

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

Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Minutes were accepted at the March 12th Board of Trustees Meeting.

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 8:09 am, Dr. James Segovis, Chairperson, 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; James Bone; Raymond Chartier; Lawrence Gemma; Carolyn Hebert; John Nardolillo; John Quinn; Dr. James Segovis, *Chairperson*; Robin Smith

Members Absent: V. Michael Ferdinandi; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle, *Vice-Chairperson*; Lori Ann McIntosh; Paul Ouellette

Others Present: Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Cheryl Carroll, Bernie Blumenthal, Susan Paquin, Fred Slemmon, Joanne Andrews

C. **Approval of Minutes** – November 13, 2008, December 18, 2008, and January 15, 2009 Regular Session Minutes

Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to accept the November 13, 2008, December 18, 2008, and January 15, 2009 Regular Session Minutes. Mr. Beaupre made the motion, Mrs. Smith seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

D. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

There were no audience comments.

II. Business Agenda

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

The Finance Report was deferred to the Executive Session.

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

The HR report was deferred to the Executive Session.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. Director's Report

- 1) **2008 NECAP Results**— *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
(*See Supplemental Material: Fall 2008 Beginning of Grade 11 NECAP Results; Davies Grade Level Summary Report, Reading Results, Writing Results, Mathematics Results*)

The recent NECAP 2008 results on the Class of 2010, our current juniors, were recently released. The Governor and the Commissioner of Education did a press release focusing primarily on the Math. There was an increase in the percentage statewide over last year's results. Listed on the Davies Grade Level Summary Report, are Davies' and the State's number of students who are proficient, partially proficient, proficient with distinction, and substantially below proficient.

Referring to the report, the Director explained that 76% of our juniors are proficient in Reading, 21% are partially proficient and 3% are below proficient. If you look at the statewide percentages, 69% are proficient, 20% are partially proficient, and 11% are below; so Davies is doing pretty well compared to the rest of the State in Reading.

She is very excited about the Math scores over last year's. 25% are proficient in Math from 7% last year. We went up 19 percentage points; something she promised the Board we would accomplish. 45% are partially proficient and 30% are below proficient so we still have a lot of work to do. However, if you look at the statewide percentages, we did pretty well in comparison. This was a great improvement over last year's scores.

In Writing, we gained 10 percentage points in the proficient category over last year at 26%. 68% are partially proficient and 7% are below proficient. Again, we did pretty well in comparison to the statewide percentages.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick then directed the Board's attention to the Reading, Mathematics, and Writing Results summary reports which compares Davies to the State with 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 testing results. We made great strides in getting our kids proficient since last year's testing which were very poor. The Board voiced a greater concern about the Math scores last year. 1% is proficient with distinction up 1% from last year; 25% are proficient up 19% from last year; 45% are partially proficient up 13% from last year, and 30% below proficient is a 28% decrease from last year.

In comparison to our sending districts with the 2008-2009 test, we did better than Pawtucket (both high schools), Central Falls (we are little behind in Writing); we were right on par with Lincoln in Reading and higher than North Providence in Mathematics.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick did share the results with the staff and they were very pleased, but we are just waiting to see if we met all of our targets which will determine what the school's classification will be. We worked hard at improving the proficiency levels i.e., the work we did during the Professional Development Days, getting the tech teachers on board aligning their curriculums with the Grade Span Expectations to instruction as well as the

assessments in the English Language Arts, Writing, Mathematics, and Science.

It was asked if the teachers were going to get a celebration. The teachers will get a celebration. As in their contract, they will get a bonus so they are waiting patiently to see if we met the targets. The junior class will also get something. She and Mr. Slemon have another little surprise for the teachers but can't say what it is with Mr. Barcellos present plus it hasn't been approved yet. The surprise they have for them will impact instruction in the classroom.

For next year, Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick told the English Department we still have a long way to go and she wants to increase those percentage points up to at least the statewide level if not better. She and Mr. Slemon went to a Commissioner's Forum, once again, and we have to submit a Commissioner's Review. One was done in 2006, another in 2008 and now another one for 2010 due on May 1st. This review has to do with the diploma's approval process. We already have a preliminary approval, and this review coming up is for the real deal. Once we submit it, they will come out to do a site-visit and they will let us know by January or sooner whether or not our school has been officially approved to give out a Board of Regents' diploma for the Class of 2012 which is our current 9th grade. If we do not get that approval, then we are not able to give diplomas, and if students do not get at least proficient or partially proficient (the benchmark the state has set) they will not graduate.

