

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, October 9, 2008

*Minutes were accepted at the Nov. 13, 2008 Board meeting.*

**I. Routine**

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 8:05 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; Lawrence Gemma;  
Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle, *Vice-Chairperson*;  
John Nardolillo; Dr. James Segovis, *Chairperson*; Robin Smith

Members Absent: Robert Boisselle; James Bone; V. Michael Ferdinandi; John Quinn,

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Cheryl Carroll, Bernie Blumenthal, Susan Paquin, Joanne Andrews, Frank Barcellos, Gerry Suggs, Michelle DeSerres, Peter Fangiullo, Jennifer Diaz, student; Elizabeth Nunez, student

C. **Approval of Minutes** – September 9, 2008 Regular Session Minutes  
*Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Halkyard made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2008 meeting. Mr. Gemma 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 8:07 am, Mrs. Smith 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. Mr. Beaupre seconded the motion and all were in favor.*

E. **Return to Regular Session**

*At 9:17 am, Mrs. Kyle 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. Gemma seconded the motion and all were in favor.*

*Mr. Halkyard made a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session; Mrs. Smith seconded the motion; and all were in favor.*

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

There were no audience comments.

## II. *Business Agenda*

- A. **Finance Report** –*Cheryl Carroll, Business Office Coordinator*  
There was no report.
- B. **Human Resources Report** - *Joanne Andrews, Human Resources Coordinator*  
There was no report.

## III. *Informational Time/Program Updates*

- A. **Director’s Report**
  - 1) **Teacher Association**—*Frank Barcellos, President*  
There was no report.
  - 2) **Teacher Assistants’ Association**  
There was no report.
  - 3) **SkillsUSA National Competition** — *Gerry Suggs, Davies SkillsUSA Advisor*  
Mr. Suggs gave a report on how the Davies team made out at the national competition level, in June, in Kansas City. Davies students had a remarkable success at the state level when we won 17 gold medals, 13 silver, and 13 bronze medals. We have always been consistent as a high performing school. SkillsUSA has scored Davies as the highest technical school in the state and very high in the region and in the nation in winning medals and attaining student leadership positions.

SkillsUSA is conducted in all 54 states and territorial associations across the US representing over 15,000 local chapters and now it is over 300,000 students. Students compete in well over 10,000 local contests that lead to regional, district and state contests that ultimately lead to Kansas for the National Leadership and Skills Competition.

At the May Board meeting, Mr. Suggs guaranteed that our students would do an excellent job in representing our school. Eighteen students attended this competition in Kansas City, competing in 17 contests and one student was our state representative, Stephanie Feuti, who was elected the state Parliamentarian. In the 17 contests, we had 14 students finish in the top 20 in the country. Of those 14, we had 7 finish in the top ten in the country, Jenny Diaz finished 9<sup>th</sup> in Job Skills Demonstration in Health Occupations. Elizabeth Nunez finished 7<sup>th</sup> in Basic Healthcare Skills. Of the remaining 7, we had four finish in the top five in country. Two of those five just barely missed winning a bronze medal. Mariama Kubally finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Health Occupations Professional Portfolio and Sean Hall finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Technical Computer Applications.

For the past 15 years, Mr. Suggs has been coming before the Board reporting on Davies continued success. Two years ago, he finally reached a very specific goal that he had set. We finally won a national gold medal. We hadn’t won a gold medal in over 20 some years. We have continued to be extremely successful but now, this past year we have attained a new level of achievement in our accomplishments. The National Leadership and Skills Competition conducts approximately 90 skill and leadership competitions

with approximately 6000 competitors. This means there are 90 bronze, 90 silver and 90 gold medals awarded to secondary students. We have won our share of national medals over the past 10 years. We have about 16 in the cabinet out in the Atrium. Two years ago we won our first gold medal in over 20 years. This past June, for the first time ever, a Davies teacher had two students announced as medal winners in the same year. Dana Restrepo won the bronze medal in Action Skills in Health Occupations Performance, and Marguerita Luna won the gold medal in First Aid CPR. Mr. Suggs introduced to the Board the Health Careers' teacher, Ms. DeSerres. She had all five of her competitors in five different contests, finish in the top ten in the same year with two of them winning national medals. This is an incredible level of success both as a teacher, as a SkillsUSA advisor, as well as a PDP instructor. In the last nine years, she has had over 25 students represent our school and our state at the national competitions. She has had three of her students ultimately get elected to be state president, and her students now have won four national medals, three bronze and one gold. Her graduating seniors now, routinely, successfully complete the Level Four of the Professional Development Program, which is the SkillsUSA curriculum, and it is the only class in the state that achieves this.

