

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 24, 2009

Minutes were approved at the 9/1/09 Board of Trustees meeting.

I. Routine

A. **Call Meeting to Order**

At 8:08 a.m., 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; Raymond Chartier; Lawrence Gemma; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Hebert; John Nardolillo; Dr. James Segovis,
Chairperson

Members Absent: Robert Boisselle; James Bone; V. Michael Ferdinandi; Carolyn Kyle,
Vice-Chairperson; Lori Ann McIntosh; Paul Ouellette; John Quinn;
Robin Smith

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

C. **Approval of Minutes** – May 28, 2009 Regular Session Minutes

A quorum was not present; therefore, approval of the May 28, 2009 meeting minutes was postponed.

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**

Recess into Executive Session was postponed to the end of the agenda.

E. **Return to Regular Session**

The Board did not recess out of Regular Session at this point on the agenda.

F. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

No comments were made.

II. Business Agenda

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

(See Supplemental Material, “The Davies Foundation; Steps to Start a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization)

National Union Insurance Carrier: The Board of Trustees Legal Liability Insurer

Ms. Carroll began by saying she wished Mr. Bone was present because he had contacted her a couple of months ago in the capacity of his expertise as a risk assessment manager for Fidelity,

and he was bringing up potential issues as to whether or not the school board's legal liability policy that is a subsidiary of AIG might be at any risk of paying claims should there ever be a claim made under that policy. The policy runs from December 1 to November 30th so we are into that policy now until the late fall, early winter time period. Mr. Bone brought up naturally some very valid questions in light of AIG's financial situation. They had conversations going back and forth and she thinks Mr. Bone wanted to try to at least make sure the board members are all aware of the AIG subsidiary, National Union, is the insurer of the Board's legal liability policy. She had conversations with our agent who is an independent agent and bids the business each year and goes out and finds a carrier for that policy. She had discussions with an individual in the State's DBR Office specifically who specializes in the insurance industry; got his take on it. He looked at some AM Vest rating reports as to where this National Union stands today and all indications are they still have an "A" rating. The agent doesn't yet think it is time to panic and we would be out to a re-bid anyway as we always do annually in the December timeframe.

If Mr. Bone were here, she was sure he would share his thoughts because he is well versed on this topic. She asked the Board to just think about it if she gives a reminder in the Fall as this policy comes up for renewal, she would just need to know if it is the sentiment of the Board to ask our agent to not ask for a re-bid by National Union and instead seek other insurers with no AIG link or subsidiary relationship. Right now it doesn't seem like from anyone she has spoken with, unless Mr. Bone has other thoughts that he wants to share with you, but it doesn't seem, again, it is time to hit a panic button and short rate the policy by doing a mid-term cancellation which will mean paying hefty financial penalties when you do so. Maybe we can revisit this at another meeting when Mr. Bone is present to ensure she has an understanding of the board's view to where they want to go with this policy. She has looked at some financial statements that are included with AM Vest, and no one has given any indications that they are not paying claims. She keeps hearing the issues are with the parent holding company not with the insurance subsidiaries.

Dr. Segovis would like to start the process now versus November. So with Mr. Bone's guidance, he would tell the agent to go seek other bidders and bring them to the table. It is his proclivity; we start now the process of research and then before the contract is up, then we can make a decision with the guidance of Mr. Bone. Ms. Carroll asked if the Board would want to short rate cancellation of the policy and seek a new insurer prior to the current expiration date. The Board didn't feel that was necessary.

Mr. Nardolillo asked if Mr. Bone offered any recommendations to explore that option. He didn't provide recommendations more than he seemed to have stronger cautioning against even these subsidiaries of AIG than what she is hearing from any other person she talked to. It is important that we pick his brain further at the next Board meeting if he is able to make it because, if she is not mistaken and she didn't want to quote him incorrectly, she thinks he indicated to her that Fidelity, personally, has had some claims collection issue with something that they have with AIG. He would know; he would be good indicator, but she is not hearing that even from the individual who couldn't be more, in her opinion, unbiased at the DBR Office with insurance regulations expertise, but she thinks Mr. Bone has a more personalized Fidelity focused story.

