperson*; Robin Smith

Members Absent: James Bone; V. Michael Ferdinandi; John Gregory; John Nardolillo; John Quinn

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Cheryl Carroll, Bernie Blumenthal, Susan Paquin, Joanne Andrews, Judy Valentine, Gerry Manning, Fred Slemon, Frank Barcellos, Peter Fangiullo

C. **Approval of Minutes** – April 10, May 8, and June 18, 2008 Regular Session Minutes

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Beaupre made the motion; Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion; and all were in favor.

D. **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 5:14 pm, 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. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion and all were in favor.

E. **Return to Regular Session**

At 6:38 pm, 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. Chartier seconded the motion and all were in favor.

In Executive Session, personnel issues and a student issue were discussed. There was a decision by the Board to ask for a policy that clarifies and expands upon

school bullying. Peer remediation training will be outlined and will be prepared by the end of September to be implemented for the coming school year.

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

No comments made.

II. Business Agenda

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

Ms. Carroll wanted the Board aware that after the last four years holding the student lunch pricing at \$1.75 for lunch and \$0.75 for breakfast for full-paying students, there is now a need to raise the prices this year. With the increase in the trucking prices and the pricing of the food, there is no way the entity that runs the student cafeteria program can run it while maintaining the USDA and nutrition guidelines keeping fruit on the line, salad on the line, etc. She informed the Board that she will intend to put forth a contract renewal with this company that will set a full-pay lunch price at \$2.00 and \$1.00 for breakfast. She asked if the Board had any objections to this \$0.25 increase, but she did poll the sending districts where our students come from and found the price is very reasonable. \$2.00 is actually the low end of the range for lunch. Many of the districts are now charging \$2.25 - \$2.50 and then \$3.00 to super size.

It didn't require a public vote from the Board, but she did ask them for their endorsement. Dr. Segovis asked about the kids who are very poor. Davies has a severe need for reduced price or free lunch program, and that price is set by the federal government so they are all taken care of it. We only have contractual control over the full-pay price.

The Board did not object to this increase.

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

There was no report.

C. **"Zero Tolerance" Policy** – *James Segovis, Chair*

This was discussed in Executive Session.

D. **Summer Retreat** - *James Segovis, Chair*

Dr. Segovis would like to have a Board retreat but he doesn't think we can pull it off due to contract negotiations and getting the Quality Assurance Committee going as well. There is a lot on our plates but he would like to schedule a retreat sometime in the near future. Mrs. Kyle and Mr. Halkyard volunteered to coordinate it and begin building an agenda.

E. **Nominating Committee** - *James Segovis, Chair*

The Nominating Committee recommended three individuals to join the Board of Trustees: Mr. Paul L. Ouellette, Vice President of Community Development and Workforce Training, Northern RI Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Lori Ann McIntosh, Parent; and Mrs. Carolyn M. Hebert, Parent. Mrs. McIntosh has training in nursing and will provide valuable expertise in that area as well as being a parent. Mrs. Hebert has a Masters in education who will also be valuable to the Board. With Mr. Ouellette, John Gregory asked to step down. Given his

schedule, the Governor put him on another committee; he just can't attend the Board meetings. He recommended Mr. Ouellette to ensure the Board maintains its contact with the chamber. Mr. Ouellette is a very good choice with his experience in workforce training and who is strongly committed to education. Mr. Blumenthal who has worked with him on other committees, and he confirmed that he will be a tremendous asset to the Board.

Mr. Halkyard made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation of the above named individuals to join the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Also, active members whose terms expired expressed their wishes to continue serving on the Board: Mr. Lawrence Gemma and Mrs. Robin Smith. Dr. Segovis thanked them for that.

F. **Advisory Sub-committee to the Board**

The Board talked about having an advisory council once before but nothing came of it. When Mr. Gregory stepped down, Dr. Segovis began thinking about it again and feels it would be a great idea.

Purpose: The council would serve as a strategy advisory group to the Board of Trustees and the school. The individuals who would serve on this group would provide knowledge, resources, counsel, prestige and other forms of assistance as needed to strengthen Davies as a state and national school of excellence.