Every year when he comes before the Board and reports on how well we have done, the board congratulates him on job well done and he keeps saying it isn't him. This morning he wanted the board to meet and be able to recognize one of those teachers who makes him and your school look so good. The SkillsUSA program would not be doing what it does without the dedicated efforts of people like Ms. DeSerres who has had the success that she has had these past ten years (*applause*).

This year SkillsUSA is creating a new award and there has to be a nomination process. She will be Mr. Suggs' nominee as the SkillsUSA Rhode Island Teacher of the Year. She deserves it for what she has done and what she continues to do. One student he failed to mention who finished 9<sup>th</sup> was actually Mr. Blumenthal's student who is now a junior, Angilee Higgins, who happens to be in Health Careers. It's the teachers who produce these students who produce these results for our school. (*applause*).

Ms. DeSerres addressed the Board thanking them for their support and continued support for the work that we are doing because like Mr. Suggs said, it is really not us and it really isn't her. In the fifteen years she has been doing this, these are her students' medals (*as she showed her collection of medals and state pins won over those years.*) When Marguerita Luna went to nationals last year she came in 7<sup>th</sup> in the country. She said, "That is not good enough," "I'm going back next year and I'm winning." (*applause*)

Dr. Segovis, on behalf of the Board, said to Ms. DeSerres as teacher it's wondrous to see that the recognition and the work of your students is reflected on her. Her work has truly reverberated through time which is what a teacher hopes to do. Congratulations. He is very envious because he doesn't get medals like that. He also thanked Mr. Suggs for his leadership. Mrs. Kyle this is what needs to be captured for Judge Flanders.

- 4) **Senior Placement Report**—*Bernard Blumenthal, Partnerships in Educ. Coord.*  
(See Supplemental Material: *Davies Graduates: 2008 Placement Data as of 9/30/08*)

The School-to-Career Office staff surveys all of the seniors in May and ask them what their plans are for the upcoming year after they graduate: college, technical training, work in their related field, military, or not sure what they are going to do. A report of the May survey was given to the Board at the June meeting. Then in late August, they attempted to call the graduates to ask them to reiterate whether their plans are the same or if they shifted. Most of them reiterated what was reported in May. 50% of the graduates reported they are going to a 4 or 2-year school. 8% are interested in going into technical training. Most of them are going to schools within the state, but there is a higher percentage going to a 4-yr school as opposed to a 2-yr school which is a little shift. 12% are interested in related employment. It's a little higher than the previous year at 8%, but it still isn't up to where it used to be at 20-36%. Mr. Blumenthal is concerned about this low number so he decided to check to see if those students going to college are selecting a major related to their technical program and he found 58% of them are.

There is still a quarter of our graduates who are undecided; not quite sure what they want to do. If we survey them a year out, that number may be reduced but it is uncertain just how the numbers would be dispersed. He noticed in BT, CIS, Health, Graphics, Electronics and Culinary that many of those students are going almost directly into their field in higher percentages than the other technical programs. If we look at the trends, maybe the industry is saying to us that they definitely need higher education/further training where other programs are saying you can either get additional training or go right into the workforce.

Mrs. Smith asked why the sample size is smaller, about 30% less, than what it was in May. What happened was in May there were 143 potential graduates surveyed. When the graduation list came out, there were actually only 112 and only five of those completed the graduation requirements over the summer. Mr. Halkyard asked why Computer Information Systems has one of the lowest numbers going on to higher education and the highest number of undecided. Is this a quirk in the statistics or is it related to the nature of the program? It may be the group of students we had in the program this year. He feels they were not a highly motivated group and not focused. You have to ask how were they selected; how did they get into this technical program? It could be it was not their first choice. He feels IT is still that one field out there where they need to fully understand what the career paths are and how you use IT. It's just not clear where IT majors can go. It's something the School-to-Career Office needs to do a little bit better.

- 5) **Enrollments by Community and Technical Program:** *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

This report was deferred to the next meeting.

- 6) **NEASC 2-Year Focus Report** *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*

This report was deferred to the next meeting.

#### ***IV. Adjournment:***

*At 9:38 am, Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.*

**V. *Next Meeting:***  
TBD