Dr. Segovis said to proceed with the research, setting the stage working with Mr. Bone, and report back to the Board in October.

The Davies Foundation: Steps to Start a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization

(Refer to the handout)

Many of the Board members who have been here for a long time, this will not be a new issue. This is something that has been lingering out there forever. It is time to dust it off and if the Board has any resources available to get this off the ground, it would be really appreciated.

Back when the school began a strategic planning process that is now transformed into a school improvement team, there was a finance sub-committee that was co-chaired and headed by our former Board chair, Domenic Mitchrone. She sat on the committee as well as other individuals. Way back then, 2004 timeframe, it was Mr. Mitchrone's wish and the desires of the Board members as well that the school enact a 501c3 corporation. The hope would be that any donor entities out there that are looking to give to 501c3 that we would have an entity in place that could be a viable applicant for funds that are earmarked for 501c3. Way back at that time, she took a couple of avenues with this and both became dead-ended and now it is time to dust it off. The avenues were, she had initially through Vin Ragosta, sat down and talked with a lawyer/CPA friend of Mr. Ragosta who met with them, pro bono, and gave them basically what is involved in getting a filing, getting incorporated, getting tax-exemption status, the by-laws, a board in place, etc. The conversation was great but because he doesn't work for free, it certainly would have been 7-9 thousand dollar price tag if we were to use this individual to get a 501c3 corporation going, a nonprofit organization.

From that, another branch came out and that was then Board member John Gregory who now has Paul Ouellette in place. Mr. Gregory offered another avenue. Northern RI Chamber has a foundation and a proposal was put together by Paul Ouellette. Mr. Ouellette met with Mr. Mitchrone and her. There was a point in time when Mr. Halkyard and Dr. Segovis sat in on the meeting. The chamber had a proposal in that they have a ready vehicle to be able to be a receptacle 501c3 entity for Davies. Anyone wishing to give a donation to a 501c3 in the name of Davies, in essence, the donations would go to the Northern RI Chamber Foundation in care of Davies School. We would be an underlying line item within a bigger 501c3 entity called the Chamber. The benefit to them is that they would get an administrative fee. They would get a piece of their annual accounting fees for that fund, etc. The benefit to Davies is we would forego having to set up our own structure; going through a legal/CPA process to establish our own structure, in essence, we would be ready to hit the ground and run. Back then we had a little Board of Trustees sub-group who decided to forego that arrangement. It had nothing to do with anyone questioning the ability for the Chamber to administer those funds, but more so that we would take a secondary status that we thought from a marketing perspective and going out for funds, it may cause a confusion that people would not understand, "Well am I giving to the Chamber or am I giving to Davies?" We didn't want there ever to be anyone thinking of giving in our name wondering if the funds are indeed going to Davies. So we decided to forego that avenue at that time. She even has a proposal draft that Mr. Ouellette submitted to us way back when.

From that time, Ms. Carroll also knew that our sister school, School for the Deaf, another state school, had a Friend of the Deaf Foundation. She picked their brain to see how they got it up and running. There was a lawyer parent of a student at the School for the Deaf who on a pro bono basis, established their 501c3; got it all up and running and got a bunch of the luckier parents of some of the Deaf's students to put some sizable contributions into it. That didn't help her because again they had an in; they had a pro bono in to have it established.

Now walk forward to the School Improvement Team process. Under that team we have a Grants committee that has to be chaired by a teacher by contract. We had a teacher, Mr. Robert Peretto, who had stepped forward to chair that committee. She thought she had ray of hope because one of the members who had joined the committee is a woman who has a son who is a lawyer, Ginny DiMattia. She tried to strongly suggest, "Boy wouldn't it be great if we could have somebody, pro bono, do a legal entity set up of a 501c3 for us." She was told that she would run it by her son and never heard anything again so the assumption is her son wasn't interested.