They will be expected to attend up to two meetings per year, join in on some strategy sessions. They will not be able to vote but they can help the Board in improving the school.

Mr. Beaupre voiced that he had a problem. He asked how are we going to get people to serve on this advisory council when we have problems getting people to sit on this board. From Mrs. Carolyn's perspective, it's an opportunity for a Board member who has stepped down to continue his/her connection with the school on a strategic/policy level. Also, there may be a big name in a particular industry, i.e., biotechnology, who we may want to develop a relationship with, who can't come to the board meetings once a month, but can make a once or a twice a year commitment. Mr. Beaupre mentioned that Thomas Tanury, ex chair of the Board, would be an individual for this advisory council. He is who inspired Dr. Segovis to rethink the advisory council concept. He is planning to go to Mr. Tanury to ask him if he is interested and he will be able to fit it into his busy schedule. Mr. Gregory would be another individual

All were in favor in proceeding with instituting a Board of Trustees Advisory Council.

The Board of Trustees by-laws will need to be amended. Dr. Segovis already spoke to the school's general counsel, Vincent Ragosta, Esq., and he said there isn't anything legal that will prevent us from doing this. We are not changing the power structure, the voting structure, the contract with the union, or anything like that. He will speak to him again to make him part of the by-law amendment process.

Regarding the quality assurance initiative, Mr. Gemma agreed to head the committee. Sue Paquin will work with Mr. Gemma to confirm a meeting date and Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick will determine who on her staff should be a part of the committee. For those who do not know, because of the work at GEM, they are pretty well connected into the national network which includes schools. Mr. Gemma added that the school will benefit greatly with the Baldrige assessment program like some of the premier school districts throughout the country. After going to a lot of Baldrige meetings in Washington, there is a wealth of information that is readily available to us. So we need to start opening up conversations with some of these other school districts so that we can see some of the best practices nationwide. We need to set benchmarks, some goals, but keeping it simple so that Davies can maintain its focus on education. He would like to set up a seminar with everyone to begin getting in touch with other organizations, for example, hospitals, because he has found that the more you go out of your realm and see what they are doing in other industries and fields, the more you realize you need to think out of the box. It is a very long process; GEM has been involved for about five years now and they are not even close. All of the information is available on-line.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. Director's Report

1) Teacher Association—*Frank Barcellos, President*

Mr. Barcellos didn't have much to report on other than he hopes the non-renewal members get called back and during his experience as a union officer both under Jean Halstead when she was president and under his own 2.5 years as president, that the Board and Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick's administration has had an outstanding record of recall. He only remembers two people who didn't get renewed and it was both their choice not to. He also is looking forward to meeting over the negotiations.

Dr. Segovis informed him the administration has set their first meeting for discussions on the contract.

2) Teacher Assistants' Association

The president of the Teacher Assistants' Assoc. has retired, Lynn Tait-Romano. They haven't had any type of nomination/election to replace her.

3) Management Team Retreat—*Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

The director is planning this retreat on July 30th at the Bryant Center. She thanked Dr. Segovis for the room. On the agenda, there are two primary focuses. One is on the NEASC two-year project report that is due in October of this year. We are working on a policy manual that is pretty much going to address issues regarding student management and health and safety issues. We have been working on a Crisis Team and a Crisis Intervention Plan. The other focus is to do a review and an assessment of the school's organizational structure and the respective components within them. She will be asking the team to do an assessment of the programs within their component of that structure, to look at some strategies to meet efficiency, and to look at the alignment of the NEASC recommendations within those components of that structure. It will be a day long retreat and hopefully the information and strategies that are gleaned from it will be part of the school improvement plan as well as the strategic plan. She is looking forward to it as well as the

management team even though it is a lot of work but they are used to that. It will be time out of the building, off site, and we will be able to get some work done.

- 4) **Davies High School Diploma System** - *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
This year was the first year the Class of 2008 had to meet the statewide graduation requirements and she is proud to say that out of 100 plus students that had to participate in the Senior Project portion of the graduation requirements, we had less than 1% of the class who did not participate. This 1% is because they were failing some of their academic classes or their technical program and they dropped out. The other 99% of the senior class, they all met the requirements within the Senior Project component of the Davies High School Diploma System. It was an excellent experience for both the teachers and the students. The students were asked for some feedback on certain components of the system especially on the mentoring; was it an added value them.