Dr. Segovis said "congratulations" to the teachers and the students. He hopes we will continue the stride toward improvement.

2) **Teachers' Association**—*Frank Barcellos, President*

Mr. Barcellos reiterated that Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick did share the NECAP results with the staff before they began the Professional Development Day activities. It is understated in the Providence Journal; you never get the whole story or any story about how we do as educators. Like what Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick said, there is always work to be done. She is quick to reward and quick to praise, but she is also grounded, and the staff has bought into it. Even the students have bought into it as well. They know what a disaster some of their sending districts are and they don't want to see it happen here; that is why they are here. He is happy to hear she is going to reward us, but again, the level of work that we do, she appreciates it and is always quick to let us know. We have bought into this whole program as a whole and hopefully we will continue to move forward.

Unfortunately, we did not make the US World News Report medal school as we did in prior years. He hasn't seen the entire list to see how close we came to missing it, but with this improvement, he can't imagine Davies not making it next year.

He then reported that this will be the last Board of Trustees meeting he will attend as president of the teachers' union. His term ends Feb. 11th. There will be a new president but he will still be involved; still be on the

negotiation team so he will see some of the Board members. He certainly has mentioned it in public here many, many times how fortunate he has been to have this administration as opposed to others and he hopes to have continuing cooperation.

Dr. Segovis said congratulations to Mr. Barcellos for stepping down because it is always a “thankless” job. Mr. Barcellos has been an officer in one way, shape, or form for 11 of his 14 years here at Davies. It is time for new blood and time for him to take a step back. At times it is thankless but other times it can be rewarding. He got to see things with a different perspective particularly testifying down at the State House with Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick and Ms. Carroll. He saw the larger picture so he could appreciate more where they were coming from when they made their decisions they had to make.

Dr. Segovis is looking forward to the upcoming contract negotiations in spite of the contentiousness within other districts. Mr. Barcellos believes we will never see that here especially if our focus is on the students. Dr. Segovis thanked Mr. Barcellos for his work and cooperation which is appreciated. He also appreciates the professionalism of the teachers and their hard work.

3) **Teacher Assistants’ Association**

No Teacher Assistants’ Association representative was present.

4) **Other**

—*Groundhog Job Shadow Day – Bernie Blumenthal, Partnerships in Education Coordinator*

On February 2nd, Davies was the featured school at the Groundhog Job Shadow Day and Mr. Blumenthal is hoping we will see some publicity from it. The Tech Collective, Junior Achievement, and Rhode Island Hospitality and Tourism Association teamed up to feature Davies High School and our Culinary and CIS programs. The students had a chance to go to the Hyatt Regency in Newport and look at how technology works in each of the hotel operations behind-the-scenes. They saw housekeeping, front-end, kitchen, and revenue projections. He feels we were very fortunate to be featured and our students came through it very nicely. They asked great questions and they were very pleased to have the opportunity especially for some of those who have never been in a hotel, some who have never been to Newport, some who have never seen a premier suite at \$1000.00 a night which really rolled their eyes a little bit. Hopefully there will be some publicity in the Providence Journal and a few other papers were there.

Back to Routine

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 8:30 am, Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to recess into Executive Session. Mrs. Smith made the 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. Bone seconded the motion and all were in favor.

F. **Return to Regular Session**

At 8:48 am, Mr. Quinn 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.

Publicly, Dr. Segovis reported that a vote was taken and unanimously passed, with one abstention, to send out lay-off notices to 11 positions which he didn't go into for personnel and privacy reasons. They will be sent out due to budgetary reductions proposed by the budget office and the Governor at approximately \$814,000.00.

Mr. Beaupre made a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session; Mr. Boisselle seconded the motion; and all were in favor.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick reported out on what Vin Ragosta advised us to do in regards to the letter from the president of Swiss Line. The Board asked her to speak to Mr. Ragosta about responding to the letter. He reviewed the letter and he recommended not to respond to him in writing because we do not have an agreement outlining the usage of the equipment; it is not clear about who actually owns that piece of equipment. His concern is that the article read as though we had to place some kind of permanent employment for those students which we do not. If we respond to the letter, it is all factual type of information; it would be adversarial; and it would turn into something else. He said to just leave it alone and once we identify who owns the equipment, then we would move forward in trying to give that equipment back to whoever the rightful owner is because at this point it is owned by the State of RI. Once something is donated to the school, it belongs to the State and we do not have the right to just give it back to him or _____Sales. Ms. Carroll will be looking into how we could go through the state process to return that piece of equipment.