We are back to the situation where we would love to have a 501c3. She cannot use state funds to pay a lawyer to establish this organization because it will be an organization that we are trying to get off the side of the state accounting system that acts independently. That has the ability to go seek its own funds; that won't have any bearing on future appropriations that we get from the state annually in our budget, and she can't use state funds to develop a nonprofit arm of Davies. This has been brought to the surface, forgotten, brought to the surface and forgotten. It is being brought up tonight with the hopes that if there is anyone who would be so inclined or anyone with nonprofit establishment experience; we would love to know if someone would be willing to give Davies a hand.

Mr. Beaupre explained that he was against this back then and he is still strongly against this whole situation. He thinks it is crazy; look at the complexities here, but in addition, these students are 100% supported by the State of Rhode Island. There is no tuition here; there is nothing. He thinks this is the wrong format, the wrong organization to have a 501c3 foundation. Yes, colleges, universities, absolutely, there is a definite need for it, but he does not think this is the proper organization, a high school, to have this type of organization. He was against it back then and he still is now. He wouldn't speak up back then but he is now. He doesn't think it was the right thing. Dr. Segovis asked him if he knew of an alternative. No, there is no alternative. He believes this is a public entity, in this case, the state, there should be no extra fundraising vehicles. Yes, the kids coming here, it doesn't cost them a dime. It is fully paid for by the state and that is not the case with colleges and universities. They have to pay tuition. This is just not the format for a foundation, a high school. He was sorry but he feels very strongly about it.

Dr. Segovis asked Ms. Carroll to refresh his memory. Going back to the reasons for establishing a nonprofit, there were some grants that we would be more eligible for if we had a vehicle of this nature separate from Mr. Beaupre's issue. She answered, "Yes." Mr. Mitchrone strongly felt that our dependency on the political process by which we live and die. Because we are state funded, it is a very different funding vehicle for a school that is funded by a municipality. We live like a health department, a department of environmental management, an attorney general's office, etc. that like it or not, our budget appropriation lives through a process which is a very political animal. So what Mr. Mitchrone felt was that we can't be subject to and solely dependent on funding that goes through a process that all it would take is one year that we are in political disfavor and our whole educational system can be derailed by what the General Assembly is doing downtown. She spent a lot of time with him working on this issue because he absolutely felt there are donor agencies that would only give to a 501c3 and that we needed something that would help insulate uncertainty of our particular, 100% state funding process. Mr. Beaupre added that at the time, we were talking about extra-curricular activities.

Lets just say, to Mr. Beaupre's point, the state does fully fund us, and so one may think this is so unnecessary because we are getting our funding from the state; the initiatives for a foundation would be to do out-side-of-the-box types of items that the state funding doesn't cover whether it be teacher-based initiatives, workshops, student opportunities. Those things that are a little bit

more outside of funding textbooks for the year, salaries for the year. We thought we would have wall that would give us insulation and being able to bring us up to the next level by being able to go into an innovative, forward thinking universe instead of the bare-bones basics of the state funds. That was Mr. Mitchrone's thought process.

Mr. Beaupre wondered how much money would be donated into this 501c3. Of course it isn't a guarantee that if you build it, they will come. It is highly complex as far as this organization is concerned to set it up. Ms. Carroll agreed it isn't easy. Nonprofits are a world to themselves and everyone will tell you that you need an attorney set up in order to get it legally, correctly in place. In colleges and universities they have whole departments called Development, to just go out and solicit. URI expanded theirs with 45 employees.