It was an exciting time; the kids were really excited. They were kicking and screaming from September on, but in the end, they all managed to do what was asked, and they got a lot out of it. She believes this is the best measure of the students' ability and achievement while looking at their reading, writing, and communication skills, etc. We plan to tweak the system after making an assessment, and we have already begun the process with the juniors this year beginning with sending letters to their homes.

The director did something different than a lot of the high schools did because it could have been an all or nothing. She didn't do that. She gave out one diploma that endorsed proficiency for those students who met the requirements set by the state. Once the word got out, those students tried to meet those proficiency requirements. 31 students received the proficiency endorsed diploma which had a seal and they wore a black and gold honor cord around their necks during graduation. She will do it again next year but it will be for the last year because for the Class of 2010, it will be all or nothing.

5) **Other**

Bernie Blumenthal, Business and Education Partnership Coordinator

He gave an update on the SkillsUSA National Competitions. At the April Board meeting, Mr. Suggs reported to the Board that we had 42 state medal winners. 17 of those students went to Kansas City to compete at the national level. We came back with two medals: a gold medal in First Aid/CPR (Marguerita Luna) and a bronze medal in Action Skills, demonstrate an action skill on the job (Dayna Restrepo did infant CPR in an emergency situation). In addition we had three students who were in the top ten of the country including one who was a percentage short of not only getting a bronze medal but a gold medal (Shawn Hall in Technical Computer Applications). Mariama Krubally was fifth place in Occupational Portfolio with a 25 point deduction because she went over the time limit. If she didn't she probably would have won the gold medal. We just felt so proud of what our students accomplished along with the teachers for strengthening their academic and technical skills.

This was the first time Gerry Manning, Supervisor of Technical Instruction, got to go to the nationals. He was late arriving because he had some things that needed

his attention here at the school, but if he has the opportunity to go next year, he will be there on the first day. There was so much to absorb. When the director talks about the Davies Diploma System, it is all about access and opportunity for our students. These competitions are a phenomenal access and opportunity experience for these kids. For example, our gold medal winner was there as a junior and came in 9th when she made the determination, “I am going to go back and I am going to win,” and that is what she did. This is because she had the access and the opportunity and was able to do that. His thoughts as he tried to absorb the whole thing were how can we create more access and opportunity for all of the kids here at Davies to be able to participate in a school-wide competition here and have that experience so they can go to the state competition and be able to participate at the national level. It is great for those 17 students but more of them have to be exposed. Some of the top minds in industry were at this event who are very supportive of SkillsUSA. He can definitely sense where they were coming from in their presentations and their conversations. They feel confident about the future based on what they were witnessing with these kids, and when you go there and see all of them performing the way they did, it definitely gives you a sense of hope for the future. Exposing more of our kids to that, yes that is one of his goals.

Mr. Barcellos added one of his ex-students, Ryan Fitzgerald who was our first student in the top ten for residential wiring, went on to become an apprentice for Local 99 IBEW. Steve Brady from Warwick set up a Skills chapter there and Ryan competed, post-secondary, as a first year apprentice and won the gold medal nationally. This past year Ryan competed in Motor Controls who initially placed fourth, but because of a scoring error, he won a gold back to back.

This is the length that Mr. Manning wants to provide our students with the access and opportunity because this isn't just a secondary opportunity, SkillsUSA has a post-secondary component as well. It certainly develops aspirations to compete at the post-secondary level, and there are opportunities for leadership, scholarships, networking, etc.

Dr. Segovis congratulated staff and teachers. It has been a great year in spite of the challenges and we will do better next year. Given Mr. Gemma's initiative, we will be moving ahead. There will always be an incident here and an incident there, but in general, the school is a safe place and it needs to be said publicly. With zero tolerance, the Board is committed in maintaining Davies as a place where people can learn and remain a positive environment for everyone.

IV. Adjournment:

At 7:15 pm, Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

V. Next Meeting:

Unless something happens the next meeting will be in September and he will be looking forward to the contract negotiations over the summer months.