As far as doing an agreement, Mr. Ragosta said we have to do it on a case-by-case review of the equipment and to do it in a form of a gift letter. If it is a large piece of equipment, we would outline exactly what the conditions are not only for the piece of equipment but what the donator will get in return. Mr. Bone asked if we were going to have some kind of written policy on this and Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick answered, "yes".

Dr. Segovis has been in contact with the president of Swiss Line and he will be giving him a status report on where we are in the process. Dr. Segovis asked him if he could help us determine ownership because it would help us facilitate the process.

Mr. Bone added that the Board's liability insurance does cover them in the event that they were sued and brought to court over this. He feels the amount of the insurance is sufficient to address this incident, but there are some other issues we can discuss later regarding where the risks are, ie, AIG is the insurer and everyone knows AIG has some of their own problems. They are delaying payment when claims are filed; however, we are covered.

Back to Business Agenda

- C. Approval of the Special Education Advisory Committee By-laws – *Fred Slemon*
(*See Supplemental Material: Special Education Advisory Committee*)

Last year in the Consolidated Resource Plan we submit to the state, a budget tool for getting federal money, Davies was cited for not having a Special Education Advisory Committee for parents at Davies, so we went forward to put that in place and as result their first step was to put together a set of by-laws. We had the RI Parent Information Network come in and assist us in doing this so that we had all of the guidelines. There were about six meetings and the format isn't the usual format in that there is not a chair and vice-chair. They came up with a leadership committee so the committee shares those responsibilities. Mr. Slemon felt they did a nice job and he strongly recommends that we go forward with the by-laws and the Board accepts them based on what is inside. It is a very supportive scenario for Davies; another resource to draw from for Special Education.

The advisory committee is supposed to meet four times a year. The minutes of those meetings are to go to the Director and annually they will give a report to the Board of Trustees unless something comes up that requires other attention. Dr. Segovis asked if there should be a Board member that is a non-voting member of that committee to be a liaison. In their preliminary meetings they've asked if there could be a liaison from the Board of Trustees. Mr. Slemon feels there should be a liaison between the Board and the advisory committee. Dr. Segovis would feel more comfortable if there was on-going communication and with a liaison, the Board would get more frequent feedback then waiting for the end-of-the-year report, as a check and balance of the system.

One of the standing members of the advisory committee is Mr. Slemon and our Parent Liaison who is an employee at Davies, Felicia Morrobel. They are both non-voting members but they are both there and the school is well represented.

Mr. Quinn asked what are the parents' expectations of the function of this committee, one with great thunder but no power, all they can do is advise? They can advise, but they can also serve as educators and advocates for other parents who have students with special needs. The ideal situation is they will be in the forefront of any kind of training that is out there for staff, etc. Also, they are part of the solution in terms of us addressing the students' needs. No one knows the child better than the parent. It formalizes the relationship we always have had for some years with our parents. It also gives the parents a mechanism to address us with any significant issues they feel aren't being address. The committee brings it to another level, which is something we want. Mr. Quinn's experience with this committee is the information is from the school to the committee instead of the other way around, and it takes a while because nobody knows what they don't know. This committee will be very informative. One of parents on the committee is a member of the RI Parent Information Network and does trainings for advocates in the State. The impression Mr. Slemon has gotten attending the meetings is they want to learn more about Davies and what they can do to support Davies. The presentations that he has given at the meetings is that Davies is here to support the needs of our students within the confines in which we have to operate and everyone has been accepting of that.

Mr. Slemon added that Davies is not typical of the comprehensive schools in larger communities. We are not open to a lot of issues that they get. Their parent advisory committees bring a lot of issues to the table which has a lot of potential for problems.

Davies does not have that focus so Mr. Slemon has a very positive sense that everyone is very willing to work together and move forward.

Dr. Segovis asked if all were in favor of accepting the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee By-laws and adding a Board of Trustees Liaison. Mrs. Smith made a motion to accept, Mr. Gemma seconded the motion, and all were in favor. We are now in conformance with the Consolidated Resource Plan.

IV. Adjournment:

At 9:08 am, Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.