Mr. Gemma commented in regards to the 501c3, he does see opportunities of a 501c3 for the school maybe not in the traditional way. He sees it in a way that there are a lot of corporate donations out there for equipment and for programs because they are teaching these kids similar to what Johnson and Wales, for instance, does with Culinary where they are putting a lot of equipment in the schools so that trained students will use their equipment in the future for their careers. So he really does see where a 501c3 would be very viable. On the other side of that, there is lot of energy. It is one of those things that if you are not going to commit to put in the other energy; it isn't the \$9000 for the cost of the attorney, it is putting the right person in charge; it's giving it all the proper assets that it needs to survive because there is a lot of work involved with continuing with a 501c3. It is not open it and they will come. As a matter of fact, it is just the opposite. You open a 501c3 people start to shy away because they keep getting called upon for donations. You have to have the right person in charge of it. Do all the right people, the right committee. You have to have the right mission. You can't be all over and just be asking for money for everything. The more mission oriented and the more goal oriented it is the better it works. If you are just trying to fill a bucket with money, people kind of have a harder time, but he does see a need for it, but you just have to strategically plan for it properly. He does speak personally with the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Foundation, and he knows there is an enormous amount of energy that needs to be put into it. It takes more volunteer energy than it costs. If he was paying the labor to run this organization, it would probably cost more than what it brings in. It is a great cause and we are passionate about it. Again, he is all for a 501c3 as long as it goal oriented and more program oriented. It fits into the whole strategic message of who we are and where we are going. Who is Davies today; what are we and are we positioned properly for the new world that is out there; are we positioning these kids for the new world that is out there and the world that is coming. We are in a major transition in the technical force today. There is absolutely going to be this new movement of people that are highly technically trained in green technology and all that stuff, and if our students are not prepared in that same direction, then they are going to be left behind like with the older trades people who do not want to learn that stuff. So we have to position Davies to be a leader in the new future of America.

Mr. Beaupre said to Mr. Gemma that this is a high school and not a technical college. We can't prepare them for every aspect in life; they got to go on. Mrs. Hebert was thinking that it is just a high school but it is also a high school of a community of students who may not be able to go onto college, and so that preparation is to the good of the companies but also for the benefit of the communities that they come from. It is true that the universities and the colleges need the money, but if I am a parent of a student who is at Davies, and I have budgeted a part of my finances, chances are I would desire to improve Davies so it is not necessarily just the colleges and the universities.

Mr. Gemma added that if Davies becomes a 501c3, it is truly a business; it's got to be run like a business and if you have to hire people, it is going to cost more than the amount of money coming in.

Ms. Carroll said that there are some grant monies we are eligible for. We had been awarded a couple of grants in the past from the Champlin Foundation, but there are others that will only give to 501c3s. But to touch on what Mr. Gemma said that is critical, regardless if we take in a penny, there are ongoing administrative fees that it could be a bankrupt entity in record flat time with annual filings, annual tax return filings, annual reporting, and if you only have an organization with \$5000 it would not even sustain itself for a year.

Mrs. Smith added that CCRI has a foundation and Mr. Gemma, her concern would be diminished support from the legislature. You need someone at Davies that is going to oversee this and who has the time with the increased responsibilities. Also do you have the alumni that will join into this enterprise? With CCRI's foundation, it has been spoken and unspoken expectations of those people. People who are asked to join a nonprofit organization are expected to contribute money and time. Mr. Gemma asked if she meant the board of directors. Yes, they are not asked to just sit there and listen, they are expected to contribute both time and money. Then there is fundraising activities. She suggested establishing a committee to research this and to make a list of the pros and cons.

Dr. Segovis said lot of this work has already been done. It is a legacy of Mr. Mitchrone's with the first strategic plan and there was a lot of talk about "out of the box." The points here have been well taken. You have a foundation; people got to be on it with a clear mission; it costs time and energy; and professional fees if we can't find pro bono services.

Mr. Gemma suggested having a strategic meeting on a Saturday or sometime when we can think clearly because we are coming to a crossroad and we need to look at the bigger picture for the next ten years and say where are we going to be; where do we see ourselves in ten years, and how does a 501c3 fit or not fit into this plan. Can we achieve our goal with the amount of energy it takes without the 501c3? If someone donated right now to Davies, would it be given to the state? How does that work because people have donated equipment as a tax right-offs? Ms. Carroll answered that there are only two types of donations that we get right now. The equipment that is donated becomes an asset of the State of RI, and we have to go through certain channels to dispose of it or scrap it at some point. If someone right now has a \$100 check they want to write to the school, the only vehicle we have is our student activities fund because anybody doing so would usually say, "Cheryl, I want to give \$100 towards your kids who are traveling out to Kansas City right now to help you defray some of the cost for the national competition." We have a student activities fund that is a for-profit account but it doesn't have much in it.

Mr. Gemma asked if there was any other, say through United Way, they may have some vehicle, or through the Chamber, where they could do something where they raise money and vehicle's us the money. Ms. Carroll believes that is in essence what Mr. Gregory was thinking through the Northern RI Chamber Foundation that people would give to the chamber in care of Davies. That was the structure that Paul Ouellette proposed back then. Mr. Gemma's thought was that if we could start setting up something like that; research that and find out there are a lot of donors then it is worth it for us to open our own 501c3 at that point. Give it a year; see if people are willing to donate; start taking money in without making the initial investment. We will be using their vehicle which means our labor costs will be down and any profit that would be coming in and would be real profit instead of having all the administrative costs that goes along with this. Even with Mr. Ouellette's proposal, we still have to know if there is going to be some decent

contributions coming in even right from the get-go; even being a line-item within John Gregory's Northern RI Chamber Foundation. She had made copies of Mr. Ouellette's proposal but she would want his blessing to pass them out but there are all charges automatically though just for him accepting your money that would be appropriated. It's because they need money too. Mr. Halkyard added that what ever those fees are, it would be less than doing it ourselves. Ms. Carroll assumed that is so because we would not have to worry about any personnel designated to the accounting, filing, etc. We would just get a pro-rational share of the fees. Mr. Halkyard mentioned that a lot of issues brought up go back to when we discussed this 4 or 5 years ago, and he thinks it is worthwhile to take another look at this. Mrs. Smith suggested setting up a committee to research, go back to take a look at the history, work with Ms. Carroll. He feels using the Chamber's foundation as a vehicle would be the way to go. There are pros and cons to this whole thing being a state funded agency is a problem, but we should look at it again.

Ms. Carroll asked what would be appropriate between now and whatever the next schedule Board meeting date, she will make contact with Mr. Ouellette to ask if we can have him give an update at the next Board meeting and be willing to have a sit-down with revisiting the Chamber's proposal. Dr. Segovis intercepted before she does that and went back to a comment Mr. Gemma made. What is our strategy; where are we going overall? If he was a person who wanted to give \$5000 for scholarships for our high school students to go to college, so I can do that now by giving the money to the school? There is no impediment to doing that? The strategy is we have to look at what money we could not get. We have been so focused on the vehicle that we haven't looked at what is out there that we can not get that would be advantageous by this approach. There are only ten grants that we only have 2 out of 10 chances every three years of getting, and then maybe Mr. Ouellette's system is best, but if we have a chance every year to pull in a couple hundred "Gs" every year then maybe we should look at some other mechanisms. I think we are looking too much at the vehicle; let's look at the sources, which is where we started. He thinks Mr. Mitchronev was so focused on the vehicle that we never looked at the other stuff. Then we have to be careful; what types of grants should we be looking at giving the legislatures craziness for grabbing anything. We work hard at getting these donations to come in then they are taken away at the other end. He thinks it's a great idea but let's focus at what are the sources and what are the amounts and then less come back to the Board and let's discuss it. Then we will have a more intelligent conversation.

Mr. Beaupre added 5 years ago it was just dropped once we realize the cost of setting it up and running it. Dr. Segovis said with the Gemma Foundation the family drives it; there is a passion and foundations have to have someone driving it on the board and it can't be staff. That would be misuse of public funds. Can we get someone to hold that? Mr. Mitchronev was retired; he could spend time on this and unfortunately most of us are not.

Mrs. Smith said that the board is going to have a retreat at some point. Perhaps, and she will be willing to help, if we can get someone with experience as a non-profit administrator to come in and talk to us about it who really knows; just give us a little workshop on this so that we are better informed. She will start locating these people. Dr. Segovis doesn't want to waste anyone's time so he wants to go this route first. Both Mr. Gemma and Mr. Beaupre's points are important that need to be addressed. If you want to do something, then why and where is your energy otherwise we will just be passing something that is going to cost us? He can get lawyers that will do it pro bono but that is a step that is way down the road.

We will come back in the fall and revisit what Mrs. Smith suggested and she would like anyone who may have a contact in that area of expertise, to please just e-mail her or give her a call, just someone to walk through both sides of the equation, the pros and cons who is totally objective.

Ms. Carroll ensured Mr. Beaupre that she was not trying to shoot down what his feedback was because that is an absolute concern.

Strategic Plan

Dr. Segovis mentioned the strategic plan. Originally he thought to have a retreat in late August, but there is contract negotiations and the last one went up right to the first day of school so we will anticipate that we will be absorb by that. We may have to call the Board for a vote. He asked for volunteers to design this strategic retreat. It may take more than one Saturday. It used to be at the Kirkbrae until it was squashed because it has to be an open forum. Dr. Segovis has no problem opening it up to parents, but in reality how many will come. They could have excellent input. Mr. Gemma, Mr. Halkyard, Mrs. Smith and Dr. Segovis will volunteer Mrs. Kyle to design this retreat. Mr. Gemma suggested having a facilitator to move the process along. Dr. Segovis will ask Mr. Gregory who does this for a living if he would be willing. The four volunteers can meet during the summer to brainstorm and then meet again to design a meeting plan, and then come back to the board in the fall and will set some dates.

- B. **Human Resources Report** - *Joanne Andrews, Human Resources Coordinator*
No report given.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. Director's Report

- 1) **Teachers' Association**—*Peter Fangiullo, President*

He mentioned the contract negotiations beginning July 10th and the union looks forward to sitting down and hopefully getting it worked out as quickly as possible.

- 2) **Teacher Assistants' Association** — *Patricia Rose, President*

There were no representatives present.

- 3) **Student Placement Report** — *Bernie Blumenthal*

[*See Supplemental Material: "Davies Graduates: 2009 Placement Data (as of 6/22/09)"*]

The process that the School-to-Career Office follows year to year is that they meet with all of the seniors in May. This year they met with 137 of them just prior to final exams. They sit and meet with them after they complete a survey to get a sense of what their future plans are. "Are you going to college and if so, have you applied and been accepted?" "If so, also, what is your major and future plans and are they related to your technical area?" "Are you going right into the workforce and bypassing college at this point?" "And if so, are you going into the field that you studied?" "Are you going into the military?" Some of the students are showing some interest this past year in the Cafetorium and we are wondering if they are going to go into the military first. Or are there other plans? Whatever they heard, they tried to tabulate. Then they waited until graduation and saw how many students actually graduated. If you look at the chart, he added a column of the number of students enrolled in each program. Out of 137 seniors only 93 graduated. Some are pending summer school for those who qualify to attend.

Part two of this survey, they place telephone calls to these graduates in late August and say, "These were your plans; this is what you said you were going to do; are they still the same, have they shifted?" Then the data is recalculated to include the students who successfully completed summer school and present a complete package at the October board meeting. Mrs. Hebert asked if a large percentage of students who did not graduate was due to the senior project? Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick

answered out of the 23 that did not graduate and who are eligible for summer school, the senior project was not an issue. With the 21 repeaters, 8 -10 did not do one or two of the requirements of the senior project, but they had multiple failures. A lot of those students were repeaters from last year's graduation class (5). They want to come back and complete their senior year but do not succeed. She added that this is not the ordinary. She believes some of the concerns or the issues surrounding the number of repeaters have to do with a redirection that needs to occur in our Guidance Department. They are functioning in the typical guidance manner, and they cannot do that any longer. One of her goals this year is to redirect/restructure that guidance department to be much more involved in parent engagement, and part of her redesign that she explained at the last meeting about the roles that they are going to have in reaching out to parents and students and keeping them informed. There is a breakdown in that department, for whatever reason, and there are two new guidance counselors and two that have only been there for two years, she is looking at redesigning that. She is also looking at some strategies that will be in place come September that is web-based that will be able to communicate to parents. This senior year there was a major breakdown in communication with parents. Who is passing; who is failing? This is going to be her focus this year.

Mr. Chartiers asked with some of these kids who are failing, is a lot of it the academics or is it their shop? Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick looked at the failure list and saw that it was academic failure with very few in the shop area. Mr. Chartier has to agree with Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick with the Guidance Dept. He talked to a lot of the parents and they are having difficulty communicating with just that dept. Mr. Fangiullo added that you hate to paint classes with broad brushes, but this was an overall tough senior class this year. He thinks next year you are going to see a completely different picture, but along with that just for an FYI to the Board, there was the computer virus that may have hampered Guidance's communication with parents because they couldn't readily get a hold of grades, but that was one factor, but you can communicate with parents all year long. Another factor is seniors in the last year are in their own world and come the end of third quarter they realize they are not passing.

Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick added that we are looking at the culture of the school. We have different intervention strategies that we are going to be using to improve the academic as well as the technical areas, but the culture of the school needs to change too. There are some interventions that she is going to be doing and hopefully with her new design she will be more visible to the students and the changes in Guidance, the changes in the academic and the technical supervisors' positions, there is a whole plan that she shared out with the board a couple of meetings ago, hopefully that will help changed the culture of the building. Plus with our Title I grant and IDEA grant, there is a new design for our after-school enhancement program as well as the summer enhancement program, and something for the at-risk population was put into the grant that we are going to institute this September. So there are a lot of interventions that we are looking at that will hopefully change the culture of this building in regards to behavior, academic and technical training because the rigor in the bar is being set extremely high by the state and it should be.

Mr. Halkyard realized the graduate placement chart is just a snapshot at this point in time and it is not all of the information, but it appears to him that maybe some things are changing in education and in Davies position in education, and it is probably a good point of discussion for this strategic plan session that we are talking about because we see 36% of our kids went on to post-secondary education 5 years ago and now we are up to 71%. If that is the way things are going to continue, we may want to change our focus in what we are doing and how we are teaching. We use to prepare these students to go on in their related employment; that was our focus. This is no longer our focus and we need to change it. Some of the colleges are technical but there are others like Brandeis, etc. There is a major shift and with this economy, you can't get a job unless you go back to school. It is also being pushed by RIDE through the NCLB.

Mr. Blumenthal is taking a close look at their college choice and roughly 48% of them right now have moved into a major still related to their technical field so they saw the message that they need further education at a more affordable rate which is another shift. Last year we had more 4 year schools and this year there are more two year schools. Strategically, one area that we need to focus on in order to help our students, if this is the case, is to accelerate our articulation agreements so that we can increase their opportunity to get some credit and help them make it more affordable so they can go right into the workforce.

Another area of concentration that we are still trying to push is “related employment” so that we can get more kids go right into the workforce. Mr. Chartier is seeing that the workforce is expecting more expertise so the students need more technical training after graduation. Most of our technical programs require some kind of license or degree.

Mrs. Hebert asked how often do you go into the technical areas and re-evaluate and find “this is passé, let’s implement a new area”? Look at Graphic Arts, there were obviously a lot of opportunities back when but now the jobs are waning a little bit. At one point does the school look at that? Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick answered that currently RIDE as well as the Governor’s Office is re-evaluating and shifting technical education at the secondary level and they have five primary focus areas they are looking at for career and technical education based on the needs of the state. Those areas are: Machine Technology, Health Careers, Business Finance, Carpentry, and Computer Information Services. She does not know how that is going to be rolled out. She doesn’t even know if it is going to be approved. She is just hearing through the grapevine that these conversations are going on at RIDE with these new regs that this is the focus and this is coming from Mr. Uvin, and the work he is doing on the Governor’s Workforce Committee.

Mr. Nardolillo asked if we have partnerships with some of the local businesses within the community where some of these kids can spend time to get a sense of reality in the real world in some of these technical programs. Mr. Blumenthal answered we have job shadows, internships, cooperative work experiences. We do have a good number of students who go out and do the field trip job shadows, not as many in the internships and less in the co-op’s and this is what we are trying to push. Those numbers have been declining as well. Mr. Nardolillo’s corporation has done this with a couple of schools and would be happy to visit that with Davies. The students have enjoyed it and it is a great partnership for the students and it has been very rewarding to them as well.

Mrs. Smith asked if we have any on-line resources like Skills Tutored to help some of these students. Mrs. Gailliard-Garrick answered that our focus has always been on the reading and to bringing the students up to proficiency. Like she mentioned earlier, with the grant, Mr. Slemmon and she are looking at bringing in some new intervention, we have a number of on-line programs that we are going to supplement our instruction, but we are looking at the alignment to the Grade Span Expectation that they are passing on at the State Level Assessment. This is crucial because remember, this class of 2012 that will be graduating with the Regents’ Endorsed Diploma and if they don’t we are keeping them. So we are looking at putting in those interventions. We have one for math and science; we have the reading program; we are struggling a little bit with writing but she is looking at software for that. We are looking a virtual learning program; programs that do an assessment as well as instruction and progress monitoring. We will look at them as informative assessments to determine where those interventions need to be in the academic area and moving those kids toward proficiency. There is a lot going on and trying to pull it all together. There is a lot of resources and a lot of research that we are doing right now, seeing what works, going into other schools.

Mr. Blumenthal indicated that he will be giving an updated report in October that will incorporate the summer school students.

4) **Student Technical Area Certifications** — *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
(See Supplemental Material: “William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical Industry Certification”)

This chart is the number of student certifications received by technical area. CIS continues for at least the last seven years since she’s been director, with students not meeting the certifications. She has her own ideas why this is happening and it has to do with instruction. The Automotive Program continues to do well with the number of certifications the students received. One of its students did not graduate. Business Technology continues to do well. You have to account for the students with special needs and who are ELL. Electrical, like the last several years, we haven’t receive any certifications there. Hopefully last year after our meeting with those teachers on the core curricula they will be covering vs. the level 1 and the NCCER which this year for the first time is being reported to RIDE. The same thing with SET in Electronics but the IPC is at 100%. Graphic Design always at 100%; Health Careers, the teacher has been at Skills so she hasn’t reported her numbers yet, but she does well every single year. Hospitality does well every year; this year better than last year. Machine Technology with NIMS 100% and do well every year. She and the Supervisor of Technical Instruction have been talking to them about the importance of these certifications because these are what they consider the local assessments and then the state is coming in with their assessments of technical education and there is discussion on what tool they will use. Carpentry continually does poorly. Overall she is happy with what she sees here.

5) **Student Eligibility Requirements for Athletics** — *Victoria A. Gailliard-Garrick, Director*
(See Supplemental Material: “Student Athletic Participation Eligibility”)

Some time in December there was a discussion with her and Mr. Manning regarding the academic eligibility policy and the withdrawal of our boys’ basketball winter interscholastic league programming. At that time they had a long discussion on what our eligibility requirements should look like so if you look at the document, the academic and technical expectations were changed. The first bullet used to say 60% of their credits need to be passing now it is 100%. We are going to do more monitoring of that by the athletic director and the supervisors of instruction. The monitoring is the most important thing in this edited policy that has to be looked at more closely.

The social, behavioral, and civic expectations haven’t changed except for the last bullet. Parents try to pick their student up at the field where they are playing when it is not a home game and they can’t do that. It is a liability so they must come back to Davies on the bus. This will be monitored. It will be a benefit to the school because we won’t have a liability but also for the academic piece. It will bring school spirit and based on some of the meetings with the juniors, they say that their grades would be better if there were more sports. This policy will not start until December with basketball. Hopefully at the September meeting, you will approve it and she will have a meeting with the parents and students and share it with them as a tentative policy until which time it is approved.

Next meeting will be in September. It is Dr. Segovis’s understanding that Mr. Gemma, Mrs. Kyle, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Halkyard volunteered to meet at Davies over lunch maybe or another time that is convenient for everyone where they can set up a design and start brainstorming the things we need to do on that.

Mr. Fangiullo informed the board that the school had a full evacuation last week and thanks to Mr. Genco in charge of the Health and Safety Committee. It was so organized. We went from here to CCRI and back in 15 minutes. It was all arranged by class. Attendance was taken and then we walked back.

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 9:30 a.m. 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 9:45 a. m., 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.

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

At 9:46 a.m., Dr. Segovis asked for